

DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP  
DAVID R. WHITE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER



DTW'S PUBLIC IMAGINATIONS

present

**STEPHAN  
KOPLOWITZ  
& COMPANY'S**

production of Karel Capek's

*War with the Newts*

**May 7-9 & May 14-16, 1998**  
(Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm)

**May 10 & May 17, 1998**  
(Sundays at 3pm)

## PROGRAM

Conceived, Directed and Choreographed by Stephan Koplowitz  
Text adapted by David Lindsay-Abaire  
Music composed by Andrew Warshaw  
Lyrics by Andrew Warshaw and David Lindsay-Abaire  
Costumes by Christianne Myers  
Slide images by Mark Boyer  
Lighting by Jay Ryan  
Director's Assistant and Production Manager: Julianne Hass  
Sound design by Richard Martinez  
Music produced by Andrew Warshaw and Richard Martinez

There will be one 15 minute intermission

### Featuring:

Povondra:	Jay Longan
Wolf Meynert:	James Sasser
Captain Van Toch:	Gordon Grey
Mrs. G. H. Bondy:	Lorree True
Frannie (ensemble):	Samantha Ross
Lily White (ensemble):	Frances Anderson
Abe Loeb (ensemble):	John Ponzio
Judy (ensemble):	Meyung Kim
Andy (ensemble):	Katie Workum
Ensign (ensemble):	David Gochfeld
Wolfette (ensemble):	Julie Klein
Wolfette (ensemble):	Roxanne Ramsay
Grace (ensemble):	Michelle Rivers

### Running Crew:

Backstage: Michael Messina  
Sound: Julianne Hass

Karel Capek, 1890-1938 (the name is pronounced, I am told, something like "Chop-ek") was a Czech writer and man of letters. Between the wars he was very widely read and well known, and actually he deserved to be; some of his admirers have said that the main reason he never got a Nobel Prize for Literature is that the Swedes thought it would offend Hitler too much to give it to such a well-known anti-fascist, and a Czech one at that. According to his widow, the Academy told him they'd give him the prize if only he wrote something blandly inoffensive for them to pin it on, to which he retorted that he'd already submitted his doctoral dissertation. As well as his novels, plays and short stories, he worked more or less full-time as a journalist. His political complexion was liberal, and very nearly identical to that of Tomas Masaryk, the great first president of Czechoslovakia. He is most famous now for two things. One is the coining of the word "robot", from the Czech *robota*, work, in his play about them taking over the world, *R.U.R.* The other is his last and I think best novel, *War with the Newts*, where again humanity gets challenged by a force of its own creation, the eponymous Newts.

Excerpted from an essay by Cosma Rohilla Shalizi, 1997

Stephan Koplowitz would like to THANK:

David R. White for his continued support and vision of my work, Craig Peterson for his inspired direction of Public Imaginations and the entire staff of DTW for their hard work. To Geoff Pierson (Head of School), Sara O'Neil, Alan Bernstein and Kathleen Hill and all my colleagues at the Packer Collegiate Institute for their support, to the Board of Directors of Kop Art, Inc., to Frederica Jarcho of the Greenwall Foundation, Marylin Donini of Philip Morris and Hermine Warren for their support of my work over the years, to Stuart Green of Buzz Communications for donating the design of the benefit invitation, to Elizabeth Powers for her support, The Producers wish to thank the Theater Development Fund Costume Collection for its assistance in this production, Chris Thomas and Pace University, to my original collaborators David Lindsay-Abaire and Andrew Warshaw for first joining me in this small show and to Mark Boyer, Christianne Myers and my incredible cast for their tireless and inspired work on this production, to Richard Martinez for his gift of time and talent, to Alison Wadsworth for her help, to Courtney Reeves for help with props and Debra Hanusick for her last minute help, to Doug Eisman, Deborah Glass and Sherry Zekowski for their support and belief in the education of New York City high school students, to Kathleen Klein for her generosity of spirit, and to my family for their support and good humor.

#### FUNDING:

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The Greenwall Foundation, The Estate of Dorothy Perlow ,  
Individual contributions to Kop Art, Inc., the Packer Collegiate Institute.

Special Thanks to the members of the Benefit Committee and the following contributors  
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Stephan Koplowitz & Company Board of Directors,: Claire Lieberwitz (President),  
Jeffrey Gilfix, David Kendall, Stephan Koplowitz, Raymond Levin, Richard  
Maxwell, Jane Otto, Kenneth Schlesinger, Robin Stout and Elise Wagner

Stephan Koplowitz & Company (Kop Art Inc.) is a not-for-profit corporation. Contributions in support of Stephan Koplowitz & Company are greatly appreciated and may be made payable to "Kop Art, Inc." 360 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238. All contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Stephan Koplowitz can be reached by e-mail at: [skoplowitz@packer.edu](mailto:skoplowitz@packer.edu) and at [www.webbedfeats.org](http://www.webbedfeats.org)

## BIOGRAPHIES

This marks **STEPHAN KOPLOWITZ & COMPANY's** seventh season at Dance Theater Workshop (Spring Events 1987, 1988, Fall Events 1989, Spring and Fall Events 1993, Spring Events, 1995, 1996). In 1993, the Company toured theater/dance work *Thicker Than Water*, including a special encore presentation at DTW, to eight venues between April and November of that year. The company has also been produced by Dancing in the Streets (six national commissions), the American Dance Festival, Serious Fun! at Lincoln Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Bates Dance Festival, Dance Place of Washington DC (three seasons) among many others. Koplowitz has been a Resident Artist with Dance Theater Workshop's Public Imaginations Program since 1993. He mark's his third production as part of his Public Imaginations residency and the fifth year of partnering with Doug Eisman, an artist/educator who for the past 21 years has worked with teenage students in alternative NYC High Schools. Eisman and Koplowitz have joined forces to help provide experiences for under-served urban students in the arts as a means for exploration and a chance to discuss relevant social issues, job readiness as well as to experience art. Koplowitz's Public Imaginations residency was founded with the aim of establishing a structure for mentoring, allowing students to achieve specific educational/artistic goals. Participants are selected through workshops given by Koplowitz to students in NYC Alternative High Schools since Februar, 1993.

**STEPHAN KOPLOWITZ**, director/choreographer has created a body of work that spans both the concert stage and architecturally significant/historic sites. His stage work for the past fourteen years has almost exclusively been a blend of text, movement and song, inspired by the human condition. Since 1984 he has created 39 works and has been awarded 27 commissions. Recent projects include *Webbed Feats presents: BYTES of Bryant Park* ([www.webbedfeats.org](http://www.webbedfeats.org)) which he served as Executive Producer and Artistic Director. A ground-breaking critically acclaimed seven hour site-specific event featuring dance, poetry, theater and music, it began as a World Wide Web site. Using submissions from the web audience to explore aspects of a real site in the real world, *BYTES of Bryant Park* was performed on September 17, 1997 in NYC, involving submissions from over 200 people and visits to the web site by over 100,000 people. In 1996, Koplowitz premiered a dance/theater work for the

grand entrance hall of the Natural History Museum, London. *Genesis Canyon* a work for 38 dancers and three actors/singers, was commissioned by London's Dance Umbrella Festival and was awarded "Best Dance Production of 1996" by *Time Out* magazine. Koplowitz has been awarded six Choreography Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1988-97). Koplowitz has also been Directing the Dance Program at the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn Heights where he has taught since 1983.

**DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE** studied theater as an undergraduate at Sarah Lawrence College, and just finished a two-year play writing fellowship at the Juilliard School as part of the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program. He is the recipient of several awards including two Lincoln Center LeComte du Nuoy Awards. Additionally he has received two DTW First Light Commissions (funding from the Jerome Foundation), the Tennessee Williams Festival National Play Contest and the South Carolina Playwrights Festival New Play Award. He's been a Writer-In-Residence at New York Stage and Film at Vassar College, a Contributing Commentator for WNYC Radio and a play writing mentor at a post-modern children's theater in rural New Hampshire. After being produced at the Juilliard School in February, his play *Fuddy Meers* was presented at Manhattan Theater Club as part of the Writers In Performance Series Discovering the Next Generation. His work has been produced at several theaters in New York and around the country (most proudly at DTW and Soho Rep). Lindsay-Abair is currently hard at work writing feature films under contract with 20th Century Fox.

**ANDREW WARSHAW** is a composer and lyricist/librettist whose chamber-opera *Take Off Your Head* and song-collection *The Manhattan Bridge* (with Andy Teirstein), have both been produced at DTW. Other works include *Mira, Cycle II* at the Zellerbach Playhouse in Berkeley, California, the score for the independent film *The Big Nipple*, and works with Stephan Koplowitz at the Museum of Natural History (*Big Thirst*) and Lincoln Center Serious Fun!. Collaborators have included director/writer George C. Wolfe, choreographer Randy Warshaw, and many years' worth of musicians, choreographers, writers and performers. His principal upcoming project is *The Sparks, The Ringing*, an oratorio for

African-American boys and men and orthodox Jewish boys and men, with a workshop of several sections in June at The Brooklyn Museum of Art. Other significant career tidbits: work in West Africa on the NPR series *Afropop* and a long essay on music and politics in West Africa published in *Gettysburg Review*; an early career as a dancer; teaching at NYU, several other colleges, Lincoln Center Institute and Carnegie Hall.

**MARK BOYER** marks his second collaboration with Stephan Koplowitz in this production (first as a visual artist). As a composer, he created the score for *The Together Thing* last seen at DTW in 1996. As a visual artist/conceptualist, Boyer is one of the founders and owners of Shoot Digital, a digital imaging company for the fashion industry. An avid bee keeper and collector of rare tropical fish, he feels right at home with *War with the Newts*.

**CHRISTIANNE MYERS**, Costume Designer. Recent design credits in New York include David Lindsay-Abaire's *Fuddy Meers* (The Juilliard School, director Jessica Bauman), Paul Robeson, *All American* (Theatreworks/USA, director John Henry Davis), *A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino* (Ma-Yi Theater Ensemble, director Jorge Ledesma), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (CAP 21 at the York Theater, directed Marcia Milgrom Dodge), *Global Village* (The Drama League, director Rob Urbanati), *Mississippi Nude* (The Drama League, director Jessica Bauman), Brecht's *The Mother* (The Irondale Ensemble, director Jim Niesen), *Four* by Feydeau (The Juilliard School, director Chris Bayes), and *Salt* (The Actor's Studio Free Theater, director Loretta Greco). Myers has also designed several masters' thesis films for the Columbia University film school, and has worked as a fabric painter on Disney's *The Lion King*. She holds an MFA in costume design from NYU.

**JAY RYAN** is happy to be working with Stephan once again. Originally from Richmond, VA, he has worked as a freelance set/lighting designer since graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in theater design. In Virginia, he worked with choreographers Chris Burnside, Martha Curtis, Sharon Kinney, Doug Varone, Ronald K. Brown, Audrey Jung and Greg Lezenberry; and in New York he has designed the lights for H.T. Chen, Chris Aiken, Victoria Marks, Safer/Secrest, Richard Move and many others. He has also created the lighting

for many plays and musicals – most memorably the original productions of *4 Part Harmony* at Theater IV and *The Red Badge of Courage* at the Lendfest Center for the Arts.

**JULIANNE HASS**'s recent credits include: *Dreamgirl* with MJT Productions, *A Few Good Men* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* with the Polka Dot Playhouse, and *Music Man* with New England Repertory Company. Hass is currently studying acting and directing at H.B. Studios under the instruction of Salem Ludwig. She also studied stage management at H.B. last year under the instruction of Vienna Hagen. She would like to thank Steve for this opportunity, her parents for their love and support, Courtney for doing anything and everything, Debbie and Jake for keeping the sanity, and Josh for putting up with me for the past three years. Thanks, I love you guys.

**RICHARD MARTINEZ** has performed and recorded with Betty Buckley, Gregory Hines, Blood, Sweat, and Tears, Harry Belafonte, George Russell and Carly Simon. Compositional credits include a film score for *The Daytrippers*, Nancy Tenenbaum Films and music for MCA, GRP, and Grammavision Records. He was Musical Director for *The Green Bird*, *Titus Andronicus*, and the Music Theater Group Production of *The Transposed Heads*, all directed by Julie Taymor. Electronic Music Producer for the films *The Butcher Boy*, *Sphere*, *Batman and Robin*, *Batman Forever*, *A Time to Kill*, *Michael Collins*, *Heat*, *Interview with a Vampire*, *Cobb* and *Drugstore Cowboy*. He was Musical Sound Designer for the theatrical production of *Juan Darien*, and the films *Alien 3*, *Demolition Man*, and *The Golden Gate*.

**FRANCES ANDERSON**'s credits include: Off-Off Broadway: *Baal* (TSI Brecht Festival - Sophie); *Grimm Tales* (1997 NYC Fringe Festival : Gretel & Ashputtel); *Wine-Blue-Open-Water*: an adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey* (Gale GAtes, et al : Penelope). Summer Stock: *I Hate Hamlet* (New Century Theater : Deirdre). Film: *The Deli* (Golden Monkey Pictures : Shampoo Girl (principal), with Matt Keesler, Judith Malina, and Gretchen Mol). Anderson studied in NYC with Bruce Katzman, Charlotte Fleck and Anne Bogart. He has a BA cum laude in Theater and Latin American Literature from Smith College. Love and gratitude forever to Mom and Dad.

**DAVID GOCHFELD** studied physical theater with Jacques Lecoq in Paris and Philippe Gaulier in London, and holds a BA from Oberlin College. He has performed with various companies in the US and England. Recent New York performances include, *The King Stag* with wEmUst bE iDioTs, *Taming of the Shrew* with Gorilla Rep, *Grimm Tales* at the NYC Fringe Festival, and William Shakespeare's *Haunted House at Belvedere Castle* with The Faux Real Theater Co. Besides acting, he is a musician and a puppeteer.

**GORDON GREY** is happy to be making his first appearance at DTW. He has returned to acting after 15 years in university theater, most recently as head of the Acting Program for the Theater Department of Barnard College. Last year he played Max in the National Tour of *The Sound of Music*. He is co-author with Jay Monk of the PBS teleplay *We Ain't What We Was*.

**MEYUNG KIM** is an actress, writer and singer who most recently appeared in Cleveland at the Mac Wellman Festival. She has performed in *Cucaracha's Performance Piece #27* at The Vineyard (Directed by Richard Caliban). This past summer she wrote, directed and performed *Armor* for the American Living Room Festival at HERE. She has performed at The Kennedy Center, La MaMa E.T.C. and The New York Theater Workshop. Last year she performed at DTW as Belle the Butcher in the lovely *Cliffs of Des Pères* cliff hanger series and is very happy to be back. Special I hug for the honey atravellin' we go.

**JULIE KLEIN** is a senior in high school at the Packer Collegiate Institute and has been very active in every performing art offered there. She has been a choreographer for the Packer Dance Concert for three years, and has been a dancer in it for five years. Klein has toured Prague and Vienna with the Packer Upper School Chorus. She played the leading role in last year's Packer musical, *Crazy For You*. Outside of school, Klein has performed at Dance Theater Workshop with Steve Koplowitz and the Creative Clubhouse for two seasons, both performing and displaying her choreography. She plans to study dance and musical theater in college next year, and hopes to continue her professional work as a performer after college.

**JAY LONGAN** trained for the professional theater at Southern Methodist University in Dallas with Jack Clay and Joan Potter. Favorite roles over the years have included Friar Laurence in *Romeo And Juliet*, Peachum in

*The Beggars' Opera*, Peter in *Zoo Story*, Uncle Sid in *Ah Wilderness!* and the title roles in *Uncle Vanya* and *Tartuffe*. In addition to being an actor, director, composer, church musician and teacher, Longan is also an ordained minister serving as Pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Middle Village (Queens), New York.

**JOHN PONZIO** is a graduate of Ithaca College and has studied with the National Theater Institute, the Chautauqua Institute and the Pennsylvania Governor's for the Arts. His New York credits include the original productions of *The Umbrella Experts* at the Fools Company, *The Other Side* at the Theater Studio, *Grimm Tales* with the International Fringe Festival and workshops of the Peter Pan Project at the Turnip Theatre Co. and Wigger at the One Dream Theatre. Thanks to Cast and Crew for a truly collaborative, creative process, much luck and love in the future. Molto Grazie Mama and Papa! Ciao Bella!

**ROXANNE RAMSAY**, when not rehearsing for this play/production, she's at home as a single mother of three boys; Raymond, Seshan and Rayshan. This is her second public performance in her lifetime. "I enjoy doing things of this sort because I like to perform and entertain, so whenever I get the opportunity to be the next Nicholas Cage or just another Newt, I go for the chance." Ramsay is soon to receive her high school diploma through the Career Education Center.

**MICHELLE RIVERS** is a graduating senior from Borough Academies in Brooklyn. This marks her first stage experience. Rivers plans to continue pursuing theater in college next year, and hopes to be on the big screen by the time she is twenty one years old. She wishes to thank the people who opened up these doors for her such as Ms. Debbie Glass and Mr. Stephan Koplowitz. She would also like to thank her mother, Bernice Rivers and sister, Marian Collins for sticking by her and encouraging her to follow her dreams and achieve her goals.

**SAMANTHA ROSS** is thrilled to be re-united with Stephan Koplowitz for his latest production at DTW, and grateful for the chance to be pre-pubescent once again. A recent graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, and a Packer Collegiate alumnus, she is the founder of X House Productions; a theater group devoted to developing new work. Most recent New York credits include a dethroned Miss America in *The Adventures of Kat Woman* at La MaMa E.T.C. and the bartender in *Watered Down* at The Pelican Studio Theater. Special props to Joe, Cricket,

Molly, The Rosses, The Binger-Wangs and Leonardo DiCaprio.

**JAMES SASSER**, originally from CA, was most recently in *Little Kit* as Feargus at the Vineyard. Favorite roles include Cindy's Prince/The Wolf in *Into the Woods*, Lt. Cable in *South Pacific*, and Capt. Hook in *Peter Pan*. As a composer he has written for the RADA Summer Intensive, and collaborated on numerous pieces with NY choreographer Leda Meredith. He is the founder of The Left Wing Players, and a resident composer/administrator with the ADVENTS group.

**LORREE TRUE** is a recent graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and a member of the 1996-97 Academy Company. Before moving to New York City

three years ago, she was very active in theater in her native Colorado. Favorite roles include Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, the title role in Hedda Gabler, Irene Porter in *An Almost Perfect Person*, Feste in *Twelfth Night* and Melanie Garth in *Quartermaine's Terms*. True is pleased to be making her New York debut in *Newts*.

**KATIE WORKUM**, when not newting about on the floor, likes to cruise Lower Manhattan on her bike, play the cello, and turn other people's garbage into artwork. She now attends SVA for Graphic Design, where the computer is turning her blind. Some of her most memorable dancing has been in her basement among other more public places around NYC, including *BYTES of Bryant Park* with Stephan last summer.

\* \* \*

Production Supervisor: Jay Ryan  
Production Electrician: Meredith Holch

**Public Imaginations** includes a variety of projects to increase access to the arts and strengthen the relationship between DTW, artists, and communities in New York City. Public Imaginations includes an Artist-in-Residence program that links multi-disciplinary artists with community groups for long-term, participatory projects; Family Matters, a special performance series for families with young children; Free Friday Matinee performances for high-school students; and dance educator Ellen Robbins' creative movement classes for children. For more information or to discuss possible involvement with Public Imaginations, please contact Craig T. Peterson, Associate Producer and Director of Public Imaginations.

**Stephan Koplowitz & Company's *War with the Newts*** is a project of DTW's **Public Imaginations** program. Public Imaginations is made possible with support from the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation, Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York Community Trust, New York State Council on the Arts Electronic Media and Film and Arts in Education Programs, Bell Atlantic and Surdna Foundation.

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