

Breaking String Theater
and
the Rude Mechanicals
are proud to present

The English Language premiere of

FLYING

By Olga Mukhina
Translated by John Freedman

FLYING runs
Friday, January 28 through Saturday, February 19
The Off Center



Part of the 2011
Breaking String New Russian Drama Festival

Follow us on Facebook at
www.breakingstring.com/breakingstring
or Twitter at twitter.com/Br8kingString
www.breakingstring.com

About the Playwright – OLGA MUKHINA - With the end of the Soviet Union in 1991 came tremendous upheaval in Russian society, and the prevailing opinion that no new plays were being written. Enter Olga Mukhina – a mysterious and fiercely independent playwright student from Moscow, who emerged in 1997 with a reading of her first play, TANYA-TANYA. Within a year of its premiere at Moscow's Fomenko Studio, TANYA-TANYA was translated into five languages; the Moscow production toured Poland, Germany and Bulgaria; later, American professional practitioners and students took on Mukhina's work, and TANYA-TANYA has been staged at the Towson University MFA Program in Theatre, as well as the California Institute of the Arts School of Theater in LA, California. As for Mukhina's work in Russia, her second professional premiere came with her play, "YoU," which premiered at the Moscow Art Theatre in 2001. Some critics argue that Mukhina's debut helped kick off a spectacularly productive period in Russian theater, often referred to as the New Drama Movement. Said playwright Mikhail Ugarov, "Olga Mukhina is the Little Red Riding Hood of contemporary Russian drama. She had the nerve to go out there in the woods, not fearing the wolf."

About the Translator – JOHN FREEDMAN is an American critic, translator, writer, and theater producer living in Moscow, Russia. The author or translator/editor of nine books about Russian theater, he has been the theater critic of The Moscow Times since 1992 and a monthly columnist for Plays International since 1994. He was the Russian director of The New Russian Drama: Translation/Production/Conference, from 2007 to 2010, a project hosted by Towson University, Baltimore, Md., and Philip Arnoult's Center for International Theater Development (CITD) from 2007 to 2010. Freedman is the director of the emerging American Plays for Russia, supported by the Center for International Theatre Development and the US Russia Bi-lateral Presidential Commission. This project will result in translations, readings, and productions throughout the Russian Federation of a cross-section of America's most important contemporary dramatic works.

About FLYING (2005): A group of Russia's so-called "golden youth," smart, talented, well-heeled twenty-somethings are heading for disaster. Among them are DJs, VJs, PR agents and on-screen presenters for a hot new youth-oriented Moscow television production company. These people, with hip-sounding names like Snowstorm, Maniac, Snowflake and Orangina, are creating and living the images that will define the future. None wastes much time thinking about why one of their group is repeatedly battered by her husband or why another constantly takes tranquilizers to maintain her cool, collected image. But when an unsullied teenage girl joins their group one day, they are compelled to look beyond the usual limits of their purview. And when Snowstorm is arrested for possession of drugs and Orangina undergoes a religious experience, the insular nature of their world is quickly breached.

Thanks to generous support from the **Center for International Theater Development** and its director, **Philip Arnoult**, two of Russia's most prominent and important contemporary playwrights will be present for the premiere: Maksym Kurochkin and Olga Mukhina.

This translation of FLYING was workshopped at the Towson University MFA in Theatre Program, during its 2009-2010 New Russian Drama Season.

CAST

MANIAC, A Promotor and a BASE Jumper • **Jesse Bertron**

DJ SNOWSTORM • **Jacob Trussell**

DJ BLIZZARD • **Joey Hood**

VOLODYA, A Police Lieutenant • **David J. Boss**

ORANGINA, A Designer • **Michelle Keffer**

SNOWFLAKE, A TV Star • **Adriene Mishler**

LENOCHKA, A Media Planner • **Katie Van Winkle**

BUSHY TAIL, A Waitress • **Gricelda Silva**

FIRST ANGEL • **Steve Ochoa**

SECOND ANGEL • **Michael Plaster**

Crew

Director • **Graham Schmidt**

Production Stage Manager • **Angelica Manez**

Director of Movement • **Adriene Mishler**

Set Designer • **la Ensterä**

Lighting Designer • **Steven Shirey**

Costume Designer • **Jamie Urban**

Composer and Sound Designer • **Justin Sherburn**

Run-Crew Captain • **Devyn Ray**

All music composed and recorded by **Justin Sherburn**, except: *Hit Me Baby One More Time* composed by **Max Martin**, recorded by **Justin Sherburn** and **Madeline Malka**; *Symphony No.5 in C Sharp Minor - 4th Movement* by **Gustav Mahler**; *Twerk* by **Basement Jaxx**.

Jesse Bertron most recently delighted the children of New York City as a corpse in John Sheehy's *MORGUE THAN YOU KNOW*, as part of the 52nd Street Project's *ALL THE PLAYS YOU CAN EAT*. His Austin roles include *Romeo* (*ROMEO & JULIET*, Shakespeare at Winedale) and *Arthur* (*THE SWORD AND THE STONE*, Scottish Rite Children's Theatre). At St. John's College, he played *Mitch* in *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*, and directed and played *Lysander/Flute* in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*. He performs locally with the improv troupe *Second Hand*, and looks forward to upcoming work in *SHOWDOWN*, with *GNAP!* Theater.

David J. Boss is honored to work with *Breaking String Theater* once again. His first production was *THE CHERRY ORCHARD* playing the role of *Yasha*. A proud graduate of UT's English department, David trained with the Shakespeare at Winedale program; to which he owes anything and everything. His roles at Winedale include *Duke Vincentio* (*MEASURE FOR MEASURE*), *Falstaff* (*HENRY V*), *Northumberland* (*RICHARD II*), and *Camillo* (*THE WINTER'S TALE*) to name a few. Recent Austin credits include *Antonio* (*THE TEMPEST*), *Sir Mellville* (*MARY STUART*) and *The Provost* (*MEASURE FOR MEASURE*) with Austin Shakespeare; *Biondello* and the *Tailer* in *Hidden Room's* award-winning *THE TAMING OF THE SHREW*. David also directed a production of *AGAMEMNON* for *Frontera Fest 2011*. He will next be seen in *Different Stages'* production of *Tennessee Williams' NIGHT OF THE IGUANA* playing the lead role of *Rev. T. Lawrence Shannon*. Thanks to *Graham* for another great experience and this mind-blowing cast of supreme Austin talent. I am indebted to all of you.

Michelle Keffer has been living and working in Austin via Ohio for six years. She is active in the film, theatre and visual arts communities. Michelle has worked with many theatre companies, but *Hyde Park Theatre* and *Pollyanna Theatre Company* have made her company members. She can currently be seen in *Symphony of the Clouds* with *Pollyanna/Ballet Austin*. Up next: *THIS IS OUR YOUTH* with *Sustainable Theatre Project* and *A BEHEADING IN SPOKANE* with *Hyde Park Theatre*. Michelle would like to thank this amazing cast and crew for their creativity and support. Thank you *HH* for being so beautiful and as always, *Scooby*.

Joey Hood *FLYING* marks *Joey Hood's* first production with *Breaking String*. He is a core member of *Hyde Park Theatre Company*. He was seen most recently in *Paper Chairs'* production of *Baal*. Other recent productions include *Bug* with *Capital T Theatre*, *THE ATHIEST* (Austin Critics Table Best Lead Actor), *THE COLLECTION*, and *BOMBS IN YOUR MOUTH* by *Corey Patrick*, all for *HPT*. Also a member of *Rude Mechs*, *Joey* has been seen in productions including *HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ASSASSINATED?* *THE WATER PRINCIPLE*, *THE GLORY OF LIVING* (Austin Critics Table Nomination Best Actor) *TWILIGHT: 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*. He just recently completed filming *Missy* in *North Carolina* with *Commonwealth Studio* and last June wrapped *8bit Bros.* with *Light Buddy Productions* here in *Austin*. *Joey* is originally from *South Mississippi* and has been treading *Austin stages* since 1997. Up next: *ZOO STORY* with *Tom Truss* and directed by *Courtney Sale*.

Adriene Mishler is a Performer, Teacher and Austinite. She has worked on numerous stages with *Salvage Vanguard*, *Rubber Repertory*, *Tongue & Groove*, *The Rude Mechs*, *Paper Chairs*, *Refraction Arts*, *St Idiot Collective*, *Ariel Dance Theatre* and *ZACH*. *Adriene* is an actor and producer of site-specific work who loves to blend local theatre, film, music and dance. She is a company member of *Ariel Dance Theatre* and *SVT* where she also serves as the *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. By day *Adriene* is a certified *Yoga instructor* and teaches *Theatre Arts* and *Musical Performance* at *The Griffin School*. Up next, look for her in local feature films *AUSTIN HIGH* and *Sean Gallagher's, HOME*.

Steve Ochoa was trained in dance and music at *West Texas State University* for 3 years and spent 2 summers training at the *School of American Ballet* in *New York City*. He danced with a few ballet companies in the area and with *Ballet Du Nord* in northern France before getting his first Broadway show. His Broadway credits include *JEROME ROBBINS' BROADWAY* (Original Cast), *CATS* (*Mistoffelees*), *CAROUSEL* (*Lincoln Center*), *TWELFTH NIGHT* (*Lincoln Center*), and *SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS* (Original Cast). Off-Broadway: *THE WILD PARTY* (*Manhattan Theater Club*). Broadway Tours: *FOSSE*, *CHESS* and *JRB*. Featured with: *Dendy Dance and Theater*, *Feld Ballet*, *NIXON IN CHINA* and with *Zvi Gothiener Dance*. Film: *Object of My Affection*, *The Crucible*. He's played in *Austin* for 7 years. *FLUSH* with *Ariel Dance Theater* was the last production he was in, here in *Austin*.

Michael Plaster came to be connected with *Breaking String Theatre* by way of martial arts and movement-based performing arts. An esoteric background naturally led him to the role of one of the two Angels in *FLYING*. *Michael* derives his movement training and experience from the martial arts of *Japanese Jujitsu* and *Brazilian Capoeira* as well various acting movement disciplines. He splits his time between performing in *Austin theatre* and producing film. Some of his past work in film included work for *Terminator 4, 3:10 to Yuma*, *Doc West*, *HBO's Habla Series*, *Spiritual Cinema Circle*, *Earth Cinema Circle*, and *Gaiam*. He has also edited documentaries for: *Metallica*, *Beyonce*, and *Radiohead*. He is currently working with the *City of Austin* in producing their upcoming "*Bicycle Safety Campaign*," a commercial that integrates local business such as *Whole Foods* with causes that affect the community. *Michael's* Austin stage credits include *Alice!*, written by *James Jackson Leach* (nominated *Austin Theatre Examiner* best new Austin playwright); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Red Balloon* (B. Iden Payne); and most recently as a lead role in *Frontera Fest's Allergies*. *Michael* would like to thank *AAMP* for nourishing the creative process, *Gerik Cionsky* for the big picture Russian influence, *Peyton Wimmer* for the functionality, *Dad* for the unconditional love and support, and his brother *Sean* for taking the steps to 'drinking from a volcano'.

Gricelda Silva is all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed over her debut performance in Breaking String Theater! She feels incredibly lucky and truly grateful to have had the opportunity to work with this beautiful team. You might have seen Gricelda as "The Boy" in Tongue and Groove Theatre's THE RED BALLOON or you might not have seen her in Trouble Puppet Theatre's FRANKENSTEIN. She would like to thank her parents for their unconditional love + support, her ecosystem who make her world consistently so colorful, and to her Flying Folk-My love for all of you is flying so high, it's soarin! Dayum Dum-Dum!

Jacob Trussell is a four year old Austin transplant and recent graduate from St. Edwards University with a Major in Theatre, Acting Emphasis. While at the MMNT he appeared in 10 productions including Parade, Kneeling Down at Noon (with Physical Plant Theatre), Cloud 9, and Peer Gynt (2010 Austin Critics Nom, and B. Iden Payne Winner) On top of that he found time to write a radio drama, direct one short film (finalist in Bloodshots 48 hour filmmaking challenge with Alamo Draffhouse), and become an active company member of DA! Theatre Collective. He also began weaving into the Austin community working with Tex-ARTS, Austin Playhouse, Frontera Fest, Austin Scriptworks, Summer Stock Austin (B. Iden Payne Nom – Bat Boy, Sweeney Todd), Shrewd Productions, and recently Paper Chairs in their production of Baal. He also became the proud recipient of the W.H. "Deacon" Crain Award for Student work. Can he be more excited to help bring this show stateside? He doesn't think so.

Katie Van Winkle most recently appeared in Rubber Repertory's BIOGRAPHY OF PHYSICAL SENSATIONS. Her Austin roles include Agave/Chorus (DIONYSUS IN 69, Rude Mechs), Morse (ONE FLEA SPARE, Best Supporting Actress in a Drama--Austin Critics Table), Juliet and Emilia (SHAKESPEARE'S HUSBANDS & WIVES), and Puck (A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Shakespeare at Winedale). At Swarthmore College, she performed Helena in ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL and directed Euripides' BACCHAE, Mrozek's THE EMIGRANTS, McLaughlin's DAYS AND NIGHTS WITHIN, and two collective creations. She co-founded AD HOC, a Philadelphia ensemble theater company. Katie has returned home after two years as Dramaturgy Fellow at Baltimore's CENTERSTAGE. She directed CUSTOMS in the 2011 FronteraFest Short Fringe, and looks forward to upcoming work with the Fusebox Festival and GNAP! at Salvage Vanguard. Much love and gratitude to all.

Ia Ensterä Originally from Helsinki, Ia is an award-winning scenic and costume designer whose work in the past decade and a half have been on both the stage and the screen. She is the resident Production Designer for Pollyanna Theatre Company, with whom she has been with since its inception over some ten years ago. Some of her favorite productions with Pollyanna include TEMPEST, JUST BEE, and the series PATTERN NATION. Her work has also been seen with numerous other theatre companies, and include PSYCHO BEACH PARTY and WHEN PIGS FLY for Arts On Real, FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT at the Salvage Vanguard, THE LOVE SONATAS for HBMG, and some 70+ other various productions. A portion of her cinematic work can be seen in such films as THE TWO BOBS (Dir: Tim McCanlies), MAN FROM ORLANDO (Dir: Craig Elrod), and DOONBY (Dir:

Peter Mackenzie). Her commercial projects have included World Wildlife Fund, Maidenform, and H.E.B. She also works consistently as a storyboard artist and illustrator for films, publishing companies, clothing manufacturers, and whomever is in need of illustrations. 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 four of them..... and is always on the hunt for the next project.

Angelica Manez received her BA in Theatre Art Administration from St. Edward's University. Some of her stage management credits include Hamlet (SRT & Black Swan Events), John & Jen (Penfold), Evil Dead the Musical (DrMr), Sweeney Todd and Little Shop of Horror (SSA) The Music Man (Zilker Theatre Productions), Princess & the Pea, Aladdin, Robin Hood, A Christmas Carol, Snow White, and Cinderella (SRCT), Cyrano de Bergerac and Death and The King's Horseman (MMNT), and Opening Gala of The Long Center. Angelica would like to thank her friends and family especially Ronis and Devyn for always being there. She'd also like to thank her wonderful Flying cast for making this production a true joy.

Graham Schmidt has worked in Austin Theater for almost a decade as a performer, director, translator and producer. From 2001 to 2004 he performed with ED32 Improv Theatre Troupe. At UT's Shakespeare at Winedale program, he performed Claudio (MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING) and Claudius (HAMLET), and later directed a production of Anton Chekhov's UNCLE VANYA. As a graduate student in UT's Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, Graham received a federal grant to pursue research on the early history of Chekhov's plays at the Moscow Art Theatre (Moscow, Russia). Also at DSES, he was honored to contribute to the *Cambridge Introduction to Chekhov* (Loehlin, 2009). Graham's recent stage credits for Breaking String include CINZANO by Lyudmila Petrushevskaya (director, translator), Chekhov's THE SEAGULL (director) and THE CHERRY ORCHARD (director, translator). He is a submissions reader for Generous Company's WordBRIDGE Playwrighting workshop, a founding member of Breaking String Theater, and its artistic director. Next up for Graham are translations of PHANTOM PAINS by Vasily Sigarev and UNCLE VANYA, which will be staged by Breaking String in the summer of 2011. Graham is filled with admiration and gratitude toward this peerless cast and crew, and to all those who helped make this dream into a reality.

Justin Sherburn (COMPOSER, SOUND DESIGNER) is a composer and producer based in Austin, Texas. He creates music for theater, television and film and performs with Okkervil River, Glover Gill's Tango Orchestra and the Lovely Sparrows. He invites you to visit his website at justinsherburn.com.

Steven Shirey (LIGHTING DESIGNER) has a MFA in lighting design from the University of South Carolina and was the Technical Director for the Stephen F. Austin State University School of Theatre from 2001 to 2007. Austin design credits include A THOUGHT IN THREE PARTS, NO ONE ELSE IN THE WOODS TONIGHT, and FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

Jamie Urban (COSTUME DESIGNER) is so thrilled to be working with the beautiful cast and crew of Breaking String's FLYING. Jamie came to Austin, after finishing her MFA in costume design and production at Boston University, to join

her friends in developing and running Sustainable Theatre Project. She was welcomed to Austin with not only this opportunity with Breaking String but also designing for Different Stages' production of Humble Boy and working on Ballet Austin's Nutcracker. She has worked for companies such as Orlando Repertory, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, the Huntington Theatre, Opera Boston and Alpine Theatre Project. She would like to thank her family for their unconditional love, and her friends both old and new for their constant support.

More Collaborators!

James Devery – Wigs • Pam Fletcher-Friday – Costume assistant • Eric Johnson – Carpenter • Henna Chou – Cello • Elizabeth Warren – Violin • Jenni Wieland - French Horn • Madeline Malka – vocalist • Marisa Fushille – Production Assistant
• James Devery – Wigs • Derek Kolluri – Graphic Design • Will Hollis Photography
• David Jewel Photography

Special Thanks

Tom and Jan Schmidt • Joe Carpenter The St. Edwards University Theatre Department • The HOPE Campaign • Austin Scenic Coop • Frenchy's Salon • Sonnet Blanton • Sam Webber • Stacy Wegner • Elias Ensterä • Eponymous Garden • Sasha's Gourmet Russian Market • The University of Texas Program in Comparative Literature • The University of Texas Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies • The Griffin School • Michael Ferstenfeld • DysTheatre • Paper Chairs • Theatre Ranch • Westen Borghesi • Heather Huggins

Breaking String Theater is an emerging professional theater company in Austin, TX. Our mission is threefold: We strive to create excellent productions of Russian traditional and avant-garde plays; to provide artists with a creative, respectful and professional environment within which to work; and to be a thread in the rope connecting the Russian and American Theater communities. The name of our company derives from a mysterious stage direction from Act II of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*: "Suddenly, as if from the sky, the sound of a breaking string, dying away, forlorn." The Breaking String production team comprises Graham Schmidt (Artistic Director), Robert Matney (Co-producer) and Liz Fisher (Co-Producer).

Breaking String Theater is a sponsored project of the Greater Austin Creative Alliance and is supported by the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division.

