



CASSANDRA WILSON is an American jazz musician, vocalist, songwriter, and producer from Jackson, Mississippi. Described by critic Gary Giddins as “a singer blessed with an unmistakable timbre and attack who has expanded the playing field” by incorporating blues, country, and folk music into her work.

Ms. Wilson began playing piano at six, guitar by age twelve, and was working as a vocalist by the mid-1970s, singing a wide variety of material. After moving to New York City in the early 1980s, she met saxophonist Steve Coleman and became one of the founding members of the M-Base Collective.

At the completion of her stint with M-Base, Ms. Wilson sought a more acoustic context for her vocal expression. She signed with Blue Note Records in 1992 and released a landmark album, *Blue Light 'Til Dawn*, which would pave the way for a new generation of jazz singers seeking an approach and repertoire that challenged the supremacy of the American Standard songbook.

Ms. Wilson has continued interpreting in fresh and creative ways vintage blues, country, and folk music up to the present day. Her awards include two Grammy Awards, the Django d'Or, the Edison Music Award, and a marker on the Mississippi Blues Trail. She also performed one of the leading roles in Wynton Marsalis's *Blood on the Fields*, the first jazz composition to receive a Pulitzer Prize.

April 2015 brings us her tribute album for Billie Holiday's 100th birthday, *Coming Forth*

by Day: A Tribute to Billie Holiday. An otherworldly musical homage to legendary jazz vocalist Billie Holiday (born Eleanora Fagan on April 7, 1915) on the 100th anniversary of the singer's birth, *Coming Forth by Day* is Cassandra Wilson's moody, soulful new album showcase for contemporary yet timeless interpretations of standards associated with Lady Day. *Coming Forth by Day* was produced by Nick Launay, known as Nick Cave's producer for the last decade among many other adventurous credits.

Ms. Wilson has drawn inspiration from Billie Holiday for her entire life and chose the title as a way to honor the iconic singer: “Coming Forth by Day” is a literal English translation of the title of an ancient text, commonly known as *The Egyptian Book of the Dead*. The book is in actuality a Kemetic collection of scriptures more accurately titled *The Book of Coming Forth by Day*—prescriptions intended to assist both the living and deceased in their journey through life and the afterlife.

The album features eleven reinterpretations of standards associated with Lady Day, plus an original penned by Ms. Wilson—the dreamlike new “Last Song (for Lester),” imagined as a heartbreaking final message from Billie to her musical love, Lester Young. (Upon receiving the news that Young had passed away, Billie flew straight from Europe to his funeral but was denied the opportunity to sing by Young's family. She was distraught.)

Ms. Wilson recorded *Coming Forth by Day* in Los Angeles at Seedy Underbelly studios with an A-list musical team, including producer Launay (Nick Cave, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Arcade Fire), guitarists T-Bone Burnett and Nick Zinner of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, string arranger Van Dyke Parks, and rhythm section of the Bad Seeds (drummer Thomas Wydler and bassist Martyn P. Casey).

“A dream of mine is happening,” said Ms. Wilson. “I've been in love with Billie Holiday's voice since the moment I heard it, and she has inspired me throughout my career.”

Friday, March 6, 2015, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

The Intergalactic Nemesis

Live-Action Graphic Novel



Book Two: Robot Planet Rising

Cal Performances' 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Robot Planet Rising

Written by Jason Neulander and Chad Nichols

Adapted and Directed by Jason Neulander

Adapted from the radio drama by Ray Patrick Colgan, Jessica Reisman, and Jason Neulander

Based on an original characters by Ray Patrick Colgan, Lisa D'Amour,
Julia Edwards, Jessica Reisman, and Jason Neulander

Comic-Book Artwork David Hutchison, based on the artwork from
Target Earth by Tim Doyle

Color Art Lee Duhig

Production Design Jason Neulander

Sound Effects Buzz Moran

Improvised Score Graham Reynolds

Sound Engineer George R. Stumberg IV

Company Manager Jessie Douglas

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Rachel Landon *Molly Sloan, Mission Control, Natasha Zorokov, Messenger Boy, Aughy, Robot Two, Quasar, Drunk Robot, Robot Patron, Mom, Sister, Robot G-38, and various other robots*

Brock England *Elbee Dee Oh, Svrenski, El Seven, TZ436, Cerebretron, Alpatron, Robot One, Ben Wilcott, Mysterion, Robot Vendor 2, Robot Bum, Robot Bouncer, Robot Barkeep, and various other robots*

Christopher Lee Gibson *Dr. Lawrence Webster, Dee Nine, Timmy Mendez, Robot Vendor 1, Dad, and various other robots*

Foley Sound Effects Kelly Matthews

Piano and Organ Harlan Hodges

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Comic books, sound-effects gadgets, posters, shirts, and Zygonian Slime available in the lobby at intermission and after the performance. The cast will sign books after the show.

This production received its world première at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin, Texas, on June 8, 2012.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF *THE INTERGALACTIC NEMESIS*

IN 1996, Ray Colgan approached Jason Neulander about the idea of creating a science-fiction radio serial to be performed live in installments and maybe even to be aired on the radio. Mr. Neulander jumped on the idea. He invited Jessica Reisman, Julia Edwards, and Lisa D'Amour to join Mr. Colgan on the writing team, and *The Intergalactic Nemesis* was born. The original conceit was that the writers would provide two 15-minute scripts per week for five weeks. Mr. Neulander got these scripts on a Friday, rehearsed with actors and sound on Saturday, and performed the two episodes on Sunday for five weeks at Little City coffeehouse in Austin, Texas. Because the process was so quick, the writers named the main characters after the actors who played them: Ben Willcott, Molly Rice, and Japhy Fernandez. Buzz Moran grabbed stuff out of his kitchen to make the last-minute sound effects. The first week, more than 100 people showed up at Little City to catch the show, and week after week the crowds stuck it out. Mr. Moran captured the show on a four-track cassette tape, and the next summer KUT-FM aired the show in serial format on

their Sunday morning program *Soundsight*. And that was that. Or so they thought...

In 2000, Mr. Moran bought a portable digital recording studio and suggested to Mr. Neulander that the Salvage Vanguard Theater remount the show, cut it down an evening-length format, perform it again, and make a true broadcast-quality recording. Again, Mr. Neulander jumped and asked Mr. Colgan and Ms. Reisman to help him rewrite it. On Memorial Day 2000, the crew set up shop at the State Theatre to a capacity crowd. The only original cast member was Ben Willcott, so the names of the other two main characters were changed. The performance was received so well that Mr. Colgan and Mr. Neulander immediately knew that the following summer they would have to create a sequel, which they did. *Return of the Intergalactic Nemesis* was performed and recorded in June 2001, both shows were performed in rep in 2002, and KUT aired a three-part edit of the show on its "Best of Public Radio" series. And that was that. Or so they thought...

In January 2009, Mr. Neulander approached artist Tim Doyle, who had created the backdrops for various productions, about developing a comic-book version of the story. As the two collaborators began work on the comic-book, Cliff Redd asked Mr. Neulander to bring the show into Dell Hall at the Long Center. In that meeting, Neulander came up with the idea of combining the comic-book artwork with the live show. In September 2010, the Long Center premiered this new form of entertainment to an audience of over 2,100 people. Currently, the project has spawned two sequels and is in the midst of a multi-year international tour, including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the New Victory in New York City, and more than 100 venues around the globe.

The adventure continues in the form of podcasts, web series, and more at theintergalacticnemesis.com or by following the project on Facebook and Twitter.

To be continued...

CAST

Rachel Landon (*Molly Sloan, Natasha Zorokov, Aughy, et al.*) is happy to be performing in her first season with *The Intergalactic Nemesis*. She hails from Houston, Texas, and attended the University of Evansville in Indiana for her bachelor's degree. Ms. Landon has performed as an actor and singer all over the country. You may have last seen her on Broadway eating a jumbo soft pretzel. Some of her favorite regional credits include Emma in *Tell Me on a Sunday*, Mrs. Walker in *The Who's Tommy*, Rona in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Diana in *Next to Normal*, Jean in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and Bernie Bernstein in *Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls*. Ms. Landon is also a founding member and Artistic Director of Standing Room Only Productions in Houston.

Brock England (*Timmy Mendez, Lawrence Webster, et al.*) is an actor, director, and producer, and has been active in stage and film for over 20 years. He has either performed or assisted in a performance of just about every major musical you can name, toured the country with an equestrian circus, and is an accomplished Shakespearean actor. He has been seen in numerous short films, and his first feature film, entitled *Zero Charisma*, premièred at the South by South West Film Festival in 2013, garnering the audience award for Best Narrative. He was awarded Best Lead Actor by the Austin Critic's Table for his performance in Hidden Room Theater's original practices production of *Rose Rage*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry VI* plays. He also writes and co-produces an original web series called *Clown vs Mime*. In his spare time, he enjoys running, sailing, working on his motorcycles, and singing.

Christopher Lee Gibson (*Elbee Dee Oh, Alphonse, Cerebretron, et al.*) is a 1990 graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. He has acted for the Loft Theatre, the Tampa Players, American Stage Theatre, the

Off-Center Theatre, B.O.B. (theatrical palindrome), and the Hillsborough Moving Company, and several producing companies in Tampa, Florida. He was producer of the Orlando International Fringe Festival (2001–2004) and Production Manager at Orlando's Mad Cow Theatre (2005). He has acted for Mad Cow, the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, the Austin Playhouse, ZACH Theatre, Salvage Vanguard Theater, and Da! Theatre Collective.

Harlan Hodges (*Piano and Organ*) is a pianist, composer, and producer from West Texas. Formerly pursuing his studies at Texas Tech University with world renowned pianist William Westney, as well as composition and orchestration from leading composers Peter Fischer and Mei-Fang Lin, he was selected as a finalist in the 2011 BMI Student Composer Awards for his solo piano work *Six Poems* and was recipient of the 2011 Cactus Pear Xtreme Composer Award for his Piano Quintet *Vision of a Mockingbird*. Producing works that reach from big band, orchestra, and electronics, to art installations, and rock-pop arrangements, he has had the great honor to work and learn alongside many of his favorite musicians, including Paul English, Wayne Bergeron, and Donald Fagen. Now residing in Austin, he regularly performs, writes for film and television, and is developing a new musical called *Jericho Can't Die Yet*. He is a proud owner of a Steinway piano and is thrilled to be a part of his first season with *The Intergalactic Nemesis*.

Kelly Matthews (*Foley Artist*) holds a B.F.A. in acting from Texas State University. Her favorite stage credits include *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds* (Tillie), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Germaine), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *What Light Through Yonder Window Breaks* (Laura), and *Almost Maine* (Ginette/Sandrine/Gayle). For this show, she won the TSU Ramsey Award for Best Actress and an Irene Ryan Scholarship nomination. Ms. Matthews has also studied abroad in England with the Royal Shakespeare Company. She has participated in the *commedia dell'arte*

troupe Heartfelt Tricks, playing such characters as Isabella and Smeraldina, as well as having participated in the Paramount Theatre's Story Wranglers and an Austin favorite: FronteraFest. Ms. Matthews is also an acting teacher at the ZACH Theatre Performing Arts School in Austin.

CREATORS

Jason Neulander (*Co-Author, Director, Producer*) is an internationally acclaimed writer, director, and producer whose work fuses multiple artistic disciplines with technology to create unique and original theatrical and literary experiences. In the 1990s, Mr. Neulander founded the avant-garde company Salvage Vanguard Theater in Austin, Texas, and during his 15-year run as Artistic Director developed and directed more than 50 original experimental plays and music-theater productions. During his tenure he was named "Best Theatre Director" three times by the readers of *The Austin Chronicle* and won numerous awards for his work. In his final years at Salvage Vanguard Theater, he designed and oversaw the construction of the company's current home, a venue with two small theaters and a gallery for visual art. Of his work, the *Austin American-Statesman* wrote: "Neulander aims to change the world.... Unlike most of his artistic compatriots, he is winning."

Mr. Neulander's current project, the independently produced transmedia sci-fi multi-verse *The Intergalactic Nemesis* takes the form of graphic novels, radio plays, podcasts, novels, e-books, web series, and live stage productions. The "*Live-Action Graphic Novel*" *Intergalactic* trilogy has been booked into more than 140 venues around the world, including runs on Broadway and sold-out performances at the Kennedy Center. It was named "Best of Austin" in 2011 and has been featured on PBS, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and TBS's *Conan* (with Conan O'Brien as a performer). The graphic novels are available in print and through comiXology. The YouTube version of the project is produced at

KLRU, PBS-Austin, with funding from PBS Digital Studios, and can be seen at www.youtube.com/intergalacticnemesis. He is currently expanding the *Intergalactic* universe into *Salt*, a noir-inspired series of novels and podcasts featuring the enigmatic time-traveler Jean-Pierre Desperois. *Salt* podcasts are available at www.oneofus.net. For more information on *The Intergalactic Nemesis*, including a complete tour schedule of the live productions, visit www.theintergalacticnemesis.com.

Tim Doyle (*Artwork, Target Earth*) is an illustrator and print-maker working out of Austin, Texas. Growing up in the suburban sprawl of the Dallas area, he turned inward and sullen, only finding joy in comic-books and television and video games. Moving to Austin in 1999 to fulfill a lifelong dream of not living in Dallas, Mr. Doyle began painting and showing in galleries in 2001. He self-published a diary zine, *Amazing Adult Fantasy*, from 2001 to 2003. He has held many nerd-friendly jobs, including running a small chain of comic-book stores, as well as designing T-shirts and art-directing the poster series for the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema. Mr. Doyle left "jobs" behind and launched his company, www.nakatomiinc.com, in January 2009. In summer 2009, Mr. Doyle and artist Clint Wilson built their own screen printing studio, NakatomiPrint.com, out of which they and other artists work. Since then, he has produced art for such companies as ABC/Disney's *Lost Poster* project and Mattel's *He-Man* art show in Los Angeles, and has had artwork used by Lucasfilm/ILM, Hasbro, and IDW, among others. He has had several sold-out solo art shows hosted by Spoke Art gallery in San Francisco, and has exhibited in galleries all over the world. Mr. Doyle lives and works in Austin with his wife and two children. You can see more of his work at www.mrdoyle.com.

David Hutchison (*Artwork, Robot Planet Rising*) has worked as a graphic designer, storyboard artist, and comic-book artist for over 15 years. His work includes titles

published through Antarctic Press, Archie Comics, and IDW Publishing. With work on titles ranging from licensed books like *Sonic the Hedgehog* to instructional books like *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Manga*, Mr. Hutchison strives to leave a lasting impact with every project he works on.

Buzz Moran (*Sound Effects Designer*) has been performing live sound effects for *The Intergalactic Nemesis* since developing sounds for the first production in 1996. Since then he has worked steadily as a sound designer for countless (he has not yet counted them) theater productions. Mr. Moran is responsible for the sporadically performed *Foleyvision* shows in Austin, Texas, wherein odd foreign films receive new music, voices, and sound effects performed live in the theater. Also in Austin, Mr. Moran helps run *The Dionysium*, a monthly show featuring lectures, drinking, and debates. On the music side of audio, Mr. Moran has recorded, mixed, and produced several CDs, which are small silver disks that can play sounds. Often working closely with Graham Reynolds, Mr. Moran is a music editor on such films as *Bernie*, starring Jack Black, and *Before Midnight*, starring Ethan Hawke. You can learn more about sound effects by watching Mr. Moran's PBS web series, *What's That, Buzz?*, available on the internet's YouTube.

Chad Nichols (*Co-Author*) received his M.F.A. in screenwriting and fiction from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas. Mr. Nichols has collaborated with Jason Neulander and Ray Colgan through many stages of *The Intergalactic Nemesis* project, contributing to all three parts of the trilogy. Known for introducing such crowd-pleasing characters as Heinrich Heinemuellerschlossenschlagermeisterschloss and Sujeet Ranamaharavna, he hopes to bring the same level of nominal absurdity to his screenplays. Mr. Nichols sings for the Texas-noir band the Transgressors and plays guitar with both the Damn Times and T. Tex Edwards and the Texwardians. He also speaks in funny

voices for the trash-film celebrating *Foleyvision* troupe, and his deadpan delivery caused *Austin Chronicle* critic Wayne Alan Brenner to dub him the "Charles Grodin of Austin."

Called "the quintessential modern composer" by *The Independent* (London), Austin, Texas-based composer-bandleader **Graham Reynolds** (*Composer*) creates, performs, and records music for film, theater, dance, rock clubs, and concert halls with collaborators ranging from Richard Linklater and Jack Black to DJ Spooky and Ballet Austin. Heard throughout the world in films, on TV, on stage, and on radio, from HBO to Showtime, the Cannes Film Festival to Lincoln Center, and BBC to NPR, he recently scored *Before Midnight* with Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, as well as *Bernie* featuring Jack Black. With the jazz-based but far reaching Golden Arm Trio, Mr. Reynolds has repeatedly toured the country and released four critically acclaimed albums. As Co-Artistic Director of Golden Hornet Project with Peter Stopschinski, he has produced more than 50 concerts of world-première alt-classical music by more than 60 composers. *The Intergalactic Nemesis* is one of his many collaborations with writer-director Jason Neulander. Visit grahamreynolds.com.

CREW

This year will be **Jessie Douglas** (*Company Manager*)'s fourth season on the road with *The Intergalactic Nemesis*. She spent summer 2012 as the Assistant Stage Manager on ZACH Theatre's production of *One Night with Janis*. Her ZACH credits include Rehearsal Assistant Stage Manager for *Hairspray*, Assistant Stage Manager for *August: Osage County*, Assistant Stage Manager and member of the ensemble for *Rent*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Our Town*, and running crew for *The Grapes of Wrath*. Her other credits include Stage Manager for *Barefoot in the Park* at Unity Theater in Brenham, Texas, and *Proof*, produced by Thunder Mountain Theater Project in Juneau, Alaska. Ms. Douglas spent

a year in Juneau working for Perseverance Theatre as the Company/Stage Management Fellow. She is a graduate of Texas State University, San Marcos, where she earned her B.A. in theater with a business minor.

George “Jedi” Stumberg IV (*Technical Director, Front-of-House Audio*) is returning for his second year of helping to rid the Universe of Zygonians. He began his career in audio in 2005 as the first graduate of MediaTech Institute in Austin. Since then, he has worked with over 2,000 bands. He worked for several years at SXSW; a ten-day music-film-fashion festival in Austin, Texas, for brands like the Roxy, the Viper Room, and CNN/PRG. He has also worked at Bass Concert Hall in Austin as Audio Department Head and Soundboard Op for the nation’s largest touring Broadway Across America shows, including *South Pacific*, *In the Heights*, and *West Side Story*. Mr. Stumberg has enjoyed working with such comedians as Jerry Seinfeld, Chelsea Handler, Daniel Tosh, and Mike Epps. Some of the musicians he has worked with in various capacities are Widespread Panic, A Great Big World, Neil Young, Levon Helm, Yo-Yo Ma, Sir Paul

McCartney, and David Crosby and Graham Nash. He returns to *The Intergalactic Nemeses* as a lifelong comic-book and science-fiction fan. He is a sixth generation Texan and a full-time Jedi.

Special thanks to Cliff Redd, Derek Rosenstrauch, Mical Trejo, Shana Merlin, Molly Rice, Japhy Fernandez, (The Real) Ben Willcott, John Weiss, Tony Nozaro, Lindsay Doleshal, Corey Gagne, Dan Dietz, David Sangalli, Ben Anderson, John DeFore, Rachel Koper, Laura Phelan, Peter Stopschinski, Lee Eddy, Brent Werzner, Shannon McCormick, Mike D’Alonzo, David Higgins, LB Deyo, Jon Watson, Diana Duecker, Derek Menningen, Cynthia Patterson, Charles Leslie, Pebbles Wadsworth, Conrad Haden, Texas Performing Arts, Christine Tschida, Rena Shagan, Seth Goldstein, The Splinter Group, Bill Hofstetter/Agency 212, Mammoth Advertising (NYC), Rob Nuell, Maria Quinn, Pam Lubell, Leanne Schanzer, Jeff Croiter, Jonathan Herzog, Jeremy Lee, Robert Fried, Neil Patel, Bridget Klapinski, Carter Jackson, Robert Faires, *The Austin Chronicle*, KUT-FM, Ratgirl, Cliff and Cynthia Chapman, Adam Russell, Lars Nilson, Henri Mazza, Tim and Karrie League, the managers and staff of Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas, The HighBall, Fantastic Fest, STAPLE!, Chris Nicholas, Rebecca Campbell, Dragon’s Lair, Tribe Comics, Austin Books & Comics, Amy’s Ice Creams, House Pizzeria, Donna Taylor, Little City Espresso Bar & Cafe, Book People, Paul, Mark, Shaady, Kyle, Eric, Jim, and the rest of the staff at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, Sarah André, and the thousands of people who have seen and loved the show since its inception back in 1996.