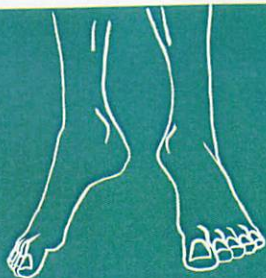
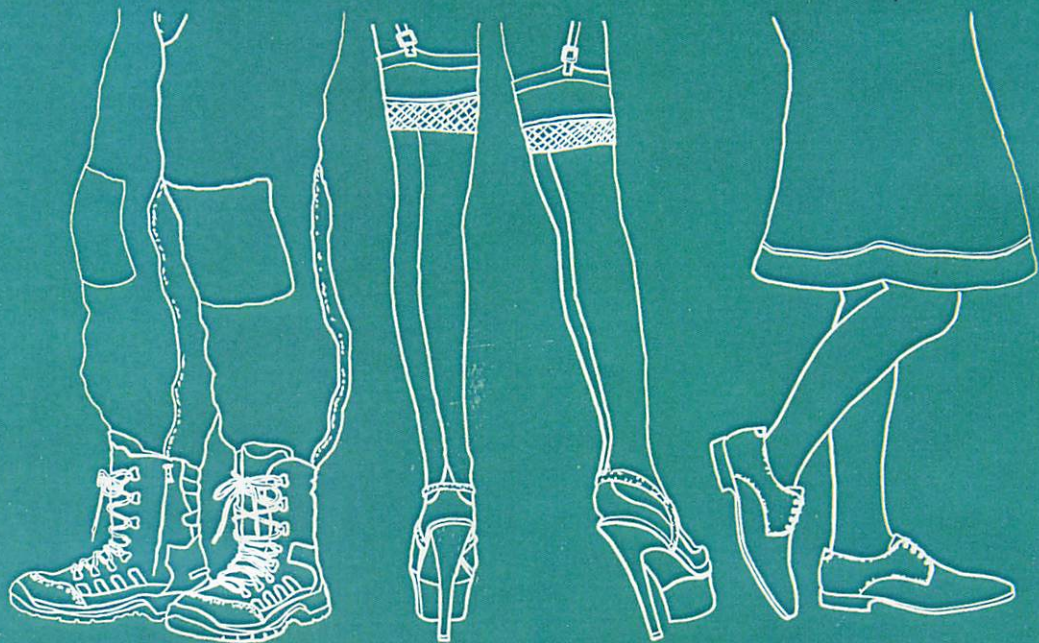


Zach
Braff's



ALL NEW PEOPLE



Fall Production 2012

maniACTs
the english department drama group

"SAD JEWS IN NEW JERSEY IS MY SPECIALITY - AND THAT'S YOUR HEADLINE"

by Julia Liebermann

US TV actor Zach Braff is probably better known to most of the world as Dr. John Dorian, JD for short, whom he portrayed for nine highly successful and entertaining seasons of *Scrubs*. The hospital comedy owes its huge success mainly to the always amusing but sometimes very disturbing daydreams of its protagonist, as well as its general tone that smoothly switches from comedy to tragedy to address themes of loss and death. Zach Braff is JD and JD is *Scrubs*. *Scrubs*, however, only got Braff's career off the ground and prepared him for his first major success in movies: *Garden State* hit the box offices in 2004. Written and directed by himself, Braff also starred as the protagonist of the low-budget indie movie that was well received by critics and audiences alike. The story revolves around Andrew [Braff], an unsuccessful wanna-be actor on antidepressants. After long years of absence Andrew returns to his dull hometown in New Jersey where he is cured of his suicidal tendencies and lethargic attitude, and is led back into life by Sam (Natalie Portman). With the inevitable bit of romance, a few very disturbing discoveries and some deep-diving into an emotional abyss, the movie never loses that special Braffian humoristic tenor: presenting a tough topic in such sarcastic terms that the audience cannot decide between laughter and

exasperation. This technique seems to have become Braff's speciality and is apparent once more in his latest work, *All New People*, his first stage play. It only premiered in May 2011, followed by a tour through the biggest UK theatres, and is now proudly presented by the maniACTs. With *Charlie*, we meet another tragic antihero, a suicidal Jew who is getting ready to say his final farewells to the world in his friend's beach house in New Jersey. At the last moment he is saved by his personal, self-declared "angel of salvation", real estate agent Emma. But Charlie is not the only one wrestling the demons of his past. Soon the two are joined by fireman Myron and escort Kim, and over an evening of drinks, drugs and a hell of a lot of swearing these four odd characters try to make sense of the pitfalls of life, their traumata and the significance of something as tiny as an ant. The absurdity of the situation, the peculiarity of the characters and Braff's sitcom-approved sarcasm make *All New People* a shockingly funny play. Or, as Braff puts it himself: "That's my favourite type of tone, where you can vacillate between belly laughing and turn a corner and something quite serious in someone's life has happened."