

ESCAPE
FROM
CHRISTMAS...

THEATRE **IN**
THE

RAW



Linocut by Abby Gell © 2010

PRESENTS an **INTERNATIONAL**
MINI-FEST of **ONE-ACT**
PLAYS

• **AFFIDAVIT**

An original one-act play by Matthew Heiti

• **A GIRL ON THE SUBWAY**

An original one-act play by Anthony Arnold

• **THE PRIVATE LIFE
OF JESUS CHRIST**

An original one-act play by David Sard

DECEMBER
9, 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2010

7:30 PM

SHOWTIME

Doors open @ 7:00 PM



also...

PAUL BECKETT & FRIENDS
COOL JAZZ!

Performing twice on Dec 9 & 13

@ **LITTLE MOUNTAIN GALLERY**

195 East 26th Avenue - off Main Street

> Viewer Discretion is Advised - Some Coarse Language <



• **TICKETS: \$16 @ the door** (doors open 7 pm)
• **Box Office Reservations - \$16: 604-708-5477**



• **Advanced \$13 (+\$1 s/c) online with paypal @ www.theatreintheraw.ca/tickets.html**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



We were originally going to label this production of Original One-acts "Out of the Depths" but decided to go with "Escape From Christmas" which may have more holiday appeal for those interested in coming out on a December eve before the 25th to see/hear original play works that are not only entertaining but speak about issues that pop up now and again during our busy daily lives. The "Out of the Depths" phrase occurred because of what this small theatre company has been going through with the present government(s) and granting bodies having made a joint effort to stop funding creative work as well as the endeavors of theatre artists to do their craft in a major Canadian city. By the sheer support of private donors and the hard work of twenty-odd dedicated theatre folk wanting to mount three original one-act plays, we are moving slowly out-of-the-depths of financial abandonment onto a lit stage in a venue that has also been under siege because it hasn't the funds to meet all the requirements demanded to keep such a needed small venue in Vancouver open. So far, quite the Joyous Noël ahead – yet we know there is much to celebrate.

We live in an age where the gap between the haves and the have-nots grows wider and wider. The three plays do touch on "the gap". The play *Affidavit* goes into three lives deeply affected by a wrong conviction to those caught and unable to afford or seek proper assistance when a dire crisis occurred. *Girl on a Subway* hits too at those less fortunate and in need of financial security; a young girl comes to a crossroads of "push comes to shove" and is willing to go to extreme measures to survive. *The Private Life of Jesus Christ* shows a young spirited man-god JC rebelling against his parents and headed towards earth to try to make matters "better" for the human inhabitants. So, there it is.

What is grand is that despite recessions, depressions, and financial turmoil, writers keep writing, stage actors get up on a stage for meager fees and audiences are out there seeking entertainment and meaningful stories to be told. 16 years TITR has been around – and we haven't stopped yet despite that growing gap of the haves and have-nots. Hopefully our comic, absurd and dramatic productions can help build needed creative bridges to ease "the gap" and offer something unique as we enter the holidays. Enjoy the shows. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah.

—Jay Hamburger, artistic director, Theatre In the Raw Society

An advertisement for Coffee News. It features a black and white photo of a woman with long dark hair, smiling and reading a newspaper. The text is arranged around and below the photo.

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THE ONE-ACT PLAYS & THE CASTS

(Casts in alphabetical order)

Linocut by Alty Gell



A GIRL ON THE SUBWAY

by Anthony Arnold

2009 One-Act Play Writing Contest;
3rd place winner

A young girl hands over a baby to a man on a subway. The man and his wife wrestle what to do with the child and how to deal with their wants vis-à-vis the mother.

The play takes place in the present, in and around a subway and park in a major Canadian metropolis.

The Girl – an adolescent girl – Olivia Poon

Roger – a man in finances – Stan Fraser

Eleanor – Roger's wife, a law student – Sally Barber

Anthony Arnold, Playwright — Anthony was born in Vancouver and now lives in Toronto. He was a founding member of the Necessary Corrective Collective, a comic performance group that appeared briefly in the 1990s. He has written and directed short films, one of which was included in the 2004 One Minute Film and Video Festival in Toronto. His play *Libraries are Exciting Places* was first performed at the Alumnae Theatre Company's New Ideas Festival 2007 in Toronto. It was subsequently produced in 2008 by the Eclectic Company Theater in Los Angeles. Two other short plays were also staged in 2008: *The Connoisseur* and *The Oracle & the Scribe*. This is the first staged production of *A Girl on the Subway* as it was produced outside this last summer as a live radio staged reading. He is grateful to TITR for producing this new original work, which won 3rd Choice with TITR's 2009 One-Act Biennial Playwriting Contest.

Continued, page 4...



Photo by Steve Duncan



Sally Barber, *Eleanor* — Sally has studied acting through the Ottawa Little Theatre and Glebe Collegiate Institute. She is also trained in voice-over. Her last performance was the play *Higher Window* for the Vancouver Fringe Festival. This is Sally's first production with Theatre in the Raw, however she has been involved with the theatre throughout her life. She has studied acting through The Ottawa Little Theatre, Glebe Collegiate Institute and through the Continuing Education

Program with Jay Hamburger. She is trained in voice-over and her most recent work has been with The Metro Theatre. When not rehearsing for a performance she enjoys the outdoors, sports and travelling.

Stan Fraser, *Roger* — Stan was raised in Victoria, where he took two years of drama classes in high school and more study at the Bastion Theatre School. He has also taken acting courses at the Vancouver School Board Continuing Education Program with Robert Light, Michael Fenwick and Jay Hamburger, as well as singing and dancing lessons. He hopes to move into voice-over and animation work.

Olivia Poon, *The Girl* — Having completed several acting courses in both Vancouver and Toronto, this is Olivia's debut performance with TITR. She would like to thank Jay for providing this wonderful acting opportunity. Olivia has previously hosted radio broadcasts in Cantonese for Fairchild Radio, Vancouver and in her spare time, she writes, composes and sings.

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AFFIDAVIT by Matthew Heiti

*2009 One-Act Play Writing Contest;
1st place winner - (Coarse language)*

A man is in jail for a crime he did not commit. A lawyer over the years knows the case and tries to clear his conscience, approaching two men that were and were not involved in a robbery gone sour.

The play takes place in the late 1990's in or near an Ontario city. The scenes shift from a lawyer's bedroom to a prison cell to the home of a teacher.



Dick Fallow – a lawyer – Jason Hunt
John Libero – a prisoner – Roger Howie
Frank Colepaugh – a teacher – Darren Andrichuk

Continued, page 5...

Matthew Heiti, *Playwright* — Born in Sudbury, Ontario, Matthew studied acting at Ryerson University and recently completed his Master's in Creative Writing at the University of New Brunswick. His plays have been workshopped with Playwrights Theatre Centre (Vancouver), Lunchbox Theatre (Calgary), and NotaBle Acts (Fredericton). He has won 24-hour competitions with Toronto Fringe and Pat the Dog Playwriting Centre, and his play *I Drag My Coffin Through the Lonesome North* won the RBC Tarragon Under 30 Playwriting Competition. His folk musical, *The Nick Drake Project*, was produced by Picture Box Theatre at the Summerworks Festival last year. Matthew is currently working on a dark comedy about the nickel pits of Northern Ontario. He is grateful to TITR for producing this new original work, which won 1st Choice with TITR's 2009 One-Act Biennial Playwriting Contest.



Photo by Steve Duncan

Darren Andrichuk, *Frank Colepough* — This is Darren's second show with Theatre in the Raw, and he's very happy to be back working with Jay and his company. He played Arthur Johnson in *The Bargain* several years ago. Most recently he played Greg in a wonderful stage production of *Sylvia* but he has mainly focused on film rolls since then with several shorts and a TV pilot, plus a feature called *The Directors Project* with Phase Fire Films. *The Widower* has just been re-released on DVD, so please check it out and find a copy. He is an alumni of Studio58 and UBC.

Roger Howie, *John Libero* — Roger Howie, with his unquenchable thirst for Arts and Culture, is a published poet, a lover of language, a produced playwright, has performed in

Continued, page 6...

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choirs, theatre, stand-up comedy, and dance. Once when destitute, he drew wall art for room and board. Current projects include a photographic display of Mayan ruins taken with a \$1 plastic camera. Roger is inspired by the gritty role Jay has cast him in.

Jason Hunt, *Dick Fallow* — Calling the lower mainland his home for the past ten years, Jason has a background in film and television. He is an actor/ musician who is very proud to be part of this topical original production, which is his personally anticipated foray onto the stage. He would like to dedicate his performance to his number one fan, his mother, Frannie who although cannot be here, would have been front row and center every night of the run.

* * * * *

THE PRIVATE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST by David Sard

2007 One Act Play Writing Contest;
2nd place winner

A teenage JC is bored and picks a planet (earth) as a challenge, offering to go to it to try his hand at fixing things up. His parents try to dissuade him from such an action; the arguments and questions start to unfold.



The play takes place in an imaginary city-like apartment – elevated train tracks nearby.

Big Daddy – an elderly working man in overalls, with a beard – Brian Leslie
Little J – their teenage son – Andrew Fielden
Big Momma – Big Daddy's wife – Yasmin Tayob
Therapist – a therapist for aeons – Faune Johnson

David Sard, *Playwright* — David started writing comedy and drama after many years as a psychologist in the New York City area. He is the author of *The Ballad of Eddie* and *Jo* (Oedipus and Jocasta seen through modern eyes), *Shadows* (a doomed inter-racial romance set in the Old South on the eve of America's Civil War), *Bush's Dream* (what if George W. Bush had had to live as a homeless person during Hurricane Katrina?), *Projections* (a ghost comes for psychotherapy), *Little Angels* (a play for middle school children), and assorted 10-minute plays. He is grateful to TITR for producing this new original work, which won 2nd Choice with TITR's One-Act Biennial Playwriting Contest.

Andres Fielden, *Little J* — Born and raised in Vancouver Canada, Andrew grew up with a passion for the fine arts. He enrolled in Vancouver Film School to learn animation and now works in the television industry as an animator on shows such as *Kid vs. Kat* and

My Little Pony. He recently became interested in acting and hopes to animate the crowd that watches him on stage and screen.

Faune Johnson, *Therapist* — Faune was an Honorary Plaid in *Forever Plaid* at the Gateway Theatre in 2009. She first stepped onto a stage in a violet costume in 1954; was a player in a production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1985 with Open Theatre Company and played in Fringe play in 1989. Faune retired from teaching two years ago, having taught drama for 10 years. She now fills her time with volunteer work: giving workshops for parents and teachers, coordinating a community garden, organizing community events, and being politically active. Thanks to Jay, Atty, and the company for their dedication and energy as well as to her friends and family for being such good sports. “Encourage your public representatives to support the Arts in every way for the Arts are vital to the life of a community.”

Brian E.B. Leslie, *Big Daddy* — Brian has a wide background in theatre, musicals, film and TV. He has appeared in over 60 TV commercials from Coast Capital and Molsen's to Toyota and IKEA. Brian first got the acting bug in the mid-eighties while on a 10,000 mile train ride throughout India. He had a chance to be part of a travelling musical revue where he played Mr. Canada. The adventurous show was made up of actors, crew and officials from all over the Commonwealth nations. Brian also had a successful children's TV show call *Story Magic* where he read newly published children's' books on air portraying all the characters for the local cable station. As a member of Theatre BC he has won Best Actor awards in 3 separate Zone Festivals having trained with Sean Milliken, Linda Darlow, Paula Shaw and Deanne Henry. He has also served as a drama teacher for people with developmental disabilities. Brian is truly happy to be playing God and with such a divine cast and crew from Theatre In the Raw.



Photo by Steve Duncan



Yasmin Tayob, *Big Mama* — Yasmin Tayob has worked with TITR before when she performed in the radio play *The Bonsai Friend*. She loved the experience so much she is back for more as Big Mama in *The Private life of Jesus Christ*. She is happy to be living and learning the art of acting once again in this off beat, moving and funny piece.

Yasmin was also in the site specific play *The Other Freds* as The Pregnant Lady.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

Our Raw Crew...



Jennifer Magajes, *Stage Manager* — Jenn has been involved with TITR for numerous years. Since working with Jay on *Vatzlav*, she has freelanced around the lower mainland. Recently, she worked on Gateway's production of *Brighton Beach Memoirs* as well as the Olympic victory ceremony fashion show. She is extremely excited to be working with TITR's amazing actors and crew. Thank you to Jay for the fabulous opportunities over the years. Enjoy the show!

Tom Majek, *Assistant Stage Manager* — Tom escaped from behind the iron curtain at age six to find himself in Vancouver, after a childhood stint in Rome and lovely Sudbury, Ontario. He is struggling to defeat his PhD, and lectures at Simon Fraser University. His first exposure to the arts involved an old Mac and a malfunctioning fog machine.

Atty Gell, *Poster/Program Art Work; Asst. Administrator* — Atty has been drawing and working on sets, programs and posters for 16 years, as she is a co-founding member of TITR. She is a working visual artist, ceramicist, set designer and potter. She recently held her fourth show of original art work at Libby's Kitchen Café in the Cedar Cottage neighbourhood. Atty also teaches pottery and multimedia courses at Bonsor Community Centre.

Philip Schulze, *Lighting Designer* — Philip is an award-winning designer (winning the Best Lighting Design award from the Community Theatre Coalition), pyrotechnics designer, technical director/coordinator, and technical theatre instructor/designer. He was one of only 28 Follow Spot Operators for the Opening and Closing ceremonies, 2010 Olympic Games. He has worked on many VMT and Heart of the City Festival events and is excited to be working with Theatre in the Raw again. This is his first full design for TITR after having assisted significantly with the lighting design for *Bruce the Musical*. Opening this same week is his Light Design for *Midsummer Night's Dream* at Sutherland Secondary School in North Vancouver. Thanks to Steve Duncan and all who assisted with this production.

Stephanie Jones, *Costume Designer* — Stephanie emigrated from Nova Scotia in 1988 after taking the costume course at Dalhousie University. She worked in Kamloops as an assistant technical director for WCTC. Moving to Vancouver in 1996, she started a new life as a costume person. She has worked with Jay on elementary school Christmas shows, the second being a *Midsummer Night's Dream* with Bill Sample at the piano. She also worked on costumes for TITR's *Inspector General* and *Vatzlav*. She has worked with Cirque Du Soleil and currently works within the Vancouver Film industry. Her motto is, "anything is possible in costume."

Continued page 9...

Patrick Foley, Assistant Set Designer/ Crew — Patrick has worked on many TITR shows in many capacities. He is an experienced carpenter, playwright and poet having turned out: *You Are What You Eat*, *Philomena*, and a radio play *The Rat* for TITR with more to come. His original one-act plays have been given numerous performances by the theatre as well as toured within and outside of BC. Again, thank you Patrick for all the help!

Our Raw Staff...



Norah Holtby, Admin; Grant-Writer; Promo — Norah is a teacher, writer and administrator. She completed degrees in theatre and education at SFU and can often be found day dreaming in cafes along the Drive. She is excited about the show and is glad you are here.

carol weaver, Admin; Graphics; Program; Promo; Website — weaver is thrilled you're here and thanks you for supporting grrreat grassroots theatre and the Arts... weaver is also a visual artist, sacred drum-maker, singer/songwriter, etc., etc... Find out more about weaver's work at www.drumweaver.com and www.howifeelbetter.com.

S.R. Duncan, Media Consultant — is a producer, publicist, free-lance writer, and poet. He was long-time owner of a graphic design and small press publishing house in operation for 12 years and specializing in literary chapbooks and promotional material for limited budgets. His broadcasting credits include CKNW, CITR, Rogers Cable 4, CJSF and CO-OP Radio, where he produces a weekly half hour radio show called WAX POETIC. 2010 will mark his 9th anniversary with the show. On top of numerous publishing credits, he has performed live on stages in Squamish, Victoria, Seattle, Auburn and Portland. - www.srduncan.com

Jay Hamburger, Director, Producer — Jay is a founder and current artistic director of Theatre In the Raw, now in its 16th year of production work. He has had the recent honour of directing a very fine original Canadian musical called *Bruce – The Musical* by Bob Sarti, as well as directing and touring the play *Medicine* by LaVerne Adams – concerning a Residential School in BC. He has directed and produced classic and original mainstage plays in Vancouver for TITR by Beckett, Chekhov, C. Churchill, E. Hekkanen, H. Hardin, W. Kozak, and S. Mrozek over the years, coordinating eight tours for TITR both within and outside the Province of BC. He taught a "Nuts and Bolts" theatre workshop at Carnegie Community Centre for 7 years and is currently teaching: a Beginners/ Intermediate/ Advance Theatre Acting Classes through the Vancouver School Board's Continuing Education Program; The Roundhouse Community Arts Centre, and adult & teen classes at Bonsor Community Centre. He is a collective member of Vancouver's Co-Op Radio, CFRO 102.7 FM program, *The Arts Rational* for years, producing and broadcasting many an original radio play via the airwaves.

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***Theatre In the Raw is also pleased to present:
Gustav Joseph and Paul Beckett aka:***



PAUL BECKETT & FRIENDS **— COOL JAZZ!** *(Performing twice on Dec 9 & 13)*

Paul Beckett, Vocalist — is a long-time friend of Theatre In the Raw having served as an Acting Coach, Stage Director, an Actor in at least 3 of TITR's productions and on the Board of Directors. Though not in direct association with TITR Paul has also worked as both a stage and screen writer. This production marks the return of Paul as a performance artist on board as a Jazz Vocalist and, he has some advice for everyone which he got from an old jazz singer he once met in Zihuatenejo, Mexico! *"Keep on swingin', people! It's good for ya!"*

Gustav Joseph, Accompanist — Gustav is a student of one of Vancouver's premiere jazz pianists: Bob Murphy, since he was 9. He is a young man who Vancouver jazz fans should probably be looking out for in the years to come. We are pleased to present 16 year old Gustav dancing his fingers on the piano keys with Paul Beckett and Friends - Cool Jazz!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!

Theatre In the Raw's 2010 Board of Directors: Jan Blanchet, Edith Iglauer Daly, Lori Jovick Liu, Roger Howie, Paul Manson, Kathy Odgers, and Don Todd.

Theatre In the Raw Society, People's Co-op Bookstore, Coffee News, Cultural Services - City of Vancouver, Cardel Accounting, Dan Vie of Community Arts Workshop Society, Vancouver & District Labour Council, CP (Concord Pacific) Charitable Trust One, and Little Mountain Gallery. And to our fine individual supporters: Barbara Shumiatcher & Family, Murray Livergant, Carol O'Dell, Anne & Patrick Aubourg, Stephen Nathan, Donald McPherson, Sarah Banting, George Plawski, Danielle St. Pierre, Rika Uto, Robin Lennon Inner Designs, Wing-siu Wong, Patty Dutschke, Leonard Auclair, Rona MacDonald, Patrick Foley, Reid Cohoon & Family, Katrina Sedaros, Edith Iglauer Daly, Sid Tan, Bob Sarti & Muggs Sigurgeirson, Melissa Cooper & Richard Hamburger, Herschel Hardin & Family, Doug & Helen Roy, Herbert Auerbach, Sandy Cameron, Robert Kinnard,, Martine Reid, Jan Brinton, Randall Goff, Christine Turner, Marian Collins, John Pasquin, Ann Sachs, Diane Sarti, Kuei-ming Lin, Helen Dempster, Dave Myles, Tim & Pat Quan, Wally Shore & Jan Janovick, Don Davies & Sarah Palm, John Pass & Teresa Kishkan, Noel Richardson, Dr. Stan Lubin, Sylvia Woodsworth, Robert Chave, Edith Frankel, John Holliday, Judith Lawrence, Brian Cox, Peter & Jean Gell, Corinne Eriksson, Faune Johnson, Colourbox Hairdressing, Eleanor Boyle, Jan Blanchet, Jason Logan, Mary Willis and Renee Rodin. — ***thank you all for your amazing support for live theatre!***

ABOUT THEATRE IN THE RAW

Theatre In the Raw started out of a storefront cafe called La Quena on East Vancouver's Commercial Drive in 1994. We rehearsed and performed there for three years, producing over 125 one-acts in over 43 nights of theatre. During that time we received a Canada Council Exploration grant, supporting us to go on two tours along the Squamish corridor and Sunshine/Sechelt coast.

We also held an outdoor free theatre event with 16 performances at Grandview Park on Commercial Drive with a Vancity Community grant. We had over a thousand people come and see a full day of Theatre in the Park.

Since our start, we've performed in over 50 venues both in the southern/interior of BC, four western Canadian Provinces and Seattle, Washington for the 1998 Seattle Fringe Festival.

Starting in 1996, we moved toward mainstage shows and have been committed to organizing mini-tours in and out of the Lower Mainland of BC. To date we have embarked on eight mini/major tours for the company producing both one-acts and mainstage work "on the road" to audiences outside of the Vancouver area. We're thrilled that many theatre artists have passed through our doors moving onto the professional theatre/creative arts world.

We've produced eleven full-length mainstage plays at major venues in the lower mainland area, five of which were premiered original Canadian playworks in Vancouver. Bi-annually we hold our popular One-Act Playwriting Contest, where we workshop and present original winning plays.

As we continue to bring new original Canadian quality theatre-works to the stage, we are proud that we offer employment to those in our local community. From our start in a small Vancouver Commercial Drive Cafe our theatre has proudly produced fresh, exciting and thought-provoking dramas for audience members of all ages.

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