



PIRATE PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

TOM AND THE MAGIC DOOR



9/10/11/ AND 12
NOVEMBER 2023

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR (JULIEN FARLIN)

Once upon a time, across the wide Atlantic Ocean, there lived in New York a songwriter and singer named Suzanne Vega who wrote beautiful songs of love and life. For a long time, I had wanted to tell a story based on her songs, but try as I would, I could not find how to do it. Then one day I came across a minor character in a musical whom I thought was treated so harshly and unfairly by the author and by the other characters, that I felt a tremendous urge to do him justice. And lo and behold, in a flash I suddenly knew that there it was, the entrance I was seeking to Suzanne Vega's songs. This realisation, combined with powerful events in my life at the time, led me irresistibly to tell the story of an outcast who, with a little bit of help and patience from very different individuals, transforms himself radically.



Only one of Suzanne Vega's songs made it in the musical in the end, but it is the inspiration for a part of the story I am particularly fond of and which I understand differently each time I go back to it. Sometimes I recognise myself in Tom, and sometimes in Calypso, at other times it is someone I know or knew who reminds me of these two in the great play of human life, where the journey to adulthood takes place in many stages and at all ages.

The other great text underlying Tom's story is the Tao Te King in the version of Wayne Dyer, which is clear, understandable, and makes complete sense to me. Take this, for instance:

“True mastery can be gained
by letting things go their own way.
It cannot be gained by interfering”

I think this is true at all stages of storytelling, from the way scenes and dialogues fall naturally into place if you let them, to how actors, singers and dancers will interpret the text, the music and any artistic direction given them. I hope you will find something precious, or maybe useful, or simply heart-warming, in the story we will tell you tonight.

A WORD FROM THE KUNG FU MASTER (JAN PIEPER, SIFU IN WING CHUN)



“In traditional martial arts, especially Chinese Kung Fu, Wu Wei (“acting without acting”) and the principle of Yin and Yang play a prominent role. We find explanations for this, if somewhat cryptically, in the guide to Taoism, the Tao Te King of Lao Tze. Wu Wei teaches us to strive for action without specific intent. Thinking further, this means letting go of conceptual thinking, letting go of evaluation and judgment. We are supposed to re-act and not act. Our plans or intentions can often be an obstacle, especially if we lose sight of the

alternatives or other options because we stick to our plans.

The necessary discipline for practicing the Tao Te King is taught to us by Buddhism, among others. A basic virtue (Paramita) of Buddhism is the enthusiasm for the subject of practice. This can be approached in 3 ways. The most primitive would be to follow the example of others in order to draw one’s motivation from it. In a somewhat more developed approach, you can gain the necessary enthusiasm through the preference for certain exercises, to put it simply, this means that you only practice what you like. The highest kind of enthusiasm, however, would be contemplation on what will benefit oneself and society. One should learn to love the answer that one receives from this contemplation, and thus gain motivation.”



“Peace within creates beauty without”

A WORD FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR (ERIC GHERARDI)



I've had the pleasure to be musical director for quite a few Pirates' productions now, and one of the best things about them is the diversity of the plays. This means that the way of working on a production is very different each time. For this particular one, I really liked the open approach to the songs where every singer has shared their ideas and the arrangements came together bit by bit during the rehearsals. These final versions of the songs are therefore a combination of everyone's input fused together into our very own interpretation. At this point I would like to thank Julien for trusting me as musical director for this production and for the brilliant selection of songs, all of my singers for their precious ideas and suggestions that helped create the music you hear in this show, and my fantastic band, for bringing it all to life with their enthusiasm.

“Sunrise and love love love ever lasting”

A WORD FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER (CAROLINE KAUFHOLD)

Usually, all the participants in a musical are actors, singers and dancers all in one. For this show, however, Julien decided to let the dancers be dancers which I consider to have been an excellent decision, as we only had to focus on the dancing part (and, believe you me, you do not want to hear me sing!) Nevertheless, we had to complete the puzzle of putting everything together bit by bit. We had to understand the director's vision, analyse the different songs, incorporate the different actors and singers, adapt the choreographies again and again... Therefore, I would like to thank all the present dancers for their splendid ideas and their flexibility throughout the whole preparation process. It was a wonderful experience to work with them and to create the dances together.



“I am the Queen here. I allow things to come and go as I please”

A WORD FROM THE CO-CHAIRS (VALERIE SCOTT AND PHILIP DUTTON)

We are delighted to present our latest musical extravaganza which has been written by Julien Farlin with Klaudia Sauerova. This is the third show that Julien has written and directed. The previous two were *Jazz Club* (2013), which he co-directed with Nataša Vlaović, and *Harlem Hotel* (2016).



The music that has been chosen is designed to make you tap your feet and hum along as there are popular songs sung by well-known artists such as Enya, Sting and Madonna.

This show differs from other shows in that the dancers only dance - they do not have to sing or speak, the chorus singers only have to sing and do not have to dance or act and the actors, well, they mostly act but also sing sometimes and dance occasionally!

We also very pleased to be back in Kinneksbond Centre Culturel in Mamer after a four-year break. This was primarily caused by the pandemic and then clearing the backlog of productions postponed during the Covid period. We'd like to thank all the Kinneksbond staff for their continued support for Pirates' productions.

We hope you enjoy the show watching the tale unfold as the young musician who starts out being unsure of his next step becomes more confident and finds a way out of his dilemma.

Now please sit back and enjoy the show!



“What is a broken bone when Bruce Lee has just died?”

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

- Scene 1 - Lost in the Crowd
- Scene 2 - The Drugstore
- Scene 3 - Yet Another Encounter
- Scene 4 - The Ball of Zero Probability
- Scene 5 - Walking the Thousand
Mile Road
- Scene 6 - The Practice of Life.
First Lessons
- Scene 7 - The Magic of Music
- Scene 8 - High Expectations



ACT II

- Scene 1 - The Second Voyage
- Scene 2 - Practising Once More
- Scene 3 - The Fear of the Jungle
- Scene 4 - Frozen but Still Alive
- Scene 5 - The Last Thing
- Scene 6 - The Bus Station Late Evening
- Scene 7 - The Other Side of the Door,
One Last Time
- Scene 8 - The Circle of Life

"I'm a million different people from one day to the next"

Cast and Musicians





PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Julien Farlin
Story and dialogue	Julien Farlin, Klaudia Sauerova
Musical Director	Eric Gherardi
Choreographer	Caroline Kaufhold
Stage Manager	Philip Dutton
Set design and construction	Philip Dutton, Oscar Ayoun
Costumes	Marina Seliskar
Lighting and stage design	John Brigg
Sound (Kinneksbond)	Sam Wiesenfeld
Lighting (Kinneksbond)	Alessio Puglisi
Projections design	John Brigg
Projections operator	Alex Teligadas
Lighting/Sound cuer	Alex Teligadas
Backstage crew	Claire Haigh, Elena Dmytruk, Jan Thoemel, Vital Pourprix
Publicity	Klaudia Sauerova, Valerie Scott Catriona Gillham
Programme	Phil Taylor, Valerie Scott, Klaudia Sauerova
Photographer	Vio Dudau
Box Office	Pam Carlise
Budget keeper	Dora Rocchesani
Poster design	Cristian Polocoster
Bar managers	Beverley Atkinson, Simon Critchlow

MUSICIANS

“May happiness fill your heart each day”

Keyboard and drums	Eric Gherardi
Keyboard and saxophones	Julien Farlin
Bass guitar	Daniela Kryouger
Guitar	Luca Sghirinzetti
Bass clarinet and Bb clarinet	Jeff Schmit
Trumpet	Pascal Thiry

CAST

Tom Freeman	Joe Canning (<i>Musician who has lost his way</i>)
Mickey	Bruno Mackenzie (<i>Petty drug dealer</i>)
Soul	Artemios Vogiatzis (<i>Drugstore owner</i>)
Mariana Trench	Daniel Halici (<i>Kung Fu master</i>)
Harbogast	Steve Wilkie (<i>Local Policeman</i>)
Johanna	Natasha Liati-Jones (<i>Song writer</i>)
Ted	Maia Maria Leotescu (<i>Soul's teddy bear</i>)
Calypso	Madalina Marincu (<i>Nymph</i>)
Woman in Blue	Filippa Christensen
Mugger	Tom Mortimer

DANCERS

“You only see what your eyes want to see”

Anne Claire Penché
Anne Louise Littlejohn
Carole Dauberschmidt
Caroline Kaufhold
Lorena Spagnolo
Marina Tomašić
Regina Churnakova
Tanja Duhr
Tom Mortimer



SINGERS

Dorothee Waldeck (Soprano)
Klaudia Sauerova (Alto)
Laetitia Pelaccia (Soprano)
Michael Müller (Bass)
Vincent Lumbab (Tenor)
Zsófia Eberhard (Alto)

MUSIC – ACT I

Soul with the capital “S” composed by Tower of Power; arranged by Eric Gherardi

Bitter Sweet Symphony composed by Mick Jagger & Keith Richards; lyrics by Richard Ashcroft

Pastime Paradise composed by Stevie Wonder; arranged by E. Gherardi

Sweet Dreams composed by The Eurythmics; arranged by Eric Gherardi

Brother Wolf, Sister Moon composed by The Cult

Just a Ride composed by Jem Griffiths & Mike Caren

Love in Outer Space composed by Sun Ra; arranged by Eric Gherardi inspired by Luxembourgish singer Sasha Ley

Fly Like an Eagle composed by Steve Miller; arranged by Eric Gherardi

Beyond the Sea composed by Charles Trenet & Bobby Darin; arranged by Eric Gherardi

“I do not ask him to return. I let him go”

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MUSIC – ACT II

Tempest original title: SHI BU-KI meaning “splash of the seawave”, instrumental taiko and shamisen

Calypso composed by Suzanna Vega; arranged by Eric Gherardi

If you love somebody set them free composed by Sting

Frozen composed by Madonna & Patrick Leonard; arranged by Eric Gherardi

I wish you love composed by Charles Trenet; lyrics by Albert Beach, arranged by Eric Gherardi

O Maria, o felix puerpera composed by Unknown & Dan Barta; arranged by Eric Gherardi

Only time composed by Enya; arranged by Kirby Shaw

Don't you worry 'bout a thing composed by Stevie Wonder; arranged by Eric Gherardi

“I travel the world and the seven seas. Everybody's looking for something”



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will be...

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We will be auditioning for
this show in April 2024



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***“The sage allows things
to come and go”***

Upcoming events:

- **“IMMACULATE”**: 30.11 to 3.12.2023
- **YOUTH THEATRE SHOW**: 23 and 24.3.2024
- **“HOLES”**: 13 to 16.6.2024
- **IRISH PLAY**: October 2024

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