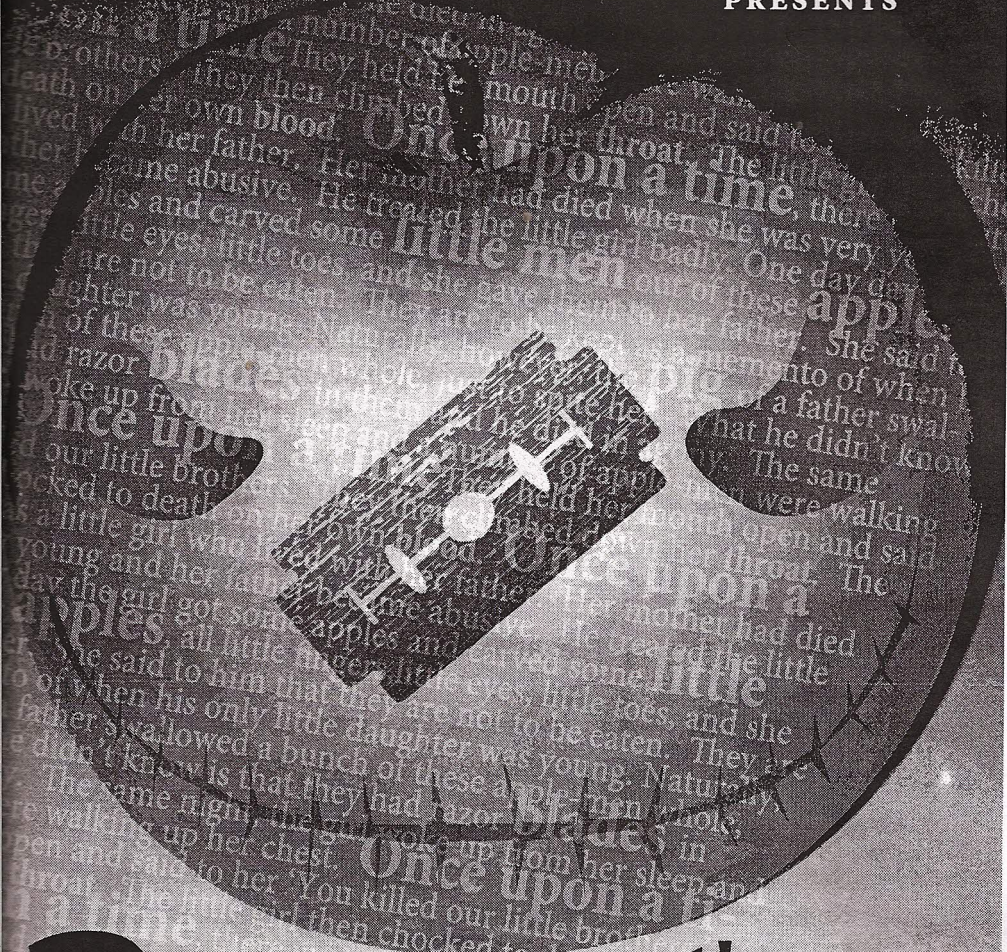


7-TOWERS
PRESENTS



the Pillowman

by Martin McDonagh



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THE PILLOWMAN

by Martin McDonagh

Directed by Christina Gutierrez

Original Puppetry Design by Katie Rose Pipkin

Katurian	Travis Bedard
Detective Tupolski	David J. Boss
Detective Ariel	Stephen Price
Michel Katurian	Aaron Black
Puppeteers	Chelsea Bunn
	Sara Cormier
	Lindsay McKenna (captain)
	Becky Musser

Creative Team

Co-Producer/Co-Artistic Director	Christina Gutierrez
Co-Artistic Director	Aaron Black
Co-Producer/Costume Designer	Katy Billik Hogge
Stage Manager	Amanda Gass
Set Designer	Derek Kollouri
Sound Designer	David J. Boss
Lighting Designer	Amy Lewis
Fight Choreographer	Wesley Riddle
Movement Coordinator	Christin Davis
Videographer	Robert Moncrief
ASL Consultant	Nicole Pirog

There will be one 10-minute intermission

From the Director

7 Towers was founded on storytelling. With limited budgets and a small core team, we felt that, as Katurian argues, “the first duty of a storyteller is to tell a story.” That is of course what we as theatre makers do--we tell stories. As the company has grown, that fundamental belief in narrative has remained. It was what initially drew me to *The Pillowman*, and what inspired our experiments with shadow puppetry and visual modes of storytelling. Despite McDonagh’s delight in grotesque violence, the play ultimately argues that our primal need for storytelling is the key to our redemption. Along the way, of course, McDonagh asks near-impossible questions about artistic responsibility and posits some disturbing suggestions about what can happen when someone takes a dedication to storytelling too far. You’re going to see some things that are very hard to watch. You’re going to hear some things that are very hard to listen to. And yet, the beauty of *The Pillowman* lies in the balance it presents between creation and destruction. In the end, the play is a testament to the beauty of human expression. For me, it is also a strong argument for protecting the freedom of that expression. Words can beget violence, but they can also beget wonder. We’re excited to share these words with you.

Let us tell you a story.

Christina Gutierrez, Director

About 7 Towers

7 Towers began in 2010 as a collaboration between an actor and a dramaturg (later turned director), both interested in the basic relationship between story, performer, and audience. Placing a particular emphasis on organic rehearsal processes and honest storytelling, we value fundamental methods of communication over flashy spectacle. We are dedicated to making theatre that challenges the status quo both in content and in production style, and are motivated by what Martha Graham describes as a “queer, divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest that keeps us marching and makes us more alive.” We produce both new and classic plays that ask exhaustive questions about the society we live in and the function of art within it. We are not interested in asking questions we already know the answers to. In the rehearsal room, we value improvisation and intellect, allowing actors’ intuitive understanding of self and story to shape both process and product. We thrive on experimentation. Our fundamental vision is of a theatrical process that searches for precise and deep truth, deeper than what the average person, or even the average artist, will accept as sufficient.

Cast

Travis Bedard (Katurian): Travis is Artistic Director of Cambiare Productions in Austin and the managing editor of 2amTheatre.com. He has recently performed with Trouble Puppet (*Cruel Circus*, Company), Poor Shadows of Elysium (*Richard II*, Gaunt/Carlisle), Different Stages (*Quills*, Dr. Royer Collard) the Hidden Room Theatre (*Rose Rage*, Company), 7 Towers Theatre Company (*Tis Pity She's a Whore*, Friar, Bergetto, Cardinal), Last Act Theatre Company (*Doctor Faustus*, Pope/Lucifer -Titus Andronicus, Titus Andronicus) and the Exchange Artists (*Story Seekers*, Storyteller). [C=MMR]

Aaron Black (Michel, Co-Artistic Director): Aaron is an Austin area actor and theatre artist who has worked professionally in New York, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Atlanta, Oklahoma, and Austin. He works in both film and theatre and also teaches and serves as a production coach for acting, voice, and movement. Aaron holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from the Actors Studio MFA program at the New School in New York City and a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Drama Performance from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. In addition to his work with 7 Towers, Aaron's work in Austin has included roles for The Vestige Group, Austin Shakespeare, Present Company, Chick and a Dude, and Poor Shadows of Elysium.

David J. Boss (Tupolski, Sound Designer): David is honored to be in his second 7 Towers show. He appeared in *Tis Pity She's a Whore*, as Florio and Poggio. Most recently, David played Jerry in *Colossus*, for the UT New Works Festival. Other recent credits include Mowbray/Northumberland in PSE's *Richard II* and Brutus in *Coriolanus*. He is also a regular performer for Austin Shakespeare. He was in *Twelfth Night* (Fabian), *Arcadia* (Capt.Brice), *Hamlet* (Guildenstern), and many others. David trained with the Shakespeare at Winedale program and owes everything to the program and its director, James Loehlin.

Stephen Price (Ariel): After several years off the boards, Stephen Price returned to the stage this spring as the Duke of York in Shakespeare's *Richard II*. Steve received his MFA in acting from the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and he worked in New York City with several companies, including the Pearl Theatre. Before returning to Austin, Steve spent three years in San Antonio as a founding member of the San Antonio Public Theatre.

Creative Team

Christina Gutierrez (Director, Co-Producer, Co-Artistic Director): Christina recently completed her Ph.D. in Performance as Public Practice from the University of Texas at Austin. Before her decision to focus her professional career on directing, Christina worked as a dramaturg with such companies as Austin Shakespeare, the Rude Mechs, Salvage Vanguard, Teatro Vivo, Scottish Rite Summer Shakespeare, Trinity Street Players, UT Austin, CU Boulder, and Whittier College in Los Angeles. She will join the faculty of Northern Arizona University's Theatre Department this fall.

Katy Billik Hogge (Co-Producer, Costumer, Properties Manager): This is Katy's second show with 7 Towers, the first being last summer's *Tis Pity She's a Whore*. Her most recent work was as stage manager, house manager and costumer for both A Chick and A Dude's *Glenarry Glen Ross* and *A Steady Rain*. She holds a BA in English Literature and Public Relations. She is happy to be a part of this amazing show and wants to thank her husband for his support, or, at the very least, understanding he doesn't get dinner for a few weeks.

Christin Davis (Movement Consultant): Christin Sawyer Davis is excited to work with 7 Towers for the first time and to make her debut as a movement coach. As an actor, Austin credits include *33 Variations* at ZACH Theater. New York and Regional credits include *Reasons to Be Pretty* (TheatreSquared), *Twelfth Night* (Bristol Riverside Theater); *Wonder of the World* (The Children); *Christmas Carol* (American Conservatory Theater). Film credits include *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee* and Terrence Malick's upcoming feature film.

Amanda Gass (Stage Manager) Amanda holds a M.A. in Theatre and a M.Ed. in Math Education (Texas State University). She spends her time teaching upper level math and stage managing in the Austin area. Amanda is the Production Stage Manager for Cambiare Productions. Her recent Stage Management credits include: Cambiare's *Messenger No. 4*, *Orestes*, *The Nina Variations*, *Intermission*, *Transformations*, and *Elektra*; and ZACH's *Hairspray*, *Red Hot Patriot* (remount), *Metamorphoses*, *Fiction*, *Becky's New Car*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Amy Lewis (Lighting Designer): Amy Lewis holds a BFA in theatre from McMurry University. Amy, can often be found, acting, stage managing,

directing, and designing lights around Austin. She is the resident light designer for Loaded Gun Theory, and can add playwright to her list of hobbies now with Loaded Gun Theory's second collaborative play, *The Brothers Merlin and their Magnificent Menagerie of Mysteries*. Amy wants to thank Christina and Aaron for this opportunity.

Katie Rose Pipkin (Puppet Designer): Katie Rose Pipkin is a visual artist working across media, currently living in Austin, Texas and on the Internet. Her work deals with fragments, remnants and memory. She pulls histories from ephemera, finding cracks, holes, alterations in course and casting their negative. She is interested in working along the fault lines.

Wesley Riddle (Fight Choreographer): Wesley Riddle holds a BFA (Texas State University) and is a certified stuntman (United Stuntman Association). He is thrilled to be working with 7 Towers and hopes this is the beginning of a wonderful relationship.

Lindsay McKenna (Puppeteer, Puppet Captain): Lindsay is one of the resident costume designers for The City Theatre, having performed in and designed their productions of *HAIR*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Othello*. Most recently, she played the role of Angel in Last Act Company's Austin premiere of *The Happy Couple*. This is her first time working with puppets and 7 Towers, and she couldn't be happier. Unless there was cheese.

Chelsea Bunn (Puppeteer) Chelsea Bunn has worn many hats in theater, but this marks her first experience with shadow puppetry. She is founder and creative director of Something for Nothing Theater, a local company that produces shoestring Shakespeare in Ramsey Park-- hint, hint. She is a proud alumna of Shakespeare at Winedale and recently enjoyed working with City Theatre (*Romeo & Juliet*) and Different Stages (*You Can't Take it with You*). Chelsea is delighted to collaborate with 7 Towers.

Sara Cormier (Puppeteer) Sara recently played "Helen Carver" in *Design For Living* and "Lydia Bennett" in *Pride And Prejudice* for Austin Shakespeare Company. She debuted in Austin as "Annabella" in 7 Towers Theatre Company's production of *'Tis Pity She's A Whore* in the summer of 2012. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts.

Becky Musser (Puppeteer): Becky recently appeared as Conrade in City Theatre's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other roles include Nerissa in The Baron's Men's *The Merchant of Venice* as well as parts in Trinity Street Players' *Coriolanus*, City Theatre's *Medea*, and Present Company's *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. In her spare time, she's teaching herself bass guitar and ukulele, to add to the menagerie of musical instruments crowding her apartment.

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Thanks to Austin video artist Robert Moncrieff for our promotional videos. Rob is available at moncrieff.editor@gmail.com

Wit's End

Event Space Rehearsal Space
Community Space



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