

THEATRE IN THE RAW

PROUDLY PRESENTS ...

THE BLUE WESTERN SKY TOUR OF ONE-ACTS



A night of original live Theatre...

**FEATURING THREE ORIGINAL
ONE-ACT PLAYS:**

MAYBE MILES
BY JOE LAUINGER

TALK MEDICINE
BY SHERRYL MELNYK

THE SUSPECT
BY ANDRZEJ JAR

ALSO FEATURING:

Blues for
the **Road**

BY VOCALIST:
MICHELLE RICHARD
AND ACCOMPANIST:
ZI PARIS

*some plays feature strong language

THANKS TO:



We acknowledge the support of the
Province of British Columbia

THEATRE IN THE RAW

www.theatreintheraw.ca

"Drama Face" drawing by Sylvan Hamburger © 2013

THE BLUE WESTERN SKY TOUR OF ORIGINAL ONE-ACTS

PRODUCED BY THEATRE IN THE RAW

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

Aha! as I have heard said in various creative corridors. We are on our 10th tour within our 19 years of theatre production work in British Columbia. The travelling bug is with us again and so off we go into somewhat unfamiliar Provincial territory but welcoming the challenge. Yes! We are bringing three original winning one-acts and a duo musical blues combo with a crew of seasoned performers that have all worked together with Theatre In the Raw (TITR) on other successful productions; the creative chemistry is inherent and uplifting with these spirited artists.

So! the three one-acts presented here have all been chosen winners from our recent 2011 one-act biennial play writing contest. *The Suspect* by Andrzej Jar was given first prize for that year. *Maybe Miles* by Joe Lauinger was given third prize and *Talk Medicine* by Sherryl Melnyk received an Honourable Mention from the adjudicators.

Yes! all of the short plays are original and hold certain truths that need to be exposed and heard through the roles and storylines that also give actors something to sink their creative teeth into. It's been a tradition for TITR to produce original awakening/exchanging one-acts and mainstage plays or musicals year after year. The content of these pieces is from two Canadian writers and one writer from New York State, all with a common connecting thread. Each piece is knocking on the door and reaching in for further insight into those unsolved human dilemmas that just don't seem to want to go away.

Thus! writers and actors have helped to bring from off the written page to the light of the stage the twists and turns of characters discovered and caught seeking certain pleasures, or those keeping deep secrets that can stress the heart or individuals that casually express themselves in such a manner that an arrest is in order. What is happening here you may ask yourself? Are there answers to how to untie the knots we all might find ourselves in if we share in the brief predicaments placed before us? Is that I? Could that be me? What would I do in such a situation? Oops, I was there or felt like that once – hey... not so long ago.

Behold! the play and music before us; to be viewed, shared and enjoyed by the gracious members present. Thank you for being with us on a brief theatrical journey.

- Jay Hamburger - artistic director

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Blues For the Road

(with Michelle Richard and Zi Paris)

Maybe Miles (by Joe Lauinger)

Blues For the Road

(with Michelle Richard and Zi Paris)

Talk Medicine (by Sherryl Melnyk)

Intermission

Blues For the Road

(with Michelle Richard and Zi Paris)

The Suspect (by Andrzej Jar)



MAYBE MILES BY JOE LAUINGER

THE PLAY:

An awkward encounter between a professor and a former graduate student...

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Joe Lauinger's plays have been performed throughout the United States and in Canada, Australia, and India. *The Pie Dialogues*, under the title of *Dawn and Sean*, won Best Play at the Dayton Ohio Playhouse FutureFest 2007 and was produced in 2009 by the Main Street Theater in Houston, Texas. It is published in *Best Regional Plays 2011* by Level Four Press. *Michael Archangel*, a modernization of Chekhov's *Platonov*, was the first winner of the Playwrights Discovery Award at the Fulton Theater in Lancaster, PA, and was produced there in 2011. *Holy Child* was produced by White Fence Productions in New York, NY, in 2012. *Maybe Miles* has been published in *Clockhouse Review*, Summer 2012. Joe teaches dramatic literature at Sarah Lawrence College and is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

CAST(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

The Professor - Jason Hunt

Rachel - Michelle Weisbom

CAST MEMBERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

Jason Hunt

Michelle Weisbom

Roger Howie

Zi Paris

Jay Hamburger

Michelle Richard

THE CREW AND THE ADMINISTRATION:

Jay Hamburger - Artistic Director

Jennifer Magajes - Stage Manager/Makeup

Stephanie Jones - Costumes

Atty Gell - Art Consultant/Props

Jeni Mastin - PR/Outreach

Scott Broom - Administration/Design



photo by Tomasz Przysupia (2013)

TALK MEDICINE

BY SHERRYL MELNYK

THE PLAY:

A taxidermist reflects on his past after experiencing a heart attack in an attempt to ease his stress...

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Sherryl Melnyk has an MA in Literature and is a PhD candidate at the University of Calgary. Her play *Millicent's Pothole* took first place in the Playwrights Guild of Canada's Post-Secondary Playwriting Competition and was a finalist in the BC National Playwriting Competition. *Even The Walls Have Eyes* was a cowinner in the Walterdale From The Cradle to Stage Playwriting Competition and was produced in Edmonton. Theatre In The Raw recently produced *Talk Medicine* on CFRO Radio in Vancouver. Her plays *Mrs. Ferguson's Bed*, *Outnumbered* and *Can't Cross a Bridge* have been produced in Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver. *Mrs. Ferguson's Bed* has been published in the anthology *Out on a Limb*. She has also published essays entitled "Landscape My Body," "Feminists Don't Online Date" and a documentary for CBC radio called "Mom Leaves Home." Sherryl grew up on a farm in Manitoba with an eclectic family who have unwittingly provided much fodder for her writing. She lives with her poorly trained but greatly loved pug Sasha.

CAST(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

Lester - Roger Howie

THE SUSPECT

BY ANDRZEJ JAR

THE PLAY:

What happens when you're marked for an off-the-cuff remark...

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Andrzej Jar earned a Master of Arts degree at the University of Gdansk, Poland, in 1979. For the next ten years, he served as Artistic Director for the Centre for Theatre Education in Gdansk. He was responsible for the organization of classical and experimental theatre productions in a very fertile and exciting time for Polish culture. His efforts included directing, choosing repertoire, mounting presentations, and marketing events. Andrzej also wrote *Peninsula*, a play produced in 1988, along with numerous other published plays, poems, short stories, and essays.

He immigrated to North America in 1989, and has lived in Vancouver since 1991.



photo by Tomasz Przystupa (2013)

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His writings continue to be published in various publications here and overseas, earning him a journalism award in a Tarnobrzeg contest for Polish writers abroad in 1998, and a short story award in a literary event in Vienna in 2009. Since 2003, Andrzej has been the publisher and editor-in-chief of "Aha!", a monthly Vancouver-based Polish-Canadian literary and social magazine.

CAST(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

Volkovsky - Zi Paris

Agent - Jason Hunt

Policeman - Jay Hamburger

Mrs. Brown - Michelle Richard

Subverter I - Roger Howie

Subverter II - Michelle Weisbom



photo by Tomasz Przysłupa (2013)

BIOGRAPHIES - THE CAST

Roger Howie's performance career began by accident with pre-school-age figure skating as a leg therapy. He also writes, and has been involved with dance, poetry, play-writing, music, film, various visual art, capoeira, and theatre. This is his third tour with Theatre In the Raw, and has been a board member of the company for several years. (The role in *Talk Medicine* is the exact opposite of his first role with TITR, in that, his character was dying of Black Lung and said absolutely nothing but yet had no problem expressing himself!) Roger says: "Thanks to the company for all of the fun rehearsing *The Suspect*."

Jason Hunt is a Vancouver based artist and actor who is ecstatic to be working once again with the illustrious Jay Hamburger and the Theatre In the Raw troupe. Most recently seen in a stage revival of *One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest*, previous productions include *Harvey*, *Dracula* and *Affidavit*. A film and television actor as well, just don't blink and you can catch Jason in the likes of *Elf*, *Peacemakers*, *Halloween Resurgence* and as a snooty gala list keeper in the upcoming Hallmark TV production: *The Hunters*. Jason would like to thank everyone for not only taking the time to read his bio but for coming out tonight to support live theatre, a timeless, magical and very necessary art form...enjoy the show!

Zi Paris is thrilled to be back on the road and on the stage with Theatre in the Raw after taking a few years away from acting to focus more on music. I've been lucky enough to be able to travel and perform across North America, from LA to Cuba, and am excited to be performing in BC's beautiful interior. Best wishes to everyone and enjoy the show.

CAST BIOS CONTINUED

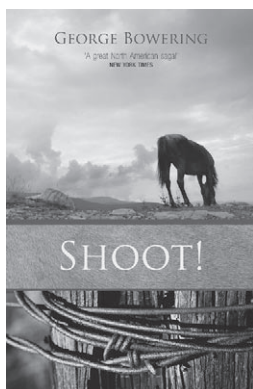
Michelle Richard - Singer/songwriter - musical exposure began early in her childhood in New Brunswick, with the family jam sessions and listening to family songwriters. She's absorbed many musical styles and influences along the way, which she blends into her own jazz and roots sound in French and English. Appearances include the Vancouver International Jazz Festival 2013, In the Heart of the City Festival, Stop the Silence Online Benefit Fundraiser, Festival D'Ete, and the TITR's Rolling Stock Prairie Theatre Tour. She is thrilled to be part of the Blue Western Sky Tour. www.michelleannerichard.com

Michelle Weisbom - It's been a few years since Michelle has been involved in a theatre production. She took time off to learn the splits in preparation for the role of Rachel in *Maybe Miles*. Michelle currently teaches yoga and fitness classes. Her voice can also be heard on ads for Global TV. She thanks the cast and crew of Blue Western Sky for all the laughs!

THE CREW AND THE ADMINISTRATION:

Jay Hamburger – Director/Producer/Actor – Jay has been a writer, theatre teacher, director, producer and all around theatre guy for a long time. He is the founder of a grassroots performing arts group Theatre In the Raw, which has resided in Vancouver for many years and continues to operate and produce original play pieces. Jay has premiered original musicals *Bruce: The Musical* and *Yippies In Love* along with over 22 original radio play pieces broadcast live over Vancouver's Co-Op Radio and many original one-acts. Jay is extremely honoured to bring live theatre around and about fascinating places in British Columbia.

Jennifer Magajes – Stage Manager – has been involved with TITR for numerous years. Since working with Jay on two original musical hits *Yippies In Love* and *Bruce – the musical*, she has free-lanced around the lower mainland. In the recent past, she worked on Capilano University's production of *Sly Fox* 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!



Shoot!

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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 first worked with Jay on elementary school plays, one being a *Midsummer Night's Dream* with Bill Sample at the piano. She also worked on costumes for TITR's *Inspector General*, *Vatzlav* and *Yippies In Love*. She has worked with Cirque Du Soleil and currently works within the Vancouver Film industry. Her motto is, "anything is possible in costume."



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Scott Broom – Common Broom – *cystisus scoparius* – a perennial shrub standing approximately 2 metres tall. Broom has a deep root structure, a waxy coating, and the ability to "fix" nitrogen from the air into the soil. Broom is characterized by its hearty disposition and rapid periods of growth. Broom readily competes with other seedlings for nutrients and - when outside of its natural range - is often classified as an invasive species. Broom also has one of them "dry" senses of humour. Scott Broom has been TITR's **administrator** and **grant writer** for the past two years.

Atty Gell — Assistant Administration; Arts Consultant; Props — Atty has been drawing and working on sets, programs and posters for 19 years, as she is a co-founding member of TITR. She is a working visual artist, ceramacist, and occasional set designer. She recently held her fifth show of original art work at Libby's Kitchen Café in the Cedar Cottage neighbourhood. Atty also teaches.

Belinda Benedict – Assistant Stage Manager/Running Crew – Belinda is an ex-banker currently a student at Sprott Shaw College, Vancouver. She is an import from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has been in Vancouver for less than a year. During weekends, she attends acting classes; coached by the most inspiring Jay Hamburger, who is a rare combination enthusiasm and warmth. She aspires to become involved with stage acting and has decided to take up the art form seriously. Since she is still a beginner in need of exposure to the world of live theatre, she stands in as Assistant Stage Manager, helping out with running the shows when the need arises.



Jenn Magajes
makeup artist / hair stylist
604.715.4349
www.jennmagajes.com



Theatre In the Raw (TITR) is dedicated to grassroots theatre in the Lower Mainland, as well as presentations in other parts of Canada. We are risk-takers, willing to give exposure to voices seldom heard, striving for artistic excellence in the presentation of unusual, awakening and engaging theatre. We believe that hands-on experience in the real world of independent theatre is an effective way to learn, teach and perform dramatic arts and skills within the community. Our mission is to provide a venue and a supportive atmosphere for new and emerging performers, playwrights and drama technicians through readings, workshops and productions.

Our repertoire is a diverse offering, from raw experimental to community-oriented works to the theatre classics. We specialize in socially-relevant productions, exploring issues affecting local communities and groups of people including those that are disadvantaged. Our casts and production crews include both professional and community-based participants.

We choose our venues for their accessibility and affordability, to bring theatre to new audiences – in community centres, parks, meeting halls, cafes, clubs, gardens, as well as conventional theatres spaces.

Our current long-range main-stage initiative, *Untold Stories of Vancouver*, is project premiering musical plays reclaiming important, dramatic, but under-appreciated episodes in Vancouver's history for a new generation. These musical theatrical explorations give voice to the experiences and aspirations of segments of the population whose lasting impact on Vancouver and Canadian society is not always recognized. The previous Bob Sarti and Bill Sample musicals in the series produced by Theatre In the Raw began with 2008's *Bruce: The Musical* followed by *Yippies In Love* in 2011 at The Cultch. *The Raymur Mothers* is the third and final musical play in Bob Sarti's *Untold Stories of Vancouver* series scheduled for 2014 production.

TITR is continuing on with its 2013 biennial one-act play writing contest and a compelling classic/revived mainstage production of *The Dybbuk* by S. Ansky in the early 2014. Look out for these projects in the near future.

THANKS TO...

...our donors, volunteers, and friends for their wonderful ongoing support of our production work. Especially to Andrzej Jar, Sherry Melnyk, Joe Lauinger, Tomasz Przysupa, Nadine McEwan, Rhianfa Riel, The Sunflower Gallery and the Princeton Arts Council, Marjorie Holland, Mil Juricic, Anya McVean, The Merritt Live Theatre Society, Bob McAtamney, The Cawston Players, Country Bug Books, Sylvia Louis, BC Gaming, Sandi Nolan, Brid Fitzgerald, Steve Prokopenko, Judith Lawrence, Anne & Patrick Aubourg, Wally Shore, Dora Sanders, Carol O'Dell, Ramona Orr and the Van. Tech Drama Department, Robert Sarti & Muggs Sigurgeirson, Joe & Solveigh Harrison, June & John Field-Malaka, Audrey McClellan, Ann Hepper, Jan Blanchet, John Pappenheimer, Edith Daly, Jay Hamburger, Sylvan Hamburger, Atty Gell, Peter Gell, John Broom, Sandi McGinnis, Robert Kinnard, Sylvia Woodsworth, Teresa Vandertuin, Edith Frankel, Carol Weaver, Concord Pacific Harmony Trust; in memory of Dr. Isaac Stoffman.

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