

SAVE THE DATE!
NOTEWORTHY
 FREE FOR AMBASSADORS!

June 1, 2015 @ 7pm

You and a guest are invited to this exclusive event to hear hilarious, riveting and moving songs from new musicals developed in Acting Up Stage Company's NoteWorthy program.
 Jazz Bistro, 251 Victoria St.

Sara Farb, Photographer: Joanna Akyol

#Noteworthy



RSVP now for you & a guest to carly@actingupstage.com.

BALLAD OF THE BURNING STAR

May 19-24, 2015

Armed with music, heels and a lethal troop of divas, an enraged Israeli executes a story of victimhood, aggression and love.

The Theatre Centre,
 1115 Queen St. West



Photo: Alex Brenner

#BOTBS

A Theatre Ad Infinitum (UK) production

CO-PRESENTED WITH WHYNOT THEATRE

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH koffler

Tickets on sale **NOW!**

Online: burningstar.ca
 Phone: 416-538-0988

Nightly pre-show chats,
 45 minutes before curtain.

"A theatrical hand grenade!" – The Guardian

ACTING UP STAGE COMPANY



THE INSIDER, Issue 4

AMBASSADOR



Photo: Alex Brenner

BALLAD OF THE BURNING STAR

May 19-24, 2015

Tickets on sale **NOW!**

AMBASSADOR EVENT: NOTEWORTHY

June 1, 2015 @ 7pm

Admission is **FREE!**

PRESENTING SEASON SPONSOR





A Message from Artistic Director, Mitchell Marcus

It was a wild winter indeed with our steaming hot production of *The Wild Party*. I am so proud to share that it was one of the highest-selling and most critically acclaimed productions in our history.

It was also a pleasure meeting so many of you at our March 2 Ambassador event, "An Evening with Michael John LaChiusa." For those of you who have been unable to attend the last two Ambassador events, I hope you can join us on June 1 at the Jazz Bistro as we present excerpts of original Canadian musicals that were created in our NoteWorthy program. As always, the event is free of charge and exclusive for Ambassadors and Acting Up Stage supporters.

Finally, I'm very excited about our May presentation of *Ballad of the Burning Star*. It's an innovative and powerful piece of musical theatre that makes its North American debut with us, after an acclaimed premiere in Edinburgh and subsequent UK Tour. Plus, as our final production of 2014-2015, it will be the last chance for some of you to retain your Ambassador status in 2015-2016 (which automatically renews if you purchase tickets to two different events in 2014-2015).

Enjoy this edition of the Ambassador newsletter.

Mitchell Marcus
Artistic & Managing Director

What's an Ambassador?

Ambassadors (like you) are our most loyal customers. We want to reward your patronage with:

- **4 Ambassador Insiders (this is the fourth!)**
- **Invitations to 3 in-person "behind the scenes" events**
- **An exclusive presale opportunity for each production**
- **Special offers for you and your friends**

There is no cost or obligation to be an Ambassador and your membership runs until June 30, 2015. To remain an Ambassador in 2015/2016, make sure you have bought tickets to two Acting Up Stage productions between September 2014 and June 2015.

Get in Touch!

@ info@actingupstage.com
 f actingupstagecompany
 @actingupstage

Mark Your Calendar

April 19	And 5,6,7,8... A Musical Theatre Dance Party!
May 19 - 24	Ballad of the Burning Star
June 1	Ambassador performance by NoteWorthy grads



Amy Nostbakken

A Torontonians in *Ballad of the Burning Star* - Amy Nostbakken

Amy Nostbakken is a writer/performer/composer and co-artistic director of the Toronto-based Quote Unquote Collective, and is the only Canadian performer in *Ballad of the Burning Star*, which includes cast members from Japan, Austria, the UK, and Israel.

What was the rehearsal process like?

The development process for *Ballad* was rigorous. The show is extremely challenging - physically, vocally, and emotionally; we are dealing with explosive themes, gruelling choreography, song, humour, history, violence, trauma, fists, kicks, crippling inner-conflict... I believe that is one of the reasons Ad Infinitum continues to make such powerful work - cast members are not simply hired guns, devising the play is not a "gig." This kind of work is why we are theatre makers - to create something that is necessary, to provoke, to change. We also have a stupid amount of fun doing it.

What was it like to work with such an international cast?

Most of us met at Lecoq where everyone is from a different country; international is a familiar flavour for us. Crafting something with a group of people who are exactly like you is a lousy idea, I'm falling asleep just thinking about it. The more histories, opinions, culture clashes, musical backgrounds, accents and half-translated jokes the better. It enriches the work and keeps you on your toes.

What have been some of the reactions to the show?

This show fires people up, which is the idea - to incite discussion and debate. It also sometimes leads to extreme emotions, tears, boycotting, even aggression.

What's your favourite part about performing *Ballad of the Burning Star*?

Being part of a production that feels so important and so relevant. It's also an absolute joy and comfort to perform alongside these people. I'm so happy *Ballad* is coming to Canada



A NoteWorthy session with Kevin Wong at the Piano

Developing New Musicals

Imagine this - you are a playwright and you meet a composer for the first time. You are given a newspaper article and two and a half days to generate an original 10-15 minute musical with a beginning, middle and end. The moment you finish, you are introduced to a new collaborator and the process begins again. The excitement and mayhem of this exercise is the structure of our annual **NoteWorthy** program. Now in its fourth year, NoteWorthy offers an environment for acclaimed Canadian playwrights, composers and lyricists to come together to forge collaborations for the development of new Canadian musicals.

While Canada has a rich history developing new plays, our country lacks the infrastructure for new musical development with a shortage of training, development, and production opportunities for new work. Beyond one-off flukes like *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*, we have very few examples of successful Canadian musicals. Our NoteWorthy program seeks to change that by cultivating interesting and innovative collaborations and offering them training, financial support and source material with which to create new musicals for production in a future season. On June 1, we are offering our Ambassadors the first ever "behind the scenes" peak into NoteWorthy. Playwrights Sara Farb & Matt Muray and composers Kevin Wong & Britta Johnson will share the hilarious, theatrical and moving "mini-musicals" that they created in this year's NoteWorthy as well as insight into the experience of being a musical theatre writer in Canada.

SAVE THE DATE!



Jackie Richardson in *UnCovered: Billy Joel & Elton John*. Photo by Joanna Akyol

UNCOVERED SIMON & GARFUNKEL

November 3-5, 2015

An all-star cast of Canadian musical performers re-imagine iconic Simon & Garfunkel songs with brand new theatrical arrangements.

Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. West

Tickets are exclusively on sale for groups of 8 or more. Call THE Group Tix Company at (647) 438-5559 or 1 (866) 447-7849 if you are outside the GTA. Stay tuned for details on this year's performers!