



BALTIMORE ■ AMERICA

For Immediate Release

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"Are you still starving? When are you going to stop...?"

Franz Kafka's *A HUNGER ARTIST* incorporates puppets, toy theater, and a spark of magic.

Baltimore, MD – November 3, 2017: Theatre Project is thrilled to present the Baltimore premiere of Franz Kafka's *A HUNGER ARTIST*, adapted from Kafka's story by Sinking Ship Productions (Jonathan Levin and Josh Luxenberg, co-artistic directors,) written by Josh Luxenberg, performed by Jonathan Levin, and directed by Joshua William Gelb. *A HUNGER ARTIST* begins performances on Thursday, December 14 for a 5-performance, limited engagement through December 17, at Theatre Project, 45 West Preston Street.

A man sits alone in a cage, starving himself for your entertainment. Once cheered by thousands, the Hunger Artist is now forgotten by everyone except his one-time manager. What begins as a simple nostalgic story transforms into a startlingly inventive, darkly comic trip into the nature of memory, art, performance, and spectatorship, as told by the only person who remembers an artist whose act was simply...to hunger.

Called "beautifully imagined" by Culturebot, *A HUNGER ARTIST* uses puppetry, Victorian miniatures, and some inspired audience participation to draw viewers into a carnival world that unfolds magically on stage. It is packed with transformations and there are so many people on the stage that it never has the sense of being a solo show.

In the title role, Lecoq-trained performer and puppeteer Jonathan Levin is giving "possibly the best solo performance of the year" (New York Irish Arts.) He is described as "irresistible" by Exeunt and noted for his "deft puppetry" by Time Out (★★★★ - Critics Pick,) while The New York Times calls him "an easy raconteur, and he holds the audience in the palm of his hand". The production is lauded as "brilliant, bizarre and inventive" by Theater Life.

Levin says, "It's a dark tale, but there is lots of humor which is something we really bring out in the production. We've tried to make it very fresh and physical, so there's always lots going on."

A HUNGER ARTIST was one of the few stories that Kafka did not order burned after his death. Kafka was still editing the piece when he succumbed to tuberculosis in 1924. Because the disease caused his throat to close, Kafka died of starvation while he was working on it.

Although never explicitly addressed, there is a disquieting sense that the forces, frailties and fascinations Kafka exposed in 1922 were linked to the rise of fascism back then and of far right populism today.

About Sinking Ship Productions

Sinking Ship Productions creates work that is the theatrical version of circumnavigating the globe in a questionably seaworthy vessel: grand and ridiculous, unadvisedly ambitious, walking the fine line between courageous and foolhardy. Sinking Ship, a Brooklyn-based theater company, is the creative collaboration between Jonathan Levin and Josh Luxenberg. They work with a core group of Associate Artists, combining physical theater, puppetry, music and movement in delightful, strange and unexpected ways. Their productions have grappled with concepts such as the creation and destruction of the universe as imagined by science fiction writers, how a man's search for connection could ultimately lead to complete isolation, and the limits of human understanding through the search for extra dimensions of space in theoretical physics. They like big ideas.

In addition to producing original work, Sinking Ship also runs the popular puppet and music series Puppet Playlist, which has played to sold-out crowds since 2009, becoming one of New York's premiere venues for original short-form puppetry.

A HUNGER ARTIST will be presented December 14 – 17, 2017 at Theatre Project. Performances are Thursday and Friday @ 8pm, Saturday @ 2pm & 8pm, and Sunday @ 3pm. Tickets may be purchased on-line at <https://theatreproject.ticketspice.com/a-hunger-artist>. The Box Office may be reached at 410-752-8558. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$20 for seniors, artists, and military; \$15 for students.

Show information may be found here: <http://www.theatreproject.org/a-hunger-artist/>

Watch the trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/228410777>

Theatre Project is located at 45 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

