59
59

SANS A PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS

BEARS

BY MARK RIGNEY

DIRECTED BY
KRISTIN McCARTHY PARKER

MARCH 14 - 31, 2013

E:BILL THEATER C



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TIMMY BEAR	NICK ABEEL*
GROWL BEAR	JONATHAN DICKSON
SUSIE WILD BEAR	JENNA PANTHER*
RADIO BROADCASTER	JESS WATKINS

SCENIC DESIGNER	ASHLEE SPRINGER
COSTUME DESIGNER	STEVEN MANUEL
LIGHTING DESIGNER	AUSTIN BRANSGROVE
SOUND DESIGNER	JEANNE E. TRAVIS
STAGE MANAGER	AMBER MATHIS
ORIGINAL DRAMATURG	DIANE BREWER

Winner of the 2012 Panowski Playwriting Award,
curated by Northern Michigan University and the Forest Roberts Theatre.

The running time of *Bears* is 1 hour 35 minutes, with an intermission.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association. An Equity approved showcase. ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA) founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, producing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and isaffiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. **www.actorsequity.org**

Nick Abeel

(Timmy Bear)



Nick Abeel started acting professionally at a young age in his hometown of Indianapolis. You can see little Nick in a feature-length independent film called ***587: The Great Train Robbery*** - Netflix it if you want a good laugh. Since moving to New York City, he's worked with Astoria Performing Arts Center, Epic Theatre Ensemble, Manhattan Theatre Club, EST Youngblood Playwrights, Lark Play Development Center and regionally with The Kennedy Center, Denver Center and Indiana Rep. He's directed/written/acted in many short plays with Amios's monthly show ***Shotz!*** Nick is a proud graduate of the University of Evansville.

Jonathan Dickson

(Growl Bear)



Jonathan Dickson is very excited to be in his first play with Sans A Productions and to be a part of such a wonderful cast and crew. Since graduating from the University of Evansville, he most recently worked with the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre in their premiere of ***Leaving Iowa*** and is currently working with the ALL Academy where he teaches youth acting. Jonathan wants to thank his friend and mentor, Robert Tintoc, to whom he owes all his success.

Jenna Panther

(Susie Wild Bear)



Jenna Panther is an actor, director and Co-Artistic Director, of Amios a funky downtown theatre company with a residency with Horse Trade Theater Group. She is a mighty proud graduate of the National Theatre Conservatory where she earned her MFA while swinging on the trapeze and performing extensively with the Denver Center Theatre Company. She also attended the University of Evansville and is a native of Louisville, KY - "home of the most exciting two minutes in sports". Recently Jenna's been working with The Group Lab, an artistic home and an incubator for new work.

Jess Watkins

(Radio Broadcaster)

Jess Watkins is so happy to make her vocal debut with Sans A! NYC Credits: ***Mocha*** (Broad Horizons Theatre Co.), ***The Vultures*** (2011 Weasel Festival), ***The Theory of Everything*** (The Group Lab), ***Buried Words*** (Stark Theatre Co.). Regional Credits: ***Almost, Maine*** (TheaterWorks Hartford, CT), Frank Wildhorn's ***Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical*** (La Jolla Playhouse). Her previous vocal work includes a canon of songs and stories recorded for an ESL program for Korean children. She hopes that, because of this, there are a few kiddos in Korea using a husky smoker's voice as they talk about helping mommy at the grocery store and sharing their toys. BFA: University of Evansville, MFA: UC San Diego.

Mark Rigney

(Playwright)

Mark Rigney is the author of ***Acts of God*** (Playscripts, Inc.) and ***Deaf Side Story: Deaf Sharks, Hearing Jets and a Classic American Musical*** (Gallaudet University Press). ***Migratory Birds of Iraq***, a Heideman finalist, appears in Best Ten-Minute Plays 2012 (Smith & Kraus). His plays have been performed in nineteen states plus Canada, with ***Bears*** winning the 2012 Panowski Playwriting Contest and earning a place at the 2012 EMOS Ecodrama Festival, curated by Carnegie Mellon University. His stage work has been produced and developed at the Alleyway Theatre, the Foothill Theatre Company, the Ark Theatre, the Tofte Lake Center, and the Plays in Progress series at the Utah Shakespearean Festival. His short fiction has appeared in many venues including The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review, Realms of Fantasy, and Black Static, with a novella, "The Skates", forthcoming from Samhain Press. A proud at-home father, his website is www.markrigney.net.

Kristin McCarthy Parker

(Director)

Kristin McCarthy Parker is a New York-based director. As an assistant, she has worked under Wendy C. Goldberg (***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?***), Jenn Thompson (***The Syringa Tree***), and most recently as Michael Greif's second assistant at Williamstown Theatre Festival (***Far From Heaven***). Her experience with new works includes the New Harmony Project, Portland Stage's Little Festival of the Unexpected, Amios's monthly ***Shotz!*** (directing pieces by Mat Smart, Lindsay Joy, Sevan Kaloustian Greene, and Mark Snyder), and she also served as the assistant director/dramaturg for the world premiere of John Cariani's ***Last Gas***. Last year, she directed a reading of Christina Watkins' new play ***kumrads won't*** produced by Sans A Productions. For two summers, she taught theater at the Governor's School of North Carolina. Education: the University of Evansville.

Ashlee Springer

(Scenic Designer)

Ashlee Springer is a designer, painter, crafter, and seeks pretty much any job where she can wear jeans and get messy. Most recently she's been caught running around with Paper Mâché Monkey and John Creech Design and Production. In the summer she sneaks away to paint amongst the deer at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Originally from Marietta, GA, she is a proud graduate of the University of Evansville.

Steven Manuel

(Costume Designer)

Steven Manuel lives in the world of television by day, and skips out to the land of theatre by night. In television, he hops around various costume departments. Projects include HBO's ***Girls*** and ***Bored to Death***, CBS's ***The Good Wife***, and currently an original program for Netflix called ***Orange is the New Black***. Steven has worked for theatre companies such as Ars Nova, Drama League, Hangar Theatre, and Gallery Players. He also traveled around the country with a national tour of ***Porgy & Bess***. Originally from Houston, Texas, Steven graduated proudly with a BFA from the University of Evansville.

Austin Bransgrove

(Lighting Designer)

Austin Bransgrove moved to New York City after receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Evansville. Austin has worked with Roundabout Theatre Company, The New Group, Primary Stages, Theatre C at Playwrights Horizons, Little Lord Theater Company, the Production Resource Group, the HOWL! Festival, and on Robert Wilson's ***Perchance to Dream*** art installation. Austin has been recognized nationally for his work in lighting design at the University of Evansville by Barbizon, the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.

Jeanne E. Travis

(Sound Designer)

Jeanne E. Travis is a freelance sound designer/composer and AEA stage manager raised in Texas and based in New York City. Most recent designs include the Off-Broadway revival of ***The Runner Stumbles*** (Retro Productions), ***The Particulars*** (NYC Fringe), ***Advance Man***, ***Blast Radius***, ***Sovereign*** (Gideon Productions), ***King Lear***, ***Pericles***, and ***Prince of Tyre*** (ABTC). Jeanne is also sound designer for ***The Soundtrack Series*** founded by Dana Rossi.
http://jeannetravis.tumblr.com

Amber Mathis

(Stage Manager)

Amber Mathis is a stage manager and production manager working in the New York City area. New York credits include ***Bumbug the Musical***, ***Black Violin***, and ***Working on A Special Day***. Upcoming projects: ***Murder Ballad***, ***Caucasian Chalk Circle***, and ***The Wallace Shawn Project***. Regional credits include ***Annie***, ***How to Succeed in Business...***, ***God of Carnage***, ***Avenue Q***, and ***Next to Normal*** as well as touring performances for Othershore Dance Company. Amber also helped develop and successfully run the not-for-profit company Leave Your Mark Productions, which produces theatre in order to fund community service ventures both at home and abroad.

Diane Brewer

(Original Dramaturg)

Diane Brewer teaches, dramaturgs, and directs at the University of Evansville. She has developed new work at the Tofte Lake Center, The New Harmony Project, the Utah Shakespearean Company Plays in Progress, the Mark Taper Forum's P.L.A.Y, and the University of Evansville. She is a founding ensemble member and performer with In the Mix, an Evansville-based company dedicated to the collaborative development of new work. Her work as a director is featured in ***Deaf Side Story: Deaf Sharks, Hearing Jets and a Classic American Musical*** (Gallaudet University Press). She holds a BA from Tufts University and a PhD from UCLA.

Sally Cade Holmes

(Producer)

Sally Cade Holmes is primarily focused on producing and directing but considers herself a professional theatre dabbler. She is currently at Boston University to grab a master's degree, but will most likely be back to New York in a jiffy. In addition to being a co-founder of Sans A Productions, she's recently worked with Astoria Performing Arts Center, Amios Theater, Theatreworks USA, Hybrid Theatre Works, Manhattan Theatre Mission, Lincoln Amphitheatre, Theatre Three, and was the producing associate at Keen Company. She originally hails from Anderson, South Carolina and is a proud graduate of the University of Evansville.

Sans A Productions

(Producer)

We believe that how we make something is as important as what we make. Sans A Productions was started by five artists from all disciplines of theatre who seek pure collaboration. We give equal weight to all areas of production in order to tell a story that's greater than the sum of its parts. We believe this kind of process yields theatre that reverberates with our audiences. We produced our first full length show, ***Exit Carolyn***, at the Drilling Company Theatre.
www.sansaproductions.org

Special thanks to:

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