

Bennington College Drama Faculty and Staff

Kathleen Dimmick
Michael Giannitti
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Sherry Kramer
Daniel Michaelson
Robert Post
Michael Rancourt
Jean Randich
Sue Rees
Jenny Rohn
Terry Teitelbaum

New works ensemble presents a
festival of plays by Bennington alumni
Friday October 26th and Saturday October 27th

[2007]



The Schedule:

7pm- Rx by Matthew Swan '95

8pm- Crazy Little Thing by Melissa Feldman Ross '94

9pm- Getting Caught

Firefly

Keeping Track

Thinner Than Water

Wanting To Kill It by Melissa Feldman Ross '94

10pm-Bad Girls-Good Writers by Sibyl Kempson '95

The Company:

Alex Bleeker, Jazmine Carroll, Iris Dauterman, Natalie Kent, Kevin Lackaff-Gilligan, Briana Magnifico, Sarah Marshall, Mae Mitchell, Brittany Olinkiewicz, Safiya Sinclair, Alex St. John, Amanda Sullivan, Daniel Wilcox, Allison Zajac-Batell

Sibyl Kempson-

I have been making large-scale, low-budget theater plays since the year 2000. Plays include: Potatoes of August; Zeit af Der KürbisGeistNachten (or) It,s a Good Life if you Don,t Weaken;The Secret Death of Puppets (or) How Do Puppets Die? (or) Puppets Die in Secret; Bad Girls Good Writers; (In)Communicable, ((Con)Genital, Incommensurable (an adaptation of The Lurker at the Threshold by H.P. Lovecraft); Crime or Emergency; Robert Stack: Homoferus Unsolved;The Wytche of Problymm Plantation, a musical in collaboration with composer Ashley Fleming (née Turba);This Property is BAUHAUS! and Spargel Time! (also a musical collaboration with Miss Turba). My work can have been seen/heard at Dixon Place, Little Theater, P.S. 122,The Brick Theater, the 13th Street Theater (home of Classic Stage Company), Galápagos, CAle GAtes, et al., and Playwrights Horizons. My work has been funded by the Peg Santvoord Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, NYSCA, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Cultural Exchange Program.

I have been published by the Brooklyn Review, Midway Journal, 53rd State Press, I-THEATRON.net, Guerilla Filmmaker magazine and MIT Press/Semiotext(e) Native Agents in association with the Bernadette Corporation.

I am a three-time recipient of the Mondo Cane! Commission (2002, 2007, 2008), a 2007 Writer-in-Residence at the Espy Foundation, a 2005 Nominee for the Arnold L. Weissberger Playwriting Award, and a finalist for the 2006 Bay Area Playwrights Festival. In 2002 I received the Fistful of Teenies Award at Little Theater for Spargel Time! and was nominated for a DNA Project Grant by the Arts International Organization. At Brooklyn College I received the Himan Brown Scholarship for Excellence in Creative Writing in 2006, along with the Pizer Graduate Colloquium Prize, the Rose Goldstein Memorial Scholarship, the Louis B. Goodman Award for Creative Writing, and the English Department Scholarship for Excellence in Creative Writing.

As a performer I have collaborated with Elevator Repair Service, Richard Maxwell and the NYC Players, Karinne Keithley, Jim Strahs, Marc Spitz, Karen Hartman, Reena Spaulings and many others. NY venues include The Kitchen, the Ontological-Hysteric, P.S. 122, BAM Café, New Dramatists, the Tenement Museum, and the Whitney Museum. European venues include the Barbican Centre in London, Hebbel Theater in Berlin, Kulturhuset in Stockholm, the ill-fated but legendary Sofiensale in Vienna, the Kaaitheater in Brussels, Theater Bonn, the Steirischer Herbst Festival in Graz, Austria, Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff, the HLND Festival in Amsterdam, and the Maisons des Arts in Creteil and Mauberge, France.

Currently I am translating Knut Hamsun,s 1895 play,Ved Rigets Port: Forspil (At the Kingdom,s Gate) from Danish-occupied Norwegian, and adapting The Wild Duck by Henrik Ibsen as commissioned by Soho Rep. I am a founding member of The Joyce Cho Initiative, a text-based performance collective which presented its debut production of Amber Reed,s The Grand Kindness at the Prelude ,06 Festival at the CUNY Graduate Center. I am also a founding member of the Machiqq Women's Auxiliary Playwriting Group, based in Brooklyn, NY.

I teach playwriting at Bloomfield College in New Jersey, and Literature at Brooklyn College. I also teach ESL and GED-prep courses to adults for the Fifth Avenue Committee in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn.

I hold an MFA in playwriting at Brooklyn College under the instigation/instruction of Mac Wellman. My studies focused on Scandinavian drama, semiology & structuralism, and the role of architecture and the unreal in dramatic text and performance theory. I also hold a BA in Drama from Bennington College, 1995.

Melissa Ross-

Melissa's New York acting credits include Our Lady of 121st Street (wr. Stephen Adly Guirgis, dir. Philip Seymour Hoffman) A Winter Party (wr. John Patrick Shanley, dir. John Gould Rubin), and the revival of Keith Reddin's Brutality of Fact at Urban Stages. She has participated in developmental readings and workshops of original plays by Frank Basloe, Robin Goldwasser, Stephen Adly Guirgis, Anne Marie Healey, David Bar Katz, Charles Mee, Julie Marie Myatt, Adam Rapp and Jose Rivera. Her play Crazy Little Thing was presented as a part of LAByrinth Theater Company's first Live Nude Plays Festival at The Public and received a subsequent production at Center Stage, NY. Other writing credits include Sketched Out (Rebel Verses) Caught In Headlights, For Dear Life (LAByrinth's Summer Intensives) and her solo show Eat Your Heart Out (LAByrinth's Barn Series). She is currently developing her new play, Thinner Than Water with The 24Seven Lab. Melissa is a proud member of LAByrinth Theater Company.

Matthew Swan-

Matthew Swan is a graduate of the Juilliard Playwright's Program under Christopher Durang and Marsha Norman. His movie, "Ball in the House" (a.k.a. "Relative Evil"), starring David Strathairn, Jennifer Tilly and Jonathan Tucker, premiered at Toronto, won best picture at the D.C. film festival, and Ms. Tilly won best actress, at the 2005 DVDX awards. His film "Mr. Smith Gets a Hustler" starring Larry Pine, and Anna Thompson, is based on his play of the same name. He served as a contract writer for FOX 2000, and adapted the book, "The Grounding of Group Six" for Wendy Finerman Productions. NYC Theater productions include: "Ball in the House" at the Vivian Beaumont Theater in Lincoln Center; "Mr. Smith Gets a Hustler", at New York Performance Works; "The Soft Sell", at the Samuel Beckett/Playwright's Horizons, and Dance Theater Workshop; "This Property is Bauhaus!" at Little Theater; and "Rx", at the 2002 Fringe Festival, for which he won Best Actor.

Project guided by:

Dina Janis

Stage Managers:

Scout Perry and Jared Goza

Scenery Advisor:

Carly Whitaker

Special Thanks to Terry Teitelbaum, Mike Rancourt, Michael Gianitti Robert Post and Madeliene Best.