

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urban Aphrodite & Still Chasing Rainbows present *GLEE Shanghai*.

International Students Shine on Stage!

May 11, 2013...QSW Culture Center, 1st Floor, Q.Hall, 179 Yichang Road, Putuo Dist., Shanghai.

Urban Aphrodite International and **Still Chasing Rainbows** will co-host GLEE SHANGHAI-an International school singing competition to raise funds for the Cambodian Education Project.

The immense popularity of the **GLEE** television show in America has spurred the formation of many singing groups and clubs among students around the world. This trend, along with the extensive and high standards of music programs within international schools in Shanghai, inspired the idea of hosting a “wow factor” competition to highlight these singing talents .

GLEE SHANGHAI hopes to bring out the Rachel Barrys and Finn Hudsons of Shanghai by offering a sparkling night of singing entertainment and positive competition. Students aged 9 to 17 have been invited to enter. As finalists, they will receive mentorship from the internationally experienced Ann James, Director and Founder of Urban Aphrodite, and Katrina Barry, Professional Singer and Founder of Shanghai Singing School.

The competition includes two categories,-solo and group performance, and features excellent prizes for the winners. GLEE SHANGHAI is taking place on **May 11th** at the **QSW Culture Center, 1st Floor, Q.Hall, 179 Yichang Road, Putuo Dist., Shanghai**. We invite all performance lovers to share in the excitement and glamour of the evening, all for a good cause.

All the proceeds are going to the **Cambodian Education Project**. The Cambodian Education Project is a dream born by John Cucinello, the Community and Service Director at the Western International School of Shanghai (WISS). He is partnering with PAPA (Partnering Against Poverty Association) in Cambodia to build a school for the local community in Siem Reap.

The aim of the Cambodian Education Project is to create a model of sustainability through education, caring and open-minded collaboration, and to also provide new opportunities for the children in the community while continuing to enrich the community’s close relationship with nature. The funds raised through GLEE SHANGHAI will be used to buy land for the school and contribute towards the first phase of the building project.

GLEE SHANGHAI is bringing students, media and companies together to promote the arts through a dynamic and entertaining community event. With a selection of professional and well-known judges invited to critique these young performers a la “American Idol,” this is bound to be a fantastic event with the dream of education for all as the motivation. **[Tickets are 200rmb. Available via the Urban Aphrodite Box Office. Tel: 18721528625 or email: tickets@urbanaphrodite.nl]**

About Urban Aphrodite:

Urban Aphrodite International is an entertainment company that will benefit the Performing Arts environment in Shanghai by offering quality productions, workshops and events to our audiences. Our vision is to be the most respected, popular, and professional English language theatre company in Shanghai.

About Still Chasing Rainbows:

The aim of Still Chasing Rainbows is to offer support to organizations, programs, projects and people that assist those in need, by means of fund raising and exposure. Our goal is to bridge the gaps between those that have and those that need, and our hope is to inspire others to join the chase of rainbows, to join the chase of change.

Media Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Shanghai, China) – March 28, 2013

Urban Aphrodite presents *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* by Will Eno featuring John Pokrzywinski.

[April 26](#) & [27](#), [May 3](#) & [4](#) at Sasha's in the French Concession.

This isn't your average one-man show. Thom Pain is trying to save his life to save your life, in that order. He'll stop at nothing, be distracted by nothing except a piece of lint or the woman in the front row. Filled with biting humor, desire, and lost innocence, THOM PAIN (based on nothing), called "brilliant" by *Entertainment Weekly*, is a sharply-crafted solo show about one ordinary man's extraordinary search through the wreckage of his life. Hailed as "astonishing ... a small masterpiece . . . one of those treasured nights in the theatre" by *The New York Times*, this insightful, at times surreal, monologue catalogs the eternal agonies and joys of the human condition in wit and one last-ditch plea for empathy and enlightenment.

THOM PAIN features actor John Pokrzywinski (Wise Fool's "Hamlet", The Duluth Playhouse's "Father Flynn" in *Doubt*) direct from the stages of Shanghai, China. Will Eno, who *The New York Times* called 'a Samuel Beckett for the Jon Stewart generation.' is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Helen Merrill Playwriting Fellow, and a Fellow of the Edward F. Albee Foundation. THOM PAIN (based on nothing), which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and subsequently transferred to London, opened Off-Broadway in New York in 2005, where it ran for over 400 performances; it was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Drama.

Doors will open [at 7:30p.m.](#) with the show starting [at 8:00p.m.](#) and running approximately 1 hour.

Location: Sasha's - 3rd Floor, [11 Dongping Rd](#) & Hengshan Rd.

Tickets are 150RMB in advance and 180RMB at the door. To purchase, please email the box office: tickets@urbanaphrodite.nl.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Shanghai, China) – April 15, 2013

Urban Aphrodite presents *Hay Fever* by Noel Coward

May 23 – June 2 (Thursday to Sunday only) at Sasha’s in the French Concession.

Sunday May 26th is SOLD OUT

Urban Aphrodite launches into a much-awaited spring with this delightful comedy romp set in 1932, the time of its first revival on the stage. The cast is all incredibly adept at comedic stylings. Included in the cast are some of Shanghai’s acting glitterati: Mark Edwards from the recent runaway hit, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Mustaq Missouri of *Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me* and *The Real Inspector Hound*, Sara Garcia from *Hedda Gabler*, and the luminous Virginia Withers from *The Memory of Water* keeps things hilarious in her role as the grumbly steely-eyed, maid, Clara. The production is directed by UA’s Executive Artistic Director, Ann James.

Synopsis:

A luminous and entertaining comedy, *Hay Fever* introduces you to the Bliss family: a retired actress mother, a novelist father, and two children for whom all the world, literally, is a stage. Their outrageous antics alternately infuriate and astound their hapless weekend guests, all of whom have been individually invited up for a weekend tete-a-tete. Rousing fights, surprise engagements, and fevered declarations of love drive the poor guests from the house, leaving the family happily bickering and playing amongst themselves as this stylish comedy bounces to its inevitable and intoxicating end.

Based on a Real “Bohemian” Family of the 20’s...

In the years prior to Noel Coward writing *Hay Fever*, he spent many enjoyable evenings with the Taylor family in New York, playing games and entertaining their endless stream of houseguests. Anton Chekov heralded Laurette Taylor as “America’s greatest actress,” and her flair for drama did not stop at the stage door. Her and her family’s antics were Coward’s inspiration for *Hay Fever*’s Bliss family, and the personality of Laurette, her husband, and her two children are very evident in this wonderful play. “It was inevitable that someone should eventually utilize portions of this eccentricity in a play, and I am only grateful that no guest of the Hartley Manners thought of writing *Hay Fever* before I did.” (Noel Coward, *Present Indicative*, p. 136)

Show Information

Doors open at 7:30; show starts at 8:00p.m.

Dates: May 23, 24, 25, *26, 30, 31; June 1, 2

*May 26 Date is already SOLD OUT.

Location: Sasha's 3rd Floor; 11 Dongping Lu near Hengshan Lu

Contact us at tickets@urbanaphrodite.nl or 18721528625

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urban Aphrodite International presents:

The 50th Anniversary Production

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

By Edward Albee

at Sasha's

11 Dongping Lu near Hengshan Lu, 3rd Floor

March 21st (Press Night) through March 30th 2013

Doors open at 7pm, show begins at 7:30pm

Shanghai (February 1, 2013)—Urban Aphrodite presents, **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf** by Tony Award winning playwright Edward Albee for a six night run at historic **Sasha's**, located in the heart of Shanghai's former French Concession district. The show opens to the public on **Friday, March 22nd** and runs through Saturday, March 30th (**with no shows on the 25th, 26th, or 27th**). Tickets are 200rmb in advance, and 220rmb at the door, with a special student discount available upon request. There is free ticket delivery before March 15th with the purchase of six tickets or more. For reservations, contact the box office at 187-2152-8625, or email tickets@urbanaphrodite.nl. The special partners and sponsors for this production are: Lifeline Crisis Hotline, FACE Furniture, Dragon Events and the Centre for Spiritual Living-Shanghai.

The Production

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? won both the 1963 [Tony Award for Best Play](#) and the 1962–63 [New York Drama Critics' Circle](#) Award for Best Play. In 1963 the production also claimed Tony Awards for Best Actor and Actress as well as the [Pulitzer Prize for Drama](#). In the storyline, protagonists George and Martha invite a new professor and his wife over to their house after a party. Martha is the daughter of the president of the college (believed to be based on [Trinity College, Connecticut, USA](#)) where George is an associate professor of history.

Nick (who is never addressed or introduced by name) is a biology professor, and his mousy, brandy-abusing wife Honey come to George and Martha's after the university staff party earlier that same evening. Once at home, Martha and George continue drinking and engage in a scathing game of verbal foreplay in front of Nick and Honey. The young couple stay even though the abuse turns

periodically toward them as well. At times tragic, and simultaneously uproariously funny, this show is full of surprises, leaving the audience on the edge of their seats.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is currently playing on Broadway to rave reviews. This 50th anniversary revival had its beginnings at the famous Steppenwolf theatre starring Amy Morton, and Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy Letts who currently star in the roles of the comically volatile couple, George and Martha. The Urban Aphrodite production marks the play's first venture to China.

Edward Albee's works are considered well-crafted, often unsympathetic examinations of the modern condition. His early works reflect a mastery and Americanization of the [Theatre of the Absurd](#) that found its peak in works by European playwrights such as [Samuel Beckett](#), [Eugène Ionesco](#), and [Jean Genet](#). Younger American playwrights, such as [Paula Vogel](#), credit Albee's daring mix of theatricality and biting dialogue with helping to reinvent the post-war American theatre in the early 1960s. Albee continues to experiment in works, such as [The Goat: or, Who Is Sylvia?](#) (2002).

The Shanghai Rendition

Mark Edwards as George, John Prakapas as Nick, Kate Robards as Honey and Natasha Portwood as Martha star in the first Urban Aphrodite offering for 2013. Ann James, the Executive Producer of UA directs this production (see list of international directing credits at www.urbanaphrodite.nl).

Urban Aphrodite International is committed to bringing quality English language theatre to audiences across China. Previous pieces include David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries*, *The 12 Dates of Christmas*, *3 by Tenn: An Evening with Tennessee Williams*, and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*.

Urban Aphrodite at Sasha's

Urban Aphrodite has found a home for 2013 in the lofted space above Sasha's, a sumptuous villa located in the heart of Shanghai's former French Concession. The unique events space seats 60-80 audience members comfortably with a bar, dining room and adjacent garden.

What's Up Next?

Urban Aphrodite continues its crowd-pleasing productions with **Noel Coward's comedy hit, *Hayfever***, coming in May 2013.

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