

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

Theatre Omnibus (Massachusetts, USA)
The Chess Player
by **Richard McElvain**, after **Stefan Zweig's**
The Royal Game



Stefan Zweig's gripping novella brought to life by Richard McElvain in a captivating one-man-show

In a Nazi prison, a battle to the death inside one man's mind. The smouldering coals of solitary confinement fighting the blazing fire of his imagination. After stealing a book of chess tournaments he divides his conscious self into two feuding chess masters. That's the wild ride of the first half of **Richard McElvain's** reimagining of the classic by **Stefan Zweig**. After the hero escapes the Nazis, the play follows him to a chess master tournament. Testing himself, daring himself to walk the edge of a volcano of madness, he challenges the greatest chess player in the world to a match. Written and performed by award winning actor **Richard McElvain**, **The Chess Player** blazes through this blistering saga of survival, finally ruined by hubris. The production is underscored by a rich and complex soundscape created by **Larry Buckley**.

This world premiere is based on Jewish Austrian **Stefan Zweig's** classic short story, published as *The Royal Game* in 1941, while Zweig himself was fleeing the Nazis, living in Bath and London, before moving to New York, and then Brazil. In 1942, following a major Axis success, Zweig was overcome by despair at the idea of a Nazi victory, and he and his wife committed suicide.

Richard McElvain, winner of both the Elliot Norton Award (Boston's Tony Award) and the Independent Reviewers of New England Award for his performance of another one-man-show, **Conor McPherson's** *Saint Nicholas*, has created successful stage adaptations of the works of **Edgar Allen Poe**, **Washington Irving**, **O Henry** and **Saki**. He has translated and directed four plays of **Molière** as well as his own adaptation of **Sophocles** *Antigone*, in which he played Creon. He has played Tartuffe in *Tartuffe*, MacBeth in *MacBeth* and Galileo in **Brecht's** *Galileo*. He has played Harry Cohn in *Angels in America, Parts I and II*, George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and appeared in films with **Jennifer Lawrence**, **Cher**, **Wynona Ryder**, and **Bob Hoskins**.

C venues

vibrant vivacious variety

general manager
Shannon Steele
artistic director
Hartley T A Kemp

year round administration

C venues London

5 Alexandra Mansions
Chichele Road
London NW2 3AS

during the Fringe in August

C venues Edinburgh

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Listings Information

Venue **C primo**, Lodge N° 1, Hill Street, EH2 3JP, venue 41
Dates 2-28 Aug
Time 12:00 (1h15)
Ticket prices £8.50-£10.50 / concessions £6.50-£8.50
C venues box office 0845 260 1234 / www.CtheFestival.com/2017/the-chess-player
Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

For further information, images and interview availability please contact Richard McElvain at Theatre Omnibus on +1 617 899 1868 / richardmcelvain@gmail.com or the **C venues** press office on 0845 260 1060 / press@cvenues.com

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