



presents

SCOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME

A Play By FRANK McGUINNESS

KAMLOOPS MARCH 6-8
448 VICTORIA ST.
BACK ALLEY ENTRANCE

VANCOUVER MARCH 12-23
RENEGADE STUDIOS
125 EAST 2nd AVE.

ALL SHOWS AT 8
ALL TICKETS \$15

FOR TICKETS AND INFO GO TO
www.dancingmonkeypresents.com

DIRECTED BY
Julie McIsaac

FEATURING
Kirk Smith
Ashley O'Connell
Jay Clift

*AN ENGLISHMAN,
AN IRISHMAN,
AND AN AMERICAN
ARE HOSTAGES
IN LEBANON.*

*WITH NO IDEA
WHY THEY'RE
THERE OR IF
THEY'LL EVER
BE RELEASED,
THEY MUST FIND
A WAY TO SURVIVE
THEIR SITUATION,
THEIR CAPTORS,
AND EACH OTHER.*

"Brings its own light
touch to grim matters."
THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A beautiful play."
THE NEW YORKER

PRESS RELEASE

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KAMLOOPS ACTOR JOINS FORCES WITH FELLOW ARTISTS TO BRING INDEPENDENT, PROFESSIONAL THEATRE TO KAMLOOPS, USING ALTERNATIVE SETTINGS TO CREATE A UNIQUE AND INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE.

If you've seen a play at Western Canada Theatre or Project X in the last few years, you've probably seen **Kirk Smith** on stage. He has appeared in several productions, including *Les Misérables*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *My Fair Lady* and *Seussical* at WCT, and *Romeo and Juliet*, *Compleat Wrks of Wilm Shkspr (Abridged)*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Twelfth Night* and *Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead* at Project X. Kirk grew up in Kamloops and travelled to New York City to attend acting school at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. After graduation, he spent a year working in the United States and then moved to Vancouver.

Over the course of his career, he has had an opportunity to work in a variety of theatres across the country, where he has met many talented performers and artists. In recent years, working in Kamloops, he has noted outstanding support for the theatre from a growing community that comes from a variety of demographics, a community that seems to have a desire to see dynamic works and be challenged from time to time. Though the other companies do a stellar job of offering these things, Kirk has also noted that there is room for more. A lot of the most exciting work that is happening in theatre right now is being done by smaller, independent companies who are pushing the boundaries of typical theatre. Smith has decided to team up with some of the talented people he has met over the years to help bring some of this energy to Kamloops.

Dancing Monkey Presents is an "Equity Collective," a group of professional theatre artists with a mixed background of performance, direction and producing who have come together to produce and perform in **Frank McGuinness'** play *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. This is a play that they are all passionate about and excited to share with audiences in both **Kamloops and Vancouver**. One really interesting element of this production is the use of non-traditional spaces. This is a show about three men who are hostages in Lebanon. By taking the production out of the theatre and putting it in alternative spaces with smaller audiences (no more than 60 per night,) the idea is to give the audience a sense that they are actually in the room with these guys. In Kamloops, the venue is an empty commercial space on Victoria Street, and to add to the mood, the audience will enter through the back alley.

The company consists of **Julie McIsaac**, who is directing the play, and Smith, **Ashley O'Connell** and **Jay Clift**, who are performing. All four with share producing and design duties. McIsaac, a talented performer in her own right, is no stranger to the independent theatre scene, participating in similar 'collective' productions with companies like The Honest Fishmongers and Relephant Theatre. She has directed productions of *Ordinary Days* and *The Exquisite Hour*, and she recently assistant directed a hugely successful production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Bard On The Beach. Ashley O'Connell appeared in Kamloops in 2008 in the Rocky Mountaineer Rail-tours production, *No Noose is Good Noose*. He has returned to BC from Toronto to appear in this show, and this summer he will appear in The Arts Club Theatre's production of *Spamalot*. He has worked all over Canada for companies such as The Arts Club, Bard On The Beach, Gateway Theatre, Persephone Theatre, The Citadel Theatre, Manitoba Theatre Centre and more. This is the first play in Canada for which he gets to use his native Dublin accent. Jay Clift, a Summerland native, is a real up-and-comer. A graduate of Studio 58, Jay has appeared in *Smalltown: A Pickup Musical* with Theatre SKAM and *Us and Everything We Own* for Twenty Something. His performance in Tracy Letts' *Bug*, now playing at Hardline Productions, is getting rave reviews.

The play itself is not new, but it's startling how current it still seems some twenty years later. How often do we still hear of people losing months or years of their lives in captivity, pawns in one struggle or another? *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* follows three men - an Irishman (O'Connell), an Englishman (Smith) and an American (Clift) - who are kidnapped and held hostage near Beirut. None of them are directly involved in the struggles there, but as Westerners they make valuable bargaining chips. Over their time there, they struggle to maintain their sanity, while coming to terms with their situation and dealing with their feelings towards their captors and fellow captives. The play explores themes of loneliness, fear, brotherhood, faith, racism, blame, and forgiveness. These themes may seem heavy, but McGuinness' writing is so full of wit and absurdity that you will laugh as often as you cry. It's no wonder that Frank McGuinness is one of Ireland's most celebrated playwrights.

For more information on the show and the team go to www.dancingmonkeypresents.com

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Media Contact: **KIRK SMITH** ph: **604-312-8026** or email: **kirk@dancingmonkey.ca**