

# THE JUNGLE

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The Trouble Puppet Theater Company's production of *The Jungle* grew out of a short piece, *WORK*, which Trouble Puppet's artistic director, Connor Hopkins, developed at the 2007 Eugene O'Neill Puppetry Conference and which Trouble Puppet has performed at Salvage Vanguard Theater. Hopkins was invited to the 2009 O'Neill Conference as an Emerging Artist to workshop *The Jungle*, and the Jim Henson Foundation awarded Trouble Puppet a grant to develop the project further.

Hopkins adapted *The Jungle* from Upton Sinclair's 1906 muckraking novel about immigrant laborers in Chicago. The novel's portrayal of the unsanitary and inhumane practices of the meat-packing industry, as well as the brutality of working conditions in turn-of-the-century America, shocked the nation.

The story: Jurgis Rudkos arrives in America in 1886 ready to work to give his family a good life. He finds work in a grim underworld; there in the slaughterhouses, he sees the machinery of the meat-packing industry consume workers and families as it does cattle. His family live their lives to the rhythm of work—their weddings, births, and deaths never interrupting the grind and churn of the machines, animals, and workers in the packing plants. Jurgis and his family struggle to maintain their humanity and survive in an urban jungle, where the law is not justice but the law of competition and strife.

The concerns of Sinclair's *Jungle* remain timely and compelling today; a century after the novel was published, America is still struggling with issues of food quality, industrialized farming and slaughter, immigration and labor, and social justice.

Thanks to the Jim Henson Foundation and a small host of volunteers and donors, Trouble Puppet has been able to devote much time and attention to designing and building puppets as well as training puppeteers in Trouble Puppet's performance technique, which is inspired by the Japanese Bunraku style.

The Trouble Puppet Theater Company is already making plans to mount for a larger audience a bigger and even better *Jungle* in 2010. Please contact [Jeanine@troublepuppet.com](mailto:Jeanine@troublepuppet.com) if you would like to be involved.

## PUPPETEERS

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**Rachel Marstolf:** Rachel Marstolf moved to Austin from New York almost exactly one year ago just in time to perform in Trouble Puppet's version of *Frankenstein*. Since then she's been seen in *Warpstar Sexysquad* (Phyllis), *Oceana* (Mermaid) and directed *The Flight of the Condors* (created in Ecuador, produced in New York). Rachel also enjoys being a dancer and working on camera. She has studied at Atlantic Acting School, The Academia dell'Arte (In Italy!), several lovely dance studios and at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN where she earned a degree in Theatre Performance and Religious Studies. Rachel is currently co-creating a brand new cross-cultural theatre company, The Exchange Artists. More adventures coming soon...

**Brandon Polanco:** Brandon Polanco is a born and raised Austinite and is extremely happy to be joining Trouble Puppet for his first show with the company. He received a Bachelors of Fine Arts in performance from Stephen F. Austin State University. He has just returned from a year in Europe where he studied European Theatre Performance and direction at Rose Bruford College in Sidcup, London. As well as studying Theatrical Gesture performance in Madrid, Spain at (Real Escuela Superior Arte de Dramatico). Just recently returning to Austin, Brandon is very pleased to have joined the cast of "The Jungle"; and have a chance to push his craft in his first puppet performance.

**Zeb West:** Zeb L. West, while proud to be performing with Trouble Puppet, is in the witness protection program and is therefore unable to reveal any details about his past or whereabouts. He has a BA in Sociology from the University of Hard Knocks in Eastern New Jersey.

**Abbey Windham:** This is Abbey's forth production with Trouble Puppet. In the past, she has played, Marie Antoinette, a head in a jar, a naked woman with a half shaved head, a watch dog made of an alarm clock, and a cow. Puppetry has been a long-time love of hers. And she can often be seen, late at night, making her puppets recite sonnets or lip sync to popular songs. She has dreams of becoming a published author and one day finding a box of money.

# VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Trouble Puppet would like to thank the following for their help, dedication and support. Without you, this production would not have been possible!

Aileen Adler	Kate Katz
Austin Scenic Co-op	Ben Mettin
Ballet Austin	Griffon Ramsey
Ron Binion	Jeff Ramsey
Billie Buddenhagen	Millie Ramsey
Devo & Chris Carpenter	Kathryn Rogers
Amy Carr	Michael Rogers
Celeste Caswell	Ben Rogers
Heather Eakin	Hank Schwimmer
Erin Echols	Kim Soriano
Jeremy Hollingsworth	Robert Smythe
Phil Hopkins	Fred Thompson
Rocky Hopson	Salvage Vanguard Theatre
Rob Jacques	
Lauren Johns	

This project was funded in part by The Jim Henson Foundation



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# PRODUCTION TEAM

Writer/ Director: Connor Hopkins  
Set/ Puppet Design: Connor Hopkins  
Lighting Designer: Stephen Pruitt  
Sound Designer: Eliot Haynes  
Costume Designer: Jessica Gilzow  
Projected Imagery provided by Lettuce Turnip & Leah Sharpe  
Production Stage Manager: Jeanine Lisa  
Assistant Stage Manager/ Board Operator: Kathryn Rogers

Proscenium Design by Lisa Larratta

Original music composed and recorded by Justin Sherburn.  
Traditional Eastern European songs arranged and recorded by  
Justin Sherburn

## Musicians

Justin Sherburn - guitar, accordion, percussion, hammer dulcimer, piano  
Steve Bernal - cello  
Joseph Shuffield - violin  
Jennifer Bourianoff - violin  
Joseph Smith - violin  
Robb Kidd - drums  
Lauren Gurgiolo - guitar  
Lindsay Greene - bass  
Jon Doyle - clarinet  
Travis Nelson - drums  
Scott Brackett - marching drum  
Brandon Brown - trumpet, trombone  
Michael Crow - trombone  
David McKnight - saxophone  
Will Landin - tuba  
Gilbert Elorreaga - trumpet

# PUPPETEERS

**Zac Crofford:** Zac moved to Austin in 2002 after wrestling a theater degree from Case Western Reserve University in the icy northern wastes of Cleveland, Ohio. He has worked with a number of excellent groups, including the Great Lakes Theater Festival, Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Tulsa Theatre Company. Since coming to Austin, he has had the pleasure of working with the Vortex, Iron Belly Muses, the Coda Theatre Project and Aggressive Muse Productions, among many others. When not acting on stage, he also finds time to make flicks with his friends about kungfu-wielding hillbillies and werewolves and things. Really, his basic plan is to have fun while getting to play with a bunch of cool kids.

**Parker Dority:** Parker Dority likes getting into trouble, especially puppet trouble!

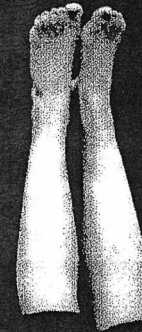
**Heather Ann Eakin:** Heather is from Florida and enjoys calling Austin one of her homes. She likes it when a good plan comes together.

**Marisa Gruneberg:** Marisa Gruneberg is a NYC-based choreographer spending a summer with her fiancé here in Austin. Her work with white road Dance Media has been presented and produced in NYC for the past six years, notably by the Joyce SoHo, DNA and Mulberry St Theatre; her seventh evening length work, "Deer, To Me" will be produced by Triskelion Arts next March. As a performer, Marisa has worked with Boston's hoi polloi, NYC's Stephen Koplowitz, and Brooklyn's hometown circus, Cirque This!. She's excited to be onstage with Trouble Puppet and to have her first go with puppets that are not made out of socks. [www.whiteroadandancemediacom](http://www.whiteroadandancemediacom)

**Nathaniel Lahay:** Nathan is a recent graduate from San Houston State University and is very excited to be working with Trouble Puppet. His previous endeavors have included traveling the Yellow Brick Road in The Wizard of Oz, fighting against the Nazi regime in The White Rose, creating artificial intelligence in Robert Songs, and battling for independence in 1776. He would like to thank Elyce, his parents, and his professors for their unwavering support in his pursuit to do what he loves.

# DA!

THEATRE COLLECTIVE



DA! Theatre Collective  
is honored to share the space  
at Salvage Vanguard  
with Trouble Puppet  
as they debut *The Jungle* --  
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[datheatcollective.org](http://datheatcollective.org)

Bring in your program to receive \$2 off  
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Trouble Puppet Presents

# THE JUNGLE

a work of puppetry theatre  
based on the book by Upton Sinclair

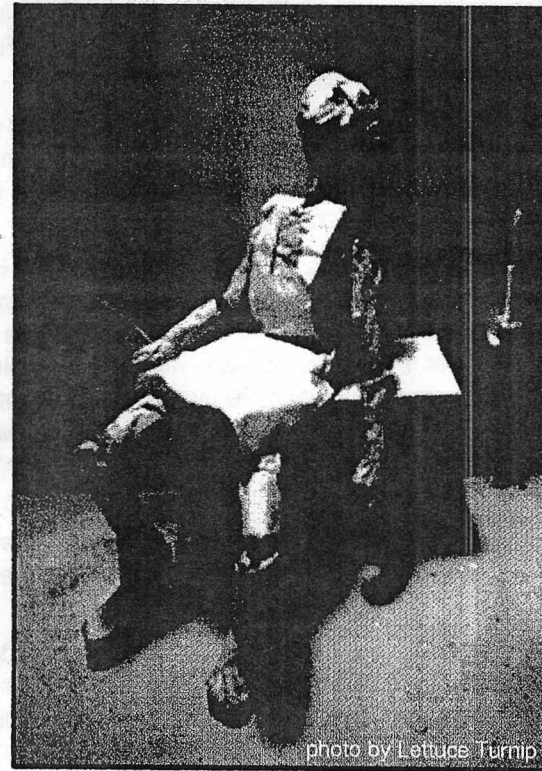


photo by Lettuce Turnip

Conceived, Directed and Designed by Connor Hopkins

**TROUBLE PUPPET**

Get Yourself Into Trouble!

[www.troublepuppet.com](http://www.troublepuppet.com)

[info@troublepuppet.com](mailto:info@troublepuppet.com)