



DRY COLD PRODUCTIONS
March 2008

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Carson Nattrass
as
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in
Assassins.

URINETOWN

the musical

music & lyrics by Mark Hollmann
book & lyrics by Greg Kotis

Director – Ann Hodges
Music Director – Celoris Miller
Set Design – Brian Perchaluk
Lighting Design – Scott Henderson
Stage Manager - Karyn Kumhyr
Harlequin Costumes of Winnipeg

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Tom Soares	Melanie Whyte

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May 9 & 10 – 8:00 p.m; May 11 – 2:00 p.m.
CanWest Global Performing Arts Centre (at The Forks)

Tickets on sale March 1—\$30 (students half-price).
By phone 942-8898 and 257-4859 .

In person at CanWest Global box office and
McNally Robinson Booksellers (Grant Park location and
on April 1 the new Polo Park location.)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

URINETOWN is a tale of greed, corruption and love in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. A terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. In true Musical Theatre fashion, a hero emerges who decides he's had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom! Featuring songs such as *A Privilege to Pee*, *Run Freedom Run*, and *Too Much Exposition*, **URINETOWN** is inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill and is an irreverently humorous satire with some heart in which no one is safe from scrutiny.

Dry Cold is delighted to present the witty and cheeky **URINETOWN** which features music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis. It debuted at the New York International Fringe Festival, was produced Off-Broadway at the American Theatre for Actors, and then moved to Broadway where it opened at Henry Miller's Theatre on September 20, 2001 (its planned opening having been postponed after the September 11, 2001 attacks). **URINETOWN** ran on Broadway through January 18, 2004, closing with a total of 25 previews, 965 performances and the 2002 Tony Awards for Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Musical Score.

A New Direction: a Dry Cold workshop of LUCREZIA BORGIA

In December, Dry Cold sponsored a five-day workshop of Winnipeg playwright Joseph Aragon's musical **Lucrezia Borgia**. (originally presented at the 2007 Fringe Festival.) The workshop was held at the Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg. Toronto conductor and music director Jeffrey Huard provided musical dramaturgy and lead the workshop, assisted by pianist Ron Krug (music director for **A Little Night Music** and **Into the Woods**). Local playwright Rick Chafe worked with Joseph on the text and structure of the play. Seven local actors - Donna Fletcher, Reid Harrison, Samantha Hill, Kevin Klassen, Jeffrey Kohut, Derek Leenhouts and Melanie Whyte - played the various roles. In the month prior to the workshop, Rick and Joseph met to work on the text of the play, collaborating with Jeffrey long-distance as he began to consider an approach to the music and lyrics and how they contributed to the telling of the story. Days 1 and 2 of the workshop were spent working mainly with the text of the play as Rick was only available for those days before moving to a workshop of his own play **Shakespeare's Dog** which was to be presented at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in February 2008. Days 3, 4 and 5 were spent working on the music, including two new songs written specifically for the workshop. During the course of the week, much of the text and music of the play was re-shaped and/or re-written with all of the participants actively involved in this creative process. A public reading was given of **Lucrezia Borgia** on the evening of December 7th to a very appreciative audience. A de-briefing involving Rick Chafe and Joseph Aragon as well as the artistic directors of Dry Cold, Donna Fletcher and Reid Harrison, took place in the weeks following the workshop, with long-distance input from Jeffrey Huard.

A few thoughts from some of the participants...

This intense workshop week was both challenging and rewarding. To take a musical with a complex plot, characters and music and bring it to life in only five days was an experience. From a musical perspective - each piece held vocal challenges - not just the range, but the construction as well. Accompaniments did not always offer simple clues for the singers to find their vocal lines - but this cast was smart, hard working and capable. The direction - diligent, pointed and sometimes personal - always had a purpose. The challenges to the cast were direct and demanding - but never without reason. As a result, the changes put forward were for the betterment of the piece - and in the end, all made sense. Dry Cold Productions is to be congratulated for sponsoring this kind of workshop - and I look forward to more of them in the future. - Ron Krug

It was so exciting to see the show being further developed by professionals like Jeffrey and Rick, after producing it at the Fringe with Canadian Musical Theatre Development Group (CMTDG.) The atmosphere in the room was the best part for me. Everyone was respectful, focused and there to try and make Lucrezia even better. I looked forward to every second of it. I wish we had another week. It felt like we just scratched the surface of the piece. - Jeffrey Kohut

The double casting was an interesting challenge for me in this particular workshop. I was playing two very different characters, with wildly different physicalities and styles of music. I very much enjoyed playing, and singing, both women. I loved working with Jeffrey Huard. I loved his attention to musical detail. He recognized the mega scale of Joseph's music and made suggestions about how to shape the music even more into that genre of theatre music. Lucrezia is a big show to learn in a week! It felt like a professional development week for me as I truly learned more about musical theatre in the process of workshopping Joseph's play. It felt good to offer what I could to the process, and to learn from others around me. - Melanie Whyte

The workshop gave me a wonderful opportunity to play with the focus of the story, and I came out of it with a great appreciation for the precision and attention to detail that an experienced and professional eye can lend to the development of a work. Rick Chafe's dramaturgy was invaluable in uncovering a different approach to the story, and I especially enjoyed watching Jeffrey Huard work with the actors and the material, addressing everything from plot development to vocal ranges to what note a certain syllable should land on. There were certainly a few challenges for me: new dialogue to be written, keys to be transposed, and one sleepless night I wrote an entirely new song from scratch. It was also a test of the cast, who were very quick studies when it came to script and music changes. An intense, eye-opening week that gave me valuable insight into the developmental process, and plenty of ammunition to launch into the next draft. - Joseph Aragon

Dry Cold's Triple Threats.

Can there be a reality show that achieves success without humiliating its participants? Judging by 'Canadian Idol', the answer would seem to be 'no.' Garth Drabinsky thought otherwise and created CBC TV's 'TRIPLE SENSATION', a reality television show intended to showcase young Canadian 'triple threats' - performers who can act, sing and dance - in a positive environment. Young performers from across the country auditioned for some of the finest musical theatre talent in the world: Marvin Hamlisch, the Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony-winning composer; Cynthia Dale, veteran Stratford Festival actor; Adrian Noble, former artistic director of England's Royal Shakespeare Company; Sergio Trujillo, choreographer of the Tony-winning Jersey Boys; and, of course, Drabinsky, the founder of Livent, who has won Tony Awards for **Kiss of the Spider Woman**, **Fosse** and **Show Boat**. In addition, the 12 finalists would be coached by performers and teachers from Canada, the United States and England, including Jeffrey Huard who was in Winnipeg in December to assist with Dry Cold's **Lucrezia Borgia** workshop.

In the past year, two young performers who are very close to Dry Cold participated in the CBC program 'Triple Sensation' with a great deal of success. Alexandra Frohlinger and Matthew Fletcher played Mary and Colin in our 2003 production of **The Secret Garden**. Both made it through to the Toronto auditions of 'Triple Sensation' and Alex was selected as one of the 12 finalists featured on CBC TV this past fall. Here are their takes on the experience.



Alex & Matthew at 'Triple Sensation'

'Triple Sensation' is one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had. I received marvelous and well rounded "triple threat" training from professionals I would never otherwise have been able to meet and work with.

The whole process seems so surreal in retrospect. We worked Monday to Sunday, usually from 9 A. M. until about 11 P.M. Every week we would explore new subjects, and a new schedule, with classes ranging from Clown to Shakespeare to Alexander Technique with the occasional dance class. We had private voice lessons with Jeffrey Huard every week. We would usually have two "camera days" a week when the camera crew would come and tape our classes.

At the end of each week we had a "mark posting", where our work would be evaluated by our instructors. These days were the most stressful because at the end of the third week the lowest ranked boy and girl would be eliminated from the competition. While a desire to win kept us desperate to stay in the competition, I really wanted to stay because I did not want to stop training. It was painful to think of leaving these twelve people I had become so close with. Never at any point in the competition was there any animosity between competitors. Everyone supported everyone else and wanted the others to succeed.

'Triple Sensation' also taught me the importance of supporting one's colleagues. In theatre, if actors do not support each other it creates a very negative environment where no real work can get done. The nature of work in the theatre leaves actors vulnerable, and we must all work together toward a common goal. I think the most remarkable moment of the whole 'Triple Sensation' experience for me was meeting Chita Rivera and Joel Grey. To have met these legendary theater professionals and to have spoken with them and heard their stories from their mouths inspired me tremendously. I feel so very fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in "Triple Sensation." I was so proud to represent Winnipeg on this television show and I wish anyone auditioning for season 2 the very best of luck.

- Alexandra Frohlinger



Tim Gledhill & Alex in **The Secret Garden**



Matthew in **The Secret Garden**

'Triple Sensation', the eagerly anticipated Musical Theatre reality show on CBC, not only structured me as an artist, but met some of my wildest dreams and changed my outlook on the world of Musical Theatre. It has been a true pleasure and privilege to work with professional companies and artists in Winnipeg, but as a teenager, I never expected to be able to work with influential professionals of the Broadway theatre scene. I was even lucky enough to go to the Master Class

for four days during the summer. While riding up the elevator I didn't know who else would be there. Who were the twelve finalists with whom I would work? The elevator door opened and there was my dear friend, Alex. The four days of hard work solidified my ambitions in Theatre and gave me advice for the future ahead. I learned much about myself from learning from the finalists and the instructors. I now feel ready to step out into the real world and try my hardest to make it to the Broadway stage. If you are within the age limits for this experience, Go Audition! It is a truly remarkable experience!

- Matthew Fletcher

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Cheques payable to **Dry Cold Productions** should be sent to: 149 Parkville Drive, Winnipeg MB R2M 2H8.

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Alix Sobler (r)
&
Miriam Smith (l)
in
Assassins.

Upcoming musical theatre events (and their Dry Cold connections):

The Full Monty - Rainbow Stage (Pantages Playhouse Theatre) - February 26 - March 16 - featuring Marc Devigne (**Assassins**), Jeffrey Kohut (**Lucrezia Borgia** workshop), Derek Leenhouts (**Assassins**), Debbie Maslowsky (**Into The Woods, She Loves Me**), Stacey Natrass (**Assassins**), Gord Tanner (**She Loves Me, Assassins**), Melanie Whyte (**Nine, She Loves Me, Into The Woods, A Little Night Music**).

La Traviata - Manitoba Opera (Centennial Concert Hall) - April 19, 22 & 25 - featuring Donnalynn Grills (**Nine, She Loves Me, The Secret Garden, A Little Night Music**) & Kevin Aichele (**Nine**)

Dreamgirls - Manitoba Theatre Centre - April 24 - May 17 - featuring Kimberley Ramparsad (**Into The Woods**).

The Yeomen of the Guard - Gilbert & Sullivan Society (Pantages Playhouse) Theatre) - April 24 - 27 - directed by Reid Harrison and featuring Janine Bremault Bamford (**Into The Woods**) & Derek Leenhouts (**Assassins**).

Peter Pan - Rainbow Stage (Kildonan Park) - August 5—29 directed by Robb Paterson (**A Little Night Music, The Secret Garden**)

We hope that you enjoy hearing about Dry Cold's activities but if you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please phone or email us (257-4859 or drycold@shaw.ca) and let us know. We will remove you from the list immediately.