PRESENTS

Typhoid Mary, Patient Zero... and the M Factor

Written by ........................................................................................................................ Danielle Dresden
Directed by ....................................................................................................................... Coleman
Poster and Graphics by ................................................................................................. Michael Duffy
Consultant......................................................................................................................... Dr. Judith Leavitt
Music by ............................................................................................................................ Dave Adler
Costumes by ...................................................................................................................... Rebecca Stanley
Stage Manager .................................................................................................................. Steppe
Video Promotion by .......................................................................................................... Downtown Dailies

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Donavon Armbruster
Dr. Kevin Linden, George Soper, Paul McFarlane

Danielle Dresden
Lindsey, Beth Martin, Worker #2, Female Servant

Joshua K. Paffel
Guy Hansen, Gaétan Dugas, Cop #1

Donna Peckett
Dr. Karla Bracknell, Dr. Selma Dritz, Dr. S. Josephine Baker

Robert Helfinstine
Ricky Ensign, Bob, Cop #2

Liz Light
Libby Miller, Mary Mallon, Worker #1, Friend

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DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Given a choice as a director, designer, or actor, I always prefer to work with a new script. There’s something magical about co-creating something for the first time. (I say “co-creating” because theatre is the most collaborative of the arts, where writers, directors, actors, designers, stage managers, and crew all come together to present a work).

Working on this new script, Typhoid Mary, Patient Zero… and the M Factor, has been especially rewarding. First and foremost, I was handed a well-written, provocative script. Add to that my personal connection to the subject matter and the good fortune of assembling a talented cast, and I’m pretty much in director’s heaven.

What happened to Typhoid Mary was wrong. What happened to Gaétan Dugas was wrong. There will be another epidemic, and another one after that, and the opportunity will again present itself for someone to be mistakenly blamed for its spread. I like to believe we might be smarter next time. I thank Danielle Dresden for raising the issue in her well-crafted play.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

This play combines true stories based on the lives of Mary Mallon, better known as Typhoid Mary, and Gaétan Dugas, better known as Patient Zero, with a fictional dramatization of what the start of a new epidemic could look like. It takes place in three distinct historical periods: the early 1900s in New York City; the 1980s in New York City, San Francisco, and Vancouver; and the near future in an imaginary mid-sized, middle-American city. Some characters are based on real historical figures, and others, such as those featured in the contemporary scenes, are completely fictional. Still others, such as Paul McFarlane and Beth Martin, are composites, embodying the many different ways gay activists fought both the AIDS epidemic and the prejudice that fed it. The play goes back and forth in these time periods, as contemporary characters battle a dangerous outbreak, while contending with the personal and political echoes of the past.

Even though it deals with the complex world of epidemiology, the play steers clear of scientific jargon. Other than H7N9, an unusually dangerous strain of bird flu, the most obscure term you’re likely to hear is begova corba, and that’s for a different approach to healing. Begova corba, a traditional dish in Bosnia and a favorite of many Bosnian refugees who came to the United States in the 1990s, is a kind of chicken soup.
Typhoid Mary, Patient Zero... and the M Factor

This play is dedicated to the memory of
Dr. Kay Heggestad, in all her vibrancy, courage, and remarkable humor.
We miss her.

Act I

The Team Takes the Field – A mid-sized American city in the present. The sudden outbreak of a mysterious illness prompts local officials to request assistance from an Epi-Aid Team from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)


The Opposite of Meeting Cute – New York City, 1907, the Walter Bowen household on Park Avenue

Taking Shape – The Epi-Aid Team headquarters in the present

Another Bad Encounter – New York City, 1907, outside Mary Mallon’s apartment

Hospital Scenes & Studies – New York City, 1982, St. Vincent’s Hospital, Los Angeles, 1982, offices of the AIDS cluster study

Seizure – New York City, 1907, the Walter Bowen household on Park Avenue

Presenting – The Epi-Aid Team headquarters in the present

Act II

Time to Say Something – The Epi-Aid Team headquarters in the present

Lines Getting Clearer – New York City, 1982, Gay Men’s Health Crisis offices

A Talking To – San Francisco, 1982, City Health Department

Do You Know Why You’re Here? – New York City, 1907, North Brother Island, Riverside Hospital

The Natives Grow Restless – The Epi-Aid Team headquarters in the present

The Natives Were Restless – Vancouver, 1983, Vancouver Gay Men’s Health Panel

Captured Again – New York City, 1915, near Mary Mallon’s apartment

Service – Vancouver, 1983, AIDS Service Organization offices

Bringing It All Back Home – The Epi-Aid Team headquarters in the present

Epilogue
Artistic innovation and community connection are the forces that drive TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater. Founded by producing artistic directors Danielle Dresden and Donna Peckett in 1985, the Company pursues these goals through creation and presentation of multi-disciplinary theater, arts education, residencies, and outreach activities. TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater tours throughout the U.S. and abroad.

**TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater Board of Directors**
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BIOGRAPHIES

Dave Adler (Composer) cut his teeth with legendary “funky drummer” Clyde Stubblefield. He played keys for Second City, The Annoyance Theater, ImprovOlympic, and ComedySportz. After completing the USC graduate program, he scored Comedy Central’s Upright Citizens Brigade’s first season and joined lounge savant, Richard Cheese, as music director and arranger, appearing on MTV, NBC, and CNN. He recorded and toured nationally with Milwaukee-based songwriter/guitarist Willy Porter. Dave released a self-produced Jewish dance music CD entitled “Let My People Go-Go.” The author of The Total Keyboard Player (Hal Leonard), he is co-founder of the Steely Dan tribute band, Steely Dane. Dave’s single with Josh Lewis, “Show The Love,” was released in 2017.

Donavon Armbruster (Dr. Kevin Linden, George Soper, Paul McFarlane) returns to TAPIT/new works, where he appeared in their production of Tear Up The Front Page. A former member of AEA, he has performed with most of Madison’s theatre companies. Recent appearances include MTG’s Mauritius, CTM’s To Kill A Mockingbird, CCT’s Gypsy!, and Stage One’s Glengarry Glen Ross. As always, all my love to my son Allan xxxx.

Coleman (Director) When Donna and Danielle asked Coleman to direct Typhoid Mary, Patient Zero... and the M Factor they had no way of knowing that he was patient #0034 in an NIH HIV study that started in 1983 and continues today, 34 years later, or that he once served as Executive Director of Howard Brown, Chicago’s gay health clinic. Coleman is thrilled to be involved in this historically accurate and vitally important medical thriller. Coleman is a director, playwright, and actor enmeshed in the Madison theatre community. His newest play, A CONTEST OF WILLS, premieres at Broom Street Theatre in June 2018.

Danielle Dresden (Lindsey, Beth, Worker #2, Female Servant) is co-producing artistic director of TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater. The author of Typhoid Mary, Patient Zero... and the M Factor, she is a published playwright, actor, and residency artist. She was Guest Artist for the Blaine Quarnstrom Playwright Series at the University of Southern Mississippi in 2016 and has served as a featured artist at Alaska’s Last Frontier Theater Conference since 2002. Playwrighting awards include an Honorable Mention for the national 2016 New Works of Merits playwriting contest, a 2010 Wisconsin Arts Board Literary Arts Fellowship, three Council for Wisconsin Writers’ Drama Awards, and a 1999 Finalist Yukon Pacific New Play Award.

Michael Duffy (Graphic Design) is a graphic artist living in Madison, Wisconsin.

Robert Helfinstine (Ricky, Bob, Cop #2) is excited to be working with TAPIT/new works for the first time. Robert recently worked with Mercury Players Theatre as Riff Raff in The Rocky Horror Show, The Wicked Witch in The Wizard of Oz, and is continuing development on a new play he has written.

Dr. Judith Walzer Leavitt (Project Consultant/Advisor/Humanist) is UW-Madison Rupple Bascom and Ruth Bleier Professor, Emerita Medical History, History of Science, and Gender and Women’s Studies. She is the author of Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public’s Health, Make Room for Daddy, The Healthiest City, and Brought to Bed, which just enjoyed its 30th anniversary publication in 2017. She was the consultant on the PBS documentary, Typhoid Mary: The Most Dangerous Woman in America.

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Typhoid Mary, Patient Zero...and the M Factor
Liz Light (Libby, Mary Mallon, Worker #1, Friend) received her BA in Theatre from Ohio State University. Past productions include *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Marat/Sade*, *Arabian Nights*, *Twelfth Night*, *Zombie Prom*, *Rachel’s House*, *I AM THE RAT*, *Ben Franklin & Baron von Steuben vs. the Paine County School Board*, and her original solo show, *Paint Me*. Liz provides direct support to artists with disabilities in a studio setting and in the community in her roles as Artist Mentor and Outreach Coordinator at ArtWorking. She has centered her work in social justice advocacy on community engagement via education and the arts.

Joshua K. Paffel (Guy, Gaétan Dugas, Cop #1) is very grateful to be performing in his first TAPIT/new works production. The excitement of taking part in the realization of a new script, coupled with the opportunity to breathe life into history and lessons that should never be allowed to pass from memory, is very rewarding. Joshua’s most recent stage appearances are at the Bartell Theatre as Emperor Josef in *Stroller’s Amadeus*, Charlie the Corpse in *KRASS’ Morticians in Love*, and the Lion in Mercury’s holiday panto of *The Wizard of Oz*. Joshua’s film credits include *The Raven James Chronicles* and *Mourning in the Cemetery*.

Donna Peckett (Dr. Karla Bracknell, Dr. Selma Dritz, Dr. S. Josephine Baker) is co-founder and co-producing Artistic Director of TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater. She is an independent, multi-disciplinary artist, an activist, and devoted arts educator. She has performed across the US and abroad. A member of the Edgewood College Theater Department faculty, she also teaches for UW-Madison Continuing Studies. Donna received two Wisconsin Arts Board Choreography Fellowships and a Wisconsin Dance Council Award. She has a BA in Art History from UW-Madison. This project resonates deeply with Donna, as her brother, Neil, was an early casualty of the AIDS epidemic.

Rebecca Stanley (Costume Designer) is a local visual and performing artist, a singer, and a costumer for the discerning performer and theater company, especially dancers, villains, cosplayers, and comedians.

Steppe (Stage Manager) His theater career goes way back, though not all the way to Mary Mallon’s time. With all the advances piling up in recent years, he thought by now he’d be able to run the tech from home. But no, one still has to put down the ice cream, get dressed, and show up at the theater. Not only in theater, but also in times of crisis, showing up can be a big thing.

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