

Alley Theatre and Level-headed Friends Productions present



THEATRE IN THE DARK

October 20-31 in a mystery location

Written by Mack Gordon (*Shake The Sheets, Debts*) | **Directed by Marisa Emma Smith** (*Mrs. Warren's Profession, O'wet/Lost Lagoon*) | **Sound Design/Live Foley by Julie Casselman** (*Tender Napalm*) October 20-31 All shows @ 8PM except late night Fridays @ 9:30PM | 805 East Pender St, Vancouver | Media Opening Oct 22 at 8PM | LIMITED SEATING. Reservations Recommended | Tix \$23 at www.theatrewire.com | Run time: 80 minutes

A female transit cop ventures to solve her husband's murder and finds herself mixed up in Vancouver's criminal underground. Three Stories Up is a fast-paced, psychologically rich twister of a play that will keep you guessing till the very end. Come into the dark and let your imagination run wild...

Inspired by the unique dining experience “[dark table](#)”; and 2013's *Do you see what I mean?* (PuSh Fest), *Three Stories Up* is an alternate sensory experience. The audience will be ushered into the pitch-black seating area and a play will come to life around them. Relying on only the voice, the written word and sounds... it will be up to the audience to paint the scene visually in their minds. On top of it all, we are working with a secret cast of actors to eliminate any visual expectation. In fact, while casting the play the director was even blindfolded.

Alley Theatre (www.alleytheatre.ca) produces work that attempts to *make the invisible visible* -- whether that be through socially relevant content or by seeking alternative performance environments. Alley's shows have received five Vancouver Jessie Award nominations (**including the 2014 Critic's Choice Innovation Award**). Recent productions include: *Little One, O'wet/Lost Lagoon, Kayak, Mrs. Warren's Profession* and *Tape*.

Level-headed Friends believes in the exciting explosion when different artistic disciplines collide. Recent productions include the 2015 Fringe Sell-out *Shake the Sheets, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Dead Celebrities, Debts*, and *The Ballad of the Burning Lady*.

WHY THE DARK?

Three Stories Up is a nod to a bygone era of the radio play with its Noir-esque descriptions and twisty- turny plot but the “dark” concept begs for a young, hip, adventurous audience. In this time of virtual reality, pop-up restaurants/concerts and live game rooms theatre needs to keep up—bring something new! We want audiences to come out of the experience feeling bonded. We want them to get goose bumps as actors brush past or sounds surprise. We want our audience to be affected by the story and its compelling characters but also by the experience of being blind for the duration of the show.



Director Marisa Emma Smith auditions actors blindfolded for the "dark theatre" production.

Photo credit:
Dan Cameron

PRESS FOR ALLEY THEATRE:

"This excellent company makes every moment count" - New York Times

"Local innovators" - The Georgia Straight

"Hat's off to Alley Theatre for their smart and tight production" – Globe & Mail

"Vancouver offers some of the most innovative theatre around and Alley Theatre is no exception" – CBC Radio

PRESS FOR MACK GORDON:

"A hip little treat for grown ups at Halloween." - Vancouver Sun

"...Small moments filled with just the right amount of quivering tension, black humour and a ghoulish delight." -The West Ender

"A compelling piece of theatre. For all the beautiful and evocative language... it's the love story that rings through." - Vancouver Presents.

"Gordon builds momentum to an almost excruciating level." - Vancouver Courier

THE TEAM

The cast is a secret but here's more info on our creative team...

THE PLAYWRIGHT



Mack Gordon has been writing plays for ten years. His work has been performed by ITSAZOO Productions (DEBTS, FIVE RED BALLOONS), Western Canada Theatre (THE BALLAD OF THE BURNING LADY), and Upintheair Theatre (VISITORS). He is a three-time writing contributor to Sum Theatre's Pull Festival. He is an associated writer for Pacific Theatre. Most recently his play SHAKE THE SHEETS! sold out its entire run at the 2015 Vancouver Fringe Festival. THREE STORIES UP was workshopped during the 2014 PTC Playwright's Colony.

THE DIRECTOR

A director, performer and artistic producer of Alley Theatre, Marisa Emma Smith has worked with



companies such as Newworld Theatre, Solo Collective Theatre, Pi Theatre, Playwrights Theatre Centre, The Gateway Theatre, Electric Company and The Belfry Theatre. She has assistant directed both Kim Collier (*All the Way Home*) and Ron Jenkins (*1984*), and her own directing credits include *Marrow*, *O'wet/Lost Lagoon*, *The Reasons*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (Alley Theatre – Critics Choice Innovation Award Nomination), *Small Parts*, *Wicked Shorts* (Winner of the 2010 Cultchivating Award) and *Lost in Place*. Marisa is a recipient of the Joanna Maratta Award for showing the most potential to contribute to the theatre community.

THE SOUND DESIGNER



Julie Casselman is a Jessie nominated composer and sound designer. Her original music and design has recently been featured in *Kolejka* (star star theatre), *Tender Napalm* (Twenty Something), *John and Beatrice/Jean et Béatrice* (Vortex Theatre), *Diary of Anne Frank* (TWU), *Frost/Nixon* (Ensemble), and *4th Graders... Suicide* (Rumble Theatre Tremors Festival). She is also a playwright (*The Motherers*, Pull Fest) and an actor, and recently played Mary Snow in Plan Z Theatre's production of *Salt-Water Moon* this July. Listen to some of her creations here: www.juliecasselman.com

IN-DEPTH SYNOPSIS

Beatrice, a transit cop, discovers the dead body of her husband, an undercover police officer working deep within Vancouver's criminal underground. She recruits the help of his last known informant, a drug runner named Gunnar who has some secrets of his own, and the two of them investigate the city's colourful characters for clues.

Inspired by work that the playwright has done with the Vancouver Police, *Three Stories Up* drills down on one of Crime Noir's biggest questions: 'What's in it for me?' Gunnar is looking for a way out of his life of crime, Beatrice is looking for revenge. If Gunnar can help Beatrice get to the bottom of her husband's killer, then she's willing to send him away. But when Gunnar investigates and falls in love with one of her number one suspects, a female bookie, the two end up hurtling in different directions.

5 Reasons Why You Need to See *Three Stories Up*:

- 1) It's great mystery! When was the last time got to figure our "who done it?" in a live theatre experience.
- 2) It's dark! Remember when you were a kid and you would tell stories in the dark and your imagination would run wild? Well this is kinda like that only, we do all the work for you.
- 3) It's a great date! You will ushered blindfolded from our secret location into a dark space for this intimate performance. Anything can happen... plus, a friendly usher will deliver beer or wine to your seat :)
- 4) There's a strong female protagonist. Who doesn't love a female cop on the hunt?!
- 5) Secrets are fun! The location, set and even who is in the cast is a complete secret so that the audience can imagine what ever strikes them and never know what is coming next. We hope this makes you as giddy as we are!

Buzz for *Three Stories Up*

"Critics Pick" - Georgia Straight Fall Arts Preview:

<http://www.straight.com/arts/780781/fall-arts-preview-2016-theatre-critics-picks-theatre-scene-takes-new-cultural-colours>

Feature in the Vancouver Courier's Fall Arts Preview:

<http://www.vancourier.com/entertainment/theatre/fall-arts-preview-murder-mystery-keeps-audiences-in-the-dark-1.2344915>

For more updates on the production find us @

 <https://www.facebook.com/events/559381950911876/>

 [@alleytheatre1](#) with the #3storiesup and #theatreinthedark