



# THE MUSICKER'S GAZETTE



No. 12

WALKING BOXES PRODUCTIONS

## INTRODUCING PUPPETENACITY

What's with the name of this new puppet production company? Are these puppets-in-a-city? Or are we talking about tenacious puppets here? It's actually a bit of both. The name was chosen by Malia Burkhart and J Roth to be used for their collaborative works that involve puppets. The dictionary defines tenacious as: "persistent in maintaining, adhering to, or seeking something valued or desired." Most of the characters in our tale are pretty tenacious regarding Asonay, and we of Puppetenacity vow to be equally tenacious about presenting shows which will not only delight and intrigue our audiences, but embolden them to do the "good work" of solving the myriad of problems we're collectively facing.

### VISIT US ONLINE

To keep up with all the happenings at Walking Boxes Productions, log on to [www.walkingboxes.com](http://www.walkingboxes.com) You can check there for upcoming shows, get on the email list, browse through the show & CD archives, and listen to music samples.

## THE DRAGONFLY HUNTER

The story was adapted by J Roth from his epic fantasy of the same title, which was largely written while he was living in Japan. There is certainly an Asian influence to the show. Look to Page 3 to find out more...

The title, Dragonfly Hunter, was first used by J back in 1990. At that time, J was just discovering the wonders of haiku, including a poem written by a woman about her child, her "dragonfly hunter". He so liked the image that he entitled an instrumental guitar piece he'd just composed with that name. Now, sixteen years later the Dragonfly Hunter continues on in this new guise (several of the themes from that guitar piece appear in the new sound track.) For production notes about the puppet show, turn to Page 2...

### THANKS

Walking Boxes wishes to thank Papa Steve, Masanari & In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, all our fine sponsors (please support them with your business), and all the performers involved with the show. Thanks also to all of you who have come out to support live theatre.



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## PRODUCTION NOTES

### Voices:

Malia Burkhart.....	Jabu Hothead 1
Karen Haselmann.....	Sejhehii Lenad
Fiza Jaafar-Tribbett.....	Kendha Riidopo Qen-am
J Roth.....	Chameleon Hill Hothead 2

All puppet and scenery design by J Roth except: dragonflies and orchard by Malia Burkhart, Sejhehii by Karen Haselmann, colorful Qen-am and King are traditional puppets from China. Original story and music by J Roth. The music during the dragonfly dance and orchard scene is adapted from a Japanese song from the 1700s entitled: Genroku Hanami Odori.

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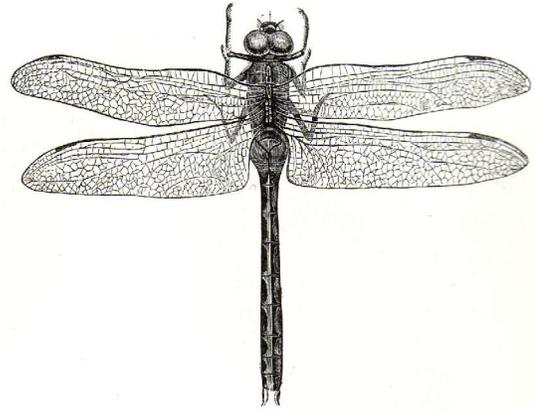
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## AMAZING DRAGONFLIES

The oldest fossilized record of a dragonfly is from over 300 million years ago; that's before the dinosaurs (and way before we humans, who have only been around for about two million years.) The largest known dragonfly had a wingspan of 24 inches (about the size of the large dragonfly that appears in the show.)



Dragonflies are stupendous flying machines. They can travel as fast as sixty miles an hour (faster than your car on the freeway – if you're not speeding, that is.) They can also loop-the-loop, hover, and fly backwards.

Their eyes are also unbelievable. Each of their eyes has about 30,000 lenses, so they literally have eyes on the backs of their heads and can see all around them at the exact same time.

Dragonflies live underwater as nymphs for up to four years, shedding their skin up to fifteen times, yet when they finally mature into dragonflies they survive only a few months.

Dragonflies are sometimes called "mosquito hawks" because they catch and eat so many mosquitoes. Dragonflies also eat other pests like gnats and flies (so be happy if there are lots of dragonflies where you live.)

Besides "mosquito hawk", dragonflies have been given many different nicknames by many different cultures including: darner, devil's darning needle, big needle of wings, ear sewer, mosquito fly, skeeter hawk, snake doctor, snake feeder, old glassy, water dipper, clacking stick and spindle.

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## AMAZING CHAMELEONS

Chameleons have the ability to move their eyes independently (try it yourself if you think it's easy.) Chameleons change color, but not to blend in with their surroundings; actually it is stimuli such as light, temperature, and emotion which bring about their color changes. Chameleon tongues can grow to be two times the length of their bodies. Different sources have the name "chameleon" coming from the Greeks; either meaning "little lion", "earth lion" or "lion on the ground". As amazing as chameleons are, it is estimated that only about 1% of the thousands sold as pets survive more than a few months, so choose another pet.

## ASIAN INFLUENCE

The Dragonfly Hunter puppet play features different instruments and puppets from Asian countries where Malia Burkhart and J Roth have lived and traveled. Chameleon's robe and slippers are from Japan, as is the three-stringed instrument he plays called the shamisen. The jaw harp Chameleon plays is made of bamboo and is from Cambodia. Two of the puppets: Qen-am (the colorful) and the Chameleon King are from China. Though these elements from Asian culture appear in the tale, J Roth, the story's creator, wishes it to be known that the underworld in the story is not meant to specifically represent Asia or any other region of the Earth.



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## WATER: EVERY DROP IS HOLY

In the Dragonfly Hunter tale, when Asonay falls into the water, it creates big problems for Sejhehii, Riidopo, and others living beneath the ground. Thankfully, here in our world, we don't have to worry about that, but there are a myriad of dangers we are facing regarding the water in our seas, rivers, lakes and aquifers. Malia Burkhart (who plays Jabu in our tale) has been working hard with other members of In the Heart of the Beast Theater to create a new show called: "Reinvigorating the Common Well". This show opens March 2nd, and runs every weekend through March 25th. (Thursdays are pay what you can shows) Don't miss it! Malia is also on the artistic staff for the 2007 May Day Parade, which also has a watery theme. See [www.hobt.org](http://www.hobt.org) for info on either of these events.

Join Malia's email list for updates about her puppet shows, performances, and CD releases at [puppetmochi@yahoo.com](mailto:puppetmochi@yahoo.com).

## KAREN HASELMANN & FIZA JAAFAR-TRIBBETT

Puppetenacity is thankful to have the talents of Karen Haselmann and Fiza Jaafar-Tribbett working on this project. Karen is the inventor of her legendary jet-pack puppet shows (using a backpack-screen), which appear at venues across the city. Fiza worked with Malia on the 2005 May Day Parade, leading a posse of giant puppets. She studied performance in Malaysia, a country known for its exquisite shadow puppetry.



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