

Saturday, November 23, 2013, 2pm
 Sunday, November 24, 2013, 3pm
 Zellerbach Hall

For Families

Imago Theatre



FROGZ

The national tour of FROGZ is sponsored, in part, by grants from the Regional Arts and Culture Council and the Collins Foundation.

Cal Performances' 2013–2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

FROGZ

PROGRAM

Frogs
 Alligators and Lizards
 Paper Bag
 Windbags
 Strings
 Cowboy
 Sloth Circus

INTERMISSION

Orbs
 Larvabatic
 Penguins
 Paper

The program is subject to change.

CAST

Creation, Design, and Direction Carol Triffle and Jerry Mouawad

Original Music Katie Griesar

Lighting Design Jeff Forbes

Cowboy Illustrations George Smith

Performers Jonathan Godsey, Darren McCarthy,
 Pratik Motwani, Garrett Larreau,
 Nevan Richard

Production Stage Manager Kayla Scrivner

Fabrication Team Mark Forrest and Cati Thomas

Music Mark De Gli Antoni



FOUNDED IN 1979 by Carol Triffle and Jerry Mouawad, **Imago Theatre** has toured its original productions internationally for over two decades. Imago's signature works, *FROGZ* (2000, 2002) and *ZooZoo* (2010), have appeared thrice at the acclaimed New Victory Theater on Broadway in New York. The universal nature of Imago's world has won audience and critical acclaim in tours across Asia, Europe, Canada, and the United States. The company was awarded the New York Dance Film Award and Best Touring Production by the Independent Reviewers of New England. Imago has been hailed by critics worldwide for their range of original work. Working out of a large 18,000-square-foot theater laboratory in Portland, Oregon, Imago's ensemble of actors, dancers, designers, fabricators, and musicians become alchemists seeking fresh perspectives of performance. The company has been honored for mask theater pieces that have appealed to a wide age range, as well as for innovative works that push the boundaries of form, design and story. Imago Theatre's methodology is based on the teachings of Jacques Lecoq (1921–1999.) Ms. Triffle studied extensively with Mr. Lecoq, completing his exclusive pedagogical program. Drawing inspiration from Mr. Lecoq, Imago Theatre aims to place form and design at the forefront of theater creation and infuses each production with an idiosyncratic physical energy. In 2006, the company's innovative production of Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit* ran at two Tony-Award winning theaters: American Repertory Theater and the Hartford

Stage Company. The U.S. premiere of Caryl Churchill's *A Number* was produced by Imago Theatre in 2003.

Carol Triffle (*creator*) completed a third-year pedagogical program with Jacques Lecoq in 1997 after studying him for two previous years in 1986–1988. A member of the dance troupe The Company We Keep, she founded Imago Theatre in 1979 with Jerry Mouawad and began touring the United States with original mask theater. In 1997, she wrote and directed *Ginger's Green*, which marked the beginning of canon of original music-theater works that includes *Ajax*, *Oh Lost Weekend*, *No Can Do*, and *Missing Mona*. In 2006, her music-theater works changed form after influences from Richard Maxwell and often featured anti-clown heroes played by Danielle Vermette and Mr. Mouawad in works titled *Hit Me in the Stomach*, *Mix Up*, *The Dinner*, *Simple People*, *Backs Like That*, and *Splat*. She co-directed *FROGZ* and *ZooZoo* with Mr. Mouawad on Broadway. Ms. Triffle has staged works for the Jefferson Dancers and the Oregon Symphony. Her acting appearances in Mr. Mouawad's original plays include *Dead End Ed*, *Samuel's Major Problems*, *Serial Killer Parents*, *Apis*, *Tick Tack Type*, *Stage Left Lost*, and *Zugzwang*. Her awards include Best Touring Production by the Independent Reviewers of New England, Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship, New York Dance Film Awards, and Portland Theatre Awards for choreography, costume design, and best original play.

Jerry Mouawad (*creator*) studied the teachings of Jacques Lecoq at the Hayes-Marshall School of Theater. After co-founding Imago Theatre with Carol Triffle in 1979, he went on to collaborate with her for 14 years, creating mask pieces before exploring experimental theater. He staged two works by Richard Foreman, *Samuel's Major Problems* and *Symphony of Rats*. He has adapted magical realist literature for the stage, incorporating multimedia, puppetry, and stage illusion in *Verdad* (in collaboration with Ms. Triffle) and *Half Light*. His adaptations of modern classics include *Blood Wedding*,

The Imaginary Invalid, *Exit the King*, and *Uncle Vanya*. His adaptation of Sartre's *No Exit* on a moving stage played at American Repertory Theater and Hartford Stage Company. He has staged work for BodyVox, Portland Opera, and the Oregon Symphony. He directed the U.S. premiere of Caryl Churchill's *A Number* at Imago Theatre. His series of original silent works titled "Opera Beyond Words" include *Apis*, *or the Taste of Honey*, *Cuban Missile Tango*, *Tick Tack Type*, *Stage Left Lost*, and *Zugzwang*. On Broadway, he co-directed *FROGZ* and *ZooZoo* with Ms. Triffle. He has appeared as actor in Ms. Triffle's original works *Ajax*, *Ginger's Green*, *Oh Lost Weekend*, *Missing Mona*, *The Dinner*, *Simple People*, *Backs Like That*, and *Splat*. His awards include Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship, Portland Theater Guild Fellowship, Best Director by the Independent Reviewers of New England, the New York Dance Film Award, and Portland Theatre awards for acting, light design, choreography, and best original play.

Katie Griesar (*original music*) makes music with guitar, antique and toy musical instruments, found objects, collected sounds, wrong notes, and awkward gestures. A graduate of Vassar College and the American Repertory Theater Institute at Harvard University, she is a three-time Portland Drama Critics Circle Award winner for her music and sound work with Imago Theatre, where she is currently Resident Composer. Ms. Griesar has contributed original music and sound to Imago's productions of *FROGZ*, *Biglittlethings*, *ZooZoo*, *House Taken Over*, *Oh Lost Weekend*, *Missing Mona*, *The Dinner*, *Simple People*, *Backs Like That*, *Splat*, *Symphony of Rats*, *Half Light*, *Ginger's Green*, *Trailer Park Paradise*, *Blood Wedding*, *Imaginary Invalid*, *No Can Do*, and *A Number*. She has also contributed original music and sound to works by choreographers Linda Austin, Catherine Egan, Mary Oslund, and Cydney Wilkes, and most recently she scored the dance piece *Problem of Bias* by choreographer Jessica Hightower.

Jeff Forbes (*lighting design*) is a Portland-based lighting designer working primarily in

theater and dance. He is a nine-time winner of the Willie and Drammy Awards for theater, for such companies as Artists Repertory Theatre, Imago Theatre, the Musical Theater Company, Storefront Theater, and Tygres Heart Shakespeare Co. He has also designed for American Repertory Theater, the New Rose Theater, Portland Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Portland Actors Conservatory, and many others. He tours nationally and internationally with Imago's production of *FROGZ* as lighting designer and stage manager, and as technical director and lighting designer for the Deborah Hay Dance Company. His work in dance and performance includes frequent collaborations with such choreographers as Linda Austin, Linda K. Johnson, Do Jump! Movement Theater, Monster Squad, Josie Moseley, Mary Oslund, Sally Silvers, and Cydney Wilkes. He is a co-founder, with Linda Austin, of Performance Works NW, for which he also serves as technical director.

Jonathan Godsey (*performer*) became interested in theater in 1998 at the ripe young age of 28. Since then, he has performed in numerous national *FROGZ* tours with Imago, including runs at American Repertory Theater in Cambridge and on Broadway in New York. Mr. Godsey's other Imago appearances include *Oh Lost Weekend*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *Biglittlethings*. He currently studies *aikido* at Two Rivers Aikikai in Portland, and eventually plans to apply his extensive studies of *t'ai chi ch'uan* and *aikido* to the art of stage combat.

Darren McCarthy (*performer*) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful show, and returning for his fourth season on tour with Imago. Past Imago productions include: *The Dinner*, *Apis*, *Simple People*, *Cuban Missile Tango*, *Tick Tack Type*, *Backs Like That*, and *Stage Left Lost*. Mr. McCarthy graduated from New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire, in 2007, receiving a bachelor's degree in theater. He was most recently seen onstage in Portland as a performer in Push Leg physical theater company's *Nighthawks*.

Pratik Motwani (*performer*) is an actor from Mumbai, India. He holds an M.F.A. in ensemble-based physical theater from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. As a voiceover artist, Mr. Motwani has lent his voice to Dev Patel (the protagonist) in the Indian version of the Oscar-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire*. He is also the co-founder of MadBall Co., based in Mumbai. In 2010, he co-created the social outreach wing of the company with a workshop and performance program *EK aur EK Gyarah* ("One plus One = Eleven") in partnership with over ten international aid organizations. The project reached thousands of street children, pediatric cancer patients, students, and teachers in Delhi and Mumbai. Recently, Mr. Motwani and his company created *IN'Tents: A Conservation Comedy in the Great Outdoors* as a response to the budget cuts in the national and state park system in the United States. Funded by the Puffin Foundation, the show reached over 1,300 families camping all the way from the Redwood Parks to Rocky Mountain National Park. As a performing artist, Mr. Motwani has played leading roles in the Dell'Arte Company's production of *The Nutcracker*, *Mary Jane: The Musical*, and their recent production of *The Comedy of Errors*. After a fantastic touring experience last year, Mr. Motwani returns to Imago for his second season.

Garrett Larreau (*performer*) is excited to make his Imago debut performing on the international tour of *FROGZ*. He has been seen onstage at Comedy Sportz Portland, Portland Center Stage, and Theater Vertigo. He also regularly works with the independent filmmaking scene, directing his own projects and appearing in many others. Mr. Larreau is very excited to apply his extensive martial arts background and acting chops to the world of Imago Theatre.

Nevan Richard (*performer*) was born and raised in Connecticut, eventually attending the University of Rhode Island to study animal management and theater. After graduating, he became the Outreach Coordinator and Resident Actor for the Contemporary Theater

Co. in Wakefield, Rhode Island. In 2011, he was accepted to the Portland Playhouse Acting Apprentice program, and has since made Portland his home. He has worked with Bag & Baggage, Tears of Joy, Post Five Theatre, and most recently with Traveling Lantern as the title character in *Ranger Ned's Big Adventure* in Yosemite National Park. In addition to theater, he is passionate about wildlife conservation, education, and soccer. *FROGZ* is his Imago debut, and he is thrilled to work with this company and its members.

Kayla Scrivner (*production stage manager*) studied dance and technical theater at Portland State University, working in Lincoln Hall for over 15 years. From 1993 to 1997, she taught dance at the Edna Manley College of Fine and Performing Arts in Jamaica and danced with the National Dance Theatre of Jamaica. Ms. Scrivner worked as technical coordinator with White Bird Productions for nine years. She has also worked with Northwest Dance Theatre, Portland Ballet, Bodyvox, and the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art.

George Smith (*cowboy illustrations*) was a nationally syndicated cartoonist best known for *The Smith Family*. He was the proud father of eleven children, one of which is Artistic Co-Director of Imago Carol Triffle.

Mark Forrest (*resident fabricator*) is co-founder with Susan Bonde of Bon Design, which designs and constructs mascots, walk-arounds, and other unusual creatures. Mr. Forrest has been involved in theater design and construction for over two decades, including for projects Wee Sing, Oregon Children's Theater, ORLO, and Sea World. He has been designing and constructing for Imago since 2003, and worked closely with Ms. Triffle to bring to life Imago's "Dino."

Cati Thomas (*fabricator*) was born and raised in England. She started sewing at seven and a few years later set off to work in the costume shops of regional and London theaters. A taste for adventure led her and her sewing machine

to the American northwest, where, for 20 years, she led a domestic life in central Oregon. She has performed in, directed, and costumed numerous community theater and dance productions, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Death Trap*, *Oliver*, *Swan Lake*, and *The Trojan Women*. When she returned to Portland three years ago, it was her heart's desire to work at Imago Theatre and see the inside of an orb. She has since become intimately acquainted with the insides of many of Imago's creatures. This is her fourth season at Imago. She would like to thank her three children.

Katherine Gray (*Fabricator*) has performed in four of Imago's original works. She has assisted in creature creations for both *FROGZ* and *Biglittlethings*. While her primary focus has been as a dancer over the past 18 years, including many seasons with Oslund+Co/Dance, she works steadily in the field of prototype development, special events production, costuming, and industrial design.