



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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UPSTATE CALIFORNIA CREATIVE CORPS

And

ANTIC IN A DRAIN
PRESENTS

the World Premiere of

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Mendocino, Lake, Colusa and Glenn Counties, CA. [Antic in a Drain](#) (Artistic Director, Ross Travis), an Upstate California Creative Corps grantee, proudly presents the World Premiere tour of [Where Do We Go From Here?](#), a peripatetic zoological theater spectacle of climatic proportions. Humanfolk both young and old, bear your teeth, clap your paws and roll around in the dirt as you objectify and cackle like coyotes at the cute vitriol of your animal friends; ‘The Real’ Smokey Bear, Hooty the Owl and Bennie Bark Beetle, as they present masterful acts of anthropocene mockery. Suitable for all ages.

The Bark Beetle This Way Comes.

Where Do We Go From Here? is a peripatetic bouffon spectacle that will be traveling 205 miles through Mendocino, Lake, Colusa and Glenn Counties on an EV art trike fashioned in the form of a Bark Beetle, stopping along the way to perform an hour long show to rural communities throughout the region from Fort Bragg to Willows. This satirical sideshow was developed through an intensive community research process; Ross Travis and documentary filmmaker Steve Ritchie interviewed a broad spectrum of individuals from the Mayor of Willows, an agricultural community and the county seat of Glenn County, to a group of indigenous women at [Xa Kako Dile](#), a sustainable women-led farm on the Mendocino coast. The show combines their perspectives with Ross’ research into the non bipedal life of the region and the [Extreme Heat Index](#) to create a rigorous one man theatrical event where Ross plays fifteen characters and uses a powerful mix of irreverent comedy, tragedy, ritual, acrobatics, kinetic sculptural art and interactive

ecstatic play to inform, provoke, provide tools for agency and inspire community action on the issue of climate change and its effects on the region.

Upstate California Creative Corps.

Ross Travis and Antic in a Drain are one of 81 grantees chosen from among close to 300 applicants to this highly competitive grant program. Upstate California Creative Corps received a total ask of \$16 million with only \$3.38 million in grants awarded. Ross Travis and his collaborators were awarded \$60k as part of a new pilot program serving California's most vulnerable communities and environments, its least represented peoples, and investigating some of society's most critical issues.

Grantees are collectively part of a media, outreach, and engagement campaign designed to increase awareness of issues such as public health, water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, and emergency preparedness, relief and recovery. California Arts Council views the California Creative Corps program as a job creation and human infrastructure development opportunity. Region by region, the program is increasing the ways in which artists are engaged in public work, so that they can continue to build upon intersectional public interest goals beyond its pilot funding timeline.

Funded projects serve Upstate's most vulnerable communities, those identified via the California Healthy Places Index and other valuable local data sources. From place-based urban initiatives to multi-county regional projects that follow watersheds, tribal lands, forests, and some of California's most remote mountain wilderness areas, projects engage diverse communities around solutions for some of society's most fundamental challenges – through social practice and an array of artforms.

“The California Creative Corps initiative echoes the Works Progress Administration after the depression in the 30's. WPA led to a renaissance of powerful new art during that era and I am so humbled and elated to be in the footsteps of that legacy as well as grateful to the state of California for supporting the arts and artists in these crazy times. Connecting with the communities I'm serving around climate issues that I care so deeply about has been truly powerful and I am looking forward to engaging with them further through the art our conversations inspired” says Ross Travis.

A complete list of Upstate California Creative Corps grantees can be found at <https://www.upstatecreativecorps.org/grantees>.

The Bouffon Provocateur.

Bouffon is a traditional, grotesque, satirical form of physical theater codified from many traditions throughout history (including the Feast of Fools celebration during medieval times and the Satyr plays of the ancient Greeks) by the French theater provocateur Jacques Lecoq in the 50s and 60s. “In this show I am portraying a sardonic group of our non-human animal neighbors surrounding us in the natural world who have an outsider point of view of our world,” says Ross. “From ‘The Real’ Smokey Bear to Bennie Bark Beetle, they have a powerful vantage point on our human behavior. And similar to how the lepers and hunchbacks on the outskirts of medieval society were allowed to come in to town and speak truth to the king for a day during the Feast of Fools, what if a group of forest critters were able to ride their Bark Beetle talisman into town and make fun of the humans for a day?”

“As I created this show, I did my best to have a neutral perspective and soak up as much as I could from all sides of the issue of climate change. During my research and development period, I took a head first plunge into the issue, conducting interviews and a listening tour, listening to podcasts, reading books and articles and watching documentaries and films about the issue. I became as much of an expert as I could

so I could see the games being played and who all the players are, who is complicit and in what ways. In the show, I replay these games and scenarios for the audience through gratuitous ritual, song, and ecstatic play. I believe a bouffon performance's powerful combination of comedy and tragedy is an innovative way to foster empathy, connection and action between those with diametrically opposed viewpoints on (in this case) climate change. My goal is to create satire that is not agitprop but gives weight to how complex an issue like climate change is. Bouffon is a vast and dynamic territory that spans all the way from broad comedy to grotesque tragedy. I believe in the cathartic and empathetic power of the form.”

Cast and Crew

This piece is Written and Performed by **Ross Travis**. Bark Beetle Set Design by **John Ives and Steve Watson**. Documentary Filmmaking by **Steve Ritchie**. Direction, Mask and Puppet Design by **Ronlin Foreman**. Costume Design by **Lydia Foreman**. Sound Design by **Jon Steinmeier**. Graphic Design by **Jeff Raab**.

ABOUT ANTIC IN A DRAIN

Ross Travis' company Antic in a Drain combines circus and bouffon to develop extreme characters and tell stories from the fringes, igniting dialogue and change within communities around ignored or taboo social issues. Antic in a Drain has developed three shows available for booking:

- *The Greatest Monkey Show On Earth*, a primate circus extravaganza that takes a satirical bite out of animal/human agency, premiered in 2014 after an Artist Residency at the San Francisco Circus Center, then toured to the Edmonton and Vancouver Fringe Festivals in Canada that same year, receiving a four-star review from Global News and the inaugural Artistic Risk Award in Vancouver. In 2016 Antic in a Drain was Artist-in-Residence at Kinetic Arts Center, where the second version of the Greatest Monkey Show was workshopped and performed. It was nominated for two 2016 Theatre Bay Area Awards for Outstanding Makeup and Costume Design and won for Costuming.
- *Bucko: Whaleman!*, a high seas whaling voyage that launches a satirical harpoon into the heart of human greed and natural resource consumption, premiered on Hyde Street Pier at San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park in 2017.
- *Tempting Fate*, a satirical sideshow entertainment reflecting the house of mirrors called climate change, premiered at Little Boxes Theater in 2019. The show was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle by Lily Janiak and was nominated for seven Theatre Bay Area Awards, including Outstanding Solo Production, Outstanding Direction of a Specialty Production, Outstanding Creative Specialties for Mask AND Puppet Design, Outstanding Costume Design, and Outstanding Sound Design. The show won for Outstanding Creative Specialties for Mask Design.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ross Travis (Lead Artist) is an award-winning Bouffon, Physical Comedian and Circus Performer, who has studied with world renowned master pedagogues, including; Dodi DiSanto, Giovanni Fusetti, Ronlin Foreman, Stephen Buescher, and Master Lu Yi. Ross' lineage of training and experience allows him to create provocative performances combining circus and bouffon to develop extreme characters and tell stories from the fringes, igniting dialogue and change around ignored or taboo social issues. Ross has developed three shows focusing on the climate crisis, including his most recent *Tempting Fate*, a satirical sideshow entertainment reflecting the house of mirrors called climate change. It premiered at Little Boxes Theater in 2019. The show was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle by Lily Janiak and was nominated for seven Theatre Bay Area Awards, winning for Outstanding Creative Specialties in

Mask Design. Tempting Fate is currently on a West Coast tour with stops in Point Arena, San Francisco and Arcata.

Ronlin Foreman (Director) served as director of Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in Arcata, CA from 2011-2015. He joined the full-time faculty of Dell'Arte in 2003 as Director of Training after a 20-year association as a master teacher when he and Dell'Arte founding artistic director, Joan Schirle, developed and implemented the first Ensemble Based Physical Theatre MFA program to be accredited in the United States, and the first MFA to focus on Devised Theatre. Under Joan and Ronlin's tutelage Dell'Arte became renowned for commitment to theater of place - theater made for and about a specific community.

John Ives (Set Builder) has been in the performing arts almost his entire life. He started acting when he was a child. Theater led to dance. Dance led to circus, and circus to woodworking. For years he enjoyed fixing up furniture left on the street for his personal use. He took up woodworking full time when work-life was interrupted by Covid lockdowns and now woodworking is his primary focus. This prompted him to move out of the Bay Area to the beautiful wild wooded hills of Northern California where the forest and canyon floor freely provide all the building materials and inspiration that he will ever need!

Steve Ritchie (Documentarian) is a videographer who has worked on feature films, narratives, documentary films and local tv commercials. He has lived on the Mendocino coast since the 1980s, and creates videos for local businesses including Mendocino Theatre Co, Thanksgiving Coffee Co., Flynn Creek Circus and Gloriana Musical Theater. In addition to filming numerous award winning short films, he has also worked on the Locations Department team for Marvel Studios (Shang-Chi Legend of the 10 Rings, 2021) and Warner Bros. (Matrix 4: Resurrections, 2022).

Calendar Listing Information

Locations Dates and Times:

05.12.24 / 2pm / Fort Bragg, CA / Larry Spring Museum
05.14.24 / 5pm / Caspar, CA / Caspar Community Center
05.16.24 / 5pm / Boonville, CA / Anderson Valley Brewing, Co
05.18.24 / 5pm / Ukiah, CA / Todd Grove Park
05.20.24 / 5pm / Lucerne, CA / Lucerne Harbor Park
05.21.24 / 5pm / Clearlake Oaks, CA / Nylander Park
05.24.24 / 5pm / Colusa, CA / Veterans Memorial Park
05.26.24 / 5pm / Willows, CA / Jensen Park

This activity is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency, through the Upstate California Creative Corps program, as well as Antic in a Drain's Patreon Community. It is free and open to the public and appropriate for all ages. It is in English and lyrical as well as visual.

More Info:

<https://rosstravis.com/antic-in-a-drain/where-do-we-go-from-here/>

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