



For Immediate Release

Kill Date: March 6, 2016

Tim Crouch's *An Oak Tree* returns to Seattle

at the 2016 Seattle Fringe Festival

Two actors. Only one has read the script.

Theater producer turns actor into character!

An actor steps onto a stage without ever having seen the play or read the script. Following the suggestions of a theater producer and director who is playing the role of a stage hypnotist, the actor is transformed into a grief-stricken father.

Man turns tree into person!

A grief-stricken father is hypnotized by a nightclub performer. Following the stage hypnotist's suggestions, the father is transformed, even as he transforms the world around him.

Tim Crouch's *An Oak Tree* is an absurdly comic play for 2 actors that poses questions about the power of grief and the nature of imagination. The role of the hypnotist, originally played by the author, is played in this production by David Gassner, producing director of Radial Theater Project. The role of the father is played by a different guest actor at each performance.

This production, which was originally staged at Theater Schmeater in 2009, is directed by K. Brian Neel, with designs by Larry Ryan and Julia Evanovich.

The Seattle Fringe Festival runs February 25-March 6, 2016, with performances on Capitol Hill and at the Armory at Seattle Center. *An Oak Tree* will be performed in Center Theatre at the Armory on these dates:

Friday, February 26

Saturday, February 27

Friday, March 4

Saturday, March 5

All performances are at 7:00pm

Running time: 75 minutes

about Tim Crouch

Tim is an OBIE award-winning British playwright and theatre maker. He was an actor for many years before starting to write – and still performs in much of his work. His plays for adult audiences include *My Arm* (Prix Italia, 2004), *ENGLAND* – a play for galleries (Fringe First, Herald Angel and Total Theatre Award, 2007, played at Seattle’s Henry Art Gallery in 2008), *An Oak Tree* (OBIE, 2007), *The Author* (a Royal Court Theatre commission, winner of a Total Theatre award and the John Whiting Award, 2010), *what happens to the hope at the end of the evening* (Almeida, 2013) and *Adler & Gibb* (a Royal Court Theatre co-commission with the Center Theatre Group, LA, 2014). Tim is currently under commission to the Unicorn Theatre. In 2016, he is adapting and directing *The Complete Deaths for Spymonkey*.

about David Gassner

David most recently directed *We are Proud to Present...* for Pony World Theatre and *HAIR* at ArtsWest. As producing director of Radial Theater Project, he directed the world premieres of Wayne Rawley's *Beating Up Bachman*, Vincent Delaney's *99 Layoffs*, and Celene Ramadan's *Karaoke Suicide is Painless*. Other Seattle directing credits include: *Kvetch*, *The Mandrake*, *Maria/Stuart*, *The American Pilot* and *Mamet Schmamet!* (Theater Schmeater, artistic director 2007-2009); *Or, the Whale* (Pony World Theatre, company member); *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*, *The Happy Ones* (Seattle Public Theater); *Trout Stanley* (Balagan Theatre); and new work with 14/48, ACT Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival, and theater simple. As an actor he has appeared locally with Pony World Theatre, New City Theater, Seattle Shakespeare Company/Wooden O, Capitol Hill Arts Center, Seattle Public Theater, and Theater Schmeater. He played the role of the Librarian in the Northern California premiere of *Underneath the Lintel*, and holds an MFA from U.C. San Diego's Professional Theatre Training Program.

about Radial Theater Project

Radial Theater Project is a Seattle-based production company dedicated to creating and presenting new theatrical works in partnership with local theater artists. Past world premiere productions include *Karaoke Suicide is Painless* (2011 Seattle Solo Performance Festival), *99 Layoffs* (ACT Theatre's Central Heating Lab), *Beating Up Bachman* (co-produced with BASH Theatre at West of Lenin), *AISLE 9* (2013 Seattle Fringe Festival), and *PROFILE* (2014 Seattle Fringe Festival). Radial Theater Project is also the producer of Locally Grown, a festival of homemade performance that was first presented in 2015 at New City Theater.

<http://radialtheater.org>

about Seattle Fringe Festival

Seattle Fringe Festival presents two weekends of independent, and locally sourced live performance February 25 - March 5, 2016. Innovative art is accessible to artists and audiences through low ticket prices and producing fees. The artists are predominantly chosen by lottery and 100% of ticket revenue is returned to the artists. Performances will be held in Capitol Hill's Annex Theatre and Eclectic Theatre as well as in lower Queen Anne in Theatre Puget Sound's Black Box, Studio, and at the Armory at Seattle Center.
<http://seattlefringefestival.org>

media contact for An Oak Tree

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more information

<http://radialtheater.org>

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An Oak Tree
by Tim Crouch

Featuring David Gassner and a special guest

At the 2016 Seattle Fringe Festival
Center Theatre at the Armory, Seattle Center

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Info/tickets: <http://radialtheater.org>