KAZAN CO-OP
PRESENTS



UNCONFINED

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
LIZ RICHARDSON

DIRECTED BY
ED THOMASON

59
59

THEATER C

DECEMBER 6 – 22



A SOLO PLAY
BASED ON
TRUE EVENTS

KAZAN CO-OP
PRESENTS

UNCONFINED

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY
LIZ RICHARDSON

CHARACTERS
IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

An American academic/a professor of Comparative Religion	Barbara
A British painter	Eleanor
A fellow prisoner	Benny

CREATIVE TEAM

Direction	ED THOMASON *
Stage Management	PATRICIA VINLUAN *
Set and Costume Design	JANET MacLELLAN
Lighting Design	VICKY WILLIAMS †
Lighting Design Adaption	PATRICIA VINLUAN
Sound Design	JOSH CRUDDAS
Producer/Artistic Director KAZAN CO-OP	KATHRYN MacLELLAN *

Running Time: 55 minutes with no intermission



A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

This story landed in my lap six years ago, when I received a binder of extraordinary poems, drawings, and letters by a prisoner who had been on death row for 18 years.

During five years of interviews, research, and script development, it became clear that despite all events being true this should not be a documentary, but a fictionalized drama.

It is not about wrongful conviction, nor is it only about one exceptional man.

This play poses a fundamental question: Is it possible, for a person who has committed a capital crime and is living in the most horrendous circumstances, to gradually uncover his deepest humanity? Can there be authentic transformation, in which a prisoner becomes a wise and compassionate inspiration to many others, both inside and outside of his prison?

"Heartfelt thanks to Ed Thomason, Richard John and Kathryn MacLellan who have been on the frontlines of this journey with their incredible time and support."

In memory of my brother Bob.

And in deep gratitude to my Buddhist teachers who always remind us to not give up on anyone.

- Liz Richardson

LIZ RICHARDSON

(Playwright/Actress; she/her)

Liz has had a lifelong career as a professional actress and writer. A graduate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA), she has performed in major theater, film, television, and radio productions in England and Canada. Born in Toronto, Liz now resides in Halifax, Nova Scotia and creates her work from there. She has played leading roles in London's West End, the Bristol Old Vic, Neptune Theatre - Halifax (10 seasons), the Shaw Festival (Niagara), and Canadian Stage (Toronto). Liz's first solo show as both writer and performer, ***Going On,*** began with readings in California in 2012 and went on to successful runs in Mexico, Vancouver, and Halifax, where it was presented in 2015 by KAZAN CO-OP as Act 2 in the evening - ***Stacey and Liz*** at KAZAN's The Waiting Room. ***UNCONFINED*** premiered in Halifax at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Windsor Theatre in April of 2022 to audience and critical acclaim. This performance marks her Off Broadway debut and she is very grateful to 59E59 Theaters and KAZAN CO-OP for the opportunity to bring this show to New York, and thanks all company members for their wonderful contributions to the show.

ED THOMASON

(Director/Dramaturg; he/him)

Prior to relocating to Nova Scotia in 1996, Ed worked extensively in British theater and broadcasting as associate director of the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield; artistic director of the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry (both major regional theaters); and features editor and producer for BBC Radio 4. In Wolfville (NS) Ed and his wife, Shelley Thompson, founded WILLPOWER, an independent theater company creating and producing new work in Halifax and beyond. Most recently Ed was artistic producer of Festival Antigonish (NS) for twelve seasons. Ed received a Best Screenplay ACTRA Award for *Gentle Sinners* (CBC), a Cino del Duca Award for Best TV Direction for *All The Days Of My Life* (CBC), and a Sony Radio Award for Best Feature for *Dear Miss Pym Dear Mr Larkin* (BBC).

JANET MacLELLAN

(Costume Design; she/her)

Janet has worked with KAZAN since its inception with founder and sister Kathryn as a partner in the company, and was instrumental in creating and running the former black box space, The Waiting Room, in Halifax. Multi-talented, she creates the costume design for all of KAZAN's productions and has also worked with almost every theater company in Nova Scotia. Janet often executes the set and prop design as well as being the official photographer for the company. For KAZAN CO-OP: ***His Greatness***; ***Best Brothers***; ***Stacey & Liz***; ***I, Animal***; ***Heaven Above, Heaven Below***; ***The Weekend Healer***; ***The Realistic Joneses***; ***UNCONFINED***. For Mulgrave Road Theatre: ***Marion Bridge***, ***How it Works***, ***Watching Glory Die***, ***Watch Over Me***. For Neptune Theatre: ***LO***, ***The Last Wife***, ***Small Things***, ***BINGO!*** (co-production with Mulgrave Road Theatre), ***A Beautiful View***, ***Communion*** (co-production with KAZAN Theatre).

JOSH CRUDDAS

(Music Composer/Sound Design; he/him)

Off Broadway debut. Josh is thrilled to help bring Liz, Ed, and Kathryn's wonderful play to 59E59 Theaters. Film credits across the world include composing for series and films by HBO Max, Lionsgate, and Netflix, and winning the SOCAN Foundation Award for Best Score by a Young Canadian three times. His acting credits include two ACTRA Award Nominations and leading and supporting roles in MGM's *Billy The Kid*, Sony's *Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City*, Shudder's *Anything For Jackson*, and Netflix's *Polar*. He has released two soundtrack albums and a debut pop album called "Variety Show." Thanks and love to the whole ***UNCONFINED*** team, his family, friends, and students at Stagecoach!

@joshcruddas

VICKY WILLIAMS

(Lighting Design; she/her)

Vicky is a lighting designer, technician, and consultant. She is grateful to be living, working, and creating on Mi'kma'ki land in Nova Scotia. She has thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with this truly wonderful team and wishes to send out thanks to her friends and colleagues for their support and kindness. Selected recent productions: ***Observatory Mansions*** (Villain's Theatre); ***Noises Off!*** (Mayfield Theatre); ***Peter Pan***, ***The Argyle Street Kitchen Party***, and ***Pleasureville*** (Neptune Theatre); ***The Children***, ***Constellations*** (Keep Good {Theatre} Company); ***Some Blow Flutes*** (Homefirst Theatre Company); ***The Bitterest Time: The War Story of Mona Parsons*** (Sarandipity Theatre Society and LunaSea Theatre Companies); ***The Romeo Initiative*** (Ship's Company Theatre); ***King of Berlin*** (Doppler Effect Productions); and ***Bingo!*** (Mulgrave Road Theatre Company).

PATRICIA VINLUAN

(Stage Management; she/her)

Patricia is a stage and production manager based out of Kjipuktuk (Halifax, Canada). In her career, Patricia has been involved in the development of over twenty world premieres, collaborated on a multitude of projects presented across Canada, and toured regionally and internationally. She has worked extensively throughout the Maritime provinces of Canada and has most recently collaborated on projects with Prismatic Arts Festival, Neptune Theatre, Akpik Theatre, 2b theatre, and Theatre New Brunswick. In her work, Patricia is deeply invested in safe and sustainable production practices and dedicates her approach to fostering spaces that allow artists to thrive. Patricia grew up on the rainy west coast but has happily lived in Nova Scotia for nearly a decade. Thank you to KAZAN for this opportunity.

KATHRYN MacLELLAN

(Artistic Director/Producer; she/her)

Ms. MacLellan is a Haligonian residing in Kjipuktuk, a theatrical producer/actor/choreographer and figure skating coach. In 2011 she founded KAZAN CO-OP and has brought award winning theater to Halifax, Toronto, and Our National Arts Center in Ottawa. As founder and artistic director of KAZAN, along with her Board of Directors created The Waiting Room - a much needed sixty seat black box theater in the North End of the city. The work developed there has gone on to critical and audience acclaim in New York, Toronto, Edinburgh, and more. As an actor and dancer she has performed in many stages across Canada. A four-time Nova Scotia Robert Merritt award nominee for acting and choreography, and two-time Actra nominated actress, MacLellan has also received the Mayors Award (2014) for her Outstanding Contribution to Theater in Halifax, and an Actra Award (2019) for Supporting Actress for her work in the film *HopeLess Romantic*.

KAZAN CO-OP

KAZAN CO-OP is dedicated to producing compelling contemporary narrative theatre that relates to the challenges of mid-life and the enduring possibility for change. We champion excellent roles for women. It is our desire to see these stories move our audience and inspire thought regarding deep emotional issues. We nurture emerging artists as well as support established artists in our team to grow their skills within our projects. We are a registered not for profit co-operative. We work with professional actors, directors, playwrights, musicians and designers.



KAZAN CO-OP WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Tim Kerr
Samantha Sanderson
Marie Crowell
Lauren Crowell Brown
Kristen Crowell Wills
John Rook
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Elizabeth Lancaster Thomas, Norma Harris, Johanna Lunn, John Fox, David Craig, Jenn Hewitt, Tony Hauser, Fleet Maull, Jeffrey Hardy, Ashley Dinges, Lianne Ritchie.

LONGSTANDING KAZAN PATRONS

Marie Crowell
Kristen Crowell Wills
Lauren Crowell Brown
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Joan Craig
The MacLellan Family

KAZAN CO-OP IS GRATEFUL TO

Arts Nova Scotia, The Nova Scotia Creative Industries Fund, Halifax Dance and The Craig Foundation for their continued belief in our work.

NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX DANCE

The CRAIG FOUNDATION

CURATOR'S NOTE

This fascinating solo play, from Nova Scotia's KAZAN CO-OP, interrogates the nature of love and self-exploration in the most trying of circumstances through the true story of a death row prisoner and those who knew him.

To write ***Unconfined*** Richardson interviewed the real-life subjects of her play and delicately portrays three diverse characters all linked by their relationships to one creative soul. The minimalist production demands that we focus on the story being told as an imaginative soundscape orients us across place and time and questions unfold about how we are changed by knowing someone and how empathy frees us.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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JOEY PITTORINO Front of House Assistant
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NEXT IN THEATER C — JANUARY 11 – 27



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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