

160x160



Martin French

Co-Artistic Director

Martin French is from Ireland originally, and has worked in theatre for many years, covering a wide variety of positions. By trade a designer, and by preference a director, Martin has worked professionally in theatre for over 20 years in Dublin, London, and Louisville, combining his creative work with positions as theatre technician, and more recently instructor. He has been an artistic director with Ourclann and Dublin Shakespeare in Ireland, and in Louisville has previously been on the board of The Alley Theatre, and currently serves on the board of the Louisville Repertory Company.

Some highlights of his directing work include The Bloomsday Breakfast Show, Elektra, Busu, Electile Dysfunction, Metamorphosis, and Chek-Mate.

Depending on when you ask him, his influences may include Edward Gordon Craig, Vsevolod Meyehold, Tadeusz Kantor, Yoshi Oida, Robert Wilson, and Silviu Purcarete. He is known as a devotee to Henrik Ibsen, a student of the ancient Greeks, and a dabbler in Noh theatre when given the chance. Martin is a founder and co-artistic director of The Chamber Theatre.



Polina Shafran

Co-Artistic Director

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Undead Theatre: A Conversation with Martin French

Mr. French's first foray into Louisville theatre was in last year's inaugural Inhuman Festival, Alley Artistic Director Scott Davis invited him to write and direct a parody of the American electoral process last October, Electile Dysfunction.



Polina Shafran translates Chekhov for you

Louisville can boast an entire community of home grown theatre artists, and more than a few that have relocated from other cities in the United States, but a much smaller number have found their way here from other countries; Polina Shafran is one.

Our Mission

The goal of the Chamber Theatre is to produce high quality small scale theatre that is intimate, personal, and engages directly with the audience. We want to explore some of the best modern dramatists, particularly those from the late 19th and early 20th century. In doing so, we hope to reintroduce the texts to the public through a contemporary and local lens, reviving some, and taking others beyond the received understanding of what they are. We want to reach a wider audience through touring our productions. We aim to combine our blend of different international theatrical backgrounds and

About Us

Formed in late 2015, The Chamber Theatre is a small independent theatre company based in Louisville, Kentucky. Our first production was Chek-Mate in January 2016, produced at Vault 1031, and subsequently touring to University of Kentucky. The Chamber Theatre was founded and is run by co-Artistic Directors Martin French and Polina Shafran, two multi-disciplinary international theatre artists who have been working in Louisville for the past few years.