

"I JUST WANT TO BE MISERABLE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!"



5. — 13. APRIL 2024



VANESSA POOLE JANA PULKRABEK

WRITTEN BY: **John Foster**

DIRECTED BY: PAUL GLASER

A PROJECT BY: HIT INTERNATIONAL THEATRE ARTS / MOVE THE NORTH

TEATRET VED SORTE



HAP by John Foster

"I just want to be miserable like everyone else!"

HAP is a heart-warming, hilarious and quirky comedy about love, loneliness and the modern obsession with the pursuit of happiness, by BAFTA award-winning, OFFIE-nominated British playwright John Foster.

HAP performed as a world premiere in Hamburg, Germany, then in Malmö, Sweden and is now being presented in Denmark for the very first time, again by HIT International Theatre Arts.

Directed by: Paul Glaser, from The English Theatre of Hamburg - winner of the 2023 Rolf Mares Award as best theatre director in Hamburg

HAP is part of the official 2024 Move the North crossborder-festival program. Originally produced by ManusArts GmbH (Germany) and in collaboration with The English Theatre of Hamburg.

A HIT International Theatre Arts production. www.hit-theatre.com

About the Play

Meet Hap. A woman who can't stop her own laughter.

Bouts of the blues hit most people. Hap has the opposite problem. Despite all attempts to be a miserablist, she can't ever not be happy!

Unhappy with her absurd state of constant joy, Hap goes to see a therapist, Doctor Marples, seeking a cure. Doctor Marples, herself desperate for joy, is quite the opposite and doesn't know how to be happy in the first place!

Dr. Marples is highly skeptical towards her peculiar new patient and refuses to see Hap's genuine laughter as an illness. How can anyone be too happy?

This play is a slightly absurdist, contemporary dramatic comedy that invites the audience to look at modern society's ambiguous relationship with happiness. Has today's constant bombardment of scrolling newsfeed, self-help books and social media made us unable to identify how we feel? How can Hap convince Doctor Marples she has a real problem? Luckily there is a happy ending!

Hap and her unwilling therapist find, to their surprise, giggles and romance in the most unlikely of places.

Come and join the laughter!



PAUL GLASER THE DIRECTOR

Swedish-born Paul Glaser is the Artistic Director of The English Theatre of Hamburg, Germany's oldest private English-language theatre. Known to Swedish audiences in roles as for example Tony in "Westside Story" (Malmö), Jack in "Into the Woods" (Stockholm), or nationwide from the SVT series "Solstollarna", he portrayed many international leading roles. Paul is a sought-after composer and songwriter, creating sound design for over 40 plays and has co-written 5 successful musicals. Paul is the Winner of the 2023 Rolf Mares Award as best theatre director in Hamburg, followed by a current nomination for the "Hamburger Theaterpreis", most recently known for his productions such as: "The Pride", "The Hound of Baskervilles", "Great Expectations", "The Picture of Dorian Grey", "The Woman in Black", "Death Knell" and "Hap".



JOHN FOSTER THE PLAYWRIGHT

BAFTA award winning, OFFIE-nominated British playwright and screenwriter John Foster has had his plays produced in London, South-West England, Hamburg, Copenhagen and Malmö. Notable among John's writing are for example his free adaptation of "Frankenstein", the touring production of "Shot at Dawn", "Chummy" - performed at the White Bear Theatre, London- receiving four OFFIE nominations, including 'Best New Play' and his award-winning play RIDE!. John has written for children's drama, single plays and dramatised documentaries for television, including a BAFTA award-winning BBC "Omnibus" episode on US crime writer Raymond Chandler. He scripted the Patrick Swayze movie "Letters from a Killer" and is contributor to the award-winning crime fiction collection "Mean Time".



VANESSA POOLE THE ACTRESS

Vanessa is a British character actress based in Malmö and Copenhagen with over 30 years' experience of acting in English. She has had drama training in the UK, Sweden and Copenhagen started working professionally recording English radio plays for schools at the age of 8 in Malta and is equally at home playing drama or comedy. She has played lead roles in Malmö, Hamburg and Copenhagen, as well as at the National Theatre of Malta. Lead roles include Freya in "Vodka Talks", Vanda in "Venus in Fur", Edith in "Sunday in Sodom", Sarah in TV series "Max's Movie" for SVT/UR in Sweden. Vanessa is one of the original founding members of Down the Rabbithole Theatre / Cph, brand associate of HIT International Theatre Arts and board member of Playmate Theatre Malmö in Sweden.



JANA PULKRABEK THE ACTRESS

Jana studied acting in New York at The Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute and The Actor's Studio, followed by theatre and film studies in London and Berlin. She works as an international theatre director and film producer, in English and in German. Jana has performed on stages in New York, Hamburg, Malmö and Copenhagen in lead roles of productions such as "Vodka Talks", Harold Pinter's "Old Times" and "The Lover", "The Clean House" by Sarah Ruhl, "Sex and Betrayal", "Lovers, Authors and Other Strangers". Jana directed for example for the National Theatre Kiel, Altonaer Theater Hamburg and with "The Myth Kafka" at Republique in Copenhagen. Jana is founder and Artistic Director of the cross-border-festival Move the North and HIT International Theatre Arts and Co-CEO of ManusArts for Film, Theatre and Arts.

Cast

Vanessa Poole Jana Pulkrabek

Creatives

Director: Paul Glaser

Playwright: John Foster

Set design: JP ManusArts / ETH

Light & and sound design: Paul Glaser

Director's Assistant: Joan Bentsen

Stage tech & manager: Angelique Giroir

Info

Duration: 60 min without intermission

The performance is in English

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Photo by Filip Misiak Orestes













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