



EARLY MORNING OPERA: *ABACUS*

FEBRUARY 2-4, 2012 8:30 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

EARLY MORNING OPERA: ABACUS

Created and Produced by Early Morning Opera

www.EarlyMorningOpera.com

Paul Abacus as himself

Director of Communications: Lars Jan

Broadcast Specialist: Sonny Valicenti

Video, Scenic & Software Designer: Pablo N. Molina

Visualization Software & Data Narrative Designers: James N. Sears and
Jonathan Cousins

Composer, Sound & Software Designer: Nathan Ruyle

Lighting Designer & Logistics: Christopher Kuhl

Steadicam Operators: Nicholas Konow and John Luna

Associate Producer: Miranda Wright

Documentation: Luke Norby

Panda Wrangler: Brad Culver

Printed Design: Thirst

Abacus was originally commissioned by the Experimental Media & Performing Arts Center (EMPAC), and performed last week at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. This work was developed with the support of 24th Street Theatre (Los Angeles), Thea Duell, and The Tiffen Company, makers of the Steadicam camera stabilizing systems. An early version of *Abacus* was presented as part of REDCAT's New Original Works Festival 2009.

Special thanks to Mark Murphy, George Lugg, Diana Wyenn, Bill Ballou, Eric Nolfo, Ian Burch, Edgar Miramontes and the entire REDCAT staff. And, to Herbert Allen, Mia Barron, Carrie Beck, Mary Pat Bentel, Kate Bishop, Rick Booth, Katelan Braymer, Jess Christiansen, Matthew Connolly, John Cooper, Mike Craig, Daniel Desure and Commonwealth Projects, Debbie Devine, Xander Duell, Kathleen Forde, Sarah Friedman, Shari Frilot, Elena Gageanu, Jesse Gilbert, Jon Gottlieb and JonSound, Will Green, David Allen Grove, Chris Hampton, John Hankammer, Dan Ikeda, Rolin Jones, Wilson Kello, Ben Kellogg, Alexandra Kustin, Tom Leeser and the Center for Integrated Media at CalArts, Sam Littlefield, Webster Marquez, Jesse Marshall, Rebekah May, Jay McAdams, Dylan Metzger, Luke Norby, Blaine O'Neill, Ellie O'Neill, John Pobojewski, Travis Preston, Alex Robinson, Bud Rodecker, Jonathan Marc Sherman, Dee Sherwood, Steve Tiffen, Rick Valicenti, Tatianna Williams, Christine Wood, Liz Ziegler, the Center for Cultural Innovation, The MacDowell Colony, the folks at Kickstarter, and the TED Fellows program and Sundance Institute.

BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL ABACUS had his transformation in Ginza where the implications of all those screens became instantaneously evident, and he realized it was only a matter of time before the new vision was collectively generated by millions of authors. Overwhelmed by the magnificence of the truth, derived not from a fantasy but from billions of data points made instantaneously apprehendable, Paul saw the illuminated future, backlit with teriyaki in his left hand. Paul is the St. Teresa of The Screen Age, perforated by pixels. Since getting booted from Oxford, where he nearly doctored in national borders and synesthesia, Paul has spent meaningful time as an organ grinder and national park ranger. He has since spoken at many esteemed global institutions and elementary schools. You can learn a lot more about Paul at www.VisualAnimals.com.

JONATHAN COUSINS is a NYC-based designer and programmer specializing in the creation of information visualizations and user interfaces. Although he focuses his efforts on developing network analysis tools with the TripleDex group based in Washington, DC, his design practice extends to other kinds of commercial and artistic enterprises. He has consulted with, conducted workshops for, or presented his work to a wide variety of organizations such as Hearst Corporation, the U.S. Department of State, MIT's Hyperstudio Conference on Digital Humanities and others. He is adjunct faculty at NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program where he teaches a course on information visualization. www.cousins-sears.com.

LARS JAN is a director, designer, writer and media artist, and founding artistic director of Early Morning Opera, a multidisciplinary art lab based in Los Angeles specializing in live performance. His recent work includes *A Suicide Bombing by Invitation Only*, an environmental performance/installation commissioned and premiered by The Whitney Museum (New York) and recently seen at the Hi-Lite Gallery (Los Angeles), and *Takes*, a cinematic dance performance/installation presented by Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and 3 Legged Dog Art & Technology Center (New York). Jan was awarded a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship to pursue his MFA in Directing and Integrated Media at California Institute of the Arts. He received the 2008 Sherwood Award, granted by Center Theatre Group to an innovative theatre artist in Los Angeles. He has held artistic and teaching residencies at The MacDowell Colony, EMPAC, Brookfield Properties Arts Program, Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, Princeton University's Atelier Program, and Mount Holyoke, Swarthmore, and Amherst Colleges. Early Morning Opera's next large project, *Holoscenes*, about global ritual and environmental catastrophe is currently in development, and is produced by MAPP International Productions. Jan is a 2011 TEDGlobal Fellow.

NICHOLAS KONOW is an Los Angeles based actor and director. Previous directing credits include, *La La La* and *After the Flood*, original ensemble works created in collaboration with the Los Angeles A+D Museum. A workshop production of *La La La* was presented at REDCAT's Studio series in 2007. As actor and steadicam operator, Nick was most recently seen in Early Morning Opera's *A Suicide Bombing by Invitation Only*, and in L.A. Contemporary Dance Company's *Body Mechanique*. Nick is currently developing a staged adaptation of J.D. Salinger's "Franny," titled *A Long Time Between Drinks*.

CHRISTOPHER KUHLE is a lighting, scenic, installation and conceptual designer for new performance, theatre, dance and opera. He has had the pleasure of working and making art at REDCAT, On the Boards, The Walker, UCLA Live, BAM, Jacob's Pillow, The Krannert Center, YBCA, Portland Center Stage, Hartford Stage, Dallas Theatre Center, Los Angeles Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Beijing Music Festival, The Bumbershoot Festival, Queer Zagreb, Sundance Film Festival, St. Ann's Warehouse, Arena Stage, MAC France, Reed Collage, Columbia College and Duke University. Chris has also enjoyed residencies at Caldera in Sisters, OR (2009, 2010), EMPAC in Troy, NY (2010, 2012) and Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA (2011). He has guest lectured at CalArts School of Theatre Design and Production, UCLA Department of Cultural Affairs and the USC School of Theatre. His work has been shown at festivals in China, Indonesia, Canada, France, Belgium and Hong Kong and is also the recipient of the 2011 Sherwood, Ovation, Drammy and Horton Awards. When he is not working, his passion for travel has taken him on various adventures around the world, his favorites being La Isla de Ometepe, Nicaragua; Okavango River Delta, Botswana; Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia, and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam. Originally from Albuquerque, NM, Chris is a graduate of California Institute of the Arts.

JOHN LUNA, a Texas native, is a Philadelphia-based freelance dancer/choreographer/video designer. He graduated with honors from the University of the Arts in 2006 and has since worked with many choreographers both locally and nationally. When he isn't wiggling around on stage, John enjoys experimenting with video design and installation, reading sci-fi/fantasy novels and playing video games. John would like to take the rest of this space to thank his family for always supporting his endeavors.

PABLO N. MOLINA is a video, lighting and sound artist. His work is based on an ongoing exploration of emerging technologies and his custom media software development practice. Pablo has created many real-time interactive media experiences for live performances and architectural projects. His video, lighting, and sound design work has been featured in numerous exhibitions as well as theatrical, music, and dance pieces at venues such as EMPAC, REDCAT, BAM Next Wave, The Whitney Museum, Microsoft, Philadelphia Live Arts, Beta Level, 3LD, The Katmandu International Theater Festival, The Wexner Center, LACMA, PICA, and many others. His animated video content is featured in recent Linkin Park, Nickelback, Creed, and A.R. Rahman's concert tours. He is also designing the video projections for *Party People*, a new play commissioned by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for their 2012 season. As an educator, Pablo frequently teaches workshops and master classes on current and emerging trends in video design and the use of custom software for live performance. He is a recent Guest Artist in Residency at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts and a frequent panelist at the LDI Institute's yearly Projection Master Classes. Pablo helped establish the MFA in Video for Performance at the California Institute of the Arts School of Theater, where he currently teaches.

NATHAN RUYLE is a cross-disciplinary artist, designer, producer, educator and technologist. He maintains a hybrid studio in Los Angeles specializing in sound and interactive technology for cinema, broadcast, performance, art, and online contexts, working with both commercial clients and independent media makers. Sound for recent notable film projects include Nina Menkes' internationally acclaimed feature film *Dissolution*, Akousua Adoma Owusu's widely shown *Me Broni Ba* and *Drexciva*, and Natasha Mendonca's *Jan Villa*, which took top prize at the Rotterdam and Ann Arbor film festivals last year. He is a frequent collaborator with the recent USA fellow Halcombe Waller and the contemporary multimedia performance groups Cloud Eye Control and Early Morning Opera. Nathan is a faculty member at California Institute of the Arts in the School of Film/Video and the Center for Integrated Media. www.thisissounddesign.com.

JAMES N. SEARS is an interactive technologist, specializing in hardware and software implementations of visual media and data visualization. His work has been featured in exhibitions and events such as TED, SIGGRAPH, Wired NextFest, Coachella, MoMA's Design and the Elastic Mind, and can be found in the electronic edition of *The New York Times* and the recent iPad premiere of Popular Mechanics Magazine. His consulting clients include The Department of Homeland Security, Microsoft, Hearst, as well as a variety of early-stage technology startups. He recently joined the adjunct faculty at NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program, where he is teaching Expression Frameworks for Data: Data Visualization.

SONNY VALICENTI is a Los Angeles based actor and a recent graduate of California Institute of the Arts. Sonny spent two seasons performing and touring with The Acting Company in *Henry V* and as the title role in *Romeo and Juliet*. He is a frequent collaborator with Early Morning Opera, and has worked on *///AUTOPILOT///* and *As Far As Thought Can Reach*. Other theater credits include *Twelfth Night* (Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival), and *Demeter in the City* (Cornerstone Theater Company). Sonny is grateful to Lars Jan for opening his mind and his heart.

MIRANDA WRIGHT is an independent producer for live performance and co-founder of The Center for Sustainable Practice in the Arts. Specializing in international collaborations, Miranda is currently producing *Cooking Oil*, a performance and public dialogue initiative in East Africa written by Deborah Assimwe. Miranda recently founded Los Angeles Performance Practice, a new producing model and network of artists that supports the creation of a sustainable infrastructure for original works emerging from Los Angeles that are socially, aesthetically, and technologically innovative. Partners include Automata Arts, Christine Marie & Ensemble, Cloud Eye Control, Early Morning Opera, and independent directors and designers.