

THEATRE INCONNU PRESENTS

DOG
SEES
GOD

CONFESSIONS
OF A TEENAGE
BLOCKHEAD

A play by
Bert Royal

Directed by
Morgan Gadd

*"Humorous,
raw, topical...
exciting theater."
-Stage and Cinema*

Nov 30 to
Dec 18

Preview Nov 30 @ 8pm

8pm: Dec 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18
2pm: Dec 4, 11, 18



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We acknowledge the support of the CRD Arts Commission
@feedthearts #cردادarts #yyjarts

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

We acknowledge and respect that this show is produced on the ancestral territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples, know today as the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, as well as the WSÁNEĆ peoples, whose traditional relationship with the land continues today.

Dog Sees God

Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead

by By Bert V. Royal

Cast (alphabetically)

Autumn Antonsen	CB's Sister
MJ Connelly	Matt
Andrea Eggenberger	Van's Sister
Rebecca Elliott	Marcy
James Johnson	Van
Finn Kelly	CB
Frankie Wilson	Tricia
Tianxu Zhao	Beethoven

Production Team

Morgan Gadd	director, sound & lighting design
Perry Burton	stage manager, board operator
Clayton Jevne	set design, building & painting
Steven Aleck	set painting

Box office volunteer - Jennifer Pritchard

Theatre Inconnu Artistic Director and General Manager
Clayton Jevne

Special thanks to Naomi Simpson and Julian Cervello of the Ferwnwood Community Association, and to Jeanette Howe

Director's Notes from Morgan Gadd

Now they are in high school and, as adolescents, they are pushing all the limits, often with mixed results.

The play's subtitle, *Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, opens the door on this. Blockheads can be very funny, but they can also be quite dangerous.

When I was a teen, I certainly did a lot of crazy stuff. My friends and I would sometimes justify these misdeeds as “experimenting”, and this is a recurring theme in *Dog Sees God*. The play begins with Charlie, known as ‘CB’, composing a letter to his Pen Pal, who has never acknowledged or replied to any of his missives – a recognizably typical predicament for Charlie. In the following 21 scenes that unfold as illustrations of Charlie's multiple ‘letters’ to his Pen Pal, playwright Bert V. Royal takes us on a twisting journey as the Peanuts' characters endeavor -- each in their own way -- to “Find. An. Identity.”; a compelling search for these adolescents who are no longer children but who are not yet accepted in society as adults, either.

Growing-up is hard to do, as the song goes, and you will follow each of the Peanuts' gang as they pursue their own ways of going about that. The high school hallways and byways are rife with challenges: love lurks, LGBTQ issues arise, bullying rears its ugly head; there are issues of substance abuse, mental health and, of course, Charlie asks some of Life's big questions like: “What happens when we die?”.

Playwright Bert Royal holds the mirror up. As we follow Charlie and the Peanuts

Bert V. Royal

Bert Royal's first successful script was for *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, a play centering on the Peanuts comic strip characters as teenagers. Royal submitted the script to the 2004 New York International Fringe Festival, where it won the award for Best Overall Production and was picked up by producer Dede Harris to become an Off-Broadway production, premiering in December 2005. *Dog Sees God* won the 2004 GLAAD Media Award for Best Off-Broadway Play and the 2006 HX Award for Best Off-Broadway Play, among other awards. Following the 2007–2008 Writers Guild of America strike, Royal wrote the spec script for the high school comedy film *Easy A*. He sold the script to Screen Gems almost immediately and the film commenced principal photography nine months later. After *Easy A* was released in September 2010, Royal wrote a television pilot set in Jacksonville, Florida, which was picked up and shot by MTV.

The Company



Steven Alack is a **Nuu Chah Nulth** visual artist and has been helping to paint sets for Theatre Inconnu since 2012. Shows include: *The Walworth Farce*, *Kafka the Musical*, *In the Next Room*, *The Golden Dragon*, *Antigone*, *Jocasta Regina*, and *Trad*. Steven has also painted set for Langham Court Theatre's *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*.



Autumn Antonsen is thrilled to be in this production. Her work has recently been seen in various roles in '4th *Original Works Showcase* web series' by Starry Starry Skies and Buffy in *Once More With Feeling Parody* by Starry Starry Skies. Autumn is excited to be back onstage again and wants to thank the audience for coming out and seeing this show.



Perry Burton is excited to be back in theatre after two long years. As a performer Perry has appeared in productions across Canada since childhood. But not content to just perform, he has designed/operated lighting and sound, produced, stage managed, mentored. *Dog Sees God* is his fourth Inconnu production.



MJ Connelly is overjoyed to be back on stage at Inconnu, and even happier to be playing a human this time around! His past theatrical endeavours include *Crumble* (Inconnu, 2019); *Spamalot*, and *Les Miserables* (VOS, 2016, 2015). His hobbies include running, cooking, and writing awkwardly in the third person. He is strongly against homophobia, and agnostic about cocaine. Enjoy the show!



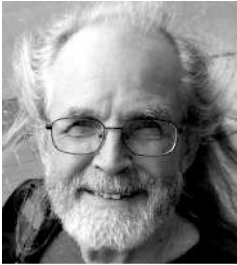
Andrea Eggenberger was a major Peanuts fan growing up. She's thrilled to embrace these characters again in this hilarious and heartbreaking play. RIP Snoopy. Her theatre credits include: Starry Starry Skies Productions: *I Stand Accused*, *Originals Showcase*, *Once More with Feeling*, *Little Bird*; Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre: *Red, Hot, Cole*; Windsor Theatre: *Antony & Cleopatra*, and *Antigone*.



Becca Elliott is delighted to have the opportunity to perform at Theatre Inconnu alongside such a talented cast and crew. To her, its like she is sitting at the cool table. She hopes you enjoy this play and it makes you feel a little nostalgic. Whatever that may look like to you. Also please note that Becca does in fact love dogs and does not think that they are gross.



Morgan Gadd returns to Theatre Inconnu, having directed *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, by Sarah Ruhl, in the 2019 Season. An actor, director and theatre teacher, with a professional career of more than 30 years, Morgan has directed or performed in over 90 stage productions for academic and professional theatre companies in Canada, the United States and Hong Kong.



Clatyon Jevne has acted in, and directed, scores of productions for Theatre Inconnu, for which he has remained Artistic Director since its very unofficial beginnings in 1978. He has also designed and built many Inconnu shows and now is delighted to have a go at bringing a comic strip to the stage.



James Johson is so excited to be performing at Theatre Inconnu alongside a truly groovy cast and crew. He would also like it to be known he doesn't mind Mexican Pizza. Or Burritos. Or Hamburgers. Really, he's just always happy to have food to be honest. He'd like to give a shout out to his buddy Brad Foster for lending him Van's sweater (and his charm).



Finn Kelly: Born and raised on Vancouver Island, Finn got his start in theatre in 2012. To date, he has been in more than a dozen local theatre productions. Most recently in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* with Theatre Inconnu. He is thrilled to be a part of the cast of *Dog Sees God*.



Frankie Wilson is an 18 year old girl from Metchosin who has been acting since the age of 5. She performed in Skam Theatre's production of *Concord Floral* and *Rage Trials* and is happy to be getting back in to acting after the pandemic. In addition to acting, she loves her stuffed animals, video games, and embroidery.



Tianxu Zhao was born and raised in northeast China and entered the theatre program of University of Victoria in 2016. With a major of Self-directed, Tianxu mainly focuses on theatrical directing. Previous acting credit: *Running away and from* (Intrepid Theatre). Tianxu is thrilled and grateful for the opportunities to act in this production, and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Theatre Inconnu's 2022 Season

We are excited to again offer you a full season of exciting theatre!
These four plays run the gamut of theatrical styles, all written by masters of their craft.
Please see the next page of the program for subscription purchasing information.

The Shadow in the Water by David Elendune

This play by local award winning playwright David Elendune was a recent hit at the Victoria Fringe Festival. "It is a highly personal and poignant tale of love, loss, and sharks... For where would we be without our monsters, Trapped someplace north of Hell, but south of Heaven – Where light breaks bread with darkness." playwrightsguild.ca

8pm: Feb 22 (preview), 23, 24, (no show Feb 25), 26; Mar 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

2pm: Feb 26, Mar 7, 12

East of Berlin by Hannah Moscovitch

Governor General award-winning playwright Hannah Moscovitch questions redemption, love, guilt, and the sins of the father in *East of Berlin*. Ms Moscovitch is one of Canada's most celebrated and produced playwrights and this play is one of her most emotionally gripping. As young Rudi uncovers the mystery of his father's past, his own present and future are forever altered.

8pm: May 4 (preview) 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21

2pm: May 7, 14, 21

Commencing and ***Subway*** – two one-act plays by Jane Shepard

"Edgy, original, and with a darkly comic humanity, each play examines in very different ways the tender, funny, often tortuous quest for meaning. Jane writes incredibly rich and truthful female characters not often seen on stage."

theatermania.com

8pm: Sept 21 (preview), 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29; Oct 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

2pm: Sept 24; Oct 1, 8

The Black Rider- Casting of the Magic Bullets - a musical by Tom Waits and William S. Burroughs

"It is a wickedly sensuous world where nothing is what it seems: the devil sings, the animals laugh and the walls are painted with blood. A poetic and fantastical folk-tale comes to life in the form of a bizarre and macabre musical, created by rock icon Tom Waits and beat poet William S. Burroughs. To win the hand of his true love, Wilhelm makes a dangerous pact:– a pact with the devil himself. He eagerly accepts the devil's enchanted bullets, taking aim for a shot that just can't miss!"

[Theatre Network](http://TheatreNetwork)

8pm: Nov 30 (preview), Dec 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17

2pm: Dec 3, 10, 17

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But if you wish to buy a membership without the subscription, you may do so by paying \$5

I wish to purchase a separate \$5 membership without a subscription.

Donations

Please consider making a donation to help us continue bringing innovative theatre to Victoria. Theatre Inconnu is a registered charity and you will receive a tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more.

With a donation of \$100 you will get a 2022 4-show transferable punch card. You will receive another punch card for each subsequent \$100 donation.

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You can also purchase subscriptions and memberships, and donate directly through our website:

www.theatreinconnu.com

A Bit of Inconnu History

Theatre Inconnu was born in 1978 as a creative venture by Katya Aho-Kern and Clayton Jevne, who together co-created and performed the troupe's plays. For the first nine years the company – with Katya and Clayton both at the helm – toured their unique blend of theatre, puppetry, and clowning in Canada and in Europe. In 1987 The troupe registered as a non-profit society/charitable organization and established itself in what is now considered its “legendary” 50-seat Market Square cavern theatre space in “Olde Towne” Victoria, BC. The company gradually shifted to an “acting” approach style of theatre, focusing on plays of an “alternative” nature.

In addition to its regular season programming, in 1991 Theatre Inconnu launched an annual summer Shakespeare Festival. Beginning modestly in the Market Square venue, the event quickly grew to become a major tourist attraction in a giant tent in Victoria's Inner Harbour. After producing the festival for 11 years (the last four taking place at St. Anne's Academy Auditorium), Theatre Inconnu handed it over to the newly formed Victoria Shakespeare Society who continue to produce this well-attended annual event.

In 2004 the troupe became the resident theatre company in a new venue: the Paul Phillips Hall, in the historic central area of Fernwood in Victoria. This fully-equipped “black-box” theatre maintains the intimate and informal atmosphere of the troupe's original home.

Theatre Inconnu has also operated a youth/family component, and under the guidance of Timothy Gosley - one of Canada's premiere puppeteers - has delivered scores of workshops and classes and has produced a number of family oriented events, including: *Puppets for Peace* festivals; Canada Day and Victoria Day parade spectacles; and more recently, two summers of mounting a multi-medium, multi-cultural, stage adaptation of acclaimed First Nations Artist Roy Henry Vickers' (of Tsimshian, Haida and Heiltsuk ancestry) *Peace Dancer* book.

Over the years Theatre Inconnu has continued to take shows on the road, and has toured productions in every region in Canada, as well as trips to the UK, the USA, France, Switzerland, and Mexico.

Theatre Inconnu remains under Clayton Jevne's artistic directorship, and to date has produced more than 150 shows in Victoria.