

Written by
Slawomir Mrozek

THE EMIGRANTS

Directed by **Cristiana Zachau**

Produced by Exact Resemblance

ER
EXACT RESEMBLANCE



Written by Slawomir Mrozek, Translated by Henry Beissel

Co-presented by Blackout Art Society & Presentation House Theatre

Mar 1-3, 2024



The Emigrants

By Slawomir Mrozek, translated by Henry Beissel

Dates and Times:

Mar 1–3, 2024

Show length:

Approximately one hour long with no intermission

Audience (adult, youth, children):

Adult

CAST

Akshaya Pattanayak
Jacob Machin

PRODUCTION/CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Cristiana Ripeanu
Producer: Gillian Clare
Sound Design: Kate Chan
Producer: Gillian Clare

The Emigrants is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. (www.concordtheatricals.com)

The Emigrants was produced with support from Canada Council for the Arts and BC Arts Council.



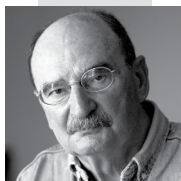
Presentation House Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the terms of the jointly negotiated Canadian Theatre Agreement.



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ABOUT THE WRITER:

Born in Poland in 1930, Mrozek was a writer, artist and author. He fled in the 1960s, living in exile in France, where he became a vocal critic of the Communist regime in his home country. Throughout his exile, his plays were periodically banned in Poland. His work always tackles social issues in an absurdist style, and today he is considered Poland's most important playwright. His plays have been performed at the Royal Shakespeare Company (UK), La MaMa (New York), and the Stratford Festival (Ontario). Written in exile, *The Emigrants* had its premiere in 1974 and is his second most-performed play.

Photo by www.imdb.com/name/nm0610720/bio/


EXACT RESEMBLANCE

ABOUT EXACT RESEMBLANCE:

Founded by Gillian Clare and Cristiana Ripeanu in 2022, Exact Reemblance is a new theatre company based in Vancouver. We value rigour, pluralism and cross-sectoral partnership. We aim to showcase and promote women-identifying, emerging and immigrant artists. In February 2024, we presented our second show, *Constellations*, which performed at Studio 16 in Vancouver. Find us at www.exactresemblance.com/ or on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



ABOUT BLACKOUT ART SOCIETY:

In 2012, Vancouver, BC, witnessed the inception of a unique theatrical force: Blackout Theatre. Initially emerging as an ad hoc theatre ensemble, we passionately set our sights on creating socially aware and pioneering theatre experiences that resonated deeply with the Persian community. With the invaluable contributions of local Persian artists, our first four years were marked by performances that echoed our cultural heritage and enlightened our audiences. Taking a significant leap in 2017, Blackout Theatre transformed into a registered not-for-profit organization in British Columbia, Blackout Art Society.



ABOUT PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE:

Nestled in the heart of North Vancouver's Lower Lonsdale, Presentation House Theatre is a home for the arts, a neighbourhood creative cultural centre providing the community with a dynamic mix of professional performing arts productions and programs -- all just a Seabus away from downtown Vancouver. We are the North Shore's professional theatre company and home to the PHT Creative Hub.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



T*he Emigrants* by Slawomir Mrozek is more than just a play about immigrants struggling to integrate. On a first level this is the story of the play: two immigrants living in a basement in improper living conditions reveal the dilemmas and barriers they face in their new country. On a meta level though, the play touches on the dichotomy between freedom, as it is understood in a democratic environment and the hamster-wheel most people feel trapped in, in the same environment. The play has always been close to my heart. I am myself an immigrant from an eastern European country which once was a dictatorship and which has been struggling with the concept of "freedom" since it gained it. Immigration comes along with a lot of struggles and barriers, which are hard to comprehend by those who have not experienced it. I have personally experienced some of them myself - from language barriers to racism, to inaccessible career paths, due to not being from "there". I thought it would be interesting to bring this play to life in Canada, a country with a majority of immigrant population, where immigration is so present as a hot political topic these days, as it is in most of the western world. It is such a contentious topic, yet the topic has very little representation in the world of theatre. What I find most compelling about this particular view on the theme is that it passes no judgement. It examines an isolated sample under a magnifying lens and allows us a peek into a tragic-comic moment in the lives of its test subjects. It walks the line between comedy and drama in a way that it allows us to connect through laughter and empathy. This play might not change anyone's views on politics, but it may inspire us to look beyond abstract concepts and see the human being behind it. I hope it encourages audiences to reflect on their own views and experiences regarding immigration, as they watch the play or once they've walked out of the theatre.

I love making the audience laugh and cry almost at the same time and the exquisite acting makes the play come alive with incredible authenticity and heart. I believe audiences will have an entertaining time that will also open their hearts a bit more. This is all I hope to achieve with the stories I tell.

- Cristiana Ripeanu

DIRECTOR & CAST



Cristiana Ripeanu (she/her) - *Director*

Cristiana is a Romanian-Canadian theatre director and educator. Her work has been staged at several state theatres in Romania and performed in multiple languages at festivals across Europe, such as Balkan Theatre Festival, International Theatre School Festivals (Greece, Netherlands, Albania), and Freistil Festival (Germany). In Canada and Germany, Cristiana has worked as an acting teacher and director for independent theatre companies and organizations. She also works in community-building and social outreach programs with sociocultural organizations in Germany. After spending the last 14 years in Germany, Cristiana has now relocated to Vancouver, where she looks to join other creators in the effort of enriching the Canadian theatre scene.



Jacob Machin (he/him) - *Cast*

Jacob's career started in pantomime before finding a brief but successful calling in stand-up comedy, winning the 2007 Melbourne International Comedy Festival's 'Class Clowns' competition. Jacob went on to various theatre productions such as *Death Of A Salesman*, *Next To Normal*, *Young and Jackson*, directed by Wayne Harrison, *August: Osage County*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* with Melbourne Shakespeare Company. Now based in Vancouver, Jacob has recently appeared in '*Big Sky*,' '*Supernatural*,' and '*Twilight Zone*.' Find him on IMDb.



Akshaya Pattanayak (he/him) - *Cast*

Akshaya (meaning "never ending") is an actor and teacher based in Vancouver. He was born in Montreal but raised in different parts of India. He has an MFA in Acting from the University of Southern California and currently teaches acting at the Vancouver Film School. Notable theatre credits include *Bad Hamlet*, *Milkcrate Monologues*, *Macbeth* and *90 days*. Film and TV credits include '*Last Bite*' and '*Digby and Glass*'. Next, he will be starring in the short film '*Wellington*' and will be featured in an upcoming TBA television show.

Produced by Ruby Slippers Theatre
in association with
Presentation House Theatre
and Blackout Arts Society

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Mar 22–31 | Presentation House Theatre



VOLUNTEERING AT PHT

Our wonderful volunteers help Presentation House Theatre bring entertaining, engaging and accessible theatre and programs to our audiences of all ages. Volunteering is a great way to be part of the theatre, connect with the community, meet new people, and contribute to our exciting season of shows year after year.

Are you friendly, reliable, outgoing, and keen about theatre and the arts?

Join our team of volunteers! There are a variety of ways you can volunteer with us from ushering, working in the concession, to bringing your own expertise to help the theatre.

Perks of Volunteering with us:

- While working an Usher shift, our Ushers get to sit inside the theatre and watch the show.
- All volunteers receive 50% off our Concession items.
- Take part in our Zoom Insider Sessions. This is for our volunteers to connect, learn insider info about the theatre, our shows and Q&A sessions with artists in our community.
- For those who volunteer in our Concession, they receive an extra ticket to bring a plus one on the night they are volunteering or two complimentary tickets to another show of the run. (This perk is only for those who volunteer in our concession.)



Interested in volunteering?

Visit <https://www.phtheatre.org/volunteer/> to learn more.

We do require all our volunteers to be 16 years or older.

Please note that we are currently not looking for volunteers for creative duties such as set painters, costume, prop, set, lighting and sound designers, actors and any other role involved in the creation of a show. These are all paid positions.



PRESENTATION HOUSE THEATRE STAFF

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