

PRESS KIT

ÉPOUSE moi!

Marry me!

The musical
everyone
should see
before « I do »

www.epouse-moi.fr



A musical play by : **Camille Turlot & Eric Szerman**

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ÉPOUSE-MOI!

Marry me !

Story by Camille Turlot & Eric Szerman

Book and Lyrics by Camille Turlot

Music by Eric Szerman

Classification :

Comedy / Contemporary setting

Piano score available.

Show cast size :

3 woman / 1 man

2 of the women are doubling other characters.

Characters :

Alexandre Pelbod

Mathilde, Mrs Cohen

Joséphine Pelbod

Rosemarie, Jenny, Mrs Levy

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SHOW INFORMATION

The journey of “Marry me”

Eric Szerman, the composer and **Camille Turlot**, the book writer of “Marry me” (Epouse-moi!) are coming from two very different backgrounds. Eric studied musical theatre in New York within the prestigious BMI musical theatre workshop (“Avenue Q” and “The little shop of Horrors” were nurtured within those walls) while Camille was studying philosophy and writing songs for his own solo album. And it's thanks to those different experiences that “Epouse-moi” is a truly original, never before seen musical.

It all started about three years ago when they decided to join forces and started to work together on their first musical. They wanted to tell the story of a boy next door, Alex, who's on the verge of getting married, gets cold feet and decides to reevaluate his life. The story has been told often, so they've decided to give it a twist. To tell it as a modern day, fantastic fairy tale.

Two of the main influences for them were A Christmas Carol by Dickens, and the TV show Six feet under.

In the famous novel the theme of the past, present and future ghosts run throughout the piece. The idea is that you can't fully make a choice without trying to understand your whole life. And that's also the case for Alex. He has his own ghosts to deal with. They are certainly more of a Freudian type, but they are nonetheless very real and dangerous to him.



3 NOTES

Their other inspiration came from “Six feet under”, and the way the show depicted with raw honesty and sometimes cruelty relationships within the family.

So the work began. They decided to write the show for 4 actors, 1 man and 3 women, and a pianist. The actors would play different characters. Their love of Off-Broadway musical was the reason for the format they chose. They decided to write twelve musical numbers, half of the show to be sung, with the show running to an hour and a half. The score would go from pop, flamenco, Jewish folk, to stirring ballad. And of course it had to be funny, if not hilarious, and also make you cry and leave you up-lifted by the end of it.

After a year and a half of hard work, including three workshops, which helped the authors to improve and re-write 60% of the book, the show was produced. It ran for 80 performances in a 300 seats theatre in Paris. Due to the acclaim it received, it is bound to play again this season in Paris and to tour France next year.

The goals were hard to achieve, especially in a country known to be reluctant to accept musical theatre, but the roaring applause of the audience every night led them to believe they had succeeded.

The result is a musical rooted in the off-Broadway tradition but looking ahead towards the future. A lot of people have said, “Epoque-moi” is more of a musical play than a simple musical and others said, “Usually, I hate musical but this one is different”. It’s simply because the core of the musical is not the music or the lyrics, but the story of Alex lost within his own past and scared of his future, trying to break through and reach out for a better life. An universal and very human struggle with which one can identify, wherever one comes from.

We hope you’ll enjoy the DVD of the show. The subtitles are not an adaptation but a mere translation of the French text.





Eric Szerman

(Story and Music)

As he was studying marketing in one of the top university in France, Eric Szerman discovered his true passion after he went to see “Les Misérables” in Paris: composing for musical theatre. That’s when he decided it was time for him to learn the piano to be able to compose. He had the chance to meet early on Claude-Michel Schönberg who gave him precious advices and encouraged him to pursue in that direction.

After finishing college, he decided to audition for the international group “Up with people”, which allowed him to travel around the world as a performer for a year. Then he moved to New York and was accepted in the very exclusive BMI Musical Theatre Workshop where he spent two years improving his craft as a musical theatre composer. BMI is the place which nurtured the growth of “A chorus line”, “Little Shop of Horrors” and “Avenue Q”. Meanwhile, he composed his first musical ZEV, which was given a full workshop production at the JCC of New York. Playbill on line wrote an article about it and the show was selected for the Genesis Guild Award. Eric also had the chance to work with Christopher Jahnke (“Legally blonde”) on some of the orchestrations.

His second musical was “Quitter Paris” (“Leaving Paris”), which was performed in Paris with Philippe D’avilla in the leading role, a multi million selling recording artist with “Les rois du monde”, from the musical “Romeo et Juliette”.

His third musical “Epoque-moi” was written with Camille Turlot and was performed 80 times in 2007 in Paris. The show enjoyed wide critical acclaim and enthusiastic audience reception and is actually touring France.

Eric also works as a vocal consultant for Disneyland Paris on the award-winning show “The legend of the Lion King”, and has the chance to work on this project with UK top casting director Pippa Ailion.



5 BIOGRAPHY

Camille Turlot

(Story, Book and Lyrics)

Since the age of 7, Camille Turlot has studied music in a classical conservatory thanks to which he is now able to play 6 different instruments and perform a wide range of style, from classical concerto for harp to Nirvana's guitar riffs. As often with musicians, Camille was extremely gifted in Mathematics but after highschool, he decided he would study Philosophy at the university.

After four years of study, his love of music and literature led him naturally to write music and lyrics for his solo debut album "Grande Première", a french touch electro song album, and to work on a concept album, for a man and a woman, which told their love story " Histoire de tuer quelqu'un".

When he met Eric, it was a true epiphany: he realized he actually had always wanted to tell a story through music, and that musical theatre was the perfect medium. After writing a few songs together, they both worked on the story of "Epouse-moi" and Camille wrote the book and the lyrics for it.

Camille is actually writing the vocal arrangement for a tribute to "Les frères Jacques" and has just finished composing the music for the children show "Les Filles de Babayaga". He also works as a seasoned performer in musical theatre.

A day in a **life**, a lifetime in a **day**!

6 PLOT AND SYNOPSIS

Scene 1 :

Light comes on to Alexander Pelbod alone on stage. He is in his apartment reading a note left by Mathilde, his fiancée. They are supposed to get married in a few hours. The note says she's at the hairdresser's and she'll be waiting for him at the ceremony. But Alexander is confused. He's spent the night in his car because they argued the night before. Now he simply doesn't know if he's ready to tie the knot. Too exhausted and anxious to be able to think anymore, Alex falls asleep. In his dream, three ghostly brides beg him to get married as he struggles to escape them. Obviously, Alex is unable to face his fear of commitment ("Marry me!").

Scene 2:

When Alex wakes up, Mrs Pelbod, his mother, has let herself in. As overprotective and overbearing as usual, she tries to convince Alex to walk away from this « bound to fail » marriage. Indeed, Mrs Pelbod is convinced that their whole family has been cursed and that nothing good will ever happen to them. Obviously, Mathilde is an evil person, even though she has never met her. Alex resents his mother's irrational behaviour, and points out how destructive it has been for him. Mrs Pelbod quickly reminds him that if anything went wrong, it was his father's fault. He was the one who abandoned him when he was a child. She did her best, seeking advice from the best education counselors she could find, the Jewish mothers who lived next door ("The Jewish mothers"). As she recalls the past, the Jewish mothers appear on stage, re-enacting his whole childhood. Alex realizes how, out of fear and ignorance, his mother had been mistaking religion, tradition and education. Really angry, he sends her away.

Scene 3:

The phone rings. It's Charly, his best man. Alex explains that he and Mathilde argued the night before, and that he doesn't have the guts to call her yet. The truth is that they had been bickering for the past month. As he recalls their first light argument, Mathilde appears on stage. We see them fighting about small things but always ending up reaffirming their love for each other ("I know it will change").

Scene 4:

In the meantime, Mathilde is at Jenny's, her hairdresser and friend. She's worrying about Alex not getting back home after their fight and Jenny, who's clumsy and a little jealous, tries to comfort her without succeeding ("You are 100%"). Mathilde finally finds the strength to call Alex.



Scene 5:

The couple decides over the phone they should meet before the wedding and when Alex hangs up, his mother is back in the apartment. This time, in a desperate attempt to stop the marriage, she reminds him overdramatically of all the sacrifices she has done for him ("Think about your mother"). As a repayment she only demands one thing : he must stay single. Really angry he sends her away one more time.

Scene 6:

At last, Mathilde comes back home. They're so excited to be together that they strip while talking. Light fades out as they're making love on the couch. The wedding will happen ("Alex-Mathilde").

Scene 7:

Light comes on to Alex alone on stage. He is talking with Charly on the phone. He's really anxious because when he was making love to Mathilde, the condom split. Suddenly a scary little girl appears out of nowhere caught up by an overwhelmed Mrs Pelbod. Alex hangs up stunned and puzzled. The little girl introduces herself. Her name is Rosemarie and she is his yet to be born daughter ("Rosemarie's nursery rhyme"). She confirms to Alex that Mathilde is pregnant then falls asleep.

Scene 8:

Alex, in shock, accuses his mother to be the mastermind behind Rosemarie's presence. She replies that he should stop blaming her for once and that he needs to take responsibility. For her, he is bound to be a terrible father, just like his father was. Alex replies that if he decides to have a child, he will take care of her. His mother doubts him and Alex puts a final point to the argument when he speaks out loud the unexpected truth : It's time for her to leave him alone. After all, she has been dead for ten years now. Relieved, Mrs Pelbod admits that the reason why she's been so upsetting to him, is because she was afraid Alex would forget her. Alex comforts her : she will always be a part of his life ("You will always stay the woman of my life). Finally at peace, Mrs Pelbod agrees to the wedding and offers to tell Mathilde that she's pregnant. Alex would rather tell Mathilde himself.

Scene 9:

Mathilde walks in, wondering why Alex left the bedroom so abruptly. Rosemarie and Mrs Pelbod are invisible to her, but they nonetheless pressure Alex to tell Mathilde about her pregnancy. Overwhelmed, he fails to do so and then asks his mom to deliver the news to a puzzled Mathilde.

Scene 10:

Mrs Pelbod decides to make herself visible to Mathilde. At first Mathilde is in shock. But then she's eager to ask questions about Alex's behaviour. But Mrs Pelbod only wants to tell her about the pregnancy. Unable to understand each other, they end up talking about Mathilde and Alex's sex life. Mrs Pelbod clearly states that Alex's former girlfriend was a much better lover than her. Mathilde is hurt and decides to prove herself that she can be as hot as anybody else ("I love you manly man"). They both leave the stage to get ready for the wedding.

Scene 11:

Alex and Rosemarie enter the stage. She is now a teenager to Alex's surprise and asks him for money to go to a birthday party. Alex is confused and Rosemarie blames him for being drunk yet again. Slowly adjusting to the situation, he asks her to remind him a bit more about her life.

Scene 12:

As she tells her story ("The circle of my life"), the characters appear on stage and act out the events. First, she tells the story of her birth, how she was born in the living room, and almost died because of a lack of hygiene. Then, she talks about the day she had her first menstruation and how her mother and her grandmother, Mrs Pelbod, wanted to throw a party for the neighborhood to fully expose her intimacy. Finally, she talks about the day when her parents, Alex and Mathilde, decided to get divorced. As Rosemary ends her story, distraught by the way he has mistreated his own child, Alex decides to call off the wedding. He's leaving the apartment, when Mathilde and Mrs Pelbod enter the living room and face Rosemarie. At last, Mrs Pelbod is able to tell Mathilde that she is pregnant. They all decide to look for Alex.

Scene 13:

Light on Alex in a park. He knows now his mother was right. He is cursed and will be a terrible father, like his own father was. He can not marry Mathilde, he must protect her from himself ("Like father, like son"). Mathilde finally finds him and asks for an explanation. He violently refuses to marry her because of his name: Pelbod. The truth is Alex is a bastard. His father Mr Pelbod never acknowledged him. So Alex's mother decided to take the name; Pelbod, without his father's consent. Alex thinks that is why he is cursed. He sends her away.

Scene 14:

Mathilde stays. She evokes their love for each other and the beautiful future they will build together. Their own destiny is in their hands and he can't allow himself to be so irrational ("The present belongs to us"). Almost convinced, Alex holds Mathilde in his arms. She tells him she'll be waiting for him at the ceremony and leaves him alone there.

Scene 15:

Mrs Pelbod and Rosemarie enter the stage. Rosemarie is now a woman in her early thirties. Mrs Pelbod asks her to finish convincing Alex to get married and leaves the stage. Rosemarie tells Alex she's been lying to him about the future. At the time, she was just a teenager who liked to play jokes on her father. Alex seems a bit reassured. She then introduces him to his grand son and thanks him for being such a wonderful grand father and father ("The man of my life"). Alex is very touched and understands he cannot deny himself the chance to be fulfilled and happy. He decides to get married.

Scene 16:

Mrs Pelbod helps her son to get ready for the wedding. He meets Mathilde at the ceremony. They get married blessed by Mrs Pelbod and Rosemarie ("Finale").

- 1 - **Marry me** Alex Pelbod, 3 brides
- 2 - **The jewish mothers** Alex, Mrs Pelbod, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Levy
- 3 - **I know it will change** Alex, Mathilde
- 4 - **You are 100 %** Mathilde, Jenny
- 5 - **Think about your mother** Mrs Pelbod
- 6 - **Alex-Mathilde** Alex Mathilde
- 7 - **Rosemarie's nursery rhyme** Rosemarie
- 8 - **The woman of my life**..... Alex
- 9 - **I love you manly man** Mathilde
- 10 - **The circle of my life** Alex, Mathilde, Rosemarie, Mrs Pelbod
- 11 - **Like father, like son** Alex
- 12 - **The present belongs to us**..... Alex Mathilde
- 13 - **The man of my life** Rosemarie
- 14 - **Finale** Company



MUSICAL NUMBERS

The press said...

10 HIGHLIGHTS REVIEW

« A fast paced musical full of twists and turns, an ironic and grinding sense of humour, tender and slapstick situations, endearing characters. »

Le parisien - Carène Verdon - 14.02.2007

« A match made in heaven. We cannot resist to say "I do" to the young couple of this musical. We loved the comical and heart stirring tone of this ground breaking musical which deals with marriage with subtility and cleverness. »

Le Journal du Dimanche (VF) - Véronique Beck. 25.03.2007

" The world of « Epouse-moi » is a topsy-turvy world, with its odd and cynical situations, but the musical never fails to deliver a genuine emotion. Clearly, love and hope always prevail here. »

Danse Danse Danse, Gaëlle Piton, Mai-Juin 2007

" Marry-me" is bound to be a success. It is full of humour, wild rythm, joy and vividness. The show is excellent. The audience adored it and I want more of it."

Nice matin - Aurore Bussar - 15.02.2008

« Camille Turlot and Eric Szerman are the off-springs of Woody allen, mastering a self-deprecating sense of humor, with a neurotic twist. Their musical is better than a wedding ring. It's a sparkling diamond. »

PARISDIXSEPT, Mars 2007

« A blend of humor and up-tempo songs, « Epouse-moi » is a true moment of sheer delight and entertainment. It's original and surprising in its content and its execution. We only wish musical of that quality could come by more often. »

Fanny Dutriez - evene.fr 02.02.2007