

MALIA BURKHART'S "SURVIVAL PAGES"

Malia Burkhardt, who designed the black dragon mask for our production, is busy creating her own show which will be appearing at Intermedia Arts on November 8-10. The show, titled "The Survival Pages" is part of the 2007 Naked Stages Program through the Jerome Foundation and Intermedia Arts. Through theater, Butoh dance, puppetry, and video collage, Malia explores the complex and shifting relationship between humans and nature.

Malia writes: "Are humans and nature separate? One theme touched upon in *Wallace and the Dragon*, is that the way we view 'creation' is fundamental to how we interact within it. Are humans really the pinnacle of evolution, therefore exempt to laws that seem to govern the rest of nature? Do we humans interpret, "Survival of the Fittest," as granting us the license to do whatever we wish to the planet? It seems we have set ourselves apart and above all other life forms. And yet our hubris is rapidly backfiring upon us. Will we be able to shift our ways of relating to nature in time to avert environmental crisis?"

J Roth will be contributing to the musical soundtrack of Malia's production.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: HARMONY THEATRE

J Roth will be busy over the next few months working with Harmony Theatre and their upcoming productions. Harmony's director, Elena Khalitov, saw J in his Fringe show last year (*The Musicker's Balalaika* in which J played a Russian-Gypsy during WWII) and she invited him to co-direct her troupe.

Harmony Theatre is a group of first and second generation immigrants from the former Soviet Union who share in common the Russian language and a love for theater. The troupe is primarily made up of children, but adults do participate in many of the shows. The shows bounce from Russian to English so audiences can follow along in either language. Their upcoming season offers three interesting productions.

Around New Year's Eve will be "Baba Yaga Strikes Back" – a show featuring traditional Russian folk characters (Grandfather Frost, the Snow Maiden and Baba Yaga) with an untraditional twist. Last year's Yolka show was a big hit in the Russian-speaking community of the Twin Cities.

On February 10th in St. Louis Park, Harmony will be presenting a play based on legendary Polish/Jewish doctor, educator, and writer, Janusz Korczak, and his orphanage in the Warsaw ghetto during World War II.

Next May at the Center for Independent Artists, Harmony will present: "Skazki: Folktales from the Former Soviet Union", a show which will highlight the diverse cultural richness of those peoples Americans usually just think of as "Russians".

Go to www.centerharmony.org to find out more.

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