



The Power of Performance **Public Energy**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 17, 2017

**COCKROACH AND CAT ROUTINE BRING WIT AND METAPHYSICAL MAGIC TO
IMAGINATIVE STAGE PRODUCTION *damned be this transmigration*
March 3rd and 4th at 8pm | March 3rd at 12:30pm
Market Hall Performing Arts Centre**

(Peterborough, ON) – A poetic cockroach and an unscrupulous alley cat star in the **world premiere** of ***damned be this transmigration***, a dancing, singing roller coaster ride of a play written by award-winning local playwright Kate Story and directed by Randy Read of New Stages Theatre. The play opens on **Friday, March 3rd at Market Hall Performing Arts Centre at 12:30pm and runs to Saturday, March 4th.**

Based on the life of New York journalist, Don Marquis, the play features text and a cast of beloved characters that entertained and educated readers in various publications from 1916 to 1936. Archy, a fictional cockroach that is the reincarnation of a free verse poet, creates verse that is a type of social satire – relevant to this day – through which we get a glimpse into the raucous and often tragic life of Marquis himself, as well as the complex and difficult role the artist plays in society. “It’s really funny, and simultaneously full of longing,” says Story.

The play also features some of Peterborough’s favourite and most gifted performers and musicians: **Brad Brackenridge** plays Marquis, with **Ryan Kerr** as Archy the cockroach, and **Kate Story** as Mehitabel, Archy’s alley cat friend. Each in turn also plays other delightful characters of Marquis’ creation; the likes of Pete the Pup, Clarence the Ghost, and an egomaniacal toad named Warty Bliggins. **Rob Fortin** will perform the score comprised of his original music – part cabaret, part Tin Pan Alley – live on stage, backed by the musical talents of **Susan Newman**, **Bennett Bedoukian** and **Dan Fortin**. Rob Fortin and Susan Newman are Dora Award winners.

Premiering at the Market Hall, this full-length performance provides a brand new experience to those who saw it workshopped at The Theatre on King (direction by Em Glasspool) in 2015. Audience members can partake of a drink onstage at The Mermaid Tavern, part of the expanded and inventive set created specifically for the Market Hall stage, and enjoy full cabaret-style dance routines, as well as additional musical compositions.

Over 100 Peterborough, Lindsay and Lakefield high school and intermediate students will be attending the Friday matinee and Story, Kerr, Fortin and Newman will be **delivering in-school songwriting and movement workshops** to these students in the week following the show.

email admin@publicenergy.ca mail PO Box 2319 Peterborough, ON Canada K9J 7Y8 web publicenergy.ca
phone (705) 745-1788 fax (705) 749-3606 office 140 Charlotte St. Floor 3, Peterborough, ON K9J 2T8

Board of Directors Barbara Chisholm Chair, Charmaine Eddy, Michael O’Farrell, Mark Seasons, Bill Kimball
Staff Bill Kimball Artistic Producer Susan Oliver General Manager
Susan Newman Bookkeeper Ryan Kerr Technical Director UNAVOX Video Services



The Power of Performance **Public Energy**

In conjunction with the play, contemporary choreographers and performers Kate Story and Ryan Kerr will lead a workshop, **Creating Movement from Text**, on Saturday, March 4th from 12:00-2:00pm at Market Hall. Participants will be led through exercises in creating original movement and choreography, study the relationship between words and movement, and will create and present short movement works during the course of the workshop. Open to participants of any age, (dis)ability, and all levels of movement or performance experience (from none to extensive!). Cost: \$15.00 or PWYC

Presented by Public Energy, *damned be this transmigration* runs March 3rd at 12:30pm and 8pm and March 4th at 8pm **at the Market Hall Performing Arts Centre**. Tickets are available at the Market Hall box office (140 Charlotte Street, 3rd Floor) and online at tickets.markethall.org Admission \$24 general / \$17 students, underwaged / \$8 high school students.

The audience is invited to stay for a **post-show Q&A** immediately following the March 3rd 12:30pm performance. A **reception to meet the artists** will follow the March 3rd 8pm show.

transmigration | ,tranz,mī'grāSHən,tran(t)s,mī'grāSHən |
noun.

1 (of the soul) pass into a different body after death.

Show Credits:

Director: Randy Read

Performers: Brad Brackenridge, Ryan Kerr, Kate Story

Music: by Rob Fortin with Susan Newman, Bennett Bedoukian and Dan Fortin

- 30 -

Photo Cutline: Brad Brackenridge (left) and Ryan Kerr in Kate Story's *damned be this transmigration*, premiering March 3 & 4 at Market Hall. (submitted photo.)

Media contact: Susan Oliver, General Manager, Public Energy

T: 705-745-1788 (Public Energy Office) E: publicenergymedia@gmail.com

Please visit the press page on our website (publicenergy.ca/press) for additional show information, press quality images, video trailer, logos and further information about our organization.

Public Energy is a presenter and animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance, and interdisciplinary work. Their work is dedicated to supporting the creation, touring, and presentation of innovative contemporary performance arts, and to developing audiences that are knowledgeable and passionate.

email admin@publicenergy.ca mail PO Box 2319 Peterborough, ON Canada K9J 7Y8 web publicenergy.ca
phone (705) 745-1788 fax (705) 749-3606 office 140 Charlotte St. Floor 3, Peterborough, ON K9J 2T8

Board of Directors Barbara Chisholm Chair, Charmaine Eddy, Michael O'Farrell, Mark Seasons, Bill Kimball
Staff Bill Kimball Artistic Producer Susan Oliver General Manager
Susan Newman Bookkeeper Ryan Kerr Technical Director UNAVOX Video Services