

FLAT EARTH THEATRE PRESENTS

# *Enigma Variations*

BY **ÉRIC-EMMANUEL SCHMITT**  
TRANSLATED BY **JEREMY SAMS**

April 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2013  
Arsenal Center for the Arts  
Watertown, MA

# ENIGMA VARIATIONS

BY ÉRIC-EMMANUEL SCHMITT – TRANSLATED BY JEREMY SAMS  
Directed by Sarah Gazdowicz

## CAST

ABEL ZNORKO	Cliff Blake Lindsay Eagle Cassandra Meyer
ERIK LARSEN	Cameron Beaty Gosselin Rebecca Lehrhoff David N. Rogers

## CREW

PRODUCER	Kevin Kordis
DIRECTOR	Sarah Gazdowicz
STAGE MANAGER	Amy Lehrmitt
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Leigh Downes
AESTHETICS CONSULTANT	Rebecca Lehrhoff
PROPS DESIGN	James Rossi
LIGHTING DESIGN	Connor Van Ness
SOUND DESIGN	James Rossi
COSTUME DESIGN	Coriana Hunt Swartz
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Cara Chiaramonte Jake Scaltreto
BUILD CREW	Adam Teti

## DIRECTORS NOTE

In 1899 the English composer Edward Elgar wrote *Variations on an Original Theme for orchestra* (“*Enigma*”). It is a composition consisting of fourteen short movements; each one based on a popular theme, which Elgar chose never to identify. To this day the mysterious inspiration for the piece popularly known as *Enigma Variations* has never been discerned.

Elgar, however, did choose to identify the inspiration for the variations themselves: each movement of *Enigma Variations* is attached to a specific person, identifiable by their initials or a pseudonym. The people who populate the piece are Elgar’s friends and contemporaries, his wife and even Elgar himself. Each movement, from what we know, embodies an aspect of these people’s personalities, something that Elgar saw and inspired him. In many ways, Elgar chose to ignore the grander human questions or concerns of “What, Where, and Why” and instead chose to focus on the personal, populating *Enigma Variations* with fourteen different individuals and personalities, ultimately letting each part of the whole speak for itself.

In the proceeding two hours, you will watch six actors share the stage as they tell the story of a meeting between two very different men and yes, it may ask prompt you to ask some questions, “Why” being chief among them. Please, ask those questions, but please also consider the little things – a moment, a look, a gesture, a shift in voice anything that moves you from the interactions you see on stage. Our everyday lives are populated and constructed by people: our friends, families, co-workers, significant other’s and the many voices that make-up ourselves. How are you with your sibling as opposed to your partner or your boss? Or when you’re alone? People may seem to be the minutia, the ordinary interactions that seem to distract from the great questions of our existence but the truth is there is nothing ordinary about any of us; each one an individual variation on some sort of greater melody that slips ceaselessly through our fingers.

## CAST BIOS

**Cameron Beaty Gosselin (Larsen)** returns to Flat Earth after playing Katurian in *The Pillowman* as one of the three actors playing Erik Larsen. Cameron is writing this bio early enough in the process that he has no idea exactly how the layers of Larsen will turn out for each of us nor how we will melt them together. However, he looks forward to discussing it with you. Beyond Acting Cameron splits his time between stage combat and mopeds/motorcycles. He is epically excited to be returning to the stage for Flat Earth and to be working with these folks again.

**Cliff Blake's (Znorko)** past roles include Samuel in *The Tide* (Manhattan Repertory Theater), The Father in *Eurydice* (Independent Drama Society), Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Otto in *Diary of Anne Frank*, George in *Of Mice and Men* (Roxbury Rep), Frank in *Molly Sweeney*, Michael in *God of Carnage*, George in *Same Time Next Year* (Amazing Things), Greg in *Sylvia*, Bruce in *Beyond Therapy* (CAT, Gloucester), Claudius in *Hamlet* (Psych Drama), John in *Oleanna* (Can't Wait Productions), Joe the Retiree in *Working* (Metro Stage), Earl in *The Late Henry Moss*, and Paul Bonin in *A Lesson Before Dying* (EMACT Best Supporting Actor).

Upcoming roles include Antonio in *Merchant of Venus* (Arsenal Black Box, June), Charlie Brown in *Dog Sees God* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe, August) and Gooper in *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater and Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival, September).

A playwright as well as actor, Cliff's works have appeared in the last two Boston Theater Marathons (*Pentagon Mashed Potatoes* and *Saving Walter Cronkite*).

Red Sox and Bruins fans may recognize him as a Bean Brain coffee salesman in WB Mason commercials.

**Lindsay Eagle (Znorko)** is a Boston-area actor and director and former Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed Independent Drama Society, Lindsay is thrilled to return to the stage for her second Flat Earth production. Recent onstage credits include The First God in *The Good Person of Setzuan* (Fort Point Theatre Channel), Helena in *The Memorandum* (Flat Earth Theatre), Milton in *Words, Words, Words* (Amazing Mustache Productions), and Donna/Lorelei in *The T Plays III & IV* (Mill 6 Collaborative); she will direct Flat Earth's upcoming August production, *Rocket Man* by Steven Dietz. She holds a B.A. in Theatre from Suffolk University. Lindsay feels honored to be working with such exceptionally talented people and would like to thank Sarah for her vision and friendship.

**Rebecca Lehrhoff (Larsen)**, a recent graduate of Naropa University's MFA Contemporary Performance Program, is happy to be part of her first production with Flat Earth Theatre. A buoh and modern dancer and physical theater artist, Rebecca also performs with CHIMERALab Dance Theater. Recent credits include *The Good Person of Setzuan* (Fort Point Theatre Channel), *Beck: Song Reader*, (CHIMERALab), *Cottage by the Sea* (CHIMERALab), *She: A Blue Print*, *The End Of Flight* (playwright, choreographer, director), *Mad Forest* (Naropa MFACP). She would like to thank you friends, family, and mentors at Naropa; Wendell Beavers, Ethie Friend, Steve Wang, Barbara Dilley, and Erika Berland.

**Cassandra Meyer (Znorko)** received her BA in performance from Northeastern University and has also studied at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. Previous credits include: *Burning Up The Dictionary* (Vagabond Theatre Group), *Twelfth Night* (Arts After Hours), *Girl Hopping* (Sugar Cereal Productions), *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* (Happy Medium Theater Company), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Winthrop Playmakers), *The House of Yes* (Apollinaire Theatre Company), *The Dining Room* and *The Winter's Tale* (Bad Habit Productions), *Polaroid Stories* (Tinderbox Stage Company), and the films *Marranos* (Charles River Media) and *Skin & Bone* (Milk and Cookie Productions). To L, always.

**David N. Rogers (Larsen)** is a Cambridge resident and Boston-area actor returning to the stage after a yearlong hiatus. Past roles include Laurie in *Little Women* (Concord Players), George in *Our Town* (Riverside Theatreworks) and Oliver in *As You Like It* (Longwood Players). He has also worked with Flat Earth Theatre as a stage manager and dramaturg.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

The Arsenal Center for the Arts  
Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown  
James Donna  
Boston Light & Sound  
Caitlin Walker  
Bob Mussett  
Amelia Fountain

## **ALSO THIS SEASON FROM FLAT EARTH...**

*Rocket Man*  
By Steven Dietz  
August 16th – 24th, 2013  
The Arsenal Center for the Arts

## **SPECIAL NOTE**

First Production Théâtre Marigny, Paris, France. September 24, 1996