

City Garage presents

Paradise Park **by Charles L. Mee**

Directed by Frédérique Michel
Production Design by Charles Duncombe



September 17 — November 7, 2010

A Special Note From City Garage

Dear Friends of City Garage,

Ce n'est qu'un au revoir.

City Garage is proud to welcome you to a last, magical voyage with us in our current space. We thank you for your support over all of these years, and want to celebrate with you our fifteen years in the alley. We'll be announcing soon the details of our plans for the new location. Get on the boat and let your imagination take you into a unique world of carnival. We are looking toward a better future where we hope you will follow us. So enjoy the show. We did indeed, creating it. Our love and appreciation goes out to you. You are the ones who make us what we are.

A bientôt et merci from all of us.

*Frederique Michel, Charles Duncombe, Paul Rubenstein
and the company at City Garage*

Paradise Park

by Charles L. Mee

Directed by Frédérique Michel
Production Design by Charles Duncombe

Cast

Jeff Atik.....	<i>Ticket Seller/Fairy/Monsieur Bear/Pizza Man</i>
Troy Dunn	<i>Vikram</i>
David E. Frank.....	<i>Mortimer/Charlie</i>
Lena Kouyoumdjian	<i>Violinist</i>
Cynthia Mance	<i>Nancy</i>
Tim Orona	<i>Jorge</i>
Bo Roberts	<i>Morton</i>
Kenneth Rudnicki	<i>Benny</i>
Ann Stocking	<i>Ventriloquist</i>
KC Wright	<i>Darling</i>
Reha Zemani	<i>Ella</i>

Production Staff

Set and Lighting Design	Charles Duncombe
Assistant Director	Lena Kouyoumdjian
Costume Design	Josephine Poinot
Sound Design/Publicity Photography.....	Paul Rubenstein
Master Builder	Troy Dunn
Light/Sound Operator	Irene Casarez

Place & Time

Paradise Park, Now

***The play runs approximately 80 minutes
with no intermission.***

Background images from the work of Martin Dohrn, Virginia Lee Hunter, Thomas Marent, Doug Perrine, and Howard Schatz.

*Charles Mee's work is made possible by the support of
Richard B. Fisher and Jeanne Donovan Fisher.*

*Presented by special arrangement with
International Creative Management.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chuck Mee has written *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Wintertime*, *Belle Epoque*, *Vienna: Lusthaus*, *Snow in June*, *A Perfect Wedding*, *Limonade tous les Jours*, and a number of other plays in addition to his work inspired by Greek plays: *Big Love*, *True Love*, *Orestes 2.0*, *Trojan Women A Love Story* and others. His plays have been performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, American Repertory Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, the Public Theatre, Lincoln Center, the Humana Festival, Steppenwolf, and other places in the United States as well as in Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Vienna, Istanbul and elsewhere. His complete works are available at www.charlesmee.org.

CAST PROFILES



Jeff Atik

Ticket Seller/Fairy/Monsieur Bear/Pizza Man

Jeff Atik played Monsieur Jourdan [nominated for LA Weekly Theatre Award for Best Comedic Performance] in Frederique Michel's acclaimed production of *The Bourgeois Gentilhomme* at City Garage. He also appeared here in *The Bald Soprano* and *The School for Wives*. Jeff is a former company member of Milan's Teatro i and is a graduate of Yale Law School.



Troy Dunn

Vikram

Troy has appeared many times here since he first joined the company as Agamemnon in *Agamemnon*: Pentheus in *The Baccae*, Agamemnon in *Iphiginia*, 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 Gentilhomme*, and Talthylbius in *The Trojan Women*.



David E. Frank

Mortimer/Charlie

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*.



Lena Kouyoumdjian

Violinist / Asst. Director

Paradise Park is Lena's first production with City Garage. She is a new member of the company, and a fresh graduate of the USC School of Theatre. In addition to her university training, she has studied at BADA in London, ACT in San Francisco, and Berkeley Rep in Berkeley.



Cynthia Mance

Nancy

This marks Cynthia's 17th play over 10 years at City Garage. Her most recent roles include *The Countess* in *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Chryseis* and the *Reporter* in *The Trojan Women*, *Semiramis* in *The Chairs*, *Georgette* in *The School for Wives*, *Nicole* in *The Bourgeois Gentleman*, *Woman One* in *Bad Penny*, *First Love* in *The Mission (Accomplished)* [nominated for an LA Weekly Theatre Award for Best Ensemble] and *Mrs. Martin* in *The Bald Soprano* [nominated for an LA Weekly Theatre Award for Best Comedy Ensemble].



Tim Orona

Jorge

Tim Orona (Jorge) is thrilled to be working at City Garage. Other LA theater credits include: *Paris* in *Romeo & Juliet* at The Barnsdall Art Park, *The Car Plays 2009* and *A Good Smoke* for Moving Arts, *The Night Of The Iguana* at The Fountain Theatre, and three LA Opera productions in 2008, including *The Fly*, directed by David Cronenberg. Film: *Stand Up For Justice* (Visual Communications) and *A Clean, Well Lighted Place* for AFI. Web: *The Joshua Tree Show*.



Bo Roberts

Morton

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*.



Kenneth Rudnicki

Benny

Mr. Rudnicki's City Garage credits include appearances in *Iphigenia*, *365*, *Bad Penny*, *School for Wives*, *The Bourgeois Gentlehomme*, and *The Trojan Women*, as well as assistant directing the most recent Müller productions. Kenneth received his BA from UCSC and has also trained at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, ACT, and Improv Olympic. He currently teaches acting and play writing for various L.A.-based theatre companies and is involved with Los Angeles Guerrilla Gardening.



Ann Stocking

Ventriloquist

This marks Ann's second appearance at City Garage after having taken over the role of Marceline earlier this year in *The Marriage of Figaro*. She has performed at some of Los Angeles' finest theaters, including the Mark Taper Forum, the Falcon Theatre, and the Geffen Playhouse. Ann recently reprised the role of Gretty in a critically-acclaimed performance in *Gretty Good Time* by John Belluso, a co-production by Theatre Alliance and The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. this Summer. MFA Acting, UCLA.



KC Wright

Darling

Paradise Park is KC's first production with City Garage. She is a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, where favorite projects included: *Dark Eden* (world premiere), *The Other Shore*, *Don Carlos*, *The White Devil*, and *The*

Typographers' Dream. A DC native, she got her start as a 12-year-old sociopath in Venus Theatre's World Premiere of *Ugly Ducklings*, and went on to perform at Fords' Theatre and the DC Fringe Festival. This marks KC's Los Angeles stage debut.



Reha Zamani

Ella

Reha Zamani is proud to be on stage for the second time at City Garage. She first appeared here in last fall's LA Times Critic's Choice "Trojan Women." After moving to Los Angeles from Sacramento, Reha has been in numerous short films, such as "A Long Way Home," Cleveland International Film festival winner, "Heal," and "Ferseshteh." She has been acting on stage since 2001.

*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*.

Paul Rubenstein, General Manager

Sound Design, Publicity Photography

In 2009 Paul won the LA Weekly Theater Award for Sound Design for his work on City Garage's production of *The Mission: Accomplished*. In addition to his work behind the scenes, Paul has performed in 10 productions here. He received a Backstage West Garlands Award Honorable Mention for his work in the U.S. premiere of Ionesco's haunting valedictory, *Journeys Among The Dead*, and last appeared in *The Battle: ABC*, "Best Ensemble" winner at the 2006 LA Weekly Theater Awards.

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 Gentleman*, *The School for Wives*, *The Chairs*, *The Trojan Women*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*.

ABOUT CITY GARAGE

The company at City Garage has been producing innovative, award-winning theater in Santa Monica for nearly 25 years. It has had more than two 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* (1998, four more for *MedeaText: Los Angeles/Despoiled Shore* (2000), and another two for *Frederick of Prussia/George W's Dream of Sleep* (2001). Its staging of *The Empire Builders* (2004) by Boris Vian was nominated by the Weekly for Production of the Year, while its revival of Ionesco's *The Lesson* (2007) 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 Angels" award for decades of contributions to L.A. theater. Its new versions of the Moliere classic *The Bourgeois Gentillhome* (2009) and Beaumarchais's *The Marriage of Figaro* (2010) were both "Critic's Choice" in the LA Times, as was its recent original work about human rights atrocities in Darfur *The Trojan Women: LA/Darfur Dreamscape*.

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, 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.

RECENT CITY GARAGE PRODUCTIONS

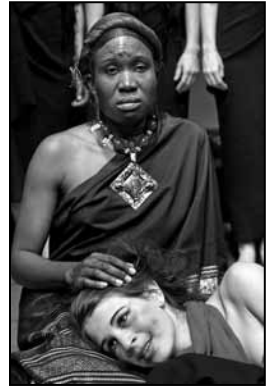


Top *The Marriage of Figaro* (2010) Cynthia Mance, David E. Frank, Brennan Cipollone, Troy Dunn, and Janae Burris

Middle *The Trojan Women* (2009) June Carryl and Amelia Rose Blaire

Bottom *Quarter* (2007) Sharon Gardner and Troy Dunn

All photos by Paul Rubenstein





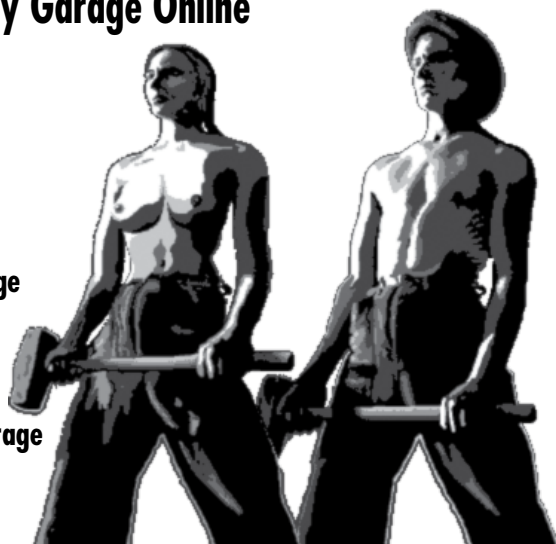
City Garage Managing Director Charles Duncombe and Artistic Director Frédérique Michel. *(photo by Star Foreman)*

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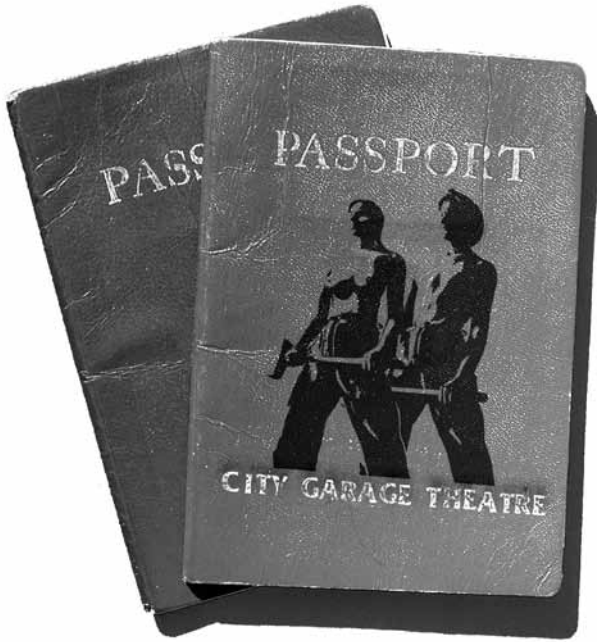
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