

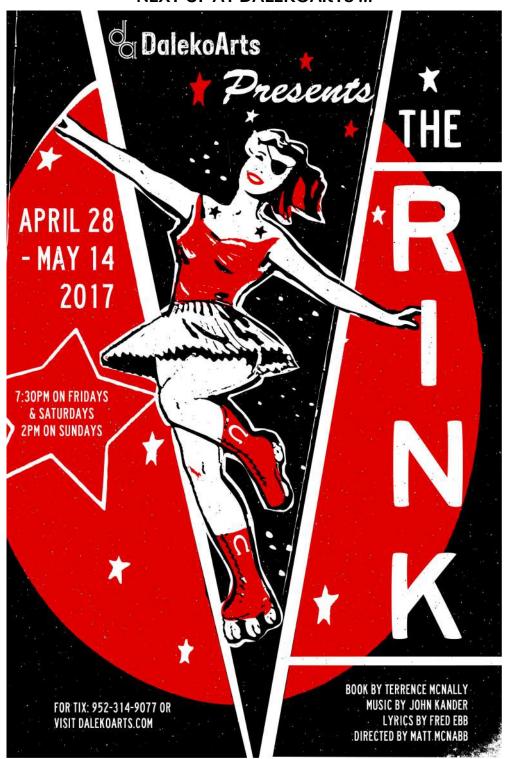
MARCH 3-19 2017

SATURDAYS 7:30P: SUNDAYS

**DIRECTED BY SEAN BYRD** 

BY MARIE JONES

**NEXT UP AT DALEKOARTS ...** 





#### **Our Mission**

DalekoArts (pronounced **DELL-uh**koh) works with professional artists to create ensemble-based live performances centered in and around New Prague, Minnesota. We are committed to being a positive force for high-quality theatrical performance and arts education. We train and work under a great and spirited legacy; the rich artistic heritage of the Midwest.

#### **Our Vision**

DalekoArts will be a known destination for quality performing arts and education in New Prague and the surrounding southern metropolitan communities.

#### Our Journey

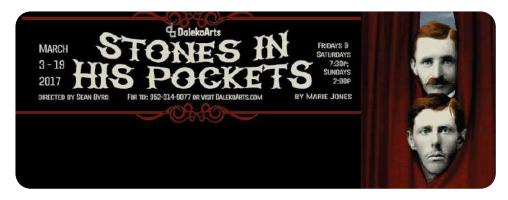
DalekoArts is a proud member of the Network of



Ensemble Theaters, a national coalition of ensemble theatre companies and artists.

#### **Our Story**

DalekoArts was founded in 2012 by theatre artists Ben Thietje and Amanda White as a way to help decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota. New Prague was chosen as the company's home due to the community's extraordinary interest in theatre, the regional growth and development it has experience in the last decade, its relative proximity to the Twin Cities, and its close ties to the founders. "Daleko" - a Czech word meaning "far away" - reflects New Prague's strong bohemian roots, its spatial relationship to the cultural hub that is the Twin Cities, and the ensemble's desire to step back and examine the world from a new point of view.



## Written by Marie Jones Directed by Sean Byrd

#### CAST

Charlie: Josh Scharback Jake: Ben Thietje\*

#### PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager: Janice Geis Dialect Coach: Keely Wolter Scenic Design: Sydney Achler Scenic Painter: Whitley Cobb Costume Design: Elin Anderson Sound Design: Peter Morrow

Lighting Design: Courtney Schmitz Properties Design: Sarah Salisbury Production Assistant: David Loose

Technical Director: Trevor Muller-Hegel

\*denotes company member

#### TIME

Early 1990s

#### PLACE

A scenic spot near a small village in County Kerry, Ireland

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission. Concessions are available in the lobby and are welcome in the theatre.

Stones in His Pockets is produced by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

Far away.

The Czech word for 'far' is 'daleko'. But you already know that, right? The Irish word for 'far' (if my internet research is to be trusted) is 'i bhfad'. Some of you might already know that as well.

County Kerry in Ireland, where this play takes place, is 3,671 miles from New Prague, MN. That is far away. But as we have been working on this production, County Kerry has come to feel closer and closer. It is a place of small villages, neighborhoods, inhabited by complex people - many of whom are related either by blood or because their hearts have made it so. Sound familiar?

The heartbeat of this play is the people, struggling to uphold a way of life as passed down by their ancestors, those on whose shoulders they stand. But when Hollywood comes calling with its money and glamour and seemingly limitless opportunity – how can they NOT answer that call? Won't their lives be so much better if they tie their cart to this star of fortune? The answers are both laugh inducing and provocatively poignant, as you will see played out by these two incredibly accomplished actors inhabiting many roles.

We all carry around a stone or two in our pockets. And those stones can become a two-fold burden. On one hand, they weigh us down – keeping us from being fully present in our lives. On the other hand, when we carry these stones around, it is sometimes quite tempting to take one out and throw it at someone. And we all know that nothing good comes from that.

It is my sincerest hope that our time together in this wonderful little theatre, right here on the main street of this incredible little village will help us all to feel a little less burdened in these quite burdensome times.

So, settle in... and join us on this journey to County Kerry.

Far away? Not really.

Thanks for being here-Sean

#### THE ARTISTS

Sydney Achler (Scenic Designer), a Chicago based designer, is thrilled to be back with the DalekoArts team for **Stones in his Pockets!** Recent design credits include: Big Love, Apple Valley HS; Hamtown Races. Planet Ant Theatre: Our Town. DalekoArts: Pluto was a **Planet**, Illinois Wesleyan University: Tarzan, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Crane River Theater. Paint credits: Not About Nightingales, Raven Theatre; The Boys from Syracuse, IWU; The Shining, Tosca, Minnesota Opera: Fiddler on the Roof, The Phantom of the Opera, All my Sons, Artistry. She received her BFA in Theatre Design and Technology from Illinois Wesleyan University.

sydneyachler.wix.com/scenicdesign

Elin Anderson (Costume Designer) returns for her fourth show with DalekoArts. (Previous projects: Always, Patsy Cline, Wait Until Dark and **Snowed Inn**). She designs regularly for St. Paul Academy and Park Square Theater, where she served as Wardrobe Manager for twelve seasons. (She first met Ben when he played Peter in The Diary of Anne Frank.) Other companies include Walking Shadow, Minnesota Jewish Theater, SC Productions, Pig's Eye Theater, Starting Gate Productions, and Red Eye Collaboration. She has also designed multiple productions for St Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, Metropolitan State University, St. Louis Park High School, And Gustavus Adolphus College.

Sean Byrd (Director), a Twin Cities based actor/director/educator since 1999, is honored and thrilled to once again be working with the amazing people at DalekoArts, having appeared in Almost, Maine during season one. Recent directing credits include Violet for Yellow Tree Theatre, which was invited to perform as part of the 2016 Ivey Awards show, and All My Sons for Artistry. Upcoming, Sean will direct the world premiere of the new musical Sam's Son for Bucket Brigade Theatre in Fall of 2017. Along with his professional work, Sean is currently the Chair of the nationally accredited Department of Theatre at Normandale College in Bloomington. Recent directing endeavors for the college include Circle Mirror Transformation, Dr. Seward's Dracula, All Shook Up, Red, and Known But to God (a World Premiere). Sincerest thanks for supporting live, professional theatre in New Prague! This one's for you, Dr. Bahs.

Janice Geis (Stage Manager) spends her days managing properties and her nights managing stages; she is thrilled to be working with DalekoArts for the fifth time to create beautiful theatre. Forays to other theaters include: Mad Munchkin Productions, BOOM! Theater, Sabes Jewish Community Center, and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre.

Lauri Kraft (Choreographer) is a Twin Cities-based performer and choreographer. Choreography credits include Shrek the Musical (Lyric Arts); La Cage Aux Folles (Chicago area); COMPANY (Shoot the Glass Theater); and Anything Goes (Lyric Arts, July 2017). Lauri also will be choreographing DalekoArts' upcoming production of The Rink. Local performing credits include Theatre Latté Da, Minnesota Opera, Minnesota Orchestra, Skylark Opera, Artistry and Lyric Arts. Previously, she performed in Washington, D.C. and Chicago, and toured nationally in A Chorus Line.

Peter Morrow (Sound Designer) moved to the Twin Cities from Dublin. Ireland in August 2012. SInce moving here he has worked as a composer, sound designer or music director with companies including New Native Theatre, Bedlam Theatre, Theatre Latte Da. Swandive Theatre. Workhaus Collective, Artistry, Interact, Pangea World Theatre, zAmya, Macalaster College, Red Eye Theatre, The Playwright Centre, Threads Dance Company, Steppingstone Theatre for Youth Development and Stages Theatre. In Dublin he worked primarily with the company Brokentalkers, devising new works that have toured throughout Europe. Peter has a Masters in Music and Media Technology from Trinity College Dublin. He is delighted to be back for his eighth show with Daleko.

Sarah Salisbury (Properties Designer) is thrilled to be doing her first show with Daleko! Sarah also does props for Illusion Theater, Walking Shadow Theatre Company and Hennepin Theater Trust. Besides that, Sarah stage manages for Rhythmically Speaking, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, and Alternative Motion Project. She also is the Production Manager of Illusion Theater, as well as the Haunted Basement.

Josh Scharback (Charlie) is thrilled to work again with the talented artists of DalekoArts. Previous work here includes: George Kittredge in The Philadelphia Story, and as Fight Director for Wait Until Dark. Other regional theater: Portland Stage Company, Merrimack Repertory Theater, American Shakespeare Center, Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theater, Penobscot Theater Company, Seacoast Repertory Theater, and seven seasons as an actor, director, and fight director at the Theater at Monmouth - The Shakespearean Theater of Maine. Training: London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Special thanks to Amanda, Ben, Sean, Janice, and the entire crew. For Alecia, Noah, Flora, Eve, and Sabrina.

#### THE ARTISTS

Courtney Schmitz (Lighting Designer) earned her MFA in lighting design from the University of Iowa in 2009. Since moving to Minneapolis in 2012, she has designed locally with Yellow Tree Theatre, Theatre Unbound, Workhaus Collective, Six Elements Theatre, Savage Umbrella, Lyric Arts, nimbus theatre, crash.dance productions, SPARK theatre + dance, Open Window Theatre, 20% Theatre Company, Bucket Brigade Theatre, Paul Bunyan Playhouse, Artistry, Loudmouth Collective, Arts Center on 7, and Freshwater Theatre. Additionally, she is an instructor at Inver Hills Community College and has been a Minnesota Fringe Festival technician for the past 4 years. Previous designs with DalekoArts include Wait Until

www.cargocollective.com/schmitzlig hting

Ben Thietje (Jake) has been working as a professional theatre artist and educator in the Twin Cities metro area for fifteen years. He teaches and directs theatre at New Prague High School, and holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University, Mankato. In addition to being Daleko's Co-Artistic Director, he's appeared in the company's productions of The Odd Couple; Forever Plaid; Almost, Maine; Rancho Mirage; Little Shop of Horrors; Love Letters, and Urinetown, in addition to serving as director for this season's Snowed Inn.

Keely Wolter (Dialect Coach) holds an MA in Voice Studies from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. She has served as a voice and accent coach with HBO, the University of Minnesota/Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program, Jungle Theater, Children's Theater Company, Old Log Theater, Walking Shadow Theater Company, Torch Theater, St. Olaf College, Lyric Arts Main Street Stage, and many others. Keely is also a member of VASTA, and a regular contributor to the VASTA Voice publication.

Dark.



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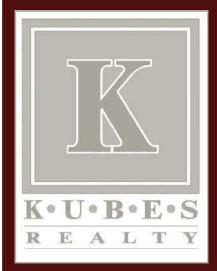
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#### SPECIAL THANKS

St Paul Academy, Normandale Community College, New Prague High School, Alecia Scharback, Judith & Dennis White, David Loose, Peter Morrow, Illusion Theater, Larry Pint, Patrick Shovein, Jason Peterson & Yellow Tree Theatre ... and Sabrina Lark Scharback, for her perfect timing – Auntie Mimi and Uncle Ben are already so proud of you!

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