



JOHN FLECK: *BLACKTOP HIGHWAY*

OCTOBER 22-24, 2015 8:30 PM

OCTOBER 25, 2015 7:00 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

JOHN FLECK: *BLACKTOP HIGHWAY*

Written and Performed by John Fleck

Director/Dramaturg: Rande Trabit

Video Design: Heather Fipps

Costume Designer: Christina Wright

Lighting Designer: Vortex Lighting

Anne Militello-Principle Designer

Jonathan Levovic-Associate Designer

Jesse Fryery-Design Assistant

Puppet Design: Christine Papalexis

Sound Design: Catasonic Records

Promotional Videotaping: Adam Soch

“I believe the artistic value the horror film most frequently offers is its ability to form a liaison between our fantasy fears and our real fears.” — Stephen King

Special thanks to Anita Lee, Bridget Murnane, Henry Mendell, Randy LaBorde, Maddy Mendell, Marc Cardiff, Kate Harmon, Victoria Looseleaf, Candice Clasby, Greg Cloud, Jim Fipps, Martha Fipps, Weba Garretson, Joey Krebs, Kevin Duffy, José Cruz González, Kristina Hackel, Jessica Hawkins, Terrance Hewitt, Sandi Holden, Laurie Niles, Susan Mason, Peter McAllister, Nadhin Patel, John Ramirez, Poor Dog Group & Bootleg Theater, Davis Villa, Alex Wright, Bruce Zwinge, Camille Saint Saens, Henry Purcell, Nidhin Patel and the fabulous REDCAT team.

Blacktop Highway was first presented as part of the 2014 REDCAT New Original Works (NOW) Festival. This REDCAT presentation is made possible in part by support from the Rosenfeld Fund for Special Projects.

Blacktop Highway was made possible by a generous ARC Grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation. This event also could not have been realized without the generous support of the California State University, Los Angeles Television, Film and Theatre Department.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

John Fleck is an L.A. based performance artist as well as an actor who straddles the mediums of theater, TV, film and radio. His self scripted work came under fire in 1990 when he and 3 other performance artists had their grants rescinded by the National Endowment for the Arts because of pressure from conservative politicians led by Jesse Helms. The NEA-4 as they became known sued and won with a federal district court declaring the so-called ‘standards of decency’ provision was unconstitutional. Since then, his work has continued to receive funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Getty, Rockefeller Foundation, LA Cultural Affairs and others.

Some of the performance venues that have presented his work include the ICA (London, Boston); The Warhol Museum (Pittsburg); The New Museum, The Public Theater, The Guggenheim Museum, PS-122, La Mama, Joe’s Pub (NYC); The Getty Museum, Carpenter Center, Cal Plaza, MOCA, Taper 2, Bootleg (LA).

A sampling of his critically acclaimed self-scripted work includes: *Mad Women*; *Johnny’s Got a Gun*; *Nothin’ Beats a Pussy*; *DIRT*; *‘me’*; *Blessed are all the Little Fishes*; *Psycho Opera* and *I got the He-Be-She-Be’s*. Fleck is the subject of a documentary about to be released called *John Fleck is Who You Want Him to Be*

Theater credits other than self scripted work include: *PEACE* (Getty Villa), *Tobacco Road* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Atlanta* (Geffen Theater), *Applause* (Reprise, UCLA), *A Perfect Wedding* (Kirk Douglas Theater), *Noises Off* (Cape Playhouse-Dennis, Mass.), *She Stoops to Comedy*, *Small Craft Warnings*, *Cringe & Berlin Circle* (Evidence Room), *On the Jump* (South Coast Rep), *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Tiffany Theater), *The Granny* (Old Globe) and *The Illusion* (LATC)

TV/Film (a sampling): *Backstrom*, *Criminal Minds*, *Anger Management*, *The Middle*, *True Blood*, *Weeds*, *The Closer*, *Nip Tuck*, *Carnivale*, *Startrek Enterprise*, *Seinfeld*, *Murder One*, *Tales of the City*, *Falling Down*, *Waterworld*, etc. that enable him financial fluidity to create his not necessarily for profit, performance art.

Rande Trabit directed a number of Fleck’s performances years ago, and is enjoying this reunion with *Blacktop*. She recently directed *Dracula* at College of the Canyons. She took an original version of *Electra* to Delphi, Greece and staged a pirate musical for Disney Cruiseline and new works at English Theater Berlin. Her work has been seen in New York City, Atlanta, and Santa Fe. Local shows include; *The Artificial Jungle* (The Lounge), *St. Joan and the Dancing Sickness* (Open Fist), Paul Zaloom’s *Mother of All Enemies* and *ABCdarium* (REDCAT), *White Like Me* & Fleck’s *Nothing Beats Pussy* (Bootleg), *Ancient History*, (The Fountain Theater) *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (Tiffany) “me”

and *Happy End* (MOCA), *Chance to Shine* (California Adventure), *Dirt* (Cal Plaza, The Getty), *Jack and the Magic Songbird* (L.A. Opera) *Jack and the Magic Songbird* and *Lysistrata, Hair* (Performing Arts Center in Santa Clarita). Her work has garnered *LA Weekly*, Garland, and Ovation Awards, as well as CAD and Durfee grants.

Heather Fipps is a video and scenic designer for theatre, television and film. Select theatre credits include: *The Last Resort* at The Tudor House, *One Drop of Love* currently touring the U.S., *Wings, Tearing the World Apart* at The Hollywood Fringe Festival, *Hedda Gabler*, and *No Exit* at CSULA. Originally from Big Bear Lake, Heather currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She works in collaboration with LA Theatre Company Circle Squared Collective and teaches as an Adjunct Instructor at Cal State LA. To view more of her work visit www.heatherfipps.com

Vortex Lighting, founded by veteran theater designer Anne Militello, is a lighting collective based in Hollywood, CA that creates lighting for theater, architecture and art installations. Ms. Militello is also Head of the Lighting Program at CalArts. Her associate on *Blacktop Highway* is Jonathan Lebovic, Lighting Designer at www.vortexlighting.com

Christine Papalexis is a puppeteer who makes puppets, monsters and other weird costumes. She started working with puppets at Bob Baker Marionette Theater and has worked on movies, tv, and stage projects for many years with artists such as Marsian Delellis, Cheri Gaulke and Charlie White. She has performed her own shows with marionettes made of found objects at the Skirball and various other venues. Favorite projects include *Team America: World Police*, *The Muppets*.

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