

Flat Earth Theatre Presents

Reader

by Ariel Dorfman

June 13th - 21st 2014
Arsenal Center for the Arts
Watertown, MA

Reader

by Ariel Dorfman

directed by Jake Scaltreto

The Cast

Robin Gabrielli (Daniel / Alfonso): Robin is very grateful to return to Flat Earth after his appearances as Manton in Lovecraft's Unnamable Tales and Donny in Rocket Man. Robin is a Boston area actor, sound designer and musician whose other stage credits include Patrick in Love in a Glass Jar (Here Comes Everybody, 2013), Robert in Love, Billy Bunny (Acme, 2013), Brent / Alexander in Drop Dead (Acme, 2012), Harry in The Man From Earth (Hovey, 2012), and Dan in Closer (Hovey, 2012). Robin would like to thank the talented and tireless people who make up Flat Earth for producing this very important play, the cast and crew of Reader for lending their talents to it, and you for coming to see it.

James Hayward (Nick / Enrique / Malko): James is humbled to take on his third Flat Earth stage appearance, having acted in The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) and Bug, directed the original radio play adaptation Lovecraft's Unnamable Tales, and most recently been seen in the staged reading of Ariel Dorfman's Widows. Outside of Flat Earth, he has studied Acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, appeared in many film endeavors, and built more puppets than any man should. James would like to take this opportunity to express his gratitude to his fellow company members and the rest of the Reader cast and crew for their unrelenting efforts.

Samuel Frank (The Director): Samuel Frank is completely thrilled to be making his non-school-affiliated theatrical debut with Flat Earth and hopes they haven't made a terrible, terrible mistake. Sam has been involved in theater since he was old enough to project his voice across a room. He is a member emeritus of the Yale Dramatic Association. Notable college roles include John Wilkes Booth in a mainstage production of Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman's Assassins and The Boss in Bill Russell and Henry Krieger's Side Show, Yale's 2006 commencement musical. Still, Sam's most memorable experience as a thespian happened offstage (but on-air!) during a live February 2000 broadcast by his high school's radio station in which his head was shaved for The King And I.

The Crew

Producer

Kevin Mullins

Stage Manager

Amy Lehrmitt

Scenic Design

Niki DeSimini

Lighting Design

Chris Bocchiaro

Sound Design

Chris Larson

Costume Design

Lindsay Bagle

Technical Director

Leigh Downes

Asst. Technical Director

Adam Teti

Build Crew

Rebecca Dunham

Master Electrician

Kevin Zebrecky

Wardrobe Manager

Coriana Hunt Swartz

Graphic Design

Stewart Holmes

Run Crew

Amy Lehrmitt

Board Op

Caitlin Mason

House Manager

Kevin Mullins

Violence Consultant

Cameron Beaty Gosselin

Rachel Sacks (Irene / Jacqueline): Rachel was last seen on stage at the Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport, MA in David Ives' All in the Timing. Favorite roles include: Maryanne Hobson in Hack License, Petruchio in Taming of the Shrew, and Moll in Kid Simple. Rachel is also a puppeteer, helping to create and perform original puppetry pieces that toured in theatres throughout New York City, including St. Anne's Warehouse. She holds a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, and is a graduate of the Moscow Art Theatre School in Moscow, Russia. More recently, Rachel is also responsible for developing a Theatre and Recovery Workshop that she runs monthly for adults struggling with mental illness, and has been asked to present and teach this workshop to Mental Health Care workers across the state of Massachusetts. She is thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with Flat Earth Theatre, and thanks the fantastic cast and crew for an inspiring experience.

Sara Jones (Tanya / Sonia): Sara was last seen on stage as Kathryn Schaub (and others) in Radium Girls at the AACT National Theatre Festival in Carmel, Indiana (Winner for Best Production). Other roles include Ruby in Second Samuel (DASH nomination for Best Ensemble), Theresa in Circle Mirror Transformation (DASH Nomination for Best Ensemble), Ann Deever in All My Sons (DASH Award for Best Ensemble), Ophelia in Hamlet, Annelle in Steel Magnolias (Winner for Best Ensemble at EACT 2010), Professor Thickett, Schmidt and Others in Spring Awakening (Zeitgeist Stage - IRNE winner for Best Production, Small Company), Lady Capulet in Romeo & Juliet, Pattie Levaco in Kimberly Akimbo, Madame de Tourvel in Les Liaisons Dangereuses and Mindy in 5 Women Wearing the Same Dress (Winner for Best Supporting Actress at EACT 2005). She is very grateful for this opportunity and has loved the Flat Earth Process. She'll be sad to see this one go.

Matthew Zahnzinger (The Man): Matthew Zahnzinger is happy to be back with Flat Earth for the third time. Past collaborations: Copenhagen (Niels Bohr), Blood Relations (Dr. Patrick). Other favorite productions: Company (Harry), Floyd Collins (Skeets Miller), and Lucky Stiff (Harry Witherspoon) with Moonbox Productions; Chess (Arbiter), Rock 'n' Roll (Nigel), and The Secret Garden (Archibald Craven) with the Longwood Players. A Brockton native, he also premiered Love Letters Made Easy at the Lost Nation Theatre in Montpelier, VT, and spent two summers with the Peterborough Players in New Hampshire. Matthew has studied at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland, and has a B.A. in Theatre and English from Northeastern University.

Special Thanks

The Arsenal Center for the Arts
Church of the Good Shepherd
James Donna
Boston Light & Sound
The Scaltreto Family

Note

Reader is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

About the Playwright

Ariel Dorfman has been active in the defense of human rights for many decades, having addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations and the main Forum of UNESCO in Paris. As part of this human rights work, he has penned the play Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark based upon a book by Kerry Kennedy, which premiered at the Kennedy Center with an all-star cast and was transmitted by PBS in the United States and is being performed in a number of countries around the world (including a staging in Martin Luther King's Church in Atlanta with Sean Penn, Woody Harrelson, Lynn Redgrave and Martin Sheen; and a presentation in Los Angeles, directed by Brad Whitford and starring the cast of *The West Wing*). He writes regularly for many of the most important newspapers and magazines in the US (New York Times, L A Times, Washington Post, Harper's, The Nation, Time) and abroad (El Pais, the Observer, the Guardian, The Independent, Le Monde, El Pais, Frankfurter Allgemeine, L'Unita, La Stampa, etc.) He teaches half the year at Duke University, where he holds the Walter Hines Page Chair of Literature and Latin American Studies. He has received numerous honorary degrees and is a member of The Academie Universelle des Cultures in France and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He lives in Durham, North Carolina with his wife, Angelica, and travels frequently to Santiago, Chile.

Audience Survey

We need your feedback! Please complete our audience survey to let us know about your experience. It only takes a couple of minutes, and your responses will help us evaluate and refine our process. Fill it out on paper, or online! Scan the QR code to take the survey.



Thanks!

About Flat Earth

"Flat Earth Theatre is a collaborative of artists actively developing an egalitarian theatre company. Engaging both artist and audience, we create an ever-evolving theatre experience that is both accessible and distinct."

Now in its eighth year, Flat Earth Theatre challenges audiences with works that inspire them to question their preconceived notions about the world. Featured productions include the award-winning staging of The Pillowman with the IRNE-nominated shadow puppetry of Woellert&Clark, last summer's dimension-traveling production of Rocket Man, and the New England premier of the sci-fi dystopia What Once We Felt. Organized around a non-hierarchical structure, Flat Earth functions as an egalitarian community of artists, a consortium of creative minds brought together in the pursuit of great theatre.

Later This Season

Don't miss the final production of our 2014 season: Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw. A century following its London premiere, Flat Earth embraces new and old in this journey through the echelons of English society.

The story is a familiar one: Eliza, lower class in every way, meets a man educated in phonetics and accent training who wagers that he can mold her to speak and act like an aristocrat. This tale is usually treated as a comedy, but director Devon Jones takes a darker turn, centering upon Eliza's exploitation by men who think they know what's better for her than she does.

August 22nd - 30th, 2014

Arsenal Center for the Arts, Watertown

 flat earth theatre

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