

Birds of Paradise Theatre Company
in association with the Beacon



IN AN ALIEN LANDSCAPE

by Danny Start



PROGRAMME

Dedicated to Tommy McHugh who died in 2012 - off to visit other alien landscapes.

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In 2008 Birds of Paradise and Playwrights' Studio, Scotland (PSS) co-hosted a discursive event exploring issues around writing and disability. As a direct result, Birds of Paradise in partnership with PSS, appointed Danny Start as our disabled writer-in-residence. During his 18-month residency Danny was given the space, resources and support to enable him to develop **In an Alien Landscape**. This support also included development time with a number of talented actors along with Julie Ellen who acted as dramaturg. I would like to personally thank everyone who has entered this fascinating world with us along the way.

I hope you enjoy **In An Alien Landscape**.

Shona Rattray, Creative Producer

In An Alien Landscape has been inspired by a friend of mine, Tommy McHugh. I first met him nearly ten years ago when he walked into the Disability Arts Agency I worked for to ask for advice on where to exhibit his paintings. I helped as best I could then said goodbye. Roll on a couple of years and I met up with Tommy again: this time in Liverpool's Neuro-support Centre.

'Sudden Artistic Output' syndrome is a condition experienced by only a handful of people worldwide, and Tommy was one of them. A double brain aneurysm, a ten-hour operation and Tommy was transformed from a rough and tough builder (and some time drug dealer and fighter) into... an artist! An artist with an unstoppable compulsion to create, to paint, to sculpt, to commit words to paper. A new Tommy was born, a different person to the Tommy before his brain exploded. A gentle Tommy, a man in touch with his creativity and emotions.

In Tommy, I saw my own experience of art and creation reflected back, large and out of control. Tommy described his new life as existing in an 'alien landscape'. And, as an artist and sometime visitor to alien mental landscapes myself, I saw many great stories to be told - so set about writing. Tommy became Albie Quinn - the main character of **In An Alien Landscape**.

And together we went on a journey into creativity and how it affects all of us into shared memory and history. In each of us there are millions of creative possibilities.

Danny Start, Writer

Cast

Albie
Suze/Dr Jill
Klang/Dad

Paul Cunningham
Morag Stark
David Toole

Creative

Writer
Director
Designer
Lighting Designer
Composer
Video Designer
Associate Video Designer
Assistant Director
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Technician
Assistant Stage Manager
Set Construction
Student Placement
Producer

Danny Start
Julie Ellen
Kenny Miller
Sergey Jakovsky
Ross Brown
Neil Bettles for ThickSkin
Jonnie Riordan for ThickSkin
Stasi Schaeffer
Colin Sutherland
Fiona Burness
Jonny Reed
Suzie Goldberg
Peter Horsburgh
Katy Steele
Shona Rattray

Company

Artistic Directors

Creative Producer
Administrator
Press and Marketing
Graphic Design
Production Photography

Garry Robson
Robert Softley Gale
Shona Rattray
Emma Macleod
Wendy Niblock
Greenlight Creative (greenlightcreative.co.uk)
Eamonn McGoldrick (eamonnmcgoldrick.com)

Board of Directors

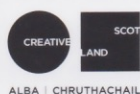
Liam Sinclair (Chair), Simon Hodgson, Graham Main, Phyllis Steel.

Thanks

All the staff at the Beacon Arts Centre, Alison Peebles, Tron Theatre, Selina Boyack, Birmingham Tin Box Co. Ltd, Clydeside Press, Lesley Hart, Jennifer Goldberg, Stephen Clyde, Hazel Ann Crawford, Morven Gregor, David McKay, ThickSkin Theatre, Simon Glenn, Kim Taylor, Federation of Scottish Theatre, Sharmanka Kinetic Gallery, Headway Glasgow and Edinburgh Headway group, David Young, Laura Jarvis, Paul Thomas Hickey, Gabriel Quigley, Clear Audio Systems and Laura Mallows.

Special Thanks

All the staff at Playwrights Studio, Scotland.



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All performances will be surtitled.

Biographies

Neil Bettles (Video Designer)

Neil is co-founder and Artistic Director of ThickSkin. Directing credits for ThickSkin include: **The Static, Blackout, Overture** and **These Imagined Stories**. Co-direction for ThickSkin includes **Boy Magnet** and **White Noise**. As Associate Director Neil's credits include: **Blood Wedding** and **The Bacchae** (The Royal and Derngate's Festival of Chaos 2012); **Beautiful Burnout** and **Lovesong** (Frantic Assembly). Neil is currently Associate Choreographer on **The Full Monty** for Sheffield Theatres. Other movement direction includes: **Much Ado About Wenlock** (Vamos Theatre - UK tour); **Platform** (Old Vic for Tunnels), **Henry IV Part One** (Drum Theatre Plymouth) and **Secret Cinema** (Frantic Assembly); **Stanley Pickle** an animated short film by Vicky Mather for the National Film and Television School (winner of 31 awards worldwide). Neil is the Creative Associate Frantic Assembly's Ignition Project, co-directing numerous productions since 2008. He was also Assistant Director for Frantic Assembly's **Dirty Wonderland**.

Ross Brown (Composer)

Ross graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MA in Music and now works as a Composer, Musical Director and Sound Designer. Theatre credits include: **Harold & Maude, Lady M** (Theatre Jezebel); **Aganeza Scrooge, Ulysses, Flo White, Mr Merlin, Edwin Morgan's Dreams- And Other Nightmares** (Tron Theatre); **Clockwork** (Visible Fictions/Scottish Opera); **The Man Who Lived Twice, Mother Courage** (Birds of Paradise); **Pinocchio, Music makes the Memories** (Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow); **A Midsummer Night's Dream, Prom Night of the Living Dead, The Court of Miracles, Pinocchio, When a Star Falls, His Dark Materials, Love But Her, Geordie, Tall Tales, How to Create an Avatar, Wee MacGregor** and **Tam O'Shanter** (Scottish Youth Theatre). Ross also played Mr Fey in **Half Moon Investigations** (BBC) and has worked for MT4UTH, Impact Arts, Youth Music Theatre UK and UK Theatre School.

Fiona Burness (Stage Manager)

Fiona has been a technician for 14 years. Working mainly venue-based, she started her career at the Lemon Tree in Aberdeen where she was a sound engineer and theatre technician for 8 years. Having then worked in the new Grove Theatre, Dunstable and Aberdeen's Music Hall, Fiona has spent the last 2½ years as a freelance technician and stage manager based in Glasgow working with artists Donna Rutherford and Nic Green and companies including Scottish Youth Theatre, Random Accomplice, Scottish Opera, Plan B and Youth Music Theatre UK.

Paul Cunningham (Albie)

Paul has worked extensively throughout the UK, USA and Canada, working with companies as diverse as: the Citizens' Theatre, lookOUT Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland, Catherine Wheels, Vanishing Point, 7:84, Òran Mór's **A Play, a Pie and a Pint**, Bard in the Botanics and most recently in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh. He is delighted to be returning to Birds of Paradise having previously appeared in **The Man Who Lived Twice**. His Film and TV credits include: **Taggart, Rebus, Still Game, Red Rose** and **River City** as well as appearing in several radio plays and writing for the BBC Comedy Unit.

Julie Ellen (Director)

Julie Ellen started at the Greenock Arts Guild in July 2011 as Artistic Director of the Arts Guild Theatre and to prepare for the move to the £9.5million arts centre, The Beacon, which opened in Jan 2013. Previously Julie was Creative Director of Playwrights' Studio, Scotland, from March 2004 and producer of Suspect Culture before that. She trained at Queen Margaret University and worked extensively in London and Scotland as an actor and director. Recent directing includes Nicola McCartney's **Miracle**, Sandy Nelson's **Baltimore** and **The Glimmering Nymph** for **A Play, a Pie & a Pint**. She was Assistant Director for Dundee Rep's hit musical **Sunshine on Leith** (2008/9 tour) and Kieran Lynn's **Stranger from the Sea**.

Suzie Goldberg (Assistant Stage Manager)

Suzie is delighted to be back with Birds of Paradise having worked with them on **Mother Courage** and **The Man Who Lived Twice**. She is a freelance stage manager and prop maker and has worked with many Scottish theatre companies including: Tron Theatre Company, Borderline Theatre Company, Scottish Opera, Bard in the Botanics, Theatre Jezebel, Random Accomplice and NTS. She was recently the Company Stage Manager on the international tour of **A Slow Air** for the Tron. She has also been Art Director on 2 short films for Phase VI Media.

Sergey Jakovsky (Lighting Designer)

Sergey trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow and graduated with a BA in Technical & Production Arts. Originally from St. Petersburg, Sergey has an extensive background in Theatre as he was born into a family of two Theatre Directors. He has worked for a variety of creative industries within the UK and Europe including Theatre, Contemporary Dance and Installation Arts. He has designed for companies including: Tron Theatre, Catherine Wheels, Grid Iron, Derevo Theatre Company, Traverse Theatre, Comunicado and Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre - www.sergeyjakovsky.com

Kenny Miller (Designer)

Kenny is a freelance director and designer who was for many years Head of Design/Associate Director of the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow. He has worked in theatre and opera all over Scotland, England, America, Germany and Canada. He won the Manchester Evening News Best Production Award for **10 Rillington Place**, won CATS Awards for Best Ensemble for his **Little Bit of Rough** season, Best Technical Production for **Smoking with Lulu** and Best Production for **Scrooge**. He recently directed and designed **The Seagull**, **Company Policy**, **Romeo & Juliet** and **Don Giovanni** (Òran Mór), and designed **Born Bad** (Scottish Youth Theatre). He recently directed and designed **Harold & Maude**, **Days of Wine and Roses** (Theatre Jezebel) of which he is a founding member.

Other designs include **Autobahn**, **Doubt**, **A Parable** (Theatre Jezebel), **Valhalla!**, **Ya Beauty and the Beast**, **Betrayed**, **From the West Bank**, **Address Unknown**, **Flo White**, **Staircase** and **Casablanca: The Gin Joint Cut**, **Aganeza Scrooge** (Tron Theatre), **Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off**, **Our Teacher's A Troll** (NTS), **Proof**, **Tam O'Shanter** (Perth Theatre), **The Steamie** (National Tour), **Clockwork** (Visible Fictions/Scottish Opera) and **Marilyn** (Citizens' Theatre).

Shona Rattray (Creative Producer)

Shona graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and has toured extensively throughout Scotland and Europe. Her credits include 7:84 Theatre Company, Magnetic North, Scottish Youth Theatre, lookOUT, Castlemilk People's Theatre, Theatre Cryptic and Suspect Culture before she joining Birds of Paradise in 2005. She has been instrumental in recruiting established mainstream artists to Birds of Paradise and in bringing disability arts to mainstream Scottish Theatre practitioners. She has been actively involved in Federation of Scottish Theatre sitting on both its Access and Touring working groups and is currently the only Scottish representative on the Independent Theatre Councils Board of Directors who are based in London.

Jonny Reed (Technician)

Jonny began his career as a technician at the Byre Theatre and went on to study at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He is now based in Glasgow working as a freelance lighting technician and stage manager. Recent theatre credits include **Jump**, **An Appointment with the Wicker Man**, **Real Men Dream in Black and White** and **Truant** (National Theatre of Scotland); **Biding Time** (Remix) (Tromolo Productions); **Mwana** (Ankur Productions).

Jonnie Riordan (Associate Video Designer)

Jonnie is Creative Associate for ThickSkin. For ThickSkin: Jonnie directed **Found** (The Albany) and co-directed and played the part of Charlie in **Boy Magnet**. He is currently assistant directing and performing in **Mortal: A drama** (The Wellcome Collection). Associate Director/Movement Director includes: **Cracking** and **Hooked** (Iso Productions). His performance work for ThickSkin includes: **Overture** for Lawrence Olivier Awards, Capital One Values Launch Event and **These Imagined Stories**. Other Theatre credits include: **The Marriage of Figaro** (Opera Holland Park), **The Fear** (Frantic Assembly's Ignition Company), **In His Image** (Heat & Light/Hampstead Theatre), **Earth** (White Noise Creations). Film Credits include: **Wild Lions** (Otso Films), **Dylan** (Queen Mary Productions) and **Arcane** (BSU films).

Stasi Schaeffer (Assistant Director)

Stasi holds an MA in Classical and Contemporary Text-Directing from the RSAMD and BFA in Theatre from Boston University. Her directing credits include: **Lessons with Chopin** (Edinburgh Fringe Festival) **God of Soho** (Tron/Traverse/Hampstead), **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (On the Verge Festival-The Arches), **Dead Man's Cell Phone** (The Arches), **Ulysses Swims For It** (Premier-Turtle Shell Theatre-New York), **Cabaret** (Pit & Balcony Theatre Company), **Topdog/Underdog** (303 Theatre Collective), **Rocky Horror Show** (303 Theatre Collective), the operas: **Suor Angelica** and **The Medium** (Pit & Balcony Theatre Company) and devised work; **Marriage a la Mode** (On The Verge Theatre Company -The Arches). She has Assistant Directed for The Tron, Scottish Opera and **A Play, a Pie and a Pint**. She is the co-author of **What's the Difference**, which was produced for a Great Lakes Regional tour (US) by For a Good Time Theatre Company - www.stasischaeffer.com.

Morag Stark (Suze/Dr Jill)

A graduate of RSAMD, Morag has performed in a wide variety of theatre, TV and radio, together with her work in community & educational drama. She first performed with Birds of Paradise in **Dougal Graham** and **Borderland** in 1991. A regular performer with The Arches Theatre Company for 16 years; productions include **The Crucible**, **The Merchant of Venice** & **Caged Heat**. Other more recent theatre includes: **She Town** (Dundee Rep) **New Voices, Too Clever by Half** & **Meeting Matthew** (Òran Mór), David Leddy's **Untitled Love Story** (Fire Exit), **The Venus Labyrinth** (Cantabile 2), **House of Bernarda Alba** (National Theatre of Scotland), **Suddenly Last Summer** (Tron), **Talking Heads** (Glasgay), **Futurology** (NTS/Suspect Culture) & **Charlotte's Web** (Citizens). Recent television credits: **Rab C Nesbitt** & **Gary Tank Commander** (BBC Comedy Unit). Morag is a keen writer and her interactive comedy "**A Date with the Dame**" was performed by Madcow Productions in November.

Danny Start (Writer)

Danny Start is a graduate of the first MA in Screenwriting at John Moores University in Liverpool. He was one of four writers recruited for display4—an innovative writing development project aimed at disabled writers. The project incorporated a commission from Soho Theatre/Graeae Theatre/Writernet and one year of intensive workshops and classes. His play - **Looking for K** - was given a script-in-hand performance at the Soho Theatre Writer's Festival (2001). As a result he was picked up and commissioned by The Stephen Joseph Theatre and his One Act Play - **The Anniversary Waltz** - enjoyed a successful run. Danny has also been commissioned for the BBC Radio 4 Afternoon play **I Love You Angela** and is currently developing ideas for the next Radio 4 commissioning round in 2013. In 2004 he received a bursary from the Peggy Ramsay Foundation to help him concentrate on a sustained period of writing, during which he developed a whole raft of new projects—one

of which, **n Bits**, won North West Playwright's Striking Silver anniversary competition (2007). In December 2008, Danny won the writer's award at DaDa 2008, Liverpool's Festival of Disability and Deaf Arts. His prize included a placement in the script department at Coronation Street. When not writing Danny has worked in Disability Arts, and with charities supporting people with neurological conditions.

Katy Steele (Student Placement)

Katy is a theatre student at the University of Glasgow and is involved with **In an Alien Landscape** as work experience. When she graduates, she hopes to become a Stage Manager.

Colin Sutherland (Production Manager)

Colin worked on Birds of Paradise's production last year of **The Man Who Lived Twice**. Since then he has toured with Communicado Theatre Company's **Tam O'Shanter** and Andy Cannon/Mull Theatre/Imagine's **Scota-land**. He has recently worked as Stage Manager for a new BBC comedy show called **The Ginge, the Geordie and the Geek**.

David Toole (Klang/Dad)

David studied dance at the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance, receiving a Professional Diploma in Community Dance in 1993. Six years of national and international touring with CandoCo followed, until 1999, when he decided to try new experiences. In 1995, David had his first taste of theatre when he played the part of Puck in Benjamin Britten's opera of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. This was followed a year later with an appearance in the Sally Potter film **The Tango Lesson**. David has also performed with Graeae Theatre Company, playing the parts of Edgar in **The Fall of the House of Usher** and Deflores in **The Changeling**. He has worked with DV8, creating and performing the piece **Can We Afford This** for the Sydney Arts Festival prior to the 2000 Olympics.

This show was revived in 2003 and also led to the film version of the show being made that year. Since then, David has done more theatre work, notably with the RSC and most recently working on three separate site-specific pieces with the Leeds-based company Slung Low. David now works as a freelance dancer, actor and workshop leader. He has recently worked with Cape Town based Remix Dance Company, Lucy Hind and Dom Coyote creating a new work for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad and also performed in the London Paralympics Opening Ceremony.

(March 2014)



Birds of Paradise and Random Accomplice
will co produce a new comedy

Stumpy

Be-BoP Ensemble

Be-BoP Ensemble - for disabled and non disabled young people who are interested in theatre and acting. This will be a fantastic opportunity to explore, participate and have fun in the world of performance both on and off stage.

**For further information on Birds of Paradise Theatre Company
or to be added to our mailing list please contact us at:**

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