

Paris Snow Productions in association with
The Kino-Teatr present the premiere of



Wednesday March 8 to Sunday March 12 2017

Kino-Teatr St Leonards
43-49 Norman Rd
Saint Leonards-on-Sea
f /parissnowmusical
www.parissnowmusical.com



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Once Upon a Time... or 'Marc! We need a song!'

How do you write a musical? Through constant cross-channel phone calls and endless, exhausting, Eurostar excursions. At least that's how we wrote ours.

I met Marc (Composer) five years ago in his Parisian apartment. I'd heard from a friend that he'd been looking for someone to write the book for a new musical – a light-hearted Parisian romance. He'd already written several of the numbers. And because my theatrical background has tended towards experimental works (an adaption of Kafka and a psychological portrait of the dying days of the demented Jonathan Swift, for example) I topped Marc's wish list of collaborators. Or not.

But it is precisely our differences that have made Paris Snow such an interesting project to develop – and, hopefully, an interesting musical drama to experience. As a high-calibre, highly experienced musician, Marc works in very specific ways. He has an incredible eye for detail, and he will go over seemingly minor segments until they're seamless: the microcosmic elements make up a macrocosmic unit. As a theatre director, I tend to work in the moment – spot moments, go with them and develop them if they work and drop them if they don't. I find this method allows for a collaborative creative process with companies of actors and now musicians. At the foundation of Paris Snow, then, is a creative friction that has moved the project into interesting new spaces.

We've been workshoping Paris Snow over several years – in Paris with a cast of French, American and British performers, at Derry Playhouse with a cast of wonderful Irish actor-singers and in St Leonards' very own Barefoot Opera with enthusiastic local performers. Each workshop has brought exciting alterations to the book's content and the songs' arrangements; as well as many midnight murmurings with Marc, and a fair few heated discussions on what works and what needs to go. The book has shifted dramatically even before this premiere – and if the show moves forward, I expect it will undergo yet more rewriting. It's all part of the creative process.

I'm absolutely delighted that Paris Snow is premiering in my now hometown of Hastings & St Leonards, in the beautiful space of the Kino-Teatr. When I first saw the building I knew we had found La Cage d'Or. So big thanks to Olga and Russell for opening the doors to our production.

As we're all sick of hearing, this town is going through a period of artistic rejuvenation, and it's been tremendously thrilling to work with some established professional local performers, alongside phenomenally exciting up-and-coming young talents.

You know they say it takes a whole village to raise a child? Well in the case of a brand new musical it takes virtually the entire theatrical community of a small English seaside town. Heartfelt thanks from Marc and myself to one and all who worked on this project and who've helped bring this dream alive. In particular for contributing your enormous talents and boundless love and goodwill in return for our sometimes totally unreasonable demands. En avant mes camarades!

Patrick Kealey, Director & Writer (book)

Story

Paris Snow is set in 1960's Paris, and follows the story of a group of young Americans who arrive to perform there as part of a prize. Susan – the lead singer – is engaged to choir director Daniel, but she soon realises that he is repressing her. The Three Spirits of Paris help Susan on her path to freedom – leading to Susan discovering her secret family history. As her life unravels before her, it becomes increasingly entwined with the life of a charming young Parisian called Greg.

Settings

La Cage d'Or

Doug's apartment (Paris)

Place de la Fontaine

Brasserie de la Fontaine

Eglise de la Trinite

Eiffel Tower

Pere Lachaise Graveyard

'Let's not wait to get married. Let's do it right here and now in Paris!'
Susan



Chiara Vinci plays Susan

Creative Team

Marc Mir (Composer)



Marc has practised many musical activities since moving from the USA to Paris in 1979. Both conductor as well as composer, arranger and performer he has worked with several major personalities in the music world: such as pianist Claude Khan, flutist Patrick Gallois and drummer Herman Rarebell. This is his first musical.

Patrick Kealey (Writer: book & Director)



Patrick has worked as an actor, director, writer, producer, dramaturg and teacher for the stage for over four decades. Some of his favourite work was produced with Group K theatre – who toured nationally. Since moving to Hastings over a decade ago he has been Associate Director for Hallucinating Angels. Recent projects include Dramaturg for 17 Border Crossings (Bogota, Philadelphia, Edinburgh Fringe). Current projects in development include a radio play Seven Seconds and a full-length stage play Girl in Bed.

Helen Ridout (Musical Director & Lead Accompanist)



Helen trained at Chethams School of Music and Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Accompanists course). Recent projects include: Repetiteur for PUSH (a community opera by Howard Moody as part of 2016's Battle and ROOT 1066 Festivals), pianist for Barefoot Opera's Cabaret Fusion and her own project Edge of Winter at Kino-Teatr.

Olga Mamonova (Artistic Director at Kino-Teatr)



Kino-Teatr is a unique venue, old and modern, with a relaxed atmosphere and high standards of live theatre, film and music. Paris Snow the musical reflects and absorbs perfectly these qualities. We are very proud to present Paris Snow and its super talented cast!

*'Paris was at a standstill for one brief magical moment'
Gregoire*

Cast

Chiara Vinci plays Susan

French-Italian performer Chiara Vinci trained at the Arts Educational and Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. She performs professionally as a dancer, actor and opera singer. Recent roles include working with the Welsh National Youth Opera on Kommilitonen – for which she was shortlisted by the Wales Theatre Awards 2017 in the category for Best Female Opera singer.

Gareth Wildig plays Daniel

After a stint at a County Council, Gareth decided to pursue an actor's life. He graduated from the Poor School in 2014, and is active in touring theatre, screen, singing and voiceover work.

Tania Pieri plays Betsy

Tania has enjoyed a varied performance career – including starring in West End Musical theatre (Bombay Dreams, High School Musical, West Side Story). She also specialises in many styles of dance, having gained a First Class BA (Hons) Degree at Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance.

Oscar Smith plays Gregoire

Currently a graduate of Chichester University, Oscar is studying for a Masters in music performance. Recent roles include Jigger in Carousel and singing as soloist in Faure's Requiem in Chartres.

Jonny Magnanti plays Alexei

Jonny has worked extensively within the acting profession: from West End plays and musicals to theatre tours, film, television and voiceover work. He recently starred in the National Theatre's production of Three Winters as Igor.

Claire Hamill plays Magda

Claire has had a long career as a singer/songwriter. She has performed in some of the world's most prestigious venues and has over ten studio albums to her name.

Rachel McCarron plays Marie Nuit

Rachel trained at Mountview Theatre School. Credits include Grizabella in CATS and Whistle Down the Wind in the Palace Theatre (Shaftesbury Avenue). Other musical credits include Camelot, Doctor Faustus and The Kids from Shame.

Hayley-Marie Axe plays Marie d'Amour

Hayley's theatre credits include Nurse Ratched in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Eleanor Dashwood in Sense and Sensibility, Lesely in Talking Heads. She has appeared in Red Dwarf, Silent Witness, Eastenders and played Cal Stone in feature film May I Kill U?

Daisy Estall plays Marie Mode

Daisy has been involved in musical theatre for a number of years. She starred as Eliza Doolittle in the Stables' production of Pygmalion, and appeared in ROOT 1066 Festival's world premiere of 1066: Three Kings.

Megan Barham as Animator

Megan trained at The Mac in Birmingham, and has played Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Rosalind in As You Like It, Olga in Three Sisters and Girl in Roberto Zucco. She has recently directed a production of The Last 5 Years.

Kenny Giles as Animator

Kenny trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Theatre credits include Michael in The Pillow Man and Jamie in The Last 5 Years.

Alison Cooper as Animator

Alison has vast experience in creating and performing music in various bands and theatre projects. She has spent many years studying varied styles of dance, and is part of local physical theatre group Nunah Theatre Company.

Steve Stapley as Animator

Steve has over 25 years' experience in musical theatre. Some of his favourite roles include Albin in La Cage Aux Folles, Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar and Henrik in A Little Night Music.

John Knowles & Kate Tym (Mime Performers for Promo Videos)

John Knowles and Kate Tym are two local writer/performers with a reputation for developing dark comedic characters. Visit: <http://itsnotus.co.uk/> for more information on their work.

Musicians

Mike Willis (Guitar and Voice)

Mike was raised in Georgia, USA and studied at Berklee College of Music. Two years in he dropped out to pursue creative freedom and has released several albums, working with a range of engineers and producers and touring all over the world.

Tom Clarkson (Double Bass and Voice)

Tom's music career has meandered eclectically through composing music for theatre shows and playing obscure folk instruments on London's folk scene, to hosting Free-Jazz jams in Shoreditch. He will be releasing material under his own name this year.

John Twitchen (Voice and Violin)

John is in his final year of the Vocal Studies course at Chichester University. In demand as a soloist, he has been a member of Glyndebourne Youth Opera and a scholar with Riverside Opera.



From left: Rachel McCarron plays Marie Nuit, Daisy Estall plays Marie Mode, Hayley-Marie Axe plays Marie d'Amour

What happened to our gay lighthearted Parisian romance?' The Three Maries



From left: Steve Stapley, Kenny Giles, Megan Barham, Alison Cooper play Animators

Production Team

Company Development Consultant – Athena Mandis

Athena is an award-winning filmmaker. As founder and Director of Mile End films (2010-2014), she has produced numerous projects, including films for UK Sport, No.10 Downing Street and Tower Hamlets. Prior to becoming a filmmaker Athena worked as Dramaturg with the David Glass Ensemble, where she was involved with the company's touring shows and worked on their children's participatory theatre, and was Dramaturg & Producer for Group K's national tour.

Associate Producer & Communications Manager – Tom Daldry

After completing an English MA at Sussex University, Tom interned with 2016's ROOT 1066 Festival – managing its digital communications. He has found it thrilling to apply these skills to Paris Snow – and is delighted to have developed experience in fundraising, theatre administration and creative application.

Company Manager – Jane Richardson

Jane is delighted to be returning to professional theatre as part of the Paris Snow company, after a number of years raising a family. Previous companies she has worked for include British Youth Opera, Holland Park Opera, Music Theatre London, the Women's Playhouse Trust and the Batignano Opera Festival.

Production Manager – Jon Tyrrell

Jon is part of Joule Arts & Events, running since 2001 and now based in Hastings. He has extensive experience of production management and programming for events, installations, exhibitions, performance and festivals, including for ROOT 1066 Festival, Coastal Currents Arts Festival, Southbank Centre, GLA, Royal Opera House, Barbican Centre, Shoreditch Festival, Thames Festival. Joule Arts & Events' website: www.jouleartsandevents.com

Lighting Designer – Jonathan Richardson

Jonathan has come full-circle, having begun his theatrical career many years ago in Sussex. He has worked extensively in regional and West End theatres, was LX at the Old Vic, and also at the Donmar Warehouse as part of Sam Mendes' original production team. He currently works in both theatre and television.

Graphic Designer – Chris Ford

Chris is a designer specialising in branding, marketing and advertising for web and print for a wide range of clients from tech to tourism. Chris has worked with Hastings Group 'Hallucinating Angels' as a designer and creative consultant on all of their projects to date. www.chrisfordgraphicdesign.co.uk

Video & Visuals Coordinator – Sam Sharples

Sam started directing his own work in 2005. The short films Passenger and Night Train were followed by Nan and John – which was shown at Imax (New York) and London's National Portrait Gallery. He has since gone on to collaborate with artists as editor, cinematographer and director.

Costumier – Adam Shaw

Adam has been designing and making his own clothes since his late teens – characterised by dramatic, theatrical and alternative with a goth/punk influence. Having completed a degree in Theatre and Costume Design, he now works as a freelance maker.

Assistant Costumier – Andras Jacobs

Andras began his career as an actor (working on screen campaigns for Stonewall and MTV). His costume career began just over a year ago, when he worked with Stories Into Light on The Gunman and 1066: Three Kings

Choreographer – Amelia Cardwell

Amelia is a freelance choreographer and movement director. Her choreography work has won her a UK Music Video award for HOUSE (directed by Prano Bailey Bond). She works with Frantic Assembly as a Learn & Train practitioner.

Photographer & Documentation – Peter Mould

Peter is in the fortunate position of being able to combine his lifelong love of theatre and photography: he has photographed productions at the Royal Opera House and in the West End – as well as any number of local theatres and village halls. He says, "In my work I use the camera to make, what is, I hope a truthful record of each production. I believe that my acting and directing experience enables me to capture the essence of a performance and empathise with the vision of all those involved in a show." Visit Peter's website: www.stagesnaps.com

Publicity & PR Coordinator – Hayley-Marie Axe

As well as starring as Marie d'Amour, Hayley has been invaluable in generating publicity for the premiere of Paris Snow.

Publicity & PR Support – Charlotte Tingley

Charlotte had previously acted in London West End, and is currently a singer/songwriter in Chasing Shadows and film producer for Last British Dragon. She was delighted to hear about this project and offered support in various areas.

Sound Recording Engineer – Andrew Warren

Andrew Warren has been writing and recording in Hastings for over twenty-five years. He has worked with many diverse artists and musicians and brings a great level of professionalism to all projects he works on.

Set Design - Patrick Kealey assisted by Russell Baker

Set construction and painting - Russell Baker and John Tyrrell

Interpreter (Sunday Matinee) – Melissa Pattison

Filmmakers:

When We Are Married – Anna Graebe & Otti Albiez

Ballerina – Sam Sharples

New Jersey Girls Play To Win – Jamie Tarrant & Neil Mackay

'Nuff Is Enough – Jason Butler & Jake Burnett from Kneecap Media

All other video material sourced & designed by Sam Sharples

Production Team for Kino-Teatr

Venue Technical Director – James Dean

Mural Artist & Administrative Support – Helen Samuels

In-House Marketing – James Calver

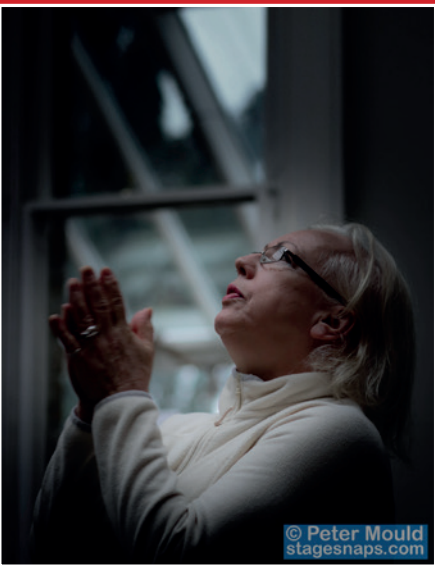
Digital Marketing Support – Adrienne Hunter

In-House Support - Simon Charterton

*'Paris Snow had a glow like our dreams
could all come true' Atlanta & Alexei*



L-R: Mike Willis (musician), Oscar Smith plays Gregoire



Claire Hamill plays Magda



Musical Director Helen Ridout with Kenny Giles (Animator)



Tania Pieri plays Betsy



Tom Clarkson: Musician



Gareth Wildig plays Daniel



Chiara Vinci plays Susan, with Tom Clarkson (Musician)



Jonny Magnanti plays Alexei



Patrick Kealey: Writer & Director

Paris Snow



Oscar Smith plays Gregoire



Marc Mir: Composer

Inspirations

The Blue Angel, Les Enfants du Paradis, Black Swan, Red Shoes, Yves Klein Blue, Pissarro, Audrey Hepburn, La Ronde, Josephine Baker, La Vie En Rose, Three Colours Trilogy, Le Mepris, Umbrellas of Cherbourg, Foucault, Mahalia Jackson, Gospel, Grimms' Fairy Tales, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest, Chocolate, Psychedelia, Hans Christian Andersen,

Lumiere Brothers, George Méliès, Charade, La Ronde, Marlon Brando as Don Corleone, Manet's A Bar at the Folies-Bergère, French & Saunders, The Golden Girls, Shakespeare, Cotes du Rhone, Barbra Streisand singing 'Rain on my Parade', Hocus Pocus, Bernadette Peters in Gypsy, A Tale of Two Cities, Think Pink...

Paris

What does Paris mean – to you, to me, to the world? Some cities have iconic status beyond their geographic reality: think of a city you've never been to but feel you know. Rome, maybe. New York. Some cities occupy a space in our imaginations; essentially we've made them up in our heads. Of course a lot of it has to do with the visual iconography – they're cities that have inspired countless artists, filmmakers, musicians, writers, fashion designers. Paris has its own unique cultural status. It's been the city of art for centuries, the city of revolution and of course the city of eroticism.

The semiotics of the city are embedded deep in our psyche. And if you haven't been to Paris and are fortunate enough to go, it can feel like you're visiting an old friend. I can still remember as a naïve nineteen-year-old arriving in Paris to stay at the International Youth Hostel and the bliss of my first breakfast, hot chocolate and croissant. My own little Proustian moment. For a boy from the industrial East Midlands this was the height of exotic travel. I've never forgotten. It was the best of times.

Paris' literature, critical theory, street life, dazzling fashion, political upheaval, barricades, catwalks, smells, architecture, sewers, metro, the Seine (an industrial thoroughfare and picturesque lovers' lane at one and the same time), Pei's Glass Pyramid nestled in the courtyard of the Louvre, the notorious Pompidou Centre plonked slap bang in the most beautiful 18th-century quarter of the city and of course La Tour Eiffel (the magnet every tourist is drawn to on their first visit) – Paris has always liked to shock, surprise, amaze, fantasise. Even the dead in Paris somehow seem to have more class than anywhere else.

And the Parisians themselves: the young, beautified by the sheer impossible romance of it all, les femmes d'une certaine age strutting the streets and boulevards in the city like their own personal catwalk, with a certain touch of fashion flair, the height of chic just like Paris itself. Noisy, boisterous, exuberant, rude, sexy, infuriating, exhilarating, utterly charming – all in one (flaneur's) morning stroll through the city.

In case it's not yet obvious, I love this city like no other. So Paris for me is the other major character in this show, alongside the protagonists. Unlike some of my other love affairs, this one has never died.

Patrick Kealey (Writer: book & Director)

'I hate this crummy, pretentious, up its' own ass town. Could it be any more grey? And is it ever gonna stop raining?' Daniel

Special Acknowledgments

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Jenny Miller & Alan Privett of Barefoot Opera for their beautiful rehearsal room

African Mask kindly supplied by Robert at Robert's Curios

Magda's Red Throne kindly supplied by Robert at Hastings Antiques, Norman Road

Red Chaise kindly supplied by Helen Crichton Jenner

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Alexander Richardson, for giving up time to help with rigging and focus

Fastprint – for printing services

Arts Council England

Thanks to Jules and Leon, the two young sons of my Parisian neighbour Marie-Laure the fabulous costumer, whose charming gift of a tiny tourist snow globe when I was leaving once, triggered my own writer's journey.

And not forgetting Harold whose wise and cunning creative match making began it all.

'You do know they have a couple of decent restaurants in Paris? Apparently some of them even serve wine.'
Betsy



Chalkboard mural artwork by Helen Samuels

