

Sunday, November 4, 2012, 11am & 3pm
Wheeler Auditorium

First Stage for Families

The Dell'Arte Company



The Fish in My Head

Directed and Designed by Ronlin Foreman

Devised by the Company

There will be no intermission.

*This production was made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Arts,
the California Arts Council, and the James Irvine Foundation.*

Cal Performances' 2012–2013 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

The Dell'Arte Company

The Fish in My Head

Directed and Designed by Ronlin Foreman

Devised by the Company

Original Music Tim Gray and the Company

Lighting Mike Foster

Costumes Lydia Foreman

Set Daniel Spencer

Prop Design, Puppets, and Set Decoration Ronlin Foreman, Lydia Foreman, Daniel Spencer,
Jerry Lee Wallace, Ariel Lauryn,
Lee Ann Hittenberger, Meredith Anne Baldwin

CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Anthony Arnista
Meredith Anne Baldwin
Ruxy Cantir
Janessa Johnsrude
Ryan Musil
Anson Smith
Jacob Trillo

Production Staff

Technical Director Daniel Spencer
Sound Designer and Engineer Tim Gray

Dell'Arte International

Founding Artistic Director Joan Schirle
Producing Artistic Director Michael Fields
Director of the School Ronlin Foreman
Executive Director Stephanie Thompson

131 H Street
Blue Lake, California 95525
(707) 668-5663
www.dellarte.com

Booking Michael Fields

Director's Note

All we knew, at the beginning, was that *The Fish in My Head* would be the name of this show. Nothing else existed, nothing but a name, and the conviction that naming the show would provoke our imaginations into creating everything else. The Dell'Arte Company often makes "devised theater." You could say this means the actors and the director are also writing the script of the show, instead of a playwright...or you could say it means we make things up as we go along, and that we constantly change and improve them in rehearsal, all the way up until opening night, and usually beyond. This is great fun, although often terrifying.

We wanted the characters of *The Fish in My Head* to be bold archetypes; we wanted there to be surprising events in the action; we wanted the actors to be able to make music, to sing, to dance, to cavort around the stage. As the Director, I wanted the characters to have strong groupings in twos and threes, and to play with jokes and comedy. I also wanted the actors to feel free to make a play that was not "plotted" by the psychology of the characters but by the conflict of a central figure. Our hope became, as we worked together in the studio, that we could make a piece of theater that would move through different colorful worlds in strange ways...and that you, the audience, would find yourselves at the end being surprised and delighted by the journey.

Ronlin Foreman
September 2012



Sargun Baecheva

LOCATED IN BLUE LAKE, California, Dell'Arte International is both an ensemble theater creating original collaborative work for over 35 years, and the major North American center for theater performance, research, and training of the actor-creator. We are a committed community of artists who model and share in a sustained ensemble artistic practice. The Dell'Arte Company tours internationally and produces the annual Mad River Festival. The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre offers the only accredited M.F.A. in Ensemble-Based Physical Theatre in the United States, a one year full-time professional actor training certificate program in Physical Theatre, and a Study Abroad: Bali program.



Coming to California from northern Virginia, **Anthony Arnista** (*ensemble member*) received his B.A. in theater from the University of Maine in 2010. He is excited to perform as a member of the Dell'Arte Company and would like to thank his amazing ensemble and Ronlin Foreman for their support and guidance.



Originally from Olympia, Washington, **Meridith Anne Baldwin** (*ensemble member*), originally from Olympia, Washington, graduated with a B.A. in theater and dance from Western Washington University. She played Anesthesia Mouse in the Dell'Arte Company's 2011 holiday show *The Nutcraper*, a retelling of *The Nutcracker* from the mice's perspective. This summer she played Crazy Jeanie in the Dell'Arte Company's *Mary Jane: The Musical*, directed by Michael Fields. Ms. Baldwin is a clown, a dancer and choreographer, a registered yoga instructor, and plays the accordion.



Originally from Moldova, **Ruxy Cantir** (*ensemble member*) earned her B.A. in theater arts from Furman University in South Carolina, making her accent in English an unusual blend of Eastern European grit plus Southern twang. She plays piano, ukulele, can do the splits, speaks four languages, and gives a great big Moldovan shout-out to her parents and brother.



Multidisciplinary Canadian artist **Janessa Johnsrude** (*ensemble member*) earned a B.F.A. in acting from the University of Saskatchewan / Masaryk University. She has studied and worked in mask-making and performance, puppet-building and performance, writing, directing, and physical theater in Canada, the United States, the Czech Republic, and Indonesia. She has also taught character and ensemble creation in Canada and the United States. Ms. Johnsrude performed in the Dell'Arte Company's *Mary Jane: The Musical* at the 2012 Mad River Festival, and then directed an original touring piece for Rangeley Theatre Ensemble, in partnership with the U.S. National Parks through a grant from the Puffin Foundation. She also creates custom-fit character teeth for performers.



Before coming to California, **Ryan Musil** (*ensemble member*) lived in Chicago, working with several theater companies—Piccolo Theatre, Chicago Dell'Arte, and Live Wire Theatre—on several of their productions. He performed in the Dell'Arte Company's *Mary Jane: The Musical*, as well as in *The Crocodile* and *The Nightmare: In a House of Dark Dreams* last winter. Mr. Musil would like to thank his friends and family for their support.



Immediately after graduating from Prescott College in 2002, and for seven years before joining Dell'Arte, **Anson Smith** (*ensemble member*) traveled and performed with the Carpetbag Brigade, a San Francisco-based physical theater ensemble best known for its wordless acrobatic stilt spectacles. On one of Carpetbag Brigade's summer tours, in 2005, he helped found a circus camp affiliated with the Tsunami on the Square performing arts festival in Prescott, Arizona, which has thrived and grown beyond what anyone might have expected.



Originally from Southern California, **Jacob Trillo** (*ensemble member*)'s background is in improv and stand-up comedy. His performing roots are with The Knights of Comedy, a Los Angeles-based improv group that was founded by a former Dell'Arte International graduate. This is Mr. Trillo's first time touring with a piece of theater.



Ronlin Foreman (*director*) joined the full-time faculty of Dell'Arte in 2002 after a 20-year association as a master teacher. He has a B.F.A. in acting and directing from the University of Southern Mississippi, trained in mime and physical theater styles at The Valley Studio, and was trained in performance and theater dynamics at L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris, France. His career in theater encompasses areas of performance, playwriting, directing, and teaching, for which he has received numerous awards, including the Alliance for Arts in Education Fellowships and Solo Artist Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been a featured performer at Lincoln Center Out of Doors in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and DanceWorks of Toronto, as well as at numerous national and international movement theater festivals. Mr. Foreman has taught workshops in Theatrical Clown, The Dynamic Actor, and Mask and Performance in many university residencies across the United States. He is now the Director of the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in Blue Lake California.