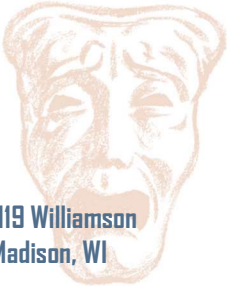




Broom
Street
Theater

An Evening of the
Absurd

*(or The Adventures of an Electric Kaleidoscopic Crocodile Named Philip
in the World of Funkadelic Wonderment)*



A new play by Matthew Grzybowski



A Broom Street Theater Production

1119 Williamson
Madison, WI



8:00pm, Thu - Sat
June 2nd - 24th, 2023

Silly Cast

Stagehand, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Webb, Simon Stimson	Noah Abrahamson
Charles St. James III, Constable Warren	Arko Bakshi
Comma, Stage Manager	Jacob Bortell
Exclamation, Lenny, George, Xenomorph Zero	Sean Cairns
Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Webb, Mr. Page, Xenomorph Beta	Kelly Lajter
Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Soames, Dr. Gibbs	Molly Maslin
Quote, Mrs. Gibbs, Xenomorph Alpha	Maggie Roemer
Emma, Joe Crowell Jr., Professor Xenon Prime, Xenomorph Gamma	Brandy Wang

Slightly Less Silly Production Team

Writer, Director, Set Designer	Matt Grzybowski
Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Sound Designer	Dusty Smith
Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Board Operator	Liz Mael
Scenic Artist, Production Coordinator	Gina Hamon
Lighting Designer	Luke Delwiche
Lighting Intern Emeritus	Tom Littrell
Props Master	Christa Dahamn Zaborske
Choreography	Arko Bakshi
	Maggie Roemer
BST Board Representative	Doug Reed

Wacky Acknowledgements

Thank you to those who donated or helped make this production possible: Tracy Grzybowski, Molly Vanderlin, Gina Hamon, Doug Reed, Greg Wallendal, Dusty Smith, Clint Walz, Rob Matsushita, Dave & Kathy Grzybowski, & BST Board.

Boring Director's Blah Blah Notes

This has been a journey of self-exploration, rediscovery, & growth. So much has transpired over the last 18 years since I was last at Broom Street Theater. Some have asked if I wrote this show for BST. The answer is, not specifically. I wanted something that challenged the more traditional approach to theatrical conventions to better understand what the outer limits of the medium can be.

The show's vignettes leverage different theatrical styles to tell their stories. From broad to more traditional, from solo performance to 1970s sound & movement. While some push the audience harder than others, I think there is something there worth considering. Amazing & supportive people, both old & new, came out of the woodwork to help make this production possible. I'm very humbled by the generosity & kindness of those that supported me throughout this journey.

An Absurd Show

An Evening of the Absurd (*or The Adventures of an Electric Kaleidoscopic Crocodile Named Philip in the World of Funkadelic Wonderment*) is a collection of four vignettes that explore ego, expressionism, & the age-old question of “what is theater?”

The Arrival of Ms. Todd – Who is God? Is she available? Is he accepting calls today? All we can do is wait & see what happens.

It's All About Me! – Charles St. James III has worked very hard for this moment & is not about to let anything stop you from understanding this is moment.

Terraforming on Mars (or How to Count to Six on One Hand) – Life is bigger. It's bigger than you. And, so you know, you are not me.

Our Town: 3099 – Their story & struggle are the same, just a thousand years in the future...with robots, mutants, etc. Everything will be just fine in the little town of MegaBlock 43, New Hampshire.

Dialogue from *Their Town* & *Our Town: 3099* is based on the play *Our Town* written by Thornton Wilder.

This production is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission. All of the stage entrances & exits will be used in tonight's performance.

Zany Biographies

Noah Abrahamson (they/them) (Stagehand, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Webb, Simon Stimson) Noah has been a Denizen of the Madison Theater Community since 2020. An Evening of the Absurd is their fourth appearance at Broom Street Theater, & are honored to be able to perform at such a storied location. When Noah isn't on stage or honing their improv skills, they work as a Software Developer in the Clinical Trial business. Noah is thankful for the late inclusion to this talented cast & crew, & for the patience of their Partners, Family, & Friends while Noah pursues their comedic side hustle.

Arko Bakshi (Charles St. James III, Constable Warren) an astrobotanist by profession, finds delight in assuming the role of an entertainer during his free time. From childhood, Arko has been captivated by theater acting, & his ardor for it has remained steadfast. By day, he dedicates himself to scientific exploration, unraveling the enigmas of growing plants in space. However, when he is not occupied studying about plant life, you can locate him breathing life into art through his abilities in dance, acting, recitation, & painting. Following his previous play titled "It's All Overboard," Arko is now very excited to partake in his second theatrical performance at the Broom Street Theater. He possesses an unwavering desire to share his passion with the world, & his ultimate goal is to ignite inspiration within others, encouraging them to wholeheartedly embrace their own creative inclinations.

Jacob Bortell (Comma, Stage Manager) Jacob's performed in academic & community theater for nearly 15 years. At Broom Street, he's played Cinesias in *Lysistrata*, John Wilkes Booth in *Sister Girl*, & Hamilton/Arlis in *Hamilton (1917)*. Other notable performances include Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey* & Evan in the world premiere of *Bernice Sizemore's 70th Birthday*.

Sean H Cairns (Exclamation, Lenny, George, Xenomorph Zero) Sean is: thrilled to be performing in his fourth Broom Street production; a member of the Monkey Business Institute improv troupe; also known as ToasterBoy on YouTube; passionate about both euclidean & non-euclidean geometry; Time Magazine's Person of the Year 2006; single; hiding in your closet. He would also like to give a shout-out to his roommates: Lapis the Dog & Brandon the Human.

Kelly Lajter (Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Webb, Mr. Page, Xenomorph Beta) Kelly is elated to return to the BST stage in *An Evening of the Absurd*. Last show she did here was *Multiple O 2: Women On Top*. She wants to thank Matt for the opportunity to be a part of the *Absurd*. When she isn't playing onstage, she has done backstage & costume work for *Bartell Ball Drop Blitz* & production management & script supervising for local filmmakers, including Living Storm Productions. Shout out to family & friends for their support & encouragement -- especially Paul for holding down the fort during rehearsal & for always making her laugh. Enjoy the absurd!

Molly Maslin (Mrs. Cobb, Mrs. Soames, Dr. Gibbs) A Californian acting like a Wisconsinite, Molly keeps her mind off the drastic temperatures by staying inside the theatre. From UW Baraboo/Sauk Co, to The Palace Theater in the Dells, Spring Green, & now Madison, Molly has gone from dying professor (Wit) to bumbling Shakespeare scholar (The Complete Works of Shakespeare), from negligent 19th century mother (Spring Awakening) to uptight high school teacher (Grease) & coach's wife (Lombardi). She also produces, directs, does stand up & improv comedy, & recently wrote her first full-length play. She's super happy to be just an actor again. Thanks to Matt for taking the reins & showing her the way.

Maggie Roemer (Quote, Mrs. Gibbs, Xenomorph Alpha) Maggie is thrilled to be performing in An Evening of the Absurd. This is her first endeavor back into live theater post the 2020 of it all, when she last performed in VACT's *Mamma Mia*. This is her first time being in a Broom Street Theater show, but not the first show she's done at Broom Street Theater (I'll let you figure that one out). Maggie thanks Matt, the production team, & the cast for being delightful to work with. She also thanks her friends & family for their support, especially Joe & Wally for holding down the fort while she was away.

Brandy Wang (Emma, Joe Crowell Jr., Professor Xenon Prime, Xenomorph Gamma) Brandy was drawn into Broom Street Theatre by a good friend she met in an introductory acting class at UW-Madison. Growing up part of her has always wanted to devote her dramatic life experiences into theatre. In college she took a class on *Hamilton: An American Musical* & was obsessed with going to university theatre productions in her free time. She graduated from UW-Madison in Dec 2022 with a Biology major & is currently working her pants off getting into UW vet school ASAP. She thanks Matt & Liz for the opportunity to be part of this show, the friendly & supportive cast, & her beloved audience for taking a chance on her very debut.

Luke Delwiche (Lighting Designer) Luke has worked professionally in stage lighting for something like 25 years, but he started right here at Broom Street Theatre. He loves working on shows like the one you are about to see, as it allows for a lot of experimentation & creativity. In a space this intimate, helping to tell the story with light & color brings fun challenges. Standby...GO!

Matt Grzybowski (Writer/Director) Matt has been involved in the arts in various forms in different roles on & off the stage around the state. Matt is a graduate of UW Oshkosh & was a part of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater acting/directing internship during their 1999/2000 season. He wrote his first script, *Untitled Farce*, in the early 2000s which was produced & performed by Dysfunctional Theater in New York. He has since written & directed a number of plays including *Orpheus (or the Greek Girl)* & *Proper: The Series*. Matt is excited to be back at BST & is appreciative of the support Doug & the BST team have provided this show. He thanks Tracy, Riley, & Jack for letting him chase down this dream & tell its story.

Gina Hamon (Production Coordinator/Scenic Artist) Gina has been involved in local community theater since moving to the Madison area in 2009. She has worked on many shows both on & off stage with Verona Area Community Theater including *Mamma Mia* & *Young Frankenstein*. While this is her first show with Broom Street Theater, it is her 9th show working alongside *The Evening of the Absurd's* writer/director Matt Grzybowski. As always, it is a pleasure to collaborate creatively with Matt & help bring his vision to life through painting. Gina is thrilled to have seen this show progress from concept to performance & is excited to finally see it brought to life on the stage!

Liz Mael (Stage Manager/Assistant Director/Board Operator) Liz was christened into community theater at Broom Street 15 years ago. She has acted & done all manner of background theater work locally since 2008. She thanks Matt for the opportunity to be part of this show, Todd for supporting her despite her absence from home for rehearsals, the amazing & creative cast, & you, the audience, for taking a “Broom Street original” chance on *An Evening of the Absurd*. Enjoy it (or not!)

Dusty Smith (Stage Manager/Assistant Director/Sound Designer) Dusty is excited to be working on his first show at Broom Street. He has been active in local theater for many years, mostly behind the curtain. Dusty would like to thank Chara for supporting him & helping find the time to make this work, Matt for dragging him along on more adventures, & everyone who put energy & talent into the show. He is still wondering what kind of show this is...

Christa Dahamn Zaborske (Props Master) Christa Dahman has been involved with BST since 2018 & can be found skulking around behind the scenes of many productions, usually stage managing or tinkering. Garbage is her favorite medium. If you like garbage too, you should email christa.dahman@gmail.com.

Broom Street Theater Donations

BST strives to bring the community unique, original theater. We keep our ticket prices low to help make the productions accessible through our “pay what you can” program.

If you can afford a little more, please consider donating when the baskets are passed during the directors speech at the beginning of the show. Even a dollar or two can make a big difference in helping keep our programs running & build operational.

Also, if enjoyed tonights performance, please consider donating to the Actor’s Box located next to the door on your way out. Our actors are unpaid & perform at Broom Street Theater for experience & a chance to work on their craft. They would appreciate it!

Like theater & want to get involved at Broom Street Theater? That is amazing and we’d love to add your talents to our community! There are a number of ways you can donate your time and volunteer. Learn more by visiting us online at:

bstonline.org



Next at Broom Street Theater:

July 2023

Our Home States: Year One of a four-year look at all 50 of our “United” States. Working with playwrights across the nation, these plays will be directed by experienced & emerging local directors with *Year One’s* plays focusing specifically on the 12 Midwest states.

For a complete listing of upcoming BST Productions, visit us online at:

bstonline.org

