

AUSTIN MIME THEATRE PRESENTS



THIS UH... BODY

A SURREAL DARK COMEDY

WRITTEN & DIRECTED
BY MICHAEL LEE



WE SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY...

BUT WHO DON'T WE SEE?

ABOUT TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

LIFE A physically poetic look at various life forms. Created and performed by Michael Lee, Music by Benoit Jutras.

SCULPTOR'S LOVE Based on the Greek myth of Pygmalion, an artist creates the perfect model. Written by Michael Lee, performed by Kyle Connealy and Amelia Turner. Music by Keith Jarrett.

MASKS A circus clown deals with a serious make-up problem. Created and performed by Michael Lee. Music by Scott Joplin.

REMEMBRANCE An old man takes his daily walk, finding a lost memory along the way. Created and performed by Michael Lee. Music by Leona Boyd.

WINDOW DRESSING A fashionista must have her way! Concept by Michael Lee, created by the company. Music by John Leach and George Fenton.

INTERMISSION

THIS UH...BODY When a body suddenly appears on a busy street, there are many ways to respond or not. What's the story? Is it dead or alive? What can I get from it? What body? Originally created in 1992 by Michael Lee, Nancy Lyon, Dennis Schaller and Rebecca Surmont. Adapted and directed by Michael Lee. Music composed by Bradley Murphy.

SCENES: Daily Routine
Body Slam
Morning in Suburbia
Night on the Street
Day is Done

THIS UH...BODY CAST:

Dressers: Melissa Trevino, Melissa Vogt-Patterson, Kyle Connealy, Anna Marcella McConnell, Lucas Reilly

Reporter: Kyle Connealy

Cop: Joanna Wright

Thief: Becky Karpovsky

Body: Michael Lee

Wife: Melissa Vogt-Patterson

Husband: Greg Cote

Li'l Boy: Melissa Trevino

Li'l Girl: Amelia Turner

Doctor: Greg Cote

Beggar: Lucas Reilly

Bag Lady: Amelia Turner

Alley Cats: Anna McConnell, Amelia Turner, Melissa Vogt-Patterson

Waiter: Lucas Reilly

STAFF

Artistic Director

Michael Lee

Production Manager

Amelia Turner

Lighting Design

Steven Shirey

Graphic Design and PR

Shannon Grounds

Light and Sound Operator

Ali Sanders

CAST AND CREW BIOS

MICHAEL LEE (Artistic Director). His ever-expanding work ranges from solo family shows to full-length mime dramas and theatrical circus. Michael travels North America performing and teaching at state and regional festivals, theatres, schools and colleges. He has directed *The Hobbit*, *Our Town*, *Agamemnon*, *Trojan Women*, *A Comedy of Errors* and numerous industrial shows. He currently

coaches world champion ice dancers Scott Moir & Tessa Virtue and Meryl Davis & Charlie White (gold and silver medalists, respectively, Vancouver Olympics).

Michael is one of the last and most advanced students of the late French mime Marcel Marceau, beginning in 1987, working with him nine different sessions, assisting Mr. Marceau for his last U.S. seminar in 2001. Mr. Marceau critiqued many of Michael's pieces, saying, "You have a distinct drama and strength...the caliber of my own company."

Michael studied under renowned Polish mime Stefan Niedzialkowski and several other mime masters, including Gregg Goldston and Nick Johnson; ballet, acting, gymnastics, contact improv, clowning, juggling, fire breathing, poi, yoga, make-up and oral interpretation with teachers from around the world. He is a graduate of the Spacial Dynamics Institute in New York, and attended the International School for Theatre Anthropology in Denmark.

AMELIA TURNER (Principal) is a theater practitioner in Austin, TX and the Artistic Director of Biophilic Productions. She earned her BA in Theater from the College of Santa Fe, and professional makeup certification from Makeup First in Chicago. She has worked professionally in film and theater since she was a child, and is thrilled to be a part AMT! Her most recent creative endeavors include This is A Love Story, a feature film set for release in 2012; "Edda" in Lear at the Vortex Rep Theatre, makeup design for Milk Milk Lemonade with Shrewd's Austin, "Dragon Girl" in Shrewd's Austin's premiere of The Dragon Play, and this past October saw her company's first original rock opera, Eye Inside: The Rock-n-Roll Allegory of Vance Barrett come to life at Chicago's Viaduct Theater. She is grateful to Michael for the opportunity to express and explore her creative self in controlled, poetic silence.

KYLE CONNEALLY (Principal) began working with Michael in 2008 at Round Rock High School. Kyle has acted in duet & ensemble pieces as well as the original production of This, Uh, Body, receiving acclaim at the International Thespian Festival. Kyle is pursuing a BA in Acting and English at the University of Texas and looking forward to continuing his work with AMT as well as pursuing possibilities in education and ministry.

MELISSA TREVINO-PARGA (Principal) was born in Monterrey, Mexico; with a degree in stage drama by the University of Kent (Madrid, Spain). Specialized in Mime, Gesture Theatre and Clown with Jose Piris, Marcel Marceau's direct disciple. She is also Co-founder of the "School of Gesture Theatre Nouveau Colombier. Now enjoying Austin and working on her passion!

LUCAS BELLY (Principal) is a senior at Round Rock HS, and has trained under Michael Lee for 3 years. He first stepped into a theatre at the age of 9 at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, and has loved the art form ever since. He avidly participates in his high school theatre department and hopes to start pursuing a B.F.A. in acting next fall.

GREG COTE (Cast) is elated to be making his Austin theatrical debut with AMT. He earned his BFA from the University of Houston School of Theatre and Dance. Some favorite rolls include Bob The Pizza Boy in bobrauschenbergeramerica, Eddie/Dr.Scott in The Rocky Horror Show, Baptista in Taming of The Shrew, 2nd Murderer in Richard III, The Old Man in Fool For Love, Paroles in Alls Well That Ends Well, Ezra Chater in Arcadia, Edwin in Our Lady of 121st Street, and Horatio in Hamlet. Greg is also an active musician, you can hear his music at gregcotemusic.bandcamp.com and grizzlyandfox.bandcamp.com. He would like to thank his family and girlfriend for their continued support and love. Greg would also like

to thank God for all of the above.

ANNA MARCELLA MCCONNELL (Cast) was last seen in Rubber Repertory's "Jubilee". She is excited to be joining Austin Mime Theatre for this production and plans to continue her training in physical theatre.

REBECCA KARPOVSKY (Cast) uh, began her BIG career as an actrIZ in Boston, screaming at the top of her lungs for her Russian family to sit and watch her gaudy drag shows. Now a mime, actor and performance artist, Rebecca finished her studies and hauled her tuchas out to ATX to pursue her passions in character based work and continue her collaboration with the Lipschtick Collective. She's plotzin' over this production with Austin Mime Theatre!

BRADLEY MURPHY (Composer) is a member of the band Ode to Oscillator, a composer, and a sound mixer in the Austin film industry.

STEVEN SHIBEY ((Lighting Designer) has been designing lights in Austin since 2007. Recent designs include Jubilee, The Schooling of Bento Bonchev, Ghosts, True West, Uncle Vanya, The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged), You Are Invited, and Flying. Steven has an MFA in Lighting Design from the University of South Carolina and was the Technical Director for the Stephen F. Austin State University School of Theatre from 2001 - 2007.

MELISSA VOGT-PATTERSON (Cast) received her BFA in Acting from Texas State University San Marcos in 2003, and has been working as an actress, mask-maker, and playwright. She recently moved back to Austin from New York City and is excited to return to her theatrical motherland! Local credits include Wake for the Dark Poet (B. Iden Award winner Outstanding Ensemble Performance), hOle, Vampyress (B. Iden Payne Award winner for Best Actress in a

Musical), Midsummer in Motion, and more. Regional: Globeworks (North Carolina Shakespeare Festival). National: Encore! (Chamber Theatre Productions), Eureka! (Chamber Theatre Productions). New York: CSI Verona (Misfit Toys Rep.), Almost Olive Juice (ArtEffects Theater Co.), A Commedia of Errors (One Shot Productions).
melissavogtpatterson-actress.com

JOHANNA WRIGHT (Cast) is thrilled to be working with AMT in "This, Uh... Body"! She has an MFA in Lecoq-based actor created theater from the London International School of Performing Arts in association with Naropa University, as well as a BA in Dance and Theater from Swarthmore College, where she trained in Lecoq technique with members of Philadelphia's Pig Iron Theater Company. She also trained in pantomime in Kolkata, India with celebrated Indian mime Jogesh Dutta. Joanna is a member of Sky Candy, East Austin's aerial arts collective, and when she's not performing or teaching clown, aerial performance or aerial arts, she performs with various companies as an aerialist, actor, dancer, clown, and, of course, mime!

ABOUT AUSTIN MIME THEATRE

The company is the brain child of Michael Lee, who comes to Austin several times a year to teach and direct this new company. Based in Michigan, where Opus Mime has been his production company for the past 20 years, Michael fell in love with Austin many years ago after first teaching and performing mime for Johanna Whitmore's theatre classes at Round Rock High School. Other high schools and middle schools got wind of it, and he found himself very busy in Austin! Along the way he struck up a conversation with Babs George at the State Theatre School of Acting, and began offering workshops. There he met many local actors interested in learning

the art. Two in particular, Amelia Turner and Kyle Connealy, stood out, and when he decided to start a professional company, he saw they possessed the talent, skill and desire to go further. Austin Mime Theatre was born.

“This Uh...Body’ is one of many full-length mime dramas Michael Lee has developed over the last 25 years. Originally created with fellow mime artists Nancy Lyon, Dennis Schaller and Rebecca Surmont in 1992, it grew to it’s present length and won the 2010 Texas Thespian Festival One-Act Play competition, qualifying for the National Thespian Festival, where it received a standing ovation from a stunned audience.

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www.austinmimetheatre.com

