

PARK(ing)

Wicker Park Field House, 1425 N Damen

All weekend

Free

Curated by Stevie Greco and Ben Schaafsma. *PARK(ing)*, initiated by the art collective Rebar, is an investigation into reprogramming a typical unit of private vehicular space by leasing a metered parking spot for recreational activity. In Rebar's festival *PARK(ing)* project, they will install small, temporary public parks that provide nature, seating and shade into various parking spots throughout the festival boundaries. These temporary sites will temporarily expand the public realm and improve the quality of the urban human habitat, at least until the meters run out. *Supported in part by SSA #33.*

COYOTE SPELLS

Participatory Public Art Performance

Preferred Lofts, 1552 N Milwaukee Ave, 2nd floor, Project Space D

Friday, October 12

Saturday, October 13

Sunday, October 14

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Curated by Abigail Satinsky. Coyotes will often respond to human calls, and researchers estimate there are up to 2,000 coyotes living in the Chicago area. These urban animals are skilled at avoiding contact with people, but sometimes it's inevitable. Artist Fereshteh Toosi will lead participants in a call and response tour of Wicker Park featuring coyote yips and howls that begin to reveal human stories from the neighborhood. This is a performance designed for an audience of one and openings are limited.

To make a reservation, please contact Fereshteh at 757-350-5791, coyotespells@gmail.com, or stop by her festival booth.

THEATRE

about the curators ...

Cynthia Castiglione has been Around the Coyote's head theatre curator since 2003. She is a producer and actress who has worked in all areas of theatre with such companies as Redmoon, Piven, and Collaboration. She is a Board Member of Co-Op Image and a producer for the Human Television Network. Cynthia is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Oriana Fowler, assistant theatre curator, has worked in Chicago arts management since 2002. She is currently the managing director for Blair Thomas & Company, a touring visual theater & puppet company. She produces, markets, and raises funds, and has worked with several Chicago groups, including Redmoon Theater, Lookingglass Theatre, the Neo-Futurists, Manifest Theatre, and the Chicago Green Party. Particularly interested in public art, Oriana has co-produced outdoor events such as Heroes of Wicker Park, and was the co-curator of the Outdoor Festival for Coyote in Fall 2006.

Jonathan Pitts, guest curator for our Theatre Collaboration Workshop, is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Chicago Improv Festival Productions. He was selected for three years in a row by New City as one of "Chicago's Top 50 Theatre Players." An international director, performer and teacher, he's a 9 year faculty member of The Second City Training Center. He's also a contributing writer to Anne Libera's book: *The Second City's Almanac of Improvisation*, and he also wrote the forward to Asaf Ronen's book *Directing Improv*. For seven years, he was the Theatre/Performance Arts curator for the Around the Coyote arts festival. He's taught improvisational theatre workshops for After School Matters, Beverly Arts Center, Chicago Academy for the Arts, Chicago Park District, Free Street Theater, Magic City, Redmoon Theater, The Spontaneity Shop (in London), and Very Special Arts.

The Chicago Improv Festival

The Chicago Improv Festival's mission is to celebrate the present, honor the past, and showcase the future of improvisational theatre, in all of its multi-disciplinary expressions, through local, regional, national, and international perspectives; by presenting and producing performances and workshops for both the general public and practicing improvisational theatre artists.

Theatre : Chopin Theatre Main Stage

Around the Coyote's music and theatre programming is partially supported by Chicago Artists Resource. Building on their initial success with visual artists over the past year CAR has been expanding their content to also serve local music, dance and theater communities. Coming this fall, CAR version 2 will also feature dedicated and comprehensive areas for each discipline including local venues, performance companies, arts professional stories, business resources, rehearsal and recording facilities, promotion resources, funding, auditions, national festivals and much more.

Sign up for the CAR eNews to receive notice when Version 2 is live at www.chicagoartistsresource.org

CHOPIN THEATRE REMAINSTAGE

Jason Adams presents *Clipper Ship Spectacular*

Chopin Theatre Lobby, 1543 W Division

Friday, October 12; Between All Scheduled Performances

Saturday, October 13; Between All Scheduled Performances

Sunday, October 14; Between All Scheduled Performances

\$10, Free with Festival Pass



The second in his series of "Suitcase Spectaculars," *Clipper Ship Spectacular* is a sea voyage spectacle condensed into a suitcase and presented to an audience of one! Join the crew of the good ship St. Sebastian as it sails the Seven Seas and meets its bitter end at the hands of the great and terrible Kracken. *Clipper Ship Spectacular* merges storytelling with toy theatre techniques for five minutes of pure awesome

Jason Adams has been performing puppetry in Chicago for the past three years. This is the second in his series of "Suitcase Spectaculars." The first, *Teeny Tiny Burlesque*

Spectacular, was performed for the Et Cetera Festival this past January. His current work, *Clipper Ship Spectacular*, was featured at the Xperimental Puppet Theatre Fest at the Jim Henson Center for Puppetry Arts this past May and won the title of Supreme Skald at WNEP's annual storytelling competition in June.

Quantum Mechanicals presents *HEADS YOU LOSE*

Chopin Theatre : Main Stage, 1543 W Division

Friday, October 12; 6^{pm}

Saturday, October 13; 6^{pm}

Sunday, October 14; 5^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

HEADS YOU LOSE, a serious comedy about decapitation, takes the audience on a tour of twenty historical and literary minds without their bodies, interspersed

Theatre : Chopin Theatre Main Stage

with the musings of the Executioner, whose thoughts on his profession frame the other headspaces. Those who take the stage in their final conjured moments include French scientist Antoine-Laurent de Lavoisier, Saint George, the Dragon, American doctor Hitoshi Nikaidoh, Marie Antoinette, and German spy Benita von Berg. *HEADS YOU LOSE* is the inaugural production of The Quantum Mechanicals.

The Quantum Mechanicals, founded by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Jane Lopes, Hannah Kushnick and Jesse Robbins, began as a performance group at the University of Chicago, where its original members met as undergraduates. Our mission is to create, through an ensemble-based process, a body of primarily new and adapted work in conversation with the past, the present and the future.

The Waters Project presents *Le Cat Show*

Chopin Theatre : Main Stage, 1543 W Division

Friday, October 12; 7^{pm}

Saturday, October 13; 7^{pm}

Sunday, October 14; 6^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Le Cat Show is a high energy bawdy theatrical event exploring European cat folklore, class relations and gender conflict through the true historical account of a Cat Massacre in the years leading up to the French Revolution! This unusual tale of social unrest and sexual intrigue is told through Story Theater, Mask, Commedia dell'arte, Opera, Puppetry, Long Form Improvisation and Musical Composition. An original ensemble developed piece, this is the final result of a yearlong development and performance process by The Waters Project.

Sarah Bendix and Mikalina Rabinsky began their collaboration, The Waters Project, while at the Piven Theatre, where they are both senior faculty members and directors of the Young People's Company. Both are visual as well as theatre artists. Between the two of them they have worked with numerous companies including Piven Theatre, Manifest Theater, Blair Thomas and Company, Redmoon, Trap Door, Greasy Joan, Ravenous Productions, the Neofuturists, Mysteriam, Northlight Theater, among others. They are thrilled to be focusing their efforts and joy into *Le Cat Show*, a collaboration with a stellar group of inspiring artists from various disciplines. One of their artistic goals is to create an environment where artists from different backgrounds can engage their skills and talents to tell the unique stories which come from the unexpected mixing of art forms. With their ensemble they have developed this high energy, visual piece of theater combining their experience as designers, directors, and storytellers into a bawdy theatrical event that places the same importance on text, imagery and music to convey the story.

***Forbidding Mourning* by Jim Balestrieri and Zeal presented by Tantalus Theatre Group**

Chopin Theatre : Main Stage, 1543 W Division

Friday, October 12; 8^{pm}

Saturday, October 13; 8^{pm}

Sunday, October 14; 7^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass



Forbidding Mourning

His mother wisecracking herself to sleep as cancer wastes her away, an exhausted son on a June night tries to escape into a wildly comic dream of the healthy bodies of young women strutting on a strippers' stage. But just as he is never out of earshot of his mother's bell when she needs drugs, or comfort, or her catheter bag emptied, even in his fevered fantasy, the son is never far from death's toll. John Donne's masterful poem might forbid mourning, but all joking aside, in *Forbidding Mourning* mortality IS forbidding—ominous, invasive, inevitable. Written by Jim Balestrieri and Directed by Alex Balestrieri.

Jim Balestrieri (Playwright) is the author of the play *Volaré, a Northwoods Rat Pack Oedipus* as well as a novel, *Passenger Pigeons* (to be published in 2008). He has written a screenplay (a Western about making a Western) entitled *The Ballad of Ethan Burns* and is completing a libretto based on Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Rappaccini's Daughter* and a short novel, *The Puppet Master's Modernist Opera*. He has an MFA in Playwriting from Carnegie-Mellon University and was a Fellow at the American Film Institute.

Alex Balestrieri (Director,) is pleased to return to ATC, having had the pleasure of playing the title role in last year's *Mr. Tangerine*, a short play about a tormented goldfish of the same name. This is his Chicago directorial debut.

Zeal

Zeal is a live exploration of the relationship between the performer and the text; between the actor and the act performed. Utilizing the balcony scene from *Cyrano*, the performers will create a piece both rooted in the script and ultimately personal to themselves. This exploration will continue to play out in the live event of performance. Directed by Parrish Morgan

Parrish is an M.F.A (directing) candidate from the University of Memphis, and has a B.S. in Theatre from Bradley University. His background in the theatre arts ranges from performance to direction and stage management. Directing credits include *Pearl Cleage's Flyin' West*, *Amiri Baraka's Dutchman*, and *The Meeting* by Jeff Stetson. In addition to his performance and administrative work with TTG, Parrish continues to collaborate as writer and actor with local indie film, and television projects.

I Eat Pandas and pFamily: the Musical

Chopin Theatre : Main Stage, 1543 W Division

Friday, October 12; 9^{pm}

Saturday, October 13; 9^{pm}

Sunday, October 14; 8^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

I Eat Pandas

I Eat Pandas does what it takes Andrew Lloyd Webber YEARS to do...crap out a musical from start to finish! *I Eat Pandas* creates instant musicals full of singing, dancing, and dramatic glances.

Eliza Skinner (performer) is a producer, writer, performer, lover and fighter in New York City. She is the host and co-producer of *The BEATdown*, a monthly comedy rap-battle, and a member of the NYC cast of *Baby Wants Candy*. As a voice artist, Eliza plays Kitty Pryde in Marvel.com's animated *Astonishing X-men*, Chick in a series of *Farminals* shorts by So! Animation, and a number of characters in a new online cartoon from the creators of Red Vs. Blue called *Breakroom*. She is also featured in many Channel102.net shorts, including audience favorite *Sexual Intercourse American Style*.

Glennis McMurray (performer) is co-creator of an awesome all-lady dance party called...what else: Dance Dance Party Party www.dancedanceparty.com and writes music reviews for HelloHilarious.com. She has appeared on Conan O'Brien and does voice overs and commercials to pay the bills.



Frank Spitznagel (keys) can make up any song, any time, and can switch from leader to follower and back without anyone noticing. He's an instant composer (ed.). He is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music, where he studied piano performance. Frank has composed for Comedy Central and the Aspen Comedy Festival. He recently accompanied Itzhak Perlman in an original jazz composition by Benny Golson at Lincoln Center. He also played the American premiere of *The Hired Man* Off-Broadway. He has been musical director for productions such as *Nunsense* (all incarnations), *A Chorus Line*, and several original musicals. He can also make his feet face backwards.

pfamily: the Musical



pFamily: the Musical is a fully improvised one-act play built with audience suggestions. You create an entire family and influence the events during a year in their lives. The players will ask you questions, show you flashbacks, and bust into song! The Musical is a hilarious, interactive experience unlike any other. This show will make YOUR family look sane! Musical director, Mike Descoteaux. www.whatisph.com

CAST: Melissa Cathcart, Kate Cohen, Tristan Tanner, Jason Geis, Brad Norman, Bryce Wissel

**Theatre Collaboration Workshop
in Partnership with the
Chicago Improv Festival present
*Progress and Manna***

Chopin Theatre : Main Stage, 1543 W Division
Friday, October 12; 10^{pm}-midnight
Saturday, October 13; 10^{pm}-midnight
Sunday, October 14; 9^{pm}-11^{pm}
\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Progress

Progress explores the progression of one particular moment as it transgresses through space and time, more specifically, separation. Whether it is being dumped, left behind, or unintentionally ignored, the pain and anguish of the situation changes depending on the place, the time, the weather and the people. In this play, the moment is examined in settings ranging from inside a painting to the peaks and falls of a roller-coaster to grasp a better understanding of the commitment of an action. Featuring visual art by Sadie Harmon and music Beazley Philips. Directed by Zack Zulaf and written by Augie Praley. Augie Praley is a junior at the University of Chicago. His play *The World According to Charles Barkley* will be produced there this fall.



Manna



Manna is a short surreal comedy about two newscasters in the future. They are captured by the government for various unknown reasons, and over a period of several days, turn themselves crazy and die. The play deals with the notion of individual freedom in a complex society, and what happens when two crazy people share an enclosed space. Who is to blame for their insanity? Is it society? Is it the government? Is it Jimmy, the production guy? Only time will tell. Featuring music by Beazley Philips and visual art by Caroline Voagen Nelson. Directed by Lance Hall. Written by Kristen Idaszak and Aaron Philips.

Lance Brett Hall most recently directed *Sir Edmund Walter has a Thought* for Brown Couch Theatre Company. He holds a degree in Actor Studies from Cornell University.

CHOPIN THEATRE DOWNSTAIRS

**Around the Coyote in partnership with the Hypocrites
present *Desire Under the Elms***

Chopin Theatre : Downstairs, 1543 W Division
Friday, October 12; 8^{pm}
Saturday, October 13; 8^{pm}
Sunday, October 14; 2^{pm}
Festival Pass Not Valid for this Performance
For Tickets Visit the-hypocrites.com



The Hypocrites kick off their 11th Season with Eugene O'Neill's 1924 classic, *Desire Under the Elms*. Mixing Greek classics like Hippolytus with New England farm-life, O'Neill introduced the world to an American tragedy. Acknowledging the mythic forces that drive us, even in our modern lives, *Desire Under the Elms* confronted the morals and dreams of contemporary American society. Although written in the height of the '20s, O'Neill's tale of the archetype dysfunctional family still rings eerily true in our contemporary world.

Written by Eugene O'Neill. Directed by Geoff Button
Cast: Audrey Francis, Gregory Hardigan, J. David Moeller, Vincent Teninty, Ian Westerfer
Design Staff: Jared Moore, Kevin O'Donnell, Tracy Otwell, Alison Siple

**American Myth Theater Company presents
*All the Happy People***

Chopin Theatre : Downstairs, 1543 W Division
Friday, October 12; 10:30^{pm}
Saturday, October 13; 10:30^{pm}
Sunday, October 14; 7^{pm}
\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Hope is hard to come by when you work at a big city dating service. The stress is heavy, the customers are nasty and the phones never stop ringing. But the women of Two of Hearts will never quit trying to find that one person who will complete you. Because hope is their job.



Written by Gregory Hardigan an actor, writer and director living in Chicago, and a member of The Hypocrites Theater Company. As a playwright, Gregory's work has been produced in Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., New York, Melbourne, Sydney and London. He is also the Artistic Director of American Myth www.american-myth.com.

Directed by Devin Brain a graduate of Kalamazoo College and a company member of the Hypocrites Theatre Company. He has worked as an assistant director for the Hypocrites, Barrel of Monkeys, and the Neo-Futurists. He has also directed a number of shows both in Chicago and elsewhere, including... *Three Sisters*, *Dr. Faustus*, *All the Happy People*, and *Splintered Idylls*.

SHOPS OF WICKER PARK

Professor Rikvold and the Giant Squid

Shops of Wicker Park, 1300 N Ashland

Friday, October 12; 7^{pm}Saturday, October 13; 7^{pm}Sunday, October 14; 6^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Professor Rikvold and the Giant Squid brings together multimedia, live performance, blacklight theatre, and shadow puppetry in the touching and whimsical tale of an obsessive art historian whose life collides with that of a giant squid named Norbert.

Derek Barton is a doctoral student in the Performance Studies program at Northwestern University. He is originally from Tallahassee, Florida, where he got his start with Terry Galloway's performance group, The Mickee Faust Club. He wrote a number of pieces for Mickee Faust, including *The Institute for Tactical Discourse* (which was also performed at the National Communications Association convention in Boston last year) and the short film *Cremmate: Muffy* which has been doing the rounds of LGBT film festivals in the U.S., Canada, and even so far away as Amsterdam. His controversial sketch *Disability Factor*, about a Fear Factor-esque reality show for the disabled, staged last year, is about to be made into a short film as well.

Theatre Collaboration Workshop, in partnership with the Chicago Improv Festival presents *Cornwallis and Planet Terrance*

Shops of Wicker Park, 1300 N Ashland

Friday, October 12; 8^{pm}-9:30^{pm}Saturday, October 13; 8^{pm}-9:30^{pm}Sunday, October 14; 7^{pm}-8:30^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

**Cornwallis**

Cornwallis is a multi-disciplinary improvisational performance directed by Jonahan Pitts that combines Caroline Picard's paintings, theatrical improvisation from *Cornwallis* and music from DJ Chas.

Cornwallis is: Lina Bunte, Jill Fenstermaker, Elisabeth Geier, Sean Keith, Tom McMahon, Matthew "Farrell" Walsh

**Planet Terrance**

Planet Terrance is consciousness-altering comedy from another solar system, *Planet Terrance* will change how you think about fruit, babies, and inter-dimensional time travel. Featuring music by Anu Aphonse and visual art by Shawn Stucky. Directed by Joe Janes

Citizens: Andrew Thorpe, Christeena Lairamore, Shawn Girvan, Max Minor, Ryan Miera

Colonel Ingot-Whustard's Compelling Mango Gesture

Shops of Wicker Park, 1300 N Ashland

Friday, October 12; 9:30^{pm}Saturday, October 13; 9:30^{pm}Sunday, October 14; 8:30^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Sketch comedy group Colonel Ingot-Whustard's Compelling Mango Gesture presents a sampling of their show, *Colonel Ingot-Whustard's Compelling Mango Gesture presents: You Must Pay*. Their style of humor is heavily British-influenced, which seems to have affected these Yanks' accents. If you love Monty Python, you'll LIKE Colonel Ingot-Whustard's Compelling Mango Gesture!

Mike Wakcher, Chris Crooks, and Ronald Beimel met at Viewpoint High School near Los Angeles, where they bonded over their shared sense of humor, and resolved to write sketches together. Coming up with a group name was an arduous process, but they eventually decided they liked the sound of Colonel Ingot-Whustard's Compelling Mango Gesture. But college put the group's future on hold, as all three left California: Wakcher went to Lake Forest College, Crooks went to Colgate, and Beimel went to Brown. At Lake Forest College, Wakcher met Dan Brown when Brown directed a one-act play titled *The Unfathomable*, that Wakcher had written in high school along with Crooks. They bonded while putting this work on stage, and roomed together during their sophomore year. After graduation, Wakcher coerced Crooks and Beimel to move out to Chicago to join up with him and Brown, and together they began writing sketches. Beimel had to move back to Los Angeles for job-related reasons, but thanks to the miracle of video conferencing, he was able to rejoin the others in putting together their first show, *Colonel Ingot-Whustard's Compelling Mango Gesture Presents: You Must Pay*.

Solo Performance Spotlight featuring Lindsey Muscato and Eliza Skinner

Shops of Wicker Park, 1300 N Ashland

Friday, October 12; 10^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Lindsay Muscato, *When I Cough, Words Come Out*

Lindsay Muscato is a writer and performer in Chicago. She spends her days as the managing director of The Neo-Futurists, loves being in love, and is certified to teach grades 6 through 12.

Directed by Adam Belcuore, an original founding member of Serendipity Theatre Collective, creator and curator of 2nd Story, and currently serves as its Director of Artistic Development. In 2003, he received the first SDCF Mike Ockrent Fellowship. He assisted Harold Prince on *Bounce* and *Hollywood Arms*. He also served as assistant director to Kate Whoriskey on the Goodman's production of *Drowning Crow*. As a casting director, Adam worked with Lookingglass, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Northlight Theater and the Goodman Theatre where he currently casts full time.

Eliza Skinner is: *SHAMELESS!*



A show about people you don't like, but have to love. Eliza Skinner's characters are horrible people - viciously real and wickedly funny. She presents 3 gleefully repugnant portraits of a mother, a wife, a party girl; all of them skipping past the point of no return. Written and performed by Eliza Skinner. Directed by Greg Burke.

Eliza is one half of a tiny musical improv group, I Eat Pandas - a Time Out NY Critic's Pick, 2005 ECNY nominee for Best Musical Act. She is also a member of the comedy group *Baby Wants Candy*, and is the host and co-producer of *The BEATdown*, a monthly comedy rap-battle. She is featured in many Channel102.net shorts, including audience favorite *Sexual Intercourse American Style*. As a voice artist, Eliza plays Kitty Pryde in Marvel.com's animated *Astonishing X-men*, Chick in a series of *Farminals* shorts by So! Animation. Eliza is also a contributing writer for *Fair Game* with Faith Salie on NPR. Recently her short film, *Just Talk* won 4 awards in the New York 48-Hour Film Project. Most importantly, though - this summer she played Central Park's Summerstage with her kick-ass band, Stickerbook. www.elizaskinner.net

Solo Performance Spotlight featuring Lindsey Muscato and Eliza Skinner

Shops of Wicker Park, 1300 N Ashland

Saturday, October 12; 10^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Lindsay Muscato, *When I Cough, Words Come Out*

Sara King in *Good Crazy/Bad Crazy*

Sarah King believes two things and two things only One: Stereotypes exist for a reason. And Two: She knows what she knows but she doesn't know much. This show proves just that. That everyone, is crazy.

Sarah King moved from Sugarland, Texas to write and perform. She has studied at The Annoyance, iO, and Second City and has had the joy of performing all around the great city of Chicago. She is so grateful for the support of her friends and family. And thanks so much to the hilarious Allison Bills for her inspiring direction and Miss Cynthia Castiglione for her contagious snort-filled laughter and of course, allowing her to be apart of such an amazing event!



Solo Performance Spotlight featuring Lindsey Muscato and Michael Lehrer

Shops of Wicker Park, 1300 N Ashland

Sunday, October 12; 9^{pm}

\$10, Free with Festival Pass

Lindsay Muscato, *When I Cough, Words Come Out*

Michael Lehrer in *Heartbreaker*



Heartbreaker lands as Michael Lehrer's second full length one man comedy, his first being C'mon, which was seen at the Chicago Improv Festival, Miami Improv Festival, and in Live Bait's Filet of Solo Sampler. Michael also improvises weekly iO Chicago with veteran group Deep Schwa, does stand up as a guest of the Chicago Comedy Underground, and currently tours the country with The Second City. Michael appeared as Heartbreaker character Magician Robert Jones on an episode of NBC's Sports Action Team.