

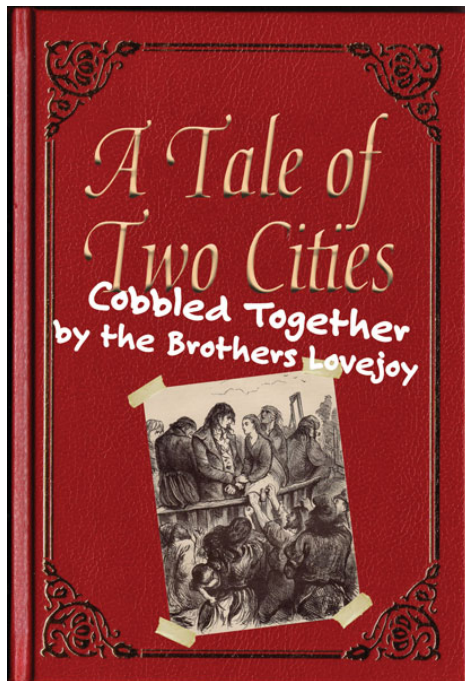


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A TALE OF TWO CITIES COBBLED TOGETHER BY THE BROTHERS LOVEJOY
A UNIQUE RE-TELLING OF DICKEN'S CLASSIC NOVEL
IS PART OF THIS YEAR'S
CENTENARY STAGE COMPANY FRINGE FESTIVAL LINE-UP
One epic. Two brothers. What could go wrong?

Hackettstown, NJ – (September 22, 2021)...*A Tale of Two Cities Cobbled Together by the Brothers Lovejoy*, written and directed by Craig Fols, is a re-telling of Charles Dickens' classic French Revolution novel. This unconventional version stars Ezra Barnes (Avery Lovejoy) and



Michael Gabriel Goodfriend, (Bunce Lovejoy), and will have a limited run engagement as part of the Centenary Stage Company Fringe Festival. Performances are scheduled for October 21-24 (in-person and live stream).

In Fols' play, Avery and Bunce are brothers who share a dilapidated home. They are obsessed with *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens' classic story of love and loneliness, rags and riches, revenge and sacrifice set in the turmoil of the French Revolution. They reenact the novel, playing all the characters themselves and putting their own stamp on the dissolute Sidney Carton, the bitter Madame DeFarge, the guileless Lucy, the earnest Darnay and sundry others. As they do, they bicker and revise, endlessly debating how best to tell the story. What are they searching for? Why *A Tale of Two Cities*? Is this the best of times? Or the worst?

The playwright and director of *the Brothers Lovejoy* is himself an accomplished actor who has originated roles off-Broadway in productions including Lanie Robertson's drama *Nasty Little Secrets* (opposite David McCallum) and the hit parody *The Musical of Musicals* (Original Cast Album, Jay Records). His first play, *Buck Simple*, was produced at La Mama and published in *The Best American Short Plays*. As a playwright, he has won the Berrilla Kerr Award, the BMI Workshop's Harrington Award, and several residencies at the Edward Albee Foundation.



The cast of two is led by Brooklyn-based actor Ezra Barnes (Avery), a respected producer, award-winning director, and teacher, as well as founder of Two Planks. His credits include starring in the highly acclaimed production of Fraser Grace's *Breakfast with Mugabe*, which ran for 100 performances Off-Broadway, and was a NY Times and Time Out critic's pick. He has appeared in numerous film and television productions (*Group*, *Motherless Brooklyn*, *Noah*, *Once More With Feeling*, *Orange is the New Black*, *The Sinner*, *Jessica Jones*); is Founding Artistic Director of Connecticut's Shakespeare on the Sound and runs Brooklyn's Young Actors Workshop.

Playing opposite Ezra is New York-based award-winning actor Michael Gabriel Goodfriend, (Bunce), a graduate of Yale School of Drama, who brings a long list of credits that include regional theater, film and television roles (*Enemy of the People*, *The English Bride*, *Monk*, *Helter Skelter*). He collaborated on the development of Air America Radio, where he produced "The Majority Report" with Janeane Garofalo. He wrote, directed, and produced over 400 episodes of the popular political talk show, *Left Jab* on Sirius XM Radio, and is Executive Producer of Play On Podcasts.

Two Planks Productions, devoted to bringing compelling theater to an engaged audience, is producing the play with plans to continue to perform this engaging piece of theater in New York and elsewhere.

Tickets for the Centenary Stage Company Fringe Festival production are available at:
<https://tickets.centenarystageco.org/TheatreManager/1/login?event=0>