

Welcome to...

**MARVELOUS
THINGS**

**a new story
for the stage**

Marvelous Things: a new story for the stage

Inspired by Easley's "Room Noises" and early songs

Written & Directed by Lindsey Greer Sikes
Original Music Composed by Paul Marbach
Stage Management by Lana Marks & Jamie Urban
Scenic Elements by Joshua Baker
Mural Concepts by Melody Herron
Lighting Design by Kris Carpenter
Projection & Cinematography by Taylor Finley
Costume Design by Sara Harless

FEATURING:

Rachel Wiese.....Girl/WINNIE
Nathan Brockett.....Boy/HUNTER
Sara Harless.....Other Girl/RUTH
Stephen Mercantel.....Other Boy/TOM
Emily Kennedy.....Old Woman/MARY
Brett Hamann.....Old Man/EUELL
Bastion Carboni.....Mechanical HARVEY
Heather Diamond.....Mechanical FAYE BELL
Jonathon Itchon.....Mechanical PINKY
Vanessa Marie.....Mechanical BETTY
Solveij Praxis.....Mechanical ADELAIDE
Georgia Young.....Mechanical GOODIE
and
Raven Fox.....CHILD

With cellists Mary Beth Widhalm & Henna Chou

**Marvelous Things runs approximately two hours, thirty minutes.
There will be one ten minute intermission.*

CAST (in order of appearance)

RACHEL WIESE [Girl]

Rachel Wiese is an avid collaborator on original theatrical works and is the Producing Artistic Director for The Exchange Artists. Previous Austin appearances include: *Lanka*, *Metamorphoses*, *The Jungle*, *Oceana*, *Warpstar Sexysquad*, *Frankenstein*, and several cool multimedia projects. Off Off Broadway: *Flight 360*, *The Inferno Project*, *Tall Tales of True Stories*, *The Field of Mars: Chapter 1*, *The Last Time I Died* and *Snoopy the Musical*. She also does some film work and dances.

NATHAN BROCKETT [Boy]

Nathan Brockett recently graduated from St. Edwards University with a BA in Theatre Arts/Acting. He was seen on the MMNT stage in *Three Sisters*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *The Life of Galileo*, *Peer Gynt*, *City of Angels*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Eurydice*, and *Carousel*. He has also worked with several Austin based companies including Palindrome Theatre, City Theatre, Austin Shakespeare, and Austin Playhouse. He is currently a first year student in A Working Group. Nathan would like to thank all of his many friends and mentors.

SARA HARLESS [Other Girl]

Sara Harless is an Appalachian Mountain woman, relocated due to her hatred of snow and tractor related traffic accidents. *Marvelous Things* is her debut as an actor in Austin, Texas. Sara would like to thank Lindsey Sikes for giving her this opportunity, the cast for being a lovely group of people, her family in Virginia for being incredibly supportive of everything she does, Elyse Holladay for being the best friend anyone could ever hope to have, and Austin Feldman for "all of the toast". She would also like to thank coffee, literature, and the plastic bits on the ends of shoelaces for being awesome.

STEPHEN MERCANTEL [Other Boy]

Stephen Mercantel is a student at St. Edwards University working towards his BA. He has most recently been seen as a series of roles in Summer Stock Austin 2011's *THE PRODUCERS*. Some of his other credits include Oliver in *SPIRITS TO ENFORCE*, a Capital T Production, and his Hyde Park Theatre debut as Jared in *BODY AWARENESS*. Stephen would like to thank Lindsey Sikes, the other fellow artists of this process with which he has had the pleasure to work with both on and off the stage, and finally, his family for supporting his passion no matter where it takes him.

EMILY KENNEDY [Old Woman]

Emily is overjoyed to be performing in the world premiere of *Marvelous Things!* Previously, Emily was in The Exchange Artists' *The StorySeekers* (Abeni), and Sam Bass Theatre's *The Tempest Project* (Calibra), and was most recently seen in Last Act Theatre's *Upon a Midnight Dreary* (Model). She has also been involved in both the Frontera (Robin Myrick's *Town Hall Town Crier*) and Fusebox (Wura-Natasha Ogunji's *One Hundred Black Women*) Festivals. Emily has a BA in Biological Sciences and Visual and Dramatic Arts from Rice University, and is working on a Masters of Public Health from the University of Texas. Emily would like to thank those that love her for doing just that.

BASTION CARBONI [Mechanical Harvey]

Bastion Carboni is a playwright, director, actor, and the Artistic Director of the Poison Apple Initiative (www.poisonappleinitiative.com). He will soon be directing the premier of Jakob Holder's *Housebreaking* at the Compound, debuting his new play *Holier Than Thou* at Frontera Fest in January, and attending the Vermont Studio Center for Writers in February.

HEATHER DIAMOND [Mechanical Faye Bell]

This is Diamond's second production in Texas. She most recently performed as Agatha in Lillian Hellman's *The Children's Hour* with the Shadow Show Theatre Company in San Antonio. She has appeared in numerous other productions, including Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Grand Duke* with the San Diego Comic Opera, Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with Opera Atelier in Toronto, Canada, several community theater productions in California, and hopes to continue to perform in the San Antonio and Austin areas. She would like to thank her family for their continued support of her theatrical endeavors. She is thrilled to be a part of this amazing production and hopes that the audience enjoys their journey into this amazing world. Enjoy the show!

JONATHON ITCHON [Mechanical Pinky]

Jonathon is excited to be working with such a talented cast and production team. He's also enjoyed playing the piano again and having the opportunity to unleash his inner child. Originally from Detroit, Michigan, he now calls Austin home. Recent credits include *Corpus Christi* (San Pedro Playhouse), *Miss Saigon* (TUTS), *Sleeping Beauty* (Vortex Repertory), and *Metamorphoses & Rent* (ZACH). Beyond the stage, Jonathan also loves photography, teaching dance and Pilates, writing his blog, and being in the kitchen (cooking/baking/eating). He hopes you enjoy your visit to the Humming Woods.

VANESSA MARIE [Mechanical Betty]

Vanessa Marie is thrilled to be making her Blue Theatre Debut with *Marvelous Things*. She recently moved to Austin this summer and has just finished performing as Jeannie in The City Theatre's production of *HAIR*. A graduate from The College of Santa Fe with a BFA in Acting and a Minor in dance in May of 2010. Since graduation she has been performing in multiple musicals, plays, films, dances, and experimental theatre pieces in Chicago, LA, Santa Fe and now Austin. Some of her favorite roles include, *Jeannie* in *HAIR*, *Schwartz* in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Cavale* in *Cowboy Mouth*, *Hope* in *An Infinite Ache*, *Lisa* in *A Boys Life*, *Trisha* in *Five Women Wearing the same Dress*, and *Chick* in *Crimes of the Heart*. Special Thanks to Lindsey for the opportunity to work with this new piece, this courageous cast, her incredible family, and all those who came out to the show. www.vanessamarie.org

SOLVEIJ PRAXIS [Mechanical Adelaide]

Solveij is a senior this year at Westlake High School and was pleasantly taken by surprise that she loves this production and all those involved so very much. She was most recently performing at the Curtain Theater with Austin Shakespeare's youth troupe, of which she is an alumna, in *Troilus and Cressida*. Prior to this, she appeared in *Bye Bye Birdie*, as a featured dancer. She is active in the Westlake High School choir program, competitive in the state-wide voice tournaments, and a member of the auditioned women's choir, Chamber Women. She wishes the cast, crew and audience health and happiness.

GEORGIA YOUNG [Mechanical Goodie]

Georgia Young thought she quit acting more than a decade ago. She is pleasantly surprised to find herself on stage again. Most of the time, she rides her bike, cooks tasty food, listens to loud music, writes arts criticism, and works as a dramaturg and core company member for Poison Apple Initiative.

RAVEN FOX [Child]

Raven performed in *Romeo & Juliet* (Juliet, Lady Capulet, Nurse, Paris) directed by Gwen Kelso, *The Star-Spangled Girl* and *The Exonerated* under the direction of Michael McKelvey at Zachary Scott Theatre Center. Musical Videos include *Althea Capra* – Tribe17 Anti-apathy. Television credits include "Friday Night Lights" for NBC Universal. Raven has studied voice under the direction of Kathy Hargis, CCSA and Dr. Morough of The University of Texas at Austin.

CREATIVE/PRODUCTION TEAM

LINDSEY GREER SIKES [Writer/Director]

Lindsey is a recent graduate of the Creating Original Work program within New York University's Playwrights Horizons Theater School Studio, where she served as a writer, director and collaborator on many new works, including her own *Grasp* (a lyrical play in abstract form) and *How We Love* (a new a cappella musical recontextualizing the pop-rock love ballads of the 70's and 80's amongst Generation Y New Yorkers). But Lindsey likes Austin a lot, so the decision to relocate once her time had been served at university was an easy one. Since coming to Austin she's worked with a handful of local established and independent artists, and was thrilled with her first foray into this year's Frontera Fest—directing the premiere of local playwright Amory Elizabeth Casto's *What You Touch Is Gold*. And after working on their recent production of *Woyzeck*, she is the newest addition to Poison Apple Initiative—a young, brave and passionate theater company residing within the Austin city limits. However *Marvelous Things* serves as the premiere of her first original work in Austin. And it is by far her most ambitious presentation of a developing new project. While continuing to evolve this and other future works, Lindsey hopes to push the boundaries of the theatrical art form itself—to work beyond perceived limitations and discover the capacities of the theater beyond its traditional role. She has a feeling there just might be something there...a weird, gooey, exciting feeling...

PAUL MARBACH [Composer/Musical Director]

Paul Marbach is an Austin-based composer of theatre, electronic, vocal, and chamber music. With a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Texas at Austin, Paul has collaborated with film makers, video game creators, choreographers, a cappella groups, chamber ensembles, singers, and playwrights to create a diverse range of music. Most recently, Paul won the 2011 Roy Crane Award in Composition for his original score and music direction on *And Then Came Tango*, a ballet for young audiences at the University of Texas at Austin. In May 2011, Paul conducted the premiere of his *Requiem: an embrace*, a 40-minute long a cappella requiem dedicated to the memory of LGBT teen bullying victims who have committed suicide. Paul also arranged numerous songs for The Ransom Notes, the premiere a cappella group at the University of Texas at Austin, and was the Producer of their 6th studio album, *Out of Nowhere*. Past collaborators include the Blanton Museum of Art, the UT College of Fine Arts, the UT New Music Ensemble, American College Dance Festival Association director and choreographer Holly Williams, filmmaker Jo Huang, and director Emily Freeman.

For more information, visit <http://www.paulmarbach.com>.

LANA MARKS [Production Stage Manager]

Lana is a cocky Corellian with a wry wit, a reckless disposition, and technological savvy. She went through several employers, had a short military career, met and befriended Chewbacca, and upset enough sentients to have several bounties placed on her head before becoming swept up into the Galactic Civil War against her own wishes. She later became a general in the Alliance, leading a Rebel strike team in the Battle of Endor. She has earned the Corellian Bloodstripe at some point during her military career, though the reasons for this award are unknown.

JOSHUA BAKER [Scenic Elements]

Joshua Baker is excited to be working on his 6th show here in ATX. In this brief time he has met many wonderful people such as the ever smiling Ms. Sikes and seen many *Marvelous Things*. The power of imagination is formidable both on and off stage and this play is just one beautiful example. Thanks, love, for inviting me along with such persistence.

KRISTOPHER CARPENTER [Lighting Design]

Kris Carpenter is a Senior Lighting Design major at St. Edwards University where he will be graduating in December. He has worked as the assistant to the master electrician for four years at St. Ed's as well as designed *On The Verge*. He has also worked as a theatrical electrician for six years around Austin. This marks his first design outside of educational or children's theater.

TAYLOR FINLEY [Projection & Cinematography]

Taylor Finley is from Kaua'i, Hawaii. He works in film and theater, recently on Poison Apple Initiative's *Woyzeck* and *Crumble*, Andrew Bujalski's film *Computer Chess*, and Bryan Fuller's "Pushing Daisies". He's currently somewhere in America shooting a road documentary with GASHCAT, an indie fuzzfolk band recently signed to Sub Pop Records.

MELODY HERRON [Mural Concepts]

Melody Herron currently resides in Georgetown, Texas where she teaches theatre at Arts Avenue for Kids. Melody is also balancing life as a student, while finishing her last year at the University of Texas, earning her B.A. in Acting. From a young age, Melody immersed herself in the performing arts and, over the years, has built an extensive repertoire that ranges from vocal performance and Shakespeare studies to fencing and ballroom dance. She also has a passion for the visual arts, which she has channeled into her work on costume design and abstract painting. In *Marvelous Things*, Melody is debuting her first commissioned artwork. She would like to thank Lindsey Sikes for trusting her with such a "marvelous" vision.

MARY BETH WIDHALM [Cellist]

Mary Beth Widhalm toiled through childhood with weekly cello lessons, high school orchestra camps, and endless chromatic scales. Somehow, she still loves to play the cello and performs regularly in Austin with her all-girl rock band, the Midwives. She recently joined Reverend Glasseye to score the Poison Apple Initiative production of *Woyzeck*, performed for Gnap! Theater Project's *69 Love Scenes*, and recorded on East Cameron Folkcore's album, *the Sound and the Fury*. Mary Beth came to Austin from Louisiana to study Library Science but has happily found herself amid a large community of passionate artists who are constantly looking for the next challenge.

HENNA CHOU [Cellist]

Henna Chou is a willing participant of many activities who has worked with local ensembles such as New Music Co-Op, Linen Closet, My Education, Gold Beach, and Many Birthdays as a cellist, keyboardist, guitarist or other general sound/noise maker. Previous theatrical collaborations include work with Rubber Repertory, Humdrum Collective, Vestige group, and a handful of Frontera Fest Short Fringe pieces. She is also a board member of Church of the Friendly Ghost: a community organization dedicated to the proliferation of creative musics, future-minded expressions, experiments in sound, new media art, and cultural adventure. Thanks to everyone for the interesting and colorful experiences

**THIS PRODUCTION MADE POSSIBLE BY THE
GENEROUS HELPING HANDS/EYES/EARS OF:**

**Greg Sikes, Jennifer Lewis, Jenny Cravenstein, Ken Webster, Bernard
Klinke, Westen Borghesi, Fallon Finley, Austin Scheffield, Bethany
Perkins, Amory Casto, and Samuel Rosen**

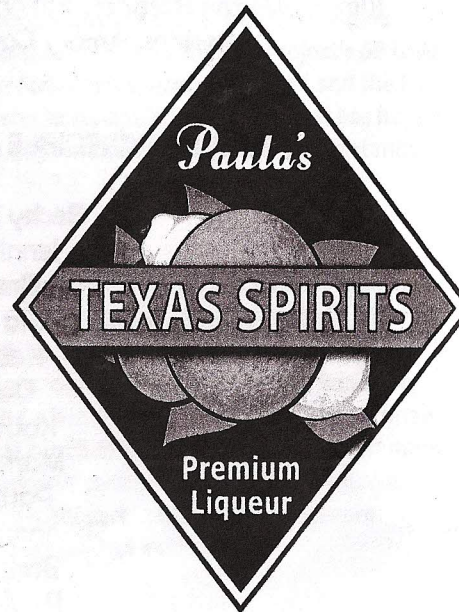
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A note from the Director...

Developing a new play often reminds me of an exercise my fellow peers and I were subjected to during my sixth grade year. The assignment was to fashion a sort of carriage, or container, in which we were to carry an egg in for a week. We had to make sure it was something secure, something that didn't give way to a jostle here and there. Something that supported this fragile object which it contained. We were allowed to decorate it however we like, fashion it to any form of our choosing. But the objective was simple: don't break the baby. Well, I'll tell you right now. I broke that baby. I broke it a few times actually. And regardless of how structurally sound or downright pretty mine or any of my peers containers were, we all ended up with the same result. You simply can't trust an eleven-year-old with an egg.

As a creator of new work the greatest concerns, for me, have always existed beyond the content of the project itself. Just as important as that content is the thing holding it together—in this case, the process. What is the right way to foster the baby? This particular show has seen the baby jostled all over the place, and amongst the hands of numerous caretakers and collaborators. Over the course of two months *Marvelous Things* has changed and developed at a pace that I can hardly believe looking back. Not only have there been at least four new script editions, but also the creation and development of six characters who were entirely devised in the rehearsal room, along with a handful of conceptual changes which have, at the very least, kept the whole team on their toes. We never quite knew what kind of a container it was we were crafting, but somehow we were able to keep the project from falling out of our grasp.

I feel nothing but grateful to find myself in a town where there exist so many artists interested in new work; artists who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and push the work by pushing themselves. I can't thank my cast and creative team enough for what they've done to create the piece we have. But it's not over.

Marvelous Things will continue to develop, continue to challenge itself both in form and content, and continue to evolve the theatrical qualities and conventions inherent with being a performative structure for the stage. And because collaboration does not limit itself to the rehearsal room or the rehearsal process, I want to open the lines of communication between presenter and recipient, and invite you to provide feedback of any kind from your experience of the piece, whether it be in the form of questions or declarative statements.

Thank you for supporting the new work happening in the Austin theater scene!

Sincerely,

Lindsey Greer Sikes

lindseysikes@gmail.com