



For immediate release:

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Production Photos Available At:

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE**  
**PRESENTS**

**THE METHOD GUN**

**BY RUDE MECHS**

**SEPTEMBER 10-14, 2014**

**AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE**

**"charming... gorgeously rendered... both stunning and haunting."**  
*- American Theatre Magazine*

**"...relentlessly inventive...Beneath its zany, passionate surfaces lie some fierce investigations into the nature of art... brilliantly orchestrated."**  
*- Time Out Chicago*

A play about the ecstasy and excesses of performing, the dangers of public intimacy and the incompatibility of truth on stage and sanity in real life, Rude Mechs' widely acclaimed work returns to Austin. The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *The Method Gun* September 10-14, 2014 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

Since its premiere at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in 2010, *The Method Gun* has toured to twelve cities, including Brisbane, Australia. "We are thrilled to present the premiere of the exciting and final version of Rude Mechs' masterpiece, *The Method Gun*," says Brant Pope, Chairman of the Department of Theatre and Dance at The University of Texas at Austin. "This production is another example of the many ways we have opened wide the doors of Theatre and Dance to the community and the region. From our partnership with the Mechs, to our collaborations with the Long Center for the Performing Arts, ZACH Theatre, and Austin Lyric Opera, we're excited to be an integral member of the arts community in this great city."

*The Method Gun* explores the life and techniques of Stella Burden, actor-training guru of the 1960s and 70s, whose sudden emigration to South America still haunts her most fervent followers. Burden's training technique, The Approach (often referred to as "the most dangerous acting technique in the world"), fused Western acting methods with risk-based rituals in order to infuse even the smallest role with sex, death and violence.

Using found text from the journals and performance reports of Stella Burden's company, *The Method Gun* re-enacts the final months of her company's rehearsals for their nine-years-in-the-making production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Burden left the company under mysterious circumstances in 1972. Diaries and letters from actors in the company express a sense of desperation, inadequacy, and frustration inherent to the process of creating meaningful work for the stage and in everyday life. *The Method Gun* bounces between interior monologues, rehearsal sequences of *Streetcar*, and group interactions – all gleaned from historical documents – to express a longing for the return of inspiration and a more believable presentation of self in everyday life.

For more information on *The Method Gun*, please visit [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org).

## **PRESS RESOURCES**

For a sampling of feature articles and reviews on *The Method Gun*, please visit [rudemechs.com/shows/history/method\\_gun.htm#MG\\_PRESS](http://rudemechs.com/shows/history/method_gun.htm#MG_PRESS)

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

**September 10-14, 2014 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *The Method Gun* at Oscar G. Brockett Theatre** (300 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus:

[utexas.edu/finearts/tad/season-tickets/map-directions-parking](http://utexas.edu/finearts/tad/season-tickets/map-directions-parking)

Performance times are September 10-13 at 7:30 p.m. and September 13-14 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets (\$25 adult, \$20 UT faculty & staff, \$15 student) are now on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office, most H-E-B stores and all Texas Box Office outlets, online at [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org), or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO.

## **ABOUT RUDE MECHS**

Rude Mechs is the Resident Theatre Company for The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance from September 2012 through the 2014/15 academic year.

Rude Mechs is an Austin-based collective theatre company that has created a genre-defying cocktail of over 30 original plays that have produced at their venue, The Off Center, in Austin, Texas, since 1999. Their most recent productions include *Stop Hitting Yourself*, which premiered in Lincoln Center Theatre in New York in January 2014, *Now Now Oh Now*, a National Theatre Pilot selectee touring fall 2014 to Duke University, Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans, and Miami Light, and *The Method Gun*, which has toured New York City, Los Angeles, New Haven, Columbus, Boston, Portland, Philadelphia, and Brisbane (Australia). Most recently, Rude Mechs was honored with an induction to The Austin Arts Hall of Fame. [rudemechs.com](http://rudemechs.com)

## **ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE**

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

## **ALSO THIS SEASON**

### ***Esperanza Rising***

Story by Pam Muñoz Ryan  
Adaptation by Lynne Alvarez  
B. Iden Payne Theatre  
October 3-12, 2014

### ***A Streetcar Named Desire***

By Tennessee Williams  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
October 10-19, 2014

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

### ***Fall For Dance***

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
November 14-23, 2014

### ***Fame The Musical***

Conceived and Developed by David De Silva  
Book by Jose Fernandez  
Lyrics by Jacques Levy  
Music by Steve Margoshes  
B. Iden Payne theatre  
November 21-December 6, 2014

### ***UTNT (UT New Theatre)***

Curated by Steven Dietz  
Lab Theatre  
December 1-6, 2014

### ***The Blue Angel***

An original idea developed by The Moving Company

B. Iden Payne Theatre  
February 12-15, 2015

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

**MOVE!**

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
March 6-14, 2015

**Enter a Woman, Pretty Enough**

Premiere of a new play by Diana Lynn Small  
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre  
March 27-April 3, 2015

**The Cohen New Works Festival**

Presented by Broadway Bank  
April 13-17, 2015

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