

THE FEVER by Wallace Shawn.

Performed by Llysa Holland and produced by Seattle-based theater simple.
Directed by M. Burke Walker.

NOTES on THE FEVER 2016 by Burke Walker

You gather together in a room...and the person sitting across from you starts to tell an oddly unsettling story...Our narrator, intellectually curious and introspective by nature, is propelled, by an odd set of circumstances, to visit a foreign country where a revolution has taken place.

Delighted by her discoveries, she continues travelling...with far different results. She observes...She listens...She questions...and her safe, comfortable world is upended. Intellectually un-tethered and emotionally disoriented, a stranger to herself even, her quest for a seemingly elusive ideal--a moral foundation for economic justice--sends her into hallucinatory free-fall where she is dragged, screaming and protesting, to examine her own life as never before. In a fever-dream of argument and counter-argument, she gropes her way towards a new reality where self-serving lies no longer stick in her throat. And it's not over...

Wallace Shawn's 90-minute monologue is as stimulating, infuriating, and as demanding today as it was in 1990 when it opened, and when Llysa and I first embarked on the project nearly 20 years ago. And it is, just perhaps, even more relevant. This production is intended to be performed in private homes and is available for booking in 2016-2017.

ARTISTS

M. Burke Walker

University of Washington – [UW] (Drama/Directing, 1970)
Founding Artistic Director, The Empty Space Theatre, Seattle
Head of UW's MFA Directing program, 1989-1997.

Llysa Holland

performer, producer, playwright, co-founder/co-artistic instigator, theater simple.

Devising site-specific collaborations with diverse populations has been a focus for the last 10 years. (exploring themes like family dynamics, literature, or growing up)

Current projects:

- ~ THE GULLIVER PROJECT – exploring with youth how their voice is heard (or not) in a community-anchored site-specific performance created by them.
- ~ revisiting Wallace Shawn's provocative play THE FEVER (with Empty Space founder M. Burke Walker) in intimate performance settings to examine ideas around privilege. (earlier versions 10 & 20 years ago!)

A graduate of San Francisco State University, she studied with Anna Deaveare Smith at American Conservatory Theater before spending the 1989-1990 season at Berkeley Repertory Theater.

theater simple

has an international reputation for producing innovative and "impossible" theatrical experiences. In over 27 years, simpletons have produced over 1100 performances of over 49 plays in 4 countries on 3 continents.