



Wake Up Theater

PRESENTS:

THE DUMB WAITER

BY:
HAROLD PINTER

THE PERFORMANCE IS BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT
WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS GMBH ON BEHALF OF
SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

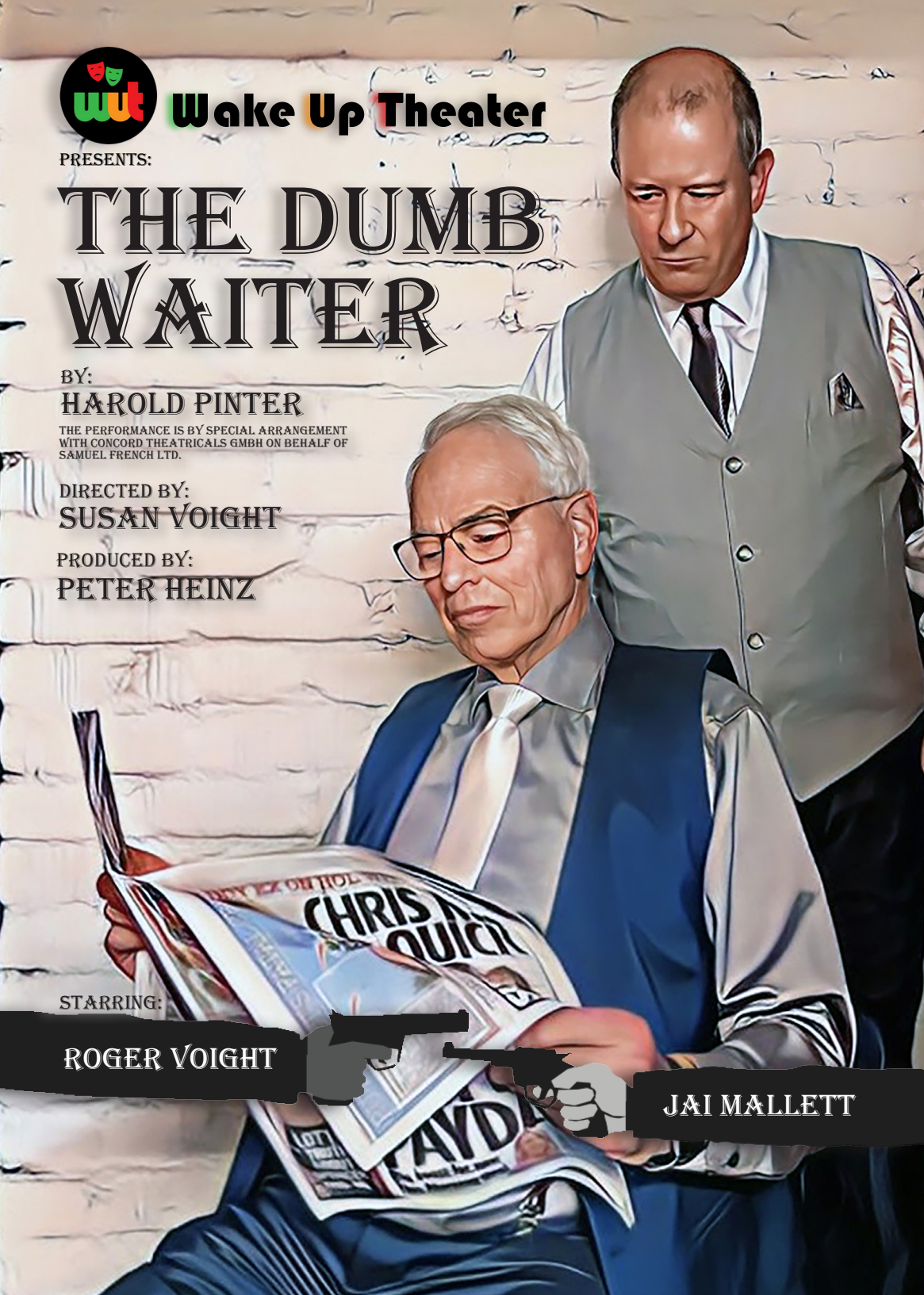
DIRECTED BY:
SUSAN VOIGHT

PRODUCED BY:
PETER HEINZ

STARRING:

ROGER VOIGHT

JAI MALLETT



The Play

Written in 1958, *The Dumb Waiter* is one of Pinter's earliest plays. Even then, Pinter was an expert at mixing the realistic with the absurd, the personal with the political. When the play opens, two men, Ben and Gus, are waiting in a windowless basement room. They are awaiting instructions for their next assignment. While they wait, their conversation is riddled with conflict and miscommunication. Differences between the two men's attitudes emerge, yet questions remain. Pinter said of his dramas, "Between my lack of biographical data about (the characters) and the ambiguity of what they say lies a territory which is not only worthy of exploration, but which it is compulsory to explore."

Harry Derbyshire wrote of the play, "Small but perfectly formed, *The Dumb Waiter* might be considered the best of Harold Pinter's plays... It combines the classic characteristics of early Pinter—a paucity of information and an atmosphere of menace, working-class small-talk in a claustrophobic setting—with an oblique but palpable political edge and, in so doing, can be seen as containing the germ of Pinter's entire dramatic oeuvre."

The Playwright

Harold Pinter (1930—2008) is considered to be one of the most influential modern British dramatists. His career spanned more than 50 years as a playwright, screenwriter, director, and actor. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005. In the announcement, the committee wrote that "his plays uncover the precipice under everyday prattle and forces entry into oppression's closed rooms." His plays emphasized that the unflinching, unswerving, fierce intellectual determination to define the real truth of our lives and our societies is a crucial obligation which devolves upon us all.

Discussion, Questions, and Answers

After a brief intermission, we invite everyone to join the cast and director for a meaningful conversation about the themes of the play and how they transcend the boundaries of the stage. We are all struggling with pressing issues of environmental challenges, social inequalities, racism, and politics. Many, if not most, of us struggle with a sense of powerlessness as individuals to make any difference. Our hope is that everyone will leave the theatre tonight with inspiration to take action together through personal choices, community initiatives, and broader advocacy efforts.

Cast and Crew

**Founding members of Wake Up Theater*



Jai Mallett* - Gus

Jai is a passionate actor who has played many roles on stage, ranging from a happy king to a contract killer to a grumpy old man in a wheelchair. He is constantly participating in workshops and seeking to learn from the work of others. He has been both a judge and a member of first-prize-winning teams at various Entity 24-hour theatre festivals.



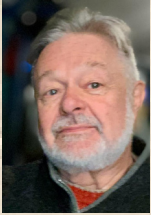
Roger Voight* - Ben

Roger has been an enthusiastic stage actor for many years. He plays both English (such as *Numbers*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, and *The Seagull*) and German (such as *Schöne Bescherung* and *Der Heiratsantrag*) roles. He is also an avid improvisation actor and has appeared in that role on numerous theater, night club, and comedy stages.



Susan Voight* - Director

Susan's life-long love of the performing arts began when she started dance training at the age of three. She performed with several US regional dance companies in her 20s. She also has broad experience in choreography, marketing, stage management and costume design (most recently for *The Seagull* and *Lend me a Tenor*). In 2020, she acted in the radio play, *The Dark*. *The Dumb Waiter* is her first foray into directing.



Peter Heinz* - Producer

Peter, a retired fashion photographer and a pioneer in digital graphic arts, was born in Germany but lived 50+ years in NYC. Entity Theatre's *24-Hour Festival* in 2019 was his first producing venture. He has done the graphic design for *The Seagull*, *The Dark*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Comedy of Errors*, and *Othello*. He is assistant producer for the Shakespeare productions, and last Christmas produced the *Jack and the Beanstalk* panto.



Simon Purslove - Stage Manager

Simon is an enthusiastic amateur actor and stage manager who has been involved both onstage and backstage in several Shakespeare plays as well as in film and TV work. Originally from London, he has been living in Munich for the last 25-plus years. He is pleased to be taking on the stage manager role in this production.



Emily Woods - Assistant Stage Manager

Emily is an internationally renowned media, marketing, entertainment, and promotions executive as well as a talented actor. She was the assistant company manager for the *Afrika! Afrika! Circus* and the production assistant for their very successful tour through Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.



Sahand Yousefpour - Light and Sound

Sahand has had a passion for improv comedy from a young age. He has supported the Bake This improv comedy group for the past two years, enhancing each performance with a symphony of lights and sounds that elevate the laughter and drama to a whole new level. He is delighted to apply his skills to supporting the performance of Pinter's play.

We are so grateful for the support and encouragement of:

Denise Orita, a professional London-born actor and singer who divides her time between London and Munich, for her constant support, and encouragement of both the director and the actors in several rehearsals and workshops where she helped us discover our own truths about our characters and the world of Pinter's play.

Carolyn A. Morrow, a gifted actor, playwright, and teacher of acting and creative writing, for her boundless enthusiasm, encouragement, and coaching in authentic, in-the-moment expression of our characters.

Bogdan Tabacaru, a talented actor and director of several highly successful plays, for his early support of our theater group, his acting workshops, and his generously shared insights and encouragement helping the director to bring her vision of the play to the stage.



Wake Up Theater's mission is to illuminate and inspire change through the powerful medium of the performing arts. We believe in the transformative potential of theater to shed light on critical environmental, social, and political issues that shape our world. Our purpose is to awaken the minds and hearts of our audiences, sparking meaningful conversations and driving positive action.

Through thought-provoking plays and impactful performances, we strive to:

- 1. Raise Awareness:** We aim to shine a spotlight on pressing environmental challenges, social inequalities, and political issues that often go unnoticed. By addressing these topics on stage, we empower audiences to engage in constructive dialogue and promote awareness within their communities.
- 2. Foster Empathy:** Our theatrical productions delve deep into the lives, struggles, and triumphs of diverse characters, fostering empathy and understanding among our audience members. We believe that by connecting with the experiences of others, we can break down barriers and build bridges of compassion.
- 3. Ignite Conversation:** *Wake Up Theater* seeks to ignite meaningful conversations that transcend the boundaries of the stage. We encourage post-show discussions, workshops, and community engagement events that encourage individuals to explore different perspectives and collaborate on finding innovative solutions.
- 4. Catalyze Change:** We are committed to using theater as a catalyst for positive change. By addressing environmental sustainability, social justice, and political advocacy, we strive to inspire individuals to take action, whether through personal choices, community initiatives, or broader advocacy efforts.
- 5. Celebrate Artistic Excellence:** While our focus is on addressing critical issues, we also celebrate the art of storytelling and theatrical craftsmanship. We are dedicated to producing high-quality performances that captivate, entertain, and challenge our audiences.

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