

PETRUSHKA

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



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Basil Twist's *Petrushka* in Boston is presented by ArtsEmerson and Celebrity Series of Boston. Both organizations should be credited in all reviews.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ArtsEmerson: The World on Stage
and
Celebrity Series of Boston
PRESENT THE BOSTON PREMIERE OF BASIL TWIST'S
*PETRUSHKA***

November 11—21, 2010

High resolution photos available at
http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo_Galleries/1105-Petrushka_Gallery.htm

Press night for *Petrushka* will be Nov. 11. Please contact
joyce@ashmontmedia.com **with requests.**

(BOSTON) ArtsEmerson: The World on Stage and Celebrity Series of Boston present the Boston premiere of *Petrushka*, conceived and directed by Basil Twist, Nov. 11—21, 2010 at the Paramount Mainstage (559 Washington Street, in Boston's Theatre District). Performance times are Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 1 and 5 p.m. Running time is 60 minutes, and the show is appropriate for the whole family, including children over 5. Each Saturday and Sunday performance of *Petrushka* will be followed by a "Meet the Puppets" event at the Paramount Center. Tickets, starting at \$25, are on sale now at www.artsemerson.org or by phone at (617) 824-8000.

Known the world over for his astonishingly innovative puppet shows, Guggenheim Fellow Basil Twist spins new magic around the legendary Ballets Russes production. Set to Stravinsky's classic score, it's the story of a tragic love triangle between three magical creatures; the clown Petrushka, the alluring Ballerina and the dashing Moor, whose stories emerge amidst the swirl of the Russian carnival. The program opens with an abstract fantasia of puppetry set to Stravinsky's "Sonata for Two Pianos," performed by Russian identical twin pianists, Irina and Julia Elkina. Nine hidden puppeteers combine Czech and Japanese traditions in a tour de force of music, movement, design and storytelling.

Originally from San Francisco, **Basil Twist** is a third generation puppeteer who lives and works in New York. He became the only American to graduate from the École Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in Charleville-Mezieres, France, one of the world's premier puppetry training programs. Twist's work was first spotlighted in New York in 1995 with his creation *The Araneidae Show*, for which he was awarded a 1997 Bessie Award and a UNIMA Citation of Excellence. 1998 was a landmark year for Twist with a Drama Desk Award nomination for his work with Theatre Couture's Off-Broadway hit *Tell Tale*, and the premiere of *Symphonie Fantastique* at HERE Arts Center. Since 1998, Twist has continually expanded the realm of puppetry by creating and touring new works, focusing especially on work integrated with live music. Twist was the underwater puppetry consultant on the third Harry Potter film and just completed creating creatures for *The Addams Family Musical* on Broadway. His puppetry is featured in the Broadway production of *The Pee Wee Herman Show*, opening in October 2010. In 2000, his *Petrushka* premiered in New York and was awarded a 2000 UNIMA Citation of Excellence. Twist is the director of The Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE Arts Center, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a United States Artists Fellow.

Critical praise for *Petrushka*:

"Brilliantly imagined, wonderfully expressive, and breathtakingly realized"

– *New York Magazine*

"Basil Twist understands a thing or two about the uses of enchantment."

– *New York Times*

For more information about Basil Twist, visit <http://www.basiltwist.com>

Build Your Own Puppet Workshop

After the 2 p.m. performance of *Petrushka* on Nov. 13, Puppet Showplace Theatre will host a Build Your Own Puppet Workshop at the Paramount Center. In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to create their own simple paper moving-mouth puppet and give it personality. Basic concepts of puppet design and manipulation, including focus, breath and lip synch, will be taught and practiced. The workshop is free to any child with a ticket to any performance of *Petrushka*, but registration is required no later than Nov. 11, at <http://bit.ly/aeworkshop>

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the organization established by Emerson College to program the Paramount Mainstage, Cutler Majestic Theatre and other venues at Emerson's Paramount Center. The inaugural season includes over 100 performances of 18 different productions, including world premieres, Boston debuts and works being developed in the new facilities created by Emerson College. ArtsEmerson, under the artistic leadership of Rob Orchard, will give Boston audiences a new level of cultural choice, bringing professional American and international work to its four distinct venues: the beautifully restored 590-seat Paramount Mainstage; the versatile, intimate Black Box Theatre, which can seat up to 150 people; the state-of-the-art 170-seat Bright Family Screening Room (all located within the new Paramount Center a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Boston); and the beloved, historic 1,186-

seat Cutler Majestic Theatre in the heart of the Theatre District, fully restored by Emerson in 2003.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

The Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Now in its 72nd season, the Celebrity Series brings performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, orchestras and chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz, folk and ethnic artists and ensembles to Boston's major concert halls, reaching an audience of some 100,000 each year. Through the Arts, Education and Community Program the Celebrity Series reaches thousands of youngsters annually with opportunities to experience and participate in the performing arts through concerts, workshops and the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, an intensive six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

About Emerson College

Located in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson is the only four-year private college in the United States devoted to teaching communication and the arts in a liberal arts context. The College has 3,453 undergraduates and 837 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Emerson is internationally known for its study and internship programs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the Netherlands, Taiwan, and the Czech Republic. For more information, visit www.emerson.edu.

Welcome

Dear Patron,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the first engagement of an exciting new collaboration between the Celebrity Series of Boston and ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage.

We are very proud to present master puppeteer Basil Twist's delightful reimagining of the ballet classic, **Petrushka**. Inspired by the historic Ballets Russes production choreographed by Michel Fokine, Basil Twist's **Petrushka** features Twist's unique puppet choreography, set to the brilliant score of Igor Stravinsky rendered by pianists Julia and Irina Elkina. In combining elements of Czech and Japanese puppetry traditions, **Petrushka** is a tour de force of Twist's visionary artistry. We are excited at the prospect of bringing this unique production to Boston audiences.

Along with the Compagnia TPO production of **Farfalle**, a family-friendly show slated for May 2011, this co-presentation marks the beginning of a relationship we hope will bring inspiring theatre to Boston audiences.



Martha H. Jones

Robert Orchard

PETRUSHKA-RELATED FILM PROGRAMS

SAT NOV 13 AT 2 PM

Animation Brigade:

**Puppet Animation
Shorts Program**

Latvia 1991-2002

*Curated by the Children's
Film Festival Seattle*

Since the 1990s, a talented group of Latvian animators have been creating puppet animation films that have delighted children all over the world.

SAT NOV 13 AT 7 PM

Stravinsky

*Directed by Roman Kroiter,
Wolf Koenig, Canada 1966*

In 1966 Igor Stravinsky visited Toronto to conduct the CBC Symphony Orchestra for a major musical event: the recording of his *Symphony of Psalms*. Kroiter & Koenig present an informal study of a giant of the 20th century.

Altair

*Directed by Lewis Klahr
U.S. 1994*

A cutout animation version of color noir set to a section of Stravinsky's *Firebird* creates a sinister, perfumed world.

A Stravinsky Portrait

*Directed by Richard Leacock,
Rolf Liebermann
U.S. 1965*

Stravinsky loved this film and upon its release, it was shown everywhere except in America.

SAT NOV 13 AT 9:30 PM

SUN NOV 14 AT 7 PM

The Music Lovers

*Directed by Ken Russell
With Richard Chamberlain,
Glenda Jackson, Max Adrian
UK 1970*

A fascinating portrait of Tchaikovsky, whose compositions biographer Anthony Holden describes as "the bridge between Russian folk music and Stravinsky."

BASIL TWIST'S
Petrushka

MUSIC BY
IGOR STRAVINSKY

BASIL TWIST
CREATOR AND DIRECTOR

IRINA and JULIA ELKINA
PIANO

LIGHTING DESIGN BY
ANDREW HILL

PUPPET COUTURE BY
MR. DAVID

Performed by
MATTHEW ACHESON, KATE BREHM, KIRSTEN KAMMERMEYER,
JONOTHON LYONS, ERIN ORR, TOM LEE, LAKE SIMONS,
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS and LINDSAY ABROMAITIS-SMITH

BALLET CAPTAIN
CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS

STAGE MANAGER
NEELAM VASWANI

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
MICHAEL KERNS

PRODUCER FOR TANDEM OTTER PRODUCTIONS
BARBARA BUSACKINO

Petrushka was originally co-commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Walker Arts Center and the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival.

This performance is sponsored by Amy and Joshua Boger.

*The inaugural season of ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage
is dedicated to the loving memory of Joan Cutler.*

BASIL TWIST'S

Petrushka

MUSIC BY

IGOR STRAVINSKY

SONATA FOR TWO PIANOS

MODERATO

THEME WITH VARIATIONS

ALLEGRETTO

Pause (please remain seated)

PETRUSHKA, SUITE FOR TWO PIANOS*

First Scene: The Shrove-Tide Fair

Second Scene: Petrushka

Third Scene: The Blackamoor

Fourth Scene: The Shrove-Tide Fair

THIS PERFORMANCE IS APPROXIMATELY 55 MINUTES LONG.

*This special two-piano arrangement has been created by the Elkina sisters based on Stravinsky's four-hand version revised in 1947 and Grigoriy Krochmar's handwritten arrangement for three movements.

Basil Twist's Petrushka: Plot Synopsis

By Basil Twist

Amidst the swirl of a Russian Carnival a puppet show is presented. The three puppets—the Moor, the Ballerina and Petrushka—are actually magical living creatures with all the emotions and passions of humans (especially Petrushka). They execute a wild dance for the attendees of the Carnival, then return to their separate chambers. In Petrushka's room we witness the little puppet's despair and fury at being enslaved by the omnipresent puppeteer. The only consolation for his misery is his deep love for the beautiful Ballerina. When she enters his quarters he is close to the point of believing that he will be successful in gaining her love. But the lovely Ballerina flees in terror because of his extraordinary behavior. Petrushka is utterly brokenhearted. The Moor's life is entirely different. In his lushly appointed chambers we see him relaxing and practicing with his scimitar. Suddenly the Ballerina enters with a trumpet in hand. By every means she seeks to seduce the Moor and finally succeeds. Just as the love scene begins, Petrushka, mad with jealousy, arrives and attacks his rival. The Moor turns on Petrushka. Drawing his sword, he chases Petrushka from the room. We return to the Carnival—amidst the spinning and colors, the Moor relentlessly pursues Petrushka. Finally, inevitably, the Moor catches up to Petrushka and with his mighty sword kills him. Petrushka falls to the ground, a lifeless doll of wood and cloth. The Carnival is over. The passions and melodies of the previous night melt away. It gently begins to snow. The soul of the magical puppet Petrushka has escaped his puppet slavery through death's release. His spirit carries on to dance and to love.

A Note from the Creator

By Basil Twist

Puppets are magic. The mystery of a bundle of cloth and wood coming to life and inspiring emotion in an audience is what has kept me captivated by this art form. When we believe in or relate to a puppet we connect to the very pure essence of a spirit or feeling. Puppets have no other life apart from the stage (unlike an actor)—no sheer purpose other than what they convey during a performance. We the audience make them alive—we give them meaning. **Petrushka** is a story about puppets. Presented as an actual puppet show instead of a ballet, it becomes the perfect meditation on how this magic puppetry touches us—what it is to be alive, to want to be free, to feel and to love. I am extremely reverent of the original production as it was presented in 1911 by the Ballets Russes, featuring the legendary Nijinsky. However, the characters and storyline first seen on the stage of the Théâtre du Châtelet are figments of another era and culture. Ultimately, my guide is Igor Stravinsky's magnificently evocative music. It inspired, very specifically, every fantastic image in my head—and now on stage. In many instances my understanding of the music has led to different characterizations and narrative action than the original production. Stravinsky said, "to see gesture, and the movement of the different parts of the body which produce it, is essential in order to grasp it in all of its rich variety." I am thrilled to have Julia and Irina Elkina, musicians of the highest caliber and co-creators of this



show, with me once again on stage with the puppeteers, conveying the power and majesty of this music. I am extremely grateful to Jane Moss for originally commissioning this piece and for Jon Nakagawa who produced and guided it so lovingly. It remains one of my favorite creations. I am lucky to have an incredible creative team—especially my nine wonderful puppeteers who are the absolute best in New York. I cannot thank enough my friend Barbara Busackino for her tireless support and encouragement, assistance and guidance. I feel that **Petrushka** is as much her creation as it is mine. I invite the audience to let yourselves go—to believe in and feel for **Petrushka**. Then for a moment, step away and witness that feeling for a bundle of wood and cloth. Seeing that is magic.

Meet the Artists

BASIL TWIST (*Creator & Director*), originally from San Francisco, is a third-generation puppeteer who lives and works in New York City, and is the sole American graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette in France. He is pleased to make his Boston debut. Other original creations include *The Araneidae Show*, *Symphonie Fantastique*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show*, *Dogugaeshi* and *La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco*. Collaborations include *Behind the Lid* with the late Lee Nagrin and *Red Beads* with Lee Breuer and Mabou Mines. Since 1998, Mr. Twist has continually expanded the realm of puppetry by creating and touring new works that integrate live music. He has partnered with such premier institutions as the Spoleto Festival, Lincoln Center Festival, Lincoln Center's New Visions series, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Japan Society and Gotham Chamber Opera. Mr. Twist premiered his *Hansel and Gretel* with the Houston Grand Opera and Atlanta Opera Company. His work has been recognized with an Obie Award, four UNIMA Awards for Excellence in Puppetry, two Bessie Awards, a New York Innovative Theatre Award and an American Theatre Wing Henry Hewes Design Award. Mr. Twist is a Guggenheim Fellow and is an inaugural United States Artist Ford Fellow. He is the director of The Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE Arts Center in New York.

IRINA and JULIA ELKINA (*Pianists, Arrangement*). Having played together since the age of 5, Russian-born identical twins Julia and Irina Elkina are praised by critics. The Elkina twins won the top prize in the eighth Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition. They have performed throughout the United States, making their New York debut in 1996 and playing return engagements there and in San Francisco, Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Miami and New Orleans, to name just a few. The twins have appeared at numerous festivals, including Ravinia, the Gilmore Keyboard Festival, Oregon Bach Festival and Minnesota Orchestra's Sommerfest, and have performed with such conductors as Hugh Wolff and Bobby McFerrin. The Elkinas have been heard on National Public Radio and many public radio stations nationwide, including the award-winning weekly series "Saint Paul Sunday" and "A Prairie Home Companion." The Elkinas' CD, *The Sisters' Version: Cinderella and Other Stories for Duo Piano*, was produced by the Schubert Club of St. Paul, Minnesota, for the Ten Thousand Lakes

label. After receiving a great critical acclaim it was re-released nationally on the d'Note label.

TOM LEE (*Puppeteer*) is a puppet artist and designer based in Brooklyn. His original puppet theatre work includes *Hoplite Diary* and *Ko'olau*, which recently toured the Hawaiian Islands. Recent performances: *Disfarmer* (NYC and tour), *Le Grand Macabre* (NY Philharmonic), *Madama Butterfly* (Metropolitan Opera). Set and puppetry for *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* in NYC. He previously assisted Basil Twist on *La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco* at MassMoca. Co-Director: St. Ann's Warehouse Puppet Lab. Faculty: Sarah Lawrence College. www.tomleeprojects.com.

MATTHEW ACHESON (*Puppeteer*) has performed, built, and toured extensively with Basil Twist's productions of *Symphonie Fantastique*, *Petrushka*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show* and *La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco*. Along with Mr. Twist, Mr. Acheson has also worked with Erik Sanko, MTV, Court TV, Charged Productions, Jonathon Berger, Toni Schlesinger, Paula Vogel, Chris Green, Lake Simons, Erin Orr, Oliver Dalzell, Mabou Mines, Lee Breuer and Dan Hurlin. Over the past two years he has been teaching as a guest artist at Sarah Lawrence College and his own work in puppetry has been shown at P.S.122, Galapagos Art Space, St. Ann's Warehouse, BAX and HERE Arts Center. Film credits include *In the House of the Sin Eater*, which Mr. Acheson wrote, co-directed and designed with film maker Paul Kloss and which has been shown internationally. His artistic explorations in New York have primarily been with puppets, but he has also created musical scores for both film and dance projects, including Lisa Gonzales' *A Hope Absurd and You, My Dear, Are My Minor Death*. Currently, Mr. Acheson has been creating a new piece with Dan Hurlin based on the life of Mike Disfarmer and is collaborating with choreographer Nami Yamamoto on *A Howling Flower*, which will premiere at Dance Theater Workshop in May. Mr. Acheson co-directs the St. Ann's Puppet Lab with Tom Lee.

KATE BREHM (*Puppeteer*) devises abstract puppetry through her company, imnotlost. Most recently, her POOF puppets appeared in the Theater for One box in Times Square and at the Governor's Island Art Fair. She has performed for Basil Twist at such venues as Lincoln Center, La Jolla Playhouse, the Kanazawa Fine Art Museum in Japan, Redcat in L.A. and the

meet the artists (continued)

Spoleto Festival. She teaches Visual Theater internationally and is trained in the Margolis Method of Physical Acting.

MR. DAVID (*Puppet Couture*), an architecturally oriented artisan, has been costuming and clothing people, places, and things for more than three decades. His mostly self-taught array of talents has led him through almost every industry, large or small, where beautification is necessary. Starting in New York City in the late '70s, Mr. David traveled the world designing for anyone, from the famous to the infamous, be it for personal life, film or stage. Since planting himself in San Francisco in the early '90s, Mr. David's talent and desire to create continue to grow. A much-sought-after designer by scholastic institutions and production and theater companies, Mr. David has been most recently honored by the de Young Museum, who sponsored a 30-year retrospective of his work alongside Vivienne Westwood. The San Francisco MOMA and New York City's Costume Institute have both celebrated his creations in various events throughout the past decade. His influence with the fashion elite has had far ranging effects on the populace at large, and though he is considered by many to be a most prolific designer, Mr. David may only be found by word of mouth.

ANDREW HILL (*Lighting Design*) lights theater, art, dance, and performance of all shapes and sizes. Previous work with Basil Twist includes Respighi's *La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco* at Spoleto Festival USA and Lincoln Center Festival, **Petrushka** at Lincoln Center and *Dogugaeshi* at the Japan Society in New York City. Other designs include Len Jenkin's *Margo Veil* and *Like I Say* at the Flea Theater in New York City, Big Dance Theater's *Shunkin* at Jacob's Pillow and the Kitchen, the Alexander Archipenko exhibit at the Ukrainian Museum, the Henry Darger exhibit at the American Folk Art Museum and the Fiber Optic Gallery at the Glass Innovation Center.

KIRSTEN KAMMERMEYER (*Puppeteer*) hails from San Francisco, where she received her B.A. from San Francisco State in Theater Arts. Since then she has worked with Liebe Wetzel's Lunatique Fantastique, a found object theater company, and Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre Programs. She is a co-founder of 16 Tons Theatre Company, an ensemble based company out of Brooklyn, and has worked with

Basil Twist on *Behind the Lid*, Drama of Works in *Warhol* and Puppet Tree in *Finger Love*.

JONOTHON LYONS (*Puppeteer*) recently puppeteered the cat in Moisés Kaufman's *Puss in Boots* at the New Victory Theatre. Before that he was a performing company member with Imago Theatre's *Frogz* and *BiglittlETHINGS* and was an original cast member of *ZooZoo*. In 2009 he collaborated with Daniel Brodie on *The Tenement* at HERE Arts Center which received eight nominations for the 2010 New York Innovative Theatre Awards and won the award for Outstanding Original Short Script.

ERIN ORR (*Puppeteer*) is a puppeteer, storyteller and arts educator. She is currently collaborating with composer Rima Fand on a new piece called *Don Cristobal, Billy-Club Man* inspired by the puppet plays of Federico Garcia Lorca. Other work includes *It's a Bee, Honey!*, a musical puppet circus for all ages about the real life drama of honey bees, made in collaboration with the legendary Baby Dee; and *Savage Nursery*, a full-length, dark fairytale for adult audiences set to live, original music by Sxip Shirey and Rima Fand. As a storyteller, she adapts flood folktales from around the world for *Noah's Ark* at the Skirball Cultural Center and also performs in NYC. She is also proud of her work as an arts educator working with New York City public school children. In addition to puppeteering for Basil Twist in *La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show* and **Petrushka**, she frequently works with the lovely Lake Simons, the lovable Christopher Williams, and the beloved Chris Green.

LAKE SIMONS (*Puppeteer*) is a theatre artist who for the past 13 years has made theatre often incorporating puppetry, dance, movement and live music. Some of her collaborative work of the past includes *White Elephant*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *What's inside the egg?*, *How I Fixed My Engine with Rose Water* and currently the solo *At Long Last: Phrase One*. Lake has a lifetime association with the Hip Pocket Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas where she has performed in over 30 world premieres and presented seven collaborative works as well as directed five plays. Lake has worked as both a puppet and mask designer making creations for My Brightest Diamond, Division 13, Kristin Marting, Doug Elkins, Cori Orlinghouse and the Bard College MFA Opera Department. As a puppeteer she has performed in a number of Basil Twist's

meet the artists (continued)

creations, accompanying him to Lincoln Center, Disney Hall, Jacob's Pillow, City Center, Bass Performance Hall, the Spoleto Festival, Mass MOCA and to Argentina. She has also puppeteered for Dan Hurlin, Matthew Acheson, Erin Orr and Christopher Williams. She attended Ecole Jacques Lecoq ('96-'98), and holds a BFA in Scene Design (1996) from the North Carolina School of the Arts. Lake continues to be a proud member of Fjork.

LINDSAY ABROMAITIS-SMITH (*Puppeteer*) is a Brooklyn-based artist and physical performer. She has been working predominantly with puppetry as a performer, choreographer, teacher and builder. She began her study of puppetry with Alain Recoing in Paris, France. Recently she has worked with Nami Yamamoto and Matt Acheson in *Flying with my Shooting Stars*, Basil Twist in *Arias With a Twist* and Mabou Mines' *Peter and Wendy*. Puppet design and choreography credits include Nu Dance Theater's *Hinterland* and *Elle d'Elles* and Montgomery College's *Butoh Macbeth*. She re-entered the world of acting with the one-woman show *Domestic Snakes* combining spoken word, aerial work and puppetry as part of the D.C. Fringe Festival. Lindsay is co-founder of Aeolian Theatre, which just premiered its first work *Epyllion* through the HERE Arts Center's artist residency program. When not puppeteering, she keeps her hands busy with massage therapy and playing in the dirt.

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS (*Ballet Captain, Puppeteer*) is a dancer, choreographer and puppeteer. He graduated from Sarah Lawrence College and the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq. He has danced for Tere O'Connor and Douglas Dunn, among others, and has performed for puppetry artists Basil Twist and Dan Hurlin. His works have been presented in New York City, Kalamazoo and Bogotá, Colombia. He received a New York Dance & Performance Bessie Award for his work *Ursula and the 11,000 Virgins*.

NEELAM VASWANI (*Production Stage Manager*) is originally from Atlanta, Ga. She received her BA from Brenau University, in affiliation with The Gainesville Theater Alliance. She was the Resident Stage Manager for the Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, S.C. where she stage managed more than 25 main stage shows in two years, before she made her way to New York. She spent her first year in New York with

The Juilliard School as a professional intern, where she stage managed in the areas of Drama, Dance and Opera. In her many years of Stage Management, Neelam has found her home among the puppetry world. She has stage managed a variety of puppet productions including Mabou Mines' *Peter and Wendy*, which was recently featured in The International Edinburgh Festival. Other puppetry credits include: *The Adventures of Charcoal Boy*, Basil Twist's *La Bella Dormiente nel Bosco*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show* and *Dogugaeshi*. Neelam is also the Production Stage Manager for Basil Twist's hit production of *Arias With a Twist*, starring Joey Arias which had a seven-month extended run at the HERE Arts Center in NY; it was also showcased in festivals in Maubeuge and Paris, France, Stockholm, Sweden and recently at REDCAT in Los Angeles.

Special Thanks:

Miguel Almeida Deca
Wanda D'Onofrio
Michel Faulkner
Matthew Gilbert
Kirsten Gomez
Christina Kaputosos
Chad Lynch
C.J. Reilly
Jayson Rund
Rachel Schapira
Alisha Silver
Ben Weisgall

Mr. Twist's representation:

Barbara Busackino
Tandem Otter Productions
26 Vam Dam Street, IFW
New York, New York, 10013

International touring representation for**Mr. Twist's productions:**

Micocci Productions, LLC
New York City
www.micocci.com
tony@micocci.com

PRODUCTION NOTE:

Keri Lewis will be filling in for Erin Orr during the first week of performance.

Critical Praise for Petrushka



Brilliantly imagined, wonderfully expressive, and breathtakingly realized"
- *New York Magazine*

"Basil Twist understands a thing or two about the uses of enchantment."
- *The New York Times*

"...no theatre artist in New York is showing more poetic force or technical skill than the puppeteer Basil Twist."
- *The New Yorker*

Read more:

http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/dancing/2008/04/21/080421crda_dancing_acocella#ixzz14my5nOFI

High-Resolution Press Images

View online:

http://www.celebrityseries.org/Photo_Galleries/1105-Petrushka_Gallery.htm

Click on an image to download print-ready size:



[1105-Basil-Twist.jpg](#)

In photo: Puppeteer Basil Twist
Photo by Leroy Door



[1105-Petrushka03.jpg](#)

Petrushka
Basil Twist's Petrushka
Nov 11-21, Paramount Theatre



[1105-Petrushka01.jpg](#)

Duet between the Ballerina and the Moor
Basil Twist's Petrushka
Nov 11-21, Paramount Theatre



[1105-Petrushka02.jpg](#)

The Ballerina
Basil Twist's Petrushka
Nov 11-21, Paramount Theatre

Useful Links

Basil Twist's website

<http://www.basiltwist.com/>

Basil Twist's Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/basiltwist>

Traditions of Russian puppet theater from Russia Info-Centre

http://www.russia-ic.com/culture_art/traditions/628/