



The University of Texas at Austin
Theatre and Dance
College of Fine Arts

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

PRESENTS

THE METHOD GUN

CREATED BY RUDE MECHS

OCTOBER 4-5, 2019

AT THE B. IDEN PAYNE THEATRE

"...a fiendish piece of post-ideological work. And like any great piece of theatre - or theory - it lies shamelessly to tell the truth." - *New York Magazine Critics Pick* (2011)

"Beneath its zany, passionate surfaces lie some fierce investigations into the nature of art...brilliantly orchestrated." - *Time Out Chicago* (2010)

The Method Gun, created by Rude Mechs, returns to the Texas Theatre and Dance stage October 4-5, 2019 at the B. Iden Payne Theatre. The piece 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Gun* bounces between interior monologues, rehearsal sequences of *Streetcar*, and group interactions - all gleaned from historical documents - to express a longing for the return of inspiration and a more believable presentation of self in everyday life.

"It's always great to aim *The Method Gun* at new audiences," share Theatre and Dance faculty member and Co-Producing Artistic Directors of the Rude Mechs, Kirk Lynn and Lana Lesley. "Thanks to this presentation by The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance, we're able to do just that. The big questions inside this play are germane to the state of our country today - who we are listening to, what we are choosing to believe and who we are leaving behind."

Based in Austin, Texas, Rude mechs creates genre-averse live performance peppered with big ideas, cheap laughs and dizzying spectacle. What these works hold in common is the use of play to make performance, the use of theatres as meeting places for audiences and artists, and the use of humor as a tool for intellectual investigation. Rude Mechs tours these performances nationally and abroad, as well as maintaining Crashbox, a suite of rooms that are home to artists of every discipline; housing a scenic lending library and running Why We Are Here, a writing and performance workshop for displaced refugees.

For more information about *The Method Gun*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org

CALENDAR LISTING

October 4-5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *The Method Gun* at the B. Iden Payne Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking

Performance times are October 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m. (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and all Texas Box Office outlets, online at JoinTheDrama.org, or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. More information is available at: theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing

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

12 Ophelias (a play with broken songs)

By Caridad Svich

October 2-13, 2019
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Spring Awakening
Book and Lyrics by Steven Sater
Music by Duncan Sheik
Based on the play by Frank Wedekind

November 6-24, 2019
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Dance Repertory Theatre presents
Fall For Dance

November 12-17, 2019
B. Iden Payne Theatre

Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet
By Tarell Alvin McCraney

February 26-March 8, 2020
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

Sense and Sensibility
Adapted for the stage by Joseph Hanreddy and J.R. Sullivan

April 8-19, 2020
B. Iden Payne Theatre

Dance Repertory Theatre presents
(R)evolution

April 15-26, 2020
Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

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