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The 7-Shot Symphony (aka The Kickass Cowboy Show) **Introductory Packet**

Info about the show as used in press releases:

The 7-Shot Symphony (aka The Kickass Cowboy Show) is an explosive mix of performing arts, live music, and unbridled imagination. Completely tipping the scales of creative ingenuity, this mash-up of epic myths and gritty cowboys has wowed audiences from Minneapolis to Miami. 7 actors play 47+ characters with the ferocity of a Spaghetti Western film come-to-life and is scored by bluegrass band Tree Party whose live soundtrack puts a fresh twist on ol' timey chug-a-chugs.

Performed without set or props, *The 7-Shot Symphony (aka The Kickass Cowboy Show)* places focus on the actors' bare ability to illuminate a world of richly filled images "in such the way that Quentin Tarantino would decide to stage a play." Hailed as "avant-garde for the masses," *The 7-Shot Symphony (aka The Kickass Cowboy Show)* intertwines seven classic myths from around the world against the backdrop of America's epic Old West, a setting of superhuman strength, heroism, and comeuppance. As epic themes feed mythic tales, *The 7-Shot Symphony (aka The Kickass Cowboy Show)* swells with stories fueled by fate, duty, love, legend, and corruption that stems from power, revealing their relevance today. Creating visually entertaining and emotionally insightful storytelling, Live Action Set builds upon its roots in dance, continues its tradition of "physical theater," and infuses elements borrowed from cinematography, Italy's Commedia dell'Arte, and France's trteau traditions, and Saturday morning cartoons.

Live Action Set is led by Artistic Director **Noah Bremer** and Executive Director **Joanna Harmon**. *The 7-Shot Symphony (aka The Kickass Cowboy Show)* was developed under the creative direction of **Ryan Underbakke** and co-written by **Matt Spring** and Ryan Underbakke with the ensemble. It is performed by **Mark Benzel, Joey Ford, Damian Johnson, Emily King, Matt Riggs, Dustin Suggs, and Jenna Wyse**. Musical group **Tree Party**-- Joey Ford, Jenna Wyse, **Travis Bolton, Andy Carroll, and Derek Trost**-- performs live with violin, mandolin, electric guitar, upright acoustic bass, and drums. **Debbie Tallen** develops the lighting design, and **Amelia English** and **Mandi Johnson** create costumes.

Who for?

The show plays well to theater goers interested in something alternative to say, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. It also plays very well to people who aren't the typical theater goer. The show's style is unique, intriguing, and uses a lot of cinematic techniques, which is in large part why many audience members have said, "I don't usually like theater, but I love this!" It also plays well to students in classics departments and others who are studying mythology.

Video trailers:

"Finger Guns"- <http://youtu.be/tYJx8dLP318>

"Ballad of Deus County" - <http://youtu.be/5QviGyB2Z80>

"The 7-Shot Symphony Touring Trailer" - http://youtu.be/EHsvOs_JUtM

An archival DVD of the entire show and a copy of the entire script are available upon request.

The nuts and bolts:

- running time: about 2 hrs. 10 min., including a 15-min. intermission
- 10 performers (including 5 musicians)
- band plays live, on stage with: drums, upright bass, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, mandolin, violin, and accordion
- We tour with typically 3 additional people-- a lighting designer, an SM/board op, and a "gopher" depending on the venue's in-house crew.
- Playing space is ideally no smaller than 25' (wide) x 20' (deep).
- Seating orientation must be proscenium.
- Set dressing is minimal: several old traveling trunks, suitcases, and hanging rope with clothes hangers at the ends.
- Performers are on stage throughout the entire show. No wing space necessary.
- Lighting requirements available upon request.

The 7-Shot Symphony's performance history:

past:

February, 2011 @ St. Catherine's University, St. Paul, MN

March, 2011 @ Loring Theater, Minneapolis, MN

July, 2011 @ Red Wing Arts Association, Red Wing, MN

July, 2011 @ Strawdog Theatre, Chicago, IL

December, 2011 @ Loring Theater, Minneapolis, MN

January, 2012 @ The Sanibel Community House, Sanibel, FL

January, 2012 @ the Deering Estate, Miami, FL

January, 2012 @ The Community School of Naples, Naples, FL

January, 2012 @ The Bard's Town Theatre, Louisville, KY

January, 2012 @ Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

upcoming:

May, 2012 @ John Hassler Theater, Plainview, MN

Workshops and other educational material:

It is important to us that we fully engage with communities we tour to. We are experienced in leading/teaching workshops in a variety of theatrical techniques to students of any age, and we are interested in tailoring workshops to those in your community.

Information about Live Action Set:

Live Action Set's mission is to create visually poetic, wildly imaginative and intellectually accessible performance experiences that harness the indefinable power of the human spirit. The artistic process values artistic excellence, innovation, curiosity, collaboration, honesty, respect and felicity.

Currently led by Artistic Director Noah Bremer and Executive Director Joanna Harmon, Live Action Set's collaborative venture began in 2003 when four directors/choreographers/performers came together to create a vehicle for the expression of their artistic interests and impulses through a shared commitment to artistic work that draws from the practices of movement and narrative, dance and theater, and a belief that the power of productive collaboration makes a difference in the community.

The company has created fourteen evening-length pieces and over fifteen smaller performances/installations/ events, all committed to creating work of exceptional artistic quality.

The company continues to train in various performance techniques, including European clown, mask, Shakespeare, biomechanics, and the Grand-Guignol. With support from the Jerome Foundation, Live Action Set spent two weeks in February 2009 with the LUME Teatro Company in Campinas, Brazil. The company shares these experiences through workshops for students and professionals.

www.liveactionset.org

Live Action Set's accolades (selected):

2011 Ivey, Overall Excellence for *The 7-Shot Symphony*

2009 Best of Twin Cities Theater for *My Father's Bookshelf*

2006 Best Stage Production for *Please Don't Blow Up Mr. Boban*

2005 Outstanding Experimental Theatre Work for *Please Don't Blow Up Mr. Boban*

2005 Artists of the Year (with director Jon Ferguson)

The company has also been commissioned by the Walker Art Center and Southern Theater in Minneapolis, MN.

Images:



(Example of promotional material used for July, 2011 Chicago run.)

(images contd:)



("Shootout" scene during performance at State Theater, Minneapolis, MN. September 19, 2011.)



("The Best Gun in Deus County" scene during performance at Loring Theater, Minneapolis, MN. March, 2011.)

(images contd:)



(Scene during Live Performance at Loring Theater, Minneapolis, MN. March, 2011.)



(Full cast and crew at Ivey Awards presentation for "Best Overall Performance." September 19, 2011.)