

The Anything Can Happen Roadshow

Underground Railway's newest cabaret is a musical comic satire on the arms race. Follow the adventures of Anybody, a hero in the style of the medieval Everyman, who crosses paths with a dinosaur, a cockroach, an ostrich, Uncle Sam, and Bruno the Bear, to name just a few of the characters who try to advise him on his role in the arms race dilemma. The show combines popular theater styles such as the music hall, vaudeville, circus, pageantry and cabaret satire. In the great tradition of all traveling shows, it plays wherever there is an audience—in theaters, universities, community centers, parks, churches and union halls.



"The Anything Can Happen Roadshow is moving and hilarious . . . the last word on nuclear madness!"

*Jon Lipsky,
Playwright in Residence
TheaterWorks*

"This show makes the reality of a nuclear threat come alive in a way that is informative yet highly entertaining . . . compelling and moving."

*Mary Benjamin
Director, "Eight Minutes to Midnight:
A Portrait of Dr. Helen Caldicott"*

*For booking information contact:
Underground Railway Theater
21 Notre Dame Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
617 497 6136*

The Underground Railway Cabaret

An unusual blend of song, puppetry, satire and comedy, the Underground Railway Cabaret is designed to be both entertaining and thought-provoking. It is specially suited to clubs and small theaters.

Mothers and Others

This cabaret combines women's personal histories, poetry and the blues to explore contradictory images of women that co-exist uncomfortably in our cultural imagination.



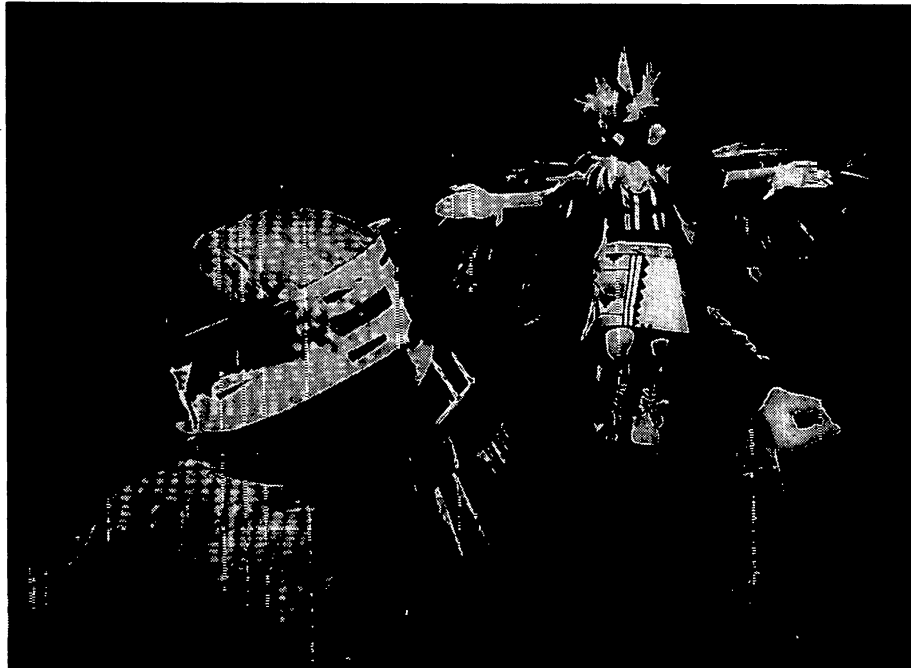
"I really can't put into words how much I enjoyed your program *Mothers and Others* . . . I was impressed not only with the content of your material, but also your artistic ability and stage presence and warmth. You were most successful in making a strong statement to your audience and holding their attention.

Faye Dembrot
Associate Prof. Psychology
University of Akron, Ohio



The Vision of Dreaming Branch

Based on Hopi mythology, this story traces the adventures of an orphan girl—half Spanish, half Hopi—who sets out across the desert to find her name, her song and her story. On her journey, she is helped by the clowns Snake and Coydog, the Eagle Kachina, the awesome Spider Grandmother and Standing Bear, her twin brother. She is told that she must unite her people in order to prevent the end of the world. But who are her people? She finds out in the splendid caverns of Mausau'u, god of the underworld. Told by a storyteller using puppets, masks, live music and played on an open stage of painted canyon walls. Especially suited to small theaters, schools and community centers.



“... ‘Puppetry Troupe Spins Magic As Hopi Legend Comes To Life’ . . . The Underground Railway left Westfield High School students enthralled with *The Vision of Dreaming Branch* . . . Wonderful show.”
Westfield News Advertiser

Booking information:
For Massachusetts schools, contact:
Young Audiences of Massachusetts
74 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02114
617 742 8520

All other sponsors:
Underground Railway Theater
21 Notre Dame Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
617 497 6136



Carnival of the Animals

Based on Saint Saens' witty musical caricatures, this costume and mask spectacle for family audiences is designed to invite participation in a celebration of life's marvelous variety, as well as to increase their understanding of music. The original story chronicles the happy transformation of the Lion from a despotic "King of the Beasts" to a member of the menagerie: a fable about cooperation, which also mirrors the ensemble needed in an orchestra.

"... I wish to endorse the Underground Railway's *Carnival* wholeheartedly... I can assure an entertaining, educational, unique experience... The degree of audience involvement is extremely high, and thus the appreciation of the music is greatly enhanced."

Newton Wayland
Resident Pops Conductor
Oakland Symphony



The Soldier's Tale

This provocative new adaptation of Stravinsky's musical fable, re-told from a contemporary point of view is Underground Railway's newest production. The elegant puppets are based on a traditional Japanese style of "wagon-puppetry," and are totally articulated like miniature human beings; they can fly, transform and disappear. All of the invention is designed to serve the composer's wonderfully witty and sophisticated score. And the narrator, styled after a cabaret host, provides the bridge between puppets, orchestra, and audience.



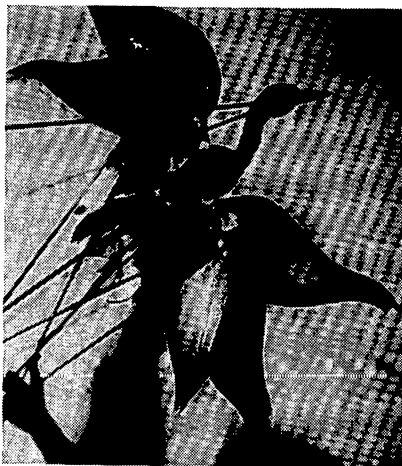
For booking information contact:
Aaron and Gordon
Concert Management
25 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02116
617 262 2724

Symphonies in Shadow

The Underground Railway specializes in shadow-puppet spectacles to symphonic music, played on twenty-foot screens with brilliantly colored translucent puppets and special effects created by projections, prisms, and flexible mirrors; the result is a cross between animated stained glass and a light show. These productions are available both for performances with symphony orchestras and with taped accompaniment. Designed for large concert halls, these shadow shows play well in any size theater.

The Firebird

The Firebird is richly varied, alternating lyricism with wild fantasy to match the diverse moods of Stravinsky's ballet.



"Everyone who attended the concert, including Seiji Ozawa, was extremely impressed . . . your puppets are magnificent."

*Harry Ellis Dickson
Boston Symphony Orchestra*

". . . the extraordinary shadow puppet version of *the Firebird* has to be seen to be believed . . . a felicitous marriage of some of Stravinsky's finest music, breathtaking stage magic and an evocative narration. . . ."

*Gazette Telegraph
Colorado Springs*

Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks

Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks is based on Strauss' tone poem and the exploits of the legendary Flemish trickster; the style is playful and acrobatic, a German woodcut come to life.

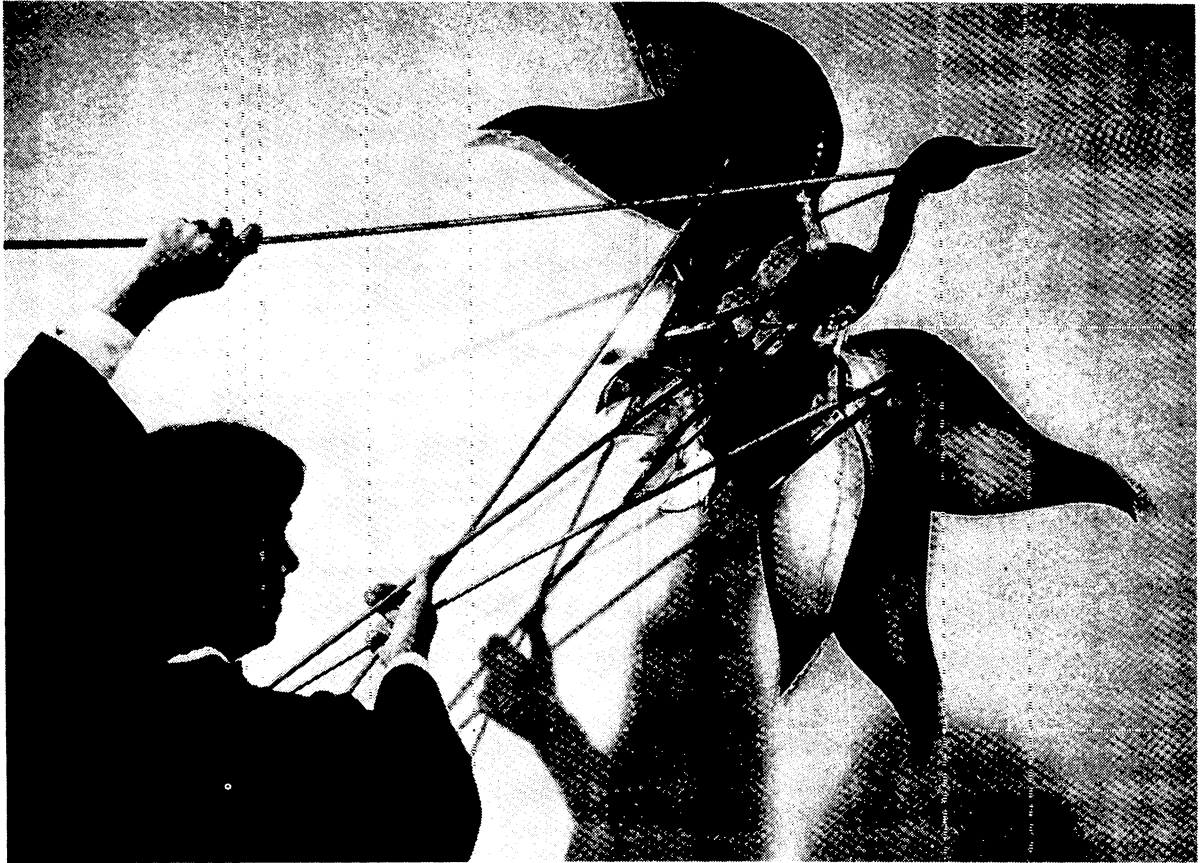



". . . your stunningly imaginative production of shadow puppets for Strauss' *Till Eulenspiegel* is delightful and technically superb. . . ."

*John Langstaff
Young Audiences, The Revels*



Underground Railway Theater





The Underground Railway Theater was founded in 1974 in Oberlin, Ohio, one of the last stops on the midwestern branch of the underground railroad. The company took its name in commemoration of that chapter in American history—an act of hope and the will to change.

The Underground Railway Theater tours locally and nationally a diverse repertoire including puppets of all kinds, original music, mime and theater. Its offerings include adult cabaret, family shows, children's theater, workshops and residencies.

Members of the Underground Railway have studied puppetry and theater in Germany, Poland, Belgium and Holland. Their recent work includes performances with the Boston and Cleveland Symphony Orchestras, a residency at the Smithsonian Institute, and a collaboration with Joseph Papp's Public Theater. They have been featured at national and international puppetry festivals in the United States and Canada, and received the 1982 Certificate for Excellence from UNIMA, an international organization of professional puppeteers.

The company also produces a resident season at the Cambridge Institute for Arts and Sciences, combining performances from its touring repertoire and original productions, especially designed for its theater.



"The Underground Railway's artistry is approachable, enjoyable, professional, and thoroughly engaging. . . ."

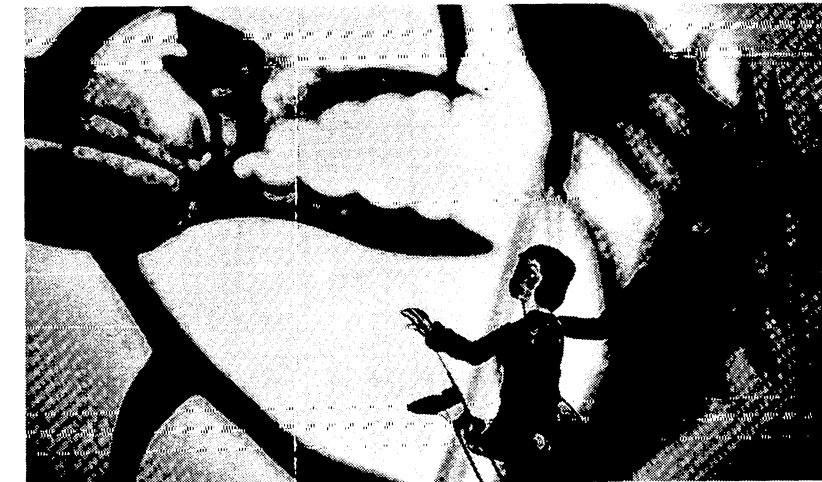
*Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia*

"The effects the Underground Railway achieve are startling, the illusion complete . . . the performance was in every way an artistic achievement, tastefully and artfully done and the epitome of precision in action."

*Grand Rapids Press
Michigan*

"The Underground Railway is extraordinary . . . To say that extremely gifted actors manipulate a variety of puppets, assume disguises and work the audience with delightful smoothness and wit, is to fall short of knowing exactly how broad their talents are. . . ."

*The Hingham Mirror
Massachusetts*



The Underground Railway Theater explores a changing landscape of artistic forms and social concerns, combining puppetry, music and acting to engage diverse audiences with images that challenge and delight, inform and celebrate.

**Special Booking Information for
New England Sponsors**

New England sponsors are eligible to receive partial funding of performance fees by applying to:

New England Foundation
for the Arts
25 Mt. Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 492 2914

For Massachusetts school
sponsors:

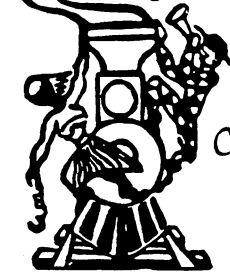
Institute for the Arts
Cultural Education Collaborative
59 Temple Place
Boston, MA 02111
617 338 3073

Donations to the Underground
Railway are tax-deductible.

Underground Railway Theater
21 Notre Dame Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02148



Underground Railway Theater



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March 15, '85
Debra Wise
Co Director

City Council
City Hall
795 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Council Members;

I am writing on behalf of our organization, a theater company that does a great deal of work in the Cambridge community, to express our support and appreciation of your recently passed Central America week resolution.

There is no surer way to peace than through education, an education that combines open-mindedness, care, empathy, curiosity and discipline. Our work in the school system, as well as our theater work, is dedicated to this kind of education and self-realization. We know through our work in the community that Cambridge residents want this kind of public dialogue. Thank you for helping to provide it.

Sincerely,

Debra Wise
Debra Wise

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Comm. from Debra Wise, Co-Director, Under-ground Railway Theater, expressing the group's support & appreciation for a resolution adopted by the Council proclaiming Central America Week.

In City Council,

April 1, 1985

4/1/85

Placed on File