

Blackeyed Theatre presents
The World Premiere of

THE BEEKEEPER

by Michael Ashton

Winner of PULSE, Blackeyed Theatre's new writing initiative

December 1944. Monowicze, one of the labour camps at Auschwitz. Amidst the desperation and inhumanity of the Holocaust, an incredible power struggle develops between Kommandant Richard Baer and one of his prisoners, Manachem Stressler, a German Jew who survives by harvesting honey from the camp's bee hives for his captors.

With Russian tanks advancing to liberate the camp, Baer's growing despair pushes both men to their limits as they seek redemption and a return to their humanity. Based on real life events, *The Beekeeper* is the incredible story of two men, the nature of power and the strength of the human spirit.

Michael Ashton is an emerging playwright who learnt the art of scriptwriting while serving time in prison, courtesy of the Synergy Theatre project. His previous play, *The Archbishop and the Antichrist*, is being made into a film directed by Roland Joffe and starring Michael Caine, Sidney Poitier and Gary Oldman, due for release at Cannes in 2012.

The Beekeeper is the winner of Blackeyed Theatre's new writing initiative, PULSE, which aims to encourage new, sustainable theatre and support the development of emerging playwrights.

Suitability: 14+

Availability: Spring 2012 for a three-week run.

Genres: Historical drama, WW2, Holocaust

Education: Relevant to History, English, Religious Education and Philosophy.

Get-in: 8 hours **Get-out:** 1 hour

Company: Four actors, One CSM

Marketing: A5 flyers, A3 posters, A2 posters, 4-sheets, press pack

Starring



Jamie Hinde



Tim Daish

With
Chris Westgate and Spencer Cummins

Director Martin Jady
Designer Victoria Spearing
Lighting Designer Charlotte McClelland
Costume Designer Hannah Gibbs

“One of the most innovative,
audacious companies in
contemporary English theatre”
The Stage

Blackeyed Theatre, one of the UK's leading touring companies, has an excellent track record of producing high quality theatre and has a growing national following among mainstream theatre audiences.

“Magnificent...Extraordinary...As haunting as it is harrowing...Astonishing power... Any assumption that Oh! What a Lovely War is a period piece is shot to shrapnel. Forty years on, we need Littlewood's vision more than ever. Blackeyed Theatre restore it to us with astonishing power. Catch it if you can”
The Stage (*Oh What A Lovely War*)

“No wonder Blackeyed Theatre have built up such a reputation for themselves. This is a highly professional and exciting ensemble of actors, tightly and inspiringly directed”
Reviews Gate (*The Caucasian Chalk Circle*)

“Intensely interesting and original, with strokes of real power — as when Handel's Zadok the Priest is sung as the King is strapped down. Through it all, Ward never falters. It is the performance of his maturity, and I salute it”
Libby Purves, *The Times* (*The Madness of George III*)

“Quite why Steven Berkoff's version of Oedipus has not been performed since it was first published in 2000 is maybe that it was just waiting for Blackeyed Theatre to do it full justice. It has been worth the wait...”
The Stage (*Oedipus*)

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LOTTERY FUNDED

