

# WORD

FOR  
WORD

PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

*We bring literature to its feet*

## Tour de France 2005

### *Lady's Dream*

Directed by Stephanie Hunt

Nancy Shelby*	Lady
Joel Mullennix*	Robert
Eryka Raines*	Jo Kay
Susan Harloe*	Mrs. Cobb
Meghan Doyle	Young Lady

### Intermission

### *Bullet in the Brain*

Directed by Stephanie Hunt

Paul Finocchiaro	Anders
Zac Jaffee	Young Anders
Meghan Doyle	Ensemble
Susan Harloe*	Ensemble
Joel Mullennix*	Ensemble
Mark Phillips*	Ensemble
Eryka Raines*	Ensemble
Nancy Shelby*	Ensemble

Stage Manager: David A. Young\*

Assistant Stage Manager: Nicole Dickerson\*

Lighting Design: Jim Cave • Scenic Design: Mikiko Uesugi\*\*

Sound Design: Sheila Balter & Drew Yerys • Costume Design: A. Rene Walker

Movement: Andrea Weber • Vocal Consultant: Jeffrey Crockett

Props Design: Dave Robertson and Grace Raso

Photography: Jaime Kibben

\* member, Actors Equity Association    \*\* member, United Scenic Artists

**Tobias Wolff** is considered a master of the short story. His writing displays a sharp-edged sense of humor coupled with a moral awareness which tellingly illustrates the foibles of humanity. His work, both autobiographical and fictional, deals with moral dilemmas. Word for Word affirms his belief in "the exuberant unencumbered faith in the power of stories to clarify our sense of reality."

Tobias Wolff grew up in the Pacific Northwest (the setting for his boyhood memoir, *This Boy's Life*), had a checkered educational career at the Hill School in Pennsylvania (the setting for his latest novel, *Old School*), and served four years in the Army, including a tour in Vietnam (the source for his second memoir, *In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War*). He completed his undergraduate degree at Oxford University, and received an M.A. from Stanford University, which he attended with a Stegner Fellowship. He subsequently taught at Stanford for two years, and for seventeen years at Syracuse University in upstate New York. Seven years ago, he returned to Stanford University where he currently directs the Creative Writing Program. Mr. Wolff's work includes three collections of short stories, *In the Garden of the North American*

*Martyrs*, *Back in the World*, and *The Night in Question*, as well as a novella, *The Barracks Thief*, which won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. *This Boy's Life* was a finalist for the National Book Critics' Circle Award and received the Los Angeles Times Book Award. It was made into a film in 1991, with Robert DeNiro, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Ellen Barkin. *In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War* is considered by some to be the finest book published about Vietnam, and was a National Book Award Finalist. Mr. Wolff's first novel, *Old School*, was published last fall to rave reviews.

Of Word for Word, Tobias Wolff says: "I wish that Word for Word would do all my stories. Their brilliant inventiveness in performance, choreography, and staging has created a new art form, and a deeply affecting experience. I honestly believe that you could not find a more imaginative, energetic, and emotionally well-tuned ensemble."

**Word for Word** is the San Francisco theatre company which brings great short stories to the stage, performing every word the author has written. Our aim is to startle and amaze audiences with language, pulling the best from a rich literary heritage and bringing it alive on the stage. Word for Word will tour stories by Tobias Wolff in France during the Spring of 2005. **Word for Word** is a program of the Z Space Studio. [www.zspace.org](http://www.zspace.org) (415) 626-0453

## Biographies

**Meghan Doyle** (Young Lady, Ensemble) received her degree in theatre from the University of Washington in Seattle before moving to sunny California. She has worked with wonderful companies around the Bay Area including the California Shakespeare Theatre, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Shotgun Players, and, of course, Word for Word. Special thanks to her family, Peter Callendar, Rivasue, and Percy, for their endless patience, love, and support!

**Paul Finocchiaro** (Anders) has performed with Word for Word in *A Child's Christmas In Wales*, *The Bunchgrass Edge Of the World*, *The Loudest Voice*, *Stories by Tobias Wolff*, and the European tour of *Communist* and *More Than Human*. He performs with various musical groups and teaches acting at American Conservatory Theatre. He is most grateful to WFW for inviting him for a fourth Tour de France.

**Susan Harloe** (Mrs. Cobb, Bullet) is Co-Artistic director and Co-Founder of Word for Word Performing Arts Company. She has an MFA in Acting from UC Davis and an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh. She has performed at theatres throughout the Bay Area, the Pacific Northwest, and France, and has originated roles in many Word for Word stories. The Bullet is among her favorites.

**Zac Jaffee** (Young Anders, Ensemble) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and has played with Word for Word, Magic Theatre, Z Space Studio, Traveling Jewish Theatre, Oakland Public Theater, and most recently as Cassio in Shakespeare's *Othello* with Impact Theatre. Zac previously toured with Word for Word in the Michael Chabon story *More Than Human* as Nathan. He is more than elated to be jumping back to France.

**Joel Mullennix** (Robert, Ensemble) Joel's other credits with Word for Word are *The Blues I'm Playing*, *Rose-Johnny*, and *Mrs. Dalloway's Party*. Other favorite roles include the title role in Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*, Les in Steven Berkoff's *East*, Eddy in Berkoff's *Greek* and Sloane in Joe Orton's *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*. Outside of the Bay Area, Joel has performed in New York, Los Angeles, Scotland, and France.

**Mark Phillips** (Ensemble) is pleased to return to Word for Word, where he appeared in *Cannery Row* and the original *Stories by Tobias Wolff*. Recently, Mark was seen as Steven in *Major Barbara* at San Jose Rep, and as Ezra Chater in *Arcadia* at TheatreWorks. Other TheatreWorks roles include Hal in *Proof* (2003 Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award), Jack in *Charley's Aunt*, and Tom Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* (2000 Critics Circle Award). For the Magic Theatre, Mark has appeared in *True West* (Austin) and the U.S. premiere of *Stones in his Pockets* (Jack). For Marin Theatre Company, Mark was seen as Simon in *The Last Schwartz*, and Harry Hawke in *Sockdology*. Other Bay Area work includes roles with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, California Shakespeare Festival. As always...for Karen.

**Eryka Raines** (Jo Kay, Ensemble) is thrilled to be performing *Stories by Tobias Wolff* again. Since its last production, Eryka performed in Italy at the National Festival of Comic Songs & Songwriters, San Francisco's Plush Room, and Napa's COPIA with her cabaret trio, The Kitchenettes. Their first CD released last spring. She has also performed with San Jose Rep, ACT, the Willows Theatre and 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Moon. Love to Russ and Ethan!

**Nancy Shelby** (Lady, Ensemble) is delighted to slip back into the skin of these marvelous characters created by Tobias Wolff. She had the pleasure of performing in the award winning ensembles of *Stories by Tobias Wolff* in 2002 and *Winesburg, Ohio* in 2001. Other Word for Word Productions include *The Fall River Axe Murders*, *Xingu*, *The Falling Girl*, *Friend of my Youth*, *Communist*, *Halfway Diner*, *Mrs. Dalloway's Party*, *Rose Johnny*, and *A Passion in Eden*. She has appeared in theaters on both sides of the Bay, in Los Angeles and France, on television and film.

**Stephanie Hunt** (Director), a Charter Member of Word for Word, has acted in over 9 stories with the company over the last 8 years, including Lizzie Borden in Angela Carter's short story *Fall River Axe Murders* and the Speedometer in Upton Sinclair's *Oil!* This fall Stephanie directed the Brecht musical play *The Exception and the Rule* and Lanford Wilson's *This Is the Rill Speaking* at Sonoma State University, where she has also directed Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*. She received her M.F.A. from the American Conservatory Theater.

**David A. Young** (Stage Manager) has been Word for Word's Stage Manager since 1995, participating in nearly all of the Company's full stage productions. This is Dave's sixth tour of France with Word for Word, and he is looking forward to many fine reunions over some delicious yet surprisingly inexpensive Médocs, Burgundies and Sancerres.

**Nicole Dickerson** (Assistant Stage Manager) has worked most recently with the Magic Theatre as assistant production manager for the world premiere musical *The Opposite of Sex*. Previously she worked with Word for Word as stage manager and production coordinator for their *Tour de France 2004* in and around Paris, France. Her last four years in the Bay Area have included work on *Times Like These* and *Windows and Mirrors* at Traveling Jewish Theatre, *The Guys* and *Master Class* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, *Colossus of Rhodes* and *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* at American Conservatory Theatre, and *Tartuffe* at Napa Valley Repertory Theatre. She was stage manager and technical director for the national tour of *At the Hawk's Well* with Tokyo based company Noh Gaku and San Francisco's Theatre of Yugen.

**Jim Cave** (Lighting Design) recently designed Amy Tan's *Immortal Heart* for Word for Word, Bay Area dance legend Anna Halprin's *Parades and Changes* and *Intensive Care* at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, The HOT HOUSE festival of new plays at the Magic Theatre, Mike Daisey's *21 Dog Years* at Berkeley Rep. and Josh Kornbluth's *Love & Taxes* at the Intiman Theatre in Seattle. His other designs for Word for Word include award winning productions of *Oil!*, *Scattering Poems All Through the Night*, *Stories by Tobias Wolff*, *Cannery Row*, *Winesburg, Ohio*, and *The Fall River Axe Murders*. Jim has designed lights for Aurora Theatre productions of *The Persians*, *Antigone Falun Gong*, *Therese Raquin*, *The Entertainer* (2002 Bay Area Critics' Circle Award for Lighting), *The Shape of Things*, and *The Chairs*. He has also worked with Campo Santo at Intersection for the Arts since its inception designing productions of *Hellhound on My Trail*, *Soul of a Whore*, *Psychos Never Dream* and *Bethlehem* among many others. He teaches Theatre History and Production at Gavilan College in Gilroy and lives in Aromas, CA, with his wife Meg and a bunch of animals.

**Mikiko Uesugi** (Set Design) has designed many productions for Word for Word, including *Immortal Heart* and *The Fall River Axe Murders*. Other theater credits include productions at Aurora Theater Company, ACT M.F.A. Program, Magic Theatre, and Berkeley Repertory Theater. Ms. Uesugi is a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Designers.

**A. Rene Walker** (Costume Design) is pleased to be working with Word for Word. Her previous work as Costume Designer includes *The Best Of Playground 2004*, Magic Theatre, Brava!, Traveling Jewish Theater, Black Artist Contemporary Cultural Experience, and Cultural Odyssey. She has extensive experience in Costume Design, Fashion Design, Visual Merchandising, and as a Fashion Stylist and Fashion Consultant. Rene was recently awarded the Eric Landisman Fellowship for Costume Design and is a keen advocate for Brava!'s mentor program assisting young adults in the costume design field.

**Andrea Weber** (Movement) is a choreographer, director, and performer working in both dance and theater. A member of The Shotgun Players, Ms. Weber's recent projects include choreography for Moliere's *The Miser*, Brecht's *Mother Courage*, and Shotgun's recent production of *Dog Act* by Liz Duffy Adams. Ms. Weber is currently on faculty at Contra Costa College where she is directing *A Christmas Carol*.

## Word for Word's 2005 Tour de France

March 31–April 16, 2005

Paris • Nantes • Angers • Le Mans • Nancy • St. Cloud • Orleans • Montpellier

For a list of dates and times of performances, please check our website at [www.zspace.org](http://www.zspace.org).

This project is funded by the generosity of The Florence Gould Foundation, The Search Foundation, Air France, and RailEurope.

Word for Word, 131 Tenth St, San Francisco, CA 94110 USA • (415) 626-0453 • [www.zspace.org](http://www.zspace.org)