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**A MENAGERIE OF INCREDIBLE CREATURES COMMANDEERS
ZELLERBACH HALL IN IMAGO THEATRE'S BIGLITTLETHINGS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 2:00 P.M. & 8:00 P.M.**

**SIGHTLINES: Pre-performance talk with Imago Theatre company members
Saturday, February 4 at 1:00 p.m.**

BERKELEY, December 28, 2006—Insomnia hippos, hitchhiking rabbits and a 20-foot wrestling dinosaur vie for the spotlight when **Imago Theatre** invades Cal Performances with their newest production, *Biglittlethings* on **Saturday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**. Developed over the past four years by Imago co-founders and artistic directors **Carol Triffle** and **Jerry Mouawad**, *Biglittlethings* tells the tales of off-beat animals and unruly objects through costume and movement, accompanied by an original score by **Katie Griesar**. Inspired by the theatrical innovations of Jacques Lecoq, Robert Wilson and Richard Foreman, Portland-based Imago Theatre infuses its work with superb physical technique, dazzling technical wizardry and a big dose of whimsy. The result is a “terrific” (*Oregonian*) show built for adults and children that is nothing less than “a mastery of dance, mime and acrobatics” (*The New York Times*). A free *Sightlines* pre-performance talk will take place from 1-1:30 p.m. preceding the 2:00 p.m. performance. The Saturday, February 4, 2:00 p.m. performance is a Family Fare show. Children 16 and under receive a 50% discount.

Imago Theatre began in 1979, performing in small communities throughout the Northwest. Seven years later the company began touring internationally. Imago’s productions began as a combination of theatre, movement and the visual arts, first working in the realm of physical comedy and mask theater. The ensemble expanded its repertoire by creating and staging experimental works, original text works by Triffle, and contemporary adaptations of classics. Imago's *FROGZ* had its Broadway premiere in 2001, returning to New York City in 2002. Creating one of the most inventive theater companies in America, Triffle and Mouawad have employed such effects as a tilting stage in Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit*, a giant 14' metallic wheel for Richard Foreman's *Symphony of Rats*, underwater soliloquies in Triffle’s *Oh Lost*

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Weekend, and the Escher-like puzzle of a set in Mouawad's *House Taken Over*. Imago Theatre has toured Europe and Asia extensively as well as throughout North America.

Carol Triffle danced professionally before seeking a more theatrical medium. She became inspired by movement theater after discovering the teachings of Jacques Lecoq. She is a third year graduate of the acclaimed L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq and worked directly with Lecoq as his assistant in 1997. She is one of 40 people authorized to teach his work. Triffle has been the recipient of two Oregon Arts Commission Fellowships and has served as a panelist for National Endowment for the Arts. Triffle produced the United States premiere of Caryl Churchill's *A Number* at Imago Theatre.

Like Triffle, **Jerry Mouawad** was drawn to the physical theatricality of Lecoq when he studied at the Lecog-based Hayes-Marshall School of Theatre Arts in Portland. In addition to his Imago work, he has staged work for Portland Center Stage, The Portland Opera, and The Oregon Symphony as choreographer, puppet play designer, and writer/director. His excursions into experimental work led to his direction and design of two Richard Foreman plays – *Samuel's Major Problems* and *Symphony of Rats*. Mouawad has been the recipient of Oregon Arts Commission Fellowships.

Katie Griesar, the resident composer of Imago Theatre, is a graduate of Vassar College and the American Repertory Theatre Institute at Harvard. She has composed music for ten Imago Theatre productions including *FROGZ*. She is a member of the band Durango Park.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Imago Theatre's *Biglittlethings* on **Saturday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$24.00** and **\$32.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the

Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu. Family Fair is the perfect introduction to the performing arts for the entire family. Children ages 16 and under save 50% on single ticket prices for these specially designated matinees.

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Cal Performances' 2005/2006 Centennial Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

The *Contra Costa Times* and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2005/06 performing arts season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 4 at 1:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Pre-performance talk with Imago Theatre company members. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. These events are free to ticketholders.

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Saturday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m. [FF]
Saturday, February 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Family Fare
Imago Theatre
Biglittlethings

Program: Portland's Imago Theatre performs *Biglittlethings*, a feast for the eyes, a twister for the mind and a bundle of laughs for all ages.

Tickets: \$20.00, \$24.00 and \$32.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Family Fair is the perfect introduction to the performing arts for the entire family. Children ages 16 and under save 50% on single ticket prices for these specially designated matinees.

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