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the
vienna theatre project

presents the European premiere of

The Nina Variations

by **Steven Dietz**

In this funny, fierce and heartbreaking homage to *The Seagull*, Steven Dietz puts Chekhov's star-crossed lovers in a room and doesn't let them out. In forty-three variations on their famous final scene, Nina (a young actress) and Treplev (a young writer) pit their vibrant wit and soaring passions against one another in a fast-paced tour de force of romantic entanglement. In scene after scene, they try to say all the things that were never said, but maybe thought, in Chekhov's original. Possibly, by speaking their minds, they can get together in the end after all?

"delightful ... an odd, haunting, moving theater piece of lingering beauty"

About *Steven Dietz*

Since 1981, Steven Dietz's twenty-plus plays and adaptations have been widely produced at regional theatres across the United States, as well as Off-Broadway. International productions of his work have been seen in England, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Sweden, Australia, Argentina, Peru, Singapore, Slovenia and South Africa. His recent work includes *FICTION*, *OVER THE MOON*, and *LAST OF THE BOYS*. He lives in Seattle.

Production information *The Nina Variations*

Location: Theater Drachengasse Bar & Co – Fleischmarkt 22, 1010 Vienna

Dates: September 13-25, 2004 (daily except September 16 and 20)
Premiere: Monday, September 13 – 8 p.m.
Teachers' Previews: Saturday & Sunday, September 11 & 12 – 8 p.m.
No performances Thursday, September 16, and Monday, September 20

Time: 8 p.m. (except Sunday, September 19 – 4 p.m.)

With: Jennifer Lee Mitchell (Nina), Greg Nelsen (Treplev)

Tickets: 16€ regular - 10€ students & Theatre Tuesday
group discounts available for groups of 10 or more

Reservations: +43 1 513 14 44 (3:30-7pm) +43 1 920 2583
karten@drachengasse.at www.viennatheatreproject.at



Directed by Agnes Kitzler

Assistant: Anita Aichinger

Produced by the vienna theatre project / Martin Buxbaum

Performances in English

About vtp

The *vienna theatre project* was founded in 2002 with the purpose of facilitating high-quality English-language theatre productions at different venues in and around Vienna. Drawing from a pool of mostly Vienna-based professional actors whose native language is usually English, vtp attempts to offer a wide range of contemporary plays in the original and to make the tremendous scope of English-language plays from all over the world more accessible to Vienna audiences. After two successful seasons with a total of nine two-week runs at Theater Drachengasse (2), the Ensemble Theater (2), dietheater Konzerthaus (1) and Die Neue Tribüne (Café Landtmann, 4), *The Nina Variations* is the *vienna theatre project*'s celebratory 10th production and opens its third season.

To find out more about the *vienna theatre project*, please contact its artistic & executive director Martin Buxbaum at office@viennatheatreproject.at or +43 1 920 25 83, or visit its website at www.viennatheatreproject.at.

About Agnes Kitzler

Agnes started her career as a director at the rather early age of six, when she assembled some friends for a legendary performance of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* in her parents' living room – and she has been devoted to theatre ever since.

During high school, Agnes started to learn playing cello and joined the West Austrian Musical Company, where she performed as a singer and dancer in musicals such as *Cabaret* and *Children's Galaxy*. She is presently studying English and theatre quite successfully at the University of Vienna, her primary interest being modern English literature, particularly contemporary English drama involving authors from Samuel Beckett to Sarah Kane.

Agnes has performed as a musical soloist with the Vienna University Choir. She has been taking vocal studies with Vijay Upadhyaya and is a member of the a-capella Renaissance ensemble Vienna Vocal Consort.

She has also appeared for the Vienna student theatre STUTHE as an actress in *Attempts on her Life* and *Elektra*.

Since October 2003, Agnes has been involved in various productions of the *vienna theatre project* as an assistant director and stage manager. Her debut as a director and choreographer, a production of the comedy-musical *Top of the Popes*, premiered in June 2004 at the Interkulttheater Vienna.

About Jennifer Lee Mitchell

Jennifer Lee Mitchell was born in New York City into a theatre family. Father: Set designer. Mother: Actress. Jennifer studied acting at the experimental Theatre Wing at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

Vocal studies led her to Europe, where she has been ever since, working in straight theatre and musicals. Acting credits include: *Crimes Of the Heart*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Elephant Man*, all in English Tours through Europe.

Operetta include: *Die Csardas Fürstin*, and *Ludwig II*.

Musicals include: *Tanz der Vampire*, *Mozart* at Theater an der Wien, *Hair*, *No Sex, Falsettos*, *Cabaret*, *Jekyll and Hyde* and currently *Fame* at various locations in Europe.

Jennifer is proud to have worked with the English Lovers and has studied Theater Sport with Keith Johnstone, and clown with David Shiner of *Cirque du Soleil*.

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About *Greg Nelsen*

Greg Nelsen's interest in the theater began in his high school days in Texas when he decided to exchange stadium lights and football pads for stage lights and costumes. Greg starred in several high-school productions and won accolades including All-Star Cast in the Texas University Interscholastic League State Theater competition. While studying acting, directing and dance at Texas Tech, he appeared in many musicals, ballets and plays, including *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Giselle*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Ballet Futura*, *Ballet Twin Flame*, *The Nutcracker*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Greg has been living in Vienna since August of last year with his wife, Rebecca, who is studying opera on a Fulbright Scholarship. He has recently begun studying voice with Professor Sebastian Vittucci and is excited about eventually adding opera to his repertoire.
