

PUPPET STATE THEATRE COMPANY OF SCOTLAND

Sunday, October 2, 2016

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

Thursday, October 6, 2016



THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES

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OPENING SEASON 2016/2017

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Dear Chuck and the Hancher Staff,

Congratulations on the opening of the new, Cesar Pelli-designed Hancher Auditorium. It is truly a spectacular design and quite clearly a labor of love. Enclosed is our ad for the inside front cover of your program. Lazare Diamonds and Hands Jewelers are proud to be a part of your new building, your new season and your glorious future. We wish you and your staff many years of companies with a premier venue and the experiences of their lives.

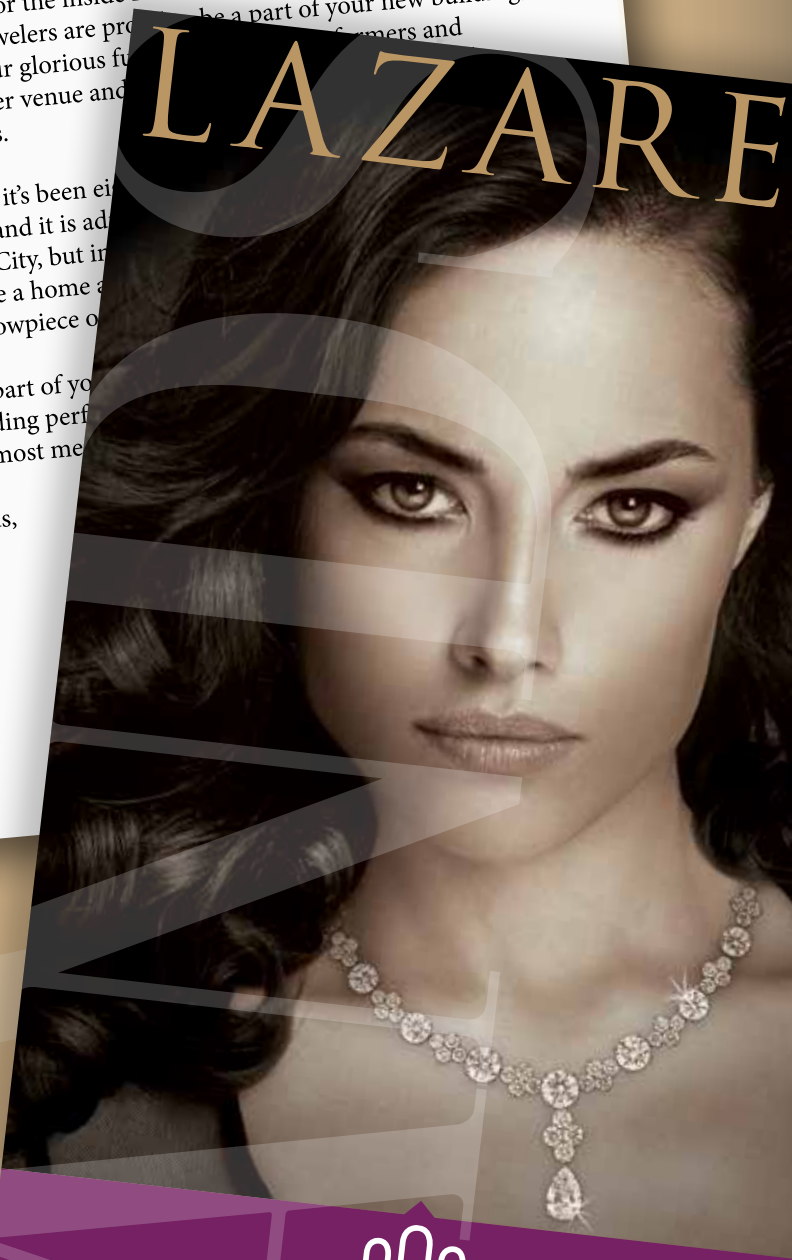
It is hard to believe that it's been eight years since the Hancher performing arts venue and it is still alive, not only in Iowa City, but in the state! And now we have a home for a brilliantly designed showpiece of architecture.

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Bill

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PUPPET STATE THEATRE COMPANY OF SCOTLAND
THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES

Adapted from Jean Giono's story by
Ailie Cohen, Richard Medrington, Rick Conte

Performers

Richard Medrington – Jean
Rick Conte – Jean's Colleague

Set and Puppet Design

Ailie Cohen

Lighting Design

Elsbeth Murray

Sound Design

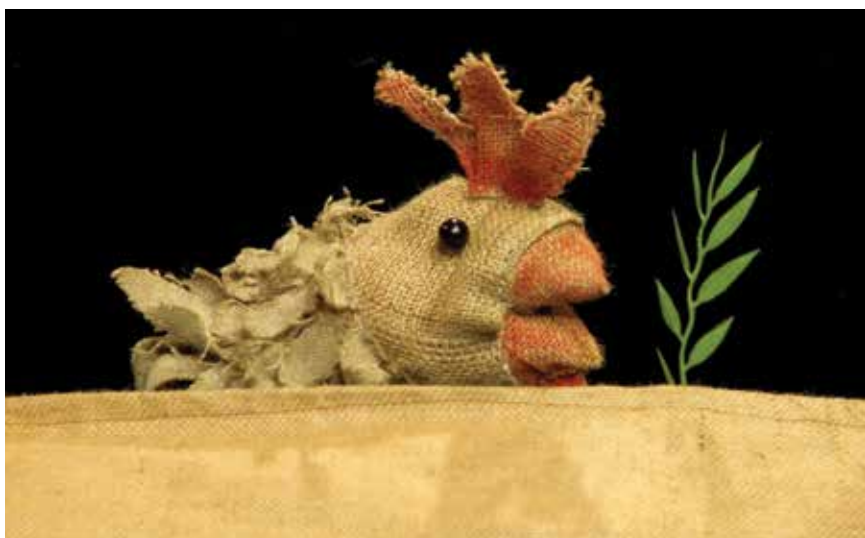
Barney Strachan

Music

Canarios by Johannes Kapsberger
performed by Orphénica Lyra
directed by José Miguel Moreno
From *Música en el Quijote* on the Glossa label

Terre by Charles Trénet
From *A Portrait of Charles Trénet*
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NOTE FROM PUPPET STATE THEATRE COMPANY OF SCOTLAND

We have performed this production over 1,400 times since 2006 in venues from tents on windswept hillsides, to tiny village halls on remote Scottish islands, to repeat visits to London's Southbank Centre, New York's Lincoln Center Institute, and the Sydney Opera House. There is something about this story that seems to strike a chord wherever we go, and for that reason – as well as the fact that we get to make up new bits all the time – we never tire of performing it.

In 1957 the author Jean Giono said: "I wrote this story to make people love trees, or more precisely to make people love planting trees. Of all my stories it is one of the ones of which I am most proud. It has never earned me a penny and for that reason it has accomplished the very purpose for which it was written."

But this is much more than a story about planting trees: it is a wonderful parable of life, the tale of a human being who saw a need and decided not to ignore it but to "put things right." The story is also known as "The Man Who Planted Hope and Reaped Happiness," and it holds an increasingly vital message for this generation. Maybe we all have a supply of acorns hidden away somewhere...

We hope that you bug a bookseller or librarian and get hold of a copy of *The Man Who Planted Trees* and discover why we fell in love with the story.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne Frank

"Jean Giono's story surely belongs among the most moving and endearing statements of our hope."

Wendell Berry



COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Medrington, compulsive playwright, performer, and storyteller, found his calling as a puppeteer in 1983. His one-man shows include *The Spider of Spindle Wood*, *The Interrogation*, *The Adventures of Ivan the Slug*, and AA Milne's *Winnie the Pooh*, which toured the UK for five years to packed houses, culminating in a sell-out run at the Royal National Theatre in London. He is a veteran of 20 Edinburgh Festival Fringes. He founded Puppet State Theatre Company in 2003 and his collaboration with Rick, Ailie, and Elspeth began soon after that. His 2016 adaptation of JRR Tolkien's short story *Leaf by Niggle* contains zero wizards and not a single puppet but nonetheless has delighted critics and audiences alike. Richard is humbled by the ongoing success of *The Man Who Planted Trees* and is delighted to be back in Iowa City for the start of Hancher's 16-17 season.

Rick Conte studied journalism at the University of Georgia and moved to Edinburgh, Scotland on a whim in 1989. He has worked with The National Theatre of Scotland, Wee Stories, The Edinburgh Puppet Company, and Catherine Wheels. Using one of his puppet creations, Lord Dennis Tippleworthy, Rick has addressed the European Conference on Alcohol Policy in Helsinki, Leiden, and Warsaw. He has worked on many productions with Ailie Cohen, most recently devising and performing in *The Secret Life of Suitcases*. Besides planting acorns with Elzéard and Puppet State, Rick continues to direct puppetry (Catherine Wheels Theatre Company, Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) and perform in cabaret (*The Happy Clap Trap*, *Brighton*). Rick was delighted to perform the role of Cotton in Catherine Wheels' *White* at the 42nd St Studios in NYC in 2015. Currently, funded by Creative Scotland, Rick is working on a stage adaptation of HG Well's *The Time Machine*, touring in 2017.

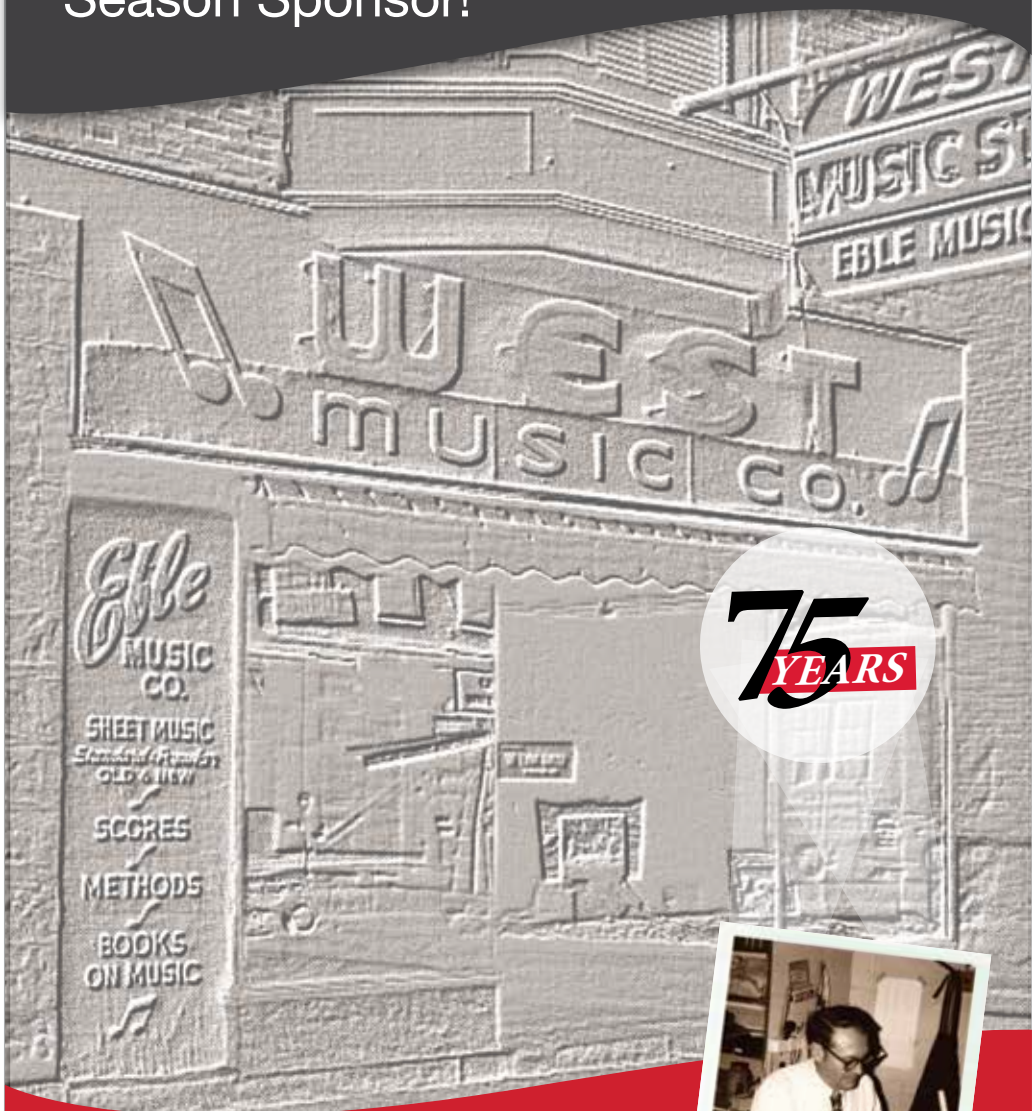
Ailie Cohen went to Moscow to study acting, busked and starved her way round Europe with a street theatre troupe, then discovered she could combine visual art and theatre by becoming a puppeteer. Ailie has worked with, among others, The National Theatre of Scotland, Royal National Theatre, Grid Iron, TAG, The Citizens, The Lyceum, and Vanishing Point. Her own shows include *Rumpelstiltskin* at the Fairytale Laundry, *Jazz Mouse*, *The New Not New*, and, in collaboration with Lewis Hetherington, *Cloud Man*, which has toured internationally and been duplicated to tour in China. Ailie's co-production with London's Unicorn Theatre, *The Secret Life of Suitcases*, featured Rick Conte as performer and co-deviser. Her original set and puppets for *The Man Who Planted Trees* were never intended to last for over ten years but, with occasional invisible mending, still seem to be faring remarkably well! Ailie is currently working with Starcatchers and Branar Theatre Company on *The Shape of Things* premiering at this year's Baboro festival, Galway. Ailie is also creating a design for Lewis Hetherington and National Theatre of Scotland on *Rocket Post* in 2017.
www.secretsuitcases.com www.ailiecohen.com

Elspeth Murray was not allowed to touch electrical appliances at home until she was six. She has been making up for her deprived childhood by operating sound and light equipment with many brightly-colored buttons in countless theatres, village venues, and school halls with *The Man Who Planted Trees*. When not pressing buttons in theatres, she is Company Manager, which involves pressing buttons on screens and keyboards. She

would be thrilled if you pressed the 'Like' button on Puppet State Theatre Company's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/puppetstate>. Or follow @PuppetStateThtr on Twitter. Or both. She is a board member of Improbable, Chair of Puppet Animation Scotland, and has a picnic basket full of woodland animal puppets who (sickeningly) perform her poems – and mentor people – better than she can.



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Betty Woodman (American, 1930–), *Pillow Pitcher*, 1980, Porcelain, 22 x 20 1/2 x 18 in.
Gift of Joan E. Mannheimer, 1991.223. ©Betty Woodman

OCTOBER 8–DECEMBER 11, 2016
Black Box Theater, Iowa Memorial Union

Funding for this exhibition was provided by
the Gerald Eskin Ceramics Art Initiative



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Photos: Bill Adams





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12/1-4



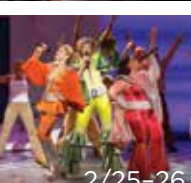
12/6



1/20



1/31-2/5



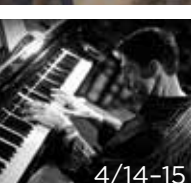
2/25-26



3/3-4



3/9



4/14-15



HANCHER AUDITORIUM OPENING SEASON 2016/2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/2, 5, 6 Puppet State Theatre Company of Scotland
The Man Who Planted Trees
- 10/8 Renée Fleming
- 10/11-16 *The Book of Mormon*
- 10/20 Step Afrika!
The Migration: Reflections of Jacob Lawrence
- 10/27 Maya Beiser, *The Day*
- 10/28 Laurie Lewis and the Right Hands
- 11/5 *Pomp, Brass, and Lunacy!*
Tomáš Kubínek, Wycliffe Gordon,
Orchestra Iowa, and University Choirs
- 11/11 Chucho Valdés Joe Lovano Quintet
- 12/1-4 The Joffrey Ballet, *The Nutcracker*
- 12/6 Emanuel Ax
- 12/9 Asleep at the Wheel
Merry Texas Christmas Y'all!
- 1/20 The Cleveland Orchestra
- 1/27 Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion
- 1/31-2/5 *The Sound of Music*
- 2/8-9 *Soil*, conceived by Michael Sakamoto
- 2/11 The Ying Quartet with Billy Childs
- 2/16 Tanya Tagaq
in concert with *Nanook of the North*
- 2/25-26 *MAMMA MIA!*
- 3/3-4 Circus Oz
- 3/5 Yo-Yo Ma - **SOLD OUT**
- 3/9 Las Cafeteras
- 3/23 Jessica Lang Dance
- 3/25 The Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
- 3/30 Dr. David J. Skorton
- 4/4-9 Mission Creek Festival collaboration
- 4/14-15 Club Hancher: Fred Hersch Trio
- 5/4 */peh-LO-tah/*, Marc Bamuthi Joseph

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