

Do you believe in love after life?

FOOLSFURY THEATER PRESENTS THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF

The Unheard of World

by **FABRICE MELQUIOT**

translated from the French & directed by **MICHELLE HANER**

original score by **DAN CANTRELL**

October 2 – 31, 2015

Opening night: Saturday, Oct. 3 at 8pm



L to r: Deborah Eliezer, Joan Howard, Nkechi Emeruwa. Photo: Robbie Sweeny.

EXIT Theatre

156 Eddy Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

foolsFURY.org

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 12, 2015 – FoolsFURY Theater Company is proud to announce the **North American premiere** of *The Unheard of World*, a dark and eccentric fantasy by playwright **Fabrice Melquiot** translated from the French by foolsFURY company member **Michelle Haner**. A play for all ages, *The Unheard of World* tells the interwoven stories of a 200,000 year-old man, a girl half-swallowed by a bear, a little boy who refused to be born and a woman yearning, even in death, to have a child. **The play opens in preview Friday, October 2 with a press opening the following evening, Saturday, October 3 at 8pm. *The Unheard of World* runs Thursdays - Saturdays through October 31.** Tickets range from **\$20 - \$30** and may be purchased online at universe.com/LoveAfterLife.

The Unheard of World charts a journey underground to a strange city situated among the roots of trees, home to the spirit of every person who has ever lived. A magical place where even raindrops can speak, the play's subterranean lair opens out onto vistas fit for a love story and a sinister crime alike. "*The Unheard of World* is part fairy tale, part dystopia," says Haner. "The characters yearn for place, for purpose, for connection, and this not only drives the action of the play, but gives it psychological and philosophical depth."

Best known for *The Devil on All Sides* (*Le Diable en Partage*), a play first presented in the U.S. in a widely acclaimed touring production by foolsFURY, Melquiot has written more than 50 works for theater, several of which have been performed around the world in a dozen languages including English, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Russian and Japanese. In 2008 Melquiot received France's highest honor for a playwright, an award given by the French Academy in recognition of the entire corpus of his works. Since 2012 he has served as the director of the Théâtre Am Stram Gram in Geneva, renowned for its international center for young audiences.

Praise for *The Devil on All Sides*, foolsFURY's first production of a play by Melquiot:

"Director Ben Yalom does us an enormous favor by introducing magical realist Melquiot to our shores."

TIME OUT NEW YORK

"Extraordinary... Wit and compassion pervade this pitch-perfect tale."

BACKSTAGE

"Intriguing and passionate...dramatizes the inhumanity of war with stunning eloquence."

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

Joining foolsFURY's production is **Emmy Award-winning composer Dan Cantrell**, best known for his recent work on the Cartoon Network series *The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack*. A multi-instrumentalist on piano, accordion and saw, he has performed as a featured soloist with Tom Waits, Joanna Newsom, Beats Antique and the San Francisco Symphony, among many others. For *The Unheard of World* Cantrell has composed an original score, his second for a foolsFURY production after *The Devil on All Sides*.

Songs in Cantrell's score will be performed live each night by members of the cast: **Paul Collins, Debórah Eliezer, Nkechi Emeruwa, Joan Howard** and **Brian Livingston**. To create the world of the play, the actors will perform multiple roles "playing instruments, taking part in choral work, physical imagery and shadow-puppetry," explains Haner.

Additional members of the play's creative team include **Noor Adabachi** (scenic design), **Beth Hersh** (lighting design), **Freya Prowe** (collaborating visual artist), **Martha Stookey** (costume design), **Grisel Torres** (stage manager) and **Alec White** (production manager).

In tandem with the opening of *The Unheard of World*, EXIT Press will release a collection of Melquiot's plays, translated from the French by Haner and foolsFURY Co-Artistic Director Ben Yalom. Included in this volume are *The Unheard of World* (*Le Monde Inouï*), *The Devil on All Sides* (*Le Diable en Partage*) and *Albatross* (*Albatros*).

For additional information about *The Unheard of World* visit foolsFURY.org/world.

The development of The Unheard of World is supported in part by Étants Données, the French-American fund for the performing arts; the Fleishhacker Foundation; the Zellerbach Family Foundation; The Kenneth Rainin Foundation; San Francisco Grants for the Arts; and a Theatre Bay Area CA\$H Grant.

ABOUT MICHELLE HANER

A member of foolsFURY since 2007, Michelle Haner oversees the company's French Plays Project, dedicated to the translation and production of new French contemporary theater. She also heads the arts department at the French-American International School in San Francisco, where in 2013-14 she was the lead producer of *Awaiting Dawn*. Haner studied and trained at Harvard, the Sorbonne, UCLA and L'Ecole Jacques LeCoq in Paris. Her work as a director includes Sarah Kane's *Crave*, Charles Mee's *Trojan Women*, Sheila Callaghan's *Kate Crackernuts*, Dan Harder's *Killer Story* and many devised performance pieces. As an actress, favorite performances include Steve Morgan Haskell's *how blue the sky was (Roland Barthes is dead)* and *All You Can Eat*. Haner's television credits include *CSI*, *Dragnet*, *Deadwood* and *One on One*.

ABOUT FOOLSFURY THEATER COMPANY

FoolsFURY, founded in 1998 by Ben Yalom, is a physically oriented theater ensemble based in San Francisco. Under Yalom's leadership, foolsFURY has been hailed as San Francisco's "Best Theater Company" (*SF Weekly*), "one of the brightest stars of the San Francisco experimental theater scene" (*SF Arts Monthly*) and given a Goldie award for theater by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. FoolsFURY strives to innovate constantly, focusing on inspired uses of the body in creating narrative, and offering visceral experiences for audiences that cannot be replicated on film or television. In addition to creating and touring new works, foolsFURY produces FURY Factory, a festival of ensemble theater presenting diverse works from companies across the U.S.

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Playwright: **Fabrice Melquiot**

Translator and Director: **Michelle Haner**

Cast: **Paul Collins, Debórah Eliezer, Nkechi Emeruwa, Joan Howard, and Brian Livingston**

Creative Team: **Noor Adabachi** (set), **Beth Hersh** (lighting), **Martha Stookey** (costumes), **Freya Prowe** (collaborating visual artist), **Dan Cantrell** (composer), **Grisel Torres** (stage manager), **Alec White** (production manager)

WHAT:

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WHEN:

October 2 - 31, 2015

Preview: Friday, October 2 @ 8pm

Opening night: Saturday, October 3 @ 8pm

Thursdays - Fridays @ 8pm

Saturdays @ 3pm and 8pm

WHERE:

EXIT Theatre

156 Eddy Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

TICKETS:

\$20 - \$30

Tickets may be purchased at universe.com/LoveAfterLife.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

foolsfury.org/world

For all press inquiries contact John Hill at johnhillpr@gmail.com.