



PETER FECHTER

— 59 MINUTES —

BY JORDAN TANNAHILL

DIRECTED BY MEGAN ANDRES FEATURING KEVIN P. GABEL

WINNIPEG
FRINGE
THEATRE
FESTIVAL

 **THEATRE**
by the **RIVER**

PETER FECHTER

59 Minutes

by Jordan Tannahill

Peter Fechter Kevin P. Gabel

Director Megan Andres

Sound Designers Darren Johnston and Michael Sanders

Stage Manager Katie Robinson Hoppa

Scenic Painters Zoë LeClerc-Kennedy and Joseph Abetria

Producer Mel Marginet

Featuring the voices of Kevin Anderson, Dylan Fries, Derek Leenhouts, Daina Leitold, Mel Marginet, Michael Sanders

Thank you Kellet Copy Centre Limited
Electric Monk Media
Michael Sanders
University of Winnipeg's Department
of Theatre and Film
Jim Gibbs
Chris Coyne
Gio Navarro
Robert Hoppa
University of Manitoba's Department
of English, Film & Theatre
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Centre

Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes was first produced by Suburban Beast at The Wye in Berlin Germany in 2013. *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes* is produced by permission of the Author and Marquis Entertainment Inc. www.marquisent.ca.

Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes is produced under the CAEA Festival Agreement.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When Jordan Tannahill describes his process in writing *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes* he talks about travelling to Germany, poring over accounts, photographs and transcripts, visiting all the museums, archives and memorials in an effort to “find the real Peter.”

What he came away with was the realization that he would never find what he was looking for. He would “never know what it was like to live in a divided city...to risk his life jumping the wall...or to ever know the real Peter.” All he could do was imagine. So instead of only trying to embody the young man from the photograph, he had to find Peter in himself, to utilize his own fears and dreams; his own “journey to find love and a place in the world of adults.”

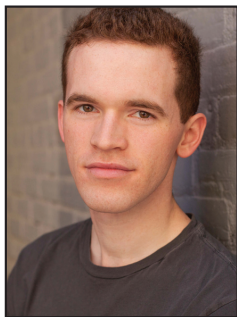
It is perhaps because of this that Tannahill's play has such a strong sense of intimate, powerful honesty and vulnerability. It is our hope this play moves you as it did us.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome and thank you for coming to *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes* by the exceptional Jordan Tannahill. I fell in love with this piece the instant I read it, and was thrilled when my fellow company members agreed it was a show Theatre by the River had to produce. Thank you to Megan Andres for her care in directing, Kevin P. for his daring performance, and Katie for her exceptional skill. TBTR loves the opportunity to build a team of artists who tell a story audiences will think about after the lights come up - a story that will change the world, even just a little bit. How far would you go for love and freedom?

Theatre by the River produces professional, independent theatre year round. After the Winnipeg Fringe, FRINGE ON! Our next project, *Constellations* by Nick Payne, hits the stage in October 2016 and I hope to see you there. Visit www.theatrebytheriver.com to learn more about us, Winnipeg Independent Theatre and, most important, sign up for our free e-news for the 411 on all that's happening on local indie stages.

KEVIN P. GABEL 's recent Winnipeg Fringe performances include last year's *Georama* and his self-written solo show *Undress Me*, which was nominated for the Harry Rintoul Award for Playwriting in 2014. Kevin has also appeared in such plays as *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* (Royal MTC), *Miss N Me* (Sarasvati), *Proud* (TPM), and *How the Other Half Loves* (Tara Players). Onscreen he has acted in TV's *The Pinkertons* and several short films, including *Seven Drinks*, which he wrote and co-directed and which has been accepted to over 15 film festivals across North America. Kevin appears with the permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association



MEGAN ANDRES is a Vancouver and Winnipeg based director, performer, dramaturg, and playwright. The Winnipeg Fringe might be her favourite time of the year. Previous Fringe credits include: as director for *Offices*, *Kissing Sweet*, *Antipode*, and *Gorilla*. Other Fringe credits include: as performer in *Bedbound*, *Disco Pigs*, *The Darling Family* and as playwright/performer in *Catching Shadows* and her Harry Rintoul nominated play *only(just...)*. Currently, Megan is one of the producers of the Brave New Play Rites festival in Vancouver, where she also serves as the director and dramaturg for its stage reading series. Megan is pursuing a Joint Creative Writing and Theatre MFA at the University of British Columbia.



KATIE ROBINSON HOPPA

is delighted to be working with Theatre by the River for the first time with *Peter Fechter*. She is currently working towards completing her B.A. Honours in Theatre and Film at the University of Winnipeg (Production, Stage Management and Filmmaking). Her recent works includes stage managing *Twelfth Night* (University of Winnipeg), serving as assistant director and production designer for

a local short film entitled *Hold On*, as well as a second show with this year's Fringe *The Drowning Girls* with Creative Minds and Pocket Frock Productions.

JORDAN TANNAHILL is a playwright, theatre director and filmmaker. Jordan has been called “the future of Canadian theatre” by NOW Magazine and “the poster child of a new generation of artists for whom “interdisciplinary” is not a buzzword, but a way of life” by *The Globe and Mail*. In collaboration with William Ellis, he runs the alternative art-space Videofag, out of a defunct barbershop in Toronto’s Kensington Market. Jordan received the 2014 Governor Generals Award for Drama for his book *Age of Minority: Three Solo Plays* and Dora Awards for *rihannaboi95* in 2013 and Concord Floral in 2015. His book, *Theatre of the Unimpressed: In Search of Vital Drama* was published by Coach House Press in 2015 and called “essential reading for anyone interested in the state of contemporary theatre and performance” by *The Globe and Mail*. His double-bill, *Botticelli in the Fire* and *Sunday in Sodom* premiered at Canadian Stage in May 2016.



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Blizzard (Venue 12)
Brave Hearts (Venue 3)
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Jonno (Venue 6)
Post (Venue 9)

Songs For A New World (Venue 29)
Crosswalk Productions (Venue 29)
The Drowning Girls (Venue 1)
The Sh!t Show (Venue 1)

MUSIC

The pre-show music you hear are compositions created by Medard Fischer, inspired by the events surrounding Peter Fechter's death and triumph over the misery of his final moments. To honour his desire for freedom and a better life, net proceeds of EP sales will be donated to the UN Refugee Agency.

On August 17, 1962, Peter Fechter, an eighteen year-old East German bricklayer, became one of the first and youngest fatalities of the border patrols along the Berlin Wall.

Fechter and a friend ran the wall near Checkpoint Charlie in the Kreuzberg district of central Berlin. Fechter was shot in the pelvis by an East German border guard during his attempt to scale the wall and fell back into the "death-strip" on the eastern side. He lay in agony in full view of western onlookers, and of border guards on each side of the wall. Despite his pleas, he was refused medical attention, and western bystanders were prevented at gunpoint from assisting him. He died of blood loss approximately an hour later.

The senselessness of his death and the refusal of both East and West German border guards to render him aid was a flashpoint for anger in Berlin over division of the city and construction of the wall and led to the eruption of spontaneous demonstrations in the city.

Songs in our production of Jordan Tannahill's *Peter Fechter: 59 Minutes*:

"Run"
"Leave"
"Wait"

Medard Fischer's *Four Songs for Peter Fechter* was released April 8, 2014

<http://medardfischer.bandcamp.com/album/four-songs-for-peter-fechter>



Theatre by the River is a proud member of Manitobans for the Arts and the Winnipeg Independent Theatre collective.

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