

13.05.2022 - 15.05.2022
20.05.2022 - 22.05.2022
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY PERFORMANCES



069 94412360 Tickets €20
Kulturhaus-Frankfurt.de

FRANKFURT ENGLISH SPEAKING THEATRE

"..FOLLY IN ALL ITS FORMS.."

AN EVENING OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

THE MADNESS OF LADY BRIGHT

By Lanford Wilson

DIRECTED BY CHRISTINA PARASCHIV

CAST

LESLIE / LADY BRIGHT - Jim Phetterplace Jr.
GIRL - Lou Burkart & Carina Stubenrauch
BOY - Robin Böhme

#1

"Take me home."



"All creativity is about risk..."

#2

THE SCHEME

By Mike Riepl

DIRECTED BY MIKE RIEPL & LAURIE GAERTNER

CAST

MAN A - Mike Riepl
MAN B - Jeff Book
DELIVERY WOMAN - Michelle Hellinger

I DIDN'T KNOW U COULD COOK

By Rich Orloff

DIRECTED BY ROSE CONNOLLY

CAST

MARK - Wade Gonsoulin
JEROME - Anshu Bhattacharya

#3



#4

CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED

By Rich Orloff

DIRECTED BY ROSE CONNOLLY

CAST

THE JUDGE - Laurie Gaertner
GOD - Hazem Eleessawy
HUMAN - Francesca Pagnelli
THE BAILIFF - Evelyn Elizabeth Huamani



Welcome from FEST

We are delighted to welcome you back to the theatre for our evening of one-act plays "Folly in all its Forms". In our first play, "Madness of Lady Bright", we will perform one of the earliest plays of the gay theatre movement. As this production has been on hold for two years, we are very pleased to finally be able to put it on. We would like to thank the director, Christina Paraschiv, for her patience, resilience and hard work which has gone into this production.

Our second play, "The Scheme", was written by FEST member, Mike Riepl, and had its FEST debut in 2015. It will also be performed at FEATS at the end of May. As its name suggests, it is full of drama and intrigue, and we are very fortunate to have such a talented playwright in FEST. We would like to thank Mike, and also Laurie Gaertner for directing the play with Mike.

We will finish the evening with two short comedies, "I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD COOK" and "CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?". When Rose Connolly initially contacted FEST regarding auditions, she did not expect to be directing two short plays two months later! We are delighted to have Rose on board and would like to thank her for her tireless efforts and enthusiasm over the last two months.

With this production, we are very pleased to welcome some new FEST members on stage and backstage. We would like to thank all of the cast for their dedication, as well as the production team and crew for their invaluable support behind the scenes.

Join FEST

Frankfurt English Speaking Theatre e.V. (FEST) is the oldest and largest English speaking community theatre in the Frankfurt and Rhein Main region. It was founded by a group of British ex-pats in 1977 and has been putting on several productions each year ever since. Our members come from all over the world, and are united in their passion for theatre. FEST welcomes everyone who enjoys going to the theatre as well as those who are interested in acting, directing or helping behind the scenes. There are many opportunities to get involved with productions, or to just socialize and enjoy watching the plays with other theatre-lovers.

We would be very happy to welcome you as part of our community and new members are always welcome. Contact us at info@festfrankfurt.org!



Cast of Characters

THE MADNESS OF LADY BRIGHT

Leslie/Lady Bright

Girl

Boy

Jim Phetterplace Jr.

Lou Burkart, Carina Stubenrauch

Robin Böhme

Director: Christina Paraschiv

Assistant Director: Daniel Toyne

THE SCHEME

Man A

Man B

Delivery Woman

Mike Riepl

Jeff Book

Michelle Hellinger

Directors: Mike Riepl and Laurie Gärtner

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD COOK

Mark

Jerome

Wade Gonsoulin

Anshu Bhattacharya

Director: Rose Connolly

CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?

The Judge

God

Human

The Bailiff

Laurie Gaertner

Hazem Elessawy

Francesca Pagnelli

Evelyn Elizabeth Huamani

Director: Rose Connolly



Cast Biographies

THE MADNESS OF LADY BRIGHT

Christina Paraschiv
Director

Since 2016 Christina has supported FEST as director, assistant director, costume assistant, light and sound designer/operator, producer, and was sound coordinator for the FEATS festival. She has stage managed three productions for Shakespeare Frankfurt and was intern at the English Theatre Frankfurt and Schauspiel Frankfurt. Christina has trained in several directing and theatre related workshops offered in U.K., U.S., Australia, and Germany.



Daniel Toyne
Assistant Director

This is Daniel's fourth production with FEST after directing *An Inspector Calls* (2019), *Death of a Salesman* (2020) and *Pinteresque* – an evening of Pinter plays (2021). During his 25 years in Singapore (1988-2013) Daniel directed a wide variety of plays, including works by Shakespeare, Pinter, Sheridan, Wilde and Bennett. He took several major acting roles, notably Prospero (*The Tempest*), Norman (*The Dresser*) and Dr Wickstead (*Habeas Corpus*). Daniel participated in dinner theatre (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India) and also wrote and directed two large-scale pantomimes, *Robinson Crusoe* and *Alice in Wonderland*. He returned to performing after a decade, as Gloucester in Shakespeare Frankfurt's *King Lear* directed by PJ Escobio, last summer.



Jim Phetterplace Jr.
Leslie/Lady Bright

Jim has been in theater since the 1980s. With FEST, he has performed in *Breakaway* and *The Scheme* (2015, FEST originals), *The Two-Character Play*, *Detainee*, and *Pinteresque*, and directed *Our Country's Good* and *Loot*. In Germany, he has additionally performed for Oper Frankfurt, Shakespeare Frankfurt and the Interkulturelle Bühne (in German), and directed for the English Theatre Frankfurt and the European Central Bank Theatre Ensemble. He has appeared in two German-language short films and one music video. As a playwright, he is completing his adaptation of three works by Native American poet Beth Brant, an homage to his Cree Nations mother.



Lou Burkart
Girl

This is Lou's first production with FEST. After a more than ten years' break, she is finally back on stage, excited about it, and happy to be telling this story very dear to her heart.



Carina Stubenrauch
Girl

Carina Stubenrauch is a member of the European Central Bank Theatre Ensemble. She appeared on stage in their 2020 production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and has also been active behind the scenes as stage manager of the Ensemble's 2021 run of Harold Pinter: *Two Short Plays*.



Robin Böhme
Boy

Robin Böhme started acting in 2019 at the JUST Mainz of the Staatstheater Mainz. After that, he continued working with directors like Alexander Nerlich and Mark Becker. This is Robin's first production with FEST.



THE SCHEME

Mike Riepl
Co-director/Man A

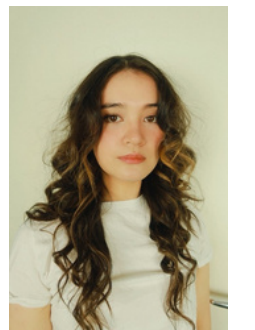
Mike is delighted and deeply honoured to be performing in and co-directing one of his own one-act plays. Over the past 10 years or so Mike has taken part in many FEST productions, including *An Inspector Calls*, *Death of a Salesman*, *And Then There Were None*, and *The Boor*. He has also directed his own plays a number of times, especially of note being the FEATS award winning production of *The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs*.



A key phrase from *The Scheme* is: "All creativity is about risk...". Being on stage is always a risk, but it is a risk that has always paid off!

Laurie Gärtner
Co-director

Laurie is a German actress and director from Germany. She has worked with multiple theatre groups since 2016, mainly as an actress on stage, as well as creatively behind the scenes. She has been involved in both German theatre projects and English productions due to her bilingual background. She is currently finishing her B.A. in Theatre Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, juggling state theatre internships, and teaching theatre to kids.



Laurie has been a FEST member since 2019, being involved in productions such as *Death of A Salesman* and *An Evening of Pinter*. Her original monologue *Lovesick*, which she debuted in 2021, is going to be shown at this year's FEATS Fringe. For FESTs current production Laurie is directing *The Scheme* with Mike Riepl and acting in *Can This Marriage Be Saved?*

Jeff Book
Man B



Jeff is an American actor, living in Germany for more than 20 years. He has been a FEST member since 2007 and was Chairman from 2010 to 2022. Jeff has been performing on stage with FEST since 2007, with leading roles in such productions as *Death of A Salesman*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound*, *Our Country's Good* and many more. He also has several credits as a Director with FEST, including such works as Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder*, Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* and several more.

Jeff completed stage and film actor training in London at Rose Bruford College, Drama Studio London, Actor's Studio at Pinewood Studios, City Academy London and International School of Screen Acting and has worked professionally as an actor over the last four years on Film, TV, Commercials and modeling projects. After more than 20 years as a business executive, Jeff transitioned to full-time professional actor status in 2021 and is represented by Crawford Talents in Berlin.

Michelle Hellinger
Delivery Woman



Michelle is thrilled to be making her FEST debut! She hails from Jeffersonville, Indiana and graduated with a Master's of Engineering from the University of Louisville. By day she is a licensed Civil Engineer working as a Program Manager. Michelle has dabbled in theatre as a creative outlet from all the math and science for what seems like "forever". She started out working behind the scenes or performing in high school productions and most recently performed in *The Kitchen Witches* and *Dead and Deader* at the Market House Theatre in Paducah, Kentucky.



I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD COOK

Rose Connolly
Director



Rose is from Co. Kilkenny in Ireland and was involved in music and theatre from the age of six with the Kilcumney Players Theatre Group. She went on to perform in local musicals, yearly pantomimes and plays in the Watergate Theatre Kilkenny. At the age of sixteen, after studying classical singing and piano, she started with the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, which was the leap that took her to her professional career. She studied all aspects of musicals and performed in many productions with the company as well as attending workshops with Louise Kennedy Agency.

She was accepted to the DIT Drama and performance BA, where she studied all aspects of theatre. She gained experience writing and directing with Peter Sheridan, an Irish playwright, screenwriter and director, performing in Smock Alley Theatre, Samuel Becket Theatre and many more theatres. At the same time, she was working heavily in the Irish comedy scene performing with Pop the Cherry Comedy, Chaplin's Comedy Club, Chalkboard Comedy Club, Monroe's Laughter Lounge, Battle of the Axe Comedy and Unhinged Comedy Club.

She moved to Germany in 2019 but hadn't worked in theatre until she joined FEST in 2022 where is directing the two Orloff plays in 'Folly in all it forms.'

Wade Gonsoulin
Mark



Wade is an American actor/director from the United States who has been living in Germany for 5 years. He received his theatrical training at The Actor's Theatre of Houston and has spent much of his life performing in productions within Houston, Texas and surrounding areas. Just a few of those were *The Crucible* with the University of St. Thomas, *Twelve Angry Men* at Upstage, *Leading Ladies* at Playhouse 1960, and *Brilliant Traces* (his favorite play) at Country Playhouse. Most of his experience has been on stage, but he also has been active as a director and in technical theatre as well.

Since he has been in Germany, Wade has appeared in productions at the Keller Theater, in Giessen, where he played Stanley, in *Run For Your Wife*, and Richard in *The Lover*, by Harold Pinter. While at the Keller, he also had the pleasure of directing *Brilliant Traces* (favorite), by Cindy Lou Johnson. Wade is also an aspiring writer and playwright, hoping to get something finished in the not too distant future. But they all say that...

This will be Wade's first appearance with FEST and he is delighted to finally be sharing the experience with this talented director, cast and crew.

Anshu Bhattacharya
Jerome

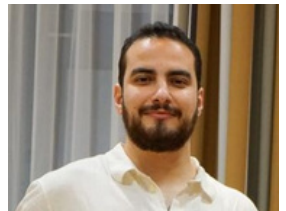


Anshu was born and brought up in Kolkata, India. He started his journey with performing arts fairly early in his childhood with vocal lessons from his mother who was a professional singer and music teacher. Later in his life, Anshu started participating in theatre workshops organized by Samatat in collaboration with a well renowned theatre group, Nandikar. He learnt basics of theater acting in those courses and has also performed with them in several occasions. From 2009 Anshu was an active participant in a theatre group named Dhumketu and has worked as an actor, director, stage manager till 2015. This was an independent venture where they wrote and produced their own scripts along with performing some Bengali classic drama pieces. Anshu has performed with this group in several festivals and they have been recognized by peers in several occasions. They have also won "Jury's choice award" in 2015.

After moving to Germany, Anshu became a member of FEST in 2022. He has successfully completed the Acting for Beginners course, with FEST member, Jeff Book. For the upcoming spring productions, he is acting in the piece, *I didn't know you could cook*.

CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?

Hazem Elesawy
God



Hazem is a playback actor from the land of the pharaohs. He doesn't take his camel to work though nor does he live in a pyramid. He discovered the world of theatre in his junior year at university and has appeared in a number of plays since then. He was also a member of the Khoyout playback theatre group in Egypt. This is his second appearance in a FEST production after playing Mr Pommeroy in Mike Riepl's *Dinner for Five* last year. Hazem is a full-time cinephile and book-lover. And, in his free time, he engineers his way out of embarrassing situations.

Francesca Pagnelli
Human



Francesca is an Italian actress currently located in Germany. She has worked on multiples productions and musicals in Italy during high school, including Cinderella and the Christmas Carol. She has been performing in both Italian and English. Francesca joined FEST in 2021 for the play *Can this marriage be saved?*

Evelyn Elizabeth Huamani
The Bailiff



Evelyn E. Huamani is a young Italo-Peruvian woman, currently located in Germany. She has always been passionate about theatre. She has always found a way to participate in school drama since she was very young. This passion has led her to become a Fest member since 2022 for the play *Can this marriage be saved?*



Production Team and Crew

Producer: Amanda Ife

Stage Manager: Isabelle Krier

Stage Hands: Becca Cornwall, Gulmira Jumayeva

Lights and Sound: Anne Flaherty, Andreas Wilk, Christina Paraschiv

Props: Alice Thomas, Gulmira Jumayeva, Julie Regenbogen, Christina Paraschiv

Make up: Sarah Asseburg, Julie Regenbogen

Costumes: Julie Regenbogen

Poster Design: Ed McCloskey

Programme: Amanda Ife

Publicity: Rose Connolly, Laurie Gaertner, Amanda Ife

Front of House: Marco Benvenuti, Naomi Chakwin, Amanda Ife

Jim Phetterplace's robe Made by James

FEST at FEATS

FEST will be performing on the main stage in the annual Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies (FEATS) in Luxembourg from **Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 May 2022**. Our entry this year will be "The Scheme", written by FEST member, Mike Riepl. It will be performed on Sunday, 29 May. FEATS is the largest amateur theatre festival in continental Europe and it would be would great to see some of you at this event!