

Em Glasspool (director, performer, lighting op) is the Artistic Director of Mysterious Entity Theatre, and has been creating, directing and producing work with M.E. for over 15 years. Em has also acted in and directed countless independent works. This, however, is their debut performance on cajon.

Brad Brackenridge (performer) has been a performer and designer in theatre and film for over 25 years. Brad is also the creator of The Nervous System, a puppet-based theatre co. that has two shows on the horizon: *Vertep* in Public Energy's Emergency Festival... and *Komachi on the Shrine* in April, here at The Theatre on King.

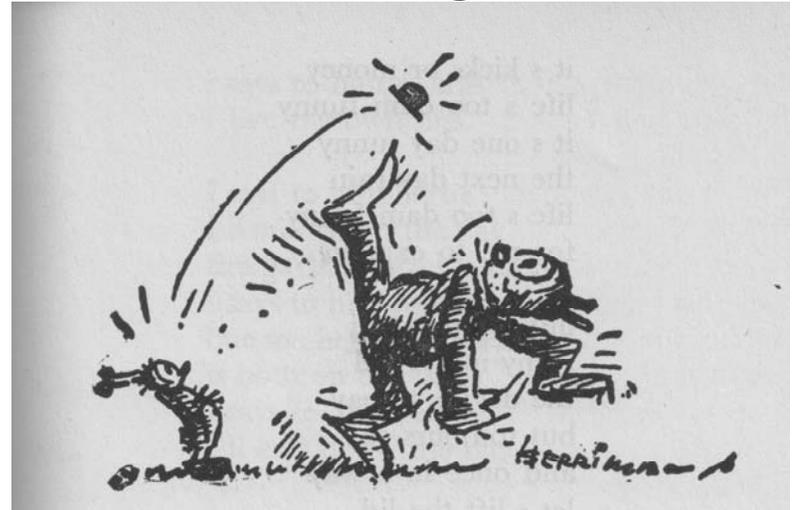
Ryan Kerr (performer, lighting designer) is the artistic director of Fleshy Thud and The Theatre on King. He has been creating and performing in Peterborough since '92.

Susan Newman (performer) is thrilled to work with this great creative team. Other recent projects include writing the songs with Rob Fortin for Beau Dixon's "Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story" and composing "A Sea Change Suite", six choral pieces based on text from "The Tempest" for Public Energy's Erring On the Mount Festival. Susan and Rob are currently collaborating with Beau Dixon on a new musical "Freedom of Flight". She is the director of the Convivio Chorus, and a member of the folk band Carried Away and the jazz trio Chester Babcock.

Special Thanks: Bill Kimball, Jill Staveley, Jen Devlin, the Garnet gang, Annie Jaeger, Janette Platana, Joe Davies, The Theatre on King, Jeff Culbert, Martha Cockshutt. And to our lovely funders: the Ontario Arts Council Theatre Projects Program, Theatre Trent, and Public Energy. This show wouldn't exist without them.



damned be this transmigration



January 29-February 1, 2015

at



The Theatre on King

Writer's Note: This play is based on the writings and life of writer Don Marquis. He wrote newspaper columns, novels, screenplays, and countless short pieces; one of his plays was a Broadway hit in 1922. But these days, he is

perhaps best-known for a newspaper column that first appeared in the New York Sun in 1916, featuring Archy the cockroach and Mehitabel, a morally-careless alley cat. Marquis was friends with writers such as E. B. White, and knew James Thurber and Dorothy Parker; his New York was arguably a New York on the cusp of its literary zenith. Harper's Magazine described Marquis's work as "... a jagged and vertiginous imagination shoot[ing] through the air like a sky-rocket, giving off odd-shaped and slightly drunken stars of gold... A clear, disturbing music comes through... or a glimpse of beauty from the murky fire-opal that was Marquis's mind."

When I was too young, I stole my mother's the lives and times of archy and mehitabel and I've loved the characters ever since. Marquis's life, the genial shouts for which he was so famous and beloved, as well as the unbearable tragedies he experienced in his lifetime, are the subject of this piece as much as the charming characters he created. This piece wouldn't work if it weren't for the extraordinary efforts of the creative team; from me to them, a profound thanks. I hope you enjoy our performance, and come to love Marquis's writing (if you don't already) as much I always have. Thank you for coming.
Kate Story

From the Director: I love theatre. And I am so grateful to be working on this particular piece, the kind of theatre I REALLY love: original work, fully incorporating live music and movement - (without being a musical). Then there is the addition of Kate Story's brain, so there is bound to be magic! What a wonderful, magical world, when your leading man is a cockroach, and the afterlife is a bar where the band is always playing your favourite song.... What a treat to help bring this world to life, working with Kate's compelling, lively choreography, and Rob's gorgeous soulful original compositions. Thanks to Kate, Ryan, Brad, Rob and Sue. And, lest I forget, thanks to Don Marquis for that dark dark humour I so love and relate to. Yes Don, I too am a pessimistic guy. Finally - thanks to all of you for coming out to experience the magic of live theatre. I hope you enjoy the show!

Em Glasspool

Cast:

Brad Brackenridge: Don Marquis, and various Marquis characters
Ryan Kerr: Archy the Cockroach, Morley (a friend), Munsey (newspaper owner and critic), young Robert (Marquis's son)
Kate Story: Mehitabel the Alley Cat, Reina (Marquis's first wife), Marjorie (Marquis's second wife), Barbara (Marquis's daughter), Minerva (Marquis's sister), and assorted dubious characters
Rob Fortin, Sue Newman, and Em Glasspool: denizens of the Mermaid Tavern; bons vivants

Bios:

Kate Story (creator, choreographer, designer) is a performer and writer. Her novels *Blasted* and *Wrecked Upon This Shore* have been published by Killeck Press; most recently she had a short piece published in the SF collection *Carbide Tipped Pens* (Tor; available from Amazon; Kirkus Reviews called the story "a hit!"). She has created and collaborated on many performance pieces; check out her website www.katestory.com.

Most of **Rob Fortin's** (composer, performer) recent projects have seen him writing song lyrics for plays. He has enjoyed wearing the composer's hat for this project. Look for him this summer at 4th Line Theatre where he will be playing surfer guitar and portraying the manager of the Havelock Toronto Dominion Bank circa 1960.

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