



Kathryn Raines

Applied Mechanics

Some Other Mettle

Created by **Rebecca Wright, Maria Shaplin, Mary Tuomanen, Thomas Choinacky, Jessica Hurley, John Jarboe, Kristen Bailey**

Direction **Rebecca Wright**

Design **Maria Shaplin**

Costume Design **Katherine Fritz**

Original Sound Design **Kathryn Raines**

Stage Management **Bayla Rubin**

Set Construction **Jamie Grace-Duff, Danielle O'Callahan, Marissa Bescrypt, Aaron Cromie, Isa St. Clair, Logan Tiberi-Warner**

Cast

Mary Tuomanen Fallow

Thomas Choinacky Tesam

Jessica Hurley Laeta

John Jarboe Sy

Kristen Bailey Usco

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.

Friday, February 8 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 9 at 7:30 PM

Harold Prince Theatre

This performance is part of the By Local Series.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Applied Mechanics was founded by Rebecca Wright and Maria Shaplin, who discovered they shared an intense mutual love of dioramas, theme parties and immersive performance art. The company's inaugural show, *Selkie: A Home-Made Play* put a fishing village in a West Philly apartment on Valentine's Day 2009. Since then, Applied Mechanics has taken over a bar in Fishtown with *It's Hard Times at the Camera Blanca*, a story of out-of-work circus performers; built a desert, forest, prairie, ocean, mountain range, cave and arctic tundra into a two-bedroom apartment for their travel adventure play *Ses Voyages Sauvages*; toured from Texas to Maine with their invasion play *Portmanteau*; rocked out as their all-girl band *The Cherry Jones Administration*; transformed a gritty South Philly warehouse into a drought-stricken totalitarian state for the dystopic environmental piece *Overseers*; and swirled the teeming masses of Napoleonic Europe to life with *Vainglorious: The Epic Feats of Notable Persons in Europe After the Revolution*, a large-cast historical fantasia that will remount at the Philadelphia International Festival of Art in April 2013.

Over the course of these projects, the company has grown to include standing ensemble members Thomas Choinacky, Mary Tuomanen, Jessica Hurley, John Jarboe, Kristen Bailey and Bayla Rubin. The group's work is characterized by immersive sets, parallel narrative structures (with many scenes happening simultaneously, and the audience free to wander and watch how they want) and the incorporation of food, drink and other intimate sensory experiences. Their process is collaborative, democratic and based on a commitment to organizational and artistic innovation. They eat a meal together at every rehearsal. They are based in Philadelphia.

Rebecca Wright has directed and dramaturged for PlayPenn, the Lark Play Development Center and InterAct Theatre Company, where she served as the literary manager and resident dramaturg for three seasons. She has developed work with Philadelphia-based performers for First Person Arts, Micro-Fest Philadelphia and SoLow Festival. In addition to her work with Applied Mechanics, recent directing credits include *Sophie Gets the Horns* with The Riot Group, *Merry Wives of Windsor* with Shakespeare in Clark Park and *Joan of Arc: Voices in the Fire* with graduating MFA students at Columbia University, co-directed with Kristin Linklater. Wright has worked with students at the University of Michigan, Swarthmore College, Arcadia University and Columbia University. She is a recipient of a 2012 Independence Fellowship in the Arts and a member of Artists U.

Maria Shaplin is a Philadelphia-based lighting designer with a commitment to new, experimental work. She is a member and resident lighting designer for The Riot Group and co-founder and resident production designer for Applied Mechanics. She has worked with many companies in Philadelphia and New York including New Paradise Laboratories, The Berserker Residents, Swim Pony Performing Arts, Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental, Juniata College and the PlayPenn Development Conference. Shaplin has a BA from Hampshire College and an MFA from Temple University.

Jessica Hurley is a Philadelphia-based theatre artist. She trained at L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris and works primarily in collaborative devised theatre. In the UK, she has appeared in devised work at the Edinburgh Festival, the Brighton Fringe Festival, the Oxford Playhouse and the Battersea Arts Centre. In Philadelphia, she has co-created pieces with Applied Mechanics, Anthology Project and The Bearded Ladies.

John Jarboe is a University of Michigan graduate and Philadelphia-based theatre artist. He has worked locally at The Wilma Theater, The Walnut Street Theatre, The

Media Theatre, the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre and Maukingbird Theatre Company. He is a member of Applied Mechanics, with whom he has performed as Jan in *Portmanteau* (Philly Fringe, Frontera Fest), Lenny in *Overseers* and Josephine in *Vainglorious*, among others. He is the artistic director of The Bearded Ladies, an experimental cabaret group that performs at the Wilma Theater. The Bearded Ladies' shows include *Back in the Army Cabaret*, *No Regrets: A Piaf Affair*, *Beards are for Shaving* and *Marlene and the Machine*. Look for the upcoming production of *Wide Awake: A Civil War Cabaret* coming to the Kimmel Center this March.

Thomas Choinacky is the producer and curator of SoLow Festival. He has been a company member with Applied Mechanics since *It's Hard Times at the Camera Blanca*. He creates and devises avant-garde performance art including *daDada*, a Dadaist play, *Never Been Stoked: A Traveling Bromance* performed in a moving vehicle and *Substance*, staged throughout his South Philly apartment. Choinacky was the 2012 grantee of 1812 Productions' Jilline Ringle Solo Performance Program. Recent credits include his one man show *Thomas is Titanic* (Capital Fringe), *Off the Chain* (SoLow Festival) and *Beaut* (First Person Festival). He has performed along, in or on a subway, fountain, baseball field, bar, car, ten-mile race and the Lincoln Memorial, among others.

Mary Tuomanen is a graduate of the Jacques Lecoq School of Movement Theatre who now performs, directs and creates in Philadelphia. In Paris, she has performed original work at the Centre Pompidou with the *Les Jeudis Series* and at *Festival 100% Finlande*. As an actor, she has worked with Actor's Theatre of Louisville, HERE Arts Center, New Dramatists, The Riot Group, InterAct, PlayPenn, Lantern Theatre Company, Azuka, The Arden Theatre Company and the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre, where she curated an experimental theatre series called the Classical Cabaret. In 2010, she became the first woman to play Hamlet in Philadelphia since Charlotte Cushman. Original pieces include *Another Type of Flying* at the CEC New Edge Mix Series and a commissioned piece, *A Paper Garden*, for the American Philosophical Society with Aaron Cromie. Her play *Kelly Um* was featured at the Albee Last Frontier Theatre Festival in 2003. She and her partner Aaron Cromie were awarded a Philadelphia Theatre Initiative grant to create a piece on the art and maladies of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec (*The Body Lautrec*) in collaboration with the Mutter Museum of Medical Oddities, set to premiere in 2014. She is a company member of Applied Mechanics.

Kristen Bailey is a proud member of Applied Mechanics and the Bearded Ladies Cabaret. She has pursued her own education in experimental theatre by apprenticing inspiring theatre artists like Lucidity Suitcase International, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Elastic Theatre Company and Makoto Hirano, where she discovered an affinity for set and prop design. She also directed *Checkers*, a piece that appeared in the 2011 Fringe Festival. She holds a BFA in Theatre from the Actor Training Program at the University of Utah. Past training includes Circus Street Training in Paris, where she learned to walk on stilts and trained in Butoh and Lecoq.

Bayla Rubin's stage managing credits include *Marlene and the Machine* (Bearded Ladies), *The Giant Squid* (Berserker Residents/Swim Pony), *Some Other Mettle* (Applied Mechanics), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Shakespeare in Clark Park), *Sophie Gets the Horns* (The Riot Group), *Vainglorious* (Applied Mechanics), *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* (Gas & Electric Arts), *Lady M* (Swim Pony), Young Voices Festival 2010-2011 (Philly Young Playwrights/InterAct Theatre Company), *Between Trains* (Gas & Electric Arts) and The Barrymore Awards 2006-2010 (Theatre Alliance). Rubin holds a BFA from the University of the Arts.

PROGRAM NOTES

"Yet some men say in many parts of England that King Arthur is not dead, but had by the will of our Lord Jesu into another place. And men say that he shall come again and he shall win the holy cross. Yet I will not say that it shall be so, but rather I will say, Here in this world he changed his life." —*Le Morte d'Arthur*, Sir Thomas Mallory

"We're going ain't we."

"Yes we're going."

"Down that road with Eusa."

"Time and requiret."

"Where them Chaynjis take us."

"He done his time we'll do our time."

"He's doing it for us."

"We're doing it for him."

"Keep it going. Chances this time."

"Chances next time."

"New chance every time."

"New chance every time."

—*Riddley Walker*, Russel Hoban