

Trouble Puppet Theater Co.

The Wars of Heaven



SMACKDOWN!

Artistic Director and Playwright: Connor Hopkins

Producing Partner: Kathryn Rogers

Production Manager: Meredith Balderston

Composer: Justin Sherburn

Sound Design: K. Eliot Haynes

Media Design: Chris Owen

Lighting Design: Kevin Long

Costume Design: Kelli Bland

Build: Connor Hopkins, Magda Riley, Jacqueline Landsman, Marc Smith, Hank Schwemmer, Meredith Balderston, Sarah Gardner, Akki Brathwaite, Binh Nguyen Hoang, Kim Soriano, Scott Loughy, Jessica Tanner

Performers: Jay Young (voicing Uriel), Michelle Dahlenburg (voicing Behemoth), Gricelda Silva, Zac Crofford, Caroline Reck, Emily Ash, Michael Ferstenfeld, Julie Moore

Stage Manager: Rip Shaub

Board Operator: Kim Soriano

Poster and Program Art: Leah Lovise

ASL Interpretation (May 6): Emily Niswonger

with special guests

LOLA: Local Opera Local Artists

(varies by date)

Liz Cass, Cynthia Wilson, Claudia Chapa, Maimy Fong, Sarah Walker, Sara Jebaily, Graham Yates, Emily Breedlove, Mathew Edwardsen



Trouble Puppet is a sponsored project of **Salvage Vanguard Theater**. This project is supported in part by the **Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department**, the **Jim Henson Foundation**, and **The Creative Fund**.



Thanks to our front of house volunteers: Whitney Page, Stephen Reynolds, Catherine Collett, Nathan Lahay, Rob Jacques, and Andrew Hatcher

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WE LOST OUR LEASE!

Salvage Vanguard Theater and TPT are losing our Manor Road home in June. This is TPT's last mainstage show at SVT. Can you help us?

Please let the mayor and the city council know that you support their efforts to help local arts organizations find affordable, centrally located venues. And **please donate now:** You can PayPal your donation from your phone to info@troublepuppet.com.

To get involved, email info@troublepuppet.com

Artistic Director's Special Thanks to Our Builders

In the early days of Trouble Puppet, when people asked who made our puppets, the answer was pretty simple: "Me." That has not been the case for many years. As my absurd ambitions have ballooned and I have let go of my obsessive need to make every damn thing in a show, our work has come to require the efforts of many artists of all forms, from digital media to papier mache. For any theatrical show to exist, much less be successful, a numbers of people have to do some very complex, creative, tedious, time-consuming, occasionally aggravating things. *Wars of Heaven: SMACKDOWN!* may be the most collaborative build process Trouble Puppet has experienced. Beast-steeds by **Magda**, specialized mechanical puppets by **Hank**, puppet bodies by **Jaqueline**, and huge contributions from **Marc** and **Meredith** and most of all, our stage-manager/jack-of-all-trades, **Rip** "I never made a puppet before so I think I'll start with giant electric ones" Shaub.

All these people, armed only with vague descriptions of ideas that at one point seemed clever to me, turned them into realities greater than I could have imagined. I am grateful to them, and to our volunteers **Akki**, **Binh**, **Denise** and **Ian**, **Kim** and **Scott**, **Jessica**, and **Sarah**.

A few days ago, as I endeavored to express my appreciation to these tireless and genial workers, one of them thanked me for letting them work on the show. **Letting them. I shit you not.** There has never been more fortunate person than I, in the company I am privileged to keep. I am surrounded by people whose creativity is only outmatched by their generosity. This most certainly includes Producing Partner Kathryn, our credited designers—Eliot, Chris, Kevin, Justin, Kelli, Leah—and our cast of hard-working actor/puppeteers, but I wanted to take a moment, on this show in particular, to acknowledge the work of all the people who you, the audience, may never see and who will never take a bow, though they have labored within these walls for weeks and months to make the stuff you're about to see.

Thank you, unseen crew that pulls the oars in the belly of the ship. We go to sea on the strength of your backs and shoulders, and if I were a real captain, I'd fire all the cannons at dawn in your honor.