

THEATRE INCONNU PRESENTS

EAST

OF

BERLIN

by **Hannah Moscovitch**

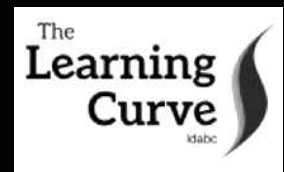
directed by
Don Keith

Starring
**Melissa Blank,
MJ Connelly,
James Johnson**

May 4-21

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

2pm: May 7, 14, 21



We acknowledge the support of the CRD Arts Commission
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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 lək̓ʷəŋən peoples, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, as well as the WSÁNEĆ peoples, whose traditional relationship with the land continues today.

East of Berlin

by Hannah Moscovitch

Cast (alphabetically)

Melissa Blank	Sarah
MJ Connelly	Hermann
James Johnson	Rudi

Production & Administrative Team

Don Keith	director, sound & set design
Sylvia Hosie	acting coach
Rebecca Elliott	stage manager
Linda MacNaughton	costume design & props
Clayton Jevne	light design, set construction & painting
Steven Aleck	set painting & crew
Richard Patterson	running crew
Keven Stinson	sound engineer & operator
Morgan Gadd	lighting operator
Jennifer Pritchard	box office volunteer
Robert Randall	poster & program cover designer
Clayton Jevne	artistic director & general manager

Special thanks to Perry Burton and Anne Moon

Director's Notes from Don Keith

East of Berlin is an exquisite script about family, honesty, revenge, love and truth. The story is told by Canadian and award winning playwright Hannah Moscovitch, who has skillfully crafted a masterpiece of theatre that is honest, brutal, insightful and above all poetic. *East of Berlin* may be overwhelming and disturbing, but as Margaret Atwood says "you must not look away." There is no reconciliation without truth... not a new concept. It has been a wonderful experience working with this play, and with such a talented cast and production staff. Thanks everyone for your generous and open spirits. Many thanks to Clayton Jevne and Theatre Inconnu for their bravery, resilience, and steadfastness. Always a pleasure.

Hannah Moscovitch

Hannah Moscovitch is based in Toronto and Halifax. She was born in Ottawa and studied at the National Theatre School. In 2007 Hannah Moscovitch's first full-length play, *East of Berlin*, premiered at the Tarragon Theatre and returned there in 2009 and 2010. She won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for both *In This World* (2010) and *Infinity* (2015). She was the first Canadian to win the Windham-Campbell Literature Prize (2016), and in 2021 she won the Governor General's Award for *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*. In 2021, Moscovitch and Jennifer Podemski created the drama series *Little Bird* for Crave. She has been playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre as well as a contributing writer to the CBC radio drama series *Afghanada*. She has been dubbed: "an indie sensation" by *Toronto Life* magazine; "the wunderkind of Canadian theatre" by CBC Radio; "irritatingly talented" by *Eye Weekly*; and the "dark angel of Toronto theatre" by the *Toronto Star*. *The National Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Now Magazine* have all hailed Moscovitch as "Canada's Hottest Young Playwright."

The Company - alphabetically



Steven Aleck 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*, *Trad*, and *Dog See God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*. Steven has also painted set for Langham Court Theatre's *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*.



Melissa Blank. Well it has been a long time since Melissa has been in this space with a live audience, and all she can feel is gratitude. While it was fun to experiment with virtual theatre in *Unit B-1717*, the thing about live theatre is that it's live. Thanks to Theatre Inconnu for offering this opportunity for me to be aLIVE again. It is good to be home.



MJ Connelly is excited to continue working with Inconnu, playing his third queer male villain in as many shows. His past theatrical endeavours include *Dog Sees God* (Inconnu, 2021); *Crumble* (Inconnu, 2019); *Spamalot*, and *Les Miserables* (VOS, 2016, 2015). When offstage, he can be found at the gym, the beach, or the family farm.



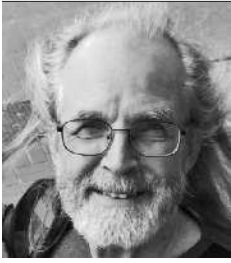
Rebecca Elliott. When managing the stage Rebecca, or Becca, has one rule: there are no rules! but please respect the rules and regulations. Coming from Chantry, Ontario, UVic graduate, Becca found Victoria to be her home. No stranger to the theatre she was recently in Theatre Inconnu's *Dog sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*. She wants to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work. Enjoy the show!



Morgan Gadd. 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.



Sylvia Hosie. Retired from a long career in theatre, Sylvia is delighted to have yet another adventure with Theatre Inconnu & is looking forward to working on the Tom Waits musical, *Black Rider*. It has been a pleasure working on Hannah Moscovitch's brilliantly written text with these fine actors. Recent Inconnu credits include: *Crumble*, *Svejk* & *The Mating Dance of the Werewolf*.



Clayton Jevne is co-founder & Artistic Director of Theatre Inconnu. He has acted in, directed & designed scores of productions for Inconnu since its humble beginnings (and humble continuance). His solo shows have been seen in five countries, and he will be hitting the road again this summer with *Falstaff*. He continues to be astounded by, and grateful for, the on-going commitment of local theatre artists to Theatre Inconnu and its faithful audience! Thanks to all involved in this show for their wonderful work!



James Johnson is incredibly excited to be back on stage at Theatre Inconnu having recently performed in *Dog sees God: Confessions of a teenage Blockhead*. A local actor and Island boy, Mr. Johnson enjoys chess, eating, and permaculture gardening. James has enjoyed his experience working on *East Of Berlin*, and wants to thank the Cast and the Crew for their incredible work on this play. A special thanks to Rebecca Elliott, for helping to bring this show to life.



Don Keith has developed a reputation for producing challenging productions in high school, community theatre and university. A theatre teacher since 1971, he received the National Award for Leadership in Education, the Drama Teacher of the Year Award in 1999, and is a Life Member of Theatre Kelowna Society. He has designed many sets at St. Luke's Players and Langham Court Theatre, where he directed *Noises Off*. For Theatre Inconnu he has directed *The Good Soldier Schweik*, and *Crumble*.



Linda McaNaughton is delighted in her first opportunity to work with Theatre Inconnu. With backgrounds in teaching, retail, sewing, jewellery and design, playing with costumes and props is the perfect creative challenge. Linda's previous Victoria shows include *Hilda's Yard*, *Until the Flood*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *August Osage County*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. It has been an honour to work and learn with the talented group on this *East of Berlin* production - community theatre at its best!



Richard Patterson started acting in theatre in Toronto 50 years ago. After Toronto Richard split his time between Edmonton and Victoria, getting to play Macduff and a tightrope walker challenging Niagara Falls (*Blondin*) on tour, and a pirate in *Pieces of Eight* and a Clown at the Citadel Theatre and on tour in California. Eventually Theatre Inconnu offered Richard some of the best characters he's ever had. Richard helps around Inconnu and is on the board, and is working with great friends.



Kevin Stinson: This is Kevin's 8th gig doing sound engineering and/or design for Theatre Inconnu. Previous sound designs here were *Trad*, *Age of Arousal*, *If We were Birds*, *In the Next Room*, *Kafka the Musical*, *The Best of Friends* and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. As an actor, he has appeared in Theatre Inconnu's productions of *If We were Birds*, *Macbeth*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *Chantecler*. Recent sound/projection designs include *Proof*, *The Penelopiad* and *R&G are Dead* at Langham Court.

Theatre Inconnu 2022

Here is what is coming up for the rest of 2022

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.

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2pm: May 7, 14, 21

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

These two works by this amazing US playwright explore relationships with deep insight and empathy, often coloured by an exceptionally engaging - and beautifully quirky - sense of humour. "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

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

2pm: Dec 3, 10, 17

Save money and get a 2-show pass to apply to any of the above shows.

See details on the next page.

**For more information on shows, ticket sales,
donations, please visit us at:
www.theatreinconnu.com**

If you wish to receive information on our mailing list for shows and events
please send us an email at: mail@theatreinconnu.com
and we will add you to our list.

T H E A T R E I N C O N N U
SPECIAL 2 - SHOW PASS

Adult 2-show pass: \$22

(save \$6)

Senior (60+)/Student 2-show pass: \$16

(save \$4)

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- 1 Regular 2-show pass for \$22
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You will receive a 2-show punch card to present at the box office

Passes are transferable (you can let someone else attend in your place)

Your pass includes a 2022 membership

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

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.

- I wish to make a donation of \$..... (please fill in the amount)

Name: _____.

Address: _____.

City/Province: _____.

Email: _____.

Telephone: _____.

Please make cheques out to Theatre Inconnu and send to:
709 Yates St - PO Box 8796 - Main Post Office, Victoria, BC., V8W 3S3

You can also purchase passes or donate directly through our website:

www.theatreinconnu.com

A Bit of Inconnu History

Theatre Inconnu was born in 1978 as a creative venture by fellow UVic students Katya Aho-Kern and Clayton Jevne, who together co-created and performed the troupe's plays. For the first nine years the company they 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 mounted more than 150 productions in Victoria.