



LITTLE DEATH  
A PLAY

DANIEL  
KARASIK

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Daniel Karasik

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## PRODUCTION NOTES

*Little Death* premiered on April 18, 2015, at The Theatre Centre, Toronto, as part of Why Not Theatre's The RISER Project, in a production by The Little Death Collective, with the following cast and creative team:

Alex: Christopher Stanton

Brit: Nicole Underhay

Diane: Shauna Black

Liz: Elizabeth Tanner

Claire: Kate Hennig

Marsha: Sarah Dodd

Director: Zachary Florence

Stage Manager: Tamara Vuckovic

Set and Costume Designer: Jenna McCutchen

Lighting Designer: André du Toit

Sound Designer: Lyon Smith

Choreographer: Monica Dottor

Producer: Katie Leamen

Graphic Designer: Linn Øyen Farley

Production Publicity: The Publicity Pod

Photographer: Emily Lockhart Photography

+ Design

For The RISER Project, a collaborative producing model presented by Why Not Theatre with the

generous support of the Toronto Arts Council and Canadian Heritage:

Why Not Theatre Artistic Director: Ravi Jain

Why Not Theatre Artistic Producer: Owais Lightwala

Production Manager: Debbie Courchene

Documentarian: Dan Watson

Festival Publicity: ClutchPR

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The play was developed with the support of the Royal Court Theatre in London, UK, The New Group in New York, and the Tarragon Theatre and Stratford Festival in Canada.

Tango Co., the Toronto Arts Council, and the Ontario Arts Council also made important contributions to the play's development.

## PEOPLE

Alex

Brit

Diane

Liz

Claire

Marsha

## INFO

Alex is a man.

Brit is a woman.

They're married to each other.





## ONE

*(Hotel bar.)*

- Alex      Say there's a man
- Diane     Yeah
- Alex      In a hotel bar
- Diane     I can see where you're
- Alex      Say  
            Say it's his last night on earth
- Diane     Uh-huh
- Alex      I mean  
            What I wonder is  
            Can you tell
- Diane     Tell
- Alex      Does it somehow show is it  
            visible does it give off a a  
            Scent  
            Does it attract or repel the  
            The people around him  
            Do you think they can tell

Diane That's a pretty odd

Alex I'm kind of an odd  
I mean I've always thought of  
myself as an odd person  
Though if you ask others  
The strange thing is most people  
seem to think I'm quite  
normal

Diane What kind of normal do they

Alex There are different kinds of

Diane Corporate normal civil servant  
normal family doctor normal  
You wanna know how I peg you

Alex How you  
Sure

Diane If you were from back home I'd  
say you grew up in  
Westchester that's the kind of  
You know  
Your mould

Alex Yeah

Diane      Good family  
              Parents both professionals read  
                  *The New Yorker* subscribe to  
                  various cultural institutions  
                  in the city  
              Do pretty well for yourself in  
                  college but later on

Alex        Uh-oh

Diane      You stumble  
              Drift around for a while  
              Pretend to be some sort of artist

Alex        Not without talent

Diane      Not completely without

Alex        A talent for pretending

Diane      Then wind up in  
              Advertising

Alex        Nope

Diane      Headhunting

Alex        Seal-hunting

Diane      That's awful

Alex      Ha ha

Diane      A hedge fund

Alex      Hedge-trimming

Diane      This sort of thing work for you

Alex      Somebody once suggested I sell  
                 when I can I'm not for all  
                 markets

Diane      Mm

Alex      I'm thirsty

Diane      Do we need to order you  
                 another

Alex      This we is interesting

Diane      Well we've figured out you're not  
                 in advertising headhunting  
                 hedge funds so maybe you  
                 could use a little

Alex      Ah

Diane I'm not uncharitable

Alex I'll bet you are actually  
I'll bet that's exactly what you are

Diane Not a nice thing to say

Alex Guess not

Diane I'm into nice men

Alex Really

Diane A little consideration goes a long  
way  
You actually think I'm uncharitable

Alex I'm just guessing

Diane Based on what

Alex Experience

*Rest.*

Alex Say there's a man

Diane Uh-huh

Alex      And he doesn't know you  
              He has no reason to believe he'll  
                  even like you  
              But he finds you attractive  
              Unaccountably  
              Though the world would  
                  probably call you attractive  
              But he's not usually attracted to  
                  the kind of thing the world

Diane     A real original thinker

Alex      And he's extraordinarily  
                  attractive himself

Diane     Wow

Alex      Not because he's the kind of guy  
                  the world  
              But because he feels  
              And it's not a groundless not  
                  exactly a groundless  
              But he feels he has absolutely  
                  nothing to lose  
              And he'd like to  
              Maybe just to see if

*Rest.*

Alex     And you  
          What about you  
          You're a contract killer

Diane    I work for a magazine  
          Mr. Mystery

Alex     Dumb name for a magazine

Diane    That's what I'm calling you  
          I'm calling you Mr. Mystery cuz  
          that's what you are  
          You're a mystery mister

Alex     Really

Diane    Oh I don't know  
          So it's a men's lifestyle magazine

Alex     Right

Diane    Kind of a big one actually  
          Kind of like the biggest one  
          You've probably heard of it

Alex     I don't read magazines

Diane    Online counts



Alex      I don't read anything online  
              I hardly even read emails

Diane     I read everything online  
              Fucking hate paper

Alex      A men's magazine is that a  
              conflict of interest

Diane     Since I'm

Alex      That's what I

Diane     Please  
              I know my way around  
              None of the guys in that office  
              even dare to smell me

Alex      What would they smell if they did

Diane     Horse sweat and lavender

Alex      Wow

Diane     I don't know where that came from  
              I don't know why I just  
              Horse sweat and lavender  
              Ha  
              I think that's maybe actually true

Alex      From here it's not obvious  
            From here you just smell like

*Rest.*

Diane     You do this a lot

Alex      This as in

Diane     Hang around in hotel bars  
            In your own city  
            Bet you do

Alex      Nice place to unwind

Diane     Meet women

Alex      Well

Diane     I fucking hate travelling  
            Stresses me out

Alex      That's what hotel bars are for

Diane     Thank God

Alex      Say that in Hebrew

Diane     I will not

Alex      Funny how we always seem to  
            meet  
            Jewish people  
            Hundreds of people in this hotel  
            every day from all over  
            Handful of Jews  
            Yet somehow

Diane     I have like  
            Radar  
            It's kinda perfect  
            Chalk it up to years of pressure  
            to date the boys at Camp  
            Biluim  
            On Birthright  
            Trying to mate us within the  
            Which is fucked you know  
            because we're probably all  
            brothers and sisters anyway  
            And I don't mean that in a  
            hippy-dippy  
            We're probably all the spawn of  
            Yids raped by Slavs eight  
            hundred years ago anyway  
            How else do you explain the  
            Central European the  
            Caucasian features of  
            Somebody told me that once  
            and it really

It puts things in perspective

Alex      Only if that's the kind of  
                 perspective you

Diane      Rape  
                 That's what it comes down to  
                 When you strip away all the  
                 We're just the children of rapists  
                      who did us the favour of  
                 And maybe it is a favour  
                 You know  
                 I think about that sometimes

Alex      Do you

Diane      Yeah I  
                 Yeah  
                 I  
                 Yeah

*Rest.*

Alex      Want another

Diane      Do you

Alex      No

Diane      No  
              I don't either

*Rest.*

Diane      Not here anyway  
              You know what I've always  
                  wanted to do

Alex        I do not

Diane      Raid the mini-bar  
              In a hotel room  
              Sample everything  
              Damn the cost

Alex        This is your illicit fantasy

Diane      Not my most illicit

Alex        Bill it to the magazine

Diane      Or  
              Yeah  
              Whatever  
              Have you ever done that

Alex        Raided a mini-bar

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Daniel Karasik is a writer of plays, poetry, and fiction. He is a winner of the CBC Literary Award for Fiction (2012) and the Toronto Arts Foundation's Emerging Artist Award (2013). His plays have been produced across Canada, in the US, and frequently in translation in Germany; *The Biographer*, produced in Toronto in 2013, garnered a Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination for Outstanding New Play. Nominated for the Pushcart Prize and the Western Magazine Award for his fiction and the National Magazine Award for his poetry, Daniel is the author of two previous books of plays published by Playwrights Canada Press, a poetry collection with Cormorant Books, and a short story collection forthcoming in 2017 from Guernica Editions. His newest plays are in development with Toronto's Tarragon Theatre, where he is an incoming playwright-in-residence, and Why Not Theatre; off-Broadway's The New Group; and the Stratford Festival, from which he holds a commission. He has taught at the National Theatre School of Canada and writes about theatre and politics at [danielkarasik.com](http://danielkarasik.com).

## COLOPHON

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