

*david adams*

# *the haunting of alvin cohan*

## *workshop first performance*

*hillcrest galleries, highlands*

*sunday april 21, 2024*

*1400*

*singers*

*alison richards*

*clara adams*

*david adams*

*fiona adams*

*giles adams*

*rosemary richards*

*ryan bentley*

*dancers*

*alana saunders*

*briar adams*

*helen deysing*

*indigo adams*

*jan turner*

*natasha usmar*

*sarah kennett*

*sound technician*

*josh bridges*

*choreography, costume, design*

*briar adams*

## the story

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Alvin is haunted by two dreams which are superficially distinct and contiguous, yet intertwine in the slightly surreal way of dreams where reality is often misrepresented.

*the story of Creation and the Controllers*

Big C 'invites' the Dream-weavers, who are alter egos of his thoughts, to isolate parts of the universal consciousness into separate entities. To become separate they each must then forget that they were once unified. From the forgetting process emerges the Controllers who very soon discover the joys of cloning - and its responsibilities. Sometime later one of the controllers, Gordon, has apparently gone rogue, despite the facts that behavioural rules have never been established, and that Big C has specifically tried to foster uncertainty. Nevertheless, Gordon is investigated, accused from above and below, tried and sentenced.

*the story of Sola and the Sunnas*

The Sunna's stable peace has been threatened by territorial interlopers, welcomed initially as returning ancestors' emissaries but seen now to have harmful intentions. The flustered elders try to arrive at a balanced position that can incorporate the idealistic pacifism of the First Elder and the activism of the youthful visionary Sola. When the latter's attempts to initiate action are rebuffed, and the time for pre-emption lost, Sola makes a bold, but ultimately futile, gesture.

Finally the way through is by therapy of a particularly intrusive nature until the cloak of forgetfulness is removed.

## synopsis by scenetta

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- sc1 In the beginning was a thought...  
... to self-dissect into discrete strands of consciousness and creativity.  
The dream-weavers are invoked to create nodes of conscious thought, each of whom is instructed to forget that it has emerged from a single whole.
- sc2 Separate individuals emerge - the controllers - that discover the idea of cloning...
- sc3 ...which they do.
- sc4 Later, one controller, Gordon, appears to have gone rogue; and is discovered, pursued, apprehended and...
- sc5 ...interrogated by Sogund.
- sc6 Big C makes his mysteriously unpredictable intentions known by apparently attempting the same activity that got controller Gordon into trouble; but, how *known* can these intentions really be?
- sc7 The Sunnas celebrate their bucolic spirituality but receive some disturbing news.
- sc8 Galcron now questions a very defensive Gordon, who then reveals his true nature. When the questioning resumes, the evidence from disembodied sources and the limp nature of Gordon's responses is overwhelmingly evident. Punitive action is requested.
- sc9 The council of Sunna elders discusses possible courses of action. Sola describes his apocalyptic vision.
- sc10 Big C consoles Galcron over Gordon's recalcitrance.
- sc11 Prea sings a pessimistic lullaby to her child. Sola returns from his council meeting, resigned. Prea and Sola share their love for each other and their locale as the other Sunnas chant a dark prophecy.
- sc12 Gordon is formally put to trial.
- sc13 Sola confronts the Sunna's supreme elder to urge pre-emptive action. Thyne arrives with an inequitable proposal and is challenged by Sola.
- sc14 Dr Zap attempts to manage Alvin's condition.
- sc15 The 'forgetting' cloak is removed and the nature of reality is finally revealed. But is 'forgetting you'd forgotten' really the same as 'remembering'; or does Big C have the final say?

## the characters

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big C

dream-weavers

controllers

galcron,

sogund,

gordon

sunnas

elders,

sola,

prea,

others

thyne

dr. zap

assistant to dr. zap

alvin cohan

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*I ask you to believe nothing that you cannot verify for yourself.*  
G Gurdjieff

*Gurdjieff asserted that human life as ordinarily lived is similar to sleep; transcendence of the sleeping state required work, but, when it was achieved, an individual could reach remarkable levels of vitality and awareness.*