



HEARTS LIKE FISTS

BY ADAM SZYMKOWICZ



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with support from the Elizabeth George Foundation.

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For my parents, whose support is immeasurable

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HEARTS LIKE FISTS was first produced by Mandi Moss and Jason Moyer for Theatre of NOTE in Los Angeles, California, opening on August 3, 2012. It was directed by Jaime Robledo; the set design was by DeAnne Millais; the costume design was by Takashi Morimoto; the lighting design was by Matt Richter; the sound design was by Mark McClain Wilson; the fight choreography was by Andrew Amani; and the stage manager was Bebe Herrera. The cast was as follows:

LISA Lauren Dobbins Webb
PETER Rick Steadman
DOCTOR X Keith Allan
NINA Alysha Brady
SALLY Jennifer Lee Weaver
JAZMIN Alina Phelan
NURSE Grace Eboigbe
STAGE NINJA 1 Dan Wingard
STAGE NINJA 2 Pierce Baird

HEARTS LIKE FISTS was subsequently produced by Flux Theatre Ensemble in New York City at the Secret Theatre, opening on December 1, 2012. It was directed by Kelly O'Donnell; the set design was by Will Lowry; the costume design was by Stephanie Levin; the lighting design was by Kia Rogers; the sound design was by Janie Bullard; the fight choreography was by Adam Swiderski and Rocio Mendez; and the production stage manager was Jodi M. Witherell. The cast was as follows:

LISA Marnie Schulenburg
PETER Chinaza Uche
DOCTOR X August Schulenburg
NINA Becky Byers
SALLY Aja Houston
JAZMIN Rachael Hip-Flores
NURSE Susan Louise O'Connor
THE COMMISSIONER Chris Wight
ENSEMBLE Jennifer Somers Kipley, Chester Poon

CHARACTERS

LISA, a crimestopper, female

PETER, a heart doctor, male

DOCTOR X, evil but misunderstood, male

NINA, a Crimefighter, female

SALLY, a Crimefighter, female

JAZMIN, a Crimefighter, female

NURSE, a nurse, female

THE COMMISSIONER, played by the actor who plays Doctor X

MAN, played by the actor who plays Peter

WOMAN, played by the actor who plays Nurse

GIRL, played by the actor who plays Jazmin

CARSON, played by the actor who plays Doctor X

ED, played by the actor who plays Peter

Note: Actors can be any race.

PLACE

New York City.

TIME

Now.

HEARTS LIKE FISTS

Prologue

Spotlight on Doctor X, a truly terrible creature with sunken eyes and deep scars all over. Disfigured, stethoscope around the neck, wearing a doctor's lab coat, carrying a doctor's bag.

DOCTOR X. I have a face like a bowl of worms. Squirming around the ticks, the scars, the moles. It's disgusting. A face like this. It's absurd, without meaning or purpose. And I honestly can't say if I'm an experiment gone awry or if I was just born this way. I have no origin. I have no memory. I can only remember you. The way you looked at me, the first time you saw me, it was like you saw the bowl underneath the worms. Your face was like a china plate. Perfect. Whole. Pristine. And you looked at me, the way you looked at me — The patient had died. That much I remember. His wife was wailing but I couldn't hear her. Because you were there and everything else melted away. "Let's have a drink," you said with your face like a plate. And we drank and we drank and we went to my place and we made love like normal people. And it continued that way for days, weeks, years. I can't say for sure. Why can't I remember? If I could only remember, maybe I could find you. Or maybe I could figure out when how why you grew tired of me. Was it then I became what I am? Your body was like liquor and I couldn't get enough, couldn't spend a night without you, a minute, a second. I didn't know you weren't drunk on me. How could I have missed the diagnosis? How could I have avoided the bald shock, the morning discovery, to wake up and find your note? And now I can't remember anything except you. Your face everywhere I go. You will pay. Everyone will pay. You will all pay dearly.

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The three Crimefighters on stage. They are dressed right out of a comic book with masks over their eyes. They are fierce. Flashbulbs may go off. Jazmin and Nina may pose for the cameras in various positions. Sally does not.

SALLY. Thank you all for coming. I'm sure you know who we are.

NINA. You've seen us on the news.

JAZMIN. Perhaps you have a poster on your wall.

SALLY. Or a story you tell over and over about the time you brushed Nina's sleeve.

NINA. Or when Sally saved your cousin from a burning building.

SALLY. Or when your brother had a date with Jazmin.

JAZMIN. He just wasn't my type.

NINA. But that's not why you're here. Just to gape at us.

JAZMIN. Maybe they're here a little because of that.

SALLY. You want to hear if anything is being done.

NINA. About the murders.

JAZMIN. The senseless murders that happen almost every night.

SALLY. Let me assure you we are working on it.

JAZMIN. We are close to solving it.

NINA. We know who is doing it.

SALLY. We're just waiting to catch the Doctor.

NINA. We're near to finding Doctor X's lair.

JAZMIN. He's been a hard nut to crack.

SALLY. We've almost rid the city of crime.

NINA. Because of us, Clownface, the Electric Eel and the Red Witch are behind bars.

SALLY. And don't forget Fire Storm, Don Oregon, the Gambler, the Head, the Economist, the Dentist, Johnny Steel and Little Orphan Drillnose —

JAZMIN. All in jail. And Muddlehead, the Monkey Twins, the Leather Fist, Volcano Moe, the Annihilator, the Incubator, Tarantula Sue, Lulu the Circus Freak and Millionaire Ted —

NINA. All presumed dead. Because of our hard work and dedication.