

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Samantha Keogh** | samantha@theaterinasylum.com

PRAGUE FRINGE FESTIVAL

PRESENTS A

THEATER IN ASYLUM

PRODUCTION OF

¡OLÉ!



CONCEIVED & DIRECTED BY PAUL BEDARD
USING TEXT FROM POEMS, LETTERS, AND OTHER WORKS BY
SALVADOR DALÍ & FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA
Tuesday, May 27–Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 8pm
Prague Fringe Festival A Studio Rubín

“This touring show by THEATER IN ASYLUM had one of the most alluring premises of all the 2013 Fringe shows, and I’m happy to say it lived up to expectations... This is smart theater”
—Rochester City Newspaper

Prague, Czech Republic—Prague Fringe Festival (Fringe Festival Praha) will present the European Premiere production of **THEATER IN ASYLUM (TIA)’s ¡Olé!**, named Audience Favorite at the 2013 Chicago Fringe Festival and Best Touring Production at the 2013 Rochester Fringe Festival.

¡Olé! is a flamenco dance-theater piece about the alleged affair between painter Salvador Dalí and poet Federico Garcia Lorca between 1919-1936.

The two artists meet in university and begin a tumultuous relationship that ensnares them in an endless argument over the nature of and reason for art. The affair and the argument explode

theater 
IN ASYLUM

when the two spend a life-altering summer together in Cadaqueez, Spain. An original flamenco score weaves through this 60-minute piece, which is accompanied by a live guitarist and features the darkness and passion of flamenco dance.

Throughout the piece, Lorca and Dalí, whose very cells vibrate with the force of their passion, debate the purpose of art in full body and full voice using a combination of their own poetry, letters, and other works. History carries these men into the heart of Franco-occupied Spain, a world where neither their art nor their love can survive. In response, Dalí flees the country, but Lorca remains rooted in Spain, creating art to change his world and face the new fascist and militarized society, all the way to the firing squad.

The production will run **Tuesday, May 27-Saturday, May 31 at 8pm at A Studio Rubín** (Malostranské nám. 9, Malá Strana, Prague 1).

Performed by Frankie Alicea, Adrian Bridges, Jake Lasser & Sofia Lund
Original Score by Randall Benichak
Choreographed by Katie Palmer & Theresa Burns
Lighting Design by Dan Stearns
Dramaturgy by Samantha Keogh & Jake Lasser

Tickets (**150CZK**) are available online at <http://www.praguefringe.com/en/programme-2014/ole/>.
The show runs 60 minutes, with no intermission.

FRANKIE ALICEA (Lorca) A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where he studied in the Experimental Theater Wing, he can be seen working around NYC and Connecticut both as an actor, theatre educator, and bartender with companies and programs like Theater YinYin, Rescue Agreement, and The Center for Creative Youth. Frankie is a firm believer in the restorative power and the violent beauty of theatre.

KATHRYN APPLETON (TIA Managing Director; Producer) is a theater producer based in New York. Past producing credits include: THEATER IN ASYLUM's #CORIOLANUS; *¡Olé!*, *Revolution in 1*, and TIA'S FRANKENSTEIN; HALF written by Rebecca Foresman, Assistant Poetry Editor at the New Yorker; Lemon Cake, directed by Julia Locascio, Assistant Costume Designer on the War Horse tour; and the live-streamed stage reading of The Idealist, featuring Alison Pill and Tony Roberts. Upon graduating with a B.A. from Columbia University, Kathryn worked on the Broadway show Time Stands Still.

PAUL BEDARD (TIA Artistic Director; Conceiver, Director) is a writer and director, and is a founding artistic director for Theater in Asylum. Recent directing credits include #CORIOLANUS (Under St. Marks Theater), TIA's FRANKENSTEIN (Looking Glass Theater), and NIJINSKY IN ASYLUM (Steps on Broadway Theater). Paul holds a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

RANDALL BENICHAK (Composer) is a composer who received his Masters in Scoring for Film and Multimedia from New York University, and has written music for THEATER IN ASYLUM's main stage productions since its inception (#CORIOLANUS, *¡Olé!*, *Revolution in 1*, TIA's FRANKENSTEIN, NIJINSKY IN ASYLUM). He is the Music Director of the Joffrey Ballet

theater IN ASYLUM

School and is the creator/instructor of the course "Music for Dancers," now a requirement of the Pre-Professional Ballet curriculum. Randall has scored independent films *The Leap List*, *Installation*, *The Conformist*, and *Camp Tamiment*. He also gives private music lessons on guitar, bass, piano and saxophone to students of all ages in the New York City area.

ADRIAN BRIDGES (The Guitarist) is a guitarist and composer originally from Philadelphia and now living in New York City. He received both a Bachelor's and Master's degree from New York University's Jazz Studies program, with emphasis on guitar and composition, where he was honored a Presser Scholar. As a versatile instrumentalist, proficient in a wide variety of styles on guitar, mandolin, banjo, and bass, Adrian has found a home in the world of musical theater, playing for numerous productions, including *Once We Lived Here* (Australian Made Entertainment), and *Dreamgirls* (The Gallery Players). As a music director and composer, he's also helped shape productions for Less Than Rent Theater (*Little Town Blues*, *Diva*—winner of Best Musical and Audience Favorite at The 2013 United Solo Theatre Festival) and Kaleid Theatre (*Eurydice*, *Glow*).

THERESA BURNS (Tour Choreographer) is an actor/singer/dancer and choreographer based in NYC. She recently graduated from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Drama and has been working consistently as a performer and choreographer ever since. Past choreography credits include *The Island of No Tomorrow's* (MultiStages), *Bat Boy*, *Smile*, and *Reefer Madness* (Little Radical Theatrics), and *Into the Woods* and *Kiss Me Kate* (Strasberg Institute). Recent performance credits include the national tours of *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda) and *Cinderella* (Step Sister) and *Grimm* in FringeNYC 2012.

SAMANTHA KEOGH (TIA Resident Dramaturg; Company Manager) is an actor, singer, and dramaturg who graduated from The American University and is now based in New York City. Her recent performance credits include *Emily in Love, NY* (LaTiDo), *Revolution in 1* (THEATER IN ASYLUM), *Pirates of Penzance* (Fiddlehead Theater Company), *Gertie* in *Oklahoma!*, and *Irca* in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (Gail Humphries Mardirosian). Previous dramaturgy credits include #CORIOLANUS (THEATER IN ASYLUM) *Hard Times: An American Musical* and *The Irish Cell* (the cell nyc).

JAKE LASSER (TIA Artistic Associate; Dallí; Dramaturg) is a freelance actor and dramaturg. Recent performance work includes in Dara Malina's *Lilith* (Columbia MFA Directing program), Marc Arthur's new play *Mascot for the Dead* (at the Martha Graham Dance Company) and THEATER IN ASYLUM's Fall 2013 tour of *¡Olé!* Jake graduated Columbia University with his BA in February 2012. Jake also performed in and did translations for the first workshop of Ruth Maleczek's *Imagining the Imaginary Invalid* (Mabou Mines.) If ever he doubts his power as an artist to add to the world, he need only look to his amazing collaborators to remind him of the endless expanse of possibility that sits in front of him, waiting to be awakened.

SOFIA LUND (The Dancer) was born in Ohio and raised in Puerto Rico. There she trained as a flamenco dancer with Miss Milagros Vicente and was a member and performer at La Casa de Espana. She studied drama and art history at NYU-Tisch School of the Arts. Since then, she has traveled across the United States, acting in small independent films, and has also completed further drama studies, at the Lee Strasberg Film and Television Institute in Manhattan, and at the Atlantic Acting School in Los Angeles, CA. She recently worked

theater IN ASYLUM

with Polish artist Izabella Gustowska in a film project about the American artist Edward Hopper, which will be screened in museums this coming winter in New York City. Currently, she lives in Los Angeles, CA, and is acting in film and television.

KATIE PALMER (TIA Artistic Director; Choreographer), originally from San Diego, California, graduated from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Drama. She began dancing at age 3 and never stopped, eventually supplementing her love of dance with theater training as an actor, singer/musician, director, designer, and ultimately, a choreographer. In addition to serving as THEATER IN ASYLUM's Co-Artistic Director, Katie has been involved with every TIA production since its inception: NIJINSKY IN ASYLUM (Choreography), TIA's FRANKENSTEIN (Choreography/Performer), *Revolution in 1* (Concept and Choreography), *¡Olé!*, and #CORIOLANUS (Choreography). Recently, she has also musically staged *Sweeney Todd* and *Falsettos* and created the original solo piece *Everybody Dance Now*. Katie also continues to perform not only in THEATER IN ASYLUM productions but also with regional musical theater companies across the country. Very passionate about arts education, Katie works as a teaching artist in New York City and California.

DAN STEARNS (TIA Resident Lighting Designer and Production Manager) is a lighting and scenic designer interested in the intersections of theater, dance, music, and video. With THEATER IN ASYLUM: #CORIOLANUS, *¡Olé!*, *Revolution in 1*, and TIA's FRANKENSTEIN. Other frequent collaborations include Scott Ebersold, Tara Ahmadinejad/Piehole, Pavel Zuštiak/Palissimo, Sanaz Ghajarrahi/Built for Collapse, LeeSaar The Company, and Nylon Fusion Collective, in venues such as BAM, The Joyce, BAC, La MaMa, HERE, Abrons Arts Center, Dixon Place, 3LD, and Columbia University, as well as throughout Eastern Europe. Graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

SALVADOR DALI was born on May 11, 1904 in Figueres, Spain. He began painting at a very young age and had his first public exhibition in 1919. He enrolled at the Academia de San Fernando in Madrid in 1922, where he met Federico Garcia Lorca for the first time, but was eventually expelled after refusing to take his final exams. He began his first surrealist paintings in 1929 and became a major figure in the movement with his "paranoiac-critical method," which allowed the artist to access the subconscious in order to enhance creativity. That same year, he met Gala, his future wife, muse, and business partner. Gala handled all legal matters in his career for the remainder of his life. Though most well known for his paintings, Dalí also produced films, created visual art, wrote books, gave lectures, and became famous world wide because of his eccentric lifestyle. From 1960 to 1974, he designed and created the Dalí Teatro Museo (Dalí Theatre and Museum) in Figueres to house his work. He was buried there after his death on January 23, 1989.

FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA was born on June 5, 1898 in Fuente Voqueros, Spain. He published his first book about his travels through Spain in 1919 while studying law in Granada. That same year he moved to Madrid to focus on his writing and became part of the Generation of '27 along with Salvador Dali. In the 1920s, he received critical acclaim for his numerous volumes of poetry, including *The Gypsy Ballads* (1928), a collection of Spanish folk poems and ballads. In 1929, he traveled to New York and Cuba for a year during which he wrote his collection *A Poet in New York* (1940). In 1931, he was appointed as the director of La Barraca, a mostly student theater company that toured Spain giving free performances of classic Spanish drama as well as Lorca's own work. It was also at this time he wrote his three most

theater IN ASYLUM

famous plays, *Blood Wedding* (1932), *Yerma* (1934), and *The House of Bernarda Alba* (1936). He remained in Spain after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War and was assassinated by Francisco Franco's nationalist soldiers on August 19, 1936.

THEATER IN ASYLUM (TIA) is a New York-based dance-theater company founded in 2010 to provide asylum to highly-charged subjects and characters in need. With thrilling performance, we suspend preconceptions, analyze a subject's origins and leave audiences with newfound understanding and empathy. Suspend beliefs, believe again.

PRAGUE FRINGE FESTIVAL is a nine-day performance festival taking place annually in May and showcasing the work of hundreds of artists from all over the globe in a variety of traditional, and some not-so-traditional(!), venues in the historic center of one of the world's most beautiful cities. Coined Edinburgh's "naughty grandchild", Prague Fringe celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2011. Since its humble beginnings in 2002, the event has continued to grow in size and popularity. From an audience of only 400 people in the first year the event now attracts around 6,000 keen and satisfied attendees each year—all ages and from all walks of life. The 13th Prague Fringe takes place from May 23-31, 2014.

LISTING SUMMARY

What: Prague Fringe Festival 2014: *¡Olé!*

When: Tuesday, May 27–Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 8pm

Where: A Studio Rubín, Malostranské nám. 9, Malá Strana, Prague 1

Admission: Tickets: 150CZK

Tickets: www.ticketstream.cz

Information: www.theaterinasyllum.com | www.praguefringe.com

###

www.theaterinasyllum.com

www.praguefringe.com