



The Power of Performance **Public Energy**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 13, 2017

A BRILLIANT, BAWDY LAMENT THAT BRINGS THE LOVE WITH A MUSICAL SAW COMES TO THE THEATRE ON KING

March 29th–April 1st at 8:00pm | April 2nd at 2:00pm

(Peterborough, ON) – A potent solo show written and performed by award-winning performer Charlie Petch, ***Mel Malarkey Gets the Bum's Rush*** is a lament for a time gone by, a love poem to past entertainers, and an insightful look at identity politics, all seamlessly combined into a brilliantly crafted juxtaposition of comedy and pathos. The show opens on **Wednesday, March 29th at The Theatre On King at 8:00pm and runs to Sunday, April 2nd.**

bum's rush

noun, *Slang*.

1. forcible and swift ejection from a place:
2. any rude or abrupt dismissal:

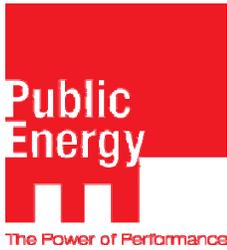
It's "1931 onederful" and the final night for the Vagabond Theatre. Owner and master of ceremonies, Mel Malarkey, laments both the loss of the theatre she has just sold to Odeon cinemas and the inevitable death of vaudeville to the moving pictures. She can't bear to tell the audience and keeps up the show, introducing acts and being her bawdy charming self. Played like a classic vaudeville variety show, a colourful cast of characters are introduced to the stage: the ventriloquist dummy Ronny and his best friend Tommy Colonny, the Hurdy Gurdy Dirty Birdies, Gerta the Flirta, Clyde & Fried the Two Stepping Donkeys, Marlene DeDick, and Victor the Crooner are all perfectly emblematic reminders of when entertainment was a more personal and unrefined activity. Mel's own "short and cutting history of the musical saw," played on an actual musical saw, is a hauntingly melodic reflection of days soon past.

While the show must go on, off-stage a solemn Mel reads odes to her dearest loves and tells touching, comedic stories of owning her "Theatre of the Unrefined." She poetically reveals how devastating it will be to lose a stage where she and other vaudevillians could truly be themselves and be applauded for what makes them unique. Mel also talks about the loss of the stage to the more propaganda-driven media form of cinema, and embraces the stigma of being a post war business woman in "Veasons Vor Vhy I'm a Total Tramp," which pays homage to her hero, Marlene Dietrich. There is so much to lose when the live show gets the bum's rush.

First seen at the Theatre On King in 2016, Petch's new full-length version has toured Canada and has been awarded two Ontario Arts Council grants. Developed with "The Horsefeathers," Petch will be launching their new album of 1930's arrangements "Mel Malarkey – Odes & Acts" exclusively during this run at TTOK.

email admin@publicenergy.ca mail PO Box 2319 Peterborough, ON Canada K9J 7Y8 web publicenergy.ca
phone (705) 745-1788 fax (705) 749-3606 office 140 Charlotte St. Floor 3, Peterborough, ON K9J 2T8

Board of Directors Barbara Chisholm Chair, Charmaine Eddy, Mark Seasons, Michael O'Farrell, Bill Kimball
Staff Bill Kimball Artistic Producer Susan Oliver General Manager Susan Newman Bookkeeper
Ryan Kerr Technical Director UNAVOX Video Services



The Power of Performance **Public Energy**

In conjunction with the show, there will be **two community engagement events**.

ARTIST PANEL: *We can do better together - Trans & Gender Non Conforming Artists in Peterborough/Nogojwanong*, on Saturday, March 25th from 2:00pm-4:00pm at The Theatre On King. Moderator: Charlie Petch. Panelists: Angela Semple, Evangeline Gentle, Scarlett Palmer, Niambi Leigh. Join us for a panel discussion with local artists, moderated by theatre artist, writer and performer Charlie Petch. The panel aims to create dialogue around how we can increase inclusion and diversity and nurture new audiences. Presented by Electric City Culture Council (EC3) and Public Energy.

WORKSHOP: Learning the Language of Tech – For Performers, on Sunday, March 26th from 6:00-8:00pm at **The Theatre On King**. As you move forward as a performer- it gets complicated. When a photographer, camera person or theatre technician asks you what you'd like, how do you respond? Find out in this workshop, which comes with Charlie Petch's guide: *Learning the Language of Tech, A Guide for Performers*. A crash course for anyone looking to take their skills to the next level with confidence. Cost: \$25.00 (handbook included).

Presented by Public Energy, *Mel Malarkey Gets the Bum's Rush* plays March 29-April 1 at 8pm and April 2 at 2pm at **The Theatre On King** (enter at rear of building off the parking lot). Tickets available in advance for the March 30-April 2 performances from the Market Hall box office (140 Charlotte Street, 3rd Floor), online at tickets.markethall.org or call 705-749-1146. Tickets are \$15 (a service charge applies). For the March 29 performance tickets are pay-what-you-can. **Mature content of course.**

Thanks to Theatre Trent for providing show funding.

Show Credits: **Written and Performed:** by Charlie Petch **Music:** by Charlie Petch

– 30 –

Photo Outline: Charlie Petch in their production of *Mel Malarkey Gets the Bum's Rush*, March 29-April 2 at The Theatre On King. (submitted photo. Photo Credit: Andy Carroll)

Media contact: Susan Oliver, General Manager, Public Energy
T: 705-745-1788 (Public Energy Office) E: publicenergymedia@gmail.com

Please visit the press page on our website (publicenergy.ca/press) for additional show information, press quality images, video trailer, logos and further information about our organization.

Public Energy is a presenter and animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance, and interdisciplinary work. Their work is dedicated to supporting the creation, touring, and presentation of innovative contemporary performance arts, and to developing audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate.

email admin@publicenergy.ca mail PO Box 2319 Peterborough, ON Canada K9J 7Y8 web publicenergy.ca
phone (705) 745-1788 fax (705) 749-3606 office 140 Charlotte St. Floor 3, Peterborough, ON K9J 2T8

Board of Directors Barbara Chisholm Chair, Charmaine Eddy, Mark Seasons, Michael O'Farrell, Bill Kimball
Staff Bill Kimball Artistic Producer Susan Oliver General Manager Susan Newman Bookkeeper
Ryan Kerr Technical Director UNAVOX Video Services