

City Garage presents

# **Bad Penny** **by Mac Wellman**

Directed by Frédérique Michel  
Production Design by Charles Duncombe



August 1 — September 7, 2008

# Bad Penny

By Mac Wellman

Directed by Frédérique Michel  
Production Design by Charles Duncombe

## Cast

Cynthia Mance ..... Woman One  
Troy Dunn ..... Man One  
Alisha Nichols ..... Woman Two / The Little Woman  
David E. Frank ..... Man Two  
Kenneth Rudnicki ..... Man Three / Troll  
Mariko Oka ..... Chorus of Six

## Production Staff

Set and Lighting Design ..... Charles Duncombe  
Assistant Director ..... Marie Masquelier  
Costume Design ..... Josephine Poinot  
Sound Design/Publicity Photography ..... Paul Rubenstein  
Light/Sound Operator ..... Irene Casarez

## Time & Place

Central Park, New York City, Today

**The play runs approximately  
60 minutes without intermission.**

## Special Thanks to:

Tim Hanlon  
John Zuehlke

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the Wells Fargo Foundation,  
the Los Angeles County Arts Commission  
and the Santa Monica Arts Commission.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mac Wellman is a poet and playwright living in New York City. His recent plays are: *Bitter Bierce*, at P.S. 122; *Jennie Richee*, with the Ridge Theater, at The Arts at St Ann; *Anything's Dream* at Mulhensberg College; and *Antigone*, with Big Dance Company at Dance Theater Workshop. He has published two novels with Sun & Moon Press: *The Fortuneteller* and *Annie Salem*; Sun & Moon also published *A Shelf In Woop's Clothing*, a book of poems, *From the Other Side of the Century II*, an anthology of plays (co-edited with Douglas Messerli), *Two Plays: The Land Beyond the Forest*, and *Crowtet 1 and 2*, the latter two volumes under the Green Integer imprint. Roof Books has recently published his *Miniature*, a book of

poems. He has received numerous award: NEA, NYFA, Rockefeller, McNight and Guggenheim Fellowships. In 1990 he received an Obie for Best American Play (*Bad Penny*, *Crowbar*, and *Terminal Hip*). In 1991 He received another Obie for *Sincerity Forever*. He has received a Lila Wallace-Readers' Digest Writers Award, and most recently the 2003 Obie for Lifetime Achievement. He is the Donald I. Fine Professor of Play Writing at Brooklyn College and is a member of New Dramatists.

## CAST PROFILES

### Cynthia Mance

Woman One

This marks Cynthia Mance's 11th play over 10 years at City Garage—a thoroughly rewarding run that began with *Wantons, Rogues & Libertines* in 1998. She most recently played the role of the First Love in *The Mission (Accomplished)* and before that was part of the LA Weekly Theatre Award-nominated cast of *The Bald Soprano*. Cynthia received her BFA in Theatre from the University of Florida, and has performed on numerous stages in three states, including a recent performance with the Coda Theater Project in Austin, Texas. She is a member of SAG and AEA, and is happy to call the L.A. theatre scene home.

### Troy Dunn

Man One

Troy was seen earlier this year at City Garage as Debuissou in *The Mission (Accomplished)*. At the 2008 L.A. Weekly Theater Awards he won Best Actor (one-act) for his work here in *Quartet*. In 2006 he appeared here as Agamemnon in both *Agamemnon* and *Iphigenia*, and as Pentheus in *The Bacchae* (all adaptations by Charles L. Mee). He hails from the Midwest and spent most of his professional career in Milwaukee working with the MRT, Theatre X, and Chamber Theatre to name a few. Notable roles include Ariel in *The Tempest*; John Oleanna, Lord Goring in *An Ideal Husband*; Barnum in *Barnum*.

### Alisha Nichols

Woman Two / The Little Woman

Alisha is happy to be working at City Garage. She attended California State University Northridge and received her B.A. in theatre arts. She also studied with the Steppenwolf Theatre Company at summer arts. She previously appeared at City Garage in *Iphigenia*, *Rhinoceros*, *365 Plays/365 (Week 45)*, and *The Bald Soprano*, which was nominated for Best Comedy Ensemble at the 2008 LA Weekly Theatre Awards. Some of her other credits included *The Lesson*, *Balm in Gilead*, and *Polaroid Stories*.

### David E. Frank

Man Two

David is originally from Muncie, Indiana, where he received his degree in Theatre Performance from Ball State University. In addition to his work at BSU, he also appeared with the Vagabond Players and the Third Age Theatre Company. His credits at City Garage include *MedeaText: Los Angeles Despoiled Shore*; *Atrocities: Meetings With Monstrous Men*; *The Skriker*; *Frederick of Prussia/George W's Dream of Sleep*; *The Gertrude Stein Project*; *Katzelmacher*; *OedipusText: Los Angeles*; *La Leçon*; *Don Quixote: Which Was a Dream*; *The Battle: ABC (which won the Best Ensemble award at the 2006 LA Weekly Theatre Awards)*; *Agamemnon*; *The Bacchae*; *Rhinoceros*; *Quartet* (which was nominated for Best One-Act Ensemble at the 2008 LA

Weekly Theatre Awards); *The Bald Soprano* (which was nominated for Best Comedy Ensemble at the 2008 LA Weekly Theatre Awards); and *The Mission (Accomplished)*.

### **Kenneth Rudnicki**

*Man Three / Troll*

Kenneth last appeared onstage in *Iphigenia* at City Garage and has Assistant Directed two Heiner Müller productions with the company. He is also a company member of Moving Arts in Silverlake. Kenneth recently appeared in the film *Change Your Life!* (starring Ugly Betty star Tony Plana) scheduled for release later this year. Mr. Rudnicki may have been involved with the underground guerilla theatre production *I'm Going To Kill the President* and is involved with the [laguerrillagarding.org](http://laguerrillagarding.org). He currently teaches acting and playwriting for various Los Angeles based theatre companies including East LA Classic Theatre, and Theater of Hearts/Youth First.

### **Mariko Oka**

*Chorus*

Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, Mariko Oka graduated with high honors from Gakushuin University with a B.A. degree in American and English Literature. Upon graduation, she immediately pursued her career in acting in the U.S. by attending the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York. Her credits include Himiko in the play *TEA* by Velina Hasu Houston at Theatre of Arts. She also has been featured internationally in various commercials throughout the US and Asia. She has appeared at City Garage in *The Bacchae*, *Rhinoceros*, and *Quartet* (which was nominated for Best One-Act Ensemble at the 2008 LA Weekly Theatre Awards).

## **STAFF PROFILES**

### **Frederique Michel, Artistic Director**

*Director*

Frederique was born in Paris and studied theatre at the Conservatoire. She has led the company as Artistic Director since its founding in 1987. She received a Dramalogue Award for her direction of *Dissident*. Her 1998 production of *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux* was nominated for four L.A. Weekly Theater Awards, including Best Director. She was nominated again for Best Director for *MedeaText: Los Angeles/Despoiled Shore* (2000). In 2005 she won the LA Weekly Award for Best Direction (one-act) for *La Leçon*. Her production of *The Battle: ABC* was nominated for Best Direction and received the 2006 LA Weekly Award for Best Ensemble. She once again won Best Direction (one-act) for *Quartet* at the 2008 LA Weekly Theater Awards and was also nominated for her direction of *The Bald Soprano*.

### **Charles A. Duncombe, Managing Director**

*Production Designer*

Charles is a writer, director and designer. He began his partnership with Frederique Michel in 1985, and he has designed all of her work since then. He has won two Dramalogue awards for production design and in 1999 won the L.A. Weekly Theater Award for Best Lighting Design for *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux* (1998). He was nominated for two L.A. Weekly awards for *MedeaText: Los Angeles/Despoiled Shore* (2000): Best Adaptation, and Best Set. He was nominated again for two L.A. Weekly awards for *Frederick of Prussia/George W's Dream of Sleep* (2001): Best Adaptation, and Production Design. His play *Patriot Act* won the Fratti/Newman Award for Political Playwriting in 2005 and will

open in New York at the Castillo Theater during September as part of their 2008 season. He won the 2006 LA Weekly Theatre Award for Best Production Design for the entire *Three by Mee* season and was nominated again in 2007 for Production Design for *Quartet*.

### **Marie Masquelier**

*Assistant Director*

Marie was born in France and studied French literature at Hypokhagnes. She is proud to be spending her summer assistant directing at City Garage. She will return to France to the University of Bordeaux to get her degree in History. She plans to become a teacher.

### **Irene Casarez**

*Light/Sound Operator*

Irene appeared in *The Gertrude Stein Project*, and was last seen on stage at City Garage in *The Bacchae*. She worked in the booth for *Iphigenia*, *Rhinoceros*, *Quartet*, *The Bald Soprano*, and *The Mission (Accomplished)*. She is delighted to be working with the company again.

### **Paul Rubenstein, General Manager**

*Sound Designer / Publicity Photographer*

Paul has performed in 10 productions at City Garage. He received a Backstage West Garlands Award Honorable Mention for his work here in the US premiere of Ionesco's haunting valedictory, *Journeys Among The Dead*. Most recently he appeared in *The Battle: ABC*, "Best Ensemble" winner at the 2006 LA Weekly Theater Awards.



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