

CHAMP

PRESENTED BY ARTSCAPE AND THE FUGARD THEATRE



5 APRIL - 4 MAY 2013

2012 FLEUR DU CAP AWARD: BEST NEW SCRIPT

THE
FUGARD
THEATRE - CAPE TOWN
— STUDIO —



ABOUT THE PLAY

Champ is a comedy. Parallels may be drawn to instances in the creators' lives or comments may be made about what is being said about the theatre and arts industries. This, of course, should be left up to the audience. The goals of the play are to entertain and charm (aggressively, if needed) and if the play is met with a pleased audience, then those who have worked on it will be grateful and satisfied that the message is clear. And what is the message? That **Champ** is a comedy.

Oh, and that life is occasionally awful.

And do not trust children.

Also, avoid malls.

Take care when using lighter fluid.

Local whiskey can be dangerous.

Steer clear of the re-make of **The Omen**.

All's fair in love and war... But especially in war.

Voice warm-ups can occasionally showcase one's mental disorders.

There is nothing that can't be made into a joke.

- **Louis Viljoen**

Champ is a project of the Artscape New Writing Programme. Roy Sargeant - Drama Consultant, Juliet Jenkin - Literary Consultant, Alfred Rietmann - Production Manager.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

About 8 years ago Nicholas Pauling (Elliot) and I were sitting in tiger mascot outfits in the refuse corridor of a major shopping mall having a smoke break. Having just finished drama school we had found work dressing up as tiger mascots walking around the mall entertaining children shopping with their families. We realized quite early on that getting hit on the head, pushed around and assaulted in the suits went hand in hand with doing the job. It was during this smoke break where Nicholas turned to me and said "4 years of drama school man, what the hell are we doing here"? To which I replied "I don't know but this would make a great play" - And so the idea for **Champ** was conceived on the floor of a refuse area of a major shopping mall in a mixture of our sweat, tears and cigarette smoke.

Nicholas and I took our idea to Louis Viljoen and he developed and evolved it into a perfect set of jaded characters, who will both horrify and charm with their machine gun dialogue and chaotic perceptions of the small locker room they inhabit every day.

Directing **Champ** has been a long time goal for me, it is the product of years of working and developing the idea with Louis Viljoen. The process has been exhilarating, terrifying and sometimes maddening but it has never stopped making me laugh.

So if you go down to the woods today.....





LOUIS VILJOEN

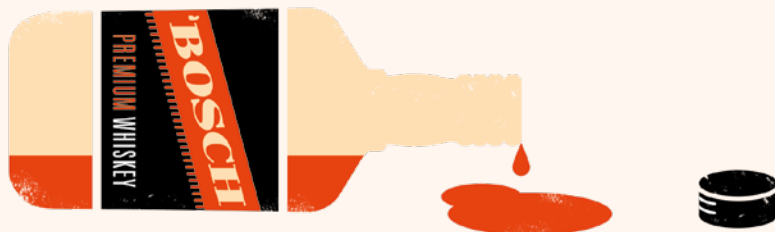
WRITER

Louis Viljoen has worked as a writer, director and producer in theatre, film and television for ten years. He is the co-owner (with Greg Karvellas) of Dark Red Productions which has produced the plays *Rocks*, *The Abusers*, *The Bile Boys*, *The Frontiersmen* and *The Verbalists*, and the feature film *Cowboy*, all of which were written by Viljoen. His unique take on the theatre and film industry, as well as essays and short stories can be found at www.uncleloo.wordpress.com.

GREG KARVELLAS

DIRECTOR

A UCT alumni who studied under Christopher Weare, Mark Fleishman, Lizz Mills and Geoffrey Hyland, Greg Karvellas has worked as a director, producer, actor and production manager in theatre, film and television for over ten years. He is the co-owner (with Louis Viljoen) of Dark Red Productions which has produced the plays *The Abusers* (director), *The Bile Boys* (actor), *The Frontiersmen* (director) and *The Verbalists* (designer), as well as the feature film *Cowboy* (actor). Greg co-directed the hit play *Frank 'n' Stein* with Christopher Weare, which saw numerous revivals.





CHAMP

CAST

Oliver Booth
Stanley

Mark Elderkin
Melvin

Nicholas Pauling
Elliot

Pierre Malherbe
Waldo

Jenny Stead
The Manager

PRODUCTION

Louis Viljoen
Writer

Greg Karvellas
Director

Julia Anastasopoulos
Designer

Johann Kupferburger
Production Manager

Ben du Plessis
Stage Manager

Jesse Kramer
Photography



MARK ELDERKIN MELVIN

Since graduating from UCT Drama in 2003, Mark Elderkin has performed in various productions for theatre, film and TV. On stage he most recently appeared in Nicola Hanekoms' play *Betesda* at the KKNK, Aardklop and Inniebos festivals, as well as the State Theatre, for which he received a KykNet Fiesta Best Actor nomination.

Mark's recent film and TV work includes *Power to the Children*, *Long Walk to Freedom*, *Restless*, *Death Race: Inferno*, *Dark Tide*, *Skeem*, *Die Boland Moorde*, and he is currently working on the Michael Bay produced pirate series- *Black Sails*.

He is a past winner of the Fleur du Cap Most promising student award and the FNB Vita Best new actor award.



NICHOLAS PAULING ELLIOT

Nicholas Pauling is a founding member of the Mechanicals Theatre Collective and a proud member of the Framework, which is based in Johannesburg. He has performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company (*Hamlet*, *Tempest*) and toured The USA with the American production of *39 Steps*. Nicholas is a Brett Goldin Award recipient and he won a Fleur Du Cap (Best Actor) for his work in *Amadeus*. He recently returned from Montreal where he was starring in *Waiting for the Barbarians*. Nicholas has worked with Greg Karvellas on *Frank 'n' Stein* and with Karvellas and Louis Viljoen on *The Abusers* and the film *Cowboy*, both in which he starred.





PIERRE MALHERBE WALDO

Pierre Malherbe has worked in theatre, film and television since graduating from UCT in 1993. He was a member of the Bison Brothers comedy team; whose work in radio, stage, and film attracted a cult following. He also does stand-up comedy and has performed three one-man shows; the most recent being **Another Friggin' Tribute Show**. He has acted in many plays, including, amongst others: the Mechanical's **King Lear**, **Under The Oaks**, **Noises Off**, **The Tent** and the award winning **Beautiful Thing** and **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. For TV, he has appeared in numerous sitcoms, including the pilot of a new mockumentary called **Armed Response**, as well as starring in the mini-series **Land Of Thirst**. Pierre's many film credits include: **Second Skin**, **Styx**, **Death Race 2**, and most recently, the critically acclaimed science fiction movie, **Chronicle**.



JENNY STEAD THE MANAGER

Jenny Stead studied at Stellenbosch and was nominated for 'most promising student'. Playing a cocaine addict in Fiona Coyne's hit comedy **Glass Roots** earned her a Vita award. She relished playing diverse roles from Ophelia in **The Secret Love Life of Ophelia** and Brooke in **Noises Off**. Jenny won the Fleur du Cap for best supporting actress in Reza de Wet's **Breathing In** and travelled throughout the United States of America, Rwanda and Europe with **Truth in Translation**. Most recently she was seen in the controversial **Cardenio**. Her film credits include **Poseidon Adventure**, **Starship Troopers 3** and the Golden Globe nominated **Restless**.



OLIVER BOOTH STANLEY

Oliver Booth is a stand-up comedian and actor who graduated from the University of Cape Town with Honours in Theatre and Performance in 2012. He performed at the Vodacom Funny Festival in 2012 and in March of 2013 he made his professional acting debut at the Theatre on the Bay in **An Absolute Turkey** directed by Christopher Weare.





THE FUGARD THEATRE

Founding Producer	Eric Abraham
Executive Director	Daniel Galloway
Financial Director	Stephen Sacks
Theatre Manager	Lamees Albertus
Production Manager	Johann Kupferburger
Bar Manager	Ronel Botha
Office and Events Assistant	Shayna Gleave
Graphic Designer	James Cooke
Front of House Manager	Iris Bolton
Box Office Manager	Ingrid Stemmert
Resident Technical Stage Manager	Ben du Plessis
Assistant Technical Stage Manager	Clynt Hlubi
Bar Duty Manager	Olivier Lekada
Publicity	Allison Foat for DIVA PR
Building Care Team	Devetia George Marel Roman Achmat Khroodien

FRIENDS OF THE FUGARD

Join our mailing list to be the first to hear our news on upcoming productions and events, as well as to qualify for specials and early bird discounts. Complete a "Friends of the Fugard" form (available in the foyer), visit our website at www.thefugard.com or e-mail Lamees Albertus at lamees@thefugard.com.



ERIC ABRAHAM AND THE FUGARD THEATRE PRESENT

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S
**THE
ROCKY
HORROR
SHOW**

OPENS JULY 2013
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CHOICES AHEAD**

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