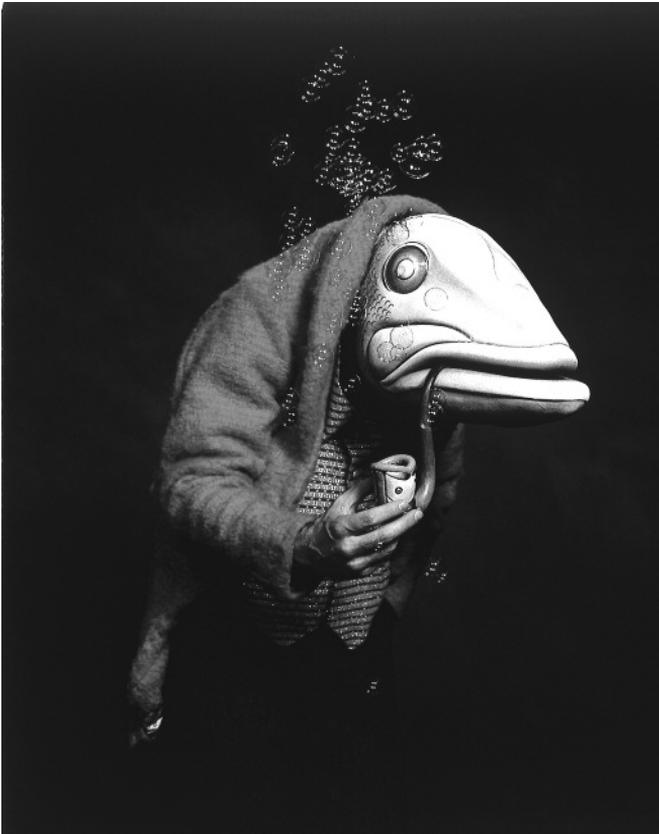


Sunday, February 9, 2014, 3pm
Wheeler Auditorium

For Families

Michael Cooper



Roni Steele

Masked Marvels and Wondertales

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

Michael Cooper

Masked Marvels and Wondertales

PROGRAM

*Come gaze upon the stage my friends
Where visions stir the soul
Fabled faces spring to life
And mysteries unfold...*

THE BABY & THE OLD MAN

A magical meeting of the bookends of life

SPARE PARTS

A surreal attempt at self-improvement

ANIMALIA

Chicken...Monkey...Dog...etc.

FISH-OR-MAN

How do you think a fish would feel...if he were the one winding the reel?

RIDE 'EM, COWBOY!

A slow-motion rendition of Michael's veterinarian dad riding his first wild horse

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

A chance for some of the children in the audience to join Michael on the stage

BULLFIGHT!

An opportunity to face your fears in one easy lesson

THE CLUMSY GIANT

We all know giants are big and slow and clumsy, but did you know they are only that way until they hear music? Watch what happens when sweet melody transforms an awkward ogre into a graceful, long-limbed dancer.

Son of a traveling horse doctor, whose “animal sense” dwells deep in our showman’s masks and tales.

Student of Étienne Decroux, Paris’s Master of Mime, who taught him how to lean on air.

Protégé of Tony Montanaro, Theatrical Everyman, who taught him everything else.

Native of the Maine woods, where home is an adventure and the stories write themselves.

Hero of a thousand stages, with the skill to cast his audience beyond the bounds of time.

MICHAEL COOPER has multiple heads, an enormous nose, and a great sense of humor—all of which are blended together in a wonderful family entertainment performance. He combines mythical and autobiographical stories of courage and wonder, producing an eye-popping theatrical extravaganza featuring his breathtaking handcrafted masks, outlandish stilt dancing, and a physical repertoire that ranges from the madcap to the sublime. Michael Cooper is truly a “moving sculpture.”

Mr. Cooper received his B.A. in peace studies from Goddard College. He then went on to complete six years of theater training with Tony Montanaro in Maine and Étienne Decroux in Paris. For nearly 30 years, he has criss-crossed the world, performing over 8,000 times in theaters, schools, and festivals for audiences of every age. A portion of his credits include the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Hong Kong International Children’s Festival, the Comedy Store in Los Angeles, the Dublin Theater Festival, Great Woods, the Eugene O’Neill Theater, Bass Performance Hall, and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.



Ron Steele

In an age of specialization, Mr. Cooper is a true Renaissance man, a jack of all trades. Taking up to 300 hours to produce a single paper, cloth, or wooden mask, Mr. Cooper has elevated this most ancient of theater crafts to the level of a fine art. His captivating stories—told in prose, poetry, and silent mime—are sometimes funny, sometimes thought-provoking. Mr. Cooper’s *Masked Marvels and Wondertales* is a celebration of life, a show designed to encourage creativity, compassion, and a greater sense of self-worth. Laughter and audience participation, a humorous and energetic style, and themes that speak to all ages contribute to a program that captivates young and old alike.

Michael Cooper is represented by Baylin Artists Management, 721 Hyde Park, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. To learn more, visit www.baylinartists.com.