

Rapture Theatre and Mull Theatre in association with the Tolbooth presents

Uncle Varietk

by John Byrne

"John Byrne's witty version of Uncle Vanya, the laughs come thick and fast."

Michael Billington - The Guardian

28 APRIL - 6 JUNE 2014

PRESENTS
RAPTURE THEATRE
 19 • COMPANY • 60

by **UNCLE VARICK**

John Byrne

Rapture Theatre, in association with the Tolbooth, are delighted to present Uncle Varick, John Byrne's contemporary adaptation of Chekhov's classic play Uncle Vanya.

Relocated to 1960's rural Scotland, Uncle Varick is the moving yet humorous story of what happens when the rock and roll of swinging sixties London collides with the rock and moss of remote Scotland.

It follows Sandy Sheridan, pretentious art critic and self proclaimed cultural icon, who returns from London to his Scottish country pile - with his new, much younger, wife in tow. Waiting for him are his stoical daughter Shona and his acerbic ex-brother-in-law: Uncle Varick. Add in the handsome local doctor and the not so handsome neighbour and you have a play full of comedy, jealousy, pathos, passion and lust - and not forgetting some very dodgy chain saws.



cast

VARICK
MICHAEL (The Doctor)
KIRSTY MORAG
SANDY
SHONA
WILLIE JOHN
ELAINE
MHAIRI
ESTATE WORKER

Jimmy Chisholm
 George Anton
 Maureen Carr
 John Stahl
 Ashley Smith
 Dave Anderson
 Selina Boyack
 Anne Kidd
 Steven Scott Fitzgerald

production credits

WRITER John Byrne
DIRECTOR Michael Emans
DESIGNER Jessica Brettle
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Dave Anderson
LIGHTING DESIGNER Malcolm Rogan
PRODUCTION MANAGER Susan Martin
STAGE MANAGER Jessica Ward
RE-LIGHTER Iain Swinscoe
SET BUILT BY Big House Events

PRESS & MEDIA Jane Hamilton
MARKETING & EDUCATION Christina Cox
CASTING ASSOCIATE Aileen White

Thank you to the Citizens Theatre and the Royal Lyceum Theatre.

RAPTURE THEATRE COMPANY
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS Michael Emans & Lyn McAndrew



JIMMY CHISHOLM

Uncle Varick

Jimmy is a well-known face to regular theatre-goers in Scotland, as during his forty year career he has appeared in almost every Scottish theatre in existence and a few which are, sadly, no more. An Inverness boy, Jimmy trained at Queen Margaret College in Edinburgh before going on to enjoy an extensive career in theatre, TV, film, and radio. His love of acting has never diminished and he is delighted to be working for Rapture Theatre Company for this, his fifth tour. He was also in Blue/Orange, Gagarin Way and The Collection (twice) with Rapture, touring all over Scotland and England. Jimmy has just finished directing ALADDIN, for The Kings Theatre, Glasgow.



GEORGE ANTON

Michael (The Doctor)

Trained at Drama Centre, London. He lives in Blairgowrie. George has worked extensively in film, TV and theatre. His most recent production was the critically acclaimed 'Paul Bright's Confessions of a Justified Sinner' Untitled Projects/NTS. He also appeared in the recurring role of Greg in River City. He is very excited to be working with Rapture Theatre Company and having an adventure touring Scotland.



MAUREEN CARR

Kirsty Morag

This is Maureen's first time working with Rapture Theatre. Maureen has worked in nearly all of the theatres in Scotland, most recently with The Citizens Theatre in Seagulls, Lyceum Theatre in The Guid Sisters, National Theatre of Scotland's Men Should Weep and has just finished working for Licketyspit Theatre Co working with early years children. It was one of the hardest jobs she has ever done but probably the most rewarding! Most recent television work includes Merlin playing The Dochraid. BBC productions: Case Histories and Theresa in River City, Overnight Express and she also played Edith (Pint of Guinness!) in Still Game. She has appeared in Taggart three times. Most recent radio was in Fags, Mags and Bags for BBC Comedy Unit.



JOHN STAHL

Sandy

Theatre includes: Tron Theatre, Traverse Theatre, Lyceum Theatre, 7:84, NTS, RSC, Shakespeare's Globe, National Theatre, Royal Court, Soho Theatre and Royal Exchange Television: Game Of Thrones, Being Human, Rebus, Murder Rooms, Brighton Boy, Holby City, Take the High Road.



ASHLEY SMITH

Shona

Ashley trained at RCS (formerly RSAMD) and has toured extensively in Scotland as well as performing in London and New York since graduating in 2008 as the gold medal winner. She has worked with NTS, Catherine Wheels, The Traverse and Citizens theatres amongst many more and can be seen soon in the new TV comedy series Scot Squad. She is pleased to be returning to perform with Rapture a second time after Touring with The Sash last year.



DAVE ANDERSON

Willie John

This is Dave's third tour with Rapture - he did Hamlet and Gagarin Way in previous years. Dave really enjoys touring, having cut his teeth with 7:84 and Wildcat, with whom he was musical director. In recent years Dave's been concentrating on writing wee musicals, one of which, "Tir an nOg", won Best New Musical in Edinburgh in 2007. His songs for the Steamie are being sung, somewhere, right now. If your memory's good, you may have seen him in "Gregory's Girl", "City Lights" and a fair few other films and tellies over the years. He hopes you enjoy "Uncle Varick".



SELINA BOYACK

Elaine

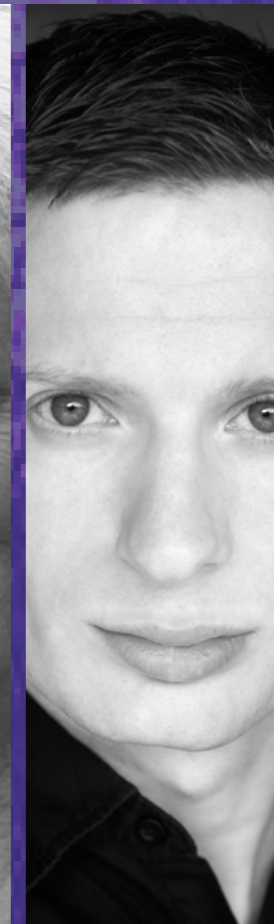
Selina Boyack graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Her theatre work includes: Private Lives and The Commission (Oran Mor), Ana (Stella Quines/Imago, Montreal), An Argument About Sex (Untitled Productions), The City (Tron Theatre), Betrayal (The Arches), The Menu (Royal National Theatre), Stitching (Bush Theatre), 8000 Metres, A Different Language and The Escapologist (Suspect Culture). Film work includes: Sweeney Todd (John Schlesinger), The Debt Collector (Anthony Neilson). Selina is just completing her New Playwrights Award from Playwrights Studio and was a member of the Studio Writers Group at The Royal Court Theatre.



ANNE KIDD

Mhairi

Recent work was Stellar Quines in Dare to Cinderella, Oran Mor in Only the Lonely, Grid Iron in The Authorised Manchester Library doing a sight specific play called Manchester Lines. Other companies worked with in Scotland include The Traverse, Dogstar, Mull, Royal Lyceum, Perth, Dundee and many shows with 7:84. Films include Despite the Falling Snow, Red Road, The Jacket, Sweetie, Gregory's Two Girls. TV includes Shetland, River City, Happy Holidays, How Not to Live Your Life, Still Game, Recovery, Commander Two and Tutti Frutti.



STEVEN SCOTT FITZGERALD

Estate Worker

Newly married and refreshed from his honeymoon, Steven is delighted to be working with Rapture Theatre Company once again. A graduate from Langside College, his previous credits include Shang-a-Lang, Habeas Corpus, The Adventures of a Brave Little Hobbit, Balm in Gilead, Corpus Christi, Cementville and Morelight.

THE CAST

John Byrne was born in Paisley. His first job was as a 'slab boy' mixing powder colour for the designers at A F Stoddard carpet manufacturers in nearby Elderslie.

In 1958 Glasgow School of Art beckoned, where he was considered a star pupil. In his final year at GSA he won the Bellahouston Award, the school's most prestigious painting prize. From 1964 until 1966 he designed jackets for Penguin Books. Following unsuccessful experiences with London galleries he released (through London's Portal Gallery) a series of works from 1967 under the pseudonym of "Patrick" which he claimed were created by his father, an alleged self-taught painter of faux-naïf images. These works began to meet with some success and his painting career commenced.

John wrote his first play, *Writer's Cramp*, in 1977. This was followed by *The Slab Boys* in 1978, which won him the Evening Standard's most promising playwright award. In 1986 John wrote the immensely successful, six-time BAFTA award-winning television series *Tutti Frutti*, starring Robbie Coltrane, Emma Thompson and Richard Wilson. This was followed by another series, *Your Cheatin' Heart*, with Tilda Swinton and countless other plays and films to the present day.

He has designed record covers for Donovan, The Beatles, Gerry Rafferty and Billy Connolly. His artwork is held in major collections in Scotland and abroad.

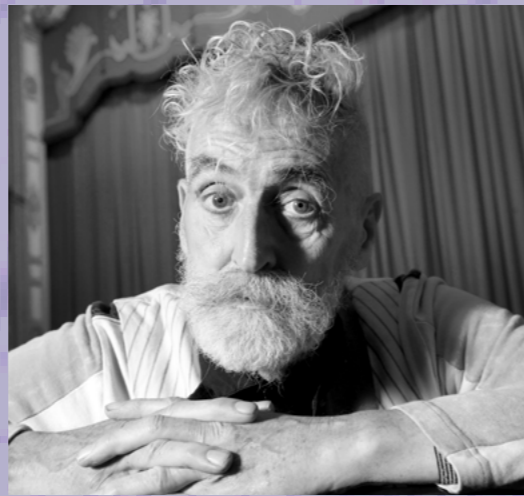


image © Colin Hattersley

Michael trained at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama

Previous Theatre Includes: *Over the Mountain* (Creek Road Studio Theatre), *Tom Jones* (Lillian Bayliss Theatre) and *The Finishing School* (Nuffield Theatre, Southampton).

For Rapture Theatre, Michael has directed: *Death and the Maiden*, *The Dumb Waiter*, *Some Kind of Love Story*, *Shadowlands*, *Taking Sides*, *Clara*, *An Evening with Gary Lineker*, *Boys' Life*, *Grace*, *Death of a Salesman*, *A Kind of Alaska*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Rat in the Skull*, *Oleanna*, *Macbeth*, *Perfect Days*, *Bold Girls*, *Shang-A-Lang*, *Assassins*, *Betrayal*, *Mr. Peters' Connections*, *Insignificance*, *Speed the Plow*, *Simpatico*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Your Turn to Clean the Stair*, *The Old Neighborhood*, *The Sailmaker*, *Richard III*, *Double Top*, *Boston Marriage*, *Twisted*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *Proof*, *Misery*, *Blue/Orange*, *Damages*, *The Collection*, *Frozen*, *Broken Glass*, *Shining City*, *Betrayal* (2008), *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Hamlet*, *Gagarin Way*, *The Sash*, *The Collection* (2013) and *Shang-A-Lang* (2013).

Michael assisted Mark Thomson at the Royal Lyceum Theatre on *Uncle Varick* and *Six Black Candles*. Michael has also directed at Oran Mor where he won the Orange Playwriting Award for *Magnum Opus* and more recently the acclaimed *Burns on the Solway*

Michael recently directed acclaimed Scottish actors John Stahl, Sandy Morton and Kenneth Bryans in the short film *God's Favourite Son?*



image © Eamonn McGoldrick

Jessica completed a post-graduate diploma in Theatre Design at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in 2005.

Design work includes: *The Beautiful Cosmos* of Ivor Cutler (Costumes/National Theatre of Scotland/Vanishing Point/UK Tour), *Cured* (Glasgay!/The Arches), *The Gates: Love, Liberation and Respect* (ConFAB), *A Man Came to a Woman* (Fittings Multimedia Arts/Sharmanka/ALEKO Theatre St. Petersburg); *A Slow Air* (also Traverse Theatre Edinburgh, Tricycle Theatre London, 59e59 New York & UK Tour), *The Government Inspector* (also Aberystwyth Arts Centre and UK Tour), *Mish Gorecki Goes Missing*, *Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot*, *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Defender of the Faith*, all for the Tron Theatre, Glasgow.

Federer vs Murray (Communicado/Assembly Theatre & Theater 59e59 New York); *The Three-penny Opera* (RCS); *Dracula* (Firefly Youth Theatre); *Falling/Flying* (Handover Heart Theatre Company); *Roadkill* (2012 Olivier Award Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre, 2011 CATS Award for Best Production) and *Loves Times Beggar* (Ankur Productions); *Monaciello* (Napoli Festival); *The Lassies 'O'*, *Ragged Lion* (Rowan Tree); *Can We Live Without You?* (Lung Ha's); *The Other*, *Martial Dance* (Macrobert); *The Glass Menagerie* (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh); costumes for *Black Watch* (National Theatre of Scotland and National/International Tour); *Aye Fond Kiss*, *Price Of A Fish Supper*, *Excuse My Dust* (Oran Mor Glasgow); *Into The Woods*, *After Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Chrysalids* (Lyceum YT); *City Madame*, *The Front Page*, *Krapp's Last Tape* (Bristol Old Vic); *Fierce* (Grid Iron/Tour); *A Piece of Cake* (Wee Stories) and *Wizard of Oz* (Macrobert).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

writer

John
Byrne

director

MICHAEL
EMANS

designer

JESSICA BRETTE

LIGHTING
DESIGNER
MALCOLM ROGAN

Malcolm was Technical Manager for the Tron Theatre from 1997 until 2011, seeing it through several re-developments and many successful productions.

Some of his many Lighting Designs for the Tron include: *Peter Pan*, *The City*, *Mish Gorecki Goes Missing*, *Suddenly Last Summer* (One of five Tennessee Williams productions as a festival) and *Cooking with Elvis*. Other work includes, for *Confab*: *The Gates*, and *Glasgay's Cured*.

He has just returned from a second successful Northern Italian tour of "Treasure Island and To Be or Not" for Charioteer Theatre.

Recent projects include Scottish Ballet, Theatre Cryptic, Traverse Theatre and ongoing commitment to educational work with Firefly Arts in Livingston.

PROJECT & EDUCATION
COORDINATOR
CHRISTINA COX

Christina Cox is a freelance artist and arts project co-ordinator. Her role with Rapture Theatre Company includes liaising with tour venues and ensuring a marketing strategy is in place for the promotion of Rapture Theatre's productions as well as developing the company's education programme.

Arts Management: Previous work includes projects in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, The Waterways Trust Scotland, Zero Waste Design, Bigg Design, Andy Scott Public Art Ltd and LX Arts.

Artist/Designer: Set Designer for *Blythe Spirit* (International Theatre Company, Barcelona) as well as several productions for *Talking Bear Theatre*, Barcelona. She has exhibited and sold her fine art works and photography internationally (Christina Brownlee) and also designs and sells graphic prints through her company *Infinite Blue Designs*.

PRESS & MEDIA
CONSULTANT

JANE HAMILTON

Jane Hamilton is a Press and Marketing consultant who has been involved in the arts in Scotland for over 20 years. Jane specialises in press, publicity and promotion and has provided press and marketing support for theatre, film, dance, galleries and other creative organisations.

Uncle Varick is Jane's second time working with Rapture Theatre. She has worked with *Random Accomplish* on their previous four shows and has worked with the National Theatre of Scotland. She has also been involved with the *Scotland Loves Anime Festival* since its inaugural festival in 2010. Other companies Jane has worked with include *Borderline*, *David Leddy/Fire Exit*, *Vanishing Point*, *Playwrights' Studio Scotland*, *Theatre Cryptic*, *Ankhour Productions* and *Stoirm Og*.

Jane is the Press & Publicity Advisor for the Cultural Enterprise Office in Scotland.



Anton Chekhov (1860-1904), Russian physician, renowned short story author and playwright wrote Uncle Vanya (1899):

"We must live our lives. Yes, we shall live, Uncle Vanya. We shall live through the long procession of days before us, and through the long evenings; we shall patiently bear the trials that fate imposes on us; we shall work for others without rest, both now and when we are old; and when our last hour comes we shall meet it humbly, and there, beyond the grave, we shall say that we have suffered and wept, that our life was bitter, and God will have pity on us. Ah, then dear, dear Uncle, we shall see that bright and beautiful life; we shall rejoice and look back upon our sorrow here; a tender smile—and—we shall rest. I have faith, Uncle, fervent, passionate faith. We shall rest. We shall hear the angels. We shall see heaven shining like a jewel. We shall see all evil and all our pain sink away in the great compassion that shall enfold the world. Our life will be as peaceful and tender and sweet as a caress. I have faith; I have faith."—**Sonia, Act I**

Often ambiguous, at times humorous, gritty, haunting, ironic, anecdotal, facetious, lyrical, apathetic, bizarre, passionate and tragic, Chekhov's works explore the entire range of the human spirit. Through his use of such Chekhovian elements as subjective observation, stream of consciousness, character epiphanies, and juxtapositions of pessimism and humour, we are immersed in the lives of Chekhov's complex characters. He spurned the more traditional story as moral lesson found in the style of Fyodor Dostoevsky. He wanted his works to ask the reader questions, not to provide answers. While he started out with more comedic sketches and doggerel published under pseudonyms such as Antosha Chekhonte, Chekhov went on to write dozens of stories, many critically acclaimed as fine exemplars of the craft and still studied today. His autobiographical journey as seen through the eyes of a child "The Steppe" earned him the Pushkin Prize in 1888. His works have inspired countless contemporary authors and playwrights, including George Bernard Shaw, James Joyce, Raymond Carver, Ernest Hemingway and Virginia Woolf. Chekhov's plays are said to be second only to those of William Shakespeare in stage popularity.

Biography of Anton Chekhov – The Literature Network

Anton Chekhov

Education Project

Rapture Theatre Company are continually developing their education programme to ensure a relevant and sustainable approach to learning through creative participation. As part of this programme, a pilot project involving the production of Uncle Varick is being developed through a partnership with North Lanarkshire Council.

The project, which is being funded by NLC, is based around the idea of 'adaptation', inspired by John Byrne's reworking of the Chekhovian classic of Uncle Varick to their own surroundings and use it as a means of expressing their understanding of the play in relation to the local environments they inhabit. The participants will be encouraged to create their own versions of the play and/or scenes that bring the script's themes, characters and ideas closer to their own experiences.

Participants will develop their skills with language and literacy through a variety of mediums, including the use of multi-media equipment and more formal methods such as scriptwriting, to ensure a more accessible approach to learning for all. Scripts will be devised, developed and then performed.

The Education Project will link to all four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence: Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors, and the project will be structured to focus on the curriculum areas of Literacy across Learning, Expressive Arts and Literacy & English.

A 'Learning Template' will be produced using the outcomes of the project and will be available for use to other local authority schools across Scotland.



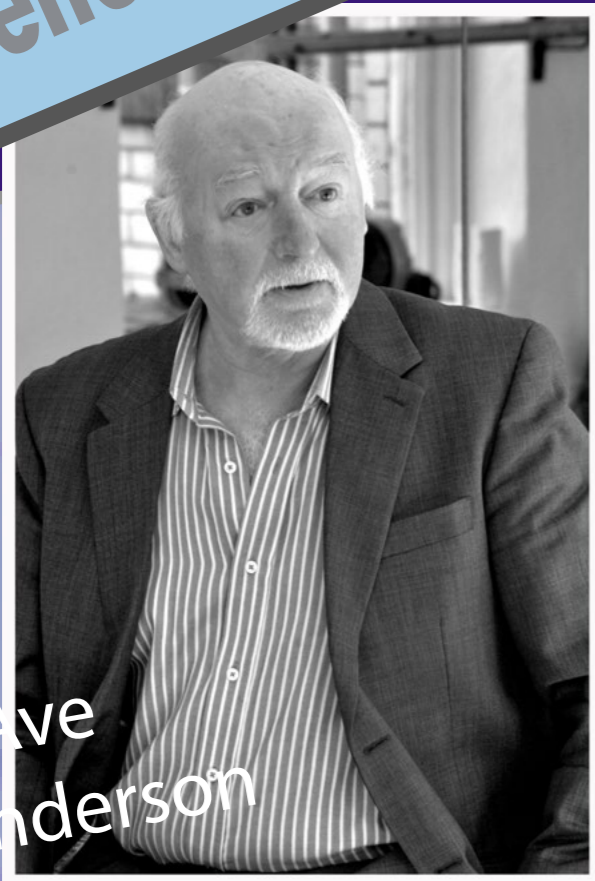
KEEP
IN
TOUCH



Sign up to our e-newsletters and keep up-to-date with all our latest news, productions and special offers.

www.rapturetheatre.co.uk

in rehearsal

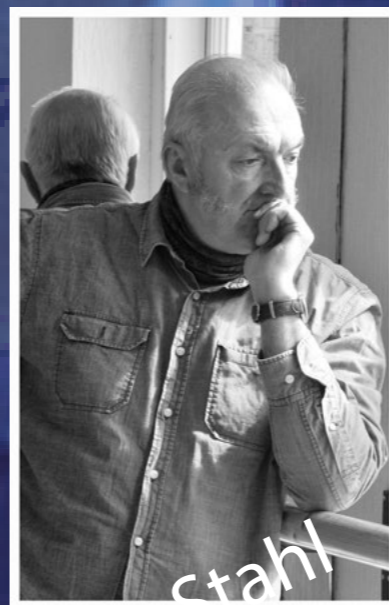


Dave Anderson

Jimmy Chisholm & Ashley Smith



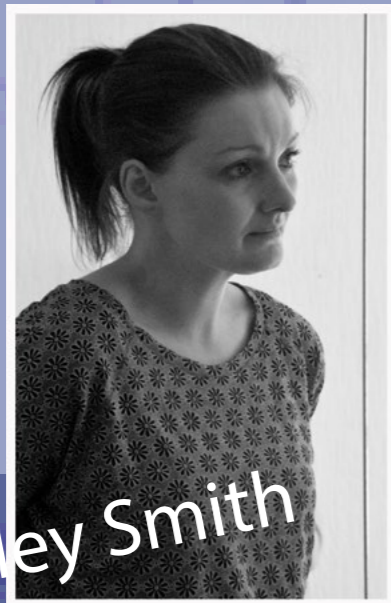
Michael Emans & Jimmy Chisholm



John Stahl



Selina Boyack



Ashley Smith



George Anton



Anne Kidd & Jimmy Chisholm



Maureen Carr

A wonderfully funny and poignant trip back to the 70s

Autumn 2014 Tour Dates



RAPTURE THEATRE COMPANY

returning from its sell-out tour

SHANG -A-LANG

BY CATHERINE JOHNSON
WRITER OF "MAMMA MIA"

"Barnstorming" - The Scotsman

"Did the audience like it? They loved it." - The Public Reviews

Take a step back in time to the days of the Bay City Rollers, with loud fashions and laugh-out-loud adult humour.

Written by Catherine Johnson (writer of the hit musical Mamma Mia!), Shang-a-Lang follows three flighty forty-something Scottish women on their way to a 1970s revival weekend at Butlins, where the Bay City Rollers are playing.

Shang-a-Lang is the perfect girls' night out laced with shocking laughs, warm tears and a fabulous soundtrack – a cross between a Scottish Shirley Valentine and Shameless.

N.B. Shang-a-Lang is not a musical but a comedic play. The show contains very strong language, scenes of a sexual nature and nudity.

LANARK MEMORIAL HALL
HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE
THE BRUNTON
EASTWOOD PARK THEATRE
BEACON ARTS CENTRE
REGAL THEATRE
ALBERT HALLS
THE TOWN HOUSE
MOTHERWELL THEATRE
VILLAGE THEATRE
WEBSTER THEATRE
ROTHES HALLS
PALACE THEATRE

LANARK
ABERDEEN
MUSSELBURGH
GIFFNOCK
GREENOCK
BATHGATE
STIRLING
HAMILTON
MOTHERWELL
EAST KILBRIDE
ARBROATH
GLENROTHES
KILMARNOCK

5TH SEPT
8TH – 13TH SEPT
18TH SEPT
19TH – 20TH SEPT
21ST SEPT
23RD SEPT
25TH SEPT
26TH SEPT
2ND OCT
3RD OCT
4TH OCT
11TH OCT
18TH OCT

www.rapturetheatre.co.uk

Programme Design



Infinite Blue Designs