

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth
Climbs into the Vancouver Fringe Festival
at Waterfront Theatre

San Francisco's Antic in a Drain
presents
A primate circus extravaganza with a twist

The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth. San Francisco based Chinese pole acrobat and physical comedian Ross Travis returns to Vancouver for the second time, and this time it's gonna be bananas. Recently seen in last year's Vancouver Fringe Festival in Naked Empire Bouffon Company's controversial bouffon show *You Killed Hamlet, or Guilty Creatures Sitting At A Play*, Ross returns with the first show under his new company Antic in a Drain.

Where: Waterfront Theatre, 1412 Cartwright St.

When: Show #1: 9/4 @ 6:45pm Show #3: 9/10 @ 5:15pm Show #5: 9/12 @ 7:10pm
Show #2: 9/6 @ 8:15pm Show #4: 9/11 @ 10:25pm Show #6: 9/14 @ 5:00pm

More info: <http://rosstravis.com/antic-in-a-drain/the-greatest-monkey-show-on-earth/>

San Francisco, July 10th, 2014. Antic in a Drain proudly presents ***The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth***, at the Vancouver Fringe Festival. Prepare to be overwhelmed to flabbergastion as you see incredible feats of intelligence, dexterity and sophistication unlike anything you've seen from our primate ancestors before. This isn't your run of the mill animal show here -- no sir, you are in for something special! No trainer, no ringmaster, just one highly intelligent, extremely agile, genetically superior monkey and you: the adoring audience. Chinese pole, hoop diving, audience interaction, monkey antics and the breathtaking brilliance of the show's creator, Mr. Magnificent, permeate into one life-changing hour.

This original production combines the provocative humor of bouffon, the vulnerability of clown, audience interaction and spectacular feats of acrobatics to explore the themes of captivity vs. freedom. The primary questions that the show sets out to explore are: What does captivity and objectification of animals do - not only to animals but to us as humans? And what are the repercussions and consequences of keeping (any) being captive?

"The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth challenges perceptions about primal and civilized behavior, freedom and captivity, and our often-forgotten relationship to primates. Ross has a captivating repertoire of circus skills and engages the audience in surprising ways. "
- Debórah Eliezer, Co-Artistic Director, [foolsFURY Theater](#)

"The athleticism displayed in The Greatest Monkey Show on Earth is only matched by its insightful social commentary. Ross Travis uses human and animal relations to explore issues of imprisonment, agency, and coercion. The audience will laugh and scream with a smile, but as the lights go down they are left with haunting personal questions."

- Dillon Slagle, [LMDA](#)

The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth will premiere at the [Circus Center of San Francisco](#) on August 2nd and 3rd where Ross is an Artist in Residence and where ***The Greatest Monkey Show*** is being developed. The show was an official selection for the Raw Materials Program at the [Fools Fury Factory Festival](#) of New Works (July 6th - 20th) in San Francisco.

"What impressed me about the work is the consistent physicality and commitment to character. The work is hilarious, risky, intelligent, surprising and unexpected. I used all my senses."

- Abigail Munn, Founder and Artistic Director, [Circus Bella](#)

Previously, Ross won a TITAN Award Grant for Actors in 2012 from Theatre Bay Area. He was voted an artist to watch in 2013 by the SF Weekly. For three years he was one half of Naked Empire Bouffon Company where his work on *You Killed Hamlet, or Guilty Creatures Sitting At A Play*, won the San Francisco Best of the Fringe Award, the Vancouver/Plank Magazine Talk of the Fringe Award, a nomination for Vancouver's Georgia Straight Critic's Pick Award, an Official Selection of the Toronto Festival of Clowns, and the 2012 Best Fusion Theatre Piece Stuey.

"Performer Ross Travis doesn't play many easy parts. Whether he's marching around Angel Island and flying at the top of a mast with the site-specific theater company the We Players or rollicking with Nathaniel Justiniano in Naked Empire Bouffon's latest show, You Killed Hamlet! (which is touring to international Fringe festivals this year), he is undoubtedly getting a rigorous workout. He can contort his face and body into silly, grotesque positions in farcical satire, yet he can also deliver Shakespeare with the crisp clarity and deep sense of character that makes you remember how funny the Bard can be."

- Lily Janiak, [SF Weekly](#)

The Greatest Monkey Show is produced under Ross' new company [Antic in a Drain](#) which was created in 2014 to produce all of his personal projects. If Antic In A Drain created it, it should be/have:

Risking Vulnerability
Audience Interactive
Spectacular Physicality
Empathetic Hilarity
Performance Games
Crossing Lines

The Greatest Monkey Show is Antic in a Drain's debut production and Ross' most ambitious project to date. Ross did six months of intense research on everything simian and the result is an experience that has roots in North Korean animal shows, Monkey plays in the Noh tradition, Balinese monkey mask plays, the Chinese epic Journey to the West: The Monkey King and last but not least, Planet of the Apes. Content for the show was developed through extensive improvisations and showings with a group of peer artists for feedback.

"An impossibly supple performer." - Colin Maclean, [Edmonton Sun](#)

"A comic marvel." - Lily Janiak, [SF Weekly](#)

"Well worth watching on any stage." - Nicole Gluckstern, [The Performant](#)

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