

In this Issue:

What's Theatre In the Raw been up to...?

- **Enter Laughing by Joseph Stein** 1
- **A Review of TITR's 'Enter Laughing'**
by Joseph Stein..... 1 & 3
- **Wound Up in One-Acts - a one-act**
mini-fest at Spartacus Books 2
- **12th Biennial One-Act Playwriting**
Contest is open! 4

Enter Laughing by Joseph Stein

*A bit of comedy
from TITR...*

After 25 years it was time for a bit of raucous comedy from Theatre In the Raw. As part of its 25th season of production, Vancouver's Theatre In the Raw presented the uproarious play *Enter Laughing* by Joseph Stein – adapted from Carl Reiner's semi-autobiographical novel.

In the mid-1930s in NYC, David Kolowitz is on track to fulfill all of his parent's hopes and dreams by becoming a druggist. David however, has ideas of his own. David wants to be an actor! Loosely based on Carl Reiner's autobiography, *Enter Laughing* focuses on the first awkward moves a young man makes towards adulthood, women, and the limelight. The play focused on the steps and missteps of a young man with a wandering eye who doesn't know a stage cue from a cue stick, yet wants to be a star.

This vibrant and talented ensemble cast featured Adam Olgui, Jacques Lalonde, R. David Stephens, Elliot Wesley, Janis Harper, Giuseppe Bevilacqua, Jennie McCahill, Noella Ansaldi, Ralston Harris, Lisa Robertson, Stanley Fraser, and Gavi Beigel under the direction of Theatre In the Raw's artistic director Jay Hamburger.

ENTER LAUGHING by Joseph Stein
was presented May 8th to 19th 2019
@ Studio 16 (1551 W. 7th Ave)

A Review of *Enter Laughing*

by John Jane published by
Review Vancouver (May 2019)

Set in New York City in the nineteen-thirties, *Enter Laughing* is a two-act comedy written by Joseph Stein, based on Carl Reiner's semi-autobiographical novel. The odd title comes from a personal direction note, sometimes called a parenthetical, in the script from a play within the play. Carl Reiner, who was a producer, writer and actor on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, is still alive at the age of ninety-seven. Despite a distinguished career, he is probably best known as the father of Rob Reiner.

Since first seen on Broadway in the early sixties, the play has had a number of incantations. It was the basis of the stage musical *So Long, 174th Street*, that closed almost before it opened. There is even a musical version of the same name that opened on Broadway in 2008.

Reiner puts himself in the story as protagonist David Kolowitz (Adam Olgui), a nice Jewish kid from the Bronx,

whose ambition and exuberance for an acting career far exceeds his talent. He already has a job in a sewing machine repair shop and his parents have plans for him to attend college to pursue a career in pharmacy. Notwithstanding our hero's lack of skill or experience, he manages to land a part in his first play – albeit for no pay. Young Kolowitz's other problem – if it really is one – is that he seems unable to meet a woman he isn't sexually attractive to – or them to him. The play becomes somewhat farcical when his leading lady, the producer's daughter Angela (Lisa Robertson) wants to take their onstage chemistry into reality.

Adam Olgui turns in a fascinating madcap performance as the omnipresent David Kolowitz. I have to confess that I was skeptical as to whether he might run out of energy before the play ended. To his credit, he didn't. Lisa Robertson is delightfully camp as Angela Marlowe and Noella Ansaldi is charmingly coquettish as Kolowitz's dotting girlfriend. Ms. Ansaldi has the only earnest role and anchors the play's second act. Together with Adam Olgui and Jennie McCahill she even manages a passable Bronx accent.

Among the supportive roles, Jacques

...Continued page 3, col. 1



TITR's *Enter Laughing* featured Adam Olgui as David Kolowitz and Lisa Robertson as Angela Marlowe. The play ran for 10 performances at Studio 16 in the spring of 2019 - Colin Beiers © 2019

WOUND UP IN ONE-ACTS - A THEATRE IN THE RAW ONE-ACT PLAY MINI FESTIVAL AT SPARTACUS BOOKS

In December 2019 Theatre In the Raw produced "Wound Up in One-Acts" a set of original award winning one-acts from gifted writers. This one-act play mini-fest was a presentation of fine theatrical talent that spirals back to those early days of the company and embodies Theatre In the Raw's commitment to present engaging, unusual, awakening, and exchanging evenings of theatre. Featuring over 20 performers and artists, this intimate four night presentation featured a rotating lineup of original one-acts for four nights. This was our second production of one-acts at Spartacus Books (3378 Findlay Street, Vancouver BC).



"Wound Up" Graphics by Sylvan Hamburger (2019)

Perogies for Breakfast by Murray Mason
December 7th, 8th, 15th

Winner of our 9th Biennial One-Act Contest - Conceived as a radio drama, this play centres on a group of radical university students in Lethbridge Alberta during the FLQ crisis of the 1970s. The students act in defiance of the War Measures Act as restrictions on free speech catches them in the backlash to events occurring on the other side of the country. The play is a powerful reminder that the rights and freedom of speech are never guaranteed.



Perogies for Breakfast by Murray Mason featured (left to right): Joe Kelly, Ralston Harris, Pascal Lochard, Carmen Myers, Starlise Waschuk, Stephen Thakkar, Yasmin Tayob, and Maria Lakes - photo Colin Beiers © 2019



Mostafa Shaker and Joey Coleman in *In Re: Radding v Glazer* by Steve Karp (Colin Beiers © 2019)

IN RE: RADDING v GLAZER by Steve Karp - December 8th, 14th, 15th.

A simple mistake over one fur coat being taken in place of another at a hair salon spirals into a full blown verbal war. All the while the innocent salon owner is caught between two aggrieved women as accusations fly. A comedic reminder that any conflict can escalate between entitled and unreasonable parties.



Pascal Lochard in *Perogies for Breakfast* by Murray Mason (Colin Beiers © 2019)

Old Friends by Anthony Arnold -
December 7th, 8th, 14th
Winner of our 10th Biennial One-Act Contest.

A seedy crime drama based on historic events that took place in Vancouver in the 1950s -- specifically a journalist's inquiry into a scandal involving the police commissioner and corrupt police officers as well as the attempted suicide of a police officer. As the plot unravels, the true underbelly of the city's police and politics are laid bare.



Joe Kelly as the investigative journalist Eddie Parsons in *Old Friends* by Anthony Arnold (Colin Beiers © 2019)

Waiting for the Godots by Robin Schlaht
- December 7th, 14th, 15th.

An absurd comedy taking on the conversations and introspective monologues of a couple as they attempt to "patiently" await a rather delayed arrival of their dinner date companions: the Godots. Inspired by Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, a couple discuss everyday things: buffet vs a la carte, easy-to-clean furniture, and whether they still love one another.



Ashley Syer and Ralston Harris in *Waiting for the Godots* by Robin Schlaht (Rémi Thibault © 2019)



TITR's Enter Laughing featured an ensemble cast including (left to right): Jacques Lalonde, R. David Stephens, Lisa Robertson, and Ralston Harris - Colin Beiers - 2019
...Continued from page 1, col. 3

Lalonde brings warmth and character to the role of Kolowitz's altruistic employer. Jennie McCahill delivers an audacious Miss B, while Giuseppe Bevilacqua shows excellent comic timing as her stage beau Roger Feinstein. Janis Harper and Stanley Fraser create some poignant moments as the protagonist's watchful, though well-intentioned parents.

Director Jay Hamburger maintains a lively pace throughout, without allowing the play to become uncontrollably slapstick. However, the first act may have benefitted by being ten minutes shorter. Philip Roaf's set design is essentially a black box with partitions, painted in a mix of styles strung along the back of the stage.

The enthusiastic cast have obviously put a lot of their heart and soul into this piece of theatre. Theatre in the Raw provides a production that is both uplifting and entertaining.

- John Jane, Vancouver Review

TITR'S MAINSTAGE SHOWS TO DATE:

- *Uncle Vanya* – Anton Chekov (1996)
- *Beyond the Call* – Ernest Hekkanen (1997)
- *Waiting for Godot* – Samuel Beckett (1999)
- *The New World Order* – Herschel Hardin (1999)
- *Top Girls* – Caryl Churchill (2000)
- *The Street* – W. Ruth Kozak (2000)
- *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* – Wendy Lill (2001)
- *Medicine* – LaVerne Adams (2002)
- *The Inspector General* – Nikolai Gogol (2005)
- *Bruce – The Musical* – Bob Sarti (2008)
- *Vatzlav* – Slawomir Mrozek (2009)
- *Yippies In Love* – Bob Sarti (2011)
- *The Raymur Mothers* – Bob Sarti (2014)
- *Twelve Angry Jurors* – Reginald Rose (2015)
- *The Threepenny Opera* – Bertolt Brecht & Kurt Weill (2016)
- *Incident at Vichy* – Arthur Miller (2018)
- *Enter Laughing* – Joseph Stein (2019)

A tribute to Edith Iglauer Daly (1917-2019)

Writer, journalist and a founding member of Theatre In the Raw (1994) Edith Iglauer Daly passed in February 2019. A remarkable and inspirational woman, writer, and trailblazer in so many areas. Edith loved Canada. To quote from one of her books *Inuit Journey* may give a glimpse of what Edith was about: “*I am not just an American journalist writing about Canada for Americans, but a Canadian journalist writing about America for Canadians as well. Both countries, I have discovered, still regard their neighbours across our common border as ‘the strangers next door,’ and like any concerned relative, I want them to know and respect one another as much as I do.*” Her accomplishments were many. She was a daring and innovative writer with a keen ear and mind and is dearly missed.



Edith Iglauer

Thank You to our sponsors & supporters!

Alan Zisman, Alexander Daughtry, Ann Hepper, Anne & Patrick Aubourg, Audrey McClellan, Bob Sarti & Muggs Sigurgeirson, Brenda Leadlay, Cassandra Freeman, Digna Augustina, Don Todd, Earle Peach & Barbara Jackson, Faune Johnson, Gerry Kowalenko, Hillary Kaplan & Family, Jan Blanchet, Jan Janovick, Jason Logan, Joanne MacKinnon, Joe & Solveigh Harrison, John Field & June Malaka, John Holliday, Johnny Pappenheimer, Ruth Kozak, Kevin Macleod of Vancouver Opera prop house, Kris and Atma Fleerackers, Paul Becket, Mia Zhou, Maria Lakes, Marian Collins, Mary Kathleen Copps, Melissa Cooper & Richard Hamburger, Michael Young, Monica Normandeau, Montgomery Martin, Norma Guttormsson, Oonagh Berry, Patrick Foley & Naomi Narvey, Paul Manson, Peter Gell and the Gell Family, Robert Kinnard, Roger Howie, Rolf & Board of People's Co-op Bookstore, Sage & Peter Robson, Steve Prokopenko, Teresa Vandertuin, Wally T. Shore, Annette Broom & Family, Atty Gell, Sylvan Hamburger, and of course Freddie. Special thanks to Sheri Tromp and Family, Dan Vie, Ken Gracie and Philip Waddel, Ernest Hekkanen, Margrith Schraner, Alaia Hammer, Sammie Hatch, Marjolaine Vallet, Rémi Thibault, Glenn Thompson all Biennial One-Act Contest Adjudicators over the years of reading one-act entries, and also the Board of Theatre In the Raw.

CCEC Credit Union, AllWest Insurance, Catherine Tableau & La Maison de la Francophone along with Colin Carruthers, Cynthia Ramsay & the Jewish Independent, BC Alliance for Arts + Culture, Christina & Grandview Printing, The Dramatists Guild of America, Megaphone Magazine, Alan Slater & Archway Publishing, Recycle-It, Paul Taylor & the Carnegie Newsletter, Sean Tang and Gramma Publications, Megaphone Magazine, the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance, Vancouver Co-op Radio & The Arts Rational show, Gerry Kowalenko, Laurence Gatinel, Jim Mainguy, Jacques Lalonde, and John McGie, Lynn Burton and the UBC Prop Department, Playwrights Theatre Centre and the Spartacus Books Collective and Alex Daughtry, Alex Chisholm and The Rio Theatre, Bonsor Recreational Complex - Nuts & Bolts acting class.

Theatre In the Raw acknowledges the support of The Lohn Foundation, The Hamber Foundation, The McGrane – Pearson Endowment Fund in honour of Edith Iglauer-Daly, the City of Vancouver Cultural Services and the Province of British Columbia towards its recent production work.

The Raw Times is written by Jay Hamburger, and Scott Broom
Original drawings by Atty Gell and Maurice Spira.
Editorial Assistance: Jay Hamburger, Scott Broom, Atty Gell.
Original Design: carol weaver.

Like our Facebook page: facebook.com/theatreintheraw
Follow us on Twitter @intherawtheatre.
Website: www.theatreintheraw.ca
Email: info@theatreintheraw.ca or theatreintheraw@telus.net



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Cultural Services



TITR's 12th Biennial (2020-2021) One-Act Play Writing Contest is Open!

For 20 years TITR has held this contest to give up-and-coming and established writers alike an opportunity to have their work staged by a professional theatre company. Following in the tradition of our mandate: we are dedicated to artistic grassroots theatre in the Lower Mainland/Vancouver, as well as to presentations beyond B.C. borders. We are risk takers, creating and responding to the cultural needs of those in Canada and the international community. We want to provide an open, creative, and supportive atmosphere for struggling artists and give exposure to tried and untried playwrights.

We're looking for the best, new and fresh One-Act plays never before performed for payment. (Plays can be previously workshoped.) The contest is open to all. Entries will be accepted until **December 31, 2021** at midnight. We particularly look forward to plays submitted on themes of cultural/social diversity!

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice. First prize will receive **\$300** plus have their play read or performed at a TITR one-act festival.

For more specific guidelines please visit:

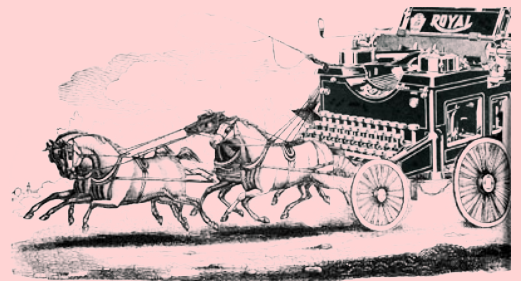
www.theatreintheraw.ca/contest

Suggested ideas to place forward for writers/ playwrights to consider:

- Plays about the environment (i.e. the beauty of the untouched forest and sea shore, pollution, reactions of wildlife to... or the battles that rage to save natural areas from destruction).
- The average citizen vs the powerful business person.
- Modern myth plays in the spirit of the TITR's *Mythical Voices for Our Time* project.
- Comedy concerning mistaken identity.
- Political satire related to current events/affairs.
- Cruelty within marriage or the effects of that marriage on the children
- Old time Radio scripts, melodramas, historical/period pieces.
- Loneliness, aging, selfishness, or selflessness.
- Be creative and unexpected!

SOME COMMON ATTRIBUTES OF SUCCESSFUL ONE-ACTS:

- 1.) A focus on memorable, creative and well-developed content.
- 2.) Properly proof read and consistently formatted.
- 3.) The play is somehow producible on a reasonable budget (i.e. no car chases, or outlandish on-stage technical requirements).
- 4.) Holds particular/ specific interest of a hot topic and/ or issue.
- 5.) Comes close to Theatre In the Raw's mandate/ mission/ outreach...
- 6.) The piece is theatrical and/ or well-written/ dramatically engaging.



An acting tip for all:

"... But if this were real, how would I react? What would I do?... and normally, naturally... [the Magic] If acts as a lever to lift us out of the world of actuality into the realm of the imagination."

— Konstantin Stanislavski

On the weight of playing a character...

"When I first came to Hollywood, the blacklist was just starting, and they were having hearings in Washington. What most people don't know is the judge of these hearings himself was later convicted of misappropriation. 'Spartacus' helped break the blacklist, because Spartacus was a real character."

— Kirk Douglas (1916-2020) quoted in *The Very Best of Kirk Douglas: Thoughts of a Hollywood Legend*



TITR - 25th Anniversary logo by Maurice Spira

FUNDRAISING 2020: We need your support! Don't pass up a good theatre company when it comes your way... Help our performing arts group continue to deliver unusual, awakening and exchanging local grassroots live theatre!



Theatre In the Raw Society invites you to assist us in continuing our dream of producing live theatre. Please be a part of an unusual, awakening and exchanging grassroots travelling theatre - "Giving Exposure to Voices Seldom Heard".

Annual Memberships are ONLY \$10 entitling members to the Theatre In the Raw newsletters, voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (held each Fall) and 2 collector postcards from our theatre productions. You can now make a donation and become a member of Theatre In the Raw on our website at www.theatreintheraw.ca. Just click on our "Join & Donate" page – Thank You!

Other Donations

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____ ☐ Annual Membership \$10 • Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____ Postal Code _____ Tel (____) _____

Theatre In the Raw depends on the generous support of its donors. It is donations from our patrons that will make our productions and theatre development possible. Theatre In the Raw is a non-profit performing arts company, with a Federal Charity registration #888794864RR0001. **We thank you all for your continued support of the Arts.**

Please make cheques payable to: **Theatre In the Raw Society**
3521 Marshall Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V5N 4S2 • Tel: 604-708-5448 • www.theatreintheraw.ca

THANK YOU AND GO SEE SOME LIVE THEATRE TODAY!