

THE STRANGERER

BY MICKLEMAHER



capital **T** theatre

THE STRANGERER

by **Mickle Maher**

Cast

Jim Lehrer **Jason Phelps**

John Kerry **Ken Webster**

George W. Bush **Robert Pierson**

Director/Designer **Mark Pickell**

Costume Designer **Cheryl Painter**

Lighting Designer **Patrick Anthony**

Stage Manager **Taylor Hurley**

Asst. Stage Manager **Anne-Marie Kolb**

Dramaturg **Carrie Klypchak**

Assistant Director **Zachary Givens**

Furniture Construction **Albert Taylor**

Setting

University of Miami Convocation Center in Coral Gables, Florida

THE STRANGERER will be presented without intermission

THE STRANGERER is presented by special arrangement with Hope and Nonthings Publishing.

Jason Phelps Jim Lehrer

Jason Phelps is a multi-disciplinary artist who has been making theatre for over 25 years. In the 90s he co-founded Frontera@Hyde Park Theatre and performed in too many plays to list. He performed in THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS and DETROIT produced by Capital T. He has also performed with the Rude Mechs (LIPSTICK TRACES US tour), Salvage Vanguard (TILT ANGEL), MS Nerve Dance Co, and Zach Scott (ANGELS IN AMERICA & SPRING AWAKENING). His solo dance theatre work has been seen in Chicago, Boston, Seattle, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and in Austin at FUSE-BOX. He recently completed a 2 year gig touring with the INTERGALACTIC NEMESIS and has done several crazy fun voice-over jobs. He has also received 5 Best Actor Awards from the Austin Critics' Table. Jason recently produced and acted in FEAST OF MY HEART, which was nominated for Outstanding Lead Actor by the Austin Critics' Table Awards.

Robert Pierson George W. Bush

Robert Pierson is an educator/artist, actor, director, writer, and musician. His recent stage work includes BRIGHT NOW BEYOND, PINKOLANDIA, and DREAM CABINET with Salvage Vanguard, and THE B. BEAVER ANIMATION with Rude Mechs. Robert holds degrees in Performance Studies and Special Education from the University of Texas, and he teaches English Language Arts and Theatre at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. He is a co-producing artistic director of TILT Performance Group. He writes and plays in the band The Able Sea. This is Robert's first collaboration with Capital T.

Ken Webster John Kerry

Ken is an award-winning actor, director, and producer, and has been the Artistic Director of Hyde Park Theatre since 2001. He has been acting in Austin since 1979, and has appeared in over 100 productions. Webster has been nominated for 47 B. Iden Payne Awards and 23 Critics' Table Awards for acting, directing, and producing. He received a B. Iden Payne Award for his performance in Eric Bogosian's SEX, DRUGS, ROCK & ROLL, and Critics' Table Awards for his one-man performances in ST. NICHOLAS and THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING). In 1999 Webster received the Critics' Table John Bustin Award for "Conspicuous Achievement." His stage acting credits include Capital T Theatre productions of THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS, BUG, and BLACKBIRD. Other acting credits include THE CHRISTIANS, PORT AUTHORITY, THE DRAWER BOY, ONE FOR THE ROAD, A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE, MIDDLETOWN, SLOWGIRL, CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION, HOUSE, THE GOOD THIEF, THE COLLECTION, EDMOND, GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS, and THE PILLOWMAN. Webster's film and television credits include *Temple Grandin*, *Waking Life*, *A Scanner Darkly*, and *Friday Night Lights*. He was inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame in 2006.

Camus and Bush “L’humour”...

Following Capital T’s 2011 production of SPIRITS TO ENFORCE and its 2013 production of THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS, THE STRANGERER marks the company’s third show by Chicago playwright, Mickie Maher. Like Maher’s other sharp and multifaceted works, THE STRANGERER pulls from a variety of inspirations – most notably from 21st century political and world happenings and from the work of Albert Camus (1913-1960). THE STRANGERER is heavily influenced by the themes and images found in three of Camus’s novels: THE STRANGER (1942), THE PLAGUE (1947), and THE FALL (1956). Because of the play’s title, the connection to THE STRANGER proves most obvious.

During part of the summer of 2006, the media was abuzz with (of all things) Bush’s summer reading list. Reactions to the news that Bush included Camus’s novel, THE STRANGER, as part of his summer reading ranged from confusion to eager anticipation of opportunities for parody and satire. The response to Bush’s choice of THE STRANGER stemmed largely from the irony of his picking a novel in which a white man kills an Arab without feeling any remorse. As well, the media’s response came from the perception that the President was simply “not all that deep.” So, his selection of one of Camus’s most famous books certainly proved surprising (and quite funny) to many. As a Nobel Prize-winning French writer and philosopher, Camus significantly contributed to Absurdist philosophy and is also often linked to Existential thought (although he resisted the latter association). In his 1943 essay, “The Myth of Sisyphus,” he posits that the human condition is “absurd,” because the hopes of people are “out of harmony” with an irrational and meaningless universe. Among many other contentions, Camus’s writings argue that traditional religions further alienate man within a meaningless universe and that man must develop his own principles by which to live. To be sure, Camus’s philosophical perspectives prove ever-present in his novels. Tony Snow attempted to give insight into Bush’s reaction to the novel by offering: “He found it an interesting book and a quick read. I don’t want to go too deep into it, but we discussed the origins of Existentialism.”

Trying to avoid going “too deep into it” when discussing Camus’s writing and his connections to Existential philosophy proves a bit absurd in itself; certainly, it’s funny. In a 1959 interview with Jean-Claude Brisville, Camus shared that the one thing that had gone largely ignored in his work was “L’humour.” Yet, undoubtedly, with Maher’s THE STRANGERER, the influence of “L’humour” could never be ignored.

~Carrie Klypchak, Dramaturg



Albert Camus

Anne-Marie Kolb Assistant Stage Manager

This is Anne-Marie's very first show with Capital T Theatre. She has most recently stage managed GYPSY (James R. Burton Award, outstanding technician), RABBIT HOLE, and I KISSED A VAMPIRE at S.F. Austin High School. She is about to enter Texas State University with a major in Performance and Production.

Taylor Hurley Stage Manager

This is Taylor's seventh collaboration with Capital T Theatre. She was most recently seen as Cathy in Cap T's DNA and has previously stage managed Cap T's FOOL FOR LOVE, DETROIT (B. Iden Payne nomination outstanding stage management), PUNKPLAY (B. Iden Payne nomination outstanding stage management), THE MOTHERFUCKER WITH THE HAT, and THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE. She is currently earning a degree in Performance and Production at Texas State University.

Cheryl Painter Costume Designer

This is Cheryl's seventeenth collaboration with Capital T. She is one of the longest serving core company members of Cap T. She has designed costumes for FOOL FOR LOVE, DETROIT, PUNKPLAY, GIDION'S KNOT, THE MOTHERFUCKER WITH THE HAT, THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE, EXIT PURSUED BY A BEAR, BOOM, A LIE OF THE MIND, HUNTER GATHERERS, BUG, SICK, I ♥ WALMART, KILLER JOE, I GOOGLE MYSELF, HAPPY DAYS and MR. MARMALADE. Cheryl earned her BFA in Theatre from Southwest Texas State University.

Mark Pickell Director

Mark is the founder and artistic director of Capital T Theatre Company. His directing credits include MACHINAL, RHINOCEROS, MARAT/SADE, A BRIEF HISTORY OF HELEN OF TROY, LA DISPUTE (Austin Critics' Table Nomination Best Comedy), MR. MARMALADE, BLACKBIRD, HAPPY DAYS (B. Iden Payne Nomination Best Director, Best Comedy), KILLER JOE (Best Comedy, Best Director Austin Critics' Table Awards; Outstanding Director B. Iden Payne Award), I ♥ WALMART, SICK, BUG (Austin Critics' Table Award Best Director, B. Iden Payne Nominations Outstanding Comedy, Director), HUNTER GATHERERS (Austin Critics' Table Award Best Director), A LIE OF THE MIND (B. Iden Payne Nomination Outstanding Drama, Director), BOOM (Austin Critics' Table Nomination Best Comedy), EXIT PURSUED BY A BEAR (B. Iden Payne Award Outstanding Comedy), THE PAIN AND THE ITCH and THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE (B. Iden Payne Nomination Outstanding Comedy, Director), THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS (Austin Critics' Table Nomination Best Comedy), DETROIT (B. Iden Payne Nomination Outstanding Comedy, Director), and FOOL FOR LOVE. As a designer, he has been nominated for both his scenic and lighting design. In 2011, he received the Austin Critics Table Award for his scenic design of BUG. He is a graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas where he earned a BFA with honors in Theatre.

THE NIGHT ALIVE

by Conor McPherson

directed by Ken Webster

"EXTRAORDINARY. The play can only be called transcendent."

New York Times

July 9 - August 8

HPT THEATRE
Hyde Park

hydeparktheatre.org

Patrick Anthony Light Design

Patrick Anthony is a freelance lighting designer and master electrician based in Austin, Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Loyola University: New Orleans and is an MFA candidate at Trinity College Dublin. Patrick has worked with Capital T Theatre for several years, most recently on DNA (Austin Critics' Table Nomination), FOOL FOR LOVE, THE LIEUTENANT OF INISHMORE, and THE MOTHERFUCKER WITH THE HAT. He is a member of the Vortex Repertory Company and Shrewd Productions, and he is the recipient of the 2012 B. Iden Payne Award for Lighting Design. In addition to his freelance career, Patrick teaches Stagecraft at Southwestern University.

Zachary Givens Assistant Director

This is Zachary's first time collaborating with Capital T Theatre. He is currently earning a degree in Performance at University of Houston and was most recently seen in the Honors College's DYONYZIA PROJECT.

Mickle Maher Playwright

Mickle Maher is a cofounder of Chicago's Theater Oobleck and the author of numerous plays, including SONG ABOUT HIMSELF, THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS; AN APOLOGY FOR THE COURSE AND OUTCOME OF CERTAIN EVENTS DELIVERED BY DOCTOR JOHN FAUSTUS ON THIS HIS FINAL EVENING; THE HUNCHBACK VARIATIONS; THE STRANGERER; SPIRITS TO ENFORCE; CYRANO (Translator); THE CABINET; LADY MADELINE; THE PINE; and AN ACTOR PREPARES (an adaptation of Stanislavsky's seminal book). His plays have appeared Off-Broadway and in theaters around the world, and have been supported by grants from the NEA, the MAP Fund, and Creative Capital. He currently teaches playwriting and related subjects at the University of Chicago, Columbia College, and Northwestern University. His plays are published by Hope and Nonthings.



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Cultural Arts
Division

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Ken **BRADLEY** Jason **LIEBRECHT**
Jason **NEWMAN** and Julia **BAUER**
in

A badass black comedy about
love, underdogs, and cockfighting

A black and white illustration of two roosters in a fighting stance, facing each other. They are depicted with detailed feathers and sharp beaks, set against a light background.

YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

AUGUST 20-SEPTEMBER 19

HYDE PARK THEATRE

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