

Flat Earth Theatre Presents



BY ALISTAIR MCDOWALL

November 1st – 16th 2019
The Black Box at the Mosesian Center for the Arts
Watertown, MA

X

by Alistair McDowall

CAST

Gilda	Cassandra Meyer
Ray	David Anderson
Clark	Nick Perron
Cole	Slava Tchoul
Mattie	Abigail Erdelatz
Young Mattie	Emma Sheldon

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Jake Scaltreto
Director	Lindsay Eagle
Stage Manager	Amy Lehrmitt
Assistant Stage Manager	Ève Picard
Technical Director	Leigh Downes
Assistant Technical Director	Adam Teti
Scenic Designer	Darren Cornell
Costume Designer	Erica Desautels
Lighting Designer	Connor S. Van Ness
Sound Designer	Kyle Lampe
Special Effects Designer	Lynn Wilcott
Props & Clock Designer	Jake Scaltreto
Dramaturg	Dee Rogers
Technical Coordinator	Elizabeth Yvette Ramirez
Scenic Painter	Liam Hartigan
Violence & Movement Consultant	Sarah Gazdowicz
House Manager	Kristen Heider

X was first presented by the English Stage Company in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs at the Royal Court Theatre on 30th March 2016

X is produced by special arrangement with United Talent Agency.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

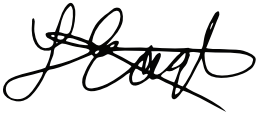
When I was in Chicago this past August, I wandered into a bar that was connected to a theatre and ended up spontaneously seeing an Alistair McDowall play. It was *Pomona*, a dark and twisty crime drama set in a corrupt urban landscape. I felt, watching the show, that this was the closest I would ever come to experiencing what audiences would experience during *X*—and let me tell you, it was wild. *Pomona* was like watching a dream: it didn't always make sense, bombarded me with visceral imagery, elicited strong emotions, and I only felt I understood what I had just experienced at the very end—and even then, I had more questions than answers.

Like *Pomona*, *X* offers no maps and pulls no punches. It brings its characters—and its audiences—to their limits. I believe our limit is where extraordinary things occur, and the fact that you are here probably means you do too. So thank you for being here, and for your willingness to explore the limit with us today. We wouldn't be able to go there without you.

While you have chosen to be here, the characters you're about to meet have no choice. They are pushed involuntarily to their limits, forced to stare into the void of the human psyche, of memory, of isolation, of trauma, of legacy, into the void of what is left at the end of things. You will witness these characters grapple with what they are experiencing and try to make sense of it, to “solve for X,” so to speak. If my experience at *Pomona* is any indicator, my advice to you is: resist the temptation to solve for X. X will make itself known, and will have a different meaning (or lack thereof) for each of you.

What you are about to see is not pretty. It is not easy. It is not nice. It has also been a labor of extraordinary love from every single person involved, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to share it with you.

XO,



Lindsay Eagle, Director

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Lindsay Eagle is an Elliot Norton Award–winning actor, director, producer, theatre artist and educator with a passion for justice-driven theatre and body image activism. Lindsay earned critical acclaim for her portrayal of Helen in *Fat Pig* by Neil LaBute (Flat Earth Theatre) and has acted and directed for many local companies, including Hub Theatre Company, Boston Theatre Company, Bridge Repertory Theatre, and Flat Earth Theatre, the last of which she has been a Company Member and artistic leader of since 2013 (currently on sabbatical). Recent directing credits include *Antigone* by Jean Anouilh (Flat Earth), *Citizens of the Empire: a Space Opera* by Kevin Mullins (Boston Public Works), and *The Good Body* by Eve Ensler (Hub). By day, Lindsay facilitates interactive educational programming at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, with a focus on civic engagement, and Dean's Educational Theater, with a focus on intimate partner violence, bullying, and healthy relationships. www.lindsayeagle.com

CAST BIOS

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.

Emma Sheldon – Young Mattie

Emma is thrilled to make her debut performance in *X* with the talented cast and crew at Flat Earth Theater. She has most recently performed with Trinity Repertory Company's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* as Young Audrey. Other credits include: *Watch on the Rhine* (Head Trick Theater), *Charlottes Web* (Rhode Island Stage Ensemble), *Annie* (The Community Players). Emma is a student at North Attleboro Middle School and is part of Trinity Repertory Company's Junior Ensemble and Young Actors Summer Institute programs. Emma would like to thank Lindsay Eagle for trusting her with this role as well as her family and friends for their support.

STAFF BIOS

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

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

Flat Earth Theatre was established in the summer of 2006 by Kevin Mullins and Jake Scal-treto, 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. 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.

FLAT EARTH'S MISSION

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.

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, or visit www.flatearththeatre.com/survey



SPECIAL THANKS

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown
The Mosesian Center for the Arts
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And to our "blood donors":

David Anderson, Robert Orzalli, Matthew Williams, Robin Abrahams, James Rossi, Robert Mussett, Debra Zides, Kathy & Craig Lehrmitt, Timothy Swartz, Eileen O'Brien, Lauren Elias, David Cruz, Patrick Rivelli, and Eric Baatz



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