



Q&A with Guest Actor Dan Reichard

What about this production excites you the most?

I'm really excited about playing the role of, "Martin" in the first production of Helena's, "The Kiss!" Director, Amelia Fischer, and the whole GTA company's energy and commitment to the piece are inspired.

How are you balancing all of the different character dynamics?

The natural progression of the scenes is the kind of road map you hope for as an actor. And Amelia has been amazing at opening doors all down the line that I haven't considered. She has given me a lot of freedom to explore the character while keeping me honest.

What is it about The Kiss painting that so many people find so inspirational?

Like most, "masterpieces" seeing the original painting in Vienna, versus an image in book is almost startling. It practically leaps off the wall at you. Maybe it is the size, almost six feet square. Maybe it is Klimt's use of gold. But combined with the image of the lovers the piece as a whole seems to resonate with our own idealized and longed for desires and loves. For me, the painting captures the sheltering moment of true romantic love.

What do you most hope audiences will take away from this show?

I hope the take away from "The Kiss" is that art, *in all its forms*, has the power to awaken unrealized universals in each of us. Things that may have been abandoned, long forgotten or lost along the way. As humans we all deal with the same hopes, joys, and sorrows. If love and compassion are the goal... maybe they can draw us together rather than pull us apart.