

PRESS RELEASE

Saboteur, a theatrical game with puzzles by David Pisa

Press Release
June 8, 2011

Contact

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Walking Shadow Presents *Saboteur*, a Spy-Themed Story that Requires the Audience to Solve Large-Scale, Hands-On Puzzles

Saboteur, a site-specific theatrical game with puzzles
Story and puzzles by David Pisa
Directed by Amy Rummenie
July 9 - August 3, 2011

Walking Shadow Theatre Company presents the original production of ***Saboteur***, a site-specific theatrical puzzle game. ***Saboteur*** combines dramatic actor-based scenes with big physical puzzles for the audience to solve along the way. Because of the interactive nature of the show, each audience is limited to just 15 people.

In ***Saboteur***, a spy story, the audience becomes part of the action. The story can only progress as challenges are overcome, and new areas unlocked. ***Saboteur*** is structured a little like a video game, alternating playable areas with story sequences. ***Saboteur*** is theatrical, but is perhaps more properly termed a game or event.

Unique among the many types of interactive shows, ***Saboteur*** is a safe experience for those who may be hesitant about participatory theater. The audience does not need to role-play, nor do the actors expect the audience to respond. The audience will need to work together as a team to solve puzzles as they are presented, so group dynamics are a major part of the challenge.

Saboteur is the second puzzle game from Walking Shadow, following the sold-out *1926 Pleasant* at the 2006 Fringe Festival. Puzzles for that show included a 3D jigsaw puzzle with 2-foot pieces, a room whose walls were covered with a maze constructed of sentence fragments, and a Sudoku taller than a person. Similarly, ***Saboteur's*** puzzles are unique, big, and designed to be fun rather than fiendish.

Puzzle designer **David Pisa** previously designed the interactive puzzles for *1926 Pleasant*. He regularly creates large-scale puzzle hunts for various groups including the MNZero puzzle community and private clients. He is also Walking Shadow's Executive Director and co-Artistic Director.

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Amy Rummenie (*after the quake, The Crowd You're In With, Mojo, The American Pilot, Fat Pig*) directs. The cast includes newcomers to the Walking Shadow stage: **Aayush Chandan** (U of M/Guthrie BFA: *Reverb, The Undiscovered Country, As You Like It*) and **Emma Gochberg** (Theatre in the Round: *Beyond Therapy*, Paul Bunyan Playhouse: *Dracula*).

EVENT: *Saboteur*
WRITTEN BY: David Pisa
PUZZLES CONCEIVED BY: David Pisa
DIRECTED BY: Amy Rummenie
NOTE: World Premiere, Original Production, Very Limited Seating

DATES: July 9 - August 3, 2011
VENUE: Undisclosed Secret Location (NE Minneapolis)
TICKETS: \$15 - \$25, advance purchase required
RESERVATIONS: only available through the link at
www.walkingshadowcompany.org

SUMMARY: An explosive summer event with a suspicious man, a woman with a secret identity, and a relationship full of traps. Play along in a dangerous story of espionage and romance combining theatrical elements and unique hands-on scenes. Discover the clues... solve the original puzzles... unfold the mystery.

SPECIFIC DATES/TIMES:

Saturday, July 9 (4:00 & 7:30) OPENING
Sunday, July 10 (7:00)

Monday, July 11 (7:30)
Thursday, July 14 (7:30)
Friday, July 15 (7:30)
Saturday, July 16 (4:00 & 7:30)
Sunday, July 17 (7:00)

Monday, July 18 (7:30)
Tuesday, July 19 (7:30)
Thursday, July 21 (7:30)
Friday, July 22 (7:30)
Saturday, July 23 (4:00 & 7:30)
Sunday, July 24 (7:00)

Tuesday, July 26 (7:30)
Wednesday, July 27 (7:30)

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Thursday, July 28 (7:30)

Friday, July 29 (7:30)

Saturday, July 30 (4:00 & 7:30)

Sunday, July 31 (7:00)

Monday, August 1 (7:30)

Tuesday, August 2 (7:30)

Wednesday, August 3 (7:30)

About Walking Shadow Theatre Company:

Since 2004, Walking Shadow Theatre has gained a reputation for creating well-staged and carefully researched independent theater. Past productions include *after the quake*, *after the quake* by Haruki Murakami, *Drakul* by John Heimbuch, *Robots vs. Fake Robots* by David Largman Murray, Neil LaBute's *Some Girl(s)* and *Fat Pig*, and David Greig's *The American Pilot*, as well as notable Fringe Festival successes including *1926 Pleasant*, *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, *SQUAWK* and *See You Next Tuesday*. This show marks Walking Shadow's 22nd production for the Twin Cities stage.

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