



SAT+SUN NOVEMBER 22+23, 2008::8PM
THE CURTIS R. PRIEM EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Photo: Chris Beirns



Photo: Gene Pittman



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GATZ

An audacious theatrical tour de force, *Gatz* is not your typical stage adaptation of a classic novel but a verbatim reading of the entire book. Performed to unanimous accolades at festivals in Europe and the US, voted “Best of 2007” by *ArtForum*, this marathon production by a remarkable cast of 13 runs seven-and-a-half hours, and includes dinner in EMPAC’s Evelyn’s Café.

Elevator Repair Service, a theater ensemble based in New York City, was founded in 1991. Since that time, ERS has built a body of highly acclaimed work and has appeared on stages around New York, the US and Europe. The group’s performances are built around a broad range of subject matter and literary forms, and combine elements of slapstick comedy, hi-tech and lo-tech design, both literary and found text, discarded furniture and found objects, and an idiosyncratic style of choreography. www.elevator.org

Running Times

Part A.....	2:00
Intermission.....	0:10
Part B.....	1:10
Dinner Break.....	1:15
Part C.....	1:25
Intermission.....	0:10
Part D.....	1:25
Total Running Time.....	7:35

CAST

Nick: Scott Shepherd
Jim: Jim Fletcher
Lucille: Kate Scelsa
Jordan: Susie Sokol
Daisy: Tory Vazquez
Tom: Gary Wilmes
Chester: Vin Knight
George: Aaron Landsman
Catherine: Annie McNamara
Michaelis: Ben Williams
Myrtle: Laurena Allan
Ewing: Mike Iveson
Henry C. Gatz: Ross Fletcher

Director: John Collins
Associate Director: Steve Bodow
Set Design: Louisa Thompson
Lighting Design: Mark Barton
Assistant Lighting Design: Dans Maree Sheehan
Sound Design: Ben Williams
Costume Design: Colleen Werthmann
Company Manager: Ariana Smart Truman
Production Manager: B.D. White
Stage Manager: Sarah C. Hughes

Curator: Hélène Lesterlin, EMPAC

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Laurena Allan (Myrtle) has performed extensively in downtown New York. She performed internationally as Wife in Richard Maxwell’s House. She is the creator of “Laurena’s Pancake Party,” and she currently resides in Seattle, WA.

Mark Barton (Lighting Designer) With ERS: *Gatz*, *The Sound & The Fury* (April 7, 1928). Recent Off-Broadway includes *Paradise Park*, *All the Wrong Reasons*, *Church*, *No Child..*, *Thom Pain* (based on nothing). NYC productions with New York Theater Workshop, Signature Theater, Young Jean Lee’s Theater Company, Target Margin, Salt Theater, New Georges, Clubbed Thumb, P.S. 122, HERE, Edge Theater, Talking Band. Regional: Berkeley Rep, LA Center Theater Group, Syracuse Stage, A.R.T., Lookingglass Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Asolo Rep, Southern Rep, Virginia Stage, Hangar Theater. Opera: *The Magic Flute*, *Albert Herring*, *L’ormindo*, *Postcard from Morocco*, *Ainadamar* (Curtis Opera Theatre, Philadelphia).

Steve Bodow (Associate Director) a founding member of ERS, co-directed the company’s shows from 1994 to 2005, including *Cab Legs*, *Total Fictional Lie*, *Room Tone* and *Gatz*. He is Head Writer for *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, the comedy-news TV program, where he has won four Emmys and a Peabody Award, and was a writer of the show’s best-selling “America: The Book”. His journalism has appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Wired* and many other publications.

John Collins (Director) founded Elevator Repair Service (ERS)—a name derived from a comically flawed career placement test—in 1991 with his first New York production, Tristan Tzara’s Mr. Antipyrine, Fire Extinguisher. In the 17 years since, he has directed or co-directed all of the company’s shows. Since 1991, John’s work with ERS has been seen across the U.S. and Europe. Concurrent with his work as ERS’ director, John has earned numerous distinctions as a sound and lighting designer. From 1993-2006 he designed sound for The Wooster Group (two Drama Desk nominations and two Bessie Awards.) As a lighting designer, he won a Bessie Award for his design of ERS’ *Room Tone*. John was born in North Carolina and raised in south Georgia. He holds a B.A. in English and Theater Studies from Yale.

Ross Fletcher (Henry C. Gatz) Dr. Fletcher is the Chief of Staff of Washington DC’s VA Medical Center. *Gatz* is his first show with Elevator Repair Service Theater.

Jim Fletcher (Jim) is a longtime member of the New York City Players with Richard Maxwell, and has worked with the Wooster Group, the Theater of a Two-Headed Calf and Real People Theater.

Sarah C. Hughes (Stage Manager) joined ERS in 2007 and works full-time for the company. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College, as well as a Resident Artist with NY/DC-based theater company Odyssey Productions. Off-Broadway: ERS' *The Sound and the Fury (April 7, 1928)*, *The Misanthrope* (New York Theatre Workshop); *Godot in New Orleans, 365 Days/365 Plays* (The Classical Theater of Harlem).

Mike Iveson (Ewing) was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. With ERS: *The Sound and the Fury (April 7, 1928)*. Mike has also appeared in shows by Sarah Michelson, Dancenoise, Richard Maxwell, Sibyl Kempson, Charles Atlas, Dance Kumikokimoto, the Alien Comic, Yvonne Meier, Mike Taylor, and Aaron Landsman, as well as alongside interplanetary performance art legend Lucy Sexton in *The Lucy Show*.

Vin Knight (Chester) ERS: *The Sound and the Fury, Gatz, No Great Society*. Other NY credits: *The Butcherhouse Chronicles, Ted Kaczynski Killed People with Bombs* (Summer Play Festival); *Go-Go Kitty, Go!* (Fringe 2005—Outstanding Play); *Design Your Kitchen, U.S. Drag* (Clubbed Thumb); over two dozen productions with the adobe theater company. Film: *Robot Stories, Love God, Dumped! The Musical*.

Aaron Landsman (George) began working with ERS in 2004. A native of Minnesota, he has lived in New York since 1987. ERS: *Gatz*. Off-Broadway: *Cowboys & Indians* (Soho Rep); *The Florida Project, Flesh Food, Cakewalk* (P.S. 122). Original plays/performance created: *Open House* (Foundry Theatre Commission), *What You've Done* (DiverseWorks, NPN Commission), *Desk* (Chashama), *Love Story* (FuseBox Festival), *Wreckage* (P.S. 122).

Annie McNamara (Catherine) has been a member of ERS since 2004. She plays Catherine in GATZ and Mother in *The Sound and the Fury* (April Seventh, 1928). Other credits include: Brooke Berman's *A Perfect Couple* (dir. Maria Mileaf), Jenny Schwartz's *God's Ear* (Anne Kauffman), Sheila Callaghan's *Crumble*, Kate Ryan's *Design Your Kitchen* & Gina Gionfriddo's *U.S. Drag*. Annie has an M.A. in English from Brown, and she studied acting with Maggie Flanigan.

Kate Scelsa (Lucille) has been a member of ERS since 2002. She is also a founding member of the theater company The Entire Group and recently finished writing her first young adult novel. ERS: *Show of Shows, Gatz, The Sound and the Fury*. Off-Broadway: *Can I Help You?* (Chashama), *Say Uncle!* (SoHo Playhouse). Regional: *Kick the Can, Macbeth, Waiting for Godot, Behind the Scenes at the Museum* (Luna Stage, Montclair).

Susie Sokol (Jordan) teaches second grade at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn. ERS: All productions since 1993.

Louisa Thompson (Set Designer) New York credits include: *Manic Flight Reaction* (Playwright's Horizons); *Fat Pig, The Distance from Here* (MCC Theatre); *The Roaring Girl*, (The Foundry Theatre Company); *Suitcase*, [sic] (Obie and Hewes Awards), *Molly's Dream, The Year of the Baby* (Soho Rep); *Tulpa* (Target Margin Theatre), *Max and Ruby, Walk Two Moons, First in Flight, Just so Stories* (Theatreworks/USA); *Arabian Night, Tex Arcana Waltz, No. 11 Blue and White* (The Play Company). Regional Credits: The McCarter Theatre, The Papermill Playhouse, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, La Jolla Playhouse; The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis; Philadelphia Theatre Company; Actor's Express; Geva Theatre; Triad Stage; The Empty Space Theatre; Yale Repertory Theatre; The Juilliard School, and Bard College. M.F.A. from Yale School of Drama. Currently an Associate Professor at Hunter College New York.

Ariana Smart Truman (Company Manager) Since 2003 Ariana has worn many hats for ERS. She produces theater and events, including fundraisers for ERS, Radiohole, Collapsible Giraffe, The Wooster Group, Soho Rep, and HERE. ERS: *Show of Shows* (performer); *Gatz* (Company and Stage Manager); *No Great Society* (Company and Stage Manager). Off-Broadway: *Pastoralia* (Producer, P.S. 122), *North Atlantic* (Stage Manager; New York, US & European tours; The Wooster Group).

Tory Vazquez (Daisy) Tory has been a member of ERS since 1996. ERS: *Gatz, Total Fictional Lie, Cab Legs*. Other: *Pullman, WA* (P.S. 122); *Caveman* (Soho Rep); *The Voices* (Riverside Studios); *Wrench* (WTF); *Songs and Monologues* (Mousunturm, Frankfurt); *Mean Rich White Ladies* (Ontological Theater); *Pre-Paradise Sorry Now* (NADA). Writer/Director: *Wrestling Ladies, The Florida Project* (P.S. 122), *ISABEL* (Dixon Place). Film & TV: Nuovomundo, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien".

Colleen Werthmann (Costume Designer) is a proud founding member of ERS. As ERS actor: *Marx Bros., Spine Check, McGurk, Language Instruction, Total Fictional Lie*. As ERS designer, all those plus *Cab Legs, Shut Up I Tell You, Room Tone, Gatz, No Great Society, Sound and the Fury*. Other costumes: Young Jean Lee's *Songs...*, *Kathy Profeta's 131*. Recent acting: *Gone Missing* (Barrow St.), *Miss Witherspoon* (Playwrights Horizons), *Mistakes Madeline Made* (Naked Angels/Yale Rep). TV: "Sopranos," "Sex & the City," "Law & Order"(s). Film: *Pink Panther*. Staff writer for 23/6 (236.com).

B.D. White (Production Manager) has also worked for Manhattan Class Company on *Some Girl(s)*, *Frozen*, *Fat Pig*, *Runt of the Litter*, *A Letter from Ethel Kennedy*, *The Mercy Seat*, *Scattergood*, *Intrigue with Faye*, *Bright Ideas*, *The Distance from Here*, *What of the Night*, *Colder Than Here*, *Nixon's Nixon*, and *The Wooden Breeks*. Other off-Broadway credits include: *Temporary Help*, *Cheat*, *Hard Feelings*, *Aloha Las Vegas*, *Birth of the Boom*, *The Strange Case of Mary Todd Lincoln*, *Bitter Lemon*, *Nuyorican Stories*, *Night of the Assassins*, *St. Lucy's Eyes*, *Leaving Queens*, *Underneath The Lintel*, *Sophie Tottie and Bell*, *Songs of Paradise*, *Buicks*, and *Monsieur Ibrahim and the Flowers of the Koran*. Brian has also toured with *Jam on the Groove*, the Hip-Hop dance Musical, *The Core Ensemble*, and the Elevator Repair Service production of *Gatz*.

Ben Williams (Michaelis/Sound Designer) joined ERS 4 years ago, after interning with The Wooster Group. He works as a freelance technician and studied theater in Chattanooga, TN and Brno, Czech Republic. ERS: *Gatz*, *No Great Society*.

Gary Wilmes (Tom) ERS: *Gatz*, Off Broadway: *Red Light Winter* (Adam Rapp), *Henry IV Part I*, *Boxing 2000*, *House*, (Richard Maxwell), *Brace Up!* (The Wooster Group), *Bad Boy Neitzsche*, *Hotel Fuck* (Richard Foreman), Film and Television: *A Mighty Heart*, (Michael Winterbottom), "Numbe3s", "Late Night with Conan O'Brien"

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