

THEATRE INCONNU PRESENTS

This Much I know

By Jonathan
Spector



DIRECTED BY MISTY COZAC

"Enlightens and delights" - BROADWAYWORLD

Nov 26 to Dec 15



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We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia

www.theatreinconnu.com

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

This Much I Know

by Jonathan Spector

Cast (alphabetically)

Melissa Blank	Natalya, Svetlana Aliluyeva & ensemble
Nicholas Guerreiro	Harold & ensemble
Sheldon Parathundyil	Lukesh, Brajesh Singh & ensemble

Production Team

Misty Cozac	director, costume design, sound design
Kevin Eastman	stage manager, assistant director, sound effects design
Dave Irons	projection design
Shawn Hateley	lighting design
Michelle Sparrow	costume/prop procurement
Richard Patterson	running crew
Steven Aleck	running crew
Karl Swannie and Lara Reynolds	publicity photos
Jennifer Pritchard	box office volunteer
Robert Randall	poster & program cover

Clayton Jevne is the artistic director & general manager of Theatre Inconnu

Special thanks to: Brandon Sugden, Cathy Wallace, Claire McNelis, Luba Reshitnyk, Hannah Mariko Bell, Trini Day, and Julie Gray

Very special thanks to Kevin Stinson, our Q-Lab technician specialist

**The show is about two and a quarter hours long,
including a 15 minute intermission**

Content warning:

strong language; discussions of racism, white supremacy, eugenics, and antisemitism; and depictions of panic attacks.

This Much I Know is presented by arrangement with Creative Artists Agency,
<https://caa.com.com>

405 Lexington Ave, 19th Floor, New York NY 10174

Director's Notes by Misty Cozac, BFA (U of L) , MA (U of T) (Theatre History and Dramaturgy)

When playwright Jonathan Spector read Daniel Kahneman's book *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, he was inspired to take the premise of a non-fiction book about cognitive illusions and apply it to two real-life people. He chose Stalin's daughter Svetlana Alluyeva and Derek Black, heir to a prominent white nationalist family in the U.S. Both people were compelling to Spector because they chose to leave their ingrained family ideologies behind. Svetlana opted to defect to the U.S, and Derek (Harold, in the play) transformed while attending a liberal arts college. Spector further created his plot by weaving in a fictional psychology professor, Lukesh, who mentors Harold while trying to support his wife dealing with the aftereffects of an accidental death. The beautiful result is a play about "slowing our thinking" and learning to see people as they want to be seen. In today's disunified world, I think producing a work about connecting across intellectual divides is important.

Inspired by the intentions and structure of the play, I've chosen to take a directorial approach that has a minimal set, audience interaction, props and costume changes onstage, and a heightened theatricality all around. The purpose is to encourage you, the audience, to think objectively and engage with the ideas in the production instead of being a passive spectator. You won't find a fourth wall and realism here, and we hope that it leads to interesting discussions after each show.

I'd like to thank this extremely talented cast and production team. This is not an "easy" play, but with this thoughtful group, it has been a dream collaboration. Each person has contributed a great deal of themselves to this show, and the result is an enlightening and fulfilling theatrical experience.

Jonathan Spector

Jonathan Spector is an American playwright, based in Oakland, California. His plays also include *Eureka Day*, *Best Available*, and *Siesta Key*. His work has been produced at theatres around the country and abroad. He is currently under commission from Roundabout Theatre Company, La Jolla Playhouse, and Manhattan Theatre Club. Spector's honours include: two Glickman Awards for Best Play to Premiere in the San Francisco Bay Area, two Bay Area Theater Critics Circle Awards, Theater Bay Area Award, Rella Lossy Award, Edgerton Award, WhatsOnStage Award Nomination for Best New Play (London), and a New York Drama Critics Circle Award nomination. He was the Literary Manager and then Associate Artistic Director of Playwrights Foundation/Bay Area Playwrights Festival. He was also the long-time Co-Artistic Director of the Berkeley-based Just Theater. Spector holds an MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State.

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The Company (alphabetically)



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



Melissa Blank - is happy to be back at Theatre Inconnu working with this wonderful team. Some of Melissa's favourite memories are from Inconnu's productions of: Tom Waits' *Alice*, and *The Black Rider; A Day In The Death Of Joe Egg* by Peter Nichols, and Guillermo Calderón's *Neva*. Her performance in this show is dedicated to her wonderful friends Michele and David. They have followed Melissa since her first adventures in theatre, and she is forever grateful for their love and support.



Misty Cozac - is delighted to be making her Theatre Inconnu début with *This Much I Know*. She most recently directed *Halfway There* for the Peninsula Players and acted in their productions of *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Steel Magnolias*. Some of her favourite past plays that she has directed include - *Cowboy Mouth*, *Criminal Genius*, *Strawberries in January*, and *The Plum Tree*. She thanks her partner Jared for his continuous support.



Kevin Eastman - An alumni of UVIC, Kevin has worked all around the city as both a stage manager and actor. Their ongoing work, where you might find them, is at the Farquhar Auditorium as a stage manager and on *The Platform* podcast as an improviser. You may also recall him acting in *Fairytrails* in Skampede 2024 and *Field Research* last September as both actor and organizer. Kevin is honoured to welcome you to this thought-provoking production and hopes you enjoy this fabulous show!



Nicholas Guerreiro - is a graduate of the departments of Theatre and Creative Writing at the University of Victoria. He has previously appeared on stage with Theatre Inconnu in *Stupid Fucking Bird* (2023), *The Black Rider* (2022), and *Neva* (2018). Plays Nicholas has written have been performed at the Between Words One-Act Play Festival, SKAMPede, the Or Festival, Touchstone Theatre's New Crew, the Victoria and Winnipeg Fringes, and the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. He recently received the 2024 Annamaria Bamji Award for Emerging Playwrights from the Belfry Theatre.



Shawn Hateley - is excited to make his début at Theatre Inconnu. He studied technical theatre at Red Deer College and has worked on productions both in Canada and New Zealand. When Shawn is not in the theatre, he is an IT Specialist for the Hakai Institute on the Central Coast of BC.



Dave Irons - a Fernwood local and a software developer specializing in digital interactive media. When he's not creating in the digital space, he might be woodworking, swimming, or spending time with his family.



Sheldon Parathundyil - Thrilled to be making his Theatre Inconnu début, Sheldon has two years as a BC Parliamentary Player and over 35 other performing, directing, writing, and production credits under his belt. Some notable credits include Prior Walter in *Angels in America* with Ottawa's Sock 'n' Buskin Theatre Company and the titular roles in SnB's *The Elephant Man* and *Macbeth*. He thanks God, the ancestors, his family, friends, brothers, and especially his beloved wife Olivia for supporting him every step of the way. He is deeply grateful to his phenomenal cast-mates and creative team for entrusting him with this opportunity and being such lovely people to work with.



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.



Jennifer Pritchard - had a successful career as a counsellor in Winnipeg, following which she moved to Victoria and began to pursue her love of theatre. For many years her sunny smile has welcomed patrons to Theatre Inconnu.

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Up-coming shows in 2025 include:

FEB 19 - MAR 8

Queen Maeve by Judith Thompson - This new play by Governor General Award winner Thompson is a searing, often hilarious tale, featuring an ordinary woman in a drab nursing home who, when triggered, transforms into Queen Maeve, Irish Warrior Queen, confronting her cherished grandson, and her complicated, dramatic daughter. The play asks the questions: Is forgiveness ever impossible? Will we know when we need to make amends? Is it ever too late to find true empowerment? Judith Thompson is one of Canada's most cherished playwrights and this is a Western Canadian premiere of her new work.

"profoundly moving... serves to reconcile us with our own mortality."

Ontario Stage

8 pm: Feb 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 & Mar 1, 5, 6, 7, 8

2pm: Feb 22 & Mar 1, 8

Apr 30 - MAY 17

Bacon by Sophie Swithinbank - It's This is the Canadian premiere of this recent multi-award winning British play that took London by storm in 2023. Year 10's first day back at school: Mark is new and too scared to make friends. Darren is out of control and too scary to make friends. Worlds apart, but more similar than they realize, the pair form a complex and manipulative relationship. And before they know it, they're embarking on a dangerous experiment that will alter the course of their lives. Sophie Swithinbank's play Bacon is an unflinching and unexpectedly humorous look at masculinity, sexuality and power, through the dizzying lens of youth.

"utterly compelling... beautiful to watch"

The Stage

8 pm: Apr 30 & May 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17

2 pm: May 3, 10, 17

SEPT 17 - OCT 4

The Moors by Jen Silverman - A young governess arrives at a remote manor after exchanging semi-romantic correspondence with one mysterious Mr. Branwell. But when the door opens, the only residents of the house seem to be Branwell's two sisters, a maid (or maybe two maids?) and a lovelorn mastiff. And no man to be found, or child to be cared for. The Moors is a dark comedy about love, desperation, and visibility. It is an inspired, whimsical satire that both embraces and sends up the gothic musings of the Brontë sisters. Silverman is a young American playwright with numerous awards, including the Yale Drama Series Award.

"great imagination... eminently entertaining."

The Guardian

8 pm: Sept 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27 & Oct 1, 2, 3, 4

2 pm: Sept 20, 27 & Oct 4

NOV 26 - DEC 14

Armstrong's War by Colleen Murphy - After suffering an injury during a military tour of Afghanistan, Michael, a young soldier, is recovering in the rehabilitation wing of a hospital. The last thing he wants is to spend time with a twelve-year-old girl, but Halley, a spirited Pathfinder and self-described "reading fiend," is eager to earn her community service badge. The pair is at odds from the start, but they find a shared interest in The Red Badge of Courage, the classic American Civil War novel, which spurs them to reveal their own stories. As their friendship grows, uncomfortable truths are exposed and questioned, redefining the meaning of courage and heroism. Murphy is a titan in Canadian theatre and is a 2-time Governor General Award winner.

"a story about finding strength through friendship, it's a fine 90 minutes" ***Toronto Star***

8 pm: Nov 25, 26, 27, 29, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13

2 pm: Nov 29 & Dec 6, 13

THEATRE INCONNU

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**Thank you for supporting Theatre
Inconnu in 2024 and we hope to see
you back in 2025!**

A modest increase in admission prices for 2025

For more than a decade, Theatre Inconnu has resisted increasing ticket prices, so that our shows can remain affordable to as many people as possible.

In 2024 we suffered an unprecedented cut to our annual provincial funding, which will pose on-going challenges in 2025 in keeping an already minimally funded theatre company alive.

We have decided to add \$2.00 to our ticket prices starting in 2025, in an effort to keep active as part of the Victoria performing arts community.

Starting in 2025, single regular admission price will be \$16, and single senior/student admission price will be \$12.

We will still be offering special pay-what-you-wish performances and half-price preview performances for those who would otherwise not be able to afford to see our shows.