

For Immed. Release: 09/09/2009: Entertainment Arts/Theatre | Theatre at UBC presents **MK WOYZECK** Adapted from the works of Georg Büchner, Conceived and Directed by Tom Scholte | Run: Sept. 30 – Oct. 10, 2009 | Curtain: Mon. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m. | \$6 Preview: Sept. 30 | Opening: Thur. Oct. 1 | Frederic Wood Theatre, 6354 Crescent Rd., UBC | Tickets: \$20/\$14/\$10 | Mondays \$5 for UBC alumni | Box Office: 604.822.2678 | More: www.theatre.ubc.ca

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T H E U N I V E R S I T Y O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

MK WOYZECK

Adapted from the works of Georg Büchner,
Conceived and Directed by Tom Scholte

Sept. 30 – Oct. 10, 2009, 2009: FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE

Madness, crime, exploitation. The haunting themes of Georg Büchner's ground-breaking 19th century drama, WOYZECK, are re-examined through a contemporary lens in this original, multi-media, devised performance. Based on a true-life controversial murder trial, Woyzeck follows the story of a poor soldier who submits to army medical experiments in order to supplement his meager income – with disastrous results. The title of this adaptation gives a nod to some of the modern source material utilized. Project MK-ULTRA, or MKULTRA, is the code name for a covert CIA mind-control and chemical interrogation research program, run by the Office of Scientific Intelligence. The program began in the early 1950s, continuing at least through the late 1960s, and it used United States citizens as its test subjects. Project MK-ULTRA involved the surreptitious use of many types of drugs, as well as other methods, to manipulate individual mental states and to alter brain function.

Weeks after he began writing Woyzeck, Büchner died of Typhus, leaving behind a magnificent but fragmented and un-ordered text that has been posthumously "completed" by generations of authors, editors and translators. Tackling Büchner's unfinished play has become a tradition, almost a rite of passage, among theater artists. It has become one of the most often produced and most influential plays in the German theatre repertory.

"Every man is an abyss, and you get dizzy looking into it." – Woyzeck

Theatre at UBC Associate Professor Tom Scholte is a nationally recognized actor in the realms of theatre, film, and television. He was a Genie nominee for his work in the feature film LAST WEDDING and a Gemini winner for his performance on DA VINCI'S INQUEST. As a director he was a founding member of Newworld Theatre and is the founder and artistic director of Theatreshop. He has previously taught acting for stage and screen at the Vancouver Film School and Lyric School of Acting. Tom's feature film directing debut, CRIME, received its world premiere at the 2008 Vancouver International Film Festival.

Playwright, medical student, and social revolutionary Georg Büchner died in 1837 at the age of 23, leaving behind a small trove of exceptional dramatic literature. His works anticipated almost all of the major artistic movements of the twentieth century: Naturalism; German Expressionism; Surrealism; Dadaism; Brecht's dialectical theater, and many others. Both his focus on the working class and his thematically and structurally unresolved writing, which resists a single interpretation, represent turning points in the development of modern art. Büchner's own generation was not ready for his startling representations of violence and dehumanization, but such themes resonated deeply with twentieth century audiences and his writing continues to be a source of influence throughout modern theater.

"[Woyzeck is] a text that happened to a twenty-three-year-old whose eyelids were cut off at his birth by The Weird Sisters, a text blasted by the fever to orthographic splinters, a structure as it might be created when lead is smelted at New Year's Eve since the hand is trembling with anticipation of the future..." - Heiner Müller

Featuring performances by BFA Acting Candidates **MariaLuisa Alvarez, Veronica Baylie, Kim Bennett, Ali Glinert, Moneca Lander, Fiona Mongillo** and **Russell Zishiri**. The creative team includes professional artist and Adjunct Professor **Patrick Pennfather** (Composition/Sound Design) with BFA Design Candidates **Chantelle Balfour** (Costumes) and **Conor Moore** (Set/Lighting) and **Tim Bellefleur** (Stage Management)

MK WOYZECK Sept. 30 – Oct. 10, 2009

Frederic Wood Theatre, 6354 Crescent Rd., UBC Point Grey Campus

Mon. – Sat. at 7:30 p.m. | **Opening: Thursday Oct. 1** | Run: Sept. 30 – Oct. 10, 2009 | Curtain: Mon. - Sat. at 7:30 p.m. | Tickets: \$20/\$14/\$10 | \$6 Preview: Sept. 30 | Mondays \$5 for UBC alumni | Box Office: 604.822.2678 or theatre@interchange.ubc.ca | More: www.theatre.ubc.ca

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