TWILIGHT THEATRE CO.

presents

KAFKA

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY

JACK KLAFF

DIRECTED BY

COLIN WATKEYS

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TWILIGHT THEATRE CO.

PRESENTS

KAFKA



WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY

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COLIN WATKEYS

— CREATIVE TEAM —

Performer/Playwright	JACK KLAFF
Director	COLIN WATKEYS
Production Design	MuMbles
Lighting Design	JEN LENO
Production Stage Manager	OLIVIA FLETCHER

— PRODUCTION TEAM —

Twilight Theatre Co.	MARGARETT PERRY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

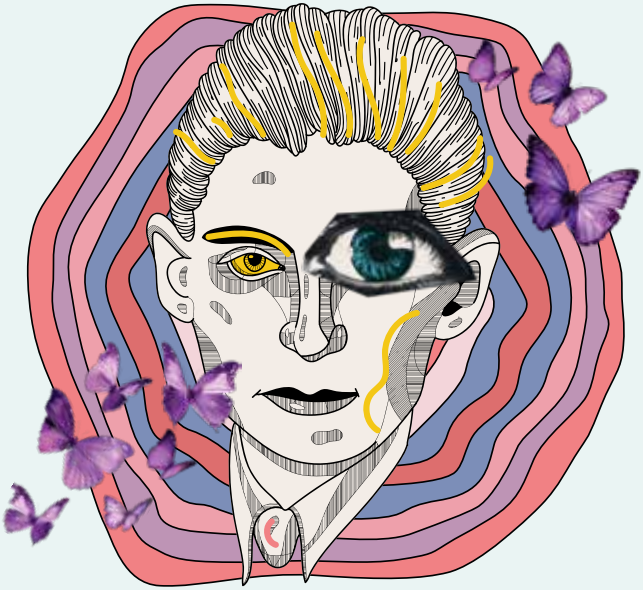
Run time: 90 minutes with no intermission

FINBOROUGH THEATRE

Kafka was first performed at the Finborough Theatre, London.
Neil McPherson, Artistic Director

ACTORS' EQUITY

The Production Stage Manager is a member of Actors' Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



FRANZ KAFKA

(1883-1924)

Writer Franz Kafka was the eldest son of an upper middle-class Jewish family and was born in Prague, the capital of Bohemia, a kingdom that was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

While Kafka strove to earn a living working in insurance, he also poured himself into his writing work. A lifelong friend named Max Brod would prove crucial in supporting Kafka's literary work both during his life and long after it.

Kafka's celebrity as a writer only came after his death. During his lifetime, he published just a sliver of his overall work. Still living with the demons that plagued him with self-doubt, he was reluctant to unleash his work on the world. He requested that Brod, who doubled as his literary executor, destroy any unpublished manuscripts.

Fortunately, Brod did not adhere to his friend's wishes and published the work that gained his fame. Kafka's best-known works include *The Metamorphosis*, *Amerika*, *The Trial*, and *The Castle*. His books garnered favor during World War II, especially, and has had an immeasurable influence upon art, culture – and indeed all of modern thought – around the world.

As the 1960s took shape and Eastern Europe was under the fist of bureaucratic Communist governments, Kafka's writing resonated particularly strongly with readers. So alive and vibrant were the tales that Kafka spun about man and faceless organizations that a new term was introduced into the English lexicon: "Kafkaesque."

The measure of Kafka's appeal and value as a writer was quantified in 1988, when his handwritten manuscript of *The Trial* was sold at auction for $1.98 million, at that point the highest price ever paid for a modern manuscript.

Read more from Biography.com at bit.ly/KafkaBiography

JACK KLAFF

(Playwright/Performer)



Jack Klaff's stage work includes: ***Rhapsody in Blue*** – playing Ira Gershwin, ***Maggie and Ted*** – playing Prime Minister Edward Heath, ***Rivonia*** – playing anti-Apartheid activist Bram Fischer, ***Behan*** (Irish Cultural Centre), and ***Catastrophe*** (with legendary South African actor John Kani). Productions at the Finborough Theatre include: ***The Representative***, ***Drama at Inish***, ***Trilby***, ***But it Still Goes On***, and ***Nagging Doubt***. Earlier theater work includes: ***Frankenstein*** and ***Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Aquila Theatre); ***Ivy and Joan***, ***Statements***, and ***Ice Cream Boys*** (Jermyn Street Theatre); ***Ballad of the Cosmo Café*** (Playing Freud's Ghost, St Peters, Belsize), ***Shirleymander*** (Playground Theatre), ***Richard II*** (Rose Theatre, Kingston); ***The Cherry Orchard***, ***The Lower Depths*** (Arcola Theatre, playing Stanislavski's roles, Gayev and Satin); ***Dracula*** (New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-under-Lyme); ***Henry VI***, ***Sons of Light***, ***As You Like It***, and ***Tamburlaine*** (Royal Shakespeare Company); ***Othello***, ***Troilus and Cressida***, ***Donkey's Years***, and ***I'm Not Rappaport*** (Bristol Old Vic); ***Map of the Heart*** (Globe Theatre), ***Insignificance*** (Donmar Warehouse), and ***Stockwell*** (Tricycle Theatre). Film includes: *Megalapolis Z, Wilson, Kill Blood, Decadent Years, Eyes of Orson Welles, For Your Eyes Only, King David, Pasternak and Olga, 1871*, and *Star Wars*. Television includes: *MobLand, The English, Wolfit, Citizens' Jury, Last Duel, Red Dwarf, Sherlock Holmes, Midsomer Murders*, and *Vanity Fair*. Audio and radio work includes: "Byron," "Young Orson Welles," "Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Nixon's Shrink," "Sea Wolf," "Bleeding Edge," and the books "Love of the Tayamni," "Judgment of Seth," "The Promise," "Young Orson," "Last Resort," "Tynan Diaries," and "Phantom of the Opera." His solo plays and ensemble pieces presented on stage, radio, and TV include: *Flying Backwards, Three-Five-Silly-Twerp, Nagging Doubt, Freud and Jung the Sitcom, Cuddles Trilogy, The Fifty-Minute Hour, Bosom Buddies*, and *Kafka*. He also wrote verses for The Shakespeare Revue (West End). Jack has written for The Guardian, Independent, and Vogue, and has presented for the BBC, LBC, Channel4TV, GranadaTV, and Discovery. He is the author of "Bluff Your Way in the Quantum Universe." Jack has held visiting professorships at Starlab – a scientific think tank in Brussels – and at Princeton University. Awards and nominations have included Fringe Firsts, a Lustrum award for Heartstopping Moments, the Three Weeks Editors' Award, the Seabiscuit Award for Science and Art, Sony Certificates for radio acting, a Golden Rose Comedy Award at Montreux, a Writers Guild Tinniswood Award for Radio Writing, a Glasgow Herald Archangel lifetime achievement statuette, and BBC TV's Jack Hargreaves Award for Innovative Use of TV Drama.

COLIN WATKEYS

(Director)

Colin Watkeys founded and ran the Finborough Cabaret in the early 1980s. He is the founding director of the Face-to-Face Festival of Solo Theatre and has been directing solo performers for over thirty years. He specializes in working with writers who perform their own work including Ken Campbell, Claire Dowie, and Jack Klaff. He studied philosophy in London, Japanese theater, music and dance in Tokyo, and worked at the Royal Court Theatre for the Young Writers Festival. He is currently associate theater director at Lyrici Arts in Medway and is directing Desiree Baptiste in ***Incidents in the Life of an Anglican Slave*** (Lambeth Palace Library, All Souls College, Oxford and Jesus College, Cambridge). Among his many notable productions are ***Adult Child/ Dead Child***, ***Why Is John Lennon Wearing a Skirt***, ***Death and Dancing***, and ***H to He (I'm turning into a man)*** by Claire Dowie (Finborough Theatre, Drill Hall and Worldwide); and ***Pigspurt***, ***Jamais Vu***, and ***Theatre Stories*** by Ken Campbell (National Theatre and Royal Court Theatre). Colin's previous collaborations with Jack Klaff include ***Jack the Knife*** (Edinburgh Festival and The Drill Hall), ***Newton*** (Gravity Festival and Edinburgh Festival), and ***Hunger*** (Biscuit Factory).

OLIVIA FLETCHER

(Production Stage Manager)

Olivia Fletcher is a freelance AEA stage manager based out of NYC. Her recent credits include ***AZAD: the rabbit and the wolf*** (PSM) with

Hakawati and Golden Thread, ***Room 1214*** (PSM) with New Light Theater Project at 59E59; ***The Wind and The Rain*** (PSM) with En Garde Arts and The Vineyard, Brits Off Broadway 2024 (PSM) at 59E59. She has loved working with the team at 59E59 for several projects over the last few years and is excited to be back for Brits Off Broadway this year!

JEN LENO

(Lighting Design; she/they)

Jen Leno is a lighting designer, photographer, and generative artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She obtained her MFA in Lighting Design from Brooklyn College in 2023 and was nominated for two BroadwayWorld Off Broadway Best Lighting Design awards in 2024. Jen relishes in storytelling centered around underrepresented communities including queer and femme narratives. Recent work includes: Green Day's ***American Idiot*** (Sacred Heart University), Jeff Goldblum and the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra (Brooklyn Opera House), Sasha Velour's ***Nightgowns the Musical*** (The Connelly Theater), ***The Prom*** (Southern Connecticut State University), ***Mercury*** (Theater Row), and ***Prejudice and Pride*** (59E59 Theaters). They would like to thank their friends and family for their continued support as they pursue their dreams in lighting design.

www.jenlenodesign.com

MuMBLES DESIGN CO.

(Production Design)

MuMbles is a design collective providing theatrical design for practical applications on stage and in the real world. Recent design credits include production design for ***A Special Relationship*** (Brits Off Broadway) and costume design for ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** by John Jiler (59E59) and ***A Special Relationship*** at the Tabard Theatre, London. Other recent designs include scenic design for ***Appraisal*** by Tim Marriott directed by Margarett Perry (Brits Off Broadway) and costume design for ***Plotters*** by Brian Parks directed by Margarett Perry & Natalie Tell at Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh. Upcoming projects include costume design for ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra coming to 59E59 in July.

TWILIGHT THEATRE CO.

(Producer)

Twilight Theatre Co. is a Co-Op Resident Company of 59E59 Theaters with a mission to develop, workshop, and produce new work and to tell stories that deepen our awareness, encourage compassion, and ignite conversation. Founded by Sturgis Warner in 1998 and now under the artistic leadership of Margarett Perry, Twilight continues its mission to support new work through readings, workshops, and productions. Last season Twilight produced ***Appraisal*** and ***Watson: The Final Problem*** for Brits Off Broadway as well as the sold-out, extended run of ***The Rosenberg/Strange Fruit Project*** by John Jiler (59E59 Theaters) directed by Margarett Perry. This season Twilight is presenting two Brits shows — ***Kafka*** and ***A Special Relationship*** by Tim Marriott and Jeff Stoler (in Theater C through June 29). Twilight also produced two sold-out critically acclaimed world premieres at the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival — ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra and ***Plotters*** by Brian Parks. Other past highlights included: ***Shortlist*** by Brian Parks (in collaboration with Flying Bridge Theatre in Wales), Ted LoRusso's ***Prelude to the First Day, Suite for Four Actors and Percussionist***, Brian Dykstra's ***A Play on Words***, and ***Palestine*** written and performed by Najla Saïd. Upcoming productions include the Off Broadway premiere of ***Polishing Shakespeare*** by Brian Dykstra; performances begin July 10, 2025 at 59E59 Theaters.

www.twilighttheatrecompany.org

FINBOROUGH THEATRE

Founded in 1980, the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre—under the leadership of Artistic Director Neil McPherson—presents a formidable programme of thought-provoking new writing and rediscovered gems from the 19th and 20th centuries. Unfunded yet consistently acclaimed, the Finborough matches the excellence of larger venues while preserving the freedom and intimacy of its unique home above an Earl's Court pub. A launchpad for leading creative voices and international transfers, it thrives firmly at the heart of London life—vibrant, inclusive, and startlingly original.

CURATOR'S NOTE

During an unusually warm June in London last year, I was scouting shows to bring to this year's festival. I've always been interested in Franz Kafka and since you're reading this, you must be too. I made my way up a narrow set of stairs to see what Jack Klaff was up to in Finborough Theatre's cozy space, famously situated above a gastro pub. Both the story and Jack's performance were simply astonishing; the range of characters he inhabited were so captivating that it didn't make sense for only one man to be on stage at the curtain call. After the thunderous applause, Jack held court outside in the sun with a cold beverage in hand. Should you see him doing the same here - don't be shy, or you'll miss out on the opportunity to bask in his charming presence, just as I did on that gorgeous day in London.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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Artistic Director
VAL DAY

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KEVIN MOLICA

Theater Technicians
JOHN D. IVY
KAT KHELLBLAU
JAMIE JOHNSON

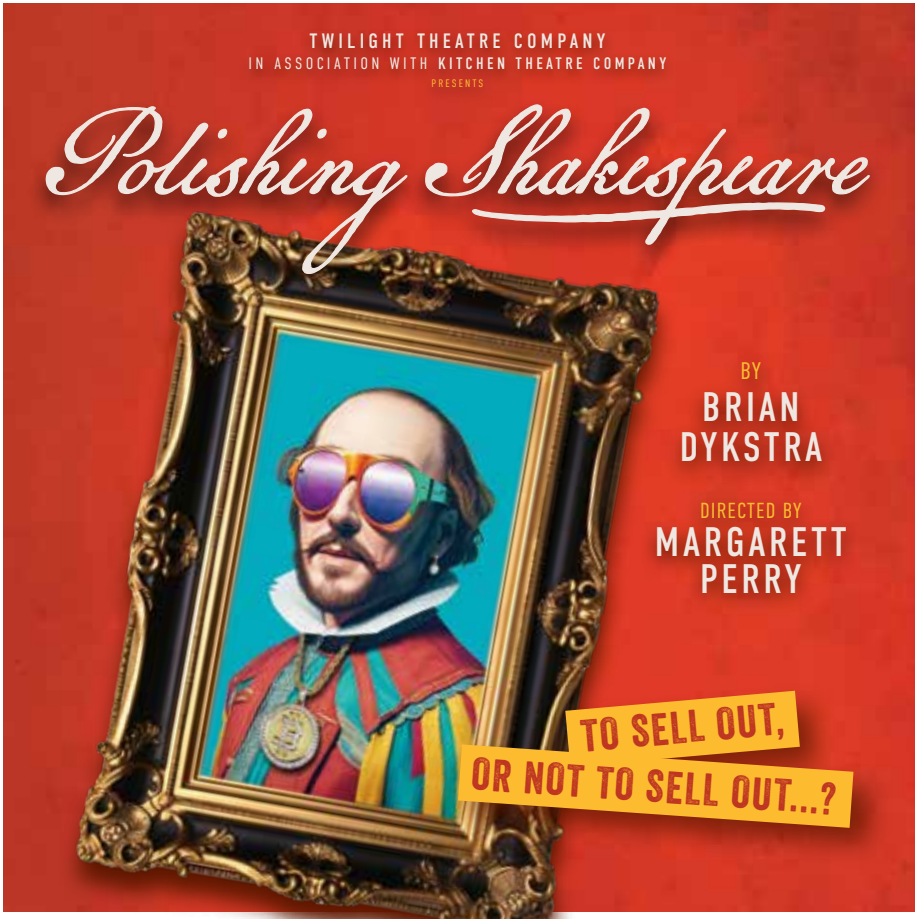
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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

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.

This presentation is not a production of the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation, Inc., which offers its facilities, when available, for productions by not-for-profit theater companies. For further information regarding licensing this theater or other theaters in this Theater Building, contact Brian Beirne, Managing Director. The use of cameras and other recording devices in the Theater is prohibited by law. There is no smoking in this Theater or any part of the Theater Building.