



**Breaking String Theater Company**  
Proudly presents...

**STRIKE: Two Plays by  
Yury Klavdiev**

***Martial Arts***

Adapted by Dave White

***I am the Machine Gunner***

Translated by John Freedman

...Both directed by  
**Graham Schmidt**

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~ ABOUT ~

**YURY KLAVDIEV (Playwright)** Few contemporary Russian playwrights' work reflects the traumatic shifts in recent Russian history, as does Yury Klavdiev's. Born in 1975 in the Soviet automobile manufacturing city of Togliatti, Mr. Klavdiev writes plays, films and television serials that often give voice to children and teenagers attempting to come to grips with the symptoms of a society in disarray. Urban neglect, poverty, drugs, crime and an uncertain future are frequent themes - but always, his work sounds notes of hope and idealism. As Russian theater critic John Freedman notes, Klavdiev's work tends to focus on "volatile loners and outsiders who precariously, though nimbly, maneuver on tight wires stretched between poles of violence and tenderness."

**MARTIAL ARTS** is the story of two young children on the mean streets of a post-Soviet industrial town, which is a shell and a wreck of its former self. But this is no normal story of fleeing circumstances; Klavdiev fits their struggle into Russia's rich tradition of children's fantasies, recasting dragons as drug-dealers and witches as crooked cops.

**DAVID WHITE (Adaptor, MARTIAL ARTS):** Artistic Director of WordBRIDGE Playwrights Laboratory since 2007; faculty member in the Department of Theatre Arts, Towson University; and playwright-in-residence of Generous Company. Playwriting: *Last Chance: Trash & Ninjas and Squirrels:* Studio Theatre, Towson University (2012); *Leaves of Hope:* reading, Joplin, MO (2012); and *Enough:* reading, ArtFaq Café, Moscow, RU (2011). Translations (with Yury Urnov): Yury Klavdiev's *Martial Arts* (US premiere - Towson University / CITD New Russian Drama Conference); and Pavel Pryzhko's *Panties* (reading - WordBRIDGE 2011). Publication: *Atom-Smashing Playwright A US Perspective on Yury Klavdiev, Contemporary Dramaturgy*, Moscow, RU (2010). Directing: US premiere of *Klavdiev's I am the Machine Gunner*. Baltimore, Chicago, and San Diego; and George Brant's *Elephant's Graveyard*: Towson University (2010). Current Project: *The Beholder's Share*, a devised piece of theatre examining connections between art and neurobiology.

**I AM THE MACHINE GUNNER** portrays a street tough meditating on his first gun battle, and recalling/becoming his grandfather, who fought in one of the bloodiest battles of World War II's eastern front, The Moonzund Landing Operation.

**JOHN FREEDMAN (Translator, I AM THE MACHINE GUNNER)** 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 ~

**SERGIO ALVARADO (Black Guy)** is performing with Breaking String for the second time, having enjoyed Schooling Bento, he is happy to return to the Russian Drama Festival. Sergio earned an MFA from UMKC, moved to NYC to act and direct, and has been seen in all of the Shakespeare on the farm productions by Present Company. Love to Amanda and the future.

**KACI BEELER (Girl)** is a stage and film actor, improviser, and artist living and working in Austin, Texas. Kaci is a company member with Parallelogramphonograph (B. Iden Payne for Outstanding Work in Improvisation, Best of Austin Critics Award) who perform in a weekly residency, 10pm on Fridays at The Hideout Theatre. Some credits include HOLY 1960S BATMAN, BATMAN! (Robin/Dick Grayson), AUSTIN SECRETS, MANHATTAN STORIES, PROCESS, CHARLES DICKENS UNLEASHED, FITZGERALDS FOR HIRE (Zelda Fitzgerald, Best of Fest at FronteraFest), and a month at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival performing in IMPROVISED PLAYS FROM AUSTIN, TEXAS. Kaci is the Director of Design at The Hideout Theatre, where she also teaches and directs improvised theatre. Her recent achievements include a Best of Austin award for Best Actor in The Austin Chronicle and traveling to the UK, South Korea, China, and Japan to teach and perform improv. Kaci is also currently directing and performing in FANDOM at The Hideout and in rehearsals for BLOOD, SWEAT, AND CHEERS coming to the SVT stage in late May. As an artist, Kaci is a prolific painter, graphic designer, and muralist. When not working she loves kissing her husband Roy and dancing to K-Pop. [www.KaciBeeler.com](http://www.KaciBeeler.com).

**DAVID HIGGINS (Man, Cop)** is proud to be making his debut with Breaking String Theater. David is an Alum of St. Edward's University where he studied Theater and German. David has been performing in Austin theater since 1998, when he made his debut with Sam Bass Community Theater in

Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*. Since then David has performed with Mary Moody Northen Theater, Salvage Vanguard Theater, Austin Playhouse, The Iron Belly Muses and The St. Idiot Collective, where he was a founding member. David can be seen internationally this year as part of the world tour of *The Intergalactic Nemesis*. You might have also seen David in a Spec's commercial, of which he is very proud. David returns to the Austin theater scene after spending four "very difficult" years in New York City where he was an electrician at The New York Shakespeare Festival, The Julliard School, New York University, Shakespeare on the Sound and many other Broadway and Off-Broadway venues. Many people are responsible for welcoming David back to Austin theater, they are: Natalie George, Jeffery Mills, Dallas Tate, Connor Hopkins, Stephen Pruitt, Jason Neulander and, most recently, Graham Schmidt. "Thank you to this cast for being better than any actor should hope for."

**JOEY HOOD (Vodka)** This is Joey's third appearance with Breaking String Theater. In 2011 he played Blizzard in *FLYING*, and in 2012 he appeared as Vodka, in *VODKA, FUCKING AND TELEVISION*. He recently performed in Capital T Theatre's *EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR*. Other Cap T credits include *A LIE OF THE MIND*, *KILLER JOE*, and *BUG* (Austin Critics Table Nomination Best Actor in a Leading Role). Other Credits include *DIVIDING THE ESTATE* (Zach Scott Theatre), *THE ALIENS* (Austin Critics Table Nomination Best Supporting Actor), *THE ATHEIST* (Austin Critics Table Best Actor Award), *ZOO STORY*, *THE COLLECTION*, *BOMBS IN YOUR MOUTH*, *HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ASSASSINATED?*, *THE WATER PRINCIPLE*, *THE GLORY OF LIVING* (Austin Critics Table Nomination Best Actor) *TWIGHLIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992* (Austin Critics Table Nomination Best Supporting Actor) *THE METAMORPHOSIS* (B Iden Payne Nomination Best Actor) *BLUR* (B Iden Payne Nomination Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy), *Fish* (B Iden Payne Nomination) and *STADIUM DEVILDARE*. Joey is originally from South Mississippi and has been treading Austin stages since 1997. Joey is also Hyde Park Theatre core company member.

**BOB JONES (Boy 2, Abu)** is currently a graduate student in the University of Texas' English Ph.D program. He also possesses an MFA in Shakespeare and Performance with an emphasis in directing from Mary Baldwin College, and has worked at acted at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Virginia. He has directed for both Richmond Shakespeare and Pigeon Creek Shakespeare, and his *Cymbeline* was nominated for a "Best of the Bard" award by Encore Michigan. Other acting credits include *Estragon* in *Waiting for Godot* with Henley Street Theatre in Richmond, and *Fluellen* in *Henry V* and *Dogberry* in *Much Ado* for Richmond Shakespeare. He is also a veteran of UT's Shakespeare at Winedale program, for which he has played Prospero and

*Hamlet*, amongst others. Bob served as assistant director of Shakespeare at Winedale in 2007 and 2008, and will return again in that capacity this summer. While he has not acted with Breaking String before, he played Vanya in a production of *Uncle Vanya*, also directed by Graham Schmidt, in 2005 (Graham, can you check this date?). Other directing credits include *Troilus and Cressida* and *Cymbeline* for the American Shakespeare Center's Young Company Theatre Camp.

**MOLLY KARRASCH (Boy)** is very pleased to be working with Breaking String Theatre for the first time. She was most recently seen as Aggie in *THE GAME'S AFOOT* with Austin Playhouse. Other Austin credits include Capital T Theatre's *EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR* (Winner B Iden Payne Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy), *TIGERS BE STILL* (Hyde Park Theatre), *EDUCATING RITA* (Sidetrack Productions), *PROOF*, *THE MOUSETRAP*, *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY*, *INHERIT THE WIND*, *STEEL MAGNOLIAS*, *THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS* (all Austin Playhouse). This is her third time in two years playing a little boy. The first was appearing as Moth (also Mercade) in *LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST* with Austin Shakespeare and more recently as Jack in *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK* with Scottish Rite Children's Theatre. Molly earned her BFA in Theatre from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company member and a Core Company member of Hyde Park Theatre where you can catch her in March & April in *SLOWGIRL*.

**MICHELLE KEFFER (Woman, Grandmother, Queen of Spades)** is excited to reconnect with Breaking String again. She first performed with Breaking String in 2011, as Orangina in *FLYING*, by Olga Mukhina. Michelle is a Hyde Park Theatre Core Company member.

## ~ CREW ~

**BLAKE ADDYSON (Music / Sound)** is a composer, musician, technical director and stage manager for theater and for professional music ensembles. Previous collaborative partners include Tongue In Groove Theatre, Theatre En Bloc and Hidden Room Theatre. Blake has also stage managed for Austin's Okkervil River on their 2011 national summer tour. He is excited to be working his first show with Breaking String Theater.

**IA ENSTERÄ (Scenic)** 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. She is the Resident Production Designer for Pollyanna Theatre Company, with whom she has been with for the past ten years (including such shows as *Tempest*, *Just Bee*, *Pattern Nation* series, *Ducks vs. Squirrels*, etc). You might have caught some of her previous (and FAVORITE!) work with Breaking String Theatre in FLYING, UNCLE VANYA, GHOSTS and BENTO BONCHEV, or else in some 70+ other wondrous productions. Her film work includes "The Two Bobs", 'The King', 'Idiocracy', "The Ringer", '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 FRIDAY (Costumes):** 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 -Austin Shakespeare (-national Falstaff nomination for costuming). ALIEN BABY PLAY with tutto(A.C. recognition as top 10 designs of 2012). ELIZABETH HEART OF A KING with the Vortex. next up is PIGPILE with Fusebox and SHIPWRECKED with Penfold. Pam costumed SCHOOLING OF BENTO BONCHEV and is so happy to be working again with Graham and the gang! Keep supporting the arts in our schools.

**ROBERT MATNEY** is the **Technology Director** for Breaking String Theater, as well as The Hidden Room Theatre, and Board Trustee for Austin Shakespeare. He is an actor, director, and a commercial web technology consultant. Previously for Breaking String, Robert played Medvedenko in "The Seagull" and Pishchik in "The Cherry Orchard." Most recently, Robert played Wilhelm Grimm in "A Most Unsettling and Possibly Haunted Evening in the Parlour of the Brothers Grimm" for Hidden Room and Trouble Puppet. You can battle Robert's voice in the shape of DC Universe Online's video game villain Doctor Psycho. With Hidden Room, Robert developed the technology behind *You Wouldn't Know Her*. Robert was a panelist at the 2011 South By Southwest Interactive conference and the 2011 Fusebox Festival.

**ANDREW PERRY (Stage Manager)** holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Theatre Management from Texas State University. *Vodka, Fucking, & Television* will be his fourth production to stage manage for Breaking String

after *The Seagull*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Uncle Vanya*. Andrew stage manages for several companies and productions a year, but primarily for the Pollyanna Theatre Company, which produces full stage productions for young audiences. As well as managing shows for youth, Andrew also is a playwright of several pieces and debuted a new original work entitled *Playground Superhero* in October of 2012 and an adapted story called *The Beebe Who Cried Ploot: A Story from the Family of Ree* in January of 2013.

**Graham Schmidt** is the founder and Producing Artistic Director of Breaking String Theater. Previous directing credits with Breaking String include 2012's *THE SCHOOLING OF BENTO BONCHEV*, by Maksym Kurochkin, *GHOSTS* by Henrik Ibsen (2011, co-produced with Penfold Theatre Co.), *UNCLE VANYA* by Anton Chekhov (2011, trans. Graham Schmidt), *FLYING* by Olga Mukhina, *THE CHERRY ORCHARD* by Anton Chekhov (2009, trans. Graham Schmidt), *THE SEAGULL* by Anton Chekhov (2007, trans. Graham Schmidt), and *CINZANO* by Lyudmila Petrushevskaya.

**STEVEN SHIREY (Lights)** has been designing lights in Austin since 2007. *Vodka, Fucking and Television* is his fifth lighting design for Breaking String. Previous designs include *The Schooling of Bento Bonchev*, *Ghosts*, *Vanya and Flying*. Other Austin designs include *Jubilee*, *A Thought in 3 Parts*, *True West*, *SKYPE* performance piece *You Are Invited*, *Alice!*, *Faster Than the Speed of Light*, *No One in the Woods Tonight* among others. Before moving to Austin Steven was the Technical Director for the Stephen F. Austin State University School of Theatre from 2001 - 2007 where he worked with scenic designer Tomy Matthys. Steven has an MFA in Lighting Design from the University of South Carolina. Also a musician, Steve performs in the bands *Psyfolkology* and *Sweet Chariot*.

**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. Her first collaboration with Breaking String came in 2011, when she designed video for *THE SCHOOLING OF BENTO BONCHEV*. Lee is excited to work with Breaking String Theater again.

#### ~SPECIAL THANKS ~

Will Hollis Photography, Derek Kolluri (Graphic Design), Chris Humphrey, George Marsolek, Judy Campbell and Polyanna Theatre Company, Cecil David J. Boss, Westen Borghesi, the Austin YMCA, Ken Webster and Hyde Park Theatre, Kenneth Wayne Bradley, Mark Pickell, Robert Moncrieff (Video Trailer), Andrew Eaton, Will Hollis Photography, Derek Kolluri (Graphics), Lee

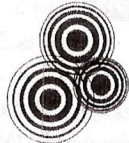
Webster (Kickstarter Video), Tim Thomas (web consultant), James Loehlin, John Freedman, Matt Davies

These translation was developed through **THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL THEATRE DEVELOPMENT'S** NEW VOICES / NEW VISIONS initiative, led by Philip Arnoult, and directed by John Freedman. The translation of *I am the Machine Gunner* used in this play was developed in collaboration with Generous Company, who premiered the piece and toured it to several U.S. cities.

**BREAKING STRING THEATER** is a sponsored project of the Austin Creative Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving Austin's creative community. This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division believing an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin's future. Visit Austin at [NowPlayingAustin.com](http://NowPlayingAustin.com).



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