

ECHANGE THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS



# Baltrap

**A play by Xavier Durringer**

Translated from the french by the company © éditions THÉÂTRALES, Paris, for the original text

**A BRITISH PREMIERE DIRECTED BY DAVID FURLONG**

**WITH FANNY DULIN, HANNAH LEAN, JOHN McQUAID AND ROBERT SHILTON  
AND THE MUSICIAN**

*Real people dealing with irrational feelings. A moment of urban and poetic theatre with a live musician, by the playwright known as The French « Ravenhill »*

**A PERFORMANCE with LIVE MUSIC  
DESIGNED FOR BARS and PUBS**

[www.exchangetheatre.com](http://www.exchangetheatre.com)

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**The show is available for a one off fee of £450**

**The venue chooses to organise a ticket sale or a free event**

**No special technical requirement**

**4 Characters**

**1 Guitar player**

**1 Dressing room**

**No lighting**

**No plugging**

**No stage**

**The show takes place amongst the customers.**



# A SHOW DESIGNED FOR YOUR BAR

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## The Realism

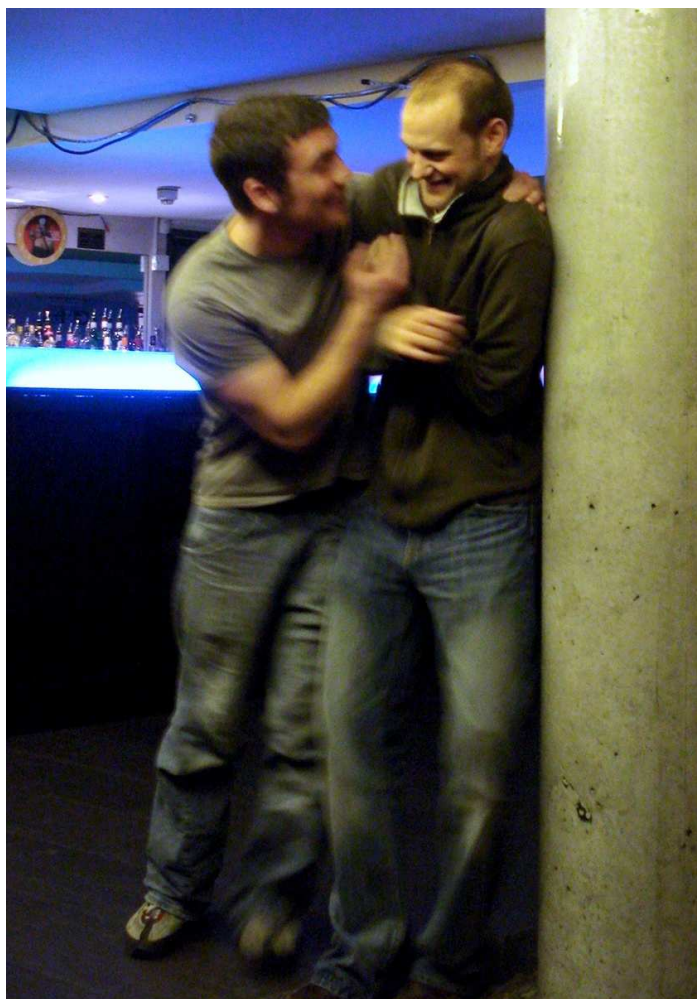
The play is short. Only four characters. It is sharp and simple. The situation: a couple is at the edge of breaking up, another one is meeting for the first time.

And it's realistic. The production has already been workshoped and conceived as a situation which could happen out of a stage: in a pub, in a warehouse... In your venue ! The situation is your venue. The story is happening exactly where the performance is taking place, so the characters are real.

We want to break entirely the boundaries with the audience and the stage. The action is taking place among the audience. This creates a new spontaneity, and a « bigger than life » effect. It's striking and it brings theatre back to real people.

## The Plot

The characters are real, from every day life, they are real people from today, dealing with irrational feelings: love and loss.



Lulu and Gino are coming back to the place where they first met in order to get their Love back. They're lost and they don't know what happened to them. Everyday life has killed love.

Muso and Bubble are meeting for the first time, hesitant between their desire to discover each other and the fear of risking and losing.

Words in Bal Trap are sharp and violent: the language of the play is direct, crude. Very realistic. And the rythm makes most of the play a comedy.

## The live music

In all the work of the company so far, the sound and the music has always been a major part.

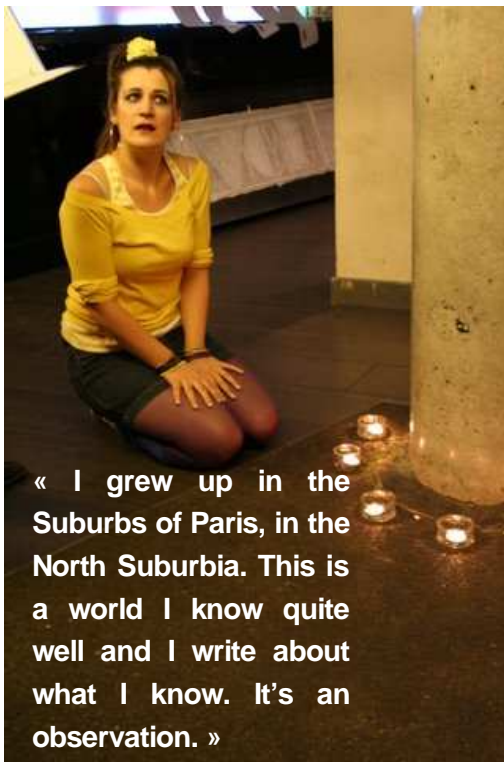
In Bal Trap. The musician, the fifth character of the play is on stage. He performs live with a guitar, and throughtout the whole performance, he is altering, or enlightening the moments of emotion of the play. His permanent presence will give a unique and essential esthetic input, an element of urban poetry. And he adds the feeling for the audience that the music is not a soundtrack but a reality.

# THE COMPANY

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**The writer: Xavier Durringer**

Xavier Durringer was born in 1963 in Paris. Since 1989, he runs La Lézarde, a theatre company for which he writes and directs. He is also a film maker, and is currently shooting his third feature film. He is now one of the most important playwright in France. His work has been translated into seven languages. In London, Mark Ravenhill's translation of « A desire to kill on the tip of the tongue » was produced in 1997 at the Royal Court. Other credits include: La nuit à l'envers (Comédie Française), La Quille (National Theatre of Strasbourg), Surfeurs (Avignon International Festival). He also directed « Oh Pardon, tu dormais » a play written and played by Jane Birkin. Xavier Durringer always carries a notepad with him in order to « catch the words in flight » because he says that today's poetry is heard on the streets. Durringer's theatre has the power of being a mirror of today's reality, and tell stories that are ours. BAL TRAP is one of his earliest plays. It has never been translated nor performed in English before.



« I grew up in the Suburbs of Paris, in the North Suburbia. This is a world I know quite well and I write about what I know. It's an observation. »

**The Director: David Furlong**

David Furlong is from Mauritius and was educated with both English and French. He trained in the National French Theatre in Paris before moving to London where he directs Echange Theatre and has directed "The Exchange", "The Flies" and "Business" which he also wrote. He is also an actor with numerous theatre credits and recently seen on screen in "Diagnosis Superstar" and "Flyboys".

## THE CAST

**Robert Shilton (GINO)**

Robert trained at Drama Studio London. Previous roles include the Cardinal in the Duchess of Malfi (Playbox Theatre, Warwick/Stratford-upon-Avon) and Flute/Moth in a site-specific production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at Hampton Court Palace. Robert recently play Ned Blunt in The Rover at this year's Edinburgh Festival. Films include: Adam in the Casanova Complex, Res in Quietus and Daniel in Out of Service.

**Hannah Lean (LULU)**

Hannah trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Her previous stage credits include: Jan in Bedroom Farce (Glasgow Theatre Royal), Young Penny and Antonia in The Shell Seekers (UK No1 Tour), Marion in Cock-A-Doodle Dandy; Roberta in The Railway Children (both at The Kings Head Theatre), Natayla in The Proposal (Straight From Work Theatre Company) and Rose in A Desire to Kill On The Tip Of The Tongue (UK Premier of Durringer's play translated by Mark Ravenhill).

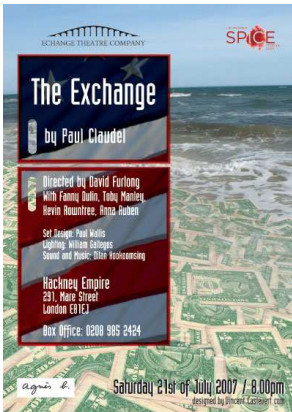
**Fanny Dulin (BUBBLE)**

Fanny trained in France and at the Bridge Theatre Training Company in London. Theatre credits include Marthe in The Exchange by Paul Claudel, Yvonne in "Madame's late mother" by Georges Feydeau and Clytemnestra in The Flies by Jean Paul Sartre. Film credits include Beth in Stuck (DarkPink Productions), Madeleine in Footsteps (Pegbet Productions), and featured ensemble in Sweeney Todd (Tim Burton, DreamWorks).

**John McQuaid (MUSO)**

John Graduated from the University Of Hull in 2005 and Double Edge Theatre Company in Massachusetts where he focused on physical theatre. While in America he worked on several Productions with the Double Edge Theatre Company. Since Moving to London he has performed in Dance Hall Days at the Riverside Studios, and has also been working on short films with the London Film School.

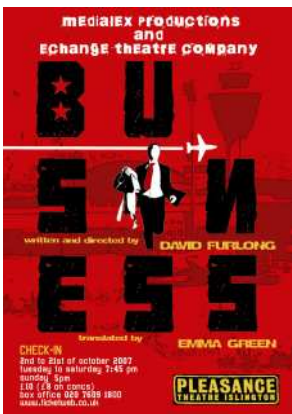




**July 2007:**  
**THE EXCHANGE** by Paul Claudel  
 Spice Festival 2007, Hackney Empire.

Directed by David Furlong. With Fanny Dulin, Toby Manley, Anna Ruben, Kevin Golding.

**« We laughed a lot without missing the complexity and beauty. Elegance, simplicity and beauty. »**  
*Michael Donley - Paul Claudel Review.*



**October 2007:**  
**BUSINESS** by David Furlong  
 Pleasance Theatre studio.

Written and directed by David Furlong. In co-production with Medialex. With Paul Bruce, Alexandre Liaume and Allen Lidkey

**“This play is important because it talks about things that we all think about”**  
*Frey Le Maistre - Fringe Review.*

**November 2007:** British Premiere of BAL TRAP by Xavier Durringer – Stoked Festival.

**July 2008 :** British Premiere of MADAME’S LATE MOTHER by Georges Feydeau  
 Rosemary Branch theatre pub



**August 2008 :**  
**THE FLIES** by JP Sartre  
 Camden People’s theatre. Camden Fringe festival.

Directed by David Furlong. With the band a riot in heaven LIVE on stage

**Mega-multicultural Echange Theatre have done the unimaginable ! A host of theatrical innovations !**  
**Totally engaging ! Enthralling to watch !Gripping action !**  
*Fringe Review*

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**Echange Theatre clearly have balls ! It’s commendable to see so much innovation, invention and energy !**  
*Londonist.com*



David Furlong

[david@exchangetheatre.com](mailto:david@exchangetheatre.com)

0787 5295 917

[www.exchangetheatre.com](http://www.exchangetheatre.com)

