



The Scent of a Thousand Rains

by Damon Falke

Directed by Charles M Pepiton

Performed by Ryan Childers and

Tana Bachman-Bland

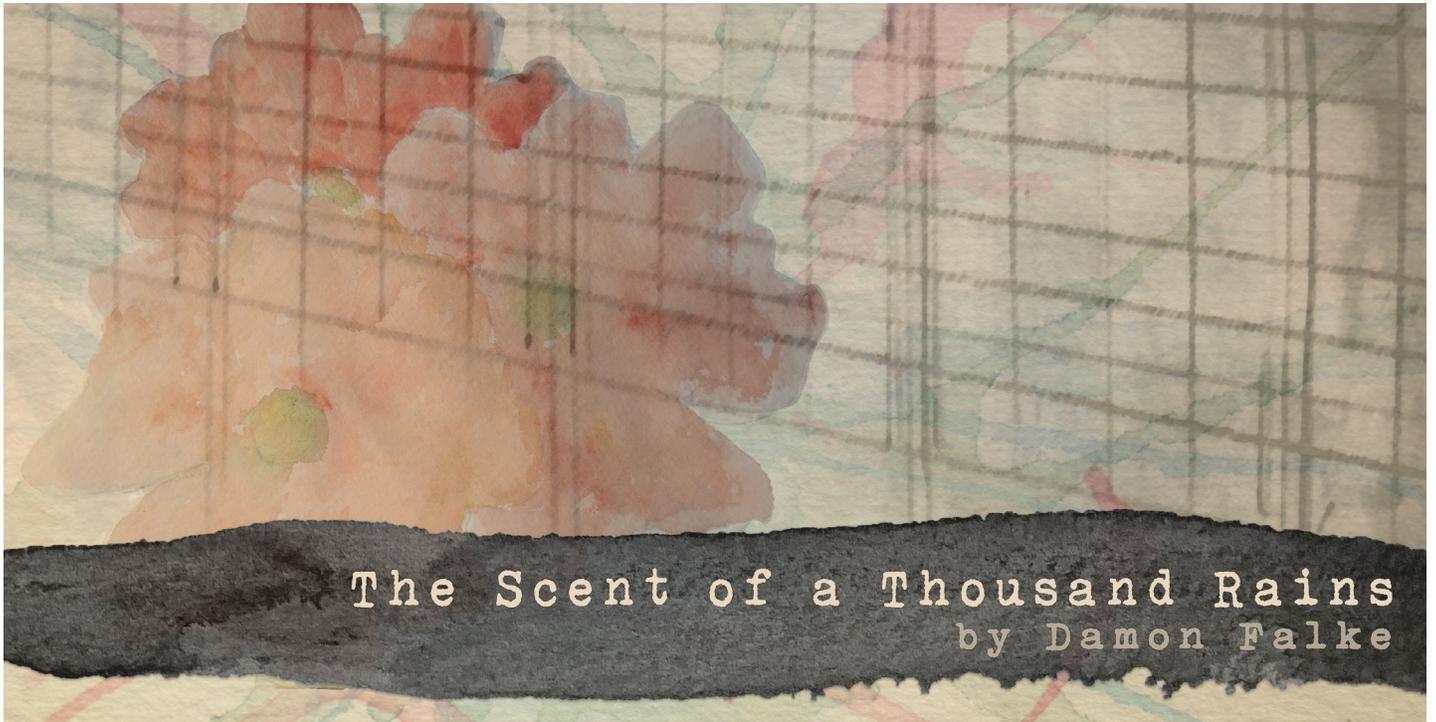
Synopsis: *The Scent of a Thousand Rains* is a love story. A man finds himself alone in an apartment in Budapest. He peers from the window to discover a woman standing on her balcony. Their unlikely connection sends him on a journey through his memories to reckon with the places and people that have ordered his life. A literary and musical exploration of a life lived in pursuit, the show suggests that in a life of transience and loss, love and imagination are the only things that remain to us and of us.



The Scent of a Thousand Rains is a performance piece in verse for an actor and a violinist. The music for the production was composed and arranged by Tana Bachman-Bland. It sits in the ancient tradition of solo versed performance with live music that connects us to the oldest forms of theatre.

In addition to the generous support we received during the development of this piece, we wish to acknowledge the Frederic Mompou Private Foundation for their permission to use "Pajaro Triste" and Tana Bachman-Bland's adaptation for violin as part of *The Scent of a Thousand Rains*.

*As for me,
I would rather fall in love.
I would rather fall in love
With the possibility of you
Not loving me.
If for nothing else,
Because possibility
And not knowing
Remain vital*



Program Length: 60 Minutes

Video Trailer:

[Click Here for Video](#)

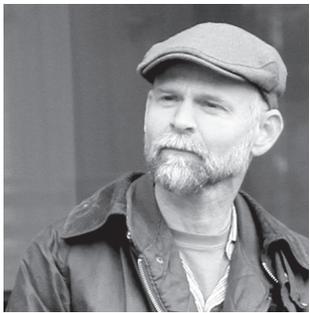
Full Audio from Spokane Public Radio Broadcast 10/3/19:

[Click Here for Audio](#)

Creative Team



Director **Charles M Pepiton** works as Associate Professor and Chair of Theatre & Dance at Gonzaga University and Producing Artistic Director at Square Top Theatre. He recently directed *Coming Home: A Soldiers' Project* and *Waiting for Godot* for Gonzaga University and the film *Laura, or Scenes from a Common World* and *Now at the Uncertain Hour* for Square Top Theatre. (www.cpepiton.com)



Writer **Damon Falke** is an American writer living in northern Norway. He has been a key part of Square Top Theatre since 2008. His work includes, among others, the novella *By Way of Passing*, the play *Now at the Uncertain Hour*, and the 5-part poem and film script *Laura, or Scenes from a Common World*. Much of his work considers relationships between memory and the present, particularly as they are expressed through objects and landscapes. (www.damonfalke.com)



Actor **Ryan Childers** is a veteran performer from Seattle and a recent Spokane transplant. He has appeared on stage at The Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre (Virginia), Seattle Public Theater, and CenterStage Theatre.



Violinist **Tana Bachman-Bland** is a Spokane native. She performs with multiple musical organizations in and around Spokane including the Spokane Symphony, Tango Volcado, Tedesca String Quartet Quartet, and *Prairie Songs, Remembering My Antonia*.

More Information

The Scent of a Thousand Rains premiered in September 2019 and was broadcast live over Spokane Public Radio in October 2019. The play is the third in a series of original works for theatrical performance with live music exploring the nature of memory and why we hold on to certain memories of place and story at the expense of others. In *The Memory Cycle*, playwright [Damon Falke](#) and director [Charles M Pepiton](#) pursue how music can function as a character in a theatrical performance. Not music as a backing piece, but music as a key voice in the dialogue. *The Memory Cycle* began in 2010 with *The Sun is in the West*, which featured a blues guitarist and trio of braided narratives. It examined the power of place, story, and the search for consequence in the span of each human life. *The Sun is in the West* was produced by Square Top Theatre and Santa Fe Performing Arts. In 2014, *Now at the Uncertain Hour*, a piece for live performance, online streaming, and broadcast radio featured an actor speaking a poetic narrative, a reel-to-reel recording of a soldier's memories of war, a fretless banjo, and a modular synthesizer. The show was produced by Square Top Theatre, North Country Public Radio, St. Lawrence University, and New York Council for the Humanities. It reached a combined audience of 46,053 in its premiere run. The script and recording have since been included on theatre and American literature syllabi at universities in the U.S. and Norway. *Now at the Uncertain Hour* asked what can we take hold of that will go on, that will not be lost. *The Scent of a Thousand Rains* poses a response to that question.

The premiere performances were made possible by partnership and support from:



Technical Rider

The Scent of a Thousand Rains was created to fit a range of spaces, from small theatrical venues to non-traditional locations. Our premiere was held at the Vista House atop Mt. Spokane, an off-the-grid stone lodge built in 1930 with a seating capacity of 50 and a large central fireplace.

We are interested in non-traditional venues (homes, lodges, outdoor venues, etc) that possess architectural or historic significance to the community and our hosts.

The space should offer an intimate environment for the audience, as well as the performers, and an open stage space of approximately 15' X 15' within clear view of the seating area. The stage space should have easy aisle access to the back of the audience area along the stage left side.

Lighting/Sound:

The show can be staged without sophisticated theatrical lighting. However, it must be possible to darken the audience area relative to the stage space. It is not necessary to be able to fully blackout the audience.

There is no need for mics or sound amplification.

Price:

\$1200 + travel & accomodation as necessary for 3 people.





Square Top Theatre was founded in Colorado in 2007. We seek to create ongoing artistic collaborations, to tell good stories well, and to create new and enduring work. We strive to expand the medium of live theatre and to explore its boundaries while engaging a wide audience. We create work that challenges genre and disciplinary categories. We believe, as art critic Peter Schjeldahl recently wrote in *The New Yorker*, "All artists must rise or fall by braving perils and finding opportunities specific to themselves and to their own times, the canon be damned." Above all, we trust that our audience members are intelligent, curious, sensitive, and engaged.

Square Top Theatre is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a member of the Network of Ensemble Theatres.

www.squaretoptheatre.org