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# The Big Yes and the Little No

Agnieszka Taborska Rhode Island School of Design, atabor@risd.edu

Steven L. Jobe Rhode Island School of Design

David L. Campbell Rhode Island School of Design

Christopher F. Lowery Rhode Island School of Design

Paul Phillips Rhode Island School of Design

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# Authors Agnieszka Taborska, Steven L. Jobe, David L. Campbell, Christopher F. Lowery, Paul Phillips, Elsie T. Hill, Priscilla Yeh, Adele Abide, Miriam Borchherdt, Dawn Marie Caulfield, Mimi Chung, Daniela Fiss, Hector Gonzalez, Akiko Hamazaki, Sarah R. Kreiger, Luciana L. Mallozzi, Ervin Ramos, Katherine Sheehan, Vanessa Sterbenz, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius, Andrea Winter, Julie Wollaeger, and Ofra Yacobi



the cellar at the top of the waterman building

# the big yes and the little no

sixth annual risd cabaret march 3 - 6, 1993

## the big yes and the little no

# Part One

#### The Prelude

Aubrey Beardsley's studio in London. Beardsley, Oscar Wilde and Robert Wilson talking about art and life Compiled by James O. Barnhill and Szymon Bojko Performers: David L. Campbell, Christopher F. Lowery, Paul Phillips, Elsie T. Hill the model

Music introduction: Wagner "The Pilgrim Song"

from "Tannhäuser"

Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz

#### Hommage to Loie Fuller's "Dance of the Fire and the Lily", 1897

Soloist: Priscilla Yeh

Music: Ravel Pièce en forme d'Habanera for

violin and piano

Costume design: Miriam Borcherdt Dance reconstruction: Julie Strandberg

#### The Great Opening

A circus-like, grotesque parade of the most distinguished and controversial artifacts of the dawn of the 20th century, followed by the main ideas and political symbols of that era

Designed and performed by the Company: Adele Abide, Miriam Borcherdt, David L. Campbell, Dawn Marie Caulfield, Mimi Chung, Daniela Fiss, Hector Gonzalez, Akiko Hamazaki, Elsie T. Hill, Sarah R. Kreiger, Christopher F. Lowery, Luciana L. Mallozzi, Paul Phillips, Ervin Ramos, Katherine Sheehan, Vanessa Sterbenz, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius, Andrea Winter, Julia Wollaeger, Ofra Yacobi, Priscilla Yeh and the Annonymous

Sound collage arranged by Steven L. Jobe

#### Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain" or the Greatest Scandal of the Time

Episode One: In a public toilette

A street scene

Performers: David L. Campbell, Hector Gonzalez, Christopher F. Lowery, Ervin Ramos, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius Sound effects: Bruce Jason Tennis Construction design: Priscilla Yeh

**Episode Two: the Jury of the American** Independents Society, New York 1917

Performers: Miriam Borcherdt, David L. Campbell, Hector Gonzalez, Elsie T. Hill, Sarah R. Kreiger, Ervin Ramos, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius, Julia Wollaeger

Masks: Adele Abide

#### Oskar Kokoschka and Alma Mahler, the Living Puppet. Vienna 1913

A story compiled and written by Priscilla Yeh

Kokoschka: Antanas Vainius Alma Mahler: Elsie T. Hill The Puppet: Priscilla Yeh

Street ballad "Postlude" sung by Priscilla Yeh and the Company Music and lyrics: Tom Lehrer

Puppet design: Mimi Chung

#### 6 Berlin Cabaret Songs of the 1920's "Hier ist ein Gipfel" (Here is the Summit)

Music: Herwarth Walden; lyrics: Alfred Mombert Translated by Miriam Borcherdt Soloist: Akiko Hamazaki

"Wantlemut" (Uncertainty)

Music: Herwarth Walden; lyrics: August Stramm Translated by Miriam Borcherdt Soloist: Christopher F. Lowery Lyric adaptation: Christopher F. Lowery

#### **Hommage to Expressionist Dancers in Germany** A free reconstruction

Rudolph von Laban: Christopher F. Lowery

"End of the World" Jacob van Hoddis, 1912 A poem translated and read by Miriam Borcherdt Mary Wigman dances:

"Pastorale"

Soloist: Dawn Marie Caulfield

#### "Dance of Death", 1926

Dancers: "Moloch" Dawn Marie Caulfield "Peasant Women" Adele Abide, Akiko Hamazaki, Elsie T. Hill. Daniela Fiss, Andrea Winter, Ofra Yacobi

"Hexen Dance", 1914

Dancers: Adele Abide, Akiko Hamazaki, Elsie T. Hill, Daniela Fiss, Andrea Winter, Ofra Yacobi Dance reconstruction: Julie Strandberg Music reconstruction: Steven L. Jobe Costume design by the Dancers

Gert Palucca dance: "Geometry" based upon Kandinsky's drawings

Soloist: Ofra Yacobi Mary Wigman: Dawn Marie Caulfield

Painter: David L. Campbell Dance interpretation: Ofra Yacobi Music: "Lalala" by Steven L. Jobe Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz

#### Pina Bausch, Heir of the Tradition of Expressionism in Contemporary Germany Wuppertal Dance Theatre

Kurt Joos: Paul Phillips

"Touches" based upon "Bluebird" Dancers: Luciana L. Mallozzi and Men -David L. Campbell, Hector Gonzalez, Christopher F. Lowery, Paul Phillips, Ervin Ramos, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius Music: Chopin "Raindrops" Prelude Dance reconstruction: Julie Strandberg

"Walk" based upon "Bandoneon" and "Kontakthof" Dancers: Adele Abide, Miriam Borcherdt, David L Campbell, Dawn Marie Caulfield, Mimi Chung, Daniela Fiss, Akiko Hamazaki, Elsie T. Hill, Sarah R. Kreiger, Christopher F. Lowery, Paul Phillips, Ervin Ramos, Katherine Sheehan, Vanessa Sterbenz, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius, Andrea Winter, Julia Wollaeger, Ofra Yacobi, Priscilla Yeh Music: German popular song from 1920's Costume consultants: Luciana L. Mallozzi, Ervin Ramos, Vanessa Sterbenz

"Duets"

Dancers: Hector Gonzalez and Akiko Hamazaki Julia Wollaeger and Antanas Vainius Adele Abide and Elsie T. Hill Dawn Marie Caulfield and Bruce Jason Tennis Music: Chopin supra

Dance reconstruction: Julie Strandberg

Dance reconstruction: Julie Strandberg

"Apple" based upon "Walzer"

Soloist: Mimi Chung.

People: Adele Abide, Dawn Marie Caulfield, Mimi Chung, Daniela Fiss, Hector Gonzalez, Akiko Hamazaki, Elsie T. Hill, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius, Julia Wollaeger, Ofra Yacobi Dance reconstruction: Marie Dawn Caulfield

August Stramm: "Happening"

A fragment of an expressionist play, around 19: Translated by Mel Gordon

He: Paul Phillips She: Elsie T. Hill

#### Paul Klee: "Diaries"

Fragments from memories during the WWI Translated by Pierre B. Schneider and R.J. Zach Read by Bruce Jason Tennis Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz

Wassily Kandinsky: "Sounds" (Klänge), Sound poems "Table", "Earth", "Rope", "A Thir Translated by Elizabeth R. Napier

Read by Sarah R. Kreiger Sound effects by the Company

#### **Pirate Jenny song** from Brecht's "The Threepenny Opera"

Translated by Marc Blitzstein. Music by Kurt We Soloist: Mimi Chung

#### "Tingentangel"

A sketch from Karl Valentin's cabaret repertory Munich, early 1920's. Translated by Lisa Appig Performers: Paul Phillips, Andrea Winter

#### "We Proletarians"

German folk song from the 1920's Translated by Miriam Borcherdt. Music by Hans The Company: Adele Abide, David L. Campbel Mimi Chung, Hector Gonzalez, Akiko Hamazal Elsie T. Hill, Sarah R. Kreiger, Christopher F. Antanas Vainius Properties: Christopher L. Lowery

#### Pablo Picasso and Daniel-Henry Kahnwei

A conversation. Written by Henry Balanay, RISD Picasso: Christopher L. Lowery Kahnweiler: Antanas Vainius

#### 16 Song "The Man I Love"

Music: George Gershwin; lyrics: Ira Gershwin, 1 Sung by Akiko Hamazaki Mime: Hector Gonzalez

#### Constantine Cavafy "...the Great Yes"

A poem. Translated by Edmund Keeley and Phil Read by the Company



#### The Entrée

Futurist and Dada Sound Cacaphony Arthur Cravan Performs the Dada Spirit Before Dada A story compiled and written by Priscilla Yeh and Hector Gonzalez

Cravan: Hector Gonzalez

Jack Johnson, world heavy-weight champion: E Journalists: Sarah R. Kreiger, Ervin Ramos, Julia Wollaeger

Mina Loy, Cravan's wife: Adele Abide Referee: David L. Campbell Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz and Julia

#### Song "Someone Sings in the Yard"

German popular song from the 1920's Music: Olaf Bienert; lyrics: Kurt Tucholsky Translated by Eric Konrad and edited by Miriam Sung by Sarah R. Kreiger and Luciana L. Mall

The RISD student Cabaret was started by James O. Barnhill and Szymon Bojko during the Fall of 1987 as

an experimental Art History and Performance course. Since then, we have been able to produce a new Cabaret every academic year: "From St. Petersburg to Khruschev's Boot" (1987), "The Golden Age of European Cabaret" (1988), "The Ox on the Roof" (1989), "The Unknown and Awakening Europe" (1991), "Tabou" (1992). Each program has brought new ideas, talents, and individuals to focus on a particular point of view, place, or time in the history of our culture.

The cabaret has some unique and profound educational goals. It is not a normal Liberal Arts course, but is really a new form of learning at RISD. Each year, over thirty students have participated in the recreation of a moment in history; and by performing in original text or translated versions, become a part of that historic milieu. The Russian, German, Austrian, and French avantgarde of the early decades of this century have come alive at RISD through the work of the cabaret in a way that could not happen passively in the classroom. It is the direct involvement of students, either as actors, designers, or audience, that gives life and meaning to the cabaret material as it is selected, edited, and performed. And these RISD cabarets have carried us into that past, placing us for an instant in another environment as participant observers, enriched and opened to the culture of the day or the folly of the moment. This year we face the future with the Italian "futurists" and the quality of life with "Dada" and the German "Expressionism".

"The Big Yes and the Little No" must certainly in some way refer to the success or failure of these artistic movements, but the success and depth of the learning experience is not just demonstrated by the intensity and quality of the performance. It entails the research, rehearsal, and development of team effort and esprit de corps as the Wintersession course ends and the public presentation approaches. Just as the cabaret distills for us the historic nuances, events, and movements of the times, the music hall replaces the lecture hall.

Yet at the same time, and precisely because of their participation in the cabaret, the performers, researchers, technicians, and audience share in the best and most personal manner, the study of the Liberal Arts at RISD.

**Edward Dwyer** 







Heartfield/Grosz



9 August Stramm: "Happening"

A fragment of an expressionist play, around 1913 Translated by Mel Gordon

He: Paul Phillips She: Elsie T. Hill

10 Paul Klee: "Diaries"

Fragments from memories during the WWI Translated by Pierre B. Schneider and R.J. Zachary Read by Bruce Jason Tennis Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz

1 Wassily Kandinsky: "Sounds" (Klänge), 1912

Sound poems "Table", "Earth", "Rope", "A Thing or Two" Translated by Elizabeth R. Napier Read by Sarah R. Kreiger

Sound effects by the Company

Pirate Jenny song from Brecht's "The Threepenny Opera"

Translated by Marc Blitzstein. Music by Kurt Weil Soloist: Mimi Chung

13 "Tingentangel"

A sketch from Karl Valentin's cabaret repertory Munich, early 1920's. Translated by Lisa Appignanesi Performers: Paul Phillips, Andrea Winter

14 "We Proletarians"

German folk song from the 1920's
Translated by Miriam Borcherdt. Music by Hans Eisler
The Company: Adele Abide, David L. Campbell,
Mimi Chung, Hector Gonzalez, Akiko Hamazaki,
Elsie T. Hill, Sarah R. Kreiger, Christopher F. Lowery,
Antanas Vainius
Properties: Christopher L. Lowery

15 Pablo Picasso and Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler

A conversation. Written by Henry Balanay, RISD '92 Picasso: Christopher L. Lowery Kahnweiler: Antanas Vainius

16 Song "The Man I Love"

Music: George Gershwin; lyrics: Ira Gershwin, 1928

Sung by Akiko Hamazaki Mime: Hector Gonzalez

17 Constantine Cavafy "...the Great Yes"

A poem. Translated by Edmund Keeley and Philip Sherrard Read by the Company

Part Two

1 The Entrée

Futurist and Dada Sound Cacaphony

Arthur Cravan Performs the Dada Spirit Before Dada A story compiled and written by

Priscilla Yeh and Hector Gonzalez

Cravan: Hector Gonzalez

Jack Johnson, world heavy-weight champion: Eric Falconer

Journalists: Sarah R. Kreiger, Ervin Ramos,

Julia Wollaeger

Mina Loy, Cravan's wife: Adele Abide

Referee: David L. Campbell

Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz and Julia Wollaeger

2 Song "Someone Sings in the Yard"

German popular song from the 1920's
Music: Olaf Bienert; lyrics: Kurt Tucholsky
Translated by Eric Konrad and edited by Miriam Borcherdt
Sung by Sarah R. Kreiger and Luciana L. Mallozzi

3 Futurist Dances

A free reconstruction and interpretation

"Futurismo-Tipografia"

Giacomo Balla: design and music

Dancers: Adele Abide, Dawn Marie Caulfield, Hector Gonzalez, Akiko Hamazaki, Sarah R. Kreiger, Luciana L. Mallozzi, Vanessa Sterbenz,

Bruce Jason Tennis, Andrea Winter, Julia Wollaeger, Ofra Yacobi

Choreography: Julie Strandberg

Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz, Julia Wollaeger (concept) and Daniela Fiss, Luciana L. Mallozzi, Andrea Winter

 "The Alphabet of Surprise" or the word-in-freedom (parole-in-liberta)

Based upon the ideas of Marinetti, Canguillo and others Dancers: Adele Abide, Dawn Marie Caulfield, David L. Campbell, Hector Gonzalez, Daniela Fiss, Akiko Hamazaki, Sarah R. Kreiger, Luciana L. Mallozzi, Katherine Sheehan, Vanessa Sterbenz, Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius, Andrea Winter, Julia Wollaeger

· "La Fontana Malata", 1909

Miriam Borcherdt reads Aldo Palazzeshi's poem Choreography: Julie Strandberg Costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz, Julia Wollaeger (concept) and Daniela Fiss, Luciana L. Mallozzi, Andrea Winter

Mechanical dance, 1922

Translated by Miriam Borcherdt
Based upon Fortunato Depero's ballet "Anichccam del 3000" and Ivo Pannaggi's "Ballo Mechanico"

Dancers: Adele Abide, David L. Campbell, Katherine Steehan, Bruce Jason Tennis Choreography: Julie Strandberg

Music: Vicenzo Mortari "Futurist fox-trot"

Costume design: Dawn Marie Caulfield, Julia Wollaeger
Source: Antonella Majocchi "La danza nel movimento
Futurista all' Aerodanza di Giannina Censi" (Dissertation.
Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, '86/87)

Futurist Theatre of Surprise: Six short pieces

"Feet" Filippo Tommaso Marinetti

David L. Campbell, Daniela Fiss, Hector Gonzalez, Luciana L. Mallozzi, Bruce Jason Tennis, Julia Wollaeger

• "Flirt" Volt (Fani Ciotti)

Translated by Victoria Nes Kirby

She: Adele Abide He: David L. Campbell

"Education" Angelo Ragnoni

Translated by Victoria Nes Kirby Professor: Christopher F. Lowery Student: Miriam Borcherdt

"Alternation in character"
 Arnaldo Corradini (Ginna) and Bruno Corra

Translated by Victoria Nes Kirby Husband: Antanas Vainius

Wife: Luciana L. Mallozzi

"Negative act" Bruno Corra and Emilio Settinelli

Translated by Victoria Nes Kirby Woman: Julia Wollaeger

"States of Mind" Mario Carli

Translated by Victoria Nes Kirby

Performers: Daniela Fiss, Sarah R. Kreiger, Christopher F. Lowery, Bruce Jason Tennis Costume consultants: Luciana L. Mallozzi, Ervin Ramos, Vanessa Sterbenz

Hommage to Luigi Russolo
Inventor of "Intonarumori" – the Art of Noise

A musical-vocal-sound-movement performance based upon Russolo's "A City Awakening" and the film "Vita Futurista"

Performed by the Orchestra Properties: Ervin Ramos

6 The "W" by Kurt Schwitters

30-second vocal performance

Performer: Andrea Winter

Decor and conception: Adele Abide

7 Dada Sound Poems

"Gadji Beri Bimba" Hugo Ball, 1916

Storyteller: Antanas Vainius Child: Hector Gonzalez

Costume design and mask: Antanas Vainius

"Munch Munch Punch" Karl Valentin & Liesel Karlstadt

A parody on Dadaist poems. Early 1920's, Berlin and Munich Adaptation by Miriam Borcherdt

Parodyst: Ervin Ramos Listener: Hector Gonzalez Refrain: the Company

Based upon Kurt Schwitters's "Primittittii"

Performed with the audience and the Company Conductors: Barbara Bejoian, Michael Fink, Baruch Kirschenbaum, Gary D. Metz

9 Dada False News Reports

A reconstruction from the "Cabaret Voltaire"

Texts translated by Elias Schwartz and Agnieszka Taborska
Performed by: Akiko Hamazaki, Sarah R. Kreiger,
Christopher F. Lowery, Ervin Ramos, Vanessa Sterbenz,
Andrea Winter

10 Bertold Brecht's song
"You've Made Your Bed" (Wie Man Sich Bettet)

Translated by Miriam Borcherdt Music: Kurt Weil The Company

11 "A Kiss" A poem by Reinhard Goering

Published in "Der Sturm", Berlin 1927/1928. Translated By Miriam Borcherdt Read by Marie Dawn Caulfield

12 "A Gift" (Einkaufe)

Popular song of the 1920's. Music: Hans Eisler Lyrics: Kurt Tucholsky. Translated by Miriam Borcherdt The Company

13 Dada short plays

"A Silent Canary" Georges Ribemont-Dessaignes, 1920

Translated by Agnieszka Taborska (fragment)

"Riquet" David L. Campbell; "Barate" Akiko Hamazaki Costume consultant: Vanessa Sterbenz

• "Anxiety Play" Kurt Schwitters (fragment)

Policewoman: Daniela Fiss Gentelman: Christopher F. Lowery

14 Grand Finale

The Big Yes Died... But the Little No is Present

Funeral Ceremony: the Widow Vanessa Sterbenz and the Company

The concept of the New Edge: David L. Campbell,
Bruce Jason Tennis, Antanas Vainius, Julia Wollaeger
21st century Futurism: Cyberpunk, Virtual Reality, and
the Techno-Erotic Paganism

Music: Tomaso Albinoni "Adagio for Strings in G minor" Arranged by Laura J. Gulley

Coffin design: Antanas Vainius
Replica of Kasimir Malevich's coffin

Widow's costume design: Vanessa Sterbenz

## the big yes and the little no

Director

James O. Barnhill

### Literary Consultant and Concept

Szymon Bojko

#### **Musical Director**

Steven L. Jobe

Music/sound arrangements and adaptations of lyrics

Steven L. Jobe

#### Choreography

Julie Strandberg

#### **Production Associate**

Agnieszka Taborska

#### **Translations and Script Development**

Miriam Borcherdt Hector Gonzalez Eric Konrad Elias Schwartz Agnieszka Taborska Priscilla Yeh

#### Orchestra

Rob Bethel – cello Laura J. Gulley – violin Gerry Heroux – trumpet, Fr. horn Steven L. Jobe – viola, basson Loren Mitchel – keyboard Alec Redfearn – accordion

#### **Production Stage Manager**

**Ervin Ramos** 

#### Scenery

Priscilla Yeh coordinator Sarah R. Kreiger Ervin Ramos Katherine Sheehan Ofra Yacobi and Adele Abide Hector Gonzalez Elsie T. Hill Julia Wollaeger

#### **Masks and Properties**

Adele Abide coordinator Mimi Chung Daniela Fiss Hector Gonzalez Elsie T. Hill Christopher F. Lowery Luciana L. Mallozzi Antanas Vainius

#### Objects for the Great Ceremonial Opening

The Company and Margaret Lewis

#### **Lobby Exhibition**

Conceived, assembled, painted and curated by Katherine Sheehan assisted by

Adele Abide, Christopher F. Lowery, Vanessa Sterbenz, Antanas Vainius, Andrea Winter, Julia Wollaeger, Priscilla Yeh

#### **Designer Consultants**

Dagmar Frinta Leszek Puchalski

## Lighting

Steve Coppel David Chandler Priscilla Yeh

#### Costumes

Vanessa Sterbenz coordinator
Julia Wollaeger coordinator
Adele Abide
Miriam Borcherdt
Dawn Marie Caulfield
Daniela Fiss
Akiko Hamazaki
Elsie T. Hill
Luciana L. Mallozzi
Andrea Winter
Ofra Yacobi

#### **Paintings**

Priscilla Yeh coordinator Adele Abide Elsie T. Hill Ervin Ramos Katherine Sheehan Ofra Yacobi

#### **Teaser Posters**

Christopher F. Lowery Katherine Sheehan

#### **Graphic Design**

Nonie Close



#### Video

Denis Hlynski