

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania Department of Communication Studies and Theatre
presents

Dog Sees God

Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead
by Bert V. Royal



APRIL 17,18,19,25,26, 2013 AT 8 PM

APRIL 27 AT 2 PM

RICKENBACH THEATRE

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Department of Communication Studies and Theatre
Faculty and Staff

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James. N. Brown
Dr. Kenneth Danielson
Dr. Mary Eicholtz
Liz Emmert
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Dr. Pamela Royse
Kemberly Rucker
Theresa Shaton
Robert L. Smith
Dr. Alan Stromberg
Mary Ann Swords-Greene
Dr. Claire VanEns, Department Chair
Dr. Lisa Weckerle
Michael Young

DOG SEES GOD

Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead

by Bert V. Royal

Director

Roxane Rix

Scenic and Lighting Designer

Robert L. Smith

Costume Designer

Mary Ann Swords-Greene

Sound Designer and

Asst. to the Director

Cheryl Schreib

Stage Manager

Angela Cutrone

**Photographs and recording devices are prohibited during
the performance. Please turn off cell phones and all
other electronic devices while inside the theatre.**

DOG SEES GOD was first presented by Sorrel Tomlinson/File 14 Productions at the 2004 New York International Fringe Festival, a production of The Present Company.

Originally produced Off-Broadway, in a limited engagement, by Sorrel Tomlinson

Subsequently produced Off-Broadway by Dede Harris and Martian Entertainment in association with

Sharon Karmazin, Michelle Schneider, Mort Swinsky.

DOG SEES GOD has not been authorized or approved in any manner by the Charles M. Schulz Estate or United Features Syndicate, which have no responsibility for its content.

Poster and cover image by Thaddeus E. Dabrowski and Althea Smith Dabrowski

CAST

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| CB..... | Eric Eldred |
| CB's Sister..... | Erin Dixon |
| Van..... | Tim Gulley |
| Matt..... | Taylor Clark |
| Beethoven..... | Brandon Reimer |
| Marcy..... | Krysta Leigh |
| Tricia..... | Virginia Lawler |
| Van's Sister..... | Carly Robinson |

The action of the play takes place in any town, USA.

Present day.

Approximate running time 85 minutes.

There will be no intermission.

Please note: This play contains strong language, smoking, drug/alcohol use, and sexual situations.

Director's Notes

High school is hell. How many of us don't remember it that way, at least partly? Peer pressure, bullying, and devastating social consequences from even small missteps are familiar to virtually anyone who has reached the age of eighteen. The struggle of emerging identity against the drive to be accepted is nothing new. In today's world, though, more than ever before it can become literally a matter of life and death.

In *Dog Sees God*, playwright Bert V. Royal reimagines characters from the long-beloved *Peanuts* comic strip as high school students struggling to find themselves in a landscape rife with family problems, drug and alcohol abuse, and a broad spectrum of sexual activity, with the threat of violence always simmering under the surface. As in the comic strip, most often the characters fail, pick themselves up, and try the same thing all over again hoping for a different result; out of recognition, we laugh at their efforts and even their pain. They're just old enough now that, unlike in the comic strip, a few are compelled to break the cycle forever, however they can.

Did I mention that it's a comedy? Not the traditional happy-ending comedy (though that's there, too, if in tremulous tentative form), but postmodern dark comedy, a product of our age. Dark comedy emerged in the last century as a device to frame unhappy events in an ironic context, proposing that to laugh is the only way to survive looking at them directly. The postmodern style of playwriting reflects the fracturing effects of our industrial-technological era by freely combining elements of varied forms and styles, from high culture to popular entertainments. Imagine Charlie Brown and the gang on acid living out classical Greek tragedy in South Park, and you have a hint of the social satire urging toward spiritual truth that is this play.

Dog Sees God breaks new ground for KU Theatre. The choice to produce it was driven by students, whose passion for the script brought it to my attention. The action and language are more raw and potentially challenging than anything before presented on our stage. The issues engaged prompted scheduling after-show audience talkbacks and listing support resources in the program. (See the last few pages, and feel free to come back for a talkback even if you're not seeing one of those performances.)

It's still a comedy. And a tragedy. From the first rehearsal to the moment you're reading this note, we've laughed and wept and gasped our way through this funhouse ride. We hope you will, too!

RR

Who's Who in the Cast

Taylor Clark (Matt) Taylor is a Communications Studies major and is excited to be back on the KU main stage for his third performance. His other roles include: "The Officer" in *Tartuffe* and "The Spartan Envoy" in *Lysistrata*. Taylor is the President of the Spotlight Players.

Erin Dixon (CB's Sister) Erin is a junior Theatre major & Communications Studies minor in her fifth KUTheatre production. She was seen last year as "Madame Pernelle" in *Tartuffe* and "Myrrhine" in *Lysistrata*. Becoming a family with these warmhearted, beautiful artists has been unforgettable.

Eric Eldred (CB) *Dog Sees God* marks Eric's seventh production on the Kutztown Mainstage. Previous roles include "Vincent Pepel" in *The Lower Depths*, "Antonio" in *Twelfth Night*, "Mark" in *The Philadelphia*, the title character in *Tartuffe*, "Agate" in *Waiting for Lefty*, and most recently "Cinesias" in *Lysistrata*. Last summer Eric and fellow cast-mate Brandon starred in an independent film that is being submitted to film festivals worldwide.

Tim Gulley (Van). is honored to be acting in his fifth show here at Kutztown University. Tim's major is Early childhood Elementary Education. He has enjoyed every show he has been in and is extremely honored to be apart of this wonderful piece of art.



Virginia Lawler (Tricia). Virginia is a Senior Theatre Major and is very excited to be back for her 7th and final performance on the KU main stage. Her previous roles here include “Kathy” in *Company*, “Natalie” in *The Lower Depths*, and “Claire” in *Fuddy Meers*. Most recently she appeared in *Tartuffe* as “Dorine”, for which she received an Irene Ryan Nomination, and as the title character in *Lysistrata*. Other work includes “Edwina” in *Dear Edwina* for The Sunshine Players, “Viola” in *The Odd Sea* and “Julia” in *The Devil’s Snare* for Japa Ter Studios.

Krysta Leigh (Marcy) a junior Theatre major, is absolutely thrilled to be performing for her third time on the KU main stage. Other roles have been “Florence” in *Waiting for Lefty* and “Flipote” in *Tartuffe*. She has been a stage hand for many a show, mostly working with costumes. She hopes you will enjoy her performance and wishes the cast a great run for the show.

Brandon Reimer (Beethoven) *Dog Sees God* marks Brandon's third main stage production at Kutztown University. He is happy to reprise his role as “Beethoven”, which he first performed for Genesius Theatre in 2010. Most recently he was seen as “the Magistrate” in *Lysistrata*. Brandon is a sophomore Electronic Media major and hopes to one day work in Los Angeles. He is also the Treasurer of the Spotlight Players.

Carly Robinson (Van’s Sister): is a junior theatre major and is thrilled to be making her fourth appearance on the Kutztown Mainstage. She was last seen as a member of the Women’s Chorus in *Lysistrata*. Previous roles include “Mariane” in *Tartuffe* and “Betty/Bodyguard” in *Sure Thing/Waiting for Lefty*. She has also worked backstage in costuming for all of these productions.

Artistic and Production Staff

Professor Roxane Rix (Director) has taught acting and directing at Kutztown since 2001. Her more recent KU directing credits include *Tartuffe*, *Fuddy Meers*, *The Lower Depths*, *As You Like It*, and the musical *Lucky Stiff*, which was selected for performance at the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Prof. Rix is best known for her work with Alba Emoting, a new technique to help actors gain emotional freedom (for which she also maintains the website www.albaemotingna.org). Prof. Rix holds an MFA in Directing from the University of Minnesota and Certificate in Acting and Directing from Sonia Moore's American Stanislavski Theatre.

Professor Robert Lewis Smith (Scenic and Lighting Designer) has spent forty-plus years designing for academic theatres and teaching Theatre Design, Theatre Production, and Theatre History in New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, and Washington. Professional credits include designs for New York's AMAS Musical Theatre, The New Dramatists, Westbeth Theatre, Syracuse Stage (formally known as the Syracuse Repertory Theatre), the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Theatre Center Philadelphia, the Jersey Lyric Opera, New Jersey Ballet, and Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre. Some recent KU Mainstage credits include scenery and/or lights for *Iphigeneia at Aulis* (S & L), *Arms and the Man* (S & L), *The Threepenny Opera* (S & L), *Picnic* (S & L), *She Stoops to Conquer* (S), *Italian American Reconciliation* (S), *Lucky Stiff* (S), *Hay Fever* (S), *Anatomy of Grey* (S & L), *The Little Shop of Horrors* (L), and *Crimes of the Heart* (L). Professor Smith serves as Associate Editor for Scene Design for *Theatre Design and Technology*, for which he has written articles on various topics. He has also written entries for several encyclopedias and most recently co-authored the chapter on Oliver Smith in *Late & Great: American Designers 1960 – 2010*. Here at KU he has just completed a 3-year stint as Department Chair for Speech Communication and Theatre. Professor Smith holds an M.F.A. in Design for the Stage from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and completed doctoral course work in Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, Dramatic Criticism, and Art History at University of Missouri—Columbia. Professor Smith is an All Categories member (scenery, lights, costumes, and scenic painting) of United Scenic Artists (LU 829), the organization for professional stage designers in the United States.

Mary Ann Swords-Green (Costume Designer) has previously designed costumes for *Fuddy Meers*, *Tartuffe*, *Waiting For Lefty & Sure Thing/The Philadelphia*, and *Lysistrata* at KU. She has also designed costumes for Marywood University, Montgomery Theatre, The Electric Theatre Company, Circle of Stones Ritual Theatre, Media Theatre, Muhlenberg College Dance Department, Desales University Dance Department, Upper Darby Summer Stage, Pennsylvania Youth Theatre, Connecticut Repertory Theatre at the University of Connecticut, and Allenberry Playhouse.

Cheryl Schreib (Sound Designer and Assistant to the Director) Cheryl, a senior Theatre major, is thrilled to work on her eighth and final sound design for the KU stage. She previously designed for shows such as *Fuddy Meers*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Bald Soprano*, and *As You Like It*. She has also been seen on the main stage as "Claudia" in *The Lower Depths* and "Sophie" in *Lysistrata*. She is also a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the honors fraternity in Theatre.

Angela Cutrone (Stage Manager) Angela is a senior Theatre major here at Kutztown University where she is active in many facets of the theatre. She appeared as "Mary" in the *Bald Soprano* in Spring '09, and was the Stage Manager for the Sunshine Players productions of *A Hairy Tale*, and *Sally Snoo and the Bird from Kaloo*; as well as the main stage production of *Tartuffe*. She is currently the president of the Rho Upsilon Cast of Alpha Psi Omega, the honors fraternity in Theatre. She is glad to be working with this cast for her final production at Kutztown University.

Adam Kissinger (Technical Director) is a theatre artist and emotion coach from Berks County, PA. Currently, he is the TD for Kutztown University Theatre, a member of Metamorphosis Performing Company, a staff member with the Yocum Institute for Arts Education, and a member of the Reading Theatre Project. Adam has a BA in Theatre from Kutztown University and is a certified Alba Emoting instructor.

Professor James N. Brown (Production Coordinator) has taught and directed at Kutztown University since the fall semester of 2002. He has directed *Baby With the Bathwater*, *Arms and the Man*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Comedy of Errors*, *The Rope*, *Waiting For Lefty & Sure Thing/The Philadelphia*, and *Lysistrata* at KU. He holds an MFA Theatre/Directing from the Florida State University School of Theatre, and was fortunate to have been a member of the production staff of the New York Shakespeare Festival. Public Theatre in the 1970's and 80's. He is a member of the Society of American Fight Directors and is a Certified Teacher of that organization.

Production Crews

Stage Manager

Angela Cutrone

Assistant Stage Managers

Erin Dixon

Carly Robinson

Asst. to the Director

Cheryl Schreib

Light Board Operator

Richard Warmkessel

Sound Board Operator

Matthew Fulkerson

Scene Shop

Taylor Clark

Angela Cutrone

Samantha Heck

Quran Keitt

Virginia Lawler

Angela Newton

Zac Urban

Props Run Crew

Myron Alston

Prop Procurement

Carly Robinson

Makeup Designer

Mary Ann Swords-Greene

Costume Shop Supervisor

Mary Ann Swords-Greene

Scene Shop Supervisor

Adam Kissinger

Costume Shop

Shamae White

Wardrobe & Makeup Crew

Krysta Leigh

Carly Robinson

Production Coordinator

James N. Brown

Box Office Manager

Cheryl Schreib

House Manager

Byron Copeland

Publicity

Eric Eldred

Acknowledgements

The director, cast and production staff gratefully acknowledge the following for their contributions to this production

Lehigh Valley Dairy Farms

Afterglow

KU Counseling Center

KU Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Center

Dog Sees God

Thursday Night Talkbacks

Let's talk about the show!

The actors and production staff of *Dog Sees God* invite you to join us and our guest discussion leaders for audience talkbacks immediately following the Thursday night performances.

Thurs. Apr. 18

Angela Romero, Counseling Center

Thurs. Apr. 25

Mary Borst and Angela Hardy, GLBTQ Center

Talkbacks will be held in the theatre right after the show, approximately 9:30 pm. Whether attending a Thursday performance or not, all are invited to attend the discussions!

Dog Sees God touches on many difficult issues facing young people today. In real life, they're no laughing matter. But things can get better. And there's help.

Kutztown University Resources

Kutztown University Counseling Services: 610-683-4072

Kutztown University Women's Center: 610-683-4655

Kutztown University Health & Wellness: 610-683-4082

Public Safety Non-emergency: 24/7 Safety Escort: 610-683-4002

Heart at KU: 610-372-9540

<http://www.kutztown.edu/womenscenter>

Healing Environment Advocate Response Team

Ask for a HEART at KU advocate at the BWIC Hotline

GLBTQ Resource Center: 484-646-4111

www.kutztown.edu/glbtccenter

KU's GLBTQ Resource Center seeks to be the regional center for resources which create and support environments whereby the gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, intersex and questioning students, faculty, administrators, allies, staff and alumni have access, inclusion, recognition, equality and respect in all facets of higher education.

Allies meets 11 am every Thursday in the GLBTQ Center, Old Main 4

www.kutztown.edu/community/allies

Allies seeks to advocate, educate, increase awareness, and provide a safe and social support network to Kutztown University's lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, transgender, questioning and straight community.

M.E.N (Men for Equality Now) men@kutztown.edu

A group with a focus on violence prevention and education created to mobilize men against sexual, intimate partner, and dating violence.

National Resources

The Trevor Project:

1-866-488-7386

<http://www.thetrevorproject.org>

Crisis intervention & suicide prevention

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

GLBT National Help Center:

1-888-843-44564

<http://www.glnh.org>

Providing free and confidential telephone and internet peer-counseling, information and local resources for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning callers throughout the United States.

Kristin Brooks Hope Center, National Hopeline Network: 1-800-SUICIDE

<http://www.hopeline.com>

Connects people who are depressed or suicidal -- or those who are concerned about someone they love — automatically to a CONTACT USA or an AAS certified crisis center.

Youth America Hotline!, Youthline:

1-877-968-8454

<http://www.youthline.us>

Counseling for Teens by Teens

National Sexual Assault Hotline:

1-800-656-HOPE

<http://www.rainn.org>

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1-800-799-7233

<http://www.thehotline.org>

Hotline advocates are available for victims and anyone calling on their behalf to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, information and referrals to agencies in all states. Assistance is available in English and Spanish.

SAM: Service Access and Management

1-877-236-4600

Telephone and on site support for people in crisis.

Berks and Lehigh County Resources

Mental Health Crisis Intervention and Emergency Services of

Berks County, PA

877-236-4600

<http://www.sam-inc.org/Services/mental-health-crisis-intervention-and-emergency-services.html>

Crisis Intervention and Emergency Services can be reached all day, every day.

Berks Women In Crisis:

610-372-9540

<http://www.berkswomenincrisis.org>

Berks Women in Crisis' mission is to provide supportive services to victims and eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Berks County.

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley:

610-437-3369

<http://www.turningpointlv.org>

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley is a safe place where victims of abuse and their children can find refuge.

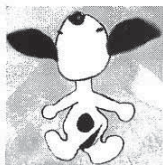
PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence

<http://www.pcadv.org>

SAM: Service Access and Management

610-236-0530

Telephone and on site support for people in crisis.



Photos Of This Production

available at

www.KUPictures.com

KUPictures.com is not affiliated with Kansas University or Kutztown University

More performances at KU this semester

KU Presents Ursa Minor's Café – MSU Multipurpose Room

Janis Ian, Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 7:30 pm

Join us for the third season of Ursa Minor's Café,
a diverse array of unforgettable arts and entertainment
in a relaxed, social atmosphere, complete with food and refreshments.

Doors open at 6:30 PM for food service.

Capacity is limited to less than 300 seats, so order early.

For ticket information:: Phone: 610.683.4092

Web address: www.KutztownPresents.org

Email: KUPAS@Kutztown.edu

The Sunshine Players Presents:

One Smart Pig

May 4th and 5th, 2013 at 2:00 pm

in the Rickenbach Theatre

Perforum Presents:

The Last Act

Written by KU student Abby Hoy

May 3rd and 4th at 7:00 pm

In the Rickenbach Theatre

