



Bermuda Festival 2005



THE UNEXPECTED MAN

31 JANUARY, 1 AND 2 FEBRUARY, 2005 AT CITY HALL THEATRE

THE BERMUDA FESTIVAL PRESENTS

The **Unexpected Man**

A PLAY BY YASMINA REZA • TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

EVENT / January 31, February 1 & 2
8 pm City Hall Theatre

Starring

Charles Shaughnessy

as The Man

Judy Kuhn

as The Woman

A train compartment.

A man and a woman.

Nothing realistic. Air. Space.

Directed by **Joel Froomkin**

Casting **Norman Meranus**

Lighting **William Bradford**

THE SHOW WILL RUN WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION.

Note from the Director...

I first encountered **The Unexpected Man** when it opened at the Barbican in London a few years ago. The reasons for my attending the play were two-fold: Firstly, I was a great fan of 'ART' and Yasmina Reza's brilliant ability to create memorable, touching characters and Christopher Hampton's talent for filling his dialogue with wry wit and worldly wisdom. Secondly, Eileen Atkins, with whom I had the privilege of working in the West End production of *A Delicate Balance*, was starring.

I was enchanted. Surprised, charmed and completely won over by this wonderful little play and its extraordinary characters. Everyone I know who has encountered *The Unexpected Man* expresses a similar experience. When first presented with its premise the audience may seem wary – two people, sitting opposite each other, NOT talking to one another for almost ninety minutes? What on earth could be entertaining or remotely stage-worthy of such an idea? Perhaps a short story – or a radio play... but why on earth put it on stage? And yet, within a few moments we are arrested – and as the characters progress on their journey from Paris to Frankfurt we, the audience, become desperately engaged cheerleaders – unwittingly involved in their lives and their relationship. This delicate charming little play, I wager, packs more suspense in it than any television car

chase and more anticipation than your average Harrison Ford spy thriller – an unlikely, romantic, quirky jewel.

It's not often that a play makes you really care what happens as its action unfolds. I found myself really caring.

To cast this play, is no easy task and I must give kudos to my casting director Norman Meranus. You must find fitting, balanced foils. Grown ups. Actors with the chops to sustain substantial dramatic speeches. Lonely yet lively. Funny yet fallen. Hepburn and Tracy. Bacall and Bogart. We wanted to bring to the Island actors with the appeal of television talent but who also had the confidence onstage to handle roles created by seasoned stage actors. And above all, the audience has to want them to make a connection.

The role of *The Woman* is a challenge. She must be mature, intelligent, sensual, feisty, tragic and witty. Judy Kuhn is, without doubt, Broadway royalty. Trevor Nunn, who has cast her numerous times in some of the most renowned musicals of the past two decades, has said of her: "she could not be able to sing a note and still be one of the finest actresses working in the theatre today". Her indelible performances in the original-casts of *Les Misérables*, *She Loves Me*, *Chess* and *Sunset Boulevard* show an astounding comedic and dramatic range. Working with her on this project has been an unforgettable treat and of great personal significance. Ten years ago, I sat in the back row of the Ahmanson Theatre watching her face off against

WHAT'S NEXT...

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4th and 5th February

DON GIOVANNI Opera by Mozart
7th, 8th and 9th February

FLAMENCO IN CONCERT
Guitar, song and dance
11th and 12th February

MOSCOW CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Orchestral concerts
14th and 15th February

MOMIX Opus Cactus
18th, 19th and 20th February

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Glenn Close in the climax of *Sunset*, never dreaming I would have the pleasure of spending hours in rehearsal alone with her poring over such dense and brilliant writing. I am honoured that she has so willingly given me her trust in the face of such an adventure.

The role of *The Man* also comes with its own specific challenges. The actor has to embody a grumpy, irritable curmudgeon who is simultaneously charming, wry, and virile. A celebrated literary figure, Charles Shaughnessy is one of television's most elegant leading men. His six seasons as Mr. Sheffield, Fran Drescher's perennial object of affection on *The Nanny* not only demonstrate his great charm but also his ability to revel in understated comedic wit. A role which could have been dismissed as the straight-man to a larger-than-life comedienne was crafted by Shaughnessy into a warm, layered and memorable character. His darker, crustier side was recently revealed with great aplomb on the Broadway stage when he relished the role of villainous toilet magnate Caldwell B. Caldwell in the triple-Tony winning hit *Urinetown*. He possesses a ruddy English charm, undeniable sex appeal (demonstrated by his award-winning tenure on *Days of Our Lives*) and radiates a Manor-born wit and education which is imperative to embody a character that is such an unwitting member of the literati. As the father of two girls, he has experienced the joys and challenges of parenthood. And, ironically, his American debut many years ago was in a play opposite the late Alan Bates who originated the role of *The Man* in New York.

I love this play. I love this Island. I am honoured, humbled and thrilled to be able to do justice to this story with such a celebrated, talented and classy cast. I am even more excited to be able to share them both with the Island. I believe one of the reasons why I am such a fan of this play is that my time on the Island brought me into contact with so many characters who seem so like Reza's characters. Brilliant, wry, talented, witty, literate and, sometimes lonely people, far from their native land. These people have touched, entertained and inspired me. It has been many years since I have had the pleasure of working in City Hall and almost twenty since I made my theatrical debut on this stage tap dancing opposite pantomime ugly step-sisters. Working in this theatre is coming home for me. And, after all, there's no place like home.

All aboard. I hope you enjoy the journey.

NOTE

Due to the unexpectedly prohibitive nature of her filming schedule for ABC's Desperate Housewives, Ms. Harriet Harris regrets that she is unable to appear, as scheduled, in The Unexpected Man. We are thrilled that Broadway stalwart, Ms. Judy Kuhn has agreed to join us. We would like to acknowledge her remarkable commitment in the face of so brief a period of preparation.



Joel Froomkin



Who's Who

JUDY KUHN

The Woman

For her work On and Off-Broadway, Judy has been nominated for three Tony Awards and three Drama Desk Awards and won an Obie Award. Her work on Broadway includes the hit revival of *She Loves Me*, and the Broadway Premieres of *Chess* and *Les Misérables* (originating the role of Cosette in the US.) Also on Broadway she appeared in Richard Nelson's play *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Lincoln Center Theater), Alan Menken and Tim Rice's *King David*, *Rags*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (NYSF) and the US premiere of *Sunset Boulevard* with Glenn Close, in Los Angeles (American Premiere Recording). She starred in London's West End in *Metropolis* for which she received a Laurence Olivier Award Nomination. Recently, Judy starred as Fosca in the critically acclaimed production of *Passion* at the Kennedy Center's Sondheim Celebration.

Other theatre includes *Eli's Comin'* at the Vineyard Theater (Obie Award), the title role in *The Ballad of Little Jo* at Steppenwolf (Jeff Award Nomination), the Drama Department's revival of *As Thousands Cheer*, *Dream True* (Vineyard), *Strike Up The Band* (Encores!), *The Glass Menagerie* (McCarter Theater), *Martin Guerre* (Hartford Stage), and Martha Clarke's *Endangered Species* (BAM).

Judy sang the title role in Disney's *Pocahontas* as well as the sequel *Pocahontas: Journey To A New World*. Television appearances include: *Law & Order* (NBC), *All My Children* (ABC), *The Secret Life Of Mary Margaret...* (HBO), *My Favorite Broadway: The Leading Ladies* (PBS), and the PBS Broadcast of *Les Misérables*, the *Dream Cast* (Cosette), and *In Performance At The White House* (PBS).

Judy has performed on concert stages around the world including appearances at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and The Royal Albert Hall, and she can be heard on numerous original cast recordings as well as her solo album *Just In Time: Judy Kuhn Sings Jule Styne*.



CHARLES SHAUGHNESSY

The Man

Charles Shaughnessy, born and raised in London, England, came from a show business family. His father was the principal writer and script editor on *Upstairs, Downstairs* and his mother was an actress. He started acting in school plays while in grade school but, after graduating from Eton College, got his BA in Law at Magdalene College, Cambridge. "Despite a lifelong love of the theatre, I thought it was about time someone in my family did something sensible," he said.

While at Cambridge he joined the famous "Footlights Revue" comedy group. Upon graduation, Charles returned to his first love, acting, and enrolled in drama school in London. After a year touring in repertory, he was cast in the Agatha Christie television series *Partners in Crime*. He then won the lead role in the BBC drama series *Jury*.

Romance brought the actor to America and he moved to Hollywood to marry Susan Falender, an actress he had met in drama school. Charles first covered the Los Angeles Theatre scene, appearing at The Mark Taper Forum, the LAAT, and the Ahmanson opposite the late Alan Bates in *A Patriot for Me*. He was then cast in the role of Shane Donovan in the daytime series *Days of Our Lives*. He stayed with the series for eight years and won three Soap Opera Digest Awards.

He later starred in the successful CBS show *The Nanny* opposite Fran Drescher. After a six year run on *The Nanny* he has since appeared in the feature film *Denial* with Jason Alex-

ander and Patrick Dempsey, *Second Chances*, *The Painting* and most recently *Kids in America* as well as several TV Movies, including *A Kiss So Deadly* with Charlotte Ross, *Days* with Elijah Wood and for Disney, *Mom's Got A Date With A Vampire* with Caroline Rhea and *Get A Clue* with Lindsay Lohan.

Charles has done many animated series, but most recently, was proud to receive an EMMY for his voice-work as Dennis the goldfish, in the animated Disney cartoon, *Stanley*.

Most recently Charles was excited to make his Broadway debut starring in the triple Tony award winning musical, *Urinetown*.

Charles has enjoyed a varied career on stage and in front of the camera, but is most grateful for his beautiful wife, Susan and his two girls, Jenny and Maddy, who make it all worthwhile.

JOEL FROMKIN

Joel is a young director/designer who already has staged productions at historic regional theatres around America, designed on London's West End and directed renowned Broadway performers in the premiere works of award-winning writers. Joel has worked with many Tony-winning and nominated actors, legendary writers and has apprenticed under several Tony-winning directors.

Joel's unusual and eclectic combination of artistic talents has helped him develop an elegant, detailed and creative theatrical voice. He has been lovingly referred to as a 'one-man creative team', and has been called upon by many producers to put his creative

stamp upon every aspect of a production. At heart however, Joel feels that the joy of theatre is collaboration, and he relishes the joy of crafting a memorable theatrical experience with other theatrical artists. As a director, Joel's productions consistently express his exuberant visual imagination.

Joel also has the distinction of being the second youngest set designer in West End history, and at the age of twenty-three was an associate producer for a major West End producing organisation. In addition, Joel is also an experienced dialect coach, and has been hired regularly by The Paper Mill Playhouse to train dialects for many of their lavish productions. In addition to production dialect coaching, Joel has been working as a professor at NYU/CAP21's renowned musical theatre department.

Joel holds an undergraduate degree in performance and a Master's in design from the University of Southern California (both summa cum laude). He is the first individual ever to win the University's Stanley Musgrove Award for Outstanding Creative Talent two years consecutively, and he has won awards for his direction at festivals in New York and overseas.

Joel's directing credits for BMDS in Bermuda include *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *A Little Night Music*, the latter as part of The Bermuda Festival.

JOSH BRADFORD

Lighting Designer

Josh Bradford lives and works in New York City where his recent designs include *Sin: A Cardinal Deposed* directed by Carl Forsman for The New Group, *The Bald Soprano* and *The Lesson* for the Atlantic Theater, *The Hasty Heart* for Keen Company, and *A Likely Story* for the New Group. He previously collaborated with Joel Fromkin on the New York premiere of *The Fastest Woman Alive*. Josh recently spent his summer as the resident lighting designer for the Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference. He began



Judy as Cosette in *Les Misérables*

studying design at Middlebury College and holds an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

JOSHUA PILOTE

New York Stage Manager

Regionally, Joshua has stage managed for the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Theatre for Youth, American Players Theatre and toured with the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespearean Festival and the Nebraska Theatre Caravan. NY credits incl. the Off-Broadway hit *Jevtopia* at the West Side Theatre. He is currently being trained at the Majestic Theatre to be a stage manager for the Broadway company of *Phantom of the Opera*.

YASMINA REZA

Playwright

Already an accomplished actress, Yasmina Reza's first play, *Conversations After A Burial*, won her the 1987 Best Author Molière Award and the New Writer Award from SACD. Her second play *Winter Crossing*, won the 1990 Molière Award for Best Fringe Production; *The Unexpected Man* was snapped up, in the UK, for production by the Royal Shakespeare Company and *Life x 3*, by the Royal National Theatre. Her translation of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* was nominated for a Molière Award for Best Translation and her first original screenplay was for the movie *Lulu Kreutz's Picnic*. Her first novel, *Hammerklavier*, was successfully adapted for the stage and her second, *One Desolation*, received great critical acclaim. But it was her play *ART* which took the world by storm and established her firmly as one of France's best contemporary playwrights. In 1998 she was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérité for her services to the theatre.



Charles Shaughnessy in 'Urinetown'

CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Translator

Christopher Hampton wrote his first play, *When did you last see My Mother?*, at the age of eighteen. His extensive work for the theatre includes *The Philanthropist*, adaptations from Ibsen and Molière, and Reza's *ART* and *The Unexpected Man*. His television work includes *Hotel du Lac*, *The Ginger Tree* and *Tales From Hollywood*. Film credits include the screenplays for *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Carrington* and *The Secret Agent*, the last two of which he also directed.



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Saul and Donna Froomkin
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