
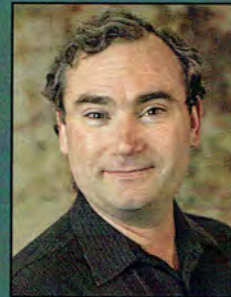


COMPANY THEATRE PRESENTS

STONES IN HIS Pockets

WRITTEN BY MARIE JONES, DIRECTED BY KRISTOF HAINES
3-13 APRIL 2019

WELCOME

from Stephen Hood

PRESIDENT OF COMPANY THEATRE

Company Theatre welcomes you to the start of its 2019 season. Building on his years' worth of experience in theatre, *Stones in His Pockets* sees Kristof Haines debut as Director – with his casting, stage design, and of course directorship helping to bring alive this story of fifteen characters on and around an Irish countryside movie set. As well as playing the two main characters, Natasha Kay Senior and Francis Johnson do a stellar job playing all the other characters in this engaging tragicomedy. Later this year, Kathy Gent will be directing Company Theatre's August production – Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias* – and Reg Williams is directing November's *Arms and the Man* by George Bernard Shaw. It would be great to see you there!

THOUGHTS ON THE PLAY

from Kristof Haines

DIRECTOR OF 'STONES IN HIS POCKETS'

I first stumbled across the script for *Stones in His Pockets* many years ago, and from the minute Charlie tries to scab an extra lemon meringue pie from the film set catering van I was hooked. This play is many things: funny, touching, cynical, hopeful - but above all it is unashamedly, joyously human. Although *Stones* is set in Ireland and is very much an Irish play, this is a story packed with universal truths and moments which will be relatable to just about everyone, no matter where you're from. Seeking a fresh start, making unexpected new friendships, struggling with depression, finding a new purpose in life... these are, whether we like it or not, keystone human experiences and *Stones in His Pockets* brings them to light with real warmth and poignancy. This is not really a story about somewhere or someone else, about "them". This is a story about us.



THE CAST

FRANCIS JOHNSON
playing:

Jake Quinn
(local, recently returned from the States)

Aisling, 3rd AD *(film crew)*
Mickey *(local in his seventies)*

Sean *(local lad)*

John *(accent coach)*

Dave *(crew member)*

Interviewer

NATASHA KAY SENIOR
playing:

Charlie Conlon
(former video store owner)

Simon, 1st AD *(film crew)*

Clem *(film director)*

Fin *(local lad)*

Caroline Giovanni *(movie star)*

Brother Gerard *(local teacher)*

Jock Campbell *(security staff)*

Mr Harkin *(Sean's father)*

THE SETTING

Stones in His Pockets takes place in a small town in County Kerry, Ireland. While the time period is never explicitly mentioned, we can gather that it's set sometime in the 90's. Irish rural communities are struggling with major changes to their way of life, the Troubles have not yet ended, and local video rental stores are beginning to be pushed out of business by chain brands like Xtra-vision and Blockbuster. This production is divided into two acts, with one interval.

LOCAL EXPERIENCE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Over 25 years combined experience selling property in Devonport and surrounding areas.



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KRISTOF HAINES

Director of Stones in His Pockets

Kristof has been carefully nursing a theatrical addiction for the last seven years or so, and has no plans to get clean any time soon. His first experience with **Company Theatre** was back in 2012, when he was pulled in last minute to play an affronted German tourist (Don't talk about the war!) in Kathy Gent's first **Fawlty Towers**

production, and he has since appeared onstage at the Rose Centre a number of times in both independent and **Company Theatre** productions. While he's taken to the Rose stage as characters ranging from a happy-go-lucky sex enthusiast to a (figuratively and literally) tortured artist, this is his first time directing for **Company Theatre**.



MEET THE CAST



FRANCIS JOHNSON

Francis Johnson is a year 13 student at Takapuna Grammar, where he has performed in their school productions of *Grease*, *As You Like It*, and *Little Women* over the past 3 years. He is performing for the second time with **Company Theatre**, the first being as Wayne Hudson in last year's production of *Popcorn*. Francis has just completed a season at the Auckland Fringe Festival in the play *This is How We're Gonna Die* and has loved the challenge of taking on his first two-person show.



NATASHA KAY SENIOR

Natasha Kay Senior is a 29 year old actress from South Yorkshire, England. After graduating with BA Hons Drama at the University of Huddersfield, Natasha immersed herself in the Auckland theatre scene, first working with **Stray Theatre Company** in *Revengers Tragedy* and as Dromio of Ephesus and Dromio of Syracuse in *A Comedy of Errors*. In 2018, Natasha performed in the immersive *Speakeasy* as Yorkshire and found herself subject to experimental theatre torture in *The Faustus Project* as Dr. Faustus at the Basement Theatre. She performed two years in a row at Auckland Fringe Festival; *The Good The Bad and The Meeting*, directed by Jim Cawthorne and as Launce in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, directed by Alex Bonham. Natasha is no stranger to challenging, physically demanding performances and can't wait to add this gem of a play to her repertoire.



CREW FOR STONES IN HIS POCKETS

Director	Kristof Haines
Set Design	Kristof Haines
Production Manager	Stephen Hood
Stage Manager	Annie McGrath
Assistant Stage Manager	Janet Lyons
Lighting Design	Phil Searle
Lighting Assistant	Maureen Kenny
Sound Design	Scott Thomas
Lighting & Sound Operator	Stephen Hood
Costumes	Janet Lyons, Annie McGrath
Choreography	Amy Taylor, Ciara Moynihan
Props	Annie McGrath
Photography	Amy Taylor
Set Dressing	Caroline Parker, Anne Rimmer
Set Manager	Max Golding
Set Construction	Stephen Hood, Tony Sandy
Poster Design	Becky Taylor
Programme Design	Hayley Atkins
Website, Programme Assist	Sherry Ede
Newsletters/Facebook	Katie Vincent
Newspaper Publicity & Groups	Kathy Gent
Billboards	Hayley Atkins, Sherry Ede, Alastair Fletcher
Front of House Manager	Lesley Hawkey
Bar Manager	Alastair Fletcher
Box Office Manager	Kathy Gent

THANKS TO

A special thank you to the volunteers who look after front of house. Thank you to our major sponsors **Barfoot & Thompson Devonport** and **Rowley Funerals**. Thank you to **The Rose Centre**.



There will be
ONE INTERVAL
of 15 minutes
Refreshments,
Ice Creams, Chocolates and
a variety of drinks will
be available



MARIE JONES

Playwright of Stones in His Pockets



Sarah Marie Jones OBE (born 1951) is a Belfast-based actress and playwright. Born into a working-class Protestant family, Jones was an actress for several years before turning her hand to writing. Her plays have been staged on Broadway in New York as well as in Northern Ireland.

She helped found the *Charabanc Theatre Company*, an all-women touring group. It was created to help counteract the lack of roles for women, and which produced a series of collaboratively written original works. The group's first play, *Lay Up Your Ends*, based on a strike by mill girls in the early part of the 20th century, was an immediate hit. She remained with Charabanc until 1990 when she left and co-founded the *Dubbeljoint Theatre Group* in 1991.

She wrote five plays for the *Replay Theatre Company*, including *Under Napoleon's Nose* (1988). The play for which she may be best-known is *Stones in His Pockets*, a play based on the idea of a Hollywood film company filming a movie in a small Irish village and the resulting impact on that community. This was performed on Broadway to critical acclaim.

OTHER PLAYS BY MARIE JONES

- *The Government Inspector* 1993
- *A Night In November* 1985
- *Women On The Verge Of HRT* 1995
- *Stones In His Pockets* 1999
- *The Blind Fiddler* 2004
- *A Very Weird Manor* 2005
- *Rock Doves* 2010
- *Dancing Shoes: The George Best Story* 2010
- *Fly Me To The Moon* 2012
- *Dear Arabella* 2018

NEXT WITH COMPANY THEATRE

Our upcoming show 17-31 August 2019

See companytheatre.co.nz for details



Call us any time 09 445 9800



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Hollywood comes to Devonport via Ireland

A slice of Ireland is coming to the Rose Centre in the form of Irish tragi-comedy, *Stones in his Pockets*.

The Company Theatre production is set in Ireland and the actors perform speaking in Irish accents.

Director Kristof Haines says the play, written by Marie Jones, is many things: funny, touching, cynical, hopeful and, above all, unashamedly human.

It is a story which will resonate with just about everyone, he says. "Seeking a fresh start, making unexpected new friendships, struggling with depression, finding a new purpose in life, these are, whether we like it or not, keystone human experiences and *Stones in his Pockets* brings them to light with real warmth and poignancy."

The play centres around two friends from County Kerry, Charlie Conlon and Jake Quinn, employed as extras on a Hollywood film.

Conlon has aspirations to get his own script made into a movie. Quinn has recently returned from New York and is mesmerised, along with everyone else, by the star of the movie, Caroline. Most of the locals are initially excited at the opportunity to be a part of a major film and distracted by the novelty. However, as filming continues they begin to feel abused and the glamour begins to wear off.

Stones in his Pockets has won numerous awards.

The two actors in the play, Natasha Kay Senior and Francis Johnson, play 15 characters between them.

Francis lives in Devonport and is in his final year at Takapuna Grammar School. He wants to study drama, having been hooked on theatre since he started acting in Geoff Allen's classes at Devonport Drama at the age of eight.

Fellow actor Senior comes from Barmley in the United Kingdom.

Francis says *Stones in his Pockets* is the most challenging production he has been in, because of the number of lines, the concentration of being on stage throughout and the precision needed to play eight characters, most of whom are Irish.

Francis was nominated for an Auckland Community Theatre Trust Award for the best male in a lead role for his portrayal of Wayne in *Popcorn* by Ben Elton last year.

He started working backstage for Company Theatre on *One Man Two Guvnors* and *Ladies' Day*, when he says he was too shy to talk to anyone. Now he is on the committee and loves the fact that community theatre is all about combining with all sorts of people – actors, directors, stage managers, tech people.

Of *Stones in his Pockets*, Francis says, "It pretends to be about nothing much, yet it's really about struggling to find your place in



Two-hander... Natasha Kay Senior (left) and Francis Johnson, who play 15 characters between them in *Stones in his Pockets*

the world, when the supports you've relied on have been taken away from you".

Rose Centre and tickets (\$27 or \$22 for concessions) can be purchased on www.ticketco.nz. Performances run from 4-13 April at The



COMPANY THEATRE PRESENTS

STONES IN HIS Pockets

WRITTEN BY MARIE JONES, DIRECTED BY KRISTOF HAINES
4 APRIL - 13 APRIL 2019 AT THE ROSE CENTRE, BELMONT
8PM WED - SAT, SUNDAYS AT 2PM

There is great excitement in a small village in rural Ireland when a major Hollywood film company arrives to make a blockbuster movie on location. The characters Charlie Conlon and Jake Quinn who are employed as extras along with numerous other locals, tell the story between them but as the Irish and Hollywood cultures clash, it becomes clear that the film director's romantic dream of Ireland is a long, long way from reality.

The two actors playing Charlie and Jake intrigue audiences by each playing a host of extraordinary characters ranging from the spoilt American starlet to the English director and the village old timer.

Often hysterically funny, thought-provoking and witty, this wonderful comedy has won numerous awards including both the Olivier and Evening Standard Awards for Best New Comedy, as well as three Tony nominations on Broadway. *Stones in his Pockets* ran for four years in the West End and has delighted audiences around the world.

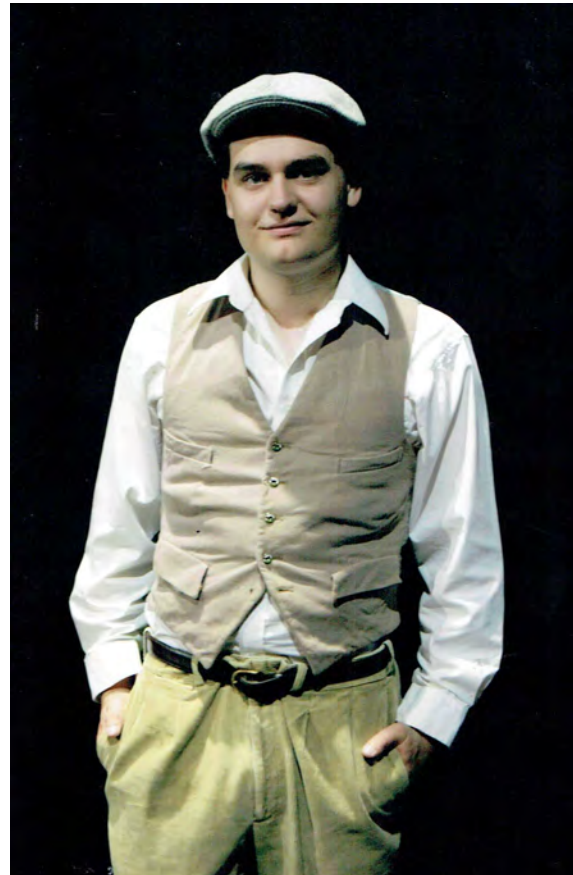
"Triumphant, fast, brilliant and hilarious"
INDEPENDENT

"Has a rare theatrical kick...
I envy those catching it for the first time"
DAILY TELEGRAPH

www.companytheatre.co.nz



Natasha Kay Senior



Francis Johnson



Kristof Haines



Caroline Parker



Scott Thomas, Phil Searle



Caroline Parker and her art work on the back wall