



Flat Earth Theatre



BY ALISTAIR MCDOWALL

Press Kit

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A digital version of this press kit is available for download at:
flatearththeatre.com/shows/season-14/x/press-kit.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 3, 2019

Flat Earth Theatre presents

X

By Alistair McDowall

WHAT

Flat Earth Theatre begins its 14th season, *YONDER*, with Alistair McDowall's sci-fi horror masterpiece, **X**.

WHEN:

THREE WEEKS ONLY: Friday, November 1st @ 8pm; Saturday, November 2nd @ 8pm; Sunday, November 3rd @ 2pm; Monday, November 4th @ 7:30pm; Friday, November 8th @ 8pm; Saturday, November 9th @ 8pm; Sunday, November 10th @ 2pm; Thursday, November 14th @ 7:30pm; Friday, November 15th @ 8pm; and Saturday, November 16th @ 8pm.

WHERE

The Mosesian Center for the Arts
321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA, 02472

TICKETS

<https://www.flatearththeatre.com/shows/season-14/x/>

Box Office Phone: 617-923-8487, Adults – \$25* | Students – \$12.50†

PRESS NIGHT

Monday, November 4th @ 7:30pm

FOR PRESS TICKETS

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WATERTOWN, MA (September 3, 2019) – This November, dare to venture to the far-reaches of our solar system and to the outer limits of the human psyche in Flat Earth Theatre's production of Alistair McDowall's reality-bending masterpiece **X**. Boston theatre favorite Lindsay Eagle returns to the directing chair for **X**'s New England debut, which also launches Flat Earth Theatre's 14th season *YONDER*: a yearlong exploration of humanity's quest for the stars, and the consequences therein.

On the dark, frigid wasteland of Pluto, a team of astronauts find themselves marooned and out of contact with Earth. With nothing to do but wait, the crew struggles to maintain their sanity as the very fabric of reality begins to unravel around them. Channeling sci-fi horror classics such as *Alien*, *Event Horizon*, and *Sunshine*, Alistair McDowall's groundbreaking play poses the question: Can you solve for **X**?

Flat Earth's production is helmed by returning director Lindsay Eagle, and follows a lauded 2016 premiere at the Royal Court Theatre in London. "Like all good plays, **X** is a human story," says Eagle, whose previous Flat Earth directing credits include *Antigone*, *Radium Girls*, and *Rocket Man*. "It's a story about memory, history, legacy, about what we leave behind – it's a play that asks what it means to be human, all through the vehicle of science fiction horror. It's an exhilarating night of theatre."

The characters in this play are incredibly human, well-drawn, and very very funny, " says Eagle, who leads an exciting cast of veteran local actors including past Flat Earth collaborators Cassandra Meyer (*Not Medea*; *Silent Sky*; *Enigma Variations*) and Abigail Erdelatz (*King of Shadows*), as well as newcomers Nick Perron (*The Curious*

* Plus Fees

† Student ID Required

Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Apollinaire Theatre Company), Slava Tchoul (*The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*, Apollinaire Theatre Company), and David Anderson (*Cherry Docs*, Acropolis Stage Company; *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, Zeitgeist Stage Company – IRNE award for Best Actor, Fringe). “They’re removed from society,” Eagle continues, “Removed from the context in which humans are meant to exist, and are forced to grapple with the meaning of life. It’s a question to which I know we can all relate, and I can’t imagine a group of actors better suited to the task of trying to answer it. I feel very lucky.”

X will run November 1, 2019 through November 16, 2019 at the Mosesian Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street in Watertown, MA. Tickets may be purchased for \$25, or \$12.50 for students at <https://www.flatearththeatre.com/shows/season-14/x>.

X kicks off Flat Earth’s 2019–20 season **YONDER**. Featuring new works celebration **ONE GIANT LEAP**, which honors the 50th anniversary of the moon landing; as well as a **cosmic surprise** to be revealed in the months to come, Flat Earth’s 14th season explores familiar worlds that become more and more alien the further away you get.

STAFF & CAST:

Directed by Lindsay Eagle, **X**’s design team includes Darren Cornell (Set Design), Erica Desautels (Costume Design), Connor Van Ness (Lighting Design), Kyle Lampe (Sound Design), and Lynn Wilcott (Special Effects Designer.) The Producer is Jake Scaltreto, the Stage Manager is Amy Lehmitt, and the Technical Director is Leigh Downes. The cast features David Anderson as Ray, Abigail Erdelatz as Mattie, Cassandra Meyer as Gilda, Nick Perron as Clark, and Slava Tchoul as Cole.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT:

Alistair McDowall is a playwright who grew up in Great Broughton in the North East of England. His play *Brilliant Adventures* was awarded a Bruntwood Prize in 2011. In addition to **X**, His plays include *Pomona* at the Orange Tree Theatre, *Talk Show* at the Royal Court Theatre, *Captain Amazing* at the Edinburgh Fringe and Soho Theatre, and *Brilliant Adventures* at the Royal Exchange Theatre. His play *Pomona* transferred to the National Theatre and the Royal Exchange Theatre in Autumn 2015.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:

Lindsay Eagle is an engagement-driven actor, director, producer, theatre artist and educator with a passion for justice, representation, gender and body image activism. Lindsay earned critical acclaim, including the Elliot Norton Award and IRNE Award for Best Actress – Small Theatre, for her portrayal of Helen in *Fat Pig* by Neil LaBute (Flat Earth Theatre), and has also acted with many local theatre companies, including Boston Theater Company, Bridge Repertory Theatre, Fort Point Theatre Channel, Happy Medium Theatre Company, and Flat Earth Theatre. Her directorial credits include a radically representative production of *Antigone* by Jean Anouilh (Flat Earth Theatre), as well as several productions with all-female casts, including *The Good Body* by Eve Ensler (Hub Theatre Company of Boston), the first all-female professional production of *Radium Girls* by D.W. Gregory and the New England premiere of *What Once We Felt* by Ann Marie Healy (both with Flat Earth Theatre). Other directing credits include *Citizens of the Empire: a Space Opera* by Kevin Mullins, *From The Deep* by Cassie M. Seinuk (both with Boston Public Works), and short plays and readings with companies such as The Body and Sold Project, Maiden Phoenix Theatre Company, The Charlestown Working Theatre, The One-Minute Play Festival and Open Theatre Project. lindsayeagle.com

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About the Cast

CASSANDRA MEYER – Gilda

Cassandra Meyer is thrilled to be back on stage again with Flat Earth, having last appeared as Chorus in *Not Medea*, and Annie Jump Cannon in *Silent Sky*. Other previous credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Arts After Hours), *A Southern Victory* (Vagabond Theater Group), *The Winter's Tale* (Maiden Phoenix), *Henry V* (Arts After Hours), *Enigma Variations* (Flat Earth Theatre), *Burning Up The Dictionary* (Vagabond Theatre Group), *Twelfth Night* (Arts After Hours), and the film *Ascendants* (Charles River Media Group). Cassandra received her BA in performance from Northeastern University and has also studied at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland.

DAVID ANDERSON – Ray

David Anderson is grateful for every day he gets to call himself an actor. His good fortune includes him here as Ray, and area roles in *Cherry Docs* (Acropolis Stage Company), *Sylvia* (Theater Uncorked); *NSFW* (Theatre on Fire); *Zeitgeist Stage Company's Love! Valour! Compassion!* (IRNE, Best Actor-Fringe, Best Play) and *Faceless* (IRNE, Best Play); *Incident at Vichy* (Praxis Stage); *The End of the World* (Boston Actors' Theatre); *Hard and Fast: A Love Story* (Boston Public Works), *Peggy Pickit Sees the Face of God* (Apollinaire); *Vinegar Tom* (Whistler in the Dark; Hubbie 2013, Best Ensemble). His mentors from Middlebury College (B.A.), UCI (M.F.A.) and Freehold Theatre Lab in Seattle (Meisner Lab) are always on his mind.

NICK PERRON – Clark

Nick Perron is an actor hailing from Maine and a graduate from Dalhousie University's Fountain School of the Performing Arts. Nick has had the pleasure of working with many Boston companies, including Fresh Ink, Boston Theatre Company, Apollinaire Theatre, Brown Box, and Shakespeare NOW! Nick is so excited to be making his Flat Earth debut in *X*. Nick thanks his Mom, Sister, Step-Dad, and Sister for their endless support.

SLAVA TCHOUL – Cole

Slava Tchoul is thrilled to welcome you to this play... Welcome! Slava is a Boston based actor, educator, scenic artist, and clawhammer banjo player. His work could have recently been spotted in open theatre project's Gay Shorts Festival (*One Small Step*) and at Apollinaire Theatre (*The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Heart*). As an actor educator he has worked for New Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Now, Underground Railway Theatre, and Theatre Espresso. His hope is that you enjoy the show.

ABIGAIL ERDELATZ – Mattie

Abigail is thrilled to be returning to the Flat Earth stage for *X*, having last appeared as Sarah in *King of Shadows*. She received her BA in Theatre Arts from Gordon College and her certificate in Classical Acting from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. Previous roles include Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Sheila Birling in *An Inspector Calls*, Young Woman in *Machinal* and Constanze in *Amadeus*. Special thanks to friends and family for their constant love, support, and crockpot dinners.

About the Staff

LYNN WILCOTT – Special Effects Designer

This is Lynn's first production with Flat Earth Theatre. She has been a Designated Blood Donor for many Boston theatre companies, including Company One, Fresh Ink, Hub Theatre Company, Theatre on Fire, and Improv Boston. She would like to thank her gorgeous family and hilarious friends for their continued support and inspiration. XXXX to the Most Favored Weirdo.

ÈVE PICARD – Assistant Stage Manager

Ève has recently returned to her theatrical roots with her role as stage manager for *The Revengers* at Theatre @ First. She works in the tech field having transferred to Boston from Toronto two years ago. In Toronto, Ève worked as a stage manager for the Théâtre français de Toronto and Théâtre la Tangeante. She has a degree in Drama Studies from York University.

AMY LEHRMITT – Stage Manager

Ames has stage managed over twenty projects for Flat Earth Theatre since joining the company in 2009. She has also produced many others, including last fall's IRNE-nominated *Delicate Particle Logic*, and penned the radio adaptations *Lovecraft's Unnamable Tales* and *Lovecraft's Tales Outside Time & Space*. Her adaptation of "The Masque of the Red Death" was performed with the Post-Meridian Radio Players in *Tomes of Terror: Nevermore*. Next up, she is writing an original sci-fi radio play, *Fine-Tuned Universe*, for Flat Earth's moon-themed new works celebration One Giant Leap this spring! Ames resides in Medford with her boyfriend / company founder Jake and two cats named Jim.

ERICA DESAUTELS – Costume Designer

Erica is a Boston-based costume technician and designer who is thrilled to return for her fourth production with FET! Her technical work has been seen at Boston Ballet, Boston Lyric Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Disney Cruise Lines and many other large and small stages. Recent design credits include: *Mountain Language* (Theater on Fire), *King of Shadows* (FET), *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *The Taming* (Hub Theater Co.), *The 39 Steps* (Moonbox Prod.), *Penny Penniworth* (Titanic Theater Co.), *Sense and Sensibility* (Maiden Phoenix), *Laura* (GBSC), *Dog Act* (TOF), *Citizens of the Empire* (Boston Public Works), *The Farnsworth Invention* (FET), and *Chalk* (Fresh Ink Theatre), along with 10 youth theater productions with the The Walnut Hill School and the GBSC young company.

KYLE LAMPE – Sound Designer

Kyle Lampe is a Boston-based sound designer and composer. His previous designs with Flat Earth include *Silent Sky*, *The Nether*, and most recently *Not Medea*. In Kyle's latest music project, WadeStone Music, he composes one song during each week of 2019. You can find all of this music at soundcloud.com/wadestonemusic.

DARREN CORNELL – Scenic Designer

Darren Cornell is a recent graduate of Emmanuel College where he studied Theater Arts and Chemistry. Recent acting credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), *A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine* (Chico Marx), *Xanadu* (Sonny Malone), and *Sweet Charity* (Vittorio Vidal). He has also worked on the scenic design for productions of *Delicate Particle Logic*, *Antigone* and *Fat Pig* with Flat Earth Theatre, *A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine*, *The Laramie Project*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *Night of the Living Dead* at Emmanuel College. He would like to thank his family and Sammy for their constant support. www.darrencornell.com

CONNOR S. VAN NESS – Lighting Designer

Connor is a freelance lighting director, designer, and programmer working in the greater Boston area. He's been collaborating with Flat Earth for over a decade, with credits including *Not Medea*, *The Nether* and *Enigma Variations*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Blinders*. Other design credits with Titanic Theater, Happy Medium Theatre, Argos Productions, among others. His work can most frequently be seen at the Wilbur Theatre, where he designs lighting for concerts, live podcasts, stand-up comedy, and more. Connor earned a BFA in Theatre Arts from Hofstra University.

DEE ROGERS – Dramaturg

Dee Rogers (she/her/hers) is a dramaturg, actor, and activist based in Boston. Most recently she acted as dramaturg for *The Elm Tree*, produced by Alight Theater Guild. Past dramaturgy credits with Flat Earth include *Fat Pig* and *The Farnsworth Invention*. Dee has a passion for science fiction and horror; working on X has been a deeply treasured experience.

JAKE SCALTRETO – Producer / Prop & Clock Design

Jake is a director, designer, and producer based in Boston, and is a cofounder of Flat Earth. He has previously produced numerous shows with Flat Earth including *King of Shadows*, *Radium Girls*, *What Once We Felt*, and *Pirate Lives! The Musical!* He also produced *Citizens of the Empire* with Boston Public Works.

About the Playwright

Alistair McDowall is a playwright who grew up in Great Broughton in the North East of England. His play *Brilliant Adventures* was awarded a Bruntwood Prize in 2011. In addition to *X*, His plays include *Pomona* at the Orange Tree Theatre, *Talk Show* at the Royal Court Theatre, *Captain Amazing* at the

Edinburgh Fringe and Soho Theatre, and *Brilliant Adventures* at the Royal Exchange Theatre. His play *Pomona* transferred to the National Theatre and the Royal Exchange Theatre in Autumn 2015.

About Flat Earth Theatre

Mission Statement

Flat Earth Theatre crafts experiences that challenge the worldview of both artist and audience. Through evocative, intimate staging and visceral, intelligent performances, we inspire the community to question their preconceived notions and expand their perspective. We stage productions of neglected and underperformed scripts, as well as new and in-development pieces, and conceive unique takes on more conventional works. Flat Earth Theatre thrives in its egalitarian approach, engaging the diverse ideas and skills of its company members and collaborators to create thought-provoking theatre that informs and entertains.

History

Flat Earth Theatre was established in the summer of 2006 by Kevin Mullins and Jake Scaltreto, long-time friends from Watertown seeking a creative outlet. Now in its fourteenth season, Flat Earth has established itself as a distinctive voice in Boston theatre. Over the years, the goal organically emerged to focus on challenging audiences to question their preconceived notions about the world. The company focuses on intellectual themes – often scientific, literary, or historical – as well as topical issues that explore elements of society that inspire thought and discussion.

Flat Earth has no Artistic Director. Rather, all decisions from season selection down are made by company consensus. Each member contributes their own talent and perspective to shape the identity of the company. Flat Earth functions as an egalitarian community of artists, a consortium of creative minds brought together in the pursuit of great theatre.

Featured productions include the IRNE Awards–sweeping *The Farnsworth Invention* (2015); *Silent Sky* (2017), recipient of

the 2017 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Fringe Production; and *Fat Pig* (2017) for which Lindsay Eagle was awarded Best Fringe Actress at the 22nd Annual IRNE Awards, as well as Outstanding Actress at the 2018 Elliot Norton Awards.

Our Theatre C.R.E.D.

Collaborative – As an egalitarian company, collaboration among production teams and company members is at the core of decision making. All planning starts with discussion in which every member has equal opportunity to express their opinion and be part of the conversation, and all resolutions are determined through the accord of those involved. Flat Earth Theatre's objective is that everyone has ownership of the outcome, whether that be in how a show looks, what plays are selected, or how the company is run.

Resourceful – Flat Earth showcases creative approaches to complex theatrical matters, onstage and off. We create productions of formidable quality, but remain budget conscious by pushing our artists to think outside the box, embrace their inventiveness, and be truly original in their work.

Evocative – Through our productions and other interactions, Flat Earth Theatre strives to challenge both audience member and artist to reassess what they know about the world around them. Unfamiliar themes and little-known stories awaken an interest in our audience to learn more and discuss with others, and they leave the theatre transformed by what they have just experienced.

Daring – Flat Earth's risk-taking style pushes us in unexpected directions, enabling us to craft theatrical works with an approach unique to our company. Our ambitious choices push us into new, exciting territory and give audiences an experience not often seen on Boston stages.

COMING SUMMER 2020

WALDEN

BY AMY BERRYMAN

