

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

**Theatre Omnibus (Massachusetts, USA)**  
**The Chess Player**  
by **Richard McElvain**, after **Stefan Zweig's**  
**The Royal Game**



**Stefan Zweig's gripping novella brought to life by Richard McElvain in a captivating one-man-show**

In a Nazi prison, a battle to the death inside one man's mind. The smouldering coals of solitary confinement fighting the blazing fire of his imagination. After stealing a book of chess tournaments he divides his conscious self into two feuding chess masters. That's the wild ride of the first half of **Richard McElvain's** reimagining of the classic by **Stefan Zweig**. After the hero escapes the Nazis, the play follows him to a chess master tournament. Testing himself, daring himself to walk the edge of a volcano of madness, he challenges the greatest chess player in the world to a match. Written and performed by award winning actor **Richard McElvain**, **The Chess Player** blazes through this blistering saga of survival, finally ruined by hubris. The production is underscored by a rich and complex soundscape created by **Larry Buckley**.

This world premiere is based on Jewish Austrian **Stefan Zweig's** classic short story, published as *The Royal Game* in 1941, while Zweig himself was fleeing the Nazis, living in Bath and London, before moving to New York, and then Brazil. In 1942, following a major Axis success, Zweig was overcome by despair at the idea of a Nazi victory, and he and his wife committed suicide.

**Richard McElvain**, winner of both the Elliot Norton Award (Boston's Tony Award) and the Independent Reviewers of New England Award for his performance of another one-man-show, **Conor McPherson's** *Saint Nicholas*, has created successful stage adaptations of the works of **Edgar Allen Poe**, **Washington Irving**, **O Henry** and **Saki**. He has translated and directed four plays of **Molière** as well as his own adaptation of **Sophocles** *Antigone*, in which he played Creon. He has played Tartuffe in *Tartuffe*, MacBeth in *MacBeth* and Galileo in **Brecht's** *Galileo*. He has played Harry Cohn in *Angels in America, Parts I and II*, George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and appeared in films with **Jennifer Lawrence**, **Cher**, **Wynona Ryder**, and **Bob Hoskins**.

**C venues**

vibrant vivacious variety

general manager  
Shannon Steele  
artistic director  
Hartley T A Kemp

year round administration

**C venues London**

5 Alexandra Mansions  
Chichele Road  
London NW2 3AS

during the Fringe in August

**C venues Edinburgh**

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**Listings Information**

Venue C primo, Lodge N° 1, Hill Street, EH2 3JP, venue 41  
Dates 2-28 Aug  
Time 12:00 (1h15)  
Ticket prices £8.50-£10.50 / concessions £6.50-£8.50  
C venues box office 0845 260 1234 / [www.CtheFestival.com/2017/the-chess-player](http://www.CtheFestival.com/2017/the-chess-player)  
Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

For further information, images and interview availability please contact Richard McElvain at Theatre Omnibus on +1 617 899 1868 / [richardmcelvain@gmail.com](mailto:richardmcelvain@gmail.com) or the **C venues** press office on 0845 260 1060 / [press@cvenues.com](mailto:press@cvenues.com)

**C venues**

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The Edinburgh Festival  
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