

PRESS RELEASE –
“NO EXIT?”



Written by Jean Paul Satre
Directed by Michelle van Rensburg
Presented by M+E theatre and The Space Theatre

An enigmatic blond valet (Magnus Sinding) plays host to three lost souls in a stark room in the afterlife; Garcin (Sean Higgs), the pacifist, tormented by his own cowardice and plagued by how he treated his wife, questioning his motivation and seeking assurance from whoever will believe him; Inez (Melissa Jean Woodside), a sadistic, cruel lesbian who was gassed by her lover and calls herself a “damned soul” infatuated with Estelle (Michelle van Rensburg) the orphan who only ever wanted to be loved... and rich, and convinced this is all a “dreadful mistake”

‘Welcome to hell!’ -

M+E theatre’s version of “NO Exit” takes a fractal look at death, questioning hell, what it is and how people get there. Sartre takes three total strangers and brings them to the realisation. “Hell is other people” M+E questions who put them there in the first place, their own guilt or a sadistic god.

Directed by **Michelle van Rensburg** (writer of “*Storm in a Teacup*”, an autobiographical look at date rape “Beautifully written superbly performed” –THE INDEPENDENT and *Mary and the Stripper* “A sharply told tale with a positive message”- REUTERS)

Venue: theSpace@Venue 45

Time: 21.05 (ends 21.55)

Dates: 17th-22nd, 24th-29th

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Sean Higgs

Sean is best known in his native South Africa for "Skits are free in here" a comic revue show where the audience purchase rotten tomatoes at the door... what ensues is a cathartic mix of hilarious sketches fruit and vegetables... However he has been very fortunate indeed to act alongside such luminaries as Tim Curry, Meg Ryan, Patrick Swayze, Julian Sands, LL cool J and Danny Trejos. Pass the tomatoes please darling...!

Melissa Woodside

DIAL M FOR MELISSA
Concept, styling & photography by Voir

Born in Canada and with uniquely Scottish, Irish and Norwegian heritage, Melissa Jean Woodside is a fierce and fast-moving actor to watch. A student of the Judy Dench Playhouse in west London, this international débutante speaks French, Russian and basic Thai, and has a passion for live performance, period drama and kick-ass adrenaline-filled action films.

Often completely transforming from one role to the next, this chameleon has recently played a heroin addict and the beautiful Viola in *Twelfth Night*. Her recent narrative comedy début *'Green Sweater Guy'*, is a 16-minute short, filmed in Dublin, Ireland. Ambitiously directed by Woodside herself, it has already been selected to win 'The Royal Reel Award' at the 2015 Canada International Film Festival.

2015 sees Melissa appear in Sci-Fi movie *'Sanctuary'* which screens at Cannes in May - appearing alongside fellow actor, friend (and Harry Potter's 'death-eater') - Jon Campling. Her up and coming feature film *'A(Broad)'* will also be filmed this year.

Melissa elected to be styled and photographed by the Voir Creative team for this feature, in preparation for Cannes. Look out for her at film festivals, catch her at Cannes, or performing live at the Edinburgh Fringe in the lead role of *'No Exit'* from August 17th-29th.

Hair and Makeup by Shannon Varden

Magnus Sinding

Magnus is a versatile performer with experience in musical, children's and dramatic theatre as well as film, voice-over and audiobook recording. Magnus' work spans cartoony panto villains via urban sci-fi antiheroes to understated dramatic performances, and he relishes any opportunity to apply his physicality and vocal abilities in new, unexplored situations.

"Adam is played capably by Magnus Sinding, ageing and becoming wiser very convincingly" - For The World Over at the Fringe (2012) in Bristol Theatre Review

"Magnus definitely has the looks and the moves for a wannabe frontman. His dancing is a joy to behold as he alternately swaggers and glides across the stage." - For Boogie Nights the Musical (2014) at All Edinburgh Theatre

Michelle van Rensburg

"Writer/performer Michelle van Rensburg is a great talent". - THE LIST

"Michelle van Rensburg's contrived sexuality is very funny"- DIE BURGER

Michelle is a purist slasher, loves working with Shakespeare and other greats, and bringing his works down to their basic baseness entertainment level making purists squirm. Another South African artist "women of the 90's to look out for" whose agent sent to the circus the one day and had her playing Marilyn Monroe the next, she is still not too sure why she is always cast as the blonde, although under the bleach she is convinced she was once a natural blonde. Her debut stage performance was "Move over Mrs Markham" with an all star South African cast including Gordon Mulholland and Rex Garner, who teased her endlessly for accidentally walked through an imaginary wall onstage, the audience didn't notice, and she has been walking through walls ever since.