

Coma Unplugged

Text: Pierre-Michel Tremblay
Translation: Micheline Chevrier
Direction: Zach Fraser



As a recently divorced humour columnist for the city's most read newspaper, Daniel is a local celebrity. When we meet Daniel, he is comatose following a traffic accident. But was it an accident? His daughter needs him, but will he choose to return? This is the reality check that leads him to examine the cynicism inherent to his era. Teetering between life and death, he finds clarity.

Coma Unplugged is a witty and beautifully touching look inside Daniel's mind.

"Coma Unplugged is an engaging show that successfully achieves a fine balance between entertainment and reflection... Talisman's production proves that a text 'full of meaning' can be fun to see!"

-Anouk Looten, Board of Directors, APASQ

ABOUT TALISMAN THEATRE

Talisman has a vibrant, living mission: **to produce English-language premières of Québécois plays for Montreal's public and students.** We have two unique strengths that allow us to bring Québécois plays to English-speaking theatre-goers: we retain the essence of traditional Québécois theatrical practice as part of our hybrid development process; and we have developed a talented bi-lingual team with its own distinctive artistic approach.

Previous Talisman Theatre productions include Daniel Danis' ***That Woman*** (2006 & 2007), ***Down Dangerous Passes Road*** by Michel Marc Bouchard (2008) (both translated by Linda Gaboriau) which won for the Prix de la critique 2008 for best English production. 2009 was the stunning production of Marilyn Perreault's ***Rock, Paper, Jackknife...*** (translated by Nadine Desrochers) and ***The Flood Thereafter*** last year's moment of grace by Sarah Berthiaume.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Welcome inside the head of a man wondering what's keeping him alive. Through his cynicism, he discovers he's still capable of tenderness. Thanks to Micheline Chevrier, Lyne Paquette, Zach Fraser and the creative team of Talisman Theatre. --Pierre-Michel Tremblay

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

The play is a dark comedy, which poses particular problems for translators. As a francophone, I get the comedy in Quebec, and I've been working for so long in English that I get that comedy too, getting the two to meet, however, is not so easy. In this play, in order for the humour of the characters to truly come through, we've had to change all the cultural references. ---Micheline Chevrier

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Eight months ago, my wife gave birth to our first child. Since that day, he has filled my life with joy. And yet, I now see my life speeding away in front of me. I begin to understand that life is finite, and that my many hopes & dreams may not all come to fruition in my lifetime. Is this reason to mourn opportunities lost? Perhaps. And yet, might I be able to learn to live less, but better? I believe so. What makes a life successful? There are times in our lives when we stop to look back on what we've accomplished, and there are times when we are able to look ahead and see with some clarity the potential for what is still to come.

Coma Unplugged is inhabited by many beautiful souls, searching for whatever it is that makes life fulfilling. They remind me of myself. They remind me of those I love. They make me laugh. And I cheer them on, each propelled by their noble plights. ---Zach Fraser

"I loved it. Smart play, bold production, Funny, weird, big good energy. Fantastic sound design (all design elements, actually) Strong directorial hand."

—Kim McCaw; Director, Canadian Centre for Theatre Creation, Edmonton

Credits

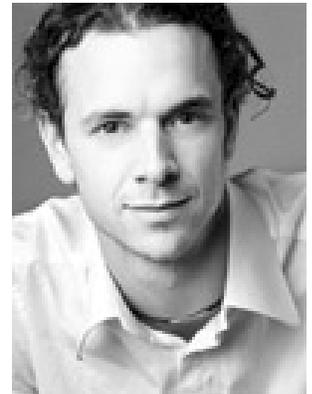


Lyne Paquette - Artistic and Executive Director

Lyne is a founder (with Emma Tibaldo) of Talisman Theatre. A graduate of the National Theatre School (2005), theatrical set and costume design is Lyne's second career; prior to this she had worked as a professional engineer for international consultancies since graduating from McGill (1987). Beginning as an Assistant Designer at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, and an internship with Michael Curry Designs, Lyne has since designed for many theatre, dance, puppet, and opera productions in Montreal. She has designed set and costumes for Talisman productions since 2005.

Zach Fraser – Director

Zach is an actor, director, puppeteer & teacher. A graduate of École Philippe Gaulier (London/Paris) & Dalhousie University (NS), he also recently completed a practical masters in puppetry at UQAM. Recent directing credits include Gogol's *Le Révizor* (UdeM), *The Fourposter* (Montgomery, PEI), and the critically acclaimed *...and stockings for the ladies* (GKW). Upcoming projects include acting in *The Game of Love & Chance* (Centaur/CanStage) & director of puppetry for *The Heretics of Bohemia* (Scapegoat Carnivale/Segal). As a movement and mask teacher, Zach is on the faculty at John Abbott College and teaches commedia occasionally at McGill University.



PRODUCTION HISTORY

Coma Unplugged
Montreal, Quebec
October 20-29, 2011

Text: Pierre-Michel Tremblay
Translation: Micheline Chevrier
Direction: Zach Fraser
Actors: Éloi Archambaudoin,
Glenda Braganza, Susan Glover,
Chimwemwe Miller, Donovan Reiter
Set Design: Lyne Paquette
Costume Design: Fruzsina Lányi
Lighting Design: David Perreault Ninacs
Sound Design: Matthew Waddell



"...[M]ake no mistake: Talisman Theatre has a hit on its hands"

-Pat Donnelly, The Gazette



“...Fraser and company have tuned in to Tremblay’s wacky wavelength in a way that makes Coma Unplugged hilarious as well as timely, intelligent and provocative.”

-Pat Donnelly, The Gazette

“A reflective play with more depth than we would initially expect – humorous with an underlying edge.”

-Estelle Rosen, The Charlebois Post

“L'équipe de Talisman Theatre propose somme toute une production respectueuse de la vision de l'auteur.”

- Cecile Mouly, Citeeze Montreal

“Am I a failure?’ Voilà la question existentielle à laquelle doit répondre Daniel Martin (Éloi ArchamBaudoin) avant de décider de revenir ou non à la Vie. ...Je m'en voudrais de passer sous silence la superbe prestation D'Éloi ArchamBaudoin. ...Ayant vu les deux versions de « Coma Unplugged », je peux affirmer que celle-ci m'a davantage amené au coeur du drame. J'ai bien apprécié.”

-Bernard Wheeley, voir.ca



Contact Details

To see a short trailer of COMA UNPLUGGED visit : <http://youtu.be/VqIDFvSYjo> (2:28 minutes)

For more information or a copy of the DVD please contact Lyne Paquette at:

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514.846.0402

TALISMAN THEATRE
1456 Overdale Ave. #8
Montréal, Québec H3G 1V3

TECHNICAL RIDER

STAGE REQUIREMENTS (minimum):

Proscenium Width – 25'0"

Wings (Left and Right) – 4'0"

Height (Stage deck to hanging pipe) – 16'0"

Depth (DS edge of stage to US wall/ crossover) – 22'6"

Crossover - At least 3'0" wide, US of last hanging position

Masking

- 5 x Ficello drop to be hung in line with the set (Directly US of SL section and 18" US of SR section)
- Additional black velvet masking to be confirmed

Floor

- Flat floor preferably with the freedom of screwing a few #8 screws into the floor for set purposes
- Linoleum floor (provided by Talisman) will be laid

SET REQUIREMENTS:

Our set consists of two large bookcases made of 1" steel rails and ½" ply shelving. The two bookcases are assembled, butted up at centre and fanned out L & R at an angle of 110 degrees.

The SL section is 14'8" at its tallest point and approx. 12'8" in length.

The SR section is 14'6" at its tallest point and approx. 14'0" in length.

Eight rigging points are required for the safety of the set (4 on each side) and should be hung directly above the line of the bookcase. These points are not directly load bearing but create stability when the set is shook.

We provide a linoleum floor to be double-sided taped to the stage deck. We ask that we be provided with one roll of mate black gaffer tape (camera tape).

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Clearcom is only necessary if the venue requires the use of a board operator for the show, in which case the Talisman SM and the venue board operator will need to have headsets. If this is not required our SM will run the show.

SOUND REQUIREMENTS:

1. A basic Sound system capable of filling the room with clean, undistorted sound.
2. One mixing board with 3 inputs and at least 4 outputs. One input is for the microphone (Talisman will provide a SM58) and a second entry is required for the computer. Two of the outputs are for the speakers in the set and the two others are for the venue's speakers. An extra output could be used for a sub woofer(if this is available at the venue).
3. Talisman will supply a laptop computer with Q-Lab software with a sound card -- firewire 800 and all the show content all ready installed.
4. Two output runs of bare wire cables for two onstage speakers.

LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS:

1. One non toxic hazer type MDG atmosphere
2. Minimum 60 dimmers (2.4Kw ea.)
3. A site specific Lighting Plot will be provided 1 week prior to the performance date. Rigging points for the set and masking will be included.
4. The lighting hang and cabling will be pre-installed by the venue's technical director and technicians before the arrival of Talisman's crew of 2(stage manager and tour director)
5. Minimum 60 Channel Lighting Board with memory for 80 cues.
6. U-Ground type adaptors for 3 set practicals onstage.
7. Needed lighting inventory to be determined but a minimum of 30 LEKO type lights are required —selection of angles will vary with each venue.

PERFORMANCE

Show running time: 90 minutes – No Act Break/ Intermission

The show roughly contains 80 Lighting Cues and 60 Sound Cues

The Stage Manager will provide prompt script and run the show

SET-UP SCHEDULE:

Typical Schedule

One eight (8) hour day :

- Load-in (Set put up, Rigging Install)
- Lighting focus and board programing
- Sound install and sound check
- Dressing room preparation for arrival of 5 actors four hours before beginning of performance
- Onstage actor rehearsal/warm-up in parallel with the end of light and sound checks

Crew Requirements:

2 Carpenters for 4 hours plus supervision of venue's head carpenter

2 Electricians for 8 hours plus supervision of venue's head elect and sound

Doors open 30 minutes prior to performance.