

Program Note for *Insignificance... by Fly Steffens*

By Anna Jennings, dramaturg

Adaptations of Chekhov abound, ranging from translations to radical usurpations of the original plays. Contemporary playwrights do not erase Chekhov but accompany his signature language and mood with their own. Elements of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* remain visible in *Insignificance* is sickening and love means nothing at all; all it is is the strength to keep going on no matter what happens. Steffens' voice strikes a remarkable harmony with Chekhov's, illustrating the human capacity for love and destruction through haunting images and poetic language.

This new adaptation joins countless others in reorienting the Chekhovian mood for contemporary theatre. But, why so many Chekhov adaptations? Through the process of this new play's development, we found that it is the Chekhovian belief in the individual, the absurd impossibility of existence, and the optimism for the future that keeps theatre artists returning for more. We hope this production's humor, pain, and hope allows you to recognize and embrace your Bear.

"Life is long and there will be many good and bad happenings, Mother Russia is so vast."

-Anton Chekhov