Notes from Director, Elana Elyce

RARE

I don’t want to say much, as I fear my outpouring of affection for this show will get ahead of me and reveal too much before you get a chance to watch it. One-person shows are increasing in number and popularity for a variety of reasons. When I had my first experience with Here Lies Henry I had seen two solo shows in my life and one was auto-biographical, the other historical. So I hadn’t exactly been exposed to the power of story-telling from a singular voice in this way and I was fascinated. I thought it was so clever and each night I watched it, there was something new to latch on to. It brought to the fore all the things I love about how this artform awakens the spirit and broadens perspectives. It gave me things to think about that have never left me.

RELEVANT

Personally, I am obsessed with Truth. Not necessarily THE truth, I’m not talking about facts, but personal truth. While we are constantly surrounded by the absence of truth in the way of facts, I marvel over what seems to be the absence of an honesty with self. Henry teases us with his Truth, forcing us to sort through what is real and what is not and slyly causing us to question what we believe . . . and who we are. I don’t need to do much to overlay that idea on the landscape we currently exist in. Except in this case, at least it’s fun.

RAW

What could be more raw than a man, alone, on a bare stage talking to mostly strangers? Beyond the environment, we see Henry wear, and perhaps remove all the masks he - and we - layer on over our lifetimes. It asks a lot of an actor to convey each layer with clarity and heart; our incredible actor does so with seeming ease, leaving me open to be fascinated and deeply affected by Henry all over again. Ten years later.

I hope it does the same for you.
TIME - Now
PLACE - Here

RUNNING TIME IS 75 MINUTES. THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION.

Cast

SCOTT SAWA (Henry) is honored to collaborate with Elana, Josh, and the ITP crew on this awesome script. Recent roles include: Cliff Bradshaw in CABARET (Cowardly Scarecrow); George/Valentina (u/s) in CASA VALENTINA, and Bob Neal in TEN DOLLAR HOUSE (Pride Films & Plays). Other favorite shows: POSEIDON, BEWILDERED! (Hell in a Handbag), HEY! DANCING! HEY! MUSICAL! (Foctory), WE FOUND A HAT, LESTER’S DREADFUL SWEATERS (Lifeline); NIGHTMARE IN PARADISE, FIGHT NIGHT, THE MOST ADO:

A PARTY PLAY (Nothing Special); and productions at American Blues Theater, iO, Refuge Theater Project, Oak Park Festival Theatre, and First Folio Theatre. TV/Web: CHICAGO FIRE, REDLINE TO HOWARD. In the daytime, Scott works as a teaching artist and acting coach. Thanks to Mom, Charlotte, and all the LGBTQ people in the world (and allies too, why not?). When pronounced correctly, Scott Sawa rhymes with “Hot Lava”.
www.ScottSawa.com

JOSH KEMPER (u/s Henry) makes his ITP debut with this production. He has been an active member of the Chicago storefront community since his move to the city six years ago. Favorite companies to work with include Hell in a Handbag, Black Button Eyes Productions, Cowardly Scarecrow, Pride Film & Plays, and Metropolis Performing Arts. Josh originally hails from Baltimore, MD where he received his B.F.A. in Acting from University of Maryland, Baltimore County and was a company member with Red Branch Theatre Company. Love and thanks for support to AR, CJ, SR, and his family.

Creative Team

DANIEL MACIVOR (Playwright) is originally from Cape Breton and currently divides his time between Toronto and Avondale, Nova Scotia. Daniel has written numerous award-winning theatre productions and his work has been translated into French, Portuguese, Spanish, Czech, German and Japanese. Daniel received the Governor General’s Literary Award for Drama for his collection of plays I STILL LOVE YOU and in 2008 he was awarded the Siminovitch Prize for Theatre. He is also the recipient of an Obie Award and a GLAAD Award for IN ON IT, as well as a Canadian Screen Award for his feature film script WEIRDOS.

ELANA ELYCE (Director/Artistic Producer) first worked with Interrobang in 2011, appearing in THE ARGUMENT by Gregory Moss. She joined staff as producer for the 2012 production of HERE LIES HENRY by Daniel MacIvor and went on to produce the first two productions of Season 3. Originally from Detroit, she began teaching and directing while still a teenager with Detroit’s Summer Youth Arts program, working with teens and young adults, and did so for fifteen years in various organizations, schools and camps. Within that time, opportunities to direct adults began with a Detroit production of A SON COME HOME by Ed Bullins with Urban Spirit Theatre Company. Since being in (Cont.)

GEORGETTE VERDIN (Managing Artistic Director) has been working with ITP since 2014. She is also a freelance director, designer and educator. She was founding theater teacher at Polaris Charter Academy, an Expeditionary Learning School in West Humboldt Park, where she taught full-time for eight years. Recent directing credits include Jeff recommended productions of OUT OF LOVE (Elinor Cook), GRACE, and 2013 Yale Drama Series winners, STILL (Jen Silverman) and UTILITY (Emily Schwend). Georgette has recently been seen assistant directing with Lookingglass Theatre, Facility Theatre and Goodman Theatre. She is currently in production for TRIBES (Nina Raine) at Western Michigan University and will be associate directing Mat Smart’s world premiere, EDEN PRAIRIE, 1971 (Raven Theatre) this spring. This summer, she will be directing ITP’s world premiere of SEXBOT (Brandon Tessers). Georgette holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from McNeese State University and a Master in Directing from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She is an associate member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

MICHELLE E. BENDA (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be directing her fourth show with Interrobang Theatre Project! She previously designed OUT OF LOVE, UTILITY and I CALL MY BROTHERS. Lighting design credits include SHORT SHAKESPEARE!, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), POISON (The Plagiarists); EVERYBODY (Brown Paper Box Co.), HAMLET (The Gift Theatre), THE GENTLEMAN CALLER (Raven Theatre), DESIRE IN A DINER HOUSE (Pride Films & Plays), BURY ME, OHIO STATE MURDERS, (Dandelion Theatre). She has assisted lighting designers at Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and Timeline Theatre Company. Michelle holds an MFA in Lighting Design and Technology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

SHAWN GALLIGAN (Stage Manager) has acted, directed, and stage managed throughout the Midwest. For Interrobang he has staged managed 6 productions. In addition to being a company member with Interrobang Theatre Project, Shawn is a company member and the Assistant Stage Manager for Northern Sky Theater in Door County, WI. He also served a few years as the company stage manager for Chicago Top Theater and was a company member with Actors’ Summit in Akron, OH. When not at the theater, you’ll often find him playing a board game or riding a bicycle.

LOUIS LOTHAN (Master Electrician) hails from Chicago, Illinois and continues to work there today. He has served as Master Electrician on ETHIOPIA(N)AMERICA (Definition Theatre Company), SELF ACCUSATION (Theatre Y), and PETER AND THE STARCATCHER (Walter Payton College Prep). His design experience includes RADIUM GIRLS and BROADWAY GEYS IV. He has served as a technician on various productions such as NEVERMORE PARK, THE FLY HONEY SHOW, Columbia College Dance Center, and BlackOak Technical Productions. LouisLothan.com

TIMOTHY MCGURLY (Sound Designer/Composer) is a Chicago-based musician, composer and sound designer, and is very jazzed to be working with Interrobang Theatre Project for the first time! After studying music at the State University of New York at Oneonta, Tim landed in Chicago in 2010, and has since worn many hats. He spent (cont.)
five years as a guitarist, vocalist and arranger with The BlackWilloughbys, an old-time Americana band. He has also been working as a music director, composer and/or sound designer for dozens of theatrical productions in recent years, for companies all throughout Chicago, including Underscore Theatre, Filament Theatre, Akvavit and Silk Road Rising, among many others. Tim is currently one half of the duo Parlant Parlant, with DJ/Producer Bumbac Joe, and a member of instrumental rock band Gone Valley.

MARIAH SCHULTZ (House Manager) is a critic, dramaturg, and audience services leader. She works on the Audience Services Staff at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. She graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University with a B.F.A. in Dramaturgy/Criticism and has previously worked with UrbanTheater Company, the League of Chicago Theatres, and Collabortion. She’s curated play submissions for the Rockford New Play Festival (Rockford, IL), The Syndicate’s First Read Festival (Chicago, IL), and the Kitchen Dog Theater New Works Festival (Dallas, TX). Mariah recently completed The Key: Young Critics Mentorship Program and contributes to the online theatre collective, Rescripted. She also currently manages the Chicago Theatre Triathlon, a blog that provides advocacy, education, and celebration of local companies, artists, and works. Instagram and FB: @chitheatretriathlon

RICHIE VAVRINA (Production Manager) is a production manager, scenic, and lighting designer. This is his fifth production with ITP, having worked on most of their productions since 2017. His work has been seen in productions by Firebrand Theatre and Elgin Community College, among countless others. He owns his own design firm, QZLX, specializing in production design for large events. See his work at DesignQZLX.com.

LAVISA ANGELA WILLIAMS (Costume Designer) is happy to be working as Costume Designer with Interrobang Theater Company and is also a designing member of CityLit Theater. Some of her notable works have been SEVEN PERCENT SOLUTION and PROMETHEUS. Her favorite genres to design include contemporary, fantasy, and sci-fi. Her favorite design materials are fabric, leather, metal, plastics and foam. Aside from traditional consuming, she also makes (body props), designs for fashion editorials, and helps young actors with print work.

Staff
Managing Artistic Director ................................................. Georgette Verdin
Artistic Producer .................................................. Elana Elyce
Literary Manager .................................................. Laura Berner Taylor
Marketing Director .................................................. Nancy Payne
Creative Director .................................................... Zoé Verdin
Production Artist & Box Office Manager ....................... Christopher Aaron Knarr
Casting Coordinator ................................................ Sarah Gise
Digital Media Director ............................................. Jon-Paul Schaut

Ensemble Members
Georgette Verdin • Salar Ardebili • Brynne Barnard • Laura Berner Taylor • Elana Elyce
Shawn Galligan • Sarah Gise • Noël Huntzinger (artistic assoc.)
Christopher Aaron Knarr • Joe Lino • Claire Yearman
Richie Vavrina (artistic assoc.) • Zoé Verdin

Board of Advisors
Joe Hartness President
Constance Etter Treasurer
Rebecca Lawson Secretary
C. J. Hyland Margo Morris Jessica Vann
Georgette Verdin Elizabeth Verzo James E. Williams, Jr.

Special Thanks
Jackie Banks-Mahlum, Tara Mallen, Robert Groth & Rivendell Theatre Ensemble,
Karin Abercrombie & The Swedish American Museum, North Shore Baptist Church,
Ed Anderson, Larry Bundschu, Constance Etter, Joe Hartness & Tray Baresel, C. J. Hyland,
Rebecca Lawson, Cathy McCann, Margo Morris, Jessica Vann,
Elizabeth Verzo and James E. Williams, Jr.
Interrobang Theatre Project is a non-profit organization that depends on donor support

Make a tax-deductible donation

POST-SHOW PLANS?
We’ve got just the place!
Bring your conversation to The Boxcar, where your bar tab directly supports local theatre and the artists who make it great.
Look at it as “philanthropic drinking.” We do.

SHOW THIS PROGRAM TO THE BARTENDER FOR ½ OFF YOUR FIRST DRINK.

SPAY
by MADISON FIEDLER
directed by RTE Member HALLIE GORDON

Celebrates Rivendell’s 25th Anniversary

Starts April 23

Williamson, West Virginia has been aptly nicknamed Pilliamson as long as anyone there can remember—certainly since the Attridge family’s been around.

The now-grown sisters have taken very different paths in the wake of their mother’s overdose. As Harper raises her sister’s child vowing to tread new ground, Noah opts for the old ways and finds herself in all-too-familiar territory.

Featuring Rivendell Theatre Ensemble Member Rae Gray, Tara Mallen, and Krystal McNeil

Interrobang Theatre Project
5315 N. Clark St. #142 | Chicago, IL 60640
Box Office: (312) 219-4140 | interrobangtheatreproject.org