



**ANNENBERG CENTER**  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**12/13 Season** SEPT-JAN



# The Berserker Residents and Swim Pony Performing Arts

## *The Giant Squid*

Direction **Adrienne Mackey**  
Assistant Direction/Stage Management **Bayla Rubin**  
Creation/Writing **The Ensemble with Timothy Sawicki**  
Sound Design **Mark Valenzuela**  
Lighting Design **David O'Connor Terry Brennan**

### Cast

**Terry Brennan** Hastings  
**Robert DaPonte** Professor Broom  
**Justin Jain** Ketut  
**David Johnson** Krenshaw  
**Jenna Horton** Anna  
**Bradley K. Wrenn** Oliver

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Friday, September 28 @ 8 PM  
Saturday, September 29 @ 8 PM

Harold Prince Theatre

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### Program

*There will be no intermission.*

This performance is part of the By Local Series.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**The Berserker Residents** are dedicated to original works of alternative comedy with a pop-comic aesthetic. This Philadelphia-based team specializes in site-specific overgrown kid theatre consisting of three mighty warriors—collaborators Justin Jain, David Johnson and Bradley K. Wrenn. As a collective, these three artists have spearheaded a comedic theatrical style that blends physical theatre, puppetry, music, sketch and prop comedy to create compelling and fantastic theatrical events. As an ensemble, the team has worked with several other professional theatre artists including directors Adrienne Mackey, Artistic Director of Swim Pony Performing Arts, Oliver Butler, Co-Artistic Director of the Debate Society and Dan Rothenberg, Artistic Director of Pig Iron Theatre Company and supporter of the artistic team's past work.

The Berserker Residents first show, *The Jersey Devil*, premiered at the 2007 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. The successes of *The Jersey Devil* lead this fledgling ensemble to commit to a trilogy of shows, creating two more pieces for the following two Fringe festivals (2008 and 2009). Their second show, *The Giant Squid*, debuted to critical acclaim. The following year the ensemble created *The Annihilation Point*, “a delightfully goofy humanity-in-peril tale” (*New York Times*), which later toured to the Abrons Arts Center in NYC. In 2010-2011 The Berserker Residents received two commissions: *A Very Merry Xmas Carol Holiday Adventure Show* (which was published by Playscripts Inc.) from Philadelphia-based Theatre Horizon and *The Lapsburgh Layover* at New York-based Ars Nova.

**Swim Pony Performing Arts**, helmed by Artistic Director Adrienne Mackey, was founded in December of 2009 to give a name to the body of genre-defying work she creates with an ensemble of multidisciplinary artists who have made a commitment to one another and to live and work in Philadelphia. In the spring of 2010, the company premiered its first work, *SURVIVE!*, a 22,000 square foot choose-your-own adventure installation exploring how humanity understands the universe and man's place within it. Swim Pony followed up with *LADY M*, a 12-woman exploration of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* using original sound and movement and a feminist spin. *LADY M* performed to nearly 1,000 viewers at the 2011 Live Arts Festival in Philadelphia.

**Bradley K. Wrenn** is a performer, writer and creator whose work focuses on alternative comedy, spectacle, physical humor, puppetry and explorations in the audience/performer relationship. Bradley learned his skills in puppetry and mask from four seasons working for Mum Puppet Theatre—(*The Visit*, *Velveteen Rabbit*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Animal Farm*). Wrenn also has extensive experience as an ensemble-based creator, beginning with *The Ballad of Joe Hill* (which he co-produced and created with local director Adrienne Mackey) and perfecting his skills with his own company, the Berserker Residents (with Philadelphia based performers Justin Jain and Dave Johnson). Wrenn, with The Berserker Residents, has created, written and performed in five original shows including two commissions: *A Very Merry Xmas Carol Holiday Adventure Show* (which was published by Playscripts Inc.) from Philadelphia-based Theatre Horizon and *The Lapsburgh Layover* at New York-based Ars Nova. In addition to his own original work, Wrenn has toured regionally with the George Street Playhouse performing for over 80,000 students over the course of nine months. Locally, he has performed with numerous theatre companies including Mum Puppet Theatre, Enchantment Theatre Company, Theatre Horizon, Azuka Theatre Company, Shakespeare in Clark Park and Lantern Theatre Company. Wrenn has also taught theatre classes and served as a teaching artist with The George Street Playhouse, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Theatre Circ, Lantern Theatre Company and Theatre Horizon. He received a BA in Theatre Arts from Drew University and completed a six-month program of intensive study at the British American Drama Academy, with an emphasis in Meisner, Shakespeare, structural playwriting and long-form improvisation.

**Justin Jain** is an actor, playwright and teaching-artist whose pedagogy is based on ensemble-driven collective collaboration. He received his BFA in Acting from the University of the Arts in 2004, with honors. At graduation, he was awarded the highly competitive

Directors Choice Award and the Stage Combat Award. For the 2004-2005 season, Jain was accepted as an Arden Theatre Company Professional Apprentice, a distinguished program focused on the training of future theatre leaders. Since then, he has utilized this training and acted professionally with several Philadelphia-based companies including Arden Theatre Company, Azuka Theatre Collective, Enchantment Theatre Company, Hotel Obligado, Interact Theatre Company, Mum Puppet Theatre, People's Light and Theatre Company, PlayPenn, Shakespeare in Clark Park, Theatre Horizon and The Wilma Theatre. He has performed regionally with The McCarter Theatre Education Department (Princeton) and The Lark (NYC). In 2007, Jain was awarded the Community Education Center (CEC) New Edge Artist Residency in Theatre, where he developed his solo physical theatre piece, *Neverboy*, in collaboration with San Francisco writer Matthew Graham Smith and Director Adrienne Mackey. Justin's other original work includes *Philly Fringe Hits Dis Pop* (2005), *The Ballad of Joe Hill* (2006), *The Jersey Devil* (2007), *The Giant Squid* (2008), for which he was awarded a Professional Development Grant from The University of the Arts, and most recently *The Annihilation Point* (2009). Since 2003, Jain has been a theatre educator in acting, playwriting, collective collaboration and stage combat for such organizations as Arden Theatre Company, People's Light and Theatre Company, The University of the Arts Pre-College Program and Philadelphia Young Playwrights.

**Adrienne Mackey** is a director who creates original and compelling theatre using the power of the human voice and the forms of the human body. With Swim Pony, she has most recently spent two years exploring the voice in Shakespearian performance with *Lady M*, premiering in the 2011 Live Arts Festival in Philadelphia. Also with Swim Pony: *SURVIVE!*, a 20,000 foot interactive choose-your-own-adventure performance that examined the role of humanity in the universe. Her solo producing and directing work has focused on subjects including pop culture (*Purr, Pull, Reign*) American history (*Owning Up to the Corn* and *The Ballad of Joe Hill*), mythology (*Echo*), classic literature (*The Master and Margarita* at Mum Puppet Theatre) and racial tensions within Philadelphia (*recitatif*, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival 2007). Mackey is also a classically trained soprano and five-time recipient of the Garrigues scholarship in voice. She began exploring her unique theatre voice work with Jonathan Hart Makwaia in New York City in 2005. Voice work has taken her to France's Roy Hart Voice Centre and to Turkey with Stemmwerk Voice Theatre. Her vocal work has been seen in the Barrymore-nominated ensemble of *Animal Farm* at Mum Puppet Theatre which was praised by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. She also relished in her role as "bad singing" coach for 1812's musical *Cherry Bomb*. In 2008, Adrienne was awarded the Independence Fellowship allowing her to travel to Paris to train with Roy Hart of Pantheatre. She teaches voice and theatre to both adults and children.

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