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Hot off the heels of its sold-out run at the Toronto Fringe Festival...

Convergence Theatre presents **THE UNENDING**



3 short plays

The Stronger a monologue by August Strindberg, in a new version by **Julie Tepperman**
Play by **Samuel Beckett**

What Doesn't Kill You... a new monologue by **Julie Tepperman**

3 affairs. 3 unexpected locations. 1 unending nightmare.

Limited Engagement! October 13 – 23, 2016 every night @ 7:00pm and 9:15pm
(no show Tuesday October 18)

Directed by **Aaron Willis**

Featuring: **Mayko Nguyen, Julie Tepperman & Andy Trithardt**
with **Sheila Ingabire-Isaro**



L-R - Julie Tepperman, Andy Trithardt, Sheila Ingabire-Isaro & Mayko Nguyen
(Photo - Neil Silcox)

Set & Lights: **Nick Blais** Costume Design: **Michelle Tracey** Sound Design: **Andy Trithardt**

Aunties & Uncles Restaurant (upstairs)
(74 Lippincott Avenue - one block east of Bathurst, just north off of College)
+ 2 secret locations

From the creators of the Fringe hits *AUTOSHOW* and *THE GLADSTONE VARIATIONS*

Convergence Theatre ~ twice voted by NOW Magazine readers as
"The Best Site-Specific Theatre Company in Toronto!"

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

\$30-\$35 (does not include service fees and HST)

<http://theunending.brownpapertickets.com/>

October 13 – 23, 2016 every night @ 7:00pm and 9:15pm
(no show Tuesday October 18)



L-R - Julie Tepperman, Andy Trithardt & Mayko Nguyen (Photo - Neil Silcox)

Julie Tepperman yanks **August Strindberg's** monologue *The Stronger* out of the 1880s and into the 1960s, where a Wife (**Julie**) confronts her Husband's Mistress (**Mayko Nguyen**) at a café. The Mistress' silence causes the Wife to spiral into a state of mental anguish...setting us up nicely for the head-trip that is **Samuel Beckett's Play**. Performed in a secret location a short walk away from **Aunties & Uncles Restaurant**, the audience will discover three trapped talking heads – a Wife (**Julie**), a Husband (**Andy Trithardt**), and a Mistress (**Mayko**) – each unaware of each other and each doomed to play over and over again in their minds the banal details of their love triangle and infidelities, while a light dictates when they speak and when they are silent. Finally, the audience moves one last time to secret location number three, where **Tepperman** has written an original monologue set in the present-day, and expands upon many of the shared themes from *The Stronger* and *Play*. **What Doesn't Kill You...** explores the Mistress' voice, when Sabrina (**Mayko**) shows up late and unannounced to Michaela's (**Julie**) birthday party. This time it is the Wife who remains silent...

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE UNENDING repeats twice a night: 7:00pm and 9:15pm.

This is an intimate audience experience! Only 25 people / performance.

90 minutes, no intermission.

Please aim to arrive 15 minutes before the start time of your performance.

Latecomers will not be admitted until after the conclusion of *The Stronger*.

Dress for the weather! Rain or shine!

Be prepared to climb stairs, walk a short distance, and spend time outdoors.

CLAUSTROPHOBIA WARNING: Two of the three pieces are performed in close, confined spaces.

ACCESSIBILITY WARNING: We regret that the venues are not wheelchair accessible. Patrons with mobility challenges (e.g. climbing stairs and walking outdoors) please be in touch with us to determine how we can best accommodate you.

ABOUT CONVERGENCE THEATRE...

Convergence Theatre is run by husband & wife team **Aaron Willis** (actor-director) and **Julie Tepperman** (actor-playwright), listed as one of Toronto's "*most respected theatre duos*" by NOW Magazine.

Since forming Convergence Theatre in 2006, they have both gone on to create some of the most innovative work in Toronto. Aaron has directed at theatres across the city, most notably at **Soulpepper** and **Tarragon**, as well as being part of the **Stratford Festival's** inaugural **Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Theatre Direction** and an associate producer at **Canadian Stage**. Julie has acted at theatres across the city, and has emerged as one of Toronto's most exciting female playwrights. She has recently been commissioned to write two musicals – one by **Tapestry Opera** and one by **Acting Up Stage Theatre**. Most recently Julie co-created/co-wrote/co-directed **Brantwood**, one of the most ambitious site-specific shows this country has ever seen.

ARTISTIC STATEMENT: With each new project we challenge ourselves to find innovative ways to push the boundaries of intimacy between performer and audience. We create plays in site-specific and non-traditional venues, as well as re-imagine traditional theatre spaces. We invite our audiences to be an integral part of their theatre-going experience by exploring ways to fully immerse them in the world of the play.

PAST PRODUCTIONS:

AutoShow was comprised of seven short plays that took place in actual cars. It premiered at the 2006 Fringe where it was awarded **Best New Play, Outstanding Ensemble & Outstanding Production**, and was listed **#4 in NOW Magazine's Top Ten Toronto Productions of 2006**. A new version of *AutoShow* premiered at the 2015 Kick & Push Festival at Theatre Kingston.

The Gladstone Variations was comprised of four one-act plays that had audiences chasing characters all over Toronto's historic Gladstone Hotel. It premiered at the 2007 Fringe, was remounted independently in 2008, was nominated for 4 Dora Awards, and was listed **#2 in NOW Magazine's "Top Ten Toronto Productions of the Decade"**.

YICHUD (Seclusion) by Julie Tepperman, transformed **Theatre Passe Muraille** into a Synagogue for Rachel & Chaim's wedding, where the audience of wedding guests was invited to dance, drink, and meet the family for a "pre-show" wedding celebration. Following its success at the 2009 **Next Stage Theatre Festival**, **YICHUD** was part of **TPM's 2010 and 2011 seasons**, was the headliner for the 2011 **Magnetic North Theatre Festival** where it was nominated for a **Capital Critics' Circle Award for Best Production**, was listed **#5 in NOW Magazine's Top Ten Toronto Productions of 2010**, and was published by **Playwright's Canada Press**.

Passion Play by Sarah Ruhl (co-produced with Outside the March and Sheep No Wool) was a 4 hour epic drama which took place at Withrow Park and Eastminster United Church. It won the 2014 **Dora Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble**.

MEET THE UNENDING ARTISTS...

THE CAST:

MAYKO NGUYEN (Performer)



Select theatre credits: *Salt Water Moon* (Factory Theatre), *LULU v.2* (Rhubarb Festival), *Helen Lawrence* (Canadian Stage), *Passion Play* (Outside the March/Convergence Theatre/Sheep No Wool – Dora nomination Outstanding Performance Ensemble), *carried away on the crest of a wave* (Tarragon Theatre), *Offensive Fouls* (Hustle N’ Bustle Theatre – Dora nomination Best TYA Production). Selected film credits -- *Killjoys*, *Slasher*, *Cracked*, *Rookie Blue*, *Republic of Doyle*, *Regenesis*, *Rent A Goalie*, *The Listener*. Mayko is a Three-time Gemini Award nominee.

ANDY TRITHARDT (Performer, Sound Design)



Recent theatre: *Big Plans* (Storefront), *Brantwood* (Canadian Musical Theatre Project), *The Skriker* (Red One Theatre Collective), *Dalton and Company* (Cart/Horse Theatre), *God of Carnage* (Sudbury Theatre Centre), *Engaged* (Rhubarb), *Delicacy*, *Rock*, and *Sucker* (Theatre Brouhaha), *Adventure!* and *Like a Dog* (Your Good Friends), *The Corpse Bride* (Theatre PANIK/Ashkenaz Festival), *Living With Rick*, *The King of Fifteen Island*, and *The Beekeepers* (Two-Wheeler Productions). Andy has also written original music and created the sound design for numerous productions, most recently: *This Hotel* (Talk Is Free Theatre), *Little One* (Common Roof), *Agamemnon* (Next Stage Theatre Festival), *Late Company* (Why Not/Theatre Centre), *Dive* (Mermaid Collective), *Liver* and *Sucker* (Theatre Brouhaha), *The Skriker* (Red One), *Piece By Piece* (The McGuffin Company/NSTF).

JULIE TEPPERMAN (Performer, Playwright, Producer)



Julie Tepperman is an actor, playwright and educator, as well as co-founding artistic director of Convergence Theatre. **Julie’s produced plays include:** *YICHUD* (*Seclusion*), *I Grow Old* (as part of *The Gladstone Variations*), *ROSY* (as part of *AutoShow*), a re-imagining of the August Strindberg play *The Father* (Winnipeg Jewish Theatre/Manitoba Theatre Centre). Julie was Playwright-In-Residence at Theatre Passe Muraille in 2010-11 with the support of the Canada

Council, and is currently developing two new musicals: one with Tapestry Opera and one with Acting Upstage Theatre. Most recently, Julie co-created, co-wrote, and co-directed *BRANTWOOD*, the largest immersive musical this country has ever seen.

Selected acting credits include: *Still* (Binocular Productions), *Tease* (Crows' East End Performance Crawl), *Passion Play* (Dora award, Outstanding Acting Ensemble), *Mr. Marmalade* (Outside The March; Dora award for Outstanding Indie Production), *Out The Window* (The Theatre Centre), *YICHUD (Seclusion)*, two seasons at The Stratford Festival and their Conservatory for Classical Theatre Training, as well as numerous appearances at local Toronto festivals including The Toronto Fringe, Next Stage, RED, Lab Cab, Hysteria, and The Ashkenaz Festival.

SHEILA INGABIRE-ISARO (Performer)



Sheila is a multi-disciplinary artist hailing from Bujumbura in Burundi. She came to Toronto at a very young age and fell in love with the theatre. Selected George Brown credits include Evadne in *The Maid's Tragedy*, Catherine in *Suddenly last Summer*, Maria in *Generous*, Lady Jane Drummond in *Letters Of Arbella Stuart*, Cleopatra in *The Suicide*, Dorinda in *The Beaux Stratagem*.

THE CREATIVE TEAM:

AARON WILLIS (Director, Producer)



Aaron is an actor, director, educator, and co-founding artistic director of Convergence Theatre, where he has produced and directed *Passion Play* by Sarah Ruhl, *YICHUD (Seclusion)*, the Dora-nominated *The Gladstone Variations* and *AutoShow*. Other directing: *The Testament of Mary* (Soulpepper) *Stupidhead!* (SummerWorks 2015), *Who's Your Daddy?* (Crow's Theatre East End Performance Crawl) *Miss Caledonia* (Tarragon Theatre/NAC), *The Thing Between Us* (mcguffin company), *The Crucible* (Theatre Erindale/UTM). Aaron has taught with The Stratford Festival, the Luminato Festival, Ryerson University's ACT 2 Studio, and Humber Theatre School. He completed the Michael Langham workshop for Classical Direction at the Stratford Festival, holds a BA Honours in Drama from the University of Alberta, and is a graduate of George Brown Theatre School. Aaron is currently working as a producer at Canadian Stage thanks to a Metcalf Foundation Performing Arts Internship grant during the 2015-16 season.

NICK BLAIS (Set and Lighting Design)



Nick's designs have graced sites and stages across the country from Toronto's iconic Royal Alexandra Theatre to the base of the Calgary Tower. Board Member for the Associated Designers of Canada since 2013. Canadian representative and planning committee-member of the 2015 Prague Quadrennial exhibit. Lighting Designer for the site-specific, musical-epic "*Brantwood*" inside of one of Oakville's abandoned high schools. Recipient of many awards and nominations in Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto. Featured in the Fall and Winter issues of Professional Lighting and Production Magazine for his innovation in "off-the-grid" lighting design and site specific stenography. Nick devotes his design efforts to bringing emotive and transformative visuals to life through the never-ending experimentation and exploration of creative risk.

MICHELLE TRACEY (Costume Design)



Michelle is a set and costume designer based in Toronto, Ontario, and a Full Member of Associated Designers of Canada. She earned her BFA in Theatre Production and Design from York University where she received the Herman Geiger-Torel Award for excellence in her field. Michelle went on to complete a Metcalf Foundation Internship in Design with Tarragon Theatre (2013-2014). She will continue her training as a designer with the next Soulpepper Academy in 2016-2018. Her recent design credits include: *The Summoned* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Assholes* (Theatre Smith-Gilmour), *Still* (Binocular Theatre), *Taking Care of Baby* (The Caretakers/The Storefront Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Canadian Stage), *M'dea Undone* (Tapestry Opera), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Tarragon Theatre), *Company* (Theatre20). Upcoming: *Hamlet* (Canadian Stage, Shakespeare in High Park 2016). www.michelletraceydesign.com

WHAT THE PRESS HAS TO SAY...

NNNN – “A haunting collection of site-specific short dramas. There are fascinating echoes among the works, particularly in the use of confession and silence. Each performer gets a chance to shine.” ~ *Glenn Sumi, NOW Magazine*

“A stunning, creative, unusual, immersive, brilliantly-acted...and sold out. If you caught it, you're lucky.” ~ *Intermission Magazine*

“Full of theatrical surprises, design gems, and excellent performances. ...The buzz is justified — Convergence Theatre continues its reign of well-staged, thoughtful shows in intriguing locations.” ~ *Mooney on Theatre*

“The Unending is one of those rare pieces of theatre that will still be in conversation years from now. ...Stylistically, it is the most relevant play I have seen at the Toronto Fringe in recent years.” ~ *Ontario Arts Review*

“In her adaptation of Strindberg’s *The Stronger*, **Julie Tepperman** radiates a brittle, predatory intensity, even (particularly) when smiling.” ~ *Mooney on Theatre*

“**Andy Trithardt** takes centre stage in Beckett’s *Play*, his choking gasps and small moments of dark humour briefly easing the relentless onslaught.” ~ *Mooney on Theatre*

“**Mayko Nguyen** is absolutely stellar in the third piece *What Doesn’t Kill You...* (written by Tepperman), full of vulnerability and adrenaline, and if she doesn’t break your heart, you might want to get it checked out.” ~ *Mooney on Theatre*

“**Sheila Ingabire-Isaro** is full of enigmatic energy and offers a nicely mysterious presence.” ~ *My Entertainment World*

“*The Unending*, under **Aaron Willis’** direction, is galvanizing.” ~ *My Entertainment World*

“**Nick Blais’** set design and **Michelle Tracey’s** costume design are compellingly distinct (the set for *Play* is especially wonderful), making the connections between the three works incredibly evocative and intriguing.” ~ *My Entertainment World*



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