



# **ANNENBERG CENTER** FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**12/13 Season** SEPT-JAN



Christopher Haig

# Tribe of Fools

## *Heavy Metal Dance Fag*

Writers **Terry Brennan, Tim Carmello, Nick Mazzuca, Jay Wojnarowski**

Directors **Shannon Fitzsimons, Terry Brennan**

Stage Manager **Jamel Baker**

Set Designer **Christopher Haig**

Lighting Designer **Christopher J Frey**

Costume Design **Natalia De La Torre**

Sound Design **Kyle Yackoski**

Production Manager **Daniel Guy**

Cast

Timmy **Terry Brennan**

Vee **Janice Rowland**

Vinnie **Peter Smith**

Roz **Jess Conda**

James **Tim Popp**

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Friday, December 14 @ 7:30 PM  
Saturday, December 15 @ 7:30 PM

Harold Prince Theatre

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### **Program**

*There will be no intermission.*

This performance is part of the By Local Series.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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## **Terry Brennan** (Timmy/Writer/Co-Director)

Terry Brennan is a founding member of Tribe of Fools as well as a professional actor, puppeteer and director. Tribe of Fools credits include *Bedlam*, *Echo*, *Fool*, and *Echo 2007*. He also directed the critical and audience acclaimed *Armageddon at the Mushroom Village*. Other Philadelphia credits include *Velveteen Rabbit* (two national tours), *Harold and the Purple Crayon* (two national tours) and *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* (one national tour) with Enchantment Theatre Company. Brennan also served as company manager for three of his tours with Enchantment: *3 Chord Fiction* (BRAT Productions), *Spring Awakening* (EgoPo Theatre Company) and *The Giant Squid* (The Berserker Residents). When Brennan isn't making theatre he enjoys lifting weights, acrobatics and parkour. Brennan is a graduate of The University of Nebraska and The Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. Thanks so much to this wonderful cast and crew for making this show possible one more time.

## **Janice Rowland** (Vee)

Rowland is thrilled to bring back Vee once more with Tribe of Fools. Recent stage credits include: *The Amish Project* (Renegade Company), *The Cryptogram* and *The Black Monk* (both with Simpatico Theatre Project), *The Winter's Tale* (Delaware Shakespeare Festival), *Golden Age u/s* (Philadelphia Theatre Company/Kennedy Center), *The Long Christmas Ride Home* (Azuka Theatre), *Orange Flower Water* (Luna Theatre), *The Faculty Room* (Flashpoint Theatre Company), *A Prayer for Owen Meany* (Arden Theatre Company), *The Lady from the Sea* (Lantern Theatre Company), *Grease and Desist* (BRAT Productions) and *Fighting for Democracy* at the National Constitution Center. Rowland has appeared in many independent films and commercials and is also a singer/songwriter. Up next, Janice will reprise her role in the solo show *The Amish Project* with Renegade Company and Simpatico Theatre Project.

## **Peter A. Smith** (Vinnie)

Peter Smith graduated from Muhlenberg College with a BA in Acting and Technical Theatre and studied Commedia dell'Arte abroad in Arrezzo, Italy. He also studies Aerial Acrobatics at the Philadelphia School of Circus Arts. Currently, Smith is working with Enchantment Theatre Company (ETC) and touring with shows, *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *Sylvester and The Magic Pebble*. In the fall, he will hit the road once again as a performer and technical director of ETC's production of *The Velveteen Rabbit*. He is ecstatic to work with Tribe of Fools again on *Heavy Metal Dance Fag* and is thankful to have created this wonderful piece with such a talented, determined and fun group. Finally, Smith would like to thank his family and friends for their continual love and support!

## **Jess Conda** (Roz)

Jess Conda has been working as an actor and teaching artist since 2003. Last season, she was Resident Artist at BRAT Productions, where she conceived, co-produced and collaboratively created *Rock And Awe*, a quarterly rock and roll cabaret series. Recent performances include *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Shakespeare in Clark Park and most recently, the remount of the rock cabaret *Eternal Glamnation* in the Fringe Festival. Conda has received two Barrymore Nominations for Outstanding Ensemble: *Pay Up* with Pig Iron Theatre Company and *A 24 Hour The Bald Soprano* with BRAT Productions.

## **Tim Popp** (James)

Tim Popp is an actor, dancer, director and choreographer based in Philadelphia. He graduated with a BA in Theatre from Muhlenberg College. As an actor, he has performed with Plays and Players, HaHa Productions and Tribe of Fools. He has danced for Ellie Goudie-Averill/Stone Depot Dance Lab and the Austin, Texas based Dance Theatre X under the direction of Charles O. Anderson. Popp is a founding member and a collaborating artist for the Movement Brigade. He has also created original dance theatre pieces entitled *Underground Crossings* and *The Christmas Tango*. This season, he is directing and production managing *The Butterfly Project*, a touring production produced by Wolf Performing Arts Center. This project will tour to schools, religious and community centers

free of charge and culminate in a final performance during the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts.

#### **Shannon Fitzsimons** (Director)

Shannon Fitzsimons is a recent addition to the Philadelphia scene, co-directing this “dark horse hit” in the 2011 Philly Fringe Festival. She primarily works as a performer and lead teaching artist for Enchantment Theatre Company (*Ma Mere L'Oye*, 2012-2013 Symphony Tour and *The Adventures of Harold and the Purple Crayon*, 2009-2011 National Tours). Fitzsimons teaches voice at the Swedesboro Performing Arts Academy and has worked as a teaching artist of theatre and voice throughout the greater Philadelphia and New York regions with Theatre Horizon, Raven's Run Visual and Performing Arts Camp, Muhlenberg College Camp Imagine and The Rhinebeck Center for Performing Arts. She also had the privilege of apprenticing at InterAct Theatre Company through the fall and winter of their 2011-2012 season. Fitzsimons received her BA in Theatre and her BA in Music from Muhlenberg College, and additionally, studied Physical Theatre and Commedia dell'Arte at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy.

#### **Nick Mazzuca** (Writer)

Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Nick Mazzuca began his career studying Theatre and French at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He worked with the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival as an assistant director, then moved to Burgundy, France where he taught English. After returning to the U.S., he moved to Philadelphia to work with Tribe of Fools. He earned an MA in English Literature with a Playwriting emphasis under his mentor, Mark Charney. His play, *Through the Blue Door*, was selected for the 2008 WordBRIDGE Playwright's Laboratory. He returned to Philadelphia where he has dedicated himself to genre playwriting.

#### **Jay Wojnarowski** (Writer)

Jay Wojnarowski is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Tribe of Fools, a physical theatre company based in Philadelphia. In 2000, he received a BA in Theatre from DeSales University, with a concentration in Acting/Directing. He also studied and performed Commedia during the theatre department's professional summer program, The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. In 2002, he received a certificate for completing the Professional Training Program from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in Blue Lake California where he trained with some of the world's foremost teachers. He also has been trained in Commedia by Italian Maestros Enzo Aronica and Antonio Fava and in clown by Big Apple Circus' Barry Lubin. He's currently pursuing a degree in Business Administration with a dual major in Accounting and Entrepreneurship from Pierce College to better round out his management duties with Tribe of Fools. Wojnarowski also knits, sews, bakes artisan breads, writes, sculpts, makes puppets, paints, builds masks, fools around with basic HTML and has recently taught himself stop motion animation.

#### **Kyle Yackoski** (Sound Designer)

Kyle Yackoski is thrilled to be remounting this wonderful piece of theatre. Other sound credits include Tribe of Fools' last show, *Dracula, Night of the Iguana* at South Camden Theatre Company, where he also played the role of Wolfgang, and most recently *Travesties* at Plays and Players. He was also resident sound designer for several summers at Peterborough Players in New Hampshire where he won the 2011 Best Sound Designer New Hampshire Theatre Award.

#### **Christopher Haig** (Set Designer)

Christopher Haig has 25 years of experience in theatre and film, both on stage and off. He sang at the United States Embassy in Jordan, the Israel Festival in Tel Aviv and the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia with the Philadelphia Boys Choir and had the honor of singing with Luciano Pavarotti at the Academy of Music. He has also performed at the White House and Carnegie Hall. As a young man, Haig began to act in plays and musicals throughout Philadelphia. In 2001, he earned a BFA in Acting from the University of the Arts. While there, he developed an interest in prop and scenic design, combining his love of the visual arts with his passion for theatre. Since graduating, Haig has further diversified his skill set by studying film production in London, mastering AutoCAD, studying voice-over techniques with Charlie Roney and is a candidate for a Master of Science in Arts

Administration from Drexel University. A confessed multi-tasker, he is usually working on several projects at once. He has designed sets and/or props for Simpatico Theatre Project's last three seasons. He currently serves as the Properties Master at the Arden Theatre Company. As a freelance designer, Haig has worked with Theatre Horizon, Plays and Players, Lantern Theatre, Delaware Shakespeare Festival and Mazeppa Productions among others.

**Christopher J. Frey** (Lighting Designer)

Christopher Frey is a lighting designer based in Philadelphia. His work mainly consists of lighting for theatre, opera and dance; he has designed for live music events, art installations and corporate events. Frey is a graduate of the University of the Arts, with a BFA in Lighting Design. Please visit his website for his digital portfolio and resume at [freylightingdesign.com](http://freylightingdesign.com).

**Daniel Guy** (Production Manager)

Daniel Guy graduated from Muhlenberg College with a BA in Theatre and a Minor in Dance. He started with Tribe of Fools as Stage Manager for *Dracula*. Guy also worked with Tribe of Fools on the critically-acclaimed *Heavy Metal Dance Fag* as Production Manager and both *Holiday Burlesques* as Production Manager and Lighting Designer. He originally moved to the fine city of Philadelphia for a production internship with InterAct Theatre Company for the 2009/2010 season. Additional Philadelphia Credits include Enchantment Theatre Company (*The Velveteen Rabbit* and *Harold And The Purple Crayon*) and Simpatico Theatre Project (*Meep Project* and *Black Monk*). Guy now serves as InterAct's General Manager. When he's not working on theatre, he likes to spend his time snowboarding, playing ultimate frisbee and teaching yoga.

**Miranda Libkin** (Choreographer)

Miranda Libkin is thrilled to return to *Heavy Metal Dance Fag*. She has worked with The Wilma Theatre, Enchantment Theatre Company, Allens Lane Theatre, The Center Theatre, Theatre At Monmouth and many others. She was last seen with Enchantment Theatre Company in the national tour of *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. Libkin is currently pursuing her M.Ed. from Penn State University.

**Jamel Baker** (Stage Manager)

Baker is thrilled to be back with Tribe of Fools again. Baker graduated from Millersville University with a Bachelor's degree in Speech Communication and a concentration in Theatre. He was also the stage manager for the Philadelphia premiere of *Draw the Circle*, one of the eight shows in the Outside the Frame festival at InterAct Theatre Company. Baker was the assistant stage manager for Theatre Exile's 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 seasons, as well as assistant stage manager for *Etched in Skin on a Sunlit Night* at InterAct. His other credits include lead assistant in both the Post Op Festival at The Painted Bride and the Commotion Festival for Sweet Ninjas. He would like to thank everyone at Tribe of Fools for allowing him to be a part of such a hysterically upbeat show, not once but twice.

**Zachary Chiero** (Roz understudy)

Chiero is thrilled to be working with Tribe of Fools once again. He earned his BA in Theatre Performance from Muhlenberg College. For the last three years, he has been touring the country with Enchantment Theatre Company in the original productions of *Harold and the Purple Crayon* and *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*. Other Philadelphia credits include Enchantment Theatre Company, Simpatico Theatre Project, Tudor Theatrical, Quince Productions and Reactive Rep, among others.

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