

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 10/01/2012 Entertainment/Theatre | Theatre at UBC Announces **The Sorrows of Young Werther**, By Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, adapted & directed by Fannina Waubert de Puiseau, starring Ryan Beil | Frederic Wood Theatre, Oct. 17 – 20 @ 7:30 p.m. & Matinee Oct. 20 @ 2 p.m., Talk Back: Thur. Oct. 18, \$7 Preview Oct. 16 | Tickets: \$22/\$15/\$10 + service charges | Box Office: 604.822.2678 or www.theatre.ubc.ca | Media Contact: Deb Pickman Ph: 604.319.7656 E: publicity.theatre@ubc.ca

The Sorrows of Young Werther

By Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Adapted & Directed by Fannina Waubert de Puiseau,
Starring BFA Acting alumnus Ryan Beil

Frederic Wood Theatre, October 17 – 20 *Matinee Oct.20

World Premiere: Theatre at UBC brings an exciting and thoroughly modern re-visioning of **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's** classic Romantic novel to the stage. The first great 'confessional' novel, **The Sorrows of Young Werther** (1774) is loosely autobiographical and draws on Goethe's own unrequited love for a married woman. His sensitive exploration of the mind of a young artist brought immediate success to the story and made Goethe one of the world's first literary stars. The book's many passionate devotees included Napoleon, and it sparked a phenomenon known as "Werther Fever", which caused young men throughout Europe to dress in the clothing style described for Werther in the novel. It reputedly also led to some of the first known examples of copycat suicide.

Director and UBC Theatre alumna Fannina Waubert de Puiseau has worked as a theatre artist in Germany and Canada for almost a decade. She is currently Literary Assistant at the **Arts Club Theatre** and freelances as a dramaturg and language editor. Recent theatre credits include production dramaturgy for **Master Class**, **Clybourne Park**, and **The Importance of Being Earnest** at the Arts Club, a co-adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's **Hedda Gabler** with Bob Frazer for Osimous Theatre, and a directing apprenticeship on **The Merchant of Venice** at Bard on the Beach. Fannina is an MA student in the Dept. of English at UBC, and a member of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.

The Sorrows of Young Werther stars Jessie Award winning actor, and BFA Acting alumnus, **Ryan Beil**. Beil's credits include **White Rabbit**, **Red Rabbit** (Volcano and Necessary Angel Toronto & Wolfgang Hoffman, Berlin), **Comedy of Errors** (Bard on the Beach), **Billy Bishop Goes to War** and **The Importance of Being Earnest** (Arts Club), **American Buffalo** (for Beil's own company, Main Street Theatre Co.) and an improvised one-act play **Skin and Lungs** (The Globe Theatre). Beil's improv career has sent him to perform across Canada, internationally as well as locally with his own troupe **The Sunday Service**, recent winner of the 2012 Canadian Comedy Award for Best Improv, and **Vancouver TheatreSports**,

The Sorrows of Young Werther features a cameo performance by recent BFA acting graduate **Melanie Reich**. The creative team includes BA Double Honours (English & Theatre) student **Tanya Mathivanan** (Assistant Director), MFA design student **Matthew Norman** (Lighting and Media Design), BFA Design students **Molly Lai** (Set Design), **Cat Robinson** (Costume Design) and Masters of Library and Information Studies student **Christopher Rhys Pugh** (Sound Design) with BFA Production student **Erica Leduc** (Stage Management).

THE SORROWS OF YOUNG WERTHER October 17 – 20, 2012 | Frederic Wood Theatre, 6354 Crescent Rd., UBC MAP: <http://bit.ly/94dLm6> | CURTAIN: Nightly at 7:30 p.m. & Matinee Oct. 20 @ 2 p.m. | TICKETS: Reg. \$22/Senior \$15/Student \$10 + service charges | \$7 Preview Oct. 16 | Talk Back: Thur. Oct. 18 | BOX OFFICE: 604.822.2678 or box.office@ubc.ca Online: <http://ubctheatre.universitytickets.com> | MORE: www.theatre.ubc.ca



a place of mind