

Go Somewhere Extraordinary.



November 5, 2008

Dear Fellow Artists,

We are thrilled to be a part of the Open Dream Ensemble to write and direct the 2009 season.

As you may know, all members of the Open Dream Ensemble are asked to step outside of their traditional artistic roles; actors are asked to play instruments, musicians are asked to dance, dancers are asked to portray characters in scene work, etc. When artists are challenged to explore in this way, every aspect of the creative process is enriched and enlivened. We are not expecting to find performers with a full range of experience in every discipline. We are looking for people with passion for their art, willingness to experiment, and commitment to the creative process. In return, your professional career will be enhanced greatly with teaching artist training, creative educational sessions, original live performances, collaborative work with other professional artists, and much more.

Returning for its second season, *The Red Planet*, written and directed by Mollye and Kelly Maxner, tells the story of the first human community on Mars and their history-making broadcast to Planet Earth. In connection with the IMAGINE MARS program of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, *The Red Planet* blends real science with bold imagination—affirming how artists and scientists work together to build our future.

Premiering this season with the Open Dream Ensemble is a new musical, *Dream Machines*, written and directed by Matt Cowart and Isaac Klein. *Dream Machines* tells the story of the Wright brothers and their sister, Katharine, as they struggle to achieve the impossible—create the first flying machine. *Dream Machines* harnesses the limitless power of imagination to prove that the impossible can happen when you look beyond the horizon.

If you have questions, please contact General Manager Rebecca Nussbaum at 336.782.7837 or by email at Rebecca@opendreamensemble.com.

We sincerely hope that you will audition for us on January 25th in Winston-Salem, as we build our team for what is sure to be an extraordinary experience.

Yours truly,

Matt Cowart

Isaac Klein

Mollye Maxner

Open Dream Ensemble is a project of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Art, which builds partnerships to support creative projects, many of which are associated with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Open Dream Ensemble 2009

Matt Cowart most recently co-directed Broadway: Three Generations, an evening comprised of three musicals: *Girl Crazy*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Side Show*, which re-opened the newly renovated Eisenhower Theater at the Kennedy Center. In New York, Matt is currently the Co-Artistic Director of MUDasMAN productions with co-founder and collaborator, Isaac Klein. With MUDasMAN productions Matt has directed *Appalling Revelations: The Trials of Niles Kindley*, *Lacy Hoodoo*, co-directed *dreamscape*, and co-directed the prophecy of *isaiah* at Guild Hall in East Hampton, NY. Other New York Credits include: *Camelot* with the New York Philharmonic starring Gabriel Byrne, Christopher Lloyd and Fran Drescher, which was broadcast on PBS, *Live from Lincoln Center* [Associate Director]; *Beautiful Girls*, a new Stephen Sondheim revue starring Zoe Caldwell, Patti LuPone, Marin Mazzie, Donna McKechnie, and Jenn Colella [Associate Director]; *110 in the Shade* starring Audra McDonald [Assistant Director]; *Kiki Baby*, a new musical he directed at the Eugene O'Neill Music Theater Conference; the world premiere of *We Three* [Clark Studio Theater, Lincoln Center], the critically acclaimed *Salacious Uncle Baldrick* [NYC Fringe], and [sic] by Melissa James Gibson [78th Street Theater Lab]. Matt has served as Artistic Director of the OffBeat Theater Company, Associate Artistic Director of the 78th Street Theatre Lab, and as an Associate Producer for PREMIERES. He was a 2004/2005 Kenan Directing Fellow at the Lincoln Center Institute, is an alumnus of the 2005 Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and a member of the Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers. Matt graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in 2004 with his degree in directing.

Isaac Klein is the Assistant Director of the current Broadway revival of *GYPSY*, starring Patti LuPone, Boyd Gaines, and Laura Benanti. He is presently Assistant Directing the upcoming Broadway revival of *West Side Story*. Isaac is the Co-Artistic Director of MUDasMAN productions, with co-founder and collaborator, Matt Cowart. With MUDasMAN productions, Isaac has conceived and co-directed *dreamscape*; and written, co-directed, and performed in the prophecy of *isaiah*, which has been produced in Catskill, Manhattan, and at Guild Hall in East Hampton, NY. Other New York Credits include: *Camelot* with the New York Philharmonic starring Gabriel Byrne, Christopher Lloyd and Fran Drescher, which was broadcast on PBS, *Live from Lincoln Center* [Assistant Director]; a workshop production of *Kiki Baby* [Assistant Director]; the critically acclaimed *HOT CRIPPLE* [NYC Fringe, Winner: Outstanding Performance]; *Actors With Day Jobs* [Where Eagles Dare]; a workshop production of *The New Hopeville Comics* [45th Street Theatre]; and a staged reading of Mamet's *Oleanna* featuring Wallace Shawn. Other play writing credits include *Timebelt 76* and *Soon There Will Be Devastation*. He has served as assistant director to Gerald Freedman, Arthur Laurents, Lonny Price, John Langs, Jeremy Skidmore, Ashley Gates Jansen, Robert Francesconi, Matt Bulluck, Benny Sato Ambush, and Cigdem Onat, among others. Isaac holds a BFA in Drama from the University of North Carolina School of The Arts, where his directing credits included *True West*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Virtual Reality*, *Orphans*, and the devised theatre series *Exposed*, for which he also served as head writer.

Mollye Maxner is the artistic director of Chimaera Physical Theater. Her choreographic work has been presented at PS 122 (NYC), Joyce SoHo (NYC), Danspace at Saint Mark's Church (NYC), Cunningham Studios (NYC), One Arm Red (NYC), Trinity College (CT) and A.P.E. (MA). Her work has also been presented in WACFEST (Taiwan), the Assos Festival (TURKEY), Ankara State Opera's *DANS PLATFORM* (TURKEY), QuestFest (Baltimore), Pangea Project (Washington DC), and in Germany, Scotland, and the Republic of Georgia. Mollye has worked extensively with MODERN DANCE TURKEY, Turkey's only state supported modern dance company. Mollye trained in classical ballet and contemporary dance at NCSA for her high school years. She has a BFA summa cum laude from Mount Holyoke College in choreography and playwriting, and is getting another BFA in Theater Directing from University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Mollye is the recipient of numerous grants from the US State Department, the Northampton Arts Council, and was honored with the 2005 Artist Grant in Choreography from the Massachusetts Arts Council. Mollye received the DanceWeb Scholarship for 2004 IMPULSTANZ FESTIVAL in Vienna, and the 2004 Denis Johnston Playwriting competition. Her choreographic work has been reviewed by the New York Times and Dance Magazine and featured in Dance Europe. Her choreography for theater includes the US premiere of Alice Tuan's *COASTLINE* (SeriousPlay! Theater Ensemble) and *Walk With Me* (Performance Project). Mollye worked as assistant director for Alex Lewin's *NEAR EAST* at the O'Neill Playwrights Conference. Mollye has been the creative director for Open Dream Ensemble since its inception.