
PRESS RELEASE

GEST presents:

EXPECTATIONS

By Kristina Brändén Whitaker

PLEASANCE DOME, 4-22 AUGUST 2010, 12.40PM

Based on writer Kristina Brändén Whitaker and her husband (and director of the show) Gary Whitaker's true experience of living with a disabled daughter with a rare chromosome disorder, *Expectations* is an honest story of two young couples- one English, one Swedish- coming to terms with the news that their child will be disabled. The play explores the topical issues surrounding anti-natal screening and the difficult choices families face. A frank and witty firsthand account of the realities of caring for a child with disabilities.

GEST (The Gothenburg English Speaking Theatre) was formed in 2005 by Kristina Brändén Whitaker and Gary Whitaker with the aim of providing contemporary theatre in the English language to Sweden, working with professional actors and directors from the UK. Previous productions include *The Collector* and *After Miss Julie* at Hagateatern, *After The End* at Folkteatern, *Stones in His Pockets* and *Contractions* at Teater Trixter.

Kristina Brändén Whitaker (*writer and the role of Klara*) is an actress, playwright and GEST's Artistic Director. She trained at Central School of Speech and Drama and has worked both in Sweden and the UK. Theatre includes *The Contact Theatre*, *London Studio 503*, *The Old Red Lion*, *The Mill at Sonning*, *Folk Teatern*, *Teater Trixter*, *Teater Splendid* and *GEST*. TV and film includes *As If I'm Not There* for Wide Eye Films directed by Oscar winner Juanita Wilson, Steven Spielberg's *Band of Brothers*, *Ingen Ser Oss* which premiered at The Gothenburg Film Festival, *How Soon is Now*, the award winning Prix Italia drama and *The Truth about Marika* (SVT).

Gary Whitaker (director) is an actor, director and the Associate Director of GEST. His theatre credits include leading roles in London's West End (*Loot*, *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*), Royal Shakespeare Company (*Wildest Dreams* written and directed by Alan Ayckbourn), Royal Court (*Happy Days*), Royal Exchange (*Unidentified human remains*), West Yorkshire Playhouse (*Of Mice and Men*, *Sunbeam Terrace*) and *Out of Joint* (*Rita*, *Sue and Bob Too*, *A State Affair*). TV and film credits include *The Red Riding Trilogy*, *The Gathering*, *Wire in the Blood*, *Vincent*, *Waterloo Road*, *Sunday*, *In Deep*, *Heartbeat*, *The Vice*, *Holby City* and three series of *The First of the Summer Wine* for BBC.

Sally Walsh (*Theresa*): Film and TV includes *Tumbledown Farm*, *The Old Curiosity Shop* (Disney), *Smokescreen*, *Heartbeat*, *The Ward*, *Emmerdale*, *Cold Feet*, *Where the Heart Is*, *The Bill*, *Doctors*, *Between the Sheets*, *Real Men*. Theatre includes The West Yorkshire Playhouse, The Contact Theatre, Manchester.

With original music by **Ricardo Sousa** and design by **Ger Olde Monnikhof**.

www.gest.se / Running Time: 70 minutes

LISTINGS

Venue:	Pleasance Dome/ Jack Dome
Dates:	4-22 August 2010
Times:	12.40PM
Price:	Preview (4-6th) £5 Midweek (Monday-Thursday) £8.50 (£7.50 concession) Weekend (Friday-Sunday) £9.00 (£8.00 concession)
Box Office:	0131 556 6557