

ABOUT THE COMPANY

"Personnel is being hired for the Theater in Oklahoma! The Great Nature Theater of Oklahoma is calling you! It's calling you today only! If you miss this opportunity, there will never be another! Anyone thinking of his future, your place is with us! All welcome! Anyone who wants to be an artist, step forward! We are the theater that has a place for everyone, everyone in his place! If you decide to join us, we congratulate you here and now! But hurry, be sure not to miss the midnight deadline! We shut down at midnight, never to reopen! Accursed be anyone who doesn't believe us!"

-- Franz Kafka, *Amerika*

Nature Theater of Oklahoma is an award-winning New York art and performance group under the direction of Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper. Since *Poetics: a ballet brut*, our first dance piece created as an ensemble, Nature Theater of Oklahoma has been devoted to making the work we don't know how to make, putting ourselves in impossible situations, and working from out of our own ignorance and unease. We strive to create an unsettling live situation that demands total presence from everyone in the room. We use the readymade material around us, found space, overheard speech, and observed gesture, and through extreme formal manipulation, and superhuman effort, we affect in our work a shift in the perception of everyday reality that extends beyond the site of performance and into the world in which we live.

RECENT QUOTES

"Over the past several years the Nature Theater of Oklahoma has evolved into one of New York's most talented ensembles...their shows are smart, witty, highly physical, and eager to twist notions of theatricality"

The Village VOICE

"At a time when even Off-Off Broadway productions seem infatuated with technology and spectacle, [Nature Theater of Oklahoma's] bare-bones vision recalls the "poor theater" of the 1970's...The focus is on the actors' voices and bodies. They animate the theater with a bravura physicality."

The New York Times

"The company boasts some particularly watchable performers... Neither traditional actors nor the kind of non-actors writer-director Richard Maxwell sometimes uses, they perform in a way that's off-kilter yet deeply rooted; their stage aura both repels you and draws you in."

The Village VOICE

"Nature Theater of Oklahoma, the most buzzed-about new troupe on the New York avant-garde scene, is certainly not for traditional tastes, its gleefully democratic spirit and old-fashioned showmanship certainly aims to please – and does so quite winningly."

The New York Times

"Deploying a fresh intelligence, an ingenious theatricality and a pleasingly odd sense of humor, the Nature Theater of Oklahoma has become one of the top alternative companies in New York."

The Village VOICE

"Nature Theater of Oklahoma stands on the frontier... The group applies scientific precision to their enactments of transcripts taken from real conversations; by dissecting contemporary speech, they reveal our splendidly otherworldly thought processes, and show how we struggle to articulate our individual realities..."

The Village VOICE

"One of the most innovative theater companies in New York...Nature Theater seeks to unearth something that approaches beauty, or at least a fresh, strange kind of entertainment."

The New York Times

"The Nature Theater of Oklahoma takes aesthetic appreciation of everyday discourse to fascinating, funny, even perverse new extremes... in their inspired hands, the most unbeautiful, sometimes maddeningly hazy and imprecise language takes on a distinct and surprising appeal... You come away from their shows with an ear freshly attuned..."

The New York Times

CURRENT PROJECTS

LIFE AND TIMES

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

A 16 hour epic multi-art serial created from a single phone conversation with one 34-year-old woman, as she tells her whole life story up to the present day. Part 3 in a series of works related to storytelling and oral tradition, the project will embrace the narrative arc of one anonymous person's life – in song -- from birth to the present.

Episodes 4.5 & 5

A production of Nature Theater of Oklahoma in co-production with Berliner Festspiele/ Foreign Affairs, HAU Hebbel am Ufer and Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

featuring: Daniel Gower

animation: Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

music (for Episode 4.5): Robert M. Johanson and Daniel Gower

music: (for Episode 5): Daniel Gower

vocals: (for Episode 4.5) Julie LaMendola, Robert M. Johanson

design: Peter Nigrini

dramaturg: Florian Malzacher

audio engineer: Daniel Gower

production manager: Dany Naierman

performances:

October 2013 Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Australia (w/ all Episodes 1-5)

September 2013 FIAF Crossing the Line Festival, New York, NY

June/July 2013 Berliner Festspiele/Foreign Affairs, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Germany (w/ all Episodes 1-5)

May 2013 Norfolk & Norwich Festival, United Kingdom (w/ all Episodes 1-5)

Episodes 3 & 4

A production of Nature Theater of Oklahoma and Burgtheater Wien in coproduction with Internationales Sommerfestival Hamburg, Kaaithheater Brussel, Internationale Keuze Festival Rotterdamse Schouwburg, and Künstlerhaus Mousonturm Frankfurt am Main GmbH

featuring: Ilan Bachrach, Gabel Eiben, Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Matthew Korahais, Julie La Mendola, Alison Weisgall, and Kristin Worrall

music: Robert M. Johanson and Daniel Gower

design: Peter Nigrini

dramaturg: Florian Malzacher

prompter: Elisabeth Conner

audio engineer: Daniel Gower

production manager: Dany Naierman

performances:

November 2013 Spielart, Munich, Germany (w/ Episodes 1&2)

November 2013 Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil, France (w/ Episodes 1&2)

October 2013 Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Australia (w/ all Episodes 1-5)

September 2013 Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Philadelphia, PA (w/ Episodes 1&2)

June/July 2013 Berliner Festspiele/Foreign Affairs, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Germany (w/ all Episodes 1-5)

May 2013 Norfolk & Norwich Festival, United Kingdom (w/ all Episodes 1-5)

May 2013 Göteborgs Dans & Teater Festival, Sweden (w/ Episodes 1&2)

January/February 2013 Public Theater/UTR Festival/Soho Rep, New York (w/ Episodes 1&2)

November 2012 Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany (w/ Episodes 1&2)

October 2012 deSingel, Antwerp, Belgium

September 2012 Kaaithheater Brussels, Belgium

September 2012 (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, The Netherlands (w/ Episodes 1&2)

August 2012 Kampnagel Summerfestival, Hamburg, Germany

January 2012 Burgtheater Kasino, Vienna, Austria (premiere)

Episode 2

A production of Nature Theater of Oklahoma and Burgtheater Wien in coproduction with Kampnagel Hamburg, le Festival d'Avignon, Théâtre de la Ville Paris, Kaaithheater Brussel, and Rosas.

Made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Pilot, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

featuring: Elisabeth Conner, Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Julie La Mendola and Alison Weisgall
with: Ilan Bachrach, Gabel Eiben, Daniel Gower, Matthew Korahais, and Kristin Worrall
music: Robert M. Johanson and Julia La Mendola
design: Peter Nigrini
dramaturg: Florian Malzacher
chorus director: Nora Hertlein
audio engineer: Daniel Gower
production manager: Dany Naierman

performances:

November 2013 Spielart, Munich, Germany (w/ Episodes 1, 3&4)
November 2013 Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil, France (w/ Episodes 1, 3&4)
October 2013 Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Australia (w/ all Episodes 1-5)
September 2013 Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Philadelphia, PA (w/ Episodes 1, 3&4)
June/July 2103 Berliner Festspiele/Foreign Affairs, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Germany (w/ all Episodes 1-5)
May 2013 Norfolk & Norwich Festival, United Kingdom (w/ all Episodes 1-5)
May 2013 Göteborgs Dans & Teater Festival, Sweden (w/ Episodes 1, 3&4)
January/February 2013 Public Theater/UTR Festival/Soho Rep, New York (w/ Episodes 1, 3&4)
November 2012 Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany (w/ Episodes 1, 3&4)
September 2012 (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Netherlands (w/ Episodes 1, 3&4)
August 2012 Rhur Triennale, Essen, Germany
May 2012 Vooruit, Ghent, Belgium
May 2012 Theatre de la Ville, Paris, France
March 2012 Hebbel Theater, Berlin, Germany
March 2012 deSingel, Antwerp, Belgium
March 2012 Kaaithheater Brussels, Belgium
February 2012, Theater Maria Matos, Lisbon, Portugal
July 2011 Festival d'Avignon, France (with Episode 1)
June 2011 Kampnagel Hamburg, Germany
November 2010 Burgtheater Kasino, Vienna, Austria (premiere)

Episode 1

A production of Nature Theater of Oklahoma and Burgtheater Wien in coproduction with Internationales Sommerfestival Hamburg, Kaaithheater Brussel, Théâtre de la Ville Paris, Internationale Keuze Festival Rotterdamse Schouwburg, and the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University.

With support from The MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation

featuring: Ilan Bachrach, Elisabeth Conner, Gabel Eiben, Daniel Gower, Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Matthew Korahais, Julie La Mendola, Alison Weisgall, and Kristin Worrall.
music: Robert M. Johanson
design: Peter Nigrini
musicians: Daniel Gower, Robert M. Johanson, and Kristin Worrall
prompter: Elisabeth Conner
dramaturg: Florian Malzacher
production manager: Dany Naierman

performances:

November 2013 Spielart, Munich, Germany (w/ Episodes 2, 3&4)
November 2013 Nouveau Théâtre de Montreuil, France (w/ Episodes 2, 3&4)
October 2013 Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Australia (w/ all Episodes 1-5)
September 2013 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH
September 2013 Walker Center for the Arts, Minneapolis, MN
September 2013 Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Philadelphia, PA (w/ Episodes 2, 3&4)
June/July 2013 Berliner Festspiele/Foreign Affairs, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Germany (w/ all Episodes 1-5)

May 2013 Norfolk & Norwich Festival, United Kingdom (w/ all Episodes 1-5)
 May 2013 Göteborgs Dans & Teater Festival, Sweden (w/ Episodes 2, 3&4)
 January/February 2013 Public Theater/UTR Festival/Soho Rep, New York (w/ Episodes 2, 3&4)
 October-November 2012 Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany (w/ Episodes 2, 3&4)
 September 2012 (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Netherlands (w/ Episodes 2, 3&4)
 September 2012 BITEF Festival, Belgrade, Serbia
 June 2012 World Theatre Festival under Mt., Fuji, SPAC Shizuoka, Japan
 May-June 2012 Festival Transamerique, Montreal, Canada
 May 2012 Avant Garden, Trondheim, Norway
 May 2012 BIT Theatergarasjen, Bergen, Norway
 April 2012 Black Box Theater, Oslo, Norway
 April 2012 Gessnerallee, Zurich, Switzerland
 July 2011 Festival d'Avignon, France (with Episode 2)
 June 2011 Straw Theater (NO99), Tallinn, Estonia
 May 2011 Singapore Festival, Singapore
 March 2011 Hebbel Theater, Berlin, Germany
 February 2011 deSingel, Antwerp, Belgium
 January 2011 Theater Maria Matos, Lisbon, Portugal
 January 2011 Vooruit, Ghent, Belgium
 January 2011 Theatre de la Ville, Paris, France
 September 2010 (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
 September 2010 Kaaithater Brussels, Belgium
 August 2010 Kampnagel Summerfestival, Hamburg, Germany
 May 2010 Theatertreffen/Berliner Festspiele, Sophiensale, Berlin, Germany
 April/May 2010 Burgtheater Kasino, Vienna, Austria
 September/October 2009 at Burgtheater Kasino, Vienna, Austria (premiere)
 July 2009 Austrian Cultural Institut, New York, NY (work-in-progress)

COMPLETED PROJECTS

RAMBO/ROMEO

Rambo/Romeo consists of two separate sister projects created by Nature Theater of Oklahoma which are often performed together in repertory. The two projects, Rambo Solo, a one-man show with video, and Romeo and Juliet, a two person show with prompter, both share a central fascination with storytelling and plot, and consist of doomed attempts to "re-tell" two particularly popular and familiar stories.

A production of International Summerfestival / KampnagelHamburg, Salzburger Festspiele in co-production with Kaaithater Brussels / Workspace Brussels/ Buda Kunstcentrum, Noorderzon Festival Groningen, and the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University

Rambo Solo

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

A one man marathon retelling of the story of First Blood, set entirely in the actor's own 220 square foot studio apartment.

featuring: Zachary Oberzan
 design and video: Peter Nigrini

performances:

May 2010 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio
 February 2010 Brut Wien, Vienna, Austria
 October 2009 Vooruit!, Ghent, Belgium
 September 2009 Contemporary Stage Festival, National Theater, Oslo, Norway
 September 2009 La Bâtie - Festival de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
 May 2009 Festival Transamerique, Montreal, Canada
 March/April 2009 Soho Rep, New York, NY (*extended run*)
 November 2008 NEXT Festival, Buda Kunstcentrum, Kortrijk, Belgium

October/November 2008 Kaaitheater, Brussels, Belgium
Sept 2008 de (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
August 2008 Noorderzon Festival, Groningen, The Netherlands
August 2008 International Summer Festival, Kampnagel, Hamburg, Germany (premiere)
June 2007 Downtown Art, New York, NY (work-in-progress)

Romeo and Juliet

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

Two performers struggle to remember and perform the key plot twists of one of Shakespeare's most often produced plays.

featuring: Anne Gridley and Robert M. Johanson with Elisabeth Conner
design: Peter Nigrini

performances:

June/July Berliner Festspiele/Foreign Affairs, HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Germany
September 2010 Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, T.B.A. Festival, Portland, Oregon
September 2010, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
April 2010 Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio
March 2010 Black Box Theater, Oslo, Norway
March 2010 Al Bustan Festival, Beirut, Lebanon
December/January 2009 The Kitchen, New York, NY
November 2009 Avant Garden, Trondheim, Norway
November 2009 BIT Theatergarasjen, Bergen, Norway
October 2009 Vooruit!, Ghent, Belgium
October 2009 Bimeras iDANS Festival, Istanbul, Turkey
June 2009 Maria Matos Theater, Lisbon, Portugal
January/February 2009 MC93 Theater, Bobigny (Paris), France
November 2008 NEXT Festival, Buda Kunstencentrum, Kortrijk, Belgium
October/November 2008 Kaaitheater, Brussels, Belgium
Sept 2008 de (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
August 2008 Noorderzon Festival, Groningen, The Netherlands
August 2008 Salzburg Festspiele Young Directors Project, Salzburg, Austria
August 2008 International Summer Festival, Kampnagel, Hamburg, Germany (premiere)
July 2007 Downtown Art, New York, NY (work-in-progress)

No Dice

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

An epic of the everyday blown to transcendental proportions, No Dice takes over one hundred hours of the company's recorded telephone conversations and filters them through the conventions of amateur dinner theater to arrive at a uniquely mind-altering experience.

A production of Nature Theater of Oklahoma, commissioned in Soho Rep's Phase II program, created in-residence at Downtown Art

featuring: Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Zachary Oberzan, Jarid Rychtarik, and Kristin Worrall
music: Kristin Worrall and Lumberob
design: Peter Nigrini

performances:

December 2010, Teatre Genevilliers Paris, France
November 2009 Hebbel Theater, Berlin, Germany
November 2009 Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany
October 2009 Perfect Performance Festival, Stockholm, Sweden
April 2009, Fuse Box, Austin, Texas
March 2009, On The Boards, Seattle, Washington
January 2009, Sydney Festival, Sydney, Australia
October 2008, Theaterhaus Gessnerallee, Zurich, Switzerland

September 2008, Brut Wien, Vienna, Austria
June 2008, Belluard Festival, Fribourg, Switzerland (French version)
June 2008, Eurokaz Festival, Zagreb, Croatia
June 2008, Alkantara Festival, Lisbon, Portugal
April 2008, XING Festival, Bologna, Italy
April 2008, Kaaithheater, Brussels, Belgium
April 2008, Black Box Theater, Oslo, Norway
April 2008, Teatergarasjen, Bergen, Norway
March 2008, Avant Garden, Trondheim, Norway
March 2008, Lokal Festival, Reykjavik Iceland
February 2008, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio
December 2007, Soho Rep, New York, NY (*extended run*)
November 2007, Spielart, Munich, Germany
November 2007, BudaFest, Buda Kunstencentrum, Kortrijk, Belgium
October 2007, Kampnagel, Hamburg, Germany
September 2007, Steirischer Herbst Festival, Graz, Austria
September 2007, de (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
September 2007, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, T.B.A. Festival, Portland, Oregon
September 2007, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 2007, Under The Radar Festival, New York, NY (premiere)
July and November 2006, Downtown Art, New York, NY (work-in-progress)

Poetics: a ballet brut

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

Four performers with extraordinary presence transform ordinary movements we take for granted into an energized and energizing dance; ultimately though, the theater where the piece is performed and as many local performers as can fit on the stage become the stars of the show.

featuring: Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Fletcher Liegerot, Zachary Oberzan
sound: Kristin Worrall
lights: Tim Cryan
set: Peter Nigrini

performances:

January 2010, Push Festival, Vancouver, Canada
November 2009, Hebbel Theater, Berlin, Germany
March 2009, ICA, Boston, Massachusetts
November 2008, La Rose des Vents, Lille, France
November 2008, Vooruit! in Ghent, Belgium
October 2008, Steirischer Herbst Festival, Graz, Austria
February 2008, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio
January 2008, Under The Radar Festival, Public Theater, New York, New York
October 2007, Kampnagel in Hamburg, Germany
August 2006, Noorderzon Festival, Groningen, The Netherlands
September 2006, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, T.B.A. Festival, Portland, Oregon
October 2005, Theater at the Riverside Church, New York, NY (premiere)
September 2005, Prelude '05 Festival at CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY (work-in-progress)

Chorégraphie

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

Like Raymond Roussel's long, meticulous and obsessive descriptions of scenes depicted on a penholder or a bottle label, this piece conceptually expands the brief present moment of dance performance to encompass a whole mysterious and impossible parallel universe of verbiage.

A production of Nature Theater of Oklahoma in co-production with Tanzquartier Wien

featuring: Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska, plus cast of 10 professional local dancers
music: Lumberob

design: Peter Nigrini

performances:

December 2009, December Dance, Brugge, Belgium
April 2008, Tanzquartier Wien, Vienna, Austria

Dial-A-Log

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

A performance in rhymed verse about the future of dance.

featuring: Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska

performances:

September 2008 Tanzquartier Wien, Vienna, Austria

FUCK YEAH!

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

An experimental evening of dance inquiry at Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers.

featuring: Kelly Copper, Adrien Dantou, Hanna Hedman, Pavol Liska, Martha Moore, Frédéric Segurette

performances:

May 2009 Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers, Paris, France (work-in-progress)

Agony of Rhode Island

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

Music by Robert M. Johanson

Design by Malin Therese Wik and Ieva Zule

Featuring Naja Lee Jensen, Karen Tømte, Anders Ravn-Nilsen, Tryggvi Gunnarsson, Runa Norheim, Linn Wennersten, and Emelie Trosso

A project made with final year acting and design students at the Norwegian Theater Academy in Fredrickstad.

performances:

June 2010 National Theatret, Oslo, Norway

May 2010 Black Box/Akademi for Scenekunstm Fredrickstad, Norway

COLLABORATIONS

Cadavre Exquis

A performance made by four international theater companies; Kassys (NL), Nature Theater of Oklahoma (USA), Tim Crouch (UK) and Nicole Beutler (DE/NL)

A production of Kunstencentrum Vooruit in Gent, Under the Radar Festival in New York, Kunstencentrum buda in Kortrijk, Culturgest in Lissabon, Mousonturm in Frankfurt and Züricher Theaterspektakel Festival in Zürich.

Directors: Liesbeth Gritter (Kassys), Pavol Liška & Kelly Copper (Nature Theater of Oklahoma), Tim Crouch, and Nicole Beutler (nbprojects).

Performers: Esther Snelder, Hannah Ringham, Jarid Rychtarik and Bas van Rijnsoever

Coordinator: Mette van der Sijs

Light design and technique: Adriaan Beukema

Manager director: Merrill Abrahams

A project made according to the principles of the dada/surrealist game of Cadavre Exquis, in which each company will make a part of 15 minutes that starts with the last image of the previous part, without knowing what preceded that last image.

performances:

November, 2012, Next Festival, Valenciennes, le Phénix, France
November, 2012, Korzo, The Hague, The Netherlands
November, 2012, Schouwburg Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands
November, 2012, Huis van Bourgondië, Maastricht, The Netherlands
October 2012, Theater Kikker, Utrecht, The Netherlands
October 2012, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Germany
October 2012, Plaza Futura, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
October 2012, Beursschouwburg, Brussel, Belgium
October 2012, Grand Theatre, Groningen, The Netherlands
October 2012, De Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
October 2012, Lux, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
October 2012, Verkadefabriek, Den Bosch, The Netherlands
October 2012, Chassé Theater, Breda, The Netherlands
September 2012, Theater Frascati, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
September 2012, Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal
September 2012, Sadler's Wells, London, UK
August/September 2012, Theaterspektakel Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland
May 2012, Espoo City Theatre, Espoo, Finland
May 2012, Buda Kunstcentrum, Kortrijk, Belgium
May 2012, kc nOna, Mechelen, Belgium
April 2012, (première) Kunstencentrum Vooruit, Gent, Belgium

VIDEO PROJECTS

Silent Movie Screen Tests

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

A series of stop frame animation shorts made with the company on tour in hotel rooms and various other theater and home spaces.

featuring: Ilan Bachrach, Elisabeth Conner, Gabel Eiben, Daniel Gower, Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Matthew Korahais, Julia La Mendola, Alison Weisgall, and Kristin Worrall.
Filmed and edited by: Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska

installation:

April 2013, XING Live Arts Week II, Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Italy

Ancho

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

A short extract from the animated finale of Life and Times – Episode 4.

Drawn and edited by: Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska with additional coloring by Elisabeth Conner.

installation:

September 2013, Times Square Alliance, Midnight Moment, New York, NY
October 2011, Chat d'Oeuvres Program, Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY

Animations

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

A series of stop frame animation shorts made with the company on tour in hotel rooms and various other theater and home spaces.

featuring: Ilan Bachrach, Elisabeth Conner, Robert Saenz de Viteri, Gabel Eiben, Daniel Gower, Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Matthew Korahais, Julia La Mendola, Jarid Rychtarik, Alison Weisgall, and Kristin Worrall.
Filmed and edited by: Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska

installation:
November 2012, Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin, Germany
September 2011, de (Internationale) Keuze, Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

In The Money

Conceived and directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper

A video companion to No Dice in which we see the performers get paid for the July 2006 work-in-progress show.

featuring: Anne Gridley, Robert M. Johanson, Pavol Liska, Lumberob (Rob Erickson), Zachary Oberzan, and Kristin Worrall.
camera: Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska
editor: Kelly Copper
text extracted from an essay by Mike Kelly

installation:
April 2008, XING Festival, Bologna, Italy

RADIO PROJECTS

OK Radio

A radio podcast, begun in August 2012. Inspired by the radio conversations of John Cage and Morton Feldman, Nature Theater of Oklahoma directors Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska engage in long-form conversations with artists, curators and instigators from around the world and post these conversations for free download. The podcast already has over 35 episodes, and has been downloaded over 15,000 times by listeners in 50 countries around the world. Beginning in 2013 OK Radio will also be making live-streaming broadcasts from festivals and art centers around the world.

installation:
May 2013, Australian Theatre Forum, Canberra, Australia
October 2013, Vooruit!, Ghent, Belgium

AWARDS

Ambassador's Award for Cultural Diplomacy, (US Embassy Vienna 2012)
Theatertreffen 2010 Official Selection for *Life and Times – Episode 1*
Foundation for Contemporary Arts 2010 Award Recipient
Salzburg Festival Montblanc Young Directors Prize 2008 for *Romeo and Juliet*
OBIE Award Special Citation 2008 for *No Dice*

RESIDENCIES

Directors Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska have been invited to work in residence for extended periods at:

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, June 2013
Les Laboratoires d'Aubervillier in Paris, France, May 2009
Arts Workshop Lazaretti in Dubrovnik, Croatia, July 2008

TEACHING

Directors Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska have taught coursework on performance at P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels and have been invited guest speakers at Harvard, Temple, NYU, Bard College, and Columbia University. In 2010 they conducted workshops at the International Summer Academy in Hamburg, Germany. They also have taught and created the final year student project at the Norwegian Theater Academy in Fredrikstad, and currently serve as advisors on the Academy's Artistic Council.

ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS, EDUCATION

Pavol Liska

Born April 9, 1973, Skalica, Slovak Republic
1995, B.A. Dartmouth College, Senior Fellow
2006, M.F.A., Columbia University

Kelly Copper

Born February 9, 1971, Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.
1993, B.A. Dartmouth College, Senior Fellow
2007, M.F.A., Brooklyn College

PUBLISHED WORK

Nature Theater of Oklahoma's LIFE AND TIMES – Episode 1
published by the 53rd State Press, January 2013, 124 pages.

PAJ: A Journal of Performing Arts Number 100, January 2012 “On Writing and Performance” by Kelly Copper. Pages 133-135.

Dietsche Warande & Belfort: Shakespeare in America Number 4, September 2010 “Romeo and Julia” (Dutch translation), Entire script, published in full. Pages 551-590.

Theater, Volume 40, Number 2. May 2010 “*Nature Theater of Oklahoma's Romeo and Juliet*”
Entire script, published in full. Pages 75-113.

The Drama Review (TDR) Volume 54 Number 2 - Summer 2010 “Provocation” excerpt of *PENTAMETER*
By Nature Theater of Oklahoma, Pages 2-3.

Play: a journal of plays, fall 2009 issue, featuring the complete score for *Poetics: a ballet brut* -- plus photos and schema by Kelly Copper and Pavol Liska.

Nature Theater of Oklahoma's RAMBO SOLO
published by the 53rd State Press, March 2009, 132 pages.

Nature Theater of Oklahoma's NO DICE
published by the 53rd State Press, December 2007, 155 pages.

Etcetera, Issue #115, Message From Abroad: “Home for the Holidays” by Kelly Copper, February 2009

Intervalles (a journal of transcription), “Nature Theater of Oklahoma's *Chorégraphie*”
published by the Centre Interdisciplinaire de Poétique Appliquée, February 2009
<http://www.cipa.ulg.ac.be/intervalles4/contentsinter4.php>

I, Theatron, “Ambient Theater: a Manifesto Quickie” by Pavol Liska, Batch #2, Jan-Feb 2006

I, Theatron, “Buffalo Manifesto” by Kelly Copper and , Batch #1 Inaugural Issue, Nov –Dec 2005

I, Theatron, "A Manifesto for Manifestos" by Pavol Liska, Batch #1 Inaugural Issue, Nov –Dec 2005

SELECTED PRESS (in United States only)

National Public Radio: "Spinning on Air with David Garland" March 3, 2013 "Nature Theater of Oklahoma – Life and Times" (interview and live performance in-studio with the company)

The New York Times, January 31, 2013, "Theater Talkback: The Rough Beauty of Everyday Speech" by Christopher Isherwood.

National Public Radio: "All Things Considered", January 26, 2013, "Life and Times Takes Audiences on a Lengthy Journey" host: Robert Smith.

The New Yorker, January 23, 2013, "Eight Hours of, Like, Life" by Hilton Als.

The New York Times, Wednesday, January 23, 2013, "Like, Innocence, and, Um, Experience" by Christopher Isherwood. Page C1.

PAJ: A Journal of Performing Arts Number 100, January 2012 "At Work Downtown: Process and Performance" Interview with Pavol Liska, Yehuda Duenyas, Ari Fliakos, and Victoria Vazquez in conversation with Joseph Cermatori" Pages 148-162.

The Drama Review (TDR) Volume 56 Number 4– Winter 2011 "The Nature Theater of Oklahoma's Aesthetics of Fun" by Rachel Anderson-Rabern

Theater, May 2010, Volume 40, Number 2. "Uncreative Writing: Nature Theater of Oklahoma's Romeo and Juliet" by Karinne Keithley.

American Theatre, February 2010, "More Work, More Pleasure: Nature Theater of Oklahoma's game plan turns the mundane into marvels" by Rebecca Kastleman.

The New Yorker, January 11, 2010, "Sideshow: Deconstructing Romeo and Juliet" by Hilton Als.

The Village VOICE, January 5, 2010, "The City's Best (And Not So Best) Progressive Theater" by Tom Sellar.

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