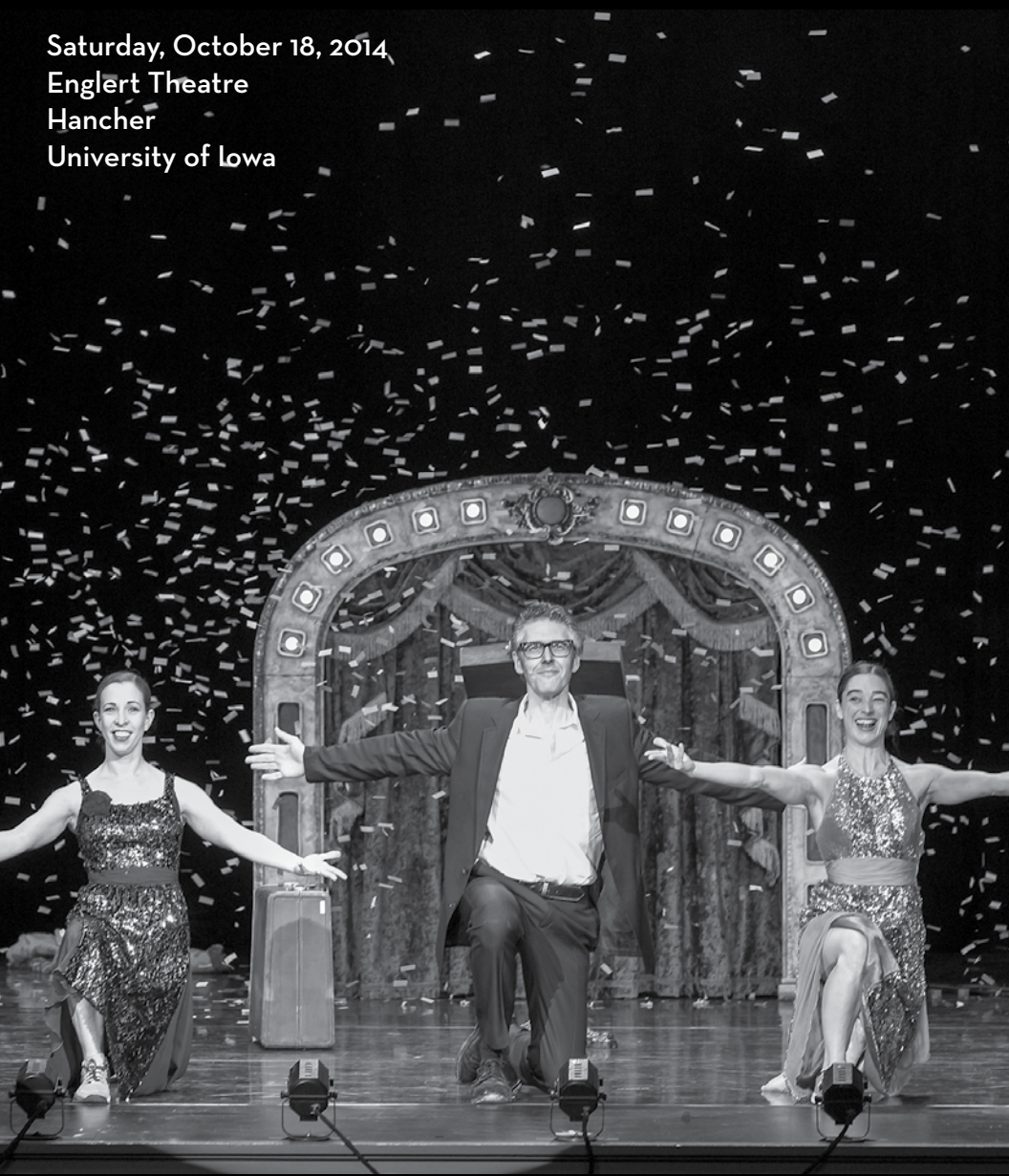


Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host

Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes,
Anna Bass

Saturday, October 18, 2014
Englert Theatre
Hancher
University of Iowa



THREE ACTS, TWO DANCERS, ONE RADIO HOST: IRA GLASS, MONICA BILL BARNES, ANNA BASS

Performed by Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes, and Anna Bass

Directed and Choreographed by Monica Bill Barnes

Lighting Design by Jane Cox

Set and Costume Design by Kelly Hanson

Ira Glass is the host and creator of the public radio program *This American Life*. The show is heard on more than 500 public radio stations in the U.S., and also on public radio in Canada and Australia. Most weeks it's the most popular podcast in America. Under Glass's editorial direction, *This American Life* has won the highest honors for broadcasting and journalistic excellence. A television adaptation of the program ran on the Showtime network for two years, winning three Emmys. The radio show has put out its own comic book, greatest hits compilations, live stage shows, two feature films, a "radio decoder" toy, temporary tattoos, and a paint-by-numbers set. This is Glass's professional dance show debut.

Monica Bill Barnes (Director/Choreographer) is the artistic director of Monica Bill Barnes & Company Productions, a New York City based contemporary dance company founded in 1997. MBB&CO has performed in more than fifty cities throughout the United States; has been commissioned and presented by the American Dance Festival, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; and has performed all over New York City in venues ranging from Upright Citizen's Brigade to Lincoln Center. Barnes has been an invited guest artist at numerous universities, has choreographed for various theater productions, and has been commissioned by Parsons Dance and The Juilliard School. Since 2006, Barnes has been making duets for herself and Anna Bass with the goal of reaching audiences beyond dance venues. They have performed in comedy festivals, in museums, in films, and at literary events. Barnes began working with Ira Glass in 2012 when she created a solo for David Rakoff and performed with MBB&CO as a part of *This American Life Live!* This is the first show in which she has let anyone speak on stage.

Anna Bass began working with MBB&CO in 2003 and now serves as associate artistic director. She has performed Barnes' work all over the country, on stages ranging from public fountains and city parks to New York City Center and Carnegie Hall. Bass often assists Barnes with commissions, workshops, and theater projects. She served as the assistant choreographer for productions at the Atlantic Theater, the Public Theatre and Yale Repertory Theatre. This past June she played the role of a roller-skating mouse alongside Mike Birbiglia in *This American Life: Live at BAM*. Bass grew up in a tiny town in Virginia and studied almost every dance style, from classical ballet to country line dancing. She now lives in a tiny apartment in Brooklyn, N.Y., and is thrilled to be working with this wild team.

Jane Cox (Lighting Designer) has designed with MBB&CO for more than a decade, and her collaboration with the company is central to her creative life. In 2014, Cox was nominated for both the Tony and the Drama Desk awards for her work on *Machinal*, and she also designed *All The Way* on Broadway. In 2013, Cox was awarded the Henry Hewes Design Award for her work on *The Flick*. Other recent designs in NYC include *Picnic* and *Dinner with Friends* for the Roundabout, *Passion* at CSC, and *The Whale* at Playwrights Horizons. Opera designs include Sydney Opera House, Houston Grand Opera, and New York City Opera. Cox has a long-standing relationship with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and has been teaching about light and design at Princeton University since 2007.

Kelly Hanson (Set/Costume Designer) is an original company member of MBB&CO, and has been collaborating with Monica Barnes since 2001. She is also an Emmy-nominated art director for television. Hanson currently spends most days directing art for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. Hanson was born in Bryan, Texas, earned her MFA in set design at University of California, San Diego, and joined the New York community in 2001. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, two children, and a big black dog.

Robert Saenz de Viteri (Producing Director) has spent the past year working with MBB&CO and Ira Glass. He joined the New York theater community in 2005 as an audio script assistant to Anna Deavere Smith as she began creating *Let Me Down Easy*. He led many productions and festivals at the Public Theater including the *Public Lab Series* and the international festival *Under The Radar*. He has created performances and toured productions throughout the world with the Obie Award-winning *Nature Theater of Oklahoma*. As a director he has worked at the Ensemble Studio Theater, The Flea, the Atlantic Theater, Office Ops, a tiny storefront in Oslo, and Access Theater, where he directed the *New York Times* Critics' Pick production of *Michael & Edie*. Recently he joined Ira Glass and *This American Life* producing Episode 528, *The Radio Drama Episode*, live on stage at Brooklyn Academy of Music. He is currently creating a new theater piece based on the life of author Knut Hamsun, set to premiere in Norway in 2015.

Tess James (Lighting Director/Stage Manager) is a freelance lighting director and designer. Throughout her career she has had the privilege of working with a wide range of amazing artists and companies including New York City Opera, BAM, New York City Center, Glimmerglass Opera, the American Repertory Theatre, Dallas Opera, Center Stage in Baltimore, the Public Theatre, Summer Scape at Bard College, and Den Nye Opera in the Netherlands. She currently resides in Brooklyn.

Under the artistic direction of choreographer Monica Bill Barnes, **Monica Bill Barnes & Company Productions'** mission is to celebrate individuality, humor, and the innate theatricality of everyday life, and to uncover and delight in the underdog in all of us. The company is committed to bringing dance to a diverse audience through public performances, touring, artistic and teaching residencies, and innovative projects that expand the possibilities for dance. MBB&CO is a four-member company of long-standing collaborators: Monica Bill Barnes (Artistic Director/Performer), Anna Bass (Associate Artistic Director/Performer), Jane Cox (Lighting Designer), and Kelly Hanson (Set/Costume Designer). This team has created over thirty shows for stages large and small, formal to site-specific, and has been producing work together for over a decade. www.monicaillbarnes.com

Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host is supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. It is also made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, and further supported by the Dianne and Daniel Vapnek Family Fund. This work was developed during a Choreographic Fellowship at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, and was also supported through the Media Fellowship Initiative at MANCC.

THANK YOU:

There are many individuals and organizations that have supported the making of *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host*. We would like to acknowledge our incredible creative team: Kelly Hanson, Jane Cox, Robert Saenz de Viteri, and Tess James. We would also like to thank Steven Barclay, Linda Brumbach, Alisa Regas, Julia Glawe, Sara Bixler, Dana Boll, Michelle Rose, Carol Fisler, Melanie Aceto, Kim Dooley, Dawn Nadeau, Katelijne DeBacker, Royd Climenhaga, Trey Lyford, and Seth Lind, as well as our wonderful team of artists who have built our props and costumes: Joanie Schlaffer, Rachel Navarro, Pat Murphy, Megan Turek, and Jeremy Lydic. Lastly, this work would not be possible without the generous support of private patrons, and we offer them our heartfelt thanks.

The photographing or recording of this performance is prohibited.

MUSIC AND STORY CREDITS:

CC RIDER (Ma Rainey) performed by Elvis Presley. Courtesy of RCA/Sony Music.

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DRINK TO ME (Ben Jonson) performed by Dean Martin. Courtesy of Capitol Records/Universal Music.

MAIS OUI MAMBO (Billy May, Conrad Gozzo) performed by Billy May. Appears courtesy of Universal Songs of Polygram International Inc.

DEEP BLUE DAY (Brian Peter George Eno, Roger Paul Eugene Eno, Daniel Roland Lanois). Rights courtesy of Opal Music PRS.

ART OF THE CANON (Thomas Louis Hardin) performed by Moondog. Courtesy of Roof Records.

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WHAT'LL I DO (Irving Berlin) performed by Nat King Cole. Published by Irvin Berlin Music. Rights courtesy of Virgin Records.

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THAT'S ALRIGHT MAMA (Arthur Crudup) performed by Elvis Presley. Courtesy of RCA/Sony Music and Crudup Music/Unichappell Music Inc.

Several stories in *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* were adapted from radio stories first heard on *This American Life*, which is produced by WBEZ Chicago.

The poem *Last Days*, from Donald Hall's collection *Without*, is used with permission.

MBB&CO PRODUCTION STAFF:

Producing Director: Robert Saenz de Viteri

Lighting Director/Stage Manager: Tess James

Music Clearance: Anthony Roman

This program is exclusively co-represented by Steven Barclay Agency and Pomegranate Arts.



ABOUT THE SHOW

Monica Bill Barnes & Company Productions and Ira Glass, host of *This American Life*, have been working together to combine two art forms that—as Ira puts it—“have no business being together—dance and radio.” The result is a funny, lively, and heartfelt evening of dance and stories that has brought down the house wherever it’s been performed, starting with its first test run at Carnegie Hall in 2013.

Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host includes radio interviews restaged as theatrical dance pieces, plus stories from the lives of each of the three performers: Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes, and Anna Bass. “What makes it work is a shared sensibility,” Glass says, “As dancers, Monica and Anna are these amazingly relatable and funny storytellers without words.” Bass notes, “I think it’s still blowing Ira’s mind to see some of the radio pieces remade this way, with props and costume changes and lighting cues.” Barnes adds, “Combining these art forms has led to a show that’s unlike anything I’ve ever choreographed before.”

As the title indicates, the show is in three acts. Act one is about the job of being a performer. Act two: falling in love and what it means to stay in love. Act three: nothing lasts forever. “People who like *This American Life* will probably like this,” says Glass, “because it’s just like the radio show, um, if you picture dancing during all the stories.”

Mr. Glass is the creator and host of WBEZ Chicago’s public radio show *This American Life*, which is heard on over 500 public radio stations; its podcast most weeks is the most popular podcast in America. Monica Bill Barnes & Company Productions is a contemporary American dance company with the mission to celebrate individuality, humor and the innate theatricality of everyday life, and to uncover and delight in the underdog in all of us. MBB&CO has performed in more than thirty venues in New York City including New York City Center, The Joyce Theater, Joe’s Pub, and Upright Citizens Brigade, and out-of-town venues including Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, the American Dance Festival, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In May 2012, Glass, Barnes, and Bass collaborated on three short dances that were a part of *This American Life Live!*, a live performance of the radio show that was broadcast into movie theaters nationwide. It was such a success that they decided to do a full show combining radio stories and dance.

For more information visit 3acts2dancers1radiohost.com.

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Arts & Minds Campaign Co-chair

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Arts & Minds Campaign Co-chair,
pictured with his wife, Victoria



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HOBA HOBA SPIRIT SHARED MUSIC AND CULTURE IN EXTENDED HANCHER RESIDENCY

By Erin Donohue, Hancher's Education Programming Director



Hancher was thrilled to host Moroccan band Hoba Hoba Spirit for a week long residency in September. The band was on tour as part of the Center Stage program, an initiative of the US Department of State. This was the second residency Hancher hosted in connection with the Center Stage program. In 2012, during the first year of Center Stage, Hancher hosted Ti-Coca and Wanga-Nègès from Haiti.

Hoba Hoba Spirit is a raucous rock-and-roll band with an international presence. The members of the band admitted they were nervous about visiting college classes (the rest of the tour was major festivals in large US cities), but they quickly adjusted to life in Iowa City. They even purchased Hawkeye jerseys and found local musicians to jam with.

The group visited a number of UI classes including several human rights and world music courses. It was enlightening to hear their perspective about art in Morocco—"We swim in a pool of musical influences"—and how speech is regulated in Casablanca (one band member spent time in jail for playing in a heavy metal band). Frontman Reda Allali noted that the band is committed to staying true to itself: "We write what we want to write, anyone is free to listen."

The members of the band also saw a jazz show at The Mill, went bowling at Colonial Lanes, were interviewed during a special WorldCanvass event hosted by UI International Programs, and played soccer with UI students and a team of sixth-grade girls. One of the goals of the Center Stage program is cultural exchange, and it was clear that students and community members in Iowa City gained an expanded perspective about Morocco while our new friends loved having a US college experience in the Midwest.

Photos by Miriam Alarcón Avila

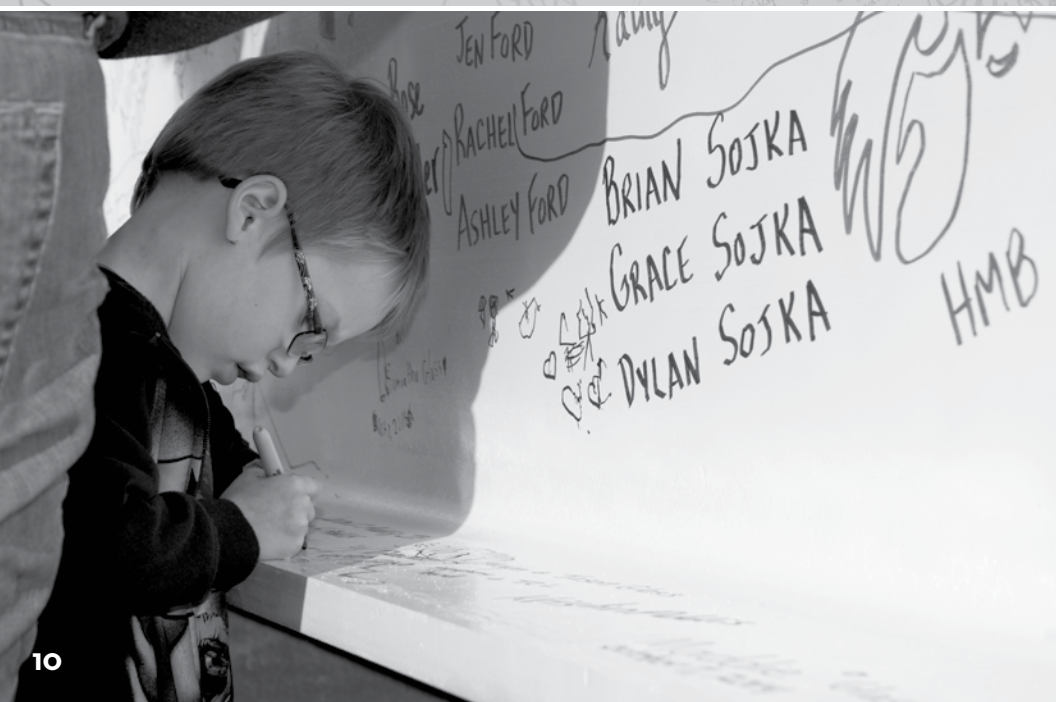




HANCHER INVITES PUBLIC TO ***LEAVE THEIR MARK***

On October 7 and 8, Hancher and Mortenson Construction invited the public to sign a beam that is now part of the new Hancher facility. More than 1,000 people signed the beam that was hoisted into place during a special ceremony featuring singer/songwriter, Iowa native, and UI alum Susan Werner. Following the ceremony, Werner became the first artist to perform on the new Hancher stage during a lunch for construction workers and others associated with the project, including architect César Pelli.

Photos by Miriam Alarcón Avila





THANK YOU

Hancher thanks our Partners for their unwavering loyalty and crucial support.

Their generosity enables us to bring the world's finest performing artists to our region.

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