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15-16 EDGEWORKS Dance Theater
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29 Brookland Family Day / Dance Place Open House

OCTOBER
6-7 Nathan Andary & Tzveta Kassabova
13-14 Eric Hampton...With Us, Again
20 Dance Place’s Fall Gala
27 Da Originalz

NOVEMBER
2-3 SpeakeasyDC’s Story Showdown
10-11 DancEthos
17-18 Vincent E. Thomas/VTDance

DECEMBER
1-2 16th Annual Youth Festival
9-10 Human Landscape Dance & Code f.a.d.
12 Fieldwork for Mixed Disciplines Fall Showing
14-16 Kwanzaa Celebration

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3225 8th St NE
Washington, DC 20017
2 blocks from Brookland/CUA Metro

AND GOD CREATED GREAT WHALES
Rinde Eckert

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 . 8PM
Thursday, October 18, 2012 . 8PM
Friday, October 19, 2012 . 8PM
Robert & Arlene Kogod Theatre
About the Artists

Rinde Eckert (Composer, Writer, Sound Designer, Nathan) and his work have been produced Off-Broadway and at major venues and festivals throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. Off-Broadway: Orpheus X (Theatre for a New Audience), Horizon (New York Theatre Workshop – Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk nominations, co-commissioned by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center), And God Created Great Whales (The Foundry Theatre – Obie Award for Best Performance, Drama Desk nomination for Unique Theatrical Experience), An Idiot Divine (The Culture Project), Romeo Sienna Tango (New York Shakespeare Festival). Regional theatre: Highway Ulysses (Eliot Norton Award) and Orpheus X (2007 Finalist for Pulitzer Prize in Drama – both American Repertory Theatre commissions), Ravenshead (Berkeley Repertory Theatre), Touring: Horizon, An Idiot Divine, The Gardening of Thomas D. Collaborations: Slow Fire, Pioneer, Power Failure, Sound Stage (Paul Dresher, Music), Slide (co-commissioned by the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center), Ravenshead, Dream House (Steve Mackey, Music), Sandhills Reunion (Jerry Granelli, Music), Woman, Window, Square (The Margaret Jenkins Dance Company – Isadora Duncan Award). Radio Shows: Shoot The Moving Thing and Four Songs Lost in a Wall. The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has named Rinde Eckert as one of 21 inaugural Doris Duke Artists. He has also been honored to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship, the American Academy of Arts and Letters’ Marc Blitzstein Award and the Alpert Award in the Arts for Theatre.

Nora Cole (Olivia) also originated the role of The Bride in Rinde Eckert’s Highway Ulysses at A.R.T. Outstanding credits include work with George C. Wolfe in Caroline, or Change (Royal National Theatre), Jelly’s Last Jam (opposite Gregory Hines/National Tour opposite Maurice Hines) and On the Town. Regional Theatre: Fences (GEVA), Draudt (Milwaukee Rep), Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well (Santa Fe Stages – David Schweizer, Dir.), The Colored Museum (Hartford Stage), The Good Times Are Killing Me (Second Stage), Joe Turner’s Come and Gone (Studio Arena), Avenue X and Coretta Scott King in I Have a Dream. Solo shows: Voices of the Spirits in My Soul and Olivia’s Opus, a multimedia ode to adolescence. For 15-plus years a company member of Vinnnette Carroll’s Urban Arts Corp (NYC) and repertory company (Ft. Lauderdale). Outstanding performances included Medea (title role), Your Arm’s Too Short to Box with God (Singing Mary – Broadway, National and European productions) and When Hell Freezes Over I’ll Skate (Kennedy Center). Cole is an adjunct director and acting coach at Eastern Connecticut State University, and a graduate of the Goodman School of Drama at the Art Institute of Chicago. She has received the Women in Music Award from Actors Theatre of Louisville, a Spencer Chershore Fund Individual Artist Grant and is an alumna of the Hedgebrook Women Writers Retreat.

Program

And God Created Great Whales

Created, Composed, Written by Rinde Eckert
Directed by David Schweizer
Performed by Rinde Eckert & Nora Cole

Temishia Johnson, Lighting Designer
(Original designs by Kevin Adams)
Clint Ramos, Costume Designer
Scott Pegg, Production Stage Manager

Approximate running time: 80 minutes with no intermission

There will be a Talk Back with the audience after the October 17 and October 18 performances.
PRODUCTION HISTORY

In 1997, The Foundry Theatre in New York City commissioned Rinde Eckert to create a musical interpretation of Moby Dick. The work, And God Created Great Whales, was workshopped and then presented at PS 122 as a work-in-development in January 2000, receiving its world premiere in June 2000 at Dance Theatre Workshop as a Foundry Theatre production. Critical and audience response was extraordinary, including an Obie Award and a Drama Desk nomination. The show was remounted in July 2000 at the 45 Bleecker Street Theatre, with a third New York run, again at 45 Bleecker Street, from November 2001 to January 2002, co-produced with the Culture Project. The Foundry Theatre toured And God Created Great Whales to MassMoCa (North Adams, MA), the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art in Oregon, Baltimore's Center Stage, the Mondavi Center at UC Davis in California, at London's Barbican Center and The Bonn Biennale in Germany.

In September 2009, again under the direction of David Schweizer and performed by Nora Cole and Rinde Eckert, the production had a new workshop at the University of Southern California to explore a streamlined technical scheme. The production was mounted in this new version in December 2011 and ran for four, invitation-only performances at the Beckett Theatre in New York. This was immediately followed by a weeklong run at REDCAT's Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater in Los Angeles during January, and a seven-week run produced by The Culture Project in New York in February/March.

A special thank you to Melanie Joseph, Artistic Producer of the Foundry Theatre, for her crucial and continuing support; to Elisha and Lynn Wiesel for their generous and unexpected contributions; and to Allan Buchman for never losing faith in the artist.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

David Schweizer (Director) has directed And God Created Great Whales in all of its incarnations since its premiere with the Foundry Theatre. His collaboration with Rinde Eckert also includes the award-winning production of Horizon off-Broadway (New York Theater Workshop) and on tour. He has been directing new theater, performance and opera work for nearly 40 years both nationally and internationally, from his New York debut with Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida to Richard Rodney Bennett's opera The Mines of Sulphur (New York City Opera), both at Lincoln Center. His work with experimental theater companies includes Theatre X (A History of Sexuality), Mabou Mines (Greg Mehren's It's a Man's World) and his own Modern Artists Company (Plate's Symposium). He has directed work for solo theater artists Mike Albo, Sandra Tsing Loh, Marga Gomez, John Fleck, Marc Wolf and Ann Magnuson; world-premiere stagings for playwrights Charles Mee Jr., Michael Weller, Melanie Marnich, Austin Pendleton, Marlane Meyer, Sam Shepard, Albert Innaurato, Len Jenkin, Michael Sargent, Han Ong, Ronald Tavel, William Hamilton and many others. He recently staged his own adaptation of Ibsen's Peer Gynt at Kansas City Rep and La Jolla Playhouse, Sheridan's The Rivals at CENTERSTAGE in Baltimore, Verdi's Macbeth at Boston Lyric Opera and the world premiere of Tennessee Williams's last full-length play, In Masks Outrageous and Austere at The Culture Project.

Scott Pegg (Production Stage Manager) Broadway: The Producers; Kiss Me, Kate; Present Laughter; the first National Tour of Mel Brooks's Young Frankenstein. Off-Broadway: The Judy Show: My Life as a Sitcom (DR2), Venusitie, A New Musical (Second Stage), Secrets of a Soccer Mum, Fuge, Los Big Names, If This Hat Could Talk (Apollo Theater), White Chocolate, Robby Benson's Open Heart, The Foundry Theatre's Obie Award-winning And God Created Great Whales, La Terrius (directed by Mike Eckrent at Manhattan Theatre Club), In Masks Outrageous and Austere (Culture Project). Regional: Kristen Chenoweth's Let Yourself Go! for the Lincoln Center American Songbook series, Santa Fe Stages, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company.

Temishia Johnson (Lighting Technician) is a 2006 graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She currently works with William H. Grant III as his Associate Lighting Designer and assisted Grant on the Broadway revival of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Off-Broadway credits include: the premiere of Evy Wright's 3 Girls on Flatbush (Richmond Shepard Theatre), Theresa Rebeck's Mauritius (Urban Stages), Torrey Townsend's Brief Hours and Weeks (Gene Frankel Theatre), and Tut at the 2011 New York Musical Festival. Johnson's first encounter with And God Created Great Whales was in December 2011 as a board operator/programmer at the Beckett Theatre.

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