

ACT THEATRE PRESENTS

the ugly :

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY

Mike Daisey

DIRECTED BY

Jean-Michele Gregory







ACT THEATRE PRESENTS

It takes a great audience to make great theatre.

For forty years each and every patron at ACT has played a critical role in the theatre. Purchasing a subscription or even one ticket is a key investment in the future. Making a donation is equally important. Both ensure the promise of exceptional theatre for years to come.

In 2005, as we celebrate our 40th Birthday, we hope we can count on you for both. To do so, or for more information, visit our website or give us a call.

Our plays — and our future — depend on you.

the ugly :american

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY

Mike Daisey

DIRECTED BY

Jean-Michele Gregory





Welcome to ACT Theatre's 41st Season -A Season to Embrace!



We are very proud that Mike Daisey and Jean-Michele Gregory have agreed to allow us to present the world premiere of their new work, The Ugly American. Great theatre is all about great stories told well, and telling stories eloquently is exactly what Mike does so splendidly. The fact that he is sharing a story about theatre makes it even juicier!

Kurt Beattie describes Mr. Daisey as a "lightning rod" - if something remarkable is going to happen, it will happen to Mike. Our good fortune is his willingness to share those experiences with us his grateful audience. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride!

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PHOTOS OF ACT THEATRE SEATS: Brian Fleming | brianfleming.com



Susan Trapnell MANAGING DIRECTOR

ACT THEATRE PRESENTS

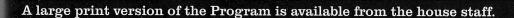
Welner! the ugly ** american

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Mike Daisey

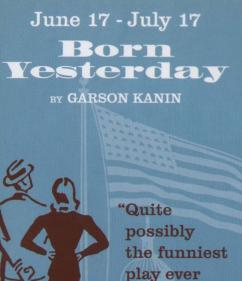
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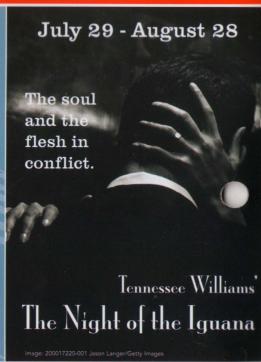
> June 4 - 26, 2005 **OPENING NIGHT** June 8, 2005





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written."

WOODY ALLEN

The Ugly American CREATED & PERFORMED BY MIKE DAISEY

JUNE 17 - JULY 17:

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JULY 29 - AUGUST 28:

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Vincent in Brixton

BY NICHOLAS WRIGHT

OCTOBER 14 - NOVEMBER 13:

Flight

BY CHARLAYNE WOODARD

THE COMPANY

Mike Daisey

Creator/Performer

Jean-Michele Gregory

Matthew Smucker Michael Wellborn

Scenic Designer Lighting Designer

Director

Jeffrey K. Hanson* Lynne Ellis

Erin B. Zatloka

Production Stage Manager Assistant Lighting Designer

Production Assistant

*Denotes membership in Actors' Equity Association, the professional union for actors and stage managers in the United States.

There will be one intermission.

Audience members are cordially reminded to silence all electronic devices such as cell phones, watch alarms, and pagers prior to the performance.

All forms of photography and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited.

Please do not walk on the stage before, during or after the show.

ABOUT MIKE DAISEY



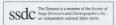
Mike Daisey (Creator/Performer) is a monologuist who works in an extemporaneous fashion, always without a script, composing entirely before live audiences, telling and re-telling his stories night after night until the shows find their shape. It was through this process that his hit show 21 Dog Years was forged. That monologue, about the years he spent at the Internet giant Amazon.com, began at the Speakeasy Backroom and went on to play for six months Off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre and to the regional stages of Seattle's Intiman Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and Portland Center Stage. In 2004 Mr. Daisey launched the new series All Stories Are

Fiction, during which he created 13 new monologues in as many weeks at New York's Performance Space 122. He has since created new episodes of All Stories Are Fiction for ACT Theatre and Portland Center Stage, and returned for a second season of new monologues at P.S. 122, all of which can be heard at Audible.com. Mr. Daisey's other monologues include Monopoly!, I Miss the Cold War, and Wasting Your Breath. His film Layover will be shot this summer in Copenhagen through the Danish Film Institute and Zentropa, and he'll be recording The Ugly American for broadcast on the BBC this fall. He can be heard as a regular commentator for National Public Radio's Day To Day and is currently at work on a second book, Happiness Is Overrated, a collection of essays dedicated to the proposition its title asserts.

ACT OPERATES UNDER REEMENTS WITH HE FOLLOWING:

SEBA







ACT Theatre is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, Theatre Puget Sound, and is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group. ACT is also a member of the Downtown Seattle Association. This theatre operates under an agreement between LORT and Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jean-Michele Gregory (Director) works with solo performers and writers to create works based on biographical material, and since 1998 has served as constant collaborator, dramaturg and coconspirator on all of Mike Daisey's monologues. She directed 21 Dog Years from its inception in the garages of Seattle to its premiere Off-Broadway, as well as productions in London, Edinburgh, Intiman Theatre, Berkeley Rep and Portland Center Stage, and she continues to work closely with Mr. Daisey in the development and shaping of new shows, including Wasting Your Breath, I Miss the Cold War, Monopoly! and the ongoing series All Stories Are Fiction. This winter she'll be teaching a course on storytelling and solo performance at Colby College. Ms. Gregory is a contributing writer for the New York Sun and is currently writing a memoir about her grandmother's life in pre-war Poland and the fantastic series of events that led her family to Texas.

Matthew Smucker (Scenic Designer) Recent designs include: For ACT, Bach at Leipzig earlier this season and Jumpers and Black Coffee last season; Living Out for Seattle Repertory Theatre Nora and Blue/Orange for Intiman Theatre; The Secret Garden, The Outsiders and The Gingerbread Man for Seattle Children's Theatre; Living Out for Missouri Repertory Theatre; No Exit and Saving Grace for Tacoma Actors Guild; Strange Attractors and G-D Doesn't Pay Rent Here for The Empty Space; Cry the Beloved Country and Giant for Book-It Repertory Theatre; Cosi fan Tutte and Il Matrimonio Segreto for the University of Washington School of Music; and The Changeling for Annex Theatre at the Rendezvous Jewel Box. As a resident designer and company member at Annex Theatre, Matthew has created over a dozen designs with the company including Sex, Beatrice, Bartleby and The Glory Booty Club. Matthew is currently an adjunct faculty member at Seattle University and a teaching artist at the Seattle Center High School in design and production. Matthew received his MFA in scenic design from the University of Washington.

Michael Wellborn (Lighting Designer) is pleased to return to ACT where his previous designs have included *Bach at Leipzig, A Christmas Carol* (for the last several years), *Avenue X, The Language of Flowers, Das Barbecü* and *Agnes Smedley: Our American Friend.* Michael has also designed for Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, Empty Space Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Tacoma Opera, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and The American University of Cairo, Egypt. Michael is on the faculty of the University of Washington Dance Program, where he is also the lighting designer. With Spectrum Dance Theater and the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, his lighting designs for dance have toured the U.S., Mexico, Northern Europe and Southeast Asia.

Jeffrey K. Hanson (Stage Manager) stage-managed his first production at ACT, Lloyd's Prayer, in 1990. Now in his 16th season, he has stage-managed over 40 ACT productions including Bach at Leipzig, Alki, Jumpers, Fiction, A Christmas Carol, Absurd Person Singular, A Moon for the Misbegotten, Fully Committed, Mourning Becomes Electra, Yellowman, Fuddy Meers and A Christmas Carol the past three seasons. In 2001 he managed Grand Magic, Big Love, Dinner With Friends, and Waiting to be Invited. Other highlights from past seasons at ACT include A Skull in Connemara, Quills, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, The Gospel at Colonus, Halcyon Days, The Illusion and The Revengers' Comedies. Outside of ACT, Jeffrey K. has stage managed at Seattle Repertory Theatre on such productions as Metamorphoses and The Cider House Rules, Parts I and II. Other regional credits include productions at Seattle Children's Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company and New Mexico Repertory Theatre.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Production History: The Ugly American was told out loud for the first time in November 2003 in a workshop at Intiman Theatre. It received further development and public performances at Manhattan Theatre Club and the Cape Cod Theatre Project. This May it was performed at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, and following its premiere at ACT will go on to Berkeley Repertory Theatre this July and August and will be aired on BBC Radio this fall.

Special Thanks: Mike and Jean-Michele would ike to thank Kurt Beattie, whose dedication and faith in our work made it possible to premiere The Ugly American here in Seattle. We'd also like to thank LeRoy & Virginia Bowen, John Tynes, Mary Daisey, Ruth Bowen, Libby Dover, Brent Felker, Dan Fields, Flying Spot Media, Seattle Yarn Gallery, the Cape Cod Theatre Project Chorus, and the Bristol Old Vic Drama School.

Director's Note: Theater is an intensely social activity. A group of strangers come together to create a world unto itself — populate it with characters, landscapes, sounds, sometimes even new language — and then say goodbye to it forever at the end of the run. It's no wonder that kind of crucible can create such intense bonds.

In The Ugly American, Mike Daisey delves into his experiences studying theater in London more than a decade ago and then pushes the curtains back even further to reveal the confusing crush of class, sex, and violence that carried his London lessons far beyond the stage. And yet, despite the fact that this is a piece about theater, it may be the least theatrical play you'll ever see. There are no costume changes, no trap doors, not a revolve in sight. All you will see tonight is one man, sitting at a desk, sipping from a pint glass, and telling a story for you, just for you.

It's almost as if the only way to talk about theater is to stand outside of it. Or maybe it's our lives we need to stand outside of in order to understand. Either way, Daisey's storytelling asks you to become more than a passive audience member — to actively join him in conjuring the world he describes.

Break a leg, Jean-Michele Gregory

INVINCIBLE **SUMMER** a new monologue by mike daisey

ABOUT THIS UPCOMING WORKSHOP

By simultaneously exploring the bizarre history of the Manhattan Transit Authority's epic subway system and his own gawkish status as a new New Yorker, Mike Daisev tells the story of coming to a n city to make a new life in the last, hot, glorious summer before everything changed. Daisey maps out New York City for us from the bottom up, a loving and rueful portrait of a city so unbelievable it could only be true. Theaters burn, parents divorce and the world comes crashing down, and Daisey is forced to face sudden, serious questions: What does it mean to belong to a place, and how will we hold on when we lose our way?

A new monologue created and performed by Mike Daisey Directed by Jean-Michele Gregory

DON'T

INVINCIBLE SUMMER will have its first public performance at ACT Theatre on June 28th at 8pm, in a one-night-only special event. Tickets to the show may be ordered through the ACT Ticket Office at 206.292.7676 or online at acttheatre.org. All seats \$10.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN ACT AND MIKE DAISEY

Interview conducted by Sarah Guthu, ACT Literary Intern

ACT: How does a monologue differ from an ensemble piece or a scripted solo show?

MD: For me, being a monologuist is being a chronicler in the classic sense — unlike so much theater, there is no illusion here. The actual person who has experienced actual events will unfold them before you: no actors, no pretending, not even a memorized script. The most striking difference between my work and traditional play is that there is no "show"— ideally those distinctions collapse and we are all sharing a room at this one moment in time each night, talking together.

"Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it. What is acting but lying and what is good lying but convincing lying?"

SIR LAURENCE OLIVIER **ACT:** You call yourself a monologuist — not a playwright or a solo performer. Why?

MD: I think it best describes what I'm trying to do. "Solo performer" is so generic, and is often used to describe actors who are simply performing other people's words, or performers who play many different characters like a chameleon. Playwrights craft words for others to recite, and my monologues will never be performed by anyone other than me, so it never seems to fit well. "Monologuist" is recognizable, clear, and at the end of the day, it's nice to be able to explain what you do with one word.

(continued)

INTERVIEW BETWEEN ACT AND MIKE DAISEY

ACT: If you don't use a script, then how do you create a piece like The Ugly American?

MD: I do it the way stories are told every day in the real world — storytelling is the world's only art form that absolutely everyone practices, every day. I create rough outlines and then tell the story to small audiences, and then work with Jean-Michele to craft and hone the story. She's a marvelous editor with a sharp sense of what can fit and what needs to leave. Over time the story settles down and comes out similarly from night to night, the same way that a favorite story gets told the same way. Practice makes perfect.

"Acting is half shame, half glory. Shame at exhibiting yourself, glory when you can forget yourself."

SIR JOHN GIELGUD

"Acting is the expression of a neurotic impulse."

MARLON BRANDO

ACT: Since your shows are unscripted and evolve and sharpen over time, do you tend to enjoy telling the story more at the beginning of the run or the end?

MD: I enjoy both ends of the equation — there's a sharp pleasure in opening a new monologue and finding the words for the first time, and then a satisfaction in refining the path night after night. I think an ideal place for an artist to be is in tension with his work, and the best thing for the monologues is that tension between them settling into their form and the crackling energy of being spoken out loud for the first time: that's what keeps the work at its peak.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN ACT AND MIKE DAISEY

ACT: You translated your monologue 21 Dog Years into a book. Is it difficult to translate an improvised oral performance to a written text? Is there any synergy between current monologues you're working on and books you are writing?

MD: There's a lot of correspondence. I tend to use the monologues as launching pads for writing by taking transcriptions of performances and editing and slicing them together to form skeletons and starting places for writing. Seven of the monogues from All Stories Are Fiction this spring form the core of my new book Happiness Is Overrated. I write quite differently than I compose onstage, because the oral and written paths aren't the same at all: on the page I hop, leap and skip about, tweaking and shifting, while in performance you can't do that — the form must always be obeyed or your audience will get lost.

ACT: In The Ugly American you explore a period of time in which you were an American acting student receiving British training. What do you feel are the differences between the British and American styles of acting?

MD: They're strikingly different. American acting mainly derives from different flavors of method acting, and are highly psychological: if you understand the character's motivations you can become the character. British acting proceeds from the exterior inward: don't worry about having a rich inner life for the character, or possibly even have a character at all. Instead energy is focused on the form and shape of the face and body — learn how to shape the exterior, and the feelings will naturally follow.

(continued)

"Life is short, but Art endures."

HIPPOCRATES

INTERVIEW BETWEEN ACT AND MIKE DAISEY

ACT: A lot of Americans believe British actors are superior to American actors. Do you? Did you before you went to London to study theatre?

MD: I think I had the standard American bias and belief that the British are better actors, born out of seeing PBS docudramas and some primal American belief that cultured British accents make someone super-intelligent. I think I'm over it now, for the most part.

ACT: In The Ugly American you deal with some pretty heavy terrain, particularly the issue of violence between men and women. Do you worry about offending the audience?

MD: Not very much. It's true that *The Ugly American* has some powerful material, but my experience is that audiences respect honesty — so the more I'm able to open up my own life and turn a discerning and appraising eye over the landscape, the less I worry about how I'll be judged.



INTERVIEW BETWEEN ACT AND MIKE DAISEY

ACT: You recently performed a monologue in New York called Monopoly! that had very little autobiographical material and instead talked about Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, and the history of ideas and electricity. Did the shift from autobiography bring about new concerns and challenges that you were surprised by?

MD: I was surprised at the heightened density of that work — I hadn't realized how intensely fun it would be to relate interesting facts and events from history. *Invincible Summer*, the onologue we're work shopping here at ACT, has some of that, too — I've been studying the NYC subway system and finding the fascinating stories within it that can inform and play counterpoint to the personal.

ACT: Theater or Theatre?

MD: Theater. I really dislike "theatre" — it's so unnecessarily emasculated and oddly nostalgic, which is the last thing American theater needs when there's so much dead work being kicked around from year to year. Are we so beholden to snobbery and cutsie-pie convention that we have to use these bizarre spellings? I don't want to go to "Ye Olde Merrie Theatre" — I want a theater that holds its own with Hollywood, the web, and the culture at large. It's a small, symbolic shift, but this is the theater: symbols count.

"I have this recurring nightmare of a PBS season in which every actor speaks with a British accent."

JAC VENZA, DIRECTOR OF ARTS PROGRAMMING FOR NEW YORK PUBLIC BROADCASTING

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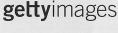




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Kurt Beattie (Artistic Director) joined ACT in 2001 as Associate Artistic Director and was appointed Artistic Director in April of 2003. Kurt has been creating theatre for Puget Sound audiences for more than 30 years as both actor and director. During ACT's 2005 season Kurt has directed Bach at Leipzig and will direct Vincent in Brixton and ACT's 30th annual production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. In 2004 he directed ACT productions of Black Coffee, Alki and the holiday classic, A Christmas Carol. Previously at ACT he has directed A Moon for the Misbegotten, Fuddy Meers and Fully Committed, as well as Via Dolorosa during ACT's 2000 Bullitt season.

Elsewhere he has directed *Things Being What They Are* and *Art* at the Seattle Repertory Theatre and productions at Empty Space, Intiman and the University of Washington. Nationally he has directed at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and at The Alley Theatre in Houston. As an actor he has appeared in leading and major roles at ACT (most recently as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Chris Carol*), the Seattle Rep, Intiman, and Empty Space, as well as many regional theatres throughout the country. Most recently Kurt played the title role in Seattle Shakespeare Company's production of *King Lear*. Kurt is the co-recipient (with Susan Trapnell) of the 2004 Theatre Puget Sound Gregory A. Falls Sustained Achievement Award.



Susan Trapnell (Managing Director) was appointed Managing Director in April of 2003. She served in the same position from 1982 – 2000. In the intervening 3 years, Susan spent two years as Executive Director of the Seattle Arts Commission (now the Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs) and Managing Director of the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. She is delighted to be back in Seattle and back at ACT. Susan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French from the University of North Carolina, and has lived in Lyons, France, Guelma, Algeria and Vienna, Austria. She moved to Seattle in 1976 to work with the Bill Evans Dance Company, first as Director of Education programs and then

as Managing Director. She has served as President of the Washington State Arts Alliance, Vice Chair of the King County Arts Commission and on the Board of the Downtown Seattle Association. She is currently a member of the Advisory Board of Arts Space, the Board of Town Hall, and is a Trustee of the Kreielsheimer Remainder Trust. Susan is the co-recipient (with Kurt Beattie) of the 2004 Theatre Puget Sound Gregory A. Falls Sustained Achievement Award.

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