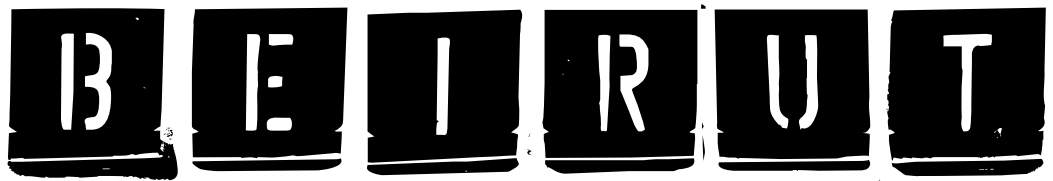


# Press Kit



Sept 25-Oct 7, 2007  
Studio 16, 1555 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
[www.mylenerobic.com/pikefly](http://www.mylenerobic.com/pikefly)

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For Immediate Release: August 27, 2007

# B E I R U T

VANCOUVER, BC: PikeFly Theatre is pleased to present **Beirut**, Alan Bowne's tale of love in desperate times. Raw, brutal, and challenging, this one-act play asks: what would you risk for love? **Beirut** is directed by Michael Tayles, and runs September 25 to October 7 at Studio 16, 1555 W 7<sup>th</sup>.

The story is set in New York, in 'the near future' where Torch, a young man from the Bronx has been quarantined and tattooed after testing positive for a deadly disease. Blue, his girlfriend from Queens, won't let that keep them apart and chooses to risk her life in order to be with him. Defying a ruthless political regime, these two must now find the freedom that exists in their ultimate commitment to one another.

Written by Alan Bowne, a New Yorker who died of AIDS at age 44, **Beirut** is the story of star crossed lovers forbidden to be together by disease and police presence. But it is also about hope and love, and living life to the fullest, in the face of the highest possible stakes.

Mylène Dinh-Robic, well known to TV audiences as DaVinci's handler, Rita Ma from *Davinci's City Hall* and the upcoming made-for-TV movie *The Quality of Life*, produces and plays Blue. "I have lived with this play for the last two years, and the truth of the story, that love, true love, is not without conflict and pain and raw vulnerability has haunted me. It is a story that I feel really needs to be told, and I am so thrilled to be able to tell it." Directed by Michael Tayles (*Alive*, *The Bed*, *Battlestar Galactica*), it also stars Adam Lolacher (*The Seagull* for UP, *Less Ado About Nothing* for PT, *Stargate*) as Torch, and Russ Ball (*Cards on the Table* for Metro, *Under the Sycamore Tree*) as the Guard.

*Living without love is death itself. If you've got love in your life—the true thing—then you've got everything. It's finding the truth of it that's the bitch.* –Alan Bowne

**Beirut**, written by Alan Bowne, produced by PikeFly Theatre runs Tuesdays through Saturdays from September 25 to October 6 at 8 pm. There will be one matinee on Sunday, October 7 at 2 pm. **Beirut** is at Studio 16, 1555 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave (between Granville and Fir). Tickets are \$17, and are available by calling 604.899.0787.

[www.mylenerobic.com/pikefly](http://www.mylenerobic.com/pikefly)

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For more information, photographs or interviews, please contact:  
Rebecca Coleman                      778.230.1712                      rebeccacoleman@shaw.ca

# A B O U T

## About the Play

First Production (Off-Off Broadway): March 23, 1987 by the Manhattan Class Company, directed by Jimmy Bohr, and starring Michael David Morrison (Torch), Marisa Tomei (Blue) and Terry Rabine (Guard).

Second Production: (Off Broadway): June 9, 1987, at the Westside Arts Theatre, starred the same cast, except for Blue, who was played by Laura San Giacomo.

## Synopsis:

The story is set in New York, in the near future where Torch, a young man from the Bronx has been quarantined and tattooed after testing positive for a deadly disease. Blue, his girlfriend from Queens, won't let that keep them apart and chooses to risk her life in order to be with him. *Living without love is death itself. If you've got love in your life, the true thing, then you've got everything.* Defying a ruthless political regime, these two must now find the freedom that exists in their ultimate commitment to one another.

## About PikeFly Theatre

PikeFly Theatre is a new live performance group committed to modern and groundbreaking storytelling. Its inaugural stage production of Alan Bowne's stunning *Beirut* carries with it the vulnerability, bluntness and realism all future productions will continually strive to deliver audiences. Our goal is to create a professional space where artists dedicated to exploring and pushing the boundaries of conventional storytelling can perform and be supported in their decisive leaps toward original work. We believe nothing can be gained without risk and are professionally committed to what risks may come in the pursuit of exciting, true and challenging live theatre.

## About the Author

Born in 1945, Alan Bowne authored several plays, most of which were produced Off-Off Broadway. They include: *Beirut* (1987), *Sharon and Billy* (1987), *A Snake In the Vein* (1985), and *Forty-Deuce* (1981). Mr Bowne authored two screenplays for filmmaker Paul Morrissey: *Mixed Blood* (1984) and *Throwback* (1988). He also wrote a novel, *Wally Wonderstruck*. He received the Arthur Foundation Prize in 1986, and was a member of New Dramatists. Alan Bowne succumbed to AIDS on November 24 1989, at the age of 44.

# B I O G R A P H I E S

## Michael Tayles, *Director*



This is Michael Tayles' first directing endeavor. A native of Alberta, Canada, Michael discovered his passion for acting in numerous productions at the Central Alberta Theatre and in U of A Summerstock projects.

He was introduced to television audiences on Chris Haddock's series *Mom P.I.*, co-starring opposite Stuart Margolin. He went on to have a recurring role on the Alliance/Atlantis television series *Destiny Ridge*, as Walt Pernecki. Other TV credits now include *The L Word* and *Battlestar Galactica*. His film debut was in the Frank Marshall/Kathleen Kennedy feature film *Alive* playing Pancho Delgado opposite Ethan Hawke. *The Ranger, the Cook, and a Hole in the Sky* was another pivotal project for Michael. He

portrayal of Red, in this biographical story of writer Norman Maclean (author of *A River Runs Through It*), working alongside Sam Elliot and Director John Kent Harrison.

Michael starred as Tyler in *The Bed*. Directed by John Penhall, this independent short film was invited to over 20 festivals including: Montreal, Vancouver, Palm Springs, Newport Beach, Portland, Melbourne, Lisbon and Oxford, where it won best short. *The Bed* was also nominated for 6 Leo awards and was sold to the CBC.

He took time out to backpack throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Asia Pacific. He trained at the Lyric School of Acting with Michelle Lonsdale-Smith and has also worked with Ivana Chubbuck and David Rotenberg. Presently, he studies with Warren Robertson.

[www.michaeltayles.com](http://www.michaeltayles.com)

## Mylène Dinh-Robic, *Blue*



Mylène Dinh-Robic grew up in Montreal where she first performed with the independent Queen Mary Theatre company, in their productions of *Noises Off*, *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *Pygmalion*. More recently, now in Vancouver, she performed at The Beaumont Studio's one act play festival in *Different* and in the Screaming Weenie Production *The Well of Horniness*. She remains committed to the stage and continues to train and work in live performance.

Mylene's screen debut was a guest starring role in an episode of *DaVinci's Inquest* in 2003. Other credits now include *Battlestar Galactica*, *Smallville* *Stargate Atlantis* and *The 4400*. She is best known, however, for her portrayal of city handler Rita Mah, starring

opposite Nicholas Campbell on *DaVinci's City Hall*. She reprises the role in the upcoming CBC movie *The Quality of Life*.

She was directed by Ross Weber in the recently released Vancouver feature film *Mount Pleasant* and by Spencer Maybee in the indie short *L'oiseau Mort*.

Dinh-Robic graduated with Distinction from Concordia University's Communications Studies program, studied acting with Gilles Plouffe at Montreal's John Strasberg Ateliers and furthered her technique with Nancy Sivak at Vancouver's Lyric School of Acting.

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She continues to hone her craft at Benjamin Ratner's Studio and Warren Robertson's Workshop.

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### **Adam Lolacher, *Torch***



Originally from Ottawa, where he graduated with a BA in Theatre from the University of Ottawa, Adam has been involved in the Vancouver Theatre/Film scene for almost 4 years.

A character actor at heart, Adam has studied with the likes of Mel and Karen Austin Tuck, Nancy Sivak, Andrew Mcilroy and continues training with Ben Ratner.

He is always ready for the next challenge and continuously improves his craft by hard work and dedication.

Favourite stage credits include: Big Man in *Wreckage* at PTC and WCT, Konstantin in *The Seagull* for United Players, and Benedick in *Less Ado About Nothing* at Pacific Theatre.

Adam has also jumped into the film/tv world this past year, booking a principal role on *The Andromeda Strain*.. He has also appeared in numerous shorts and Indie features such as *Yumi In Love* and *Zero Hour*.

Adam is currently filming a short entitled *Tea*. He will resume studies with Mr. Ratner in the fall and is very excited to be a part of this production.

### **Russ Ball, *Guard***



Russ is an aspiring actor who has trained with Frank Cassini at Lyric for the past two years. No stranger to the stage, he has performed both as a musician in Newfoundland folk festivals and more recently as Sergeant O'Connor in Metro Theatre's production of Agatha Christie's *Cards on the Table*. He also stage managed several other plays at Metro Theatre. He has performed in two independent feature films, a Movie of the Week titled *Under the Sycamore Tree* and a Jonas Quastel horror film called *Scourge*. Russ is absolutely thrilled to be participating in *Beirut* and is proud to be working with such talented cast mates and director.