

A Z Space Production

The Making of a Great Moment



Danny Scheie and Aysan Celik in *The Making of a Great Moment* (Photos: Meghan Moore)

Playwright-in-Residence Peter Sinn Nachtrieb's follows up his enormously successful *House Tour* in 2016 with a new work that arrives in San Francisco as part of a "rolling world premiere" for a month-long run; the play tells the story of two actors and their ostensible quest to make and take a work of what they think of as "magnificent theater" that tells a story of notable human achievements on a national tour, which in reality gives way to an investigation into why we do what we do, what are we willing to sacrifice for the things we love, and what are the tradeoffs for pursuing one's passion

Opening night: July 29, 2017, with previews beginning July 26; runs through August 26 at Z Below; tickets \$20-\$50 available at www.zspace.org or 415-626-0453

San Francisco, June 8, 2017 – Z Space is pleased to present the rolling world premiere of *The Making of a Great Moment*, Playwright in Residence Peter Sinn Nachtrieb's follow up to 2016's enormously successful *House Tour*. The 90-minute exuberant comedy is directed by Sean Daniels, and stars noted comedic actors Danny Scheie and Aysan Celik.

Written specifically for their particular (and peculiar) talents, Danny and Aysan play Terry Dean and Mona Barnes, two Canadian actors on an extensive tour of their play, "Great Moments in Human Achievement," across the United States ... by bicycle. As they pedal themselves (and all of their gear) across the nation, reenacting humanity's high points for small, semi-engaged audiences, the two face an ever-growing series of challenges ranging from breaking stage lights to blowing tires.

As adversity mounts, Mona and Terry are forced to grapple with whether it was worth undertaking such a challenge in the first place. When the day is done, can our heroes manage a great moment of their own? *The Making of a Great Moment* is a comedy about all the potholes on the road to sheer brilliance and what we're willing to sacrifice to do what we love.

"I think the play," says Nachtrieb, "is really about why do we do what we do? What is a great achievement *really*? "What are we willing to sacrifice to do what we love?" What is the trade off to pursuing a passion, and does great really equate to "better?"

Nachtrieb read the much-discussed book *Sapiens* while writing the play which, he says, "really played with my mind and threw that whole 'what is a great achievement' question very strongly into my thinking. It's a fascinating book about human achievements and questions whether or not we are actually better off or not because of them."

Sapiens retells the history of our species from a completely fresh perspective and plays with notions about money, trust, capitalism as religion and the treatment of animals in modern agriculture. It also poses the idea that even though we are far more powerful than our ancient ancestors, we may not be much happier www.ynharari.com/book/sapiens/

"As I was just conceiving the piece I was training for AIDS/Lifecycle, a 545 mile bike ride from SF to LA, raising money for AIDS charities so biking was heavy on my mind when in conversation with someone I heard about a theater company touring a play by bicycle and then everything clicked. I thought, what a perfect and unusual way to showcase these two amazing actors and bring in our own experiences as artists and set it in an odd, unfamiliar, and fun world. "

Noting that we're living in a moment where America's greatness is being debated, discussed and used as a bit of a bludgeon to make a point about our place in the world, the research led Nachtrieb to ponder, what makes a great moment really great or endure.

"I think the play is a celebration of the effort to pursue greatness, and explores how often something "great" is achieved not by solely by effort, but through a synergy of circumstances with a willingness to risk, accidents, and desperation all contributing influences."

High Res Photos (credit Meghan Moore): [HERE](#)

What: A Z Space Production of *The Making of a Great Moment*, by Peter Sinn Nachtrieb

When: Opening night: July 29, 2017, with previews beginning July 26; runs through August 26

- Wednesday, July 26, 2017, 7:00 PM (**Preview**)
- Thursday, July 27, 2017, 7:00 PM (**Preview**)
- Friday, July 28, 2017, 8:00 PM (**Preview**)
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- Saturday, July 29, 2016, 8:00 PM (**Opening Night**)
- Sunday July 30, 2017, 5:00 PM

- Wednesday, August 2, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, August 3, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Friday, August 4, 2017 8:00 PM
- Saturday, August 5, 2017, 8:00 PM
- Sunday, August 6, 2017, 5:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 9, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, August 10, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Friday, August 11, 2017, 8:00 PM
- Saturday, August 12, 2017, 8:00 PM
- Sunday, August 13, 2017, 5:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 16, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, August 17, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Friday, August 18, 2017, 8:00 PM
- Saturday, August 19, 2017, 8:00 PM
- Sunday, August 20, 2017, 5:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, August 24, 2017, 7:00 PM
- Friday, August 25, 2017, 8:00 PM
- Saturday, August 26, 2017, 8:00 PM

Where: Z Below, 470 Florida Street, San Francisco

Tickets: \$20-\$50 – available at www.zspace.org or 415-626-0453

Peter Sinn Nachtrieb (playwright) is a San Francisco based playwright whose last play *A House Tour of the Infamous Porter Family Mansion with Tour Guide Weston Ludlow Londonderry*, starring Danny Scheie, was a smash hit at Z Space in 2016. His other works include *The Totalitarians* (seen at Z Space in 2014), *boom* (TCG's most produced play 2009-10), *BOB* (2011 Humana Festival for New American Plays at Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Barrie and Bernice Stavis Award), *T.I.C. (Trenchcoat In Common)*, *Hunter Gatherers* (2007 ATCA/Steinberg New Play Award, 2007 Will Glickman Prize), *Colorado*, and *Litter: The True Story of the Framingham Dodecutuplets*. His work has been seen off-Broadway and across the country including at Ars Nova, SPF, Woolly Mammoth, Seattle Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, San Diego Rep, and in the Bay Area at A.C.T., Encore Theatre, Killing My Lobster, Marin Theatre Company, Impact Theatre, and The Bay Area Playwrights Festival. Peter is an alumni of New Dramatists and is the Playwright in Residence at Z Space in San Francisco. This summer, he is riding his own bicycle from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise money to fight HIV/AIDS with AIDS/LifeCycle.

Danny Scheie, (performer) a longtime Bay Area actor, has earned a reputation as one of the great character actors of his generation. He has worked extensively in both Shakespeare and contemporary plays, including Nachtrieb's "Bob..." and last year's highly acclaimed, sold out run of Z Space's world premiere production of *House Tour*. Danny is on the theatre faculty of UC Santa Cruz.

Aysan Celik (performer) Aysan's far-reaching and versatile career has traversed comedy, classical texts, devised work, documentary theatre, Shakespeare, dance-theatre, and more. She has originated roles Off-Broadway, Off-Off Broadway, and on tours internationally. She is a founding Associate Artist of the Alpert award-winning Theater Mitu, which performs original pieces and classics reinterpreted by research in global performance and ritual traditions. She is on the theatre faculty of NYU Abu Dhabi.

Sean Daniels (director) Sean is Merrimack Repertory Theatre's Artistic Director and also an accomplished director and creator of new work. He was most recently the Artist-At-Large at the Geva

Theatre Center in Rochester, New York. He previously spent four years at the Tony Award-winning Actors Theatre of Louisville as the theater's Associate Artistic Director. He was also Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director of the California Shakespeare Theater and before that spent a decade as the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Dad's Garage Theater Company in Atlanta.

About Z Space

Z Space empowers artistic risk, collaboration and camaraderie amongst artists, audience and staff in the service of creating, developing and presenting new work.

Operating two venues in San Francisco's historic Mission District, a mainstage and a black box theater, Z Space host's new works from a variety of performance disciplines year-round. Keystone initiatives include New Work, a development program that supports artists and ensembles from conception to realization of unique works, Word for Word, a resident theatre company that transforms works of literature verbatim to the stage, and Youth Arts, an arts education program promoting literacy and engaging students' creativity.

We foster opportunities around the nation for these works and we engage diverse audiences through direct interactions with the process, the projects, and the artists.

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