richardthesecond

A NIGHTMARE
RICHARDBEHSEGON

WRITTEN + PERFORMED BY MATTHEW MACFADZEAN
DIRECTED BY REBECCA BROWN
PRODUCTION DESIGN BY MICHAEL GIANFRANCESCO
LIGHTING DESIGN BY REBECCA PICHERRACK
LIVE SOUND + ORIGINAL MUSIC BY IAIN MILLER
FILM SEQUENCES + EDITING BY CRAIG MACNAUGHTON
ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE BY BRENDAH STEACY
ADDITIONAL VISUAL EFFECTS BY COLLON BROWN
STAGE MANAGED BY JOHN PATRICK ROBICHAUD
HOUSE TECHNICIAN TREVOR SCHWELLNUS
CARPENTER MARK MACHAN
PUBLICIST JIM LEFRANCOIS
PRODUCED BY PLAYERS BY NATURE + NATION OF ASLAN

FEATURING

DAVID FRANCIS AS GENE

WITH

JENNIFER ENGELS, JENNIFER GERLACH, CATHY GORDONMARSH, IAN HART,
MARIE-JOSEE LEBEBVRE, CHRIS MCCAWLEY, CAMERON MACDUFFE, WENDY MACFADZEAN, CRAIG ERICKSON, NICOLE PILLAR,
MICHELLE POLAK, JOHN PRICE AND THE BUJAK BROTHERS.

BIG BEAUTIFUL THANK-YOUS TO

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Canada Council for the Arts
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An arm's length body of the City of Toronto
Nation of Aslan presents

richardthesecond

Written & Performed by Matthew MacFadzean
Consulting Director Rebecca Brown
Stage Managed by Natasha Mytnowych
Sound & Original Music by Iain Miller*
Production Consultant Dana Osborne
Film Sequences by Brendan Steacy
Edited by Rich Gagne
Visual Effects by Collon Brown

Featuring
David Francis as Gene

with
Jennifer Engels, John Price, Marie-Jose Levebre, Julius Chapple, Imali Perera, Lori Delorme, Michelle Winters, Gord Rand, Craig Erickson, Nicole Pillar, Cyrus Lane, Brendan Steacy, Wendy MacFadzean, Noam Rosen, Ha Chu, Ian Hart, and the Buyak Brothers.

Thank you

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* Sound operation on Saturday August 11 by Rob Montgomery
some background...

I am a great lover of Shakespeare, as many of us are, and am always struck with how neatly the plays of Shakespeare seem to fit into different periods of history. Henry V is commonly linked to nationalism, Richard III to dictatorship, etcetera... or often the spirit of a play mirrors the spirit of an age: when we are power-hungry we are MacBeth, when we are impetuous we are Romeo & Juliet, when we are naive we are Othello, when we are lost we are Lear. When we are ineffectual we are Richard II.

And so I set out to create a modern Richard, whom I feel encapsulates the time we are presently living in. Shakespeare wrote Richard as a dreamer more than a king, a tad cocky, a bit of a whiner, not much of a leader, and destined to fall from the get-go: certainly not suited for kingship or any position of authority. We watch him make a number of poor decisions, political and otherwise, and then it's not long before the results of these bad decisions come back to get him. His crown is usurped and he is put in prison and then murdered. The end. But what is interesting about Richard is his eloquence of language and ability as a thinker. As the play progresses and he begins his fall, Richard becomes more and more self-aware, dissecting his lot in life of being placed on earth as the king who shouldn't be king. He is a tragic character, at times even pathetic, but we always admire him for his insight.

I see our present age as a terribly irresponsible one, particularly over here in the McWest. As witnessed by the impending environmental shut-down we are pushing to get to, it seems we are a race desperate to get onto the next big thing, the next sequence of buttons. We don’t take the time to look back at the past or consider future consequences: if it’s bigger and faster, that’s good; if our children don’t know wild animals, that’s run-off. We can go to Mars, but we can’t talk to each other. Human connection is becoming obsolete as our technology advances; we are evolving past it. And that’s too bad. It’s too bad that something like the theatre could become extinct because we don’t “need” human connection. We do need live interaction. We do need theatre. We need Shakespeare to teach us about the spirit of our age. As the “leaders” of this planet, are we, like Richard, perhaps ill-suited to our charge? Is this an age of awaiting deposition? And by whom?

Thank you to all who helped me get this monster up and running and I sincerely hope you enjoy richardthesecond, a nightmare for our times.

Matt.
REBECCA BROWN (Director)
Rebecca received her training as a director at the New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where she was three-year recipient of the Tisch School of the Arts Trustee Scholarship. Her credits include Moon Stories and richardthepink for Nation of Aslan, Seder for the Ashkenaz Festival, Popular and The Butler Enters for the Rhubarb! Festival, rave theatre at System Soundbar and Western at the New York International Fringe. She will direct The Teenage Girl Diaries at the Factory Theatre Studio in April.

DAVID FRANCIS (Actor, "Gene")
David trained as an actor in London and worked at length in the UK and Europe before returning to Canada. Now making his home in Montreal, he divides his time almost equally between English and French theatre, radio, TV, and film, most recently in a one-man show he wrote ‘Leacock Speaks,’ two mini-series, the upcoming ‘Varian's War’ with William Hurt, and has just completed his second season at the Stratford Festival where he performed in Henry VI Parts 1 & 2.

MICHAEL GIANFRANCESCO (Designer)
Michael studied design for the theatre at Concordia University and The Banff Centre for the Arts. Recent Productions: A Midsummer Nights Dream, (Theatre by the Bay); The Magic Flute School Tour (Canada Opera Company). The Mikado (Canadian Children’s Opera Chorus), Anne (Theatre New Brunswick), Pericles (Festival of Classics), and a workshop of a new opera Screen Test (Numus/Opera Ontario). At the Stratford Festival Michael was the assistant designer for Henry IV Part 1 & 2, Twelfth Night (2001) and Threepenny Opera (2002).

JIM LEFRANCOIS (Publicist)
Jim presently works as Director of Development and Communications and Producer of Tallulah's Cabaret for Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. Jim also works as a Producer for VideoCabaret and has spearheaded publicity initiatives for many of Toronto’s excellent indie companies and productions.

CAMERON MACDUFFEE (Producer)
Cam is the artistic director of Players By Nature. He wishes to thank everyone who showed patience and gave guidance, turning a nightmare into a dream. Most of all to Matt for his wisdom, love and for letting him be the king of porchland.

MATTHEW MACFADZEAN (Writer/Actor)
Acting credits include Trick or Treat (Factory Theatre), Kilt (Prairie Theatre Exchange), Shopping and Fucking (Crow’s Theatre) and two seasons at the Shaw Festival. Recent TV and film credits include Mutant X, Owning Mahowny, and Street Time. He has written six plays, most recently Moon Stories, presented at this past Summerworks Festival. He was the winner of this year’s Tarragon Theatre Emerging Theatre Artist Award and received a 2002 Fox Training Fellowship from the William & Eva Fox Foundation which he will use to travel to Singapore to work with Spell '7, a new-media theatre company situated there. He'd like to extend his heartfelt thanks to all who have helped this show in each of it's incarnations, to Rebecca and Iain for being there since day one, and to the crack team that have joined on this, by far the most difficult nightmare so far... and especially to Cameron MacDuffee for his incredible commitment to making all this into a reality.
CRAIG MACNAUGHTON (Filmmaker/Editor/Web Design)
Craig has written and directed several plays of his own, constructed interactive art installations, watercoloured his way across Europe, showcased short films at Just for Laughs and PSNBC and is a founding member of the infamous video comedy group All Day Breakfast (www.alldaybreakfast.ca).

IAIN MILLER (Live Sound + Original Music)
Iain wrote the original music for ‘richardthesecond’ (Montreal Fringe Festival 2001, Summerworks 2001) and Everyday Heroes (Theatre Passe Muraille). He is a DJ who has been spinning an eclectic mix of funk and jazz inspired tunes at clubs since 1994 along with writing and producing his own music. Iain also programs several internet radio channels for Moontaxi.com.

REBECCA PICHERRACK (Lighting Designer)
Credits include Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, As You Like It (Resurgence Theatre); The Outdoor Donnelly’s (Blyth Festival); I Claudia (Tarragon Theatre); Dante’s Inferno (Theatre Smith-Gilmour); Trick or Treat, Geometry in Venice (Factory Theatre); The Dog Patch, Dora Nomination (Jack in the Black); Uncle Vanya, Dora Nomination (Guardian Spring); The Offering, Dora Award (Moriah Productions). Upcoming: Suburban Motel (GCTC); PPPeeaaaaaccccee (Mamalian Diving Reflex); The Danish Play (Nightwood)

JOHN PATRICK ROBICHAUD (Stage Manager)
J.P. has worked with such companies and artists as Volcano, Rat-a-Tat-Tat, Planet 88, Theatre Viscera, Myth Productions, Cabaret Company, the Blyth Festival, Theatre 2.0, Les Vaches, Company Blonde, Overall Dance, Susanna Hood, DNA Theatre and Theatre Smith-Gilmour. He was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore award for excellence in lighting design in 2000 for his work on Crossed Perspectives/DNA Theatre’s ‘3-Prong Attack.’

BRENDAN STEACY (Original Filmmaker)
Brendan has shown his stills at galleries in both Montreal and Toronto, as well as shooting short films, commercials, corporate videos, and numerous music videos.

PLAYERS BY NATURE is a registered charitable organization that uses innovative arts projects to promote the move toward a sustainable society.
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