

BARE BOARDS...AND A PASSION and OUT OF BOUNDS present

LAUGHING IN THE DARK



Sponsorship

We are confident that Laughing in the Dark will have a longer life. If you would like to support its development and further productions please contact us at bookings@thebakehouse.info

Thanks to: Richard Macfarlane, Pam Cohen, Bernard Kops, Ken Smyth, Margaret Bennett, Shaun Morton, Nicola Potts, Martina Messing, Radek Kapucian, BB Cooper and the staff at the Actors Centre

program designed by

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European Association
for Jewish Culture

www.jewishcultureineurope.org

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was made with the support of a grant from
The European Association for Jewish Culture*

A new play
written and performed by
Graeme Messer

LAUGHING IN THE DARK

Nathan and Otto:

Director:

Designer:

Mask designed & made by:

Composer:

Lyrics:

Photography:

Graeme Messer

Chrys Salt

Christine Bennett

Joanna Brown

Peter Michaels

Chrys Salt

Simon Ritter

Graeme Messer - Performer/ Writer

Graeme has recently finished filming on *Teeth* and *The Pharmacist*, both features to be released later this year. Stage work includes *More than Kisses* at the Traverse and Riverside Studios, *The House of Doors* at the Gilded Balloon, *The Victorians* at the Players, and *Don the Burp* and *Love Lust & Sawdust* both at the Hen & Chickens. In his native South Africa Graeme played lead roles in *Julius Caesar*, *The Country Wife*, *The Three Sisters* and *Comedy of Errors* as well as working frequently on radio. On Television he has appeared in Harry Hill's sketches and in several commercials. Graeme's writing work includes: *Dreams of Desire*, *Love Lust and Sawdust*, *More than Kisses* and the *House of Doors* – Scotsman Fringe first Award winner.

Chrys Salt - Director/Lyricist

Chrys is Artistic Director of Bare Boards... and a passion Theatre Company and The Bakehouse, a flourishing arts venue in SW Scotland. She directs extensively in theatre and sound and has worked with many of the country's leading actors. This is her fifth one man show which include *The Last Obit* (Scotsman Fringe First Award winner) and *On The Whole it's Been Jolly Good* (starring Leslie Philips), both by Peter Tinniswood. Chrys has written several books, including *Here We Go – Women's Memories of the 1984/5 Miner's Strike* (CRS National Media Ward) and is an editor of the literary magazine *Markings*. Her popular book for actors, *Make Acting Work* is now in its third edition. She writes theatre and radio plays, adaptations, documentaries and features and has published several poetry collections. A new Poetry Selection, *Greedy for Mulberries* will be published in August.

Christine Bennett - Designer

Theatre includes: *The Rat Trap* (Finborough Theatre) *The Interview* (Pleasance, Edinburgh) *The Sociable Plover* and *Long Lonesome Cowgirls* (Old Red Lion), *The Maïas* (Greenwich Playhouse) *Extracts From My Diary* (White Bear Theatre Club) and *Sense of Belonging* (Arcola). She collaborated with director Antonio Peluso on three operas: *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Coronation of Poppea* (ACC presents Opera for All) and *Carmen* (Welsh National Opera). As the costume designer for Contemporary Stage Company, she has designed several productions including *The Tunnel* (Edinburgh Festival). Recent work with the band *The Irrepressibles* has included sets for an evening at the Round Chapel and last summer's Latitude Festival.

Peter Michaels - Composer

Peter trained in classical guitar and jazz theory. He has diverse influences, and has composed soundtracks for a wide range of formats including documentaries, children's videos, television, radio dramas, musicals and theatre. He performs with various groups, including klezmer band *The Matzoh Boys*, Brazilian and gypsy-influenced *Pocket Caravan*, and Indian classical vocal group *Bhavini*. They have taken him to venues as varied as Wembley Arena, Royal Academy of Arts, Harrods and the Houses of Parliament. Broadcast and film work includes *National Geographic*, *BBC Radio Drama*, *Sky TV*, *Fourth Passenger*, *Violent Violet* and *Olive Pictures*. Theatrical work includes productions at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, The Orange Tree, New End, King's Head, Finborough and the Edinburgh Festival.

The secret source of humor itself is not joy but sorrow. There is no humor in heaven. Mark Twain
We kept our morale through humour. Emil Fackerheim, philosopher and survivor of Auschwitz
Comedy (in the holocaust) expresses a stubborn refusal to give tragedy the final say. Conrad Hyers

The past is not dead, it is not even past. Christa Wolf
We learn about the Holocaust so that we can become more human, more gentle, more caring, more compassionate, valuing every person as being of infinite worth, so precious that we know such atrocities will never happen again and the world will be a more humane place.

Desmond Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus.
According to a tale in the Talmud, the prophet Elijah said there would be a reward in the next world for those who brought laughter in this.