



For Immediate Release, Please

MOVING PARTS THEATER
PRESENTS
CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN'S *LOVERS & OTHER STRANGLERS*
FOR A LIMITED ENGAGEMENT AT THE GENE FRANKEL THEATER
JUNE 4TH - 28TH ONLY!!

Moving Parts Theater will present Clay McLeod Chapman's ***LOVERS & OTHER STRANGLERS***, with music by Pat Rasile and direction by Charles Loffredo, beginning June 4th and continuing through June 28th at the Gene Frankel Theater. ***LOVERS & OTHER STRANGLERS*** will feature Ven Daniel, Heather Grayson, Chantel Lyonne, Chris Murray, Patricia Randell & David Rhodes.

LOVERS & OTHER STRANGLERS is a follow up to the world premiere production *Broken Boughs*, both written by Clay McLeod Chapman. Like its predecessor, ***LOVERS & OTHER STRANGLERS*** is comprised of four short stories in the form of monologue. *Lovers...* will elucidate the darker side of love gone sour, in a more whimsical and sardonic fashion. The stories are more allegorical, cautionary modern fables, often beginning in a familiar organized reality, but soon veering off into worlds fantastical and frightening.

True to its mission of incorporating performing, literary and visual art, Moving Parts Theater has conceived ***LOVERS & OTHER STRANGLERS*** as an amalgam of classic storytelling, dance theater, and puppetry. The overall effect will be that of a seamless interaction of actors, dancers and puppets telling their stories in unusual and unexpected ways. Music of course will be an integral part of the play, virtually scored from beginning to end to accompany and enliven the stories.

The evening begins with *Foxtrot*, the story of a 79-year-old woman whose home is invaded by a rabid fox (inspired by an actual *Richmond Times-Dispatch* news story). A male dancer, wooing and enticing the septuagenarian into an amorous dance of death, personifies the fox. The unlikely couple indulges in a series of classic ballroom dances, recalling the old woman's youth, while the fox seduces her toward her grave with a vampire's kiss. In *Chatterbox* we encounter Howard, a ventriloquist with a less than conventional relationship with his dummy. However, Howard does not speak a word as the dummy grills and berates him over the discovery of an unwelcome addition to Howard's manipulating left hand: a wedding ring.

Act II begins with *Michelle*, the story of Hayden Peter's obsession with the sixteen-year-old next door. He recounts how the girl taunted and tempted him into a brief encounter, euphemized by her constant water ballet in her pool and her repeated invitations to him to join her. Like Stanley Kubrick's *Lolita*, this play is staged

with piquant cynicism to offset the obviously controversial subject matter. In *Correspondence of Corpses*, Mary Brown, an elderly woman, is bound to her seaside home awaiting the return of her beloved husband Tom, a fisherman presumably lost at sea. She is the object of ridicule by local children, and as the story unfurls and her mind unravels, she is visited not by Tom, but by Roger, a partly decomposed corpse, and later by his band of corroding comrades. Of course (as is the case in most of Mr. Chapman's stories) the tale takes a wicked turn as we discover the true nature of Tom's disappearance. The piece will feature ghastly full-body puppets.

LOVERS & OTHER STRANGLERS begins performances June 4th and continues through June 28th at the Gene Frankel Theater (24 Bond Street, between Bowery & Lafayette). Performances will be Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays at 8:00 PM, and Sundays at 7:00 PM. All seats are \$15 and can be purchased by visiting www.smartix.com, or by calling 212-868-4444. More info at www.MovingPartsTheater.com