

Saturday, February 4, 2006, 3 pm & 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall

Imago Theatre
Biglitlethings



PROGRAM

Rabbits
Paper Bag
Fish
Dino
Big Suit

INTERMISSION

Raccoons
Anteater
Larvabatic
Hippos
Dress
Polar Bears

*Biglitlethings is made possible by contributions from the following Imago Supporters:
The Allen Foundation for the Arts, The Collins Foundation and Jeff Landsman.*

This performance is made possible, in part, by the generous support of the Vodafone-US Foundation.

Cal Performances thanks our Centennial Season Sponsor, Wells Fargo.

Biglitlethings

Creation, Design & Direction
Carol Triffle
Jerry Mouawad

Original Music
Katie Griesar

Light Design
Jerry Mouawad
Jeff Forbes

Performers
Jonathan Godsey
Kerry Silva
Philip Cuomo
Leah James Abel
Emily Gleason
Matt Caffoni

Production Stage Manager
Sam Kusnetz



Sound Design
Katie Griesar
Sam Kusnetz
Aaron Averre
Jeff Simmons

Creature Fabrication
Carol Triffle
Jerry Mouawad
Ans Ellis
Mark Forrest
Susan Bonds
Cati Thomas
Margaret Dillner
Kerri Roberts

Understudies
Kyle Delamarter
Danielle Vermette

Please turn off all cell phone and paging devices. Photography and recording equipment is prohibited.

Strobe and Haze will be used in this production. Program is subject to change.



Imago Theatre began in 1979, performing exclusively mask theater in small communities in the Pacific Northwest, but it was only six years later, in 1986, that the company's international touring began and continues to this day. Imago's explorations of the stage began as a combination of theater, movement and the visual arts as influenced by renowned French theater master Jacques Lecoq. First working in the realm of physical comedy and mask theater, the ensemble progressed toward creating and staging experimental works, original text works and contemporary adaptations of classics. In 2001, Imago's *FROGZ* completed a two-week run on Broadway and returned to the acclaimed New Victory Theater for a four-week run in May 2002. Artistic Directors Carol Triffle and Jerry Mouawad, trained in the methods of theater innovator Jacques Lecoq with influences from Robert Wilson, Richard Foreman, Alain Platel and Trisha Brown, have created a company that is one of the most innovative theaters in the United States. The ensemble's ingenuity has manifested itself in numerous stage "theatrics" including a tilting stage in Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit*, underground projections of Triffle's *Buffo*, a giant 14-foot metallic wheel in Richard Foreman's *Symphony of Rats*, the underwater soliloquies in Triffle's *Oh Lost Weekend*, the matrix puzzle of a set in Mouawad's *House Taken Over* and most recently the United

States premiere of Caryl Churchill's *A Number*. If you were fortunate enough to witness Imago's productions of past years, you journeyed to some exciting, unusual and fantastic universes. Claiming numerous Drammy nominations and awards, as well as consistent honors from the National Endowment for the Arts, Imago's work has been seen on national television on several continents, with extensive tours to Europe, Asia and throughout North America.

Carol Triffle (*creator*) is Co-Artistic Director and founding member of Imago Theatre. She attended L'École Jacques Lecoq in Paris for a two-year program (1986–1988) and returned in the late 1990s to complete the third-year pedagogical program (1996–1997). Carol brings to Imago Theatre the primary teachings of Jacques Lecoq, by whom the company is highly influenced.

Carol's work has appeared in Russia, Asia, Europe and throughout the United States. Her original works have been landmarks at Imago Theatre and include *Buffo* (1994), *Ajax* (1996), *Ginger's Green* (1997), *Trailer Park Paradise* (1999), *Oh Lost Weekend* (2000), *No Can Do* (2001) and *Missing Mona a.k.a. Leo's Lost Notebook* (2004). Her productions have won several Portland Theater awards, including Best Cinematography, Best Costume and Best Original Play (*Dead End Ed*, 1998, co-writer/performer). Carol is recipient of two Oregon Arts Commission Fellowships and the New York Dance Film Award. Her co-creation of *FROGZ* with Jerry Mouawad has had double visits to Broadway at the acclaimed New Victory Theater (2000 and 2002.) In 2003, she produced the United States premiere of Caryl Churchill's *A Number* at Imago Theatre.

For the past three years, Carol has been collaborating with Jerry Mouawad on Imago's latest mask theater production, *Biglittlethings*,

which recently completed its first national tour. Carol has performed in lead roles for several Jerry Mouawad productions at Imago, including Richard Foreman's *Samuel's Major Problems* (Marie Helene), Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit* (Estelle), Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* (Yelena), Eugene Ionesco's *Exit the King* (Queen Margarite). She will open her original work *Hit Me in the Stomach* at Imago Theatre in March 2006. Carol recently starred in Imago's *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen*.

Jerry Mouawad (*creator*) is Co-Artistic Director and founding member of Imago Theatre. He studied the teachings of Jacques Lecoq at the Hayes-Marshall School of Theater Arts. He has designed and directed the following original works at Imago Theatre: *Phoenicians in the House* (1994), *Half Light* (1996), *Dead End Ed* (1998), *House Taken Over* (1999) and the following adaptations of contemporary work and classics: Richard Foreman's *Samuel's Major Problems* (1996) and *Symphony of Rats* (1996), Sartre's *No Exit* (1998, 2000, 2005), Lorca's *Blood Wedding* (1999), Molière's *The Imaginary Invalid* (2000), Ionesco's *Exit the King* (2002) and Caryl Churchill's *A Number* (United States premiere, 2003).

Jerry has performed lead roles in Carol Triffle's *Buffo* (1994), *Ginger's Green* (1997), *Oh Lost Weekend* (2000), *No Can Do* (2001) and *Missing Mona a.k.a. Leo's Lost Notebook* (2004). His three primary collaborations with Carol Triffle (co-design and co-direction) include *Verdad* (1993), *FROGZ* (2000) and *Biglittlethings* (2003). *FROGZ* was presented twice at the acclaimed New Victory Theater in New York (2000 and 2002), and *Biglittlethings* just completed its first national tour. Jerry is recipient of the Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship, Portland Civic Theater Fellowship, Portland Theater Awards and the New York Film Dance Award. He has staged work for the Oregon Symphony, the Portland

Opera, BodyVox and Portland Center Stage. His vertigo tilting stage adaptation of Sartre's *No Exit* will open at American Repertory Theatre in January 2006. Jerry recently designed and directed Imago's *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen*.

Katie Griesar (*composer*) is a graduate of Vassar College and the American Repertory Theatre Institute at Harvard University. She has contributed original music and sound to the following productions at Imago Theatre: *Symphony of Rats* (1997 Drammy, Best Sound Design), *Half Light*, *Ginger's Green*, *Trailer Park Paradise*, *House Taken Over* (1999 Portland Drama Critics Circle Award, Best Original Score), *Blood Wedding Blood Wedding*, *Oh Lost Weekend*, *No Can Do* and *Exit the King*. Katie has also contributed original music to works by choreographers Linda Austin, Catherine Egan and Cydney Wilkes, and currently plays in the band Durango Park. Katie is resident composer for Imago, and her compositions for *FROGZ* played at The New Victory Theater in New York in 2000 and 2002.

Jeff Forbes (*light design*) is a Portland-based lighting designer working primarily in theater and dance. He is an eight-time winner of the Willie and Drammy awards for theater, for such companies as Storefront Theatre, Artists Repertory Theatre, Tygres Heart Shakespeare and the Musical Theatre Company. He has been lighting director for the Portland International Performance Festival since its inception. His work in dance and performance includes frequent collaborations over the last 15 years with choreographers such as Linda Austin, Mary Oslund, Josie Moseley, Minh Tran, Linda Johnson, Drew Pisarra, Katherine Petersen, Sue Brantley, Do Jump Movement Theater, Imago Theatre and the original staging of *Talk Radio* with Eric Bogosian and Tad Savinar.

Jeff is co-founder with Linda Austin of Performance Works NW, for which he serves as technical director. He has designed lights for the following Imago shows: *Verdad*, *Buffo*, *Oh Lost Weekend*, *Blood Wedding*, *Blood Wedding*, *No Exit*, *House Taken Over*, *Trailer Park Paradise*, *Symphony of Rats* and *FROGZ*.

Born in New York City, **Sam Kusnetz** (*production stage manager, lighting director*) is a designer, composer, stage manager and theatrical problem solver with over 140 productions to his name. He has toured nationally and internationally with Do Jump! and Imago Theatre's *FROGZ* and *Biglittlethings* as Production Stage Manager and Lighting Director. His Off-Broadway credits include sound design for *Dames at Sea*, *Doña Rosita*, *Arms and the Man* and *Small Craft Warnings* at the Jean Cocteau Repertory. Regional credits include the world premieres of *A Girl Called Dusty* at the Provincetown Repertory, and *One: The Musical with the Insight Out Theatre Collective* in Portland.

Sam has designed sound and composed scores for numerous shows at his *alma mater*, Brown University, including *King Lear*, *Marisol* and *Macbeth*. Shows such as *Cabaret*, *The Crucible* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* have also used his sound designs, as have *Art*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Camino Real* and the world premiere of *The Nebraska Project*, now titled *Hot Star*, *Nebraska*. He spends his summers as the Head of Sound at Buck's Rock Camp, a visual and performing arts camp in Connecticut, where he has designed sound for *Amadeus*, *The Serpent*, *The Tempest*, *Les Misérables*, *Museum*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Metamorphoses*, *Urinetown* and many others. He is a founding member of the Cardboard Box Theatre Company, based in Portland, Oregon, and a designer-in-residence with Insight Out Theatre Collective. Additionally,

Sam is totally excited about cake. This is Sam's third season with Imago.

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 Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and on Broadway. Jonathan's other Imago appearances include *Oh Lost Weekend*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Biglittlethings*. He currently studies aikido at Two Rivers Aikikai in Portland, Oregon, and eventually plans to apply his extensive studies of t'ai chi chuan and aikido to the art of stage combat.

Kerry Silva (*performer*) graduated with a degree in theater, speech and dance from Brown University in 2002. She works with many theaters in Portland, performing, puppeteering, teaching, writing, directing, dancing, clowning, booking, managing and other such gerunds. Kerry is also a co-founder of the Cardboard Box Theatre Company, a recent addition to the Portland arts scene. She is delighted to be working with Imago and proud to be a professional frog. Kerry likes to climb trees, and her favorite food is chocolate cake. This is Kerry's fourth season with Imago.

Philip Cuomo (*performer*) appeared in the world premiere of *Biglittlethings* (2003.) He also was in the original cast of Imago's *Missing Mona*. In Portland, he played Puck in ART's multicultural production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He wrote, directed and performed in *Hermes' Mother* at the Seattle Fringe Festival. His New York credits include: Edmund in *King Lear*, Hubert in *King John*, Slender in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, multiple characters in his own adaptation of *The Brother's Grimm Fairy Tales*, and

the narrator/mime in *Peter and the Wolf*. Regionally he performed at Hartford Stage, the Civic Theatre of Central Florida and the Sterling and Pittsburgh Renaissance Festivals. He is a founding member of the New York-based contemporary *commedia dell'arte* group Lick the Spoon, with whom he wrote and performed several original pieces, including Arlecchino in *Pantalone's War*. He created and performed several one-man, curriculum-based, character-driven, interactive shows, which he performs in schools. He is currently a faculty member at the Portland Actor's Conservatory, teaching voice, movement and mask. This is Philip's third season with Imago.

Leah James Abel (*performer*) began clowning around in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the age of four, developing her silly skills playing with the four Zagoren sisters. She has since performed in such exciting places as New York, Hawaii, Korea and Scranton, Pennsylvania, dancing, clowning, stilting, twisting around trapezes and parading around with people standing on her shoulders. Leah has training in theater, dance and a variety of circus arts, and has been a proud company member, performer and choreographer with two New York-based circus-theater companies, Kirkos and Cirque Boom. When she's not hanging from a long piece of cloth or other aerial apparatus, she might be perched in a tree or developing her new one-woman show, *Dirty Ol' Men*.

Leah would like to thank her friends, family, teachers and partner for their support and love. She likes to eat dark chocolate with great frequency and also to teach. She is enthusiastic about her new journey, frolicking with Imago's *FROGZ* and *Biglittlethings*. This is Leah's debut season with Imago.

Emily Gleason (*performer*) is ecstatic to be embarking on her second season with Imago Theatre, in productions of *FROGZ* and *Biglittlethings*. Other theater credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*. Her background includes nearly a decade as an equestrian vaulter (gymnastics and dance on a cantering horse—yes, really), as well as dance, pole vaulting, distance running, yoga, gymnastics, cake decorating, etc. Emily loves climbing trees, eating chocolate and watching weird films. She is also an avid traveler, and has just returned from a solo adventure in Europe. Love to all and hugs for everyone!

Matt Caffoni (*performer*) is thrilled to be a part of Imago Theatre's production of *Biglittlethings*. This is his debut season with the company. Some of Matt's most recent work includes: *A Secret Garden* (Fakir), *ONE* (Gene), *As You Like It* (Hymen), *A Christmas Carol* (Dick Wilkins, Tailor), *Fiddler on the Roof* (title role), *Hamlet* (Osric), *Measure for Measure* (Lucio/Elbow), *Angels in America* (Prior Walter), *Bent* (Rudy) and *Twelfth Night* (Malvolio). Before graduating from Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, Matt also worked as a choreographer, assistant director and producer. Defy gravity!

Mild-mannered **Kyle Delamarter** (*understudy*) used to ring bells in a bell choir called the Ding-a-Lings. He became a stooping sort of minor-Quasimodo after he left the group, tripping into the dungeon basement of Earl P. Sidebottom, the Phantom (from *Flying Rhinoceros*), where he was mistaken for a rat. Kyle provided the voice for Raticus and taught him how to play the accordion. Raticus left Earl's basement with a paper bag over his head taking Kyle into the basements of the Tiny Picture Club to

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

shoot, process and edit super low-budget Super-8 movies. Kyle resurfaced in 2002 for *Biglittlenthings* and *FROGZ*, albeit behind a mask. Public appearances of Kyle are something of a rarity. This is Kyle's fifth season with Imago.

Danielle Vermette (*understudy*) has appeared with Imago for five seasons as a frog, as well as in other Imago works, including *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Blood Wedding Blood Wedding*. In addition to creature theater, she is working on new and original work with her friend and collaborator, Katie Griesar. Her favorite things in life are basketball, writing, food, books and her latest passion, capoeira. Special thanks to friends, family and Walter, the dog.

*Tour direction by arrangement with
Arthur Shafman International Ltd.*

AAAArtistes International Ltd.

163 Amsterdam Avenue #121

New York, NY 10023-5001

tel.: 212.799.4814

fax: 212.874.3613

e-mail: ashafman@aol.com

<http://www.aaaartistes.com>