

Espace Libre presents from March 5th to 14th, at Studio Espace Libre

Little Iliad

Produced by EW & FCO (Toronto)

In English with French subtitles, followed by a discussion.

**An intimate play about making art and making war
from an award-winning Canadian company.**



Little Iliad is multimedia performance done by two young Toronto artists, Evan Webber & Frank Cox-O'Connell. Small, intimate and perfectly formed, it is current, deeply moving and thought-provoking.

The soldiers are actors, the actors are objects. *Little Iliad* considers the relationship between artists and soldiers and between art and war as connected modes of cultural production. Mixing the apparatus of Sophocles' Trojan War tragedies and contemporary post-traumatic stress disorder therapies, Evan Webber & Frank Cox-O'Connell reflect on why we go to war, how we come back and why we do it together.

In *Little Iliad*, childhood friends, a writer and a soldier en-route to Afghanistan, reconnect through Skype over a little-known fragment from the epic Trojan War Cycle.

The audience listens on headphones to an intimate, disarmingly simple play, part reading, part film, part poignant biography, where one performer is live and the other is a recorded projection on a small, blank, clay figurine.

Little Iliad premiered in September 2010 at the Absolut Fringe, in Dublin, Ireland, where it received a nomination for the festival's Best Production Award. In Toronto, it was nominated for Outstanding New Play at the Dora Mavor Moore Awards, Toronto's highest performance honours. The work has been presented in Banff, Vancouver and Ottawa, Yokohama, Brisbane and Dublin.

« A profound and poignant synthesis of art and war. »

— Irish Theatre Magazine

« * * *... Subtly draws parallels between the ancient epic and the modern context of American involvement in Afghanistan with surprisingly powerful effect. »

— The Irish Times

« Stimulating... Cleverly written and delightfully played and the technical realization is superb. »

— The National Post (Canada)

[Photo : Trevor Schwellnus / *Little Iliad*, work in progress.]

EW & FCO (TORONTO) AND THE TEAM

Evan Webber & Frank Cox-O'Connell produce theatre that brings formal rigour to the spontaneous and the participatory; it documents their ongoing conversation about performance, meaning and action using their relationship as primary material. Having collaborated in a number of different contexts since 2005 (including Small Wooden Shoe and their co-founded theatre collective One Reed) Frank and Evan created their own company in 2011. "We work with the material of ourselves and our collaborators. We task ourselves with performing what we think is real in order to see that reality change. We don't always agree and our plays are often about disagreement. We always make things a bit differently, but there is one thing that is consistent, which is that this theatre is about how the sometimes opposed interests and positions of different people can coexist in the same place and the same moment in time."

EW & FCO's *Ajax* and *Little Iliad* have been presented in Toronto, Banff, Ottawa, Kingston, Vancouver, in Ireland, Japan and Australia, and continue to tour in Canada and internationally. In association with Small Wooden Shoe and Kyoto's Dracom, EW & FCO will present the premiere of a new work, *Antigone Dead People*, as part of the Sound Live Tokyo festival in Tokyo, 2014.

Frank Cox-O'Connell has created original, devised performances with Public Recordings, Stranger Theatre, Groundwater, The Vertical City and Theatre Direct, and has performed in theatre productions across Canada and the UK. Frank was a founding member of One Reed Theatre with Evan Webber and he created and performed in *Nor The Cavaliers Who Come With Us*, *(Never Underestimate) The Power* and *It's Hard To Count a Million* and directed *Two Modern Feelings*. He is also a regular collaborator with Small Wooden Shoe with which he developed *Dedicated To The Revolutions*. He worked as a performer and facilitator with UK company Stan's Cafe on *Of All The People In All The World* and acted in Pleiades Theatre's *Shakuntala*. He is currently studying directing under the mentorship of Daniel Brooks in the Academy program at Soulpepper in Toronto. He lives in the Junction with his partner Ame Henderson.

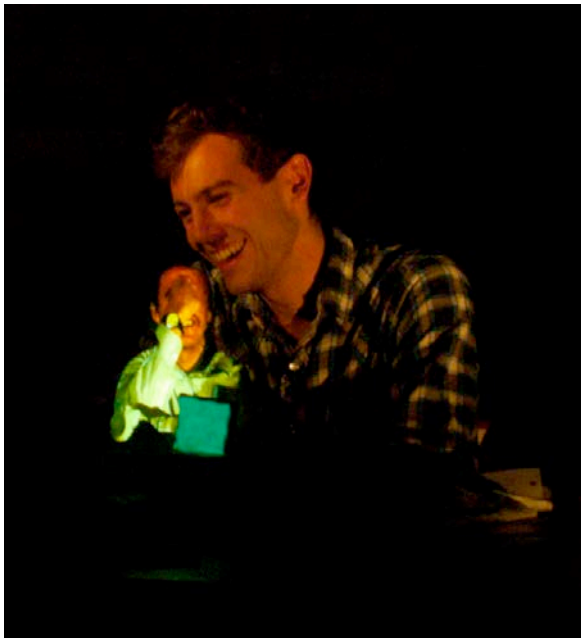
Evan Webber is a writer whose plays and collaboratively-made performance works include *Nor The Cavaliers Who Come With Us*, *It's hard to count to a million*, *(Never Underestimate) The Power* and *Two Modern Feelings* with the co-founded group One Reed, and *Antigone Dead People* and the multi-part *Dedicated the Revolutions* with Small Wooden Shoe. An associate artist with Public Recordings, Evan is the co-creator of the ongoing hybrid publication-performance *HOW TO WORK* with Ame Henderson, most recently presented at the Art Gallery of York University in 2014. Evan's also collaborated as a performer on time-based artworks by Alex Wolfson & Bojana Stancic, Chad Dembski and Annie Macdonnell, made choreography for Toronto Dance Theatre and facilitated workshops at the University of Toronto's Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama, the Jackman Centre for the Humanities and at the National Theatre School of Canada, of which he's a graduate from the acting program. Evan's the curator of the HATCH performance series at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre. His website is relativesafety.com

Pierre-Antoine Lafon Simard is a theatre director, actor, video designer, DJ and VJ who lives in Ottawa and Montreal. His video designs and installations include *Mtl*, *Le Deuil Profond de la Nuit*, and *Les Détails*. Recent performance projects include direction for *TARAM*, (Théâtre du Trillium) inspired by the world of poet Marjolaine Beauchamp, and the upcoming *Déluge*, a new creation by Anne Marie White. He is a graduate of the Department of Theatre at the University of Ottawa, the Conservatory of Dramatic Arts of Quebec and the National Theatre School of Canada.

Trevor Schwellnus is a Toronto-based scenographer, who designs sets, lighting, and video for performance with independent artists. He is the Artistic Producer of Aluna Theatre, and he directed, designed, and dramaturged Aluna's *Nohayquiensepa (No one knows)*, and designed *La Comunion, Madre*, and *For Sale*. In 2009-10, Trevor was Designer-in-Residence at the Theatre Centre. He is the recipient of three Dora Mavor Moore awards, a Harold, and a Childrens' Choice Award for his many collaborations with theatre and dance companies and artists. He is presently developing a focus on the integration of artistic disciplines and intercultural practices through a Chalmer's Fellowship.

Christopher Stanton is a Toronto-based performer, writer, director, musician and sound designer. Along with Brendan Gall and Geoffrey Pounsett, Chris is Artistic Director of performance company The Room. Selected recent performance works include *Nohayquiensepa* with Aluna, *Assassins* and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* with Birdland, *The Swearing Jar* with The Bridge, NYC, *Red Machine* with The Room, and *The Gladstone Variations* with Convergence. Christopher won a Dora Mavor Moore Award for his performance in MacKenzieRo's *New Electric Ballroom* in 2011, and he was recently nominated for the Pauline McGibbon Award for his work as a director.

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Little Iliad

Text

Evan Webber

Translation

Fanny Britt

Direction

Frank Cox-O'Connell

Performance

Frank Cox-O'Connell, Evan Webber

Conception

Pierre-Antoine Lafon Simard (video design), Christopher Stanton (sound design), Trevor Schwellnus (sets, lighting design)

Production

EW & FCO (<http://ewfco.com>)

Produced by EW & FCO and Harbourfront Centre, in association with The Cork Midsummer Festival and The BanffCentre. Developed with the support of the Ontario Arts Council, The Toronto Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

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Studio Espace Libre - from March 5th to 14th

March 5, 10 and 11 at 7:30 PM // 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 at 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM

A discussion open to all public will follow at 8:10 PM.

Espace Libre, 1945 rue Fullum, Montréal

Tickets/Informations : 514 521-4191 / www.espacelibre.qc.ca

[Photo : Annika Johansson / *Little Iliad*, Dublin performance.]