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# atelier

at sbma

***British Writer & Actor Tim Crouch brings his play ENGLAND to Upcoming Atelier***

Thursday & Friday, November 17 & 18, 5:30 – 7:30 pm



**Left:** left to right: Tim Crouch, Hannah Ringham ©Greg Piggot

**Middle:** Jane Prophet *The Heart*. Silver on copper plated rapid prototype of healthy human heart. Photo by Steve Payne

**Right:** left to right: Tim Crouch, Hannah Ringham ©Greg Piggot

**October 21, 2011** – This November, **Atelier** becomes twice as intimate and twice as exciting in a unique two night performance of intense, interactive, provocative theatre.

Tim Crouch, renowned British playwright and actor, brings his highly acclaimed **ENGLAND** to the Museum the evenings of November 17, and 18. Hugely entertaining and charming, **ENGLAND** won a Fringe First Award at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival, and was a hit at New York's **Under the Radar Festival**

**ENGLAND** slyly works in searing observations about how we choose to value the things that are most dear to us—like art or family—as it exposes the stark contrasts between the boundless pursuit of health and happiness and the hidden costs of such endeavors. What better place to explore such universal and contemporary questions than in an art museum- a venue held by many to be place of heightened awareness of both beauty and privilege.

The audience (limited to 60 each night) will be welcomed at the Museum's State Street entrance and then 'ushered' into Davidson gallery where docents (or are they actors ?) will encourage conversation about the artworks on view in ***Skeletal Abstractions***. At a certain point, those conversations will become the start of the piece, then after 30 minutes in the gallery (audience members standing for the most part with some scattered seating) will further unfold in the auditorium down stairs. Note to audience: Please be prepared to walk and stand for parts of the performance. Comfortable walking shoes recommended.

Following the performance, Atelier guests will be invited to join the actors, and Director, Mitchell Thomas, in a discussion, fueled not only by the ferment of ideas, but with wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by sponsors ***Brander Winery***, ***RND Vodka*** and ***Brenda Simon***, critically acclaimed chef of the Secret Ingredient, and the Museum's own café.

The signature drink, ***The Batman*** is a vodka based infusion, inspired by the work of Indian born artist Anish Kapoor whose stunning stainless steel sculpture, ***Tuning the World Inside Out*** is a touch stone of the performance. The hors d'oeuvres are a more sophisticated and bite sized variation on British Gastro Pub food.

All food and beverage are included in the price of admission.

\$25 Members & Students/\$50 Non-Members

***For information or tickets, go to [www.sbma.net/atelier](http://www.sbma.net/atelier)***

***Call 884.6414, or email [agarcia@sbma.net](mailto:agarcia@sbma.net).***

***ENGLAND*** is a co-production by SBMA, Lit Moon Theatre Co.

Produced by Mitchel Thomas, with generous support from **Westmont College**.

***More about ENGLAND:***

***ENGLAND*** is about an empire of a different kind – one of transmigrations and transplantations. It's the story of one thing placed inside another: a heart inside another person's body, a culture inside another country's culture, theatre inside a gallery, a character inside an actor, a play inside its audience.

Performance art performed inside a museum gallery, this endlessly thoughtful piece artfully challenges a globalized world where everything is for sale, and questions the value we put on art, and on human life. Crouch blurs the division between art and life, commerce and community, audience, and actor. The two interlocutors (Crouch and fellow actor Hannah Ringham) also blur, their personalities at times merging, at times changing.

"A rich drama created with rigorous, poetic economy...belongs to that wonderful genre of thoughtful plays that could be discussed for hours without exhausting its ideas." — ***The New York Times***

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that provides internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

***Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA. Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday. 805.963.4364 [www.sbma.net](http://www.sbma.net)***