



Breaking String Theater Company
Proudly presents...

Dulcey and Roxy at City Hall

**A play for the Theater of
Arrhythmic Bullshit**

**By Maksym Kurochkin
Translated by John Freedman
Directed by Graham Schmidt**

May 2 - 17, 2014
Salvage Vanguard Theater

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~ ABOUT ~

In Kurochkin's Austin, a corrupt and venal mayor presides over a comically broken city council. When a Ukrainian arrives, invoking a looming catastrophe, will locals heed his warning? A new play for Austin commissioned by Breaking String Theater Co., Maksym Kurochkin's *Dulcey and Roxy at City Hall* presents a timely encounter with Slavic culture, the language of revolution, and the corrupting influence of power.

Dulcey was first read at the September 2013 Lyubimovka new play festival in Moscow. In November, Kurochkin and Freedman visited Austin for a series of workshops with Austin artists, leading to a public staged reading. In January, Kurochkin visited protesters in his native Kiev and completed the play's second half. In late February, Kiev's protesters beat back assaulting riot police at the Maidan (Independence Square) and Ukraine dismissed its corrupt president, Viktor Yanukovich.

Maksym Kurochkin (Playwright): is recognized as one of the most imaginative Ukrainian playwrights currently working, "the ideal playwright for the global age," as Moscow Times critic John Freedman defined him. Kurochkin is the recipient of the Boldest Experiment of the Year award from the *Moskovsky Komsomolets* daily for *Kitchen*, the Moscow New Drama award for the futuristic comedy *Titus the Irreproachable*, and the Russian Anti-Booker award for experimenting with new avenues in drama. In *Afisha* magazine, Russian critic Yelena Kovalskaya named *Kitchen* one of the top 20 plays in Russia in the first decade of the century. The Moscow Times named his *Repress and Excite* the best play of the 2006-7 Moscow season. Translations of that play and *Vodka, Fucking and Television*, his trailblazing work from 2003, appeared in TheatreForum magazine. A translation of *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev* was workshopped at Towson University in 2010 and published in Performing Arts Journal. *Titus the Irreproachable*, translated by Noali Birksted-Breen, was a featured reading at the Russian Theatre Festival in London in February 2010. Kurochkin's work was spotlighted at Breaking String's 2012 New Russian Drama Festival, including the American premiere of *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev* in John Freedman's translation. In the fall of 2012, Breaking String staged a production of *Vodka, Fucking and Television*

at Hyde Park Theatre. Kurochkin has enjoyed two premieres in Moscow this season, *Herbivores* at the Meyerhold Center and *Circuit Breaker* at Teatr.doc.

John Freedman (translator) has translated three dozen Russian plays which have been performed in the United States, Canada, England, Australia and South Africa, including five works by Maksym Kurochkin. His translation of Olga Mukhina's *Flying* was produced in 2011 at Breaking String Theater. He has published and/or edited nine books about Russian theater, and for two decades has been the theater critic of *The Moscow Times*. He was the Russia director of The New Russian Drama project at Towson University, 2007- 2010, and the director of the U.S. government supported New American Plays for Russia program, 2010-2012. With the company and Jennifer Johnson he was co-author of the Double Edge Theatre performance *The Firebird* in 2010, and his play, *Dancing, Not Dead* won the new play competition conducted by The Internationalists in 2011.

~ CAST ~

Judd Farris (Sean, the Mayor) is an actor and voice over recording artist here in Austin. He is also a member of The Hidden Room Theater Company here in Austin. Recent credits include *Brudermord Or Fratricide Punished*, a 17th Century puppet version of *Hamlet* (Hidden Room), *Here's To You* (Imagine That Productions), *Rose Rage* (Hidden Room), and *The Girl With Time in Her Eyes*, SXSW Interactive Theatrical Event (Hidden Room). Judd also teaches Math and Science for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with various special needs in Round Rock. Judd would like to thank Graham for being a wonderful, brilliant, and strong person, and for giving this amazing opportunity to this group of people; Maksym for his life, light, and words; John for the craftsmanship he displayed in reforging those words; the cast and crew for being a delightful and inspiring group of friends and artists; Kim Adams for being the magic and fire that propels his heart, mind, and soul each and every day.

Noel Gaulin (Vadim) is inspired to perform another Maksym Kurochkin play with Breaking String. Noel received an Austin Critic's

Table Award for Acting in a Leading Role for his performances in *Vodka, Fucking and Television*, *The Bear*, and *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. Most recently, Noel was seen 'Crippin' the Streets' with Body Shift as a part of the FuseBox Festival. He will be performing with Glass Half Full in the premiere production of *Once There Were Six Seasons*. Noel is a member of Rude Mechs and Paper Chairs Theatre Co.

Ryan Hamilton (Paul, a City Council Member) is excited to be working with Breaking String Theater! A Kansas native, he has been acting for a number of years, and recently in Austin, a city he has come to love! Some of his favorite theatre credits include Tom in *Fat Pig* and Jesse Bandel/Teddy Ray Harrington in *Just Outside Redemption* with Theatre En Bloc, the latter earning him a B Iden Payne award, both Clarence/Stafford in *Rose Rage* and Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew* with The Hidden Room, Brendan in Capital T's production of *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, and Katurian in IF Theatre's production of *The Pillowman*. Ryan also enjoys and does a fair share of film acting and can be seen in NBC's *Revolution* and John Ridley's upcoming series, *American Crime*. Also, he loves you very much :)

Gricelda Silva (Dulcey) is thrilled to be working with Breaking String Theatre once again! Her previous productions with BST are *Flying* (Bushy Tail) and *Three, or the Sound of the Great Existential Nothingness* (Irina). She's been quite promiscuous with companies around town like Trouble Puppet Theatre, Glass Half Full Theatre, Scottish Rite Theatre, and Pollyanna Theatre to name a few. You can see her again in Glass Half Full's production of *Once There Were Six Seasons*, and Pollyanna's production of *Plus and Minus: The Vacation Adventure* in the month of May. She must admit that she really does love tacos. Mostly more than anything. Mostly.

Katy Taylor (Roxy): Since venturing to Austin a couple years ago, Katy has performed with Capital T (*Boom*), Hyde Park Theatre (*Middletown*), and Scriptworks. She's a Creative Action teaching artist and sometimes works as a stage manager (PlayhouseSquare, TBA Festival, American Place Theatre). She hopes you'll return to SVT soon to witness her puppeteering debut alongside some familiar pros in Glass Half Full Theatre's *Once There Were Six Seasons* opening May 22nd.

~ CREW ~

Sergio Alvarado (Movement Coach, Choreographer) has been involved in Breaking String's *Three*, *Schooling of Bento Bonchev*, and *Martial Arts*. He has also been a part of Present Company's Shakespeare on the Farm series, and is currently performing *Much Ado About Nothing* on top of Whole Foods. Living in New York, he directed the musicals *Pogo & Evie: a Zydeco Musical* and *Revolution on the Roof*, performed and produced plays, shorts, and low budget film. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City with an MFA in acting, where he also studied under the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre.

Ia Enstera (Set Design): Originally from Finland, Ia is an award-winning scenic and costume designer whose work in the past 18 years have been for both stage and screen. You might have caught some of her previous (and FAVORITE!) work with Breaking String Theater in *Three*, *or the Sound of the Great Existential Nothingness*, *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev*, *Ghosts*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Flying*, or else in some 70+ other wondrous productions. Her film work includes *The Two Bobs*, *The King*, *Idiocracy*, *The Ringer*, *The Man From Orlando*, and *The Association*. Commercial projects have included World Wildlife Fund, Maidenform, HEB, etc. She works as an interior designer for retail and hospitality, and as a storyboard artist and illustrator for films, publishing companies, and clothing manufacturers. Ia loves her work and it shows. She has been nominated for quite a few B.Iden Payne Awards, and has been the lucky recipient of five of them. She is always on the hunt for the next project.

Pam Fletcher Friday (Costume Design): Hill Country Middle School drama teacher by day, costumer by night. Her work has been seen on stages and in museums across Texas and NYC. Recent productions have included *Legally Blond, the Musical* with Summer Stock Austin, *Dream Cabinet* with Salvage Vanguard (both named by the Austin Chronicle as top 10 theatre events in 2012) as well as *Riddley Walker* with Trouble Puppet and *Hamlet* with Austin Shakespeare (national Falstaff nomination for costuming). Pam designed *Alien Baby Play* (Austin Critics' Table recognition as top 10 designs of 2012). *Elizabeth*, *Heart of a King* with the Vortex. Previous credits with Breaking String include *STRIKE: Two Plays by Yury Klavdiev* and *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev* by Maksym

Kurochkin. Pam is so happy to be working again with Graham and the gang! Keep supporting the arts in our schools.

Chelsea Beth (Stage Manager): is thrilled to work on *Roxy and Dulcey*. She is new to Austin, Texas where she began work with Pollyanna Children's Theater as scenic artist, performer, and office assistant and LATco's scenic artist and costume designer. Originally from Shreveport, she attended Centenary College of Louisiana and Bossier Parish Community College. However Chelsea is not only behind the stage but on it as well. She had the opportunity to appear in shows with Oh! Dragon Theater Company, Pollyanna, and soon to be Last Act. Aside from Louisiana, Chelsea spent 5 consecutive summers at Canterbury Summer Theater in Michigan City, Indiana, a suburb of Chicago. There, she had the opportunity to stage manage, costume design/construct, direct, act and set construct/scenic art which she feels has been important for development. Outside of theater Chelsea enjoys playing her ukulele, learning new instruments and languages and traveling. She is humbled with the opportunity to continue rounding herself and her career with such lovely companies and shows. Many thanks to those who contributed in her growth as an artist!

Buzz Moran (Sound Design): has provided sounds for an exhausting number of Austin theatrical shows. He is responsible for the sporadic Foleyvision at the Alamo Drafthouse, wherein odd foreign films receive new music, voices and sound effects performed live in the theater, and he is the co-creator of The Dionysium, a monthly show featuring lectures, drinking and debates. He is the sound effect designer for The Intergalactic Nemesis, and has recorded, mixed, and produced several CD's, as well as various soundtracks with Graham Reynolds. Buzz was also the Music Editor for the film Bernie, starring Jack Black.

Graham Schmidt (Director) is the founder and Producing Artistic Director of Breaking String Theater. Previous directing credits with Breaking String include *Three, or the Sound of the Great Existential Nothingness* (2013), *STRIKE: Two Plays by Yury Klavdiev* (2013), *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev* (2012), *Ghosts* (2011), *Uncle Vanya* (2011), *Flying* (2011), *The Cherry Orchard* (2009) *The Seagull* (2007) and *Cinzano* (2006). Graham produced the 2011, 2012 and 2013 New Russian Drama Festivals for Breaking String Theater, with tremendous help from various teams of committed collaborators.

Steven Shirey (Lighting Design) has been making theater since 1982. "The first play I saw was the Vero Beach, Florida Theatre Guild's production of *The Sound of Music*, with my mother, Emily Shirey, as Maria. I saw it three nights in a row, mesmerized. Soon after I saw a blacklight bunraku production of *The Hobbit*, and I've been hooked ever since." Steven has an MFA in Lighting Design from USC, and was the Technical Director for the SFASU School of Theatre from 2001 - 2007. This is his eighth lighting design for Breaking String Theater. Recent Austin designs include *From the Pig Pile*, *Pinkolandia*, and *Art Show Model Show*. Steven would like to dedicate this design to Emily Shirey, who passed away this December. Thanks for all the love and support Mamall!

Lee Webster (Video design) is an animator, video designer, and technical director. A native of Philadelphia, she earned her BA in Theater from Sarah Lawrence University, and moved to Austin soon after. Previous collaborations with Breaking String include *STRIKE: Two Plays by Yury Klavdiev* (Austin Critics' Table nomination for outstanding video design) and *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev*. Lee is excited to work with Breaking String Theater again.

~SPECIAL THANKS ~

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