



## **PAGE TO STAGE – December 8th**

### **THE PANEL**

- **EMMA STROUD** - director of Abandon Theatre's recent production, 'The Other Day'. Credits include Robin Hood, Wind in the Willows and Sword in the Stone for Cambridge Touring Theatre Company. She has been the Artistic Director of Abandon Theatre for four years and has co-directed their successful comedy improvisation show "Your Line or Mine?" gaining five star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2006 and 2007, and to great acclaim around London. She also oversaw Abandon Theatre's production of Sweet Love Adieu in 2005 which also received five stars. She has co-directed Abandon Theatre's sketch show Swollen and Twisted and is directing Abandon Theatre's first New Writing Programme production The Other Day in 2008. As an actress some of her credits include – Friar in Sweet Love Adieu at Edinburgh Fringe 2006, Various Roles in Long From Tonight (a long form improvised show across London), Daughter in Cupboard by Natalie McGrath and Mother Goose in Panto around the country.
- **KEITH HILL** - has worked on new writing schemes at, among other places, Putney Arts Theatre, the Southwark Playhouse and the Soho Theatre. He has directed sporadically, including: A Passionate Woman, Skylight, The Steward of Christendom, Tom and Clem, The Kitchen, Vincent in Brixton, and a Shakespeare miscellany for a schools tour to France. As an Actor, stage credits include, Copenhagen, Faith Healer, Dolly West's Kitchen, Two, Road, the York Mysteries, The Herbal Bed, and The Errors of their Ways. Film includes Stew, Way Downstream, The Usual Santa and various corporate films and music videos, with a mercifully short stint as a photographic model.

### **THE PIECES**

#### **1) Lazing on A Sunny Afternoon – Gavin Wheman**

Three housemates, Julia James, David Foster and Chris Warwick, interview the kooky Alix Jackson for their spare room. This scene falls at the start of this one act play, a drama-comedy which explores the tension between compassion, profit and personal loyalty.

*An avid collector of Nazi war memorabilia, Gavin Wheman is a compulsive liar. Down and out whilst on top of the world, he is a mass of contradictions. His previous play, The Newsroom, was shortlisted for the Windsor Fringe Marriott Award 2007, and he is a journalist by profession and a lawyer by degree. He plans to qualify as an estate agent at some point, thereby completing the Unholy Trinity.*

CAST:

**Daniel McLoughlin** (David Foster)

**Amy Hall** (Julia James) - Amy trained at The Drama Centre where she played Lady Macbeth in Macbeth and Nina in The Seagull. Her Theatre work includes: Daphne Stillington in Present Laughter, The Hour We Knew Nothing Of Each Other at The National Theatre and Ginger in We That Are Left at The Palace Theatre, Watford. TV work includes: Wire in the Blood for ITV and a BBC short film, Pride and What? Other short films include Mind the Gap, Lift, Illegal and Kate 1,2,3. Before her professional drama training she worked as a camera assistant in the film and television industry which included working on; Batman Begins, Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, Spooks, Hustle, Trial and Retribution and many more. Amy also has a BA in English Literature.

**Marcus O'Donovan** (Chris Warwick)

Television for 2007/2008 includes The Bill, Holby, Rock Rivals, Hollyoaks, Doctors, Totally Frank.

Film for 2007/2008 includes Three Minute Moments, Bigga Than Ben and Prince Caspian: The Chronicles of Narnia

**AMY BARNES** (Alix Jackson) - Amy read English and Drama at Cambridge University, where she graduated summer 2007. Immersing herself in the Cambridge Arts scene, she worked alongside The Footlights, gaining ground in comedic acting and improvisation. Since graduating, Amy has focused on screen-acting training, landing roles in programmes such as Holby City (BBC) and Ace Cafe (ITV). She has also appeared in films such as Doomsday (dir. Neil Marshall) and Arthur's Lore (dir. Vince Lund), as well as many shorts, corporate videos and presenting work. Amy is the resident voiceover artist at Ignition Studios, and recently stepped back to her theatrical roots, having played Paulina in Death and the Maiden at the Lion & Unicorn. Amy is intending to showcase her work in January with the company Pinewood.net, and you can catch her showreel online at [www.amybarnes.org](http://www.amybarnes.org).

2) Fortuning - By Chris Hill

Brian is searching for some direction in his life and, not knowing what to do, he visits a fortune-teller. However, he finds that, in a time where no frills convenience is king, fortune-tellers have had to move with the times.

*Chris is currently one of the Resident Assistant Directors at The West Yorkshire Playhouse. For the Playhouse he has worked on Don't You Leave me Here, Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure and will work on Othello in the new year. Chris Trained on the Birkbeck MFA in Theatre directing and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.*

CAST:

**Cai O'Leary** (Brian) – Cai graduated with a BA hons in acting from the Birmingham school of acting. He is originally from Penmaenmawr in North Wales and is fluent in the Welsh language. He has performed in various productions since graduating both in Wales and in England. He is currently producing and will be performing in a new play 'Til I Die'. Recently he performed in the London bites 'Birthday bites'.

**Jeremy Tiang** (Intuitive)- Jeremy trained at Drama Centre London. Recent work includes Ex Humare (King's Head Theatre), Jingo (Finborough Theatre), Peace Pagoda (Royal Opera House) and the Bollywood film King Con. As a writer, his play A Dream of Red Pavilions recently received a rehearsed reading at the Soho Theatre studio.

### 3) Can It Get Any Worse – Oh God I Hope Not! - By Alan Roche:

There is a growing sense that fiction and reality are losing their differences through an invasion of reality television and a dominance of soap operas and an increasing search for shocks. This short play (part of a larger piece) attempts to address this issue through satire. A game show in a pub selects two 'random' members of the audience to participate in trying to prove that their life is worse than the other one, by relating their past. The winner is in for a shock. As is the audience when, half-way through, during the 'adverts', we learn that the whole thing is a sham and that all members of the 'drama' are part of the cast.

*The Refugees – Harlequin Theatre, Redhill.*

*Candles – Kingston University.*

*For a moment the dream awakens – Barbican School of Dance and Drama.*

#### CAST:

**Johnny Hansler** (GEORGE: the show's HOST ) - TV Queens Sister, BBC's My Family, Hotel Babylon, Dream Team, Film Leads in the feature The Tragedy Of Albert, and central role in Innocent ?with June Whitfield & Adrian Lukis, Theatre..Toast Hull Truck, Peter Cook, Pete'n' Me New End..Peter Cook, in the play he co wrote and produced at Gilded Balloon Goodbye, the Afterlife Of Cook & Moore. also part of m/f double act Teakshow [www.teakshow.co.uk](http://www.teakshow.co.uk)

**Tim Frost** (FABIEN: George's assistant) - Before graduating from The Birmingham School of Speech and Drama, Tim appeared for four seasons at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park. Since then he has worked on several new musicals, including They Shoot Horses, Don't they (James), Plague! The Muscial (Jerry) and The Snow Queen (Kai). For Shakespeare; Macbeth (Macbeth), The Tempest (Antonio) and Loves Labour's Lost (Holofernes). He can also be seen in the feature film Death Defying Acts.

**PAULA HENSTOCK** (ELEANOR RIGBY: a bag lady) -Paula trained at East 15 Acting School. Theatre credits include: A Body of Water (Rattling Tongue Theatre Company/ Arts Theatre), Footfalls (National Theatre Studio), The Cleaner (Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds), Mancub (Soho Theatre), Fen (Stratford East & Arcola), The Magic Typewriter (Young Vic Studio), Threads (Theatre 503), The Seagull (Tabard Theatre), The Fancy Man & Studio Portrait (Two Colour Theatre/ Tabard), Walthamstow Central (Greenwich Playhouse), La Capisano (Chelsea Theatre). Paula also writes and performs sketch comedy and is Co-Artistic Director of Rattling Tongue Theatre Company.

**NICK EWANS** (ARNOLD LANE: mid to late fifties) - Nick's acting work includes features London to Brighton, Shaun of the Dead and 28 Days Later, and he recently finished filming BBC/HBO feature Frequently Asked Questions About Time Travel, due in cinemas in the USA and UK soon. TV includes Krakatoa, My Life in Film, Othello, The Last Laugh, Harbour Lights, Casualty, Lexx and Jack Dee's Sunday Service. Theatre includes one man shows at the Liverpool Playhouse Studio and the Cochrane, and One Last Surviving at the Lyric Hammersmith. He regularly performs stand-up and comedy impro, and has directed and/or produced theatre and a short film.

## **DIRECTED PIECE**

### **Crying the Neck - By Tim Macavoy**

Cornwall has exerted its independence. It lives by traditional values and works in harmony with the land. Crops are always gathered by the Harvest Moon; because if they're not, the Harvesters will get you...

*Tim studied Drama at Exeter University and now lives and works in London as an actor, writer, director and broadcaster. This piece has been shortlisted for Cento Productions Harvest Festival Script Night, currently a ten minute short, Tim is planning to develop this into a full length Cornish thriller!*

### **Eleanor Rhode (Director)**

Eleanor began directing while studying History at Edinburgh University, and went on to train at Mountview, graduating this summer. She will begin her residency as Assistant Director at The Finborough in January 2009.

As director: *The Error of Their Ways* (Cockpit Theatre), *A Number* (Camden People's Theatre), *This Lime Tree Bower* (multiple Edinburgh venues, and later reprised for the Edinburgh Festival, 2007), *Barefoot in the Park* (Adam House Theatre), *Suspicion* (Bedlam Theatre), *Dogg's Hamlet* (Bedlam Theatre).

As Assistant Director: *Lie of the Land* (Pleasance, Edinburgh) *African Gothic* (White Bear Theatre), *Terrorism* (Oval House Theatre).

**Rowena Lennon** -Rowena trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Theatre roles include, Nurse/First Daughter/Second Designer/ Second old Woman in DON JUAN COMES BACK FROM THE WAR; Hermia in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM; Isabella in MEASURE FOR MEASURE; Ariel in THE TEMPEST; Mopsa/ Emilia in THE WINTERS TALE; Lucy in THE RIVALS; Catherine in MEMORY OF WATER. Film roles: Kylie in CHAMBERMAIDS; Janet in LAST BLOOM.

**Robert Waters** - Robert is an actor, artist and composer. Stage credits include Perfection (Old Red Lion) and Florodora (Finborough). He is currently recording his first album as Once In A Moon.