



**PAGE TO STAGE – February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**THE PANEL**

- **MARK BROWN**

Mark was a founding member of *joinedupwriters*, who produced over 50 plays in 4 yrs. Mark himself wrote 12 of those plays. After *joinedupwriters* he formed two companies, *Brainehownd films*, which has produced 3 short films and is developing its first feature, and *Backbone productions*, which is theatre based and has produced two sketch comedy shows and 2 one act plays. Mark is also working on two sitcoms.

- **EMILY AGNEW** - Emily Agnew is a regular panellist for Page To Stage and the Artistic Director for *Mokita Productions* – one of the founders of the *New Writing Collective*. Most recently for Mokita she directed the sell-out show, 'Involution' at the Pleasance Theatre for the Edinburgh Festival. Mokita are currently co-producing, 'A Christmas Carol' for The King's Head Theatre, Islington, for which Emily will be the Associate Director.

- **MIKE SHEPHERD** - Mike Shepherd is a founder member of the award-winning Ten in a Bed Theatre, who most recently received the 2009 Fringe Report Award as the best encouragers of new talent. He has worked as a writer, performer and director and his sketches and plays have been performed across the London and Edinburgh fringes.

- **LAURA MCVEIGH** - Laura McVeigh is a writer and director. Previously Festival Director for Film for Youth with director Guy Ritchie – she has worked with many festivals including the Edinburgh Festival, London Youth Arts Festival, CWFF, Urban Arts Academy and FringeNYC. McVeigh started writing as a young writer with the Royal Court Theatre and works include 27, El Pueblo and Terminal Happiness. She is currently working on a play about Bernadette Devlin who in 1969 became the youngest ever female British MP.

## **THE PIECES**

### 1) The End Of The Pier Show – Nick Eisen

What's the worst thing you've ever done? Do you know? Can you remember? Or is it buried inside you - feeding on your need to find it?

Sally and Mike move from London to Brighton. They think they are starting the next stage of their lives together, but something from the past is drawing them back and won't let go. There's going to be a party. You're invited. There'll be acrobats, dancers, fireworks... That boy you met on the beach - he'll be there - where the street leads into the sea. So come with us - back to the beach, back to the end of the pier, to your very own end of the pier show. It's going to be a hell of a night - see you there.

*Nick Eisen has written and performed plays and cabaret for many years. He worked at the Man In The Moon Theatre and wrote about plays and films for local papers from 1997-2002. He has also read scripts for BBC, Orange Film Four, Paines PLough, LBC, Script Factory. Plays include The Vacancy - Battersea Arts Centre reading; Varmlandsteatern, Sweden Far From Home/Icarus Rising, Amnesty International reading, Travers Theatre, Edinburgh, 2001; Man In The Moon Theatre, 2002 Venues played include The Hard Edge, The Big Word, Express Excess, Bright Side, Apples and Snakes. Club Vernacular, Glastonbury, Civilisation, Bunjies Reviews - 'Sparkling, searching', The Stage; For Icarus 'Taught, ambitious... compelling, provocative' Time Out and 'Breathtaking', Fringe Report*

### CAST:

#### **SALLY – Sophie Morris-Sheppard**

Sophie attended the Oxford School of Drama. Her first job was as an ASM at Southwold Summer Theatre. She went from here to work on several productions at the Kings Head, the Old Fire Station, Oxford, The Wolsey, Ipswich and The Duke of York's, London. She has had a variety of supporting roles on both TV and film and has appeared in many commercials. In addition to voiceover work she developed a career in hand modelling. She has been fortunate enough to have been directed by Paul Greengrass, Jonathan Gershfield and Tim Burton. Stints as a milliner and assisting making theatrical costumes, amongst other things, have kept her busy in between acting. Keen to reacquaint herself with the theatre again, her most recent appearance was in a production at the Haymarket Theatre in 2008.

**MIKE - ALEX WALKER** has played a wide range of roles in numerous film and theatre productions such as horror short, 'The Lift' (Fluid Image), black comedy, 'The Lollipop Man' (Nilsgaard Productions), 'Fat Men in Skirts' at the Cockpit Theatre and Company:Collisions physical theatre piece 'Frankenstein' as well as radio plays and commercials. Recently played diverse characters in three films for Plainview Films, music videos for the Art.War.Entertainment production company and radio/live performances with sculptor, Sarah Jacobs whose sculptures are made of language and discourse. As a member of Theatre of the Absurd, he played 'the greatest ever DaDa show' and 'What Lovely Weather!' at various venues including Tate Modern and the Liverpool Biennial Festival of Contemporary Art. Has given many spoken word performances, recently at the Shunt Vaults, the bookartbookshop in Hoxton, and on ResonanceFM radio. Currently developing new multi-media project with Theatre of the Absurd. Will be appearing in Uru-Ana at the 'Sundays at the Oto' afternoon event, poetry and music with the postavant crowd, March 15th at Café Oto.

#### **BILLY - TBC**

## 2) Abstract Nouns - Ben Blaine

Madeleine is in love with her flatmate, Polly Swan. As hoped, introducing a work colleague who claims to be a Naiad redirects Swan's fury from Madeleine towards the possibly fictional interloper. However, when Swan declares war on time and takes the Naiad prisoner, things get out of hand.

*Benjamin Blaine is a writer, director and editor who more normally works in film and with his brother. Their films include the BAFTA short-listed "Russell Square", "Burnt Bernard" and "Free Speech" (also nominated for Best Film at Rushes 2004 and the BBC New Film Makers Award 2007), "Death Of The Revolution" (nominated Best British Short and European Prix UIP at Edinburgh 2006). Their best and final short film, "Hallo Panda" was made for The UK Film Council and Film4 through the Cinema Extreme scheme and has won a clutch of awards as well as recently coming second in the inaugural Thunderclap Award which recognises the directors behind "the most innovative and interesting work in British independent film".*

*A retrospective of 12 of their best films was screened at the ICA as part of the Halloween Short Film Festival and their body of work was used as the spine of the book "How To Get Your Short Funded, Made And Seen". Ben is now developing feature film projects and other longer form work for the stage and in fiction.*

CAST:

**SWAN – NATHALIE POWNALL**

**MADELAINE - JESS FOSTEKW**

**NAIAD - LUBNA MILNE**

Lubna Milne is a regular writer/presenter for Legal Network Television and the College of Law. She started acting a year ago in the US where she appeared in "Not Now Darling"(dir, Richard Pegg) at the Miners Alley Playhouse, "Shades" (dir, Patrick Wolf), a short film for television, and "Tales on a Postcard" (dir, Matt Eliason) at Buntport Theatre. Back in the UK, she has appeared in Metamorphoses (dir, Peter Glanville) at Jacksons Lane and Croydon Clocktower and as Violet Haize, Spellcaster (dir James Armstrong) on [www.videojug.com](http://www.videojug.com).  
Spotlight View Pin - 7415 0191 7833

## 3) 'Blind Spots' – Robert Crighton

The blind seer Teiresias has seen it all, he has no predictions left. Today is the final day, when he and all the people of the city will die in a total war. But then a woman turns up who he doesn't expect, a woman who insists on calling him Mother.

*Robert is an award-winning writer and performer, the only entrant in the 25 year history of the Lost One-Act Festival to win three awards in successive years. Robert graduated from Middlesex University in 2003 with a degree in Performing Arts: Drama. He immediately set up a residency with his company Milk Bottle in various spaces in Suffolk where (apart from occasional touring work) he has been based ever since. With Milk Bottle he has produced a mix of work, from classical drama to new plays, swapping roles from production to production. Sometimes writer, director or actor he has stamped a distinct and simple playing style in the Milk Bottle repertoire. For more information go to [www.milkbottleproductions.co.uk](http://www.milkbottleproductions.co.uk)*

CAST:

## **TEIRESIAS - TBC**

### **WOMAN - SILVANA MAIMONE**

Silvana is an actor, singer and deviser/live artist who has many years' experience working in live and recorded performance. She has played central characters in numerous short films and theatre productions; most recently Laura in "The Haunted House" for the 48 Hour Halloween Film Challenge, and Ilona in "Best Friends Forever" at The Old Red Lion. Silvana also devises her own solo performance/live art work, as well as working and collaborating with other artists.

<http://www.spotlight.com/interactive/cv/3415-6750-8017>

#### 4) 'The Dog Ate My Homework' Natalie Wakelin

A nonsensical play set in a timeless age. Jack and Jill need to get up the hill, but who is John? A play that explores the things that are not said nor done in life. Will getting to the top of the hill give them a sense of purpose again?

*Natalie studied Drama at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Theatre includes, Mary Stickland in A TIME TO KEEP (Dorchester Community Play), DON JUAN COMES BACK FROM WAR (UWA), BLACK EYED DOG (UWA), THE COUNTRY (UWA), BETRAYAL (UWA) and various other roles at UWA. Film credits include, PARK (Vicars Daughter Productions). Natalie co-created SHOEBOX, a self initiated theatre project taking theatre to underprivileged communities. In December 2007, SHOEBOX was taken to Romania and Hungary. Natalie's most recently wrote and performed in THE POISONER'S TALE playing the role of 'B' for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Alongside this she played Sophie Scholl in THE WHITE ROSE also at Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Since then, there has been a rehearsed reading of THE POISONER'S TALE at The White Bear Theatre. In April 2009 Natalie will be touring the South West in THE KITE by Stephanie Dale playing the character Shelley, and continuing work on THE POISONER'S TALE and her next play THE DOG ATE MY HOMEWORK.*

CAST:

### **JACK- CLIVE GREENWOOD**

### **JILL - CORINA MILLER**

**JOHN- SAM CURTIS** - Sam graduated from Manchester Metropolitan School of Theatre with a First Class Honours. His theatre credits include Soul Play (Trestle/Junction/Mercury), Three Tall Women (Oxford Playhouse/Cambridge Arts/Yvonne Arnaud), and Kes (Royal Exchange) Film and Television include Dalziel and Pascoe (BBC), Why Don't You Dance? (NFTS) and the feature film Awaydays (Red Union/Optimum Releasing) which will be released in April 2009. Work for BBC Radio includes, The Prospect, Blood Wedding, The Crowded Street and Madame Bovary. Sam also hosts "The Shwizz" his comedy quiz show night at Shoreditch House.