



Pirate Productions a.s.b.l. presents

# STARTING HERE STARTING NOW

LYRICS BY RICHARD MALTBY JR. MUSIC BY DAVID SHIRE

Originally produced at Barbarann Theatre Restaurant, N.Y.C.,  
by Steve Abrams, Mary Jo Slater, Scott Mansfield & Morton Schwartz



Château de Bettembourg  
June 11, 12 & 13 20:00  
June 14 15:00

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD. on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of NEW YORK



## From the Chair

It's been a great pleasure to have Allison Kingsbury involved again in a Pirates show. Not only has she graced the stage in a number of productions but she has helped turn leaden feet into flights of fancy in many others (mine included!)

It's also been a treat to have Philip Dutton put his baton down and co-direct this show. Giving people the opportunity to try a new discipline is very much encouraged at Pirates and Philip has risen to the challenge admirably. We expect more from him in the future! Pirates gives them both our heartfelt thanks for all the hard work they've put into *Starting Here, Starting Now*.

This show, whilst not having a cast of hundreds, elaborate sets or numerous costume changes, is a significant challenge in its own right. The music is not the simplest, neither are the lyrics. But it has its own unique charm and I have thoroughly enjoyed watching it come together and morph into an exciting and sometimes moving piece of theatre. I hope that you will too.

So, enough of the blurb! Please sit back and enjoy a glass of wine or two whilst clicking your fingers to *Starting Here, Starting Now*.

## From the Directors

The idea of bringing *Starting Here, Starting Now* to the Luxembourg stage sprung from Allison's love of the songs. Having been introduced to the ballads, such as *Autumn* and *I Hear Bells*, more than twenty years ago, she felt this hidden gem deserved to be shared with Luxembourg's theatre goers.

The collection of songs – each one a story in its own right - ranges from witty comedy and raging rants to big Broadway moments. We see love, in its many forms; the first joyous breath of discovery, the pain and anguish of loss – wanting, needing, having and losing. It is the lyrics and intricacy of the music that makes this revue distinctive as it leads the audience through an intimate rollercoaster evening of mixed emotions.

As Allison says “Of course, I love the glamour of big musicals but there's something special about musical revue. The actors have nothing to hide behind – no big sets and fancy costumes – it is them and the songs and lyrics. It is musical theatre pared down to its bare bones and this is what creates the bond between the actors and the audience”.



### Allison Kingsbury

Allison has been treading the boards for more years than she cares to admit! During her time with Pirates, she has more often than not been cast as the aging diva – although she still can't understand why – so she thought it best to be the one to come up with a show idea this time!



### Philip Dutton

This is Philip's first foray into the mystical art of theatre directing. In fact it was made made terribly easy because co-director Allison had such great ideas about the staging of this show. His primary role became that of *eyes and ears out front* - oh and, of course, to lug the piano to every rehearsal!



### Jelena Negatina

After graduating from music school in Vilnius (specialising in accordion), Jelena discovered herself as a singer and composer, participating in various musical projects and festivals, both in her motherland and abroad. 2008-2013: composer & singer of an art rock band, INSOMNIA VERA. In 2013 she recorded a song, *Northern Winds* with the band Elysian Gates as part of an international project to support Sea Shepherd activities around the globe. Currently, Jelena is discovering new ways of expressing music and emotions to the audience s part of the Pirates' team, which is a great and rewarding experience!



### Maiken Thamdrup

*Stepping Out* was Maiken's maiden voyage with the good ship Pirate Productions. Since then she has popped up occasionally when time with little children and studies has permitted - and when she just could not say no. *Starting Here Starting Now* was such an opportunity! Offering singing parts for "mature" people, (all acting like giggling teenagers and throwing tantrums when required!) and the chance to be on stage once again with some of her favourite Pirates, it just had it all. A couple of new members joined the group and what fun it has been to get to know them! All that is left now is to say: Turn up that spotlight!



### Ciara Barker

Yikes! I joined Pirates in 1988 and since then I've been a poor villager, an upper class spoilt brat, a cabaret artiste, a tap dancer, a hippy, a nightclub owner, a pirate's moll, a good fairy, a principal boy, a music-hall singer, a nun, a jazz club singer, a costume lady, a prop maker, a set painter and general dogsbody - the majority of which were performed in varying stages of undress. Now, thanks to Pirates, I'm adding to that the role of a lover in various guises, although thankfully this time I remain fully clothed. Phew!

## Starting Love

*The Word Is Love* The Company  
*Starting Here Starting Now* The Company  
*I'm A Little Bit Off* Tara  
*Beautiful* Maiken, Jelana & Victor  
*We Can Talk to Each Other* David  
*Just Across The River* The Company

## Ending Love

*Crossword Puzzle* Ciara  
*Autumn* Sarah  
*I Don't Remember Christmas* Victor  
*I Don't Believe It* The Company  
*I'm Going To Make You Beautiful* Maiken

## New Love

*Pleased With Myself* The Company

----- INTERVAL -----

*Hey There Fans* The Company  
*Travel* The Company

## Needing Love

*I Hear Bells* Neil with Jelana & Sarah  
*Watching The Big Parade* Allison  
*Flair* The Company

## Wanting Love

*What About Today* Jelana  
*Today is the First Day* Neil, Tara & Ciara  
*A New Life Coming* The Company  
*One Step* The Company

## On Stage

Ciara Barker-Murphy

Victor Bonanno

Sarah Carty

Tara Donnell

Neil Johnson

Allison Kingsbury

David Mittel

Jelena Negatina

Maiken Thamdrup

Mick Swithinbank *piano*

Jay Christnach *bass guitar / double bass*

Eric Gherardi *drums / percussion*

## Off stage

Bernadette Alexander *producer*

Pamela Carlisle *box office and front of house*

Philip Dutton *co-director, set construction, poster  
and programme*

Zeta Field *video projection*

Allison Kingsbury *co-director & choreographer*

Natasha Liati-Jones *publicity*

Anthony McCarthy *lighting*

Valerie Scott *assistant producer*

Marina Seliskar *costumes*

Athena Teligadas *stage manager*

Sabine Wenzel *props*

## Special thanks to...

Wendy Winn, Geoff Thompson (Chronicle.lu), Duncan Roberts (Maison Moderne), ARA City Radio, City Savvy, Erwin Voskamp and Radio 100,7



### Neil Johnson

It's been a while since Neil has been on stage and he's enjoyed every minute of getting back under the bright lights. From early beginnings as 3rd fan holder on the left in *The Mikado* way back in 1996, his portfolio of roles includes The Hon. Gerald Bolingbroke in *Me & My Girl*, groom-to-be Paul in Sondheim's *Company* and Ching-Ho, henchman to the evil white slave trader Mrs. Mears in Thoroughly *Modern Millie*. Neil also directed *Calamity Jane* in 2010 and *Nunsense* two

years later. He hopes to be able to direct another big production in 2016 and is currently ..... "Reviewing the Situation."

Watch this space!



### Sarah Carty

Prior to moving to Luxembourg Sarah took part in amateur productions in the UK, and was excited to find a thriving amateur dramatics community here. This is her second production with Pirates, having previously taken part in 'Nunsense', as well as *Translations* and *Oh! What A Lovely War* with New World Theatre Club.



### David Mittel

David has been involved with Pirates in various guises since he started hoofing in *Stepping Out*, back in 2003. He is delighted to be reunited onstage with some of the members of that cast as well as the new and new-ish talent of this ensemble. Let's hope that there's life in the old dog yet.



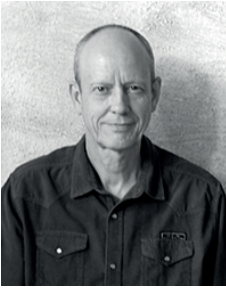
### Victor Bonanno

Victor trained at Masquerade Theatre Arts School in Malta, his home country, and he continued his vocal training with soprano Gillian Zammit. His past theatrical experiences include numerous pantos, the Grinch in *Seussical*, Hänschen in *Spring Awakening*, and he created the main role of Karmenu in the Maltese musical *Imhabba fuq il-Gholja*, both on stage and on screen. This is his second production with Pirates following *The Jazz Club* in 2013.



### Tara Donnell

Originally a pious nurse from Canada, Tara decided that the wide open plains were not for her and has settled in the tiny Duchy. Pregnant with her third child, she realized that life was too short not to pursue her dreams. Now she graces the stage and the camera with her 6 foot frame (and two left feet!). She has done extensive character research for her role, trying out the many phases (and positions) of love and is just bursting to share them all with you on stage!



### Mick Swithinbank

Despite having appeared on stage with Pirates in 1992 on all fours, dressed as a pig, Mick's main involvement with the company has been as pianist for *Side by Side by Sondheim* and *Nonsense*.

When he sings, it is mostly Renaissance church music, while nothing fills him with greater horror than the prospect of having to dance in public.



### Eric Gherardi

Eric started playing percussion and drums at the Esch Conservatoire at the age of 8 with Professor Serge Kettenmeyer. Following high school, he continued studying classical percussion with professors Pieter Janssen and Raymond Curfs at the Conservatory of Maastricht. In 2014 he obtained a Bachelor's degree and is currently following an internship programme at the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg. Although his studies focus mainly on percussion for classical music, he still likes to play drums and is a big fan of musicals.



### Jay Cristnach

Jay first appeared on stage with Pirates in *The Jazz Club*, as an emergency stand-in for another player who was sick. He accomplished this with great aplomb despite having zero rehearsal. Perhaps this was not surprising since he is a very experienced jazz player. However, he must have got the bug for musical theatre because he has since played for the NWTC production of *Oh! What a Lovely War* and now appears on stage with Pirates once again.

# LEATSS

The 28th Luxembourg European Annual Theatre Summer School will take place from Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015 at Clairefontaine (near Arlon).

For applications and full details of this year's courses, please visit [www.leadss.lu](http://www.leadss.lu)



## A U D I T I O N   N O T I C E

Pirates and New World Theatre Club are delighted to be able to announce auditions for their joint production of Lionel Bart's fabulous musical, *Oliver!*

The first round of auditions will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June. These auditions are open to all young people between the ages of 8 and 18 at the time of the performance and have a good command of English.

Full details about the show, the auditions and how to sign up can be found at [www.pirates.lu](http://www.pirates.lu) (follow the link to Shows / Next Show).

Auditions for the adult cast will take place at a slightly later date.

*Oliver!* is scheduled to take place from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the Centre Culturel Kinneksbond in Mamer