

City Garage presents

Beaumarchais **The Marriage of Figaro**

**A new English language version
for City Garage by Frédérique Michel
and Charles Duncombe**

Directed by Frédérique Michel
Production Design by Charles Duncombe



April 16—May 30, 2010

Beaumarchais The Marriage of Figaro

A new English language version for City Garage
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Cast

Troy Dunn	<i>Figaro</i>
Janae Burris.....	<i>Suzanne</i>
David E. Frank.....	<i>The Count</i>
Cynthia Mance.....	<i>The Countess</i>
Amelia Rose Blaire	<i>Cherubin</i>
DonnaAnn Ward	<i>Marceline</i>
Bo Roberts	<i>Bartholo</i>
Brennan Cipollone	<i>Bazile</i>
Rafael Clements	<i>Antonio / Don Guzman</i>
Maria Christina Benthall	<i>Fanchette</i>

Production Staff

Set and Lighting Design	Charles Duncombe
Assistant Directors	Maria Christina Benthall, Brennan Cipollone
Costume Design.....	Josephine Poinot
Sound Design/Publicity Photography.....	Paul Rubenstein
Master Builder	Troy Dunn
Light/Sound Operator	Irene Casarez

Place & Time

The Count's Estate; In a time when such things happen

***The play runs approximately 110 minutes
with a 10 minute intermission.***

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais was born on January 24, 1732 in Paris. Though a watchmaker's son, he became a music teacher to a daughter of King Louis XV and the King soon sent him as a secret agent to Britain. His exploits on the King's behalf included supplying arms and materials to the American revolutionaries. *The Marriage of Figaro* was first produced in 1784 (after initially being banned in 1781 by Louis XVI). His *Figaro* plays criticized the nobility and were deeply sympathetic to the lower classes. Some have said that *The Marriage of Figaro* may have helped spark the French Revolution. Despite his support for the Revolution, Beaumarchais' association with the royal court and his wealth made him suspect. He was forced into exile in 1792, but was allowed to return to Paris four years later. He died on May 18, 1799 at the age of 67 and is buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris

CAST PROFILES



Troy Dunn

Figaro

Troy has appeared many times here since he first joined the company as Agamemnon in *Agamemnon: Pentheus* in *The Baccae*, Agamemnon in *Iphigenia*, Berenger in *Rhinoceros*, Valmont in *Quartet* (winner, LA Weekly Theater Award for Best Performance: One Act), Mr. Martin in *The Bald Soprano* (extended), Baritone Sax in *365*, Debuissou in *The Mission (Accomplished)*, First Man in *Bad Penny*, Dorante in *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, and Talthybius in *The Trojan Women*.



Janae Burris

Suzanne

An L.A. native, Janae is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts School of Theater. This is her first performance with City Garage. She currently performs standup comedy around Los Angeles including at The Hollywood Improv and Comedy Store. She was a semi-finalist in the 2009 California's Funniest Female Contest. Other memorable productions include *Slavey* directed by Bart De Lorenzo, *Fiction* written and directed by Tony winner Mark "Stew" Stewart and *Peach Blossom Fan* performed at the REDCAT in Downtown L.A.



David E. Frank

The Count

David is originally from Muncie, Indiana, where he received his degree in Theatre Performance from Ball State University. His most memorable performances at City Garage include: *Medea*; *Text: Los Angeles Despoiled Shore*; *Atrocities: Meetings With Monstrous Men*; *Frederick of Prussia/George W's Dream of Sleep*; *The Battle: ABC* [Best Ensemble: 2006 LA Weekly Theatre Awards]; *The Bald Soprano*, *The Mission (Accomplished)* [2009 LA Weekly Best Ensemble nominee]; *The School for Wives*, and *The Trojan Women*.



Cynthia Mance

The Countess

This marks Cynthia's 16th play over ten years at City Garage. She just finished playing the roles of Chryseis and the Reporter in *The Trojan Women*. The Wife in *The Chairs*. Other recent roles here include Georgette in *The School for Wives*; Nicole in *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, Woman One in *Bad Penny*, First Love in the *The Mission (Accomplished)* [nominated for a 2009 LA Weekly Theatre Award for Best Ensemble] and Mrs. Martin in the LA Weekly Theatre Award-nominated *The Bald Soprano*.



Amelia Rose Blaire

Cherubin

Amelia Rose is the youngest-ever graduate of The Sanford Meisner Center's 2-year program in NoHo. She studies with Lindsay Crouse and is a graduate of The Atlantic Acting School's NYC 2-year conservatory and Atlantic's L.A. Program. She debuted at City Garage in *The Trojan Women*. Other credits include *The Seagull*, *All Over*, *Holes*, and David Fincher's short *Stand Up To Cancer*.



DonnaAnn Ward

Marceline

DonnaAnn Ward, a Baltimore native, has performed in Baltimore, Washington D.C., New York, Kyoto and Los Angeles. Favorite roles include the slew she played in *The Prozac in Pandora's Box*, Lorraine: *A Lie of The Mind*, Beatrice: *Much Ado About Nothing*, Titania: *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Grace Duncan:

Pterodactyls. Her one-woman show, *Body Language: A One Woman Show In Three Acts* is being reworked and will burst free sometime in late 2010.



Bo Roberts

Bartholo

Bo Roberts has previously performed at City Garage in *Blood On A Cat's Neck*; *The Universal Wolf*; *Wantons, Rogues and Libertines*; *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux*; *Journeys Among the Dead*; *Pre-Paradise, Sorry Now*; *Mariage Blanc*; *The Fetishist*; *Katzelmacher*; *The Empire Builders*; *Patriot Act: A Reality Show*; *The Battle: ABC* (which won the Best Ensemble award at the 2006 LA Weekly Theatre Awards); *Agamemnon*; *The Bacchae*; *Rhinoceros*; *The Bald Soprano*, *The Mission (Accomplished)* [nominated for a 2009 LA Weekly Theatre Award for Best Ensemble], *The School for Wives*, *The Chairs*, and *The Trojan Women*.



Brennan Cipollone

Bazile

Brennan is making his stage debut at City Garage after serving as an assistant director here for *The Trojan Women*. Previously, he has performed in several one-acts at Hunger Artist Theatre and has performed as Simon Stimson in Rude Guerrilla's production of *Our Town*. Brennan is a graduate of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at UC Irvine.



Rafeal Clements

Antonio / Don Guzman

Los Angeles Theater: *The Swine Show*, *43 Plays for 43 Presidents—Sacred Fools*. *The Changeling*—Independent Shakespeare Company. New York Theater: The Public Theater, Target Margin Theater Company, HERE Arts Center, The New Federal Theater, The Hotel Savant, Ensemble Studio Theater, Prospect Theater Company, Circle Rep. Regional Theater: The Alley Theater, Playmakers Rep, Clarence Brown Company, Indiana Rep, Portland Stage Company, Hartford Stage Company, Yale Rep, Berkshire Theater Festival, The Carpetbag Theater. Television and Film: *Law and Order*, *As The World Turns*, *Another World*, *New York News*, *The Heartland Series*, *Bandwagon*, *I Was On Mars*, *Fireflies*, *The Process*.



Maria Christina Benthall

Fanchette

Maria Christina Benthall debuted at City Garage in *The Trojan Women*. She was born in London and spent her teenage years growing up in Dubai. She led a life of dance and musical theatre, working both in Dubai and England, then spontaneously decided to move to Los Angeles. She studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and graduated in March 2009.

*If you would like to contact any of these performers for professional purposes, please email us:
citygarage@citygarage.org*

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*. At the 2009 LA Weekly Theater Awards, she received (along with Charles Duncombe) the "Queen of the Angels Award" for "decades of directing and producing scintillating, politically charged theater that challenges audiences to reconsider their assumptions about the nature of politics and the nature of theater itself."

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/GeorgeW'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 opened in New York at the Castillo Theater 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*. In 2009 he was nominated for Best Adaptation for *The Mission (Accomplished)*. At the 2009 LA Weekly Theater Awards, he received (along with Frederique Michel) the "Queen of the Angels Award" for their contributions to Los Angeles theater. Most recently he was nominated for an LA Weekly Theater Award for his adaptation of *The Trojan Women*.

Josephine Poinot

Costume Design

Josephine was born in Paris. She has been working with City Garage since 1987 as a costumer designer and won the 2008 LA Weekly Theater Award for Costume Design for her work here on *The Bourgeois Gentlehomme* by Moliere.

Irene Casarez

Light/Sound Operator

Irene appeared here at City Garage as the Flutist in *The Gertrude Stein Project* and *The Bacchae*. She has worked in the booth for *Iphigenia, Rhinoceros, Quartet, The Bald Soprano, The Mission (Accomplished), Bad Penny, The Bourgeois Gentlehomme, The School for Wives, The Chairs* and *The Trojan Women*.

Paul Rubenstein, General Manager

Sound Design, Publicity Photography

In 2009 Paul won the LA Weekly Theater Award for Sound Design for his work on *The Mission: Accomplished* here at City Garage. In addition to his work behind the scenes, Paul has also performed in 10 productions at City Garage. His turn as Jean in Ionesco's haunting valedictory *Journeys Among the Dead* recived a Backstage Garlands Honorable Mention. He most recently appeared here in *The Battle: ABC*, "Best Ensemble" winner at the 2006 LA Weekly Theater Awards.

ABOUT CITY GARAGE

The company at City Garage consists of about twenty actors, a director, a general manager, and a dramaturg/designer. All casting is done within the company. The idea is to do interesting theater that makes people think.

City Garage has had a couple dozen "Critic's Choice" or "Pick of the Week" productions. It received four L.A. Weekly Theatre Award nominations for its production *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux*, and four more for *MedeaText: Los Angeles/Despoiled Shore*, and another two for *Frederick of Prussia/George W's Dream of Sleep*. Its staging of *The Empire Builders* by Boris Vian was nominated for Production of the Year, while its revival of Ionesco's *The Lesson* received nominations in both direction and performance categories, winning the award for Best Direction. Heiner Müller's *The Battle: ABC* was nominated for Best Direction and Best Ensemble in 2006 and won the Ensemble award. In 2007, its *Three by Mee* season received four *LA Weekly* nominations, including Production of the Year for *Agamemnon*. The season as a whole won in the Production Design category. In 2008, the company received seven nominations in six categories, including Best Ensemble (one-act) and Best Comedy Ensemble, and took home awards for Best Direction (one-act) and Best Performance (one-act). In 2009, the company earned six nominations including one for Best Ensemble and Best Adaptation for *The Mission (Accomplished)*. In that same year, company founders Frédérique Michel and Charles Duncombe won the *LA Weekly's* "Queen of the Angles" award for decades of contributions to L.A. theater.

The company's work with Fassbinder texts has been featured in two German documentaries: *Fassbinder in Hollywood*, and *Fassbinder: Love, Life, and Celluloid*. Three of its Heiner Müller productions have been discussed in the book *Müller in America* published in New York in 2003. In the summer of 2004 in New York City, the company received an Otto, a national award for political theatre (past recipients include Laurie Anderson, Bread and Puppets Theater, Steppenwolf Theater, and Heiner Müller). It was honored that year alongside Robert Wilson, El Teatro Campesino, and Charles Mee.

RECENTCITY GARAGE PRODUCTIONS



Top *The School for Wives* (2009) Cynthia Mance, Bo Roberts, and Kenneth Rudnicki

Middle *The Bourgeois Gentlehomme* (2008) Troy Dunn and Jeff Atik

Bottom *The Trojan Women* (2009) ensemble of women and soldiers



COMING SUMMER 2010

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Open registration for this ongoing, year-round workshop. After the initial eight weeks, participants may sign up in four-week increments to continue the program.

The cost for the first eight weeks is \$650; for students invited to continue, each additional four weeks will be \$250. Enrollment is now open. Class sizes are limited. Those who are accepted will be contacted by Ms. Michel.

*Submit inquiry with resume to:
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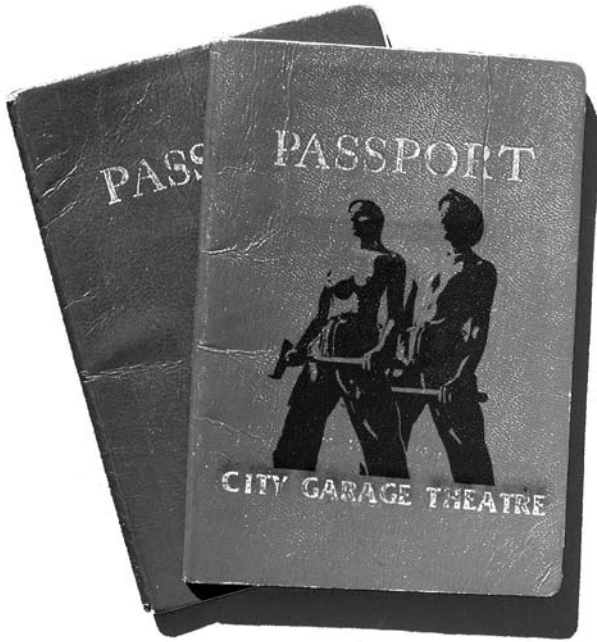
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by Charles Duncombe

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