



**REDCAT**

**MARK Z. DANIELEWSKI'S**  
**THE FIFTY YEAR SWORD**

OCTOBER 31, 2012 7:30 PM & 9:30 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

**CaLARTS**

# MARK Z. DANIELEWSKI'S

## THE FIFTY YEAR SWORD

- Lobby activities with Chintana and 826LA
- *The Fifty Year Sword* – 7:30 performance
- Costume contest
- *The Fifty Year Sword* – 9:30 performance
- Book signing

### THE STORY

The tale unfolds in East Texas, where a local seamstress named Chintana finds herself responsible for five orphans who are not only captivated by a storyteller's tale of vengeance, but by the long black box he sets before them. As midnight approaches, the box is opened, a fateful dare is made, and the children as well as Chintana come face to face with the consequences of a malice retold and now foretold.

### CAST AND CREW

Mark Z. Danielewski  
Christopher O'Riley

Conductor  
Pianist

#### *Actors in order of appearance:*

Justin Veach  
Ekaterina Pirogovskaya  
Katie Eisenberg  
Craig Lee Thomas  
Courtney Bell  
Brian Weiss  
Sienna Beckman  
Sarah Newswanger

Gravedigger  
Dancer  
Molasses  
Ginger  
Cinnamon  
Nutmeg  
Cloves  
Understudy

Mali Elfman  
Michele Reverte  
Alex Choate  
Adam Rayzor  
Lillian Sullam  
William Wawro  
Vincent Michael Richards  
Daniel Greenberg  
Zeke Pinheiro  
Angel Murphy  
Jeff Pinheiro  
Drew Tacchino

Producer  
Producer  
Lighting/Technical Coordinator  
Technical Coordinator Assistant  
Animator  
Video Designer  
Production Designer  
Set Designer  
Videographer  
Videographer  
Sound Design Production Assistant  
Production Assistant

## BIOS

**Mark Z. Danielewski (Conductor)** is the bestselling author of *House of Leaves* and National Book Award finalist *Only Revolutions*. Earlier this month, Pantheon Books released the hardcover and eBook editions of *The Fifty Year Sword*, which will be followed by the limited deluxe edition of the book—including a Nepalese binding and a custom box with five latches—on Nov. 13. He is currently writing *The Familiar*, a 27-volume novel about a 12-year-old girl who finds a kitten. [www.markzdanielewski.com](http://www.markzdanielewski.com)

**Christopher O’Riley (Pianist)**, an internationally-renowned, award-winning pianist, has received acclaim for his Radiohead, Nick Drake and Elliott Smith piano interpretations, in addition to his performances with philharmonic orchestras around the world. He is also the host of National Public Radio’s *From the Top*, where he works and performs with the next generation of brilliant young musicians. Original music he composed for tonight’s performance also appears in the animated iBooks version of *The Fifty Year Sword*. [www.christopheroriley.com](http://www.christopheroriley.com)

**Justin Veach (Gravedigger)** is a semi-retired performance artist, a public library evangelist and currently the Director of New Initiatives at the Library Foundation of Los Angeles. He is also the producer and host of *This is Your Library*, the Library Foundation’s series of live conversations presented in late-night talk show style (but without the TV) after hours at the historic Los Angeles Central Library.

**Ekaterina Pirogovskaya (Dancer)** is currently appearing as a dancer and actress in Cirque du Soleil’s *Iris* at the Dolby Theatre.

**Katie Eisenberg (Molasses)**, a recent graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, has performed in places like Radio City Music Hall, Yankee Stadium, and La MaMa E.T.C. Katie is the creator of the fiction-turned-multimedia project *Here Is A Man* ([www.hereisaman.com](http://www.hereisaman.com)). She is also John Swarthrepp, of *Speaking While Reading!* with John Swarthrepp & Friends, the only reading series hosted by a (fictional) real estate agency. Katie is thrilled to be a part of this incarnation of *T50YS!*

**Craig Lee Thomas (Ginger)** is a graduate of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, where he studied at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Previous productions of note include the world premiere of Colin McKenna’s *Parking Lot*, *Lonely Heart* at the Boomerang Theatre Company in NYC and three seasons at the Utah Shakespearean Festival. For more information, including links to Craig’s sketch comedy group *Pursued By Bear*, visit [www.craigleethomas.com](http://www.craigleethomas.com).

**Courtney Bell (Cinnamon)** studied at Towson University, where she received dual degrees in acting and English education and was a recipient of the Maryland Distinguished Scholarship for the Arts. Her regional theatre credits include works by Shakespeare, world premieres, Theatre for Young Audiences, musicals and classics. She moved to Los Angeles in 2009 and garnered rave reviews for her starring performance in the award-winning horror feature *Absentia*, released in 2011. [www.courtneybell.me](http://www.courtneybell.me)

**Brian Weiss (Nutmeg)** is happy to be back for a second year reading as Nutmeg for *T50YS!* A native of Minneapolis, MN, he just returned from his off-Broadway debut producing and performing in the New York International Fringe Festival hit *Pulp Shakespeare*. He has worked at the Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum, the Uprising Theatre Company, the NoHo Arts Center, and spent four summers with Shakespeare Santa Barbara. He has appeared in campaigns for FedEx, BMW, Las Vegas, Volkswagen, Taco Bell, Xbox and more.

**Sienna Beckman (Cloves)** is thrilled to be performing for the first time at the REDCAT Theater. Hopefully it won’t be her last! Sienna grew up in the redwoods of the San Francisco Bay Area and transplanted herself to Los Angeles to pursue her career as an actress. She most recently was in an independent feature called *FACE* with Pathfinder Pictures, and is in her own webseries called *If Aaron Sorkin Had Written...* Check out [www.siennabeckman.com](http://www.siennabeckman.com). Enjoy the show!

**Sarah Newswanger (Understudy)** is a classically trained actor and singer with a BA in theatre from USC. She also studied at the British American Drama Academy in London and The Clown School. She is currently narrating the audiobook for *Stained Glass Summer*, shooting the indie film *Just A Simple Love Story*, and rehearsing to sing with the Lil' Dickens Christmas Carolers quartet. [www.sarahnewswanger.com](http://www.sarahnewswanger.com)

**Mali Elfman (Producer)** again emerges from the darkness of a movie theater to return to the RED stage for her second year producing *T50YS*. Despite normally working with a camera (with the a multiple-takes-safety-bubble), she loves helping bring this story to life in new and adventurous ways, hoping to please returning "readers" and entertain newcomers! She is currently working on a number of film productions, including *Jesus Hates Zombies*, *Scare Dares*, *Karma*, *Addison Clark* and *Somnia*. She has two cats, Moseley and Dexter, both rescued and named after serial killers.

**Alex Choate (Lighting/Technical Coordinator)**, a student of Don Childs, has been designing and assistant designing for the past seven years. Words to consider: "All we have is integrity, an artist without integrity has nothing." —Ladislav Vychodil

**William Wawro (Video Designer)** is an editor from Houston, Texas. After graduating from Syracuse University with a BA in film production, William moved to Los Angeles to immerse himself in the industry. Since moving out to California, William has worked on web videos, music videos, live installations and movie trailers.

**Vincent Michael Richards (Production Designer)** graduated with a BFA in theater from California State University Long Beach and has studied and worked in the UK, Cambodia and Russia. He is currently attending CalArts pursuing an MFA in set design. He was recently awarded the Princess Grace Scholarship, Faberge Theater Award.

**Daniel Greenberg (Set Designer)** is currently studying for his BFA in theater with an emphasis in technical direction at CalArts. He currently works at the Valley Performing Arts Center, specializing in lighting, where he's worked with talent such as the NYC Ballet and Tom Petty. Currently, he is in production for *The Tempest* at CalArts.

**Drew Tacchino (Production Assistant)** is returning to REDCAT for the third time with *The Fifty Year Sword*. She is a junior at Providence High School, and her cat is named Penelope.

*All raffle and book sale proceeds will benefit 826LA (826la.org) a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. 826LA provides after-school tutoring, evening and weekend workshops, in-school tutoring, help for English language learners, and assistance with student publications.*

*Christopher O'Riley appears in The Fifty Year Sword thanks to an ARC grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation.*

Animations featured throughout the performance appear in the iBooks version of *The Fifty Year Sword*.

*Circle Round a Stone wishes to thank REDCAT, the cast and crew, as well as:*

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