



Breaking String Theater Company
Proudly presents

Vodka, Fucking and Television

By **Maksym Kurochkin**
Translated by **John J. Hanlon**
Directed by **Liz Fisher**

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ABOUT THE PLAY... In the cramped confines of a downtown Moscow apartment, a poet contemplates his stalled career, and the vices keeping him from greatness. There's no question, one of them has to go. But which will it be? Vodka, Fucking or Television?

MAKSYM KUROCHKIN (Playwright) is recognized as one of the most imaginative playwrights in Moscow today, "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 Noah Birksted-Breen, was a featured reading at the Russian Theatre Festival in London in February 2010.

JOHN J. HANLON (Translator) is an educator, actor, director and translator. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, he has translated four plays by Maksym Kurochkin. *FIGHTER CLASS "MEDEA"* was staged at New York's Lark Play Development Center in 2004 and featured in Chicago's 2011 "Soviet Arts Experience" festival. *VODKA, FUCKING AND TELEVISION* was published in *THEATERFORUM* and staged by Dad's Garage in Atlanta in 2007 and again in 2009 as part of the Center for International Theatre Development's New Russian Drama Conference in Baltimore. *MOONCRAZED* was presented at hotINK 2010 and at CUNY's Segal Center. *THE RIGHT OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE R.M.S. CARPATHIA* premiered in March at Breaking String's New Russian Drama Festival. John and Maksym are currently at work on a new play called *THE ESCAPE*, initiated through the Lark. As an actor, his favorite roles include Raskolnikov in *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT* (Northside Theatre, San Jose, CA) and Richard Hannay in *THE 39 STEPS* (Off Square Theater, Jackson, WY). Recently, he directed Ionesco's *THE LESSON* for Riot Act and staged readings of Albee's *THE GOAT* and Miller's *THE PRICE* for Off Square. John will direct *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT* for Off Square in May, 2013. Additionally, John was commissioned by the Lark to create a new translation of Aleksey Scherbak's play *COLONEL PILATE*, a featured selection in hotINK 2012 (forthcoming in the international translation journal, *ASYMPTOTE*).

~ FROM THE DIRECTOR ~

Creating something out of nothing is a ridiculous proposition. Ask new mothers and published authors. Why would anyone ever want to put themselves through this agonizing process? The late nights, the unanswerable questions, the false starts, the failed drafts, the self doubt, the anxiety - and that's before anyone else sees it, starting a new thread of critiques and concerns. It's a thoroughly exposing and vulnerable act. So it's totally understandable that a creative person might indulge in their vices (or comforts) to help soften those edges and make everything a little bit easier. No wonder the greatest artists ended up in looney bins and early graves. Creation is a bitch.

This is where we get to see the full force of Max's brilliance. He can take a story as old as time and transform it into something fresh and modern. While this Hero's journey may never force him to leave the confines of his apartment and battle toothed beasts, we still identify with this Everyman and the struggle to create and find balance in our lives. And I think this is the bigger question that Max poses for us today. How true is stereotype of the indulgent artist? Can you create meaningful art without surrendering to your vices? Let me know. I'll be across the street, continuing a long conversation with one of my old "comforts."

My sincerest gratitude to Max for his story, John H. for his words, John F. for his support, the cast for their talent, the designers for their imaginations, and Graham for producing VF&T, and for keeping the Breaking String lights on.

~ CAST ~

CAMI ALYS (Fucking Understudy) is a singer, dancer, actor, musician and foley artist from Austin, Texas. Recent credits include *THE INTERGALACTIC NEMESIS* (foley), the Rude Mechanicals' *I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY*, and Paper Chairs' *MURDER BALLAD MURDER MYSTERIES*. Cami is excited to join with Breaking String Theater in its work on this tremendous play.

NOEL GAULIN (Hero) is an artist and educator from Austin, Texas. This is his second collaboration with Breaking String Theater. In 2009, he played Yepikhodov in Breaking String Theater's *THE CHERRY ORCHARD*. Recent acting credits include The Theatre in Paper Chairs' *BOOM FOR REAL* and The Maniac in Palindrome's *THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST*. A Rude Mechanicals company member, Noel performed in and co-designed projections for *I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY*. Noel is grateful to be a part of Breaking String Theatre and relishes this opportunity to celebrate

the work of Maksym Kurochkin.

JUDE HICKEY (Television) is a performer hailing from Lincoln, Nebraska. Since moving to Austin, Jude has performed with Salvage Vanguard Theatre (company member), Shrewd Productions, Pro-Arts Collective, Ariel Dance Theatre, Spank Dance Company and Hyde Park Theatre. As Katurian in HPT's THE PILLOWMAN, he received the Austin Critics Table award and a B. Iden Payne nomination for Outstanding Actor in a Lead Role, and for LONESOME WEST, he was nominated for a Payne Best Ensemble Performance. He received an Austin Critics Table award for his role in THE ALIENS at HPT. Hickey is a founding and board member of Da! Theatre Collective, with whom he performed in RELATIVE SPACE, DIRECT OBJECT, HERON & CRANE, and LEAVE IT TO BEVERLY as Pandora (Critics' Table nomination and B. Iden Payne WINNER). He directed Kirk German's SPLASH ZONE at Mi Casa Su Teatro and toured HERON AND CRANE to the New York International Fringe Festival. Jude loves spending time with his family, especially his nephew Phoenix and his niece Lola, who are always reminding him how foolish it is to sweat the small stuff. He hopes someday to move his entire family onto a sustainable life commune where they would grow and make everything they need, including hope.

JOEY HOOD (Vodka) This is Joey's second appearance with Breaking String Theater. In 2011 he played Blizzard in FLYING. He was most recently seen 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 ASSASINATED?, 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.

ADRIENE MISHLER (Fucking) is an actress, choreographer, director and teacher from Austin, Texas. She has worked on numerous stages with Salvage Vanguard, The Rude Mechs, Rubber Repertory, Tongue & Groove, Breaking String Theatre, Paper Chairs, Refraction Arts, St Idiot Collective, Ariel

Dance Theatre and ZACH Scott Theatre. Adriene is a local company member of Ariel Dance Theatre and SVT where she also serves as the Summer Education Coordinator. Adriene delights in the joy of arts education and is dedicated to using theatre and movement as a way to help young people discover creative self-expression and learn collaboration. She has studied with Anne Bogart, and has trained & worked with members of the SITI Company in Austin, New York, and LA. She teaches movement & performance, works in film, commercial, voice over and is a certified Yoga instructor. Learn more about her yoga classes at www.yogawithadriene.com.

~ CREW ~

GLENDIA BARNES (Costumes) is so excited and honored to be working with Breaking String! She received her BFA in Costume Design at Texas State University and finds it easier to say she's a homegrown Texan than trying to name a specific town. Some of her favorite designs include It's a Wonderful Life: The Live Radio Play, I Love You Because, John and Jen the Musical, Three Days of Rain, The Last 5 Years (Penfold Productions), Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson (Doctuh Mistah Productions), which she has been nominated for a B. Iden Payne, Urinetown (Summer Stock Austin), Chess, The 39 Steps, Frost/ Nixon, Heros (Austin Playhouse), Precious Little Talent, Spirits to Enforce (Capital T), Messenger No. 4, The Nina Variations (Cambiare Productions), The Importance of Being Earnest, Night of the Iguana (Texas State University), and makeup design for Doctuh Mistah's Evil Dead: The Musical. She is also currently working on Moonlight and Magnolias for Penfold and The Pain and the Itch for Capital T.

LOWELL BARTHOLOMEE (Video and Sound Design, Livestream Broadcast Engineer) has created video designs for theater since 2002. He's had the good fortune to work with companies like the dirigo group, Rude Mechs, State Theatre Company, Refraction Arts, and Shrewds Austin. His designs for THE ROAD TO WIGAN PIER, OF SUPERHEROES AND SEDUCTIONS, THE MERCY SEAT, and THE METHOD GUN WORKSHOP earned nominations from the Austin Critics Table.

IA ENSTERÄ (Scenic) has been working as a set and costume designer for nearly two decades, and has 80-odd theatre and film credits to her name. She has served as the Resident Production Designer for Pollyanna Theatre Company for the past ten years, and works continuously with such Austin powerhouse production companies as Breaking String Theatre (FLYING, UNCLE VANYA, GHOSTS, BENTO BONCHEV) and Austin Shakespeare (ARCADIA, TWELFTH NIGHT). Some of her favorite projects have been with Paper Moon Repertory (THE 21 WOULD-BE LIVES OF PHINEAS

HAMM), Imagine That! Productions (DOWN THE DRAIN), Hyde Park Theatre (THE ALIENS), and THE MATERIALITY OF IMPERMANENCE (a dance performance by Sharon Marroquin). Ia has worked alongside notable directors such as Robert Faires, Ann Ciccolella, Judy Matetzschk-Campbell, Beth Burns, Ken Webster, and Graham Schmidt. She has been nominated for numerous design awards by the B.Iden Payne Committee, and received five of them. The Austin Chronicle her one of the "Top Theatrical Wonders Of 2011" and her set for UNCLE VANYA as one of the "Top 10 Delights of The Latter Half of 2011." She received the most recent Austin Critics' Table Award for scenic design, and was crowned ""Best Valkyrie Of The Set" by the Austin Chronicle (insert audible chuckle here). Ia lives in Austin with her spouse Stacy, son Elias, and five furry daughters.

LIZ FISHER (Director) joined Breaking String Theater in 2007, as Masha in Anton Chekhov's THE SEAGULL. She proceeded to perform in THE CHERRY ORCHARD (Varya, 2009 Austin Critics' Table Nominee, Best Actress), and UNCLE VANYA (Yelena Andreyevna), then co-produced Breaking String's 2011 New Russian Drama Festival, and presented staged readings at both the 2011 and 2012 NRDFests. You may have seen her recently in THE PAIN AND THE ITCH (Kelly, Capital T Theatre), DRAGON PLAY (Shrewd Productions), or A LIE OF THE MIND (Sally, Capital T Theatre), or less recently – she has been treading the boards of Austin professional stages for upwards of 10 years. Fisher is a Hyde Park Theatre Core Company Member, and will appear in The Hidden Room's INVISIBLE INC. in January at the Long Center.

ROBERT MATNEY is the **Technology Director** for Breaking String Theater, as well as The Hidden Room Theatre, 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, and will appear in The Hidden Room's INVISIBLE INC. in January at the Long Center.

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 will be debuting a new original work entitled *Playground Superhero* in October of 2012 and an adapted story called *The Beebee Who Cried Ploot: A Story from the Family of Ree* in January of 2013.

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*, *Uncle 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*.

GRAHAM SCHMIDT (Producing Artistic Director) wishes to thank Harvey Guion for his generous support of VF&T, and everyone who's shared, supported and helped realize the vision for a Russian-oriented theater in Austin, Texas. He wishes particularly to thank Liz Fisher, with whom he is honored to work on this production.

~SPECIAL THANKS ~

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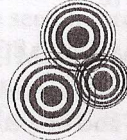
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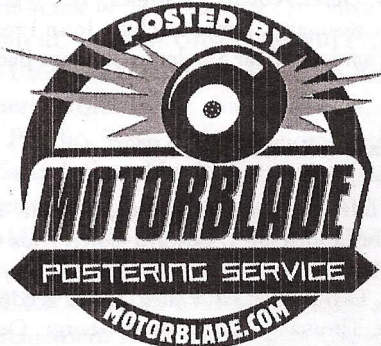


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