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2023

THE REFLECTIONS OF TARANTULA JONES

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Matinees: October 15 & 29* @ 2:00 PM

www.bruka.org
Bruka Theatre 775-323-3221
99 N. Virginia Street, Reno NV 89501

BRÜKA THEATRE MISSION
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Live Theatre
DOWNTOWN RENO

MAIN STAGE SEASON 2023/24

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2023




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BLOOMS

BRÜKA

THE REFLECTIONS OF TARANTULA JONES

A ROSEBUD MATCHES CREATION

INCLUDING WORKS & WORDS & INSPIRATIONS FROM:
EDGAR ALLEN POE, LEWIS CARROLL, OSCAR WILDE & CHIEF SI' AHL/SEATTLE

This Fever Dream takes you through Brüka Theatre 1880 - Present

Appropriate for ages 12 & Up

Running Time: Approximately 100 Minutes

TAKE A JOURNEY TO OUR SUB-BRÜKA SPACE - THE LOOKING GLASS LOUNGE



DOWNSTAIRS

Feel free to head downstairs to *The Looking Glass Lounge*
A full bar (no ice) includes liquor selections, wine, beer, and snacks.

Restrooms are located downstairs in Sub-Brüka.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

There is elevator access to our basement through the Masonic Building if needed.
We must accompany you, so please check in with our box office for assistance.

PLEASE TURN CELL PHONES OFF!

VIDEOTAPING, VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHY, OR AUDIO ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

PLEASE BE KIND & RESPECTFUL.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ASK PEOPLE WHO ARE DISRUPTIVE TO PATRONS OR THE
SPACE TO LEAVE.



<https://www.renoriver.org/>

RENO'S NEWEST ANTIQUE STORE



MIDTOWN ANTIQUES SUPPORTING BRÜKA THEATRE - ON TAP!

CAST

TARANTULA JONES	MARTIN A. DAVID
WIDOW	AMBER TEEN
WOLF	MICHELA MUNOZ - BROWN
HOBO	BELLA MASON
STOIC SPIDER	JESSEY RICHARDS
THE COMEDIAN	CHRISTOPHER ROSS
ORDERLY	ENDER RIDDLE
GUARD	RYAN CORRIGAN
THE CRAZY	JAMES MARDOCK
WEBBED ONE	KIM ROCHELLE
WEBBED ONE	STEVEN STILLE
HAIGHA (ATTENDANT)	MAESSON BOWMAN
HATTA (ATTENDANT)	ALICIA GARDNER
HEART KING	BRIAN HANSON
HEART QUEEN	RACHAEL GOTTAS
RED QUEEN	CARRIE LYNN
ALICE	RILEY MCKINNEY
ELEVATOR OPERATOR	KELL KITTELL
GRAY	YADIRA DUARTE/ROSE CARTER
BASIL	RACHELLE RESNICK
LADIES VAIN	ZYON IUBELT
DISCOMBOBULATED HEAD	KAYMIN SAMBRANO

CREATIVES & CREW

PLAYMAKER	MARY BENNETT
LEAD TELL TALE DIRECTION	HOLLY NATWORA
LEAD LOOKING GLASS DIRECTION	RILEY MCKINNEY
DORIAN GRAY CO- DIRECTION	LYNDSEY LANGSDALE
CHOREOGRAPHY ASSIST	STEPHEN MOORE
STAGE MANAGER	KAITLYNN COOPER
ASST STAGE & HOUSE MANAGER/UNDERSTUDY	ROSE SAMBRANO
COSTUME DESIGN	ROSEBUD MATCHES/COMPANY
COSTUME CREW	GRACE THOMPSON
SET DESIGN	LEWIS ZAUMEYER
SOUND OPERATION & LIGHTING DESIGN	DAVID SIMPSON
INTERIOR DESIGN/FLOWERS	ALEXANDRIA PAULETTO

BRÜKA THEATRE

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	MARY BENNETT
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	DAVID SIMPSON
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR	HOLLY NATWORA
BOOKKEEPER	SUE KEPHART
DRAMATURG	JESSICA JOHNSON
COMPANY MANAGER	KAITLYNN COOPER
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	KRISTINA WORTHLEY
COMPANY PHOTOGRAPHY	BILL QUINBY & DANA NOLLSCH
POSTER DESIGN	MICHAEL GRIMM
NEON ART	JEFF JOHNSON
BRÜKA THEATRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	DELORES AIAZZI, PEGGY JONES, MICHAEL PETERS, WESTON SPANN, KRISTI STENQUIST, BOB WHITEFIELD, LEWIS ZAUMEYER
BRÜKA SPECIAL THANKS	JEFF JOHNSON, G3 COLLABORATION, GILLIAN PALMER

BRÜKA THEATRE MISSION
TO CREATE & SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF INNOVATIVE THEATRE

ABOUT BRÜKA THEATRE

Brüka Theatre is celebrating its 31st season of live theatre in downtown Reno. Brüka's theme for the 2023/2024 season is: "The Show Must Go On" embracing the excitement and magic of live theatre alongside the fun and challenges that go with creating a show. As an artistic leader in the region, Brüka is recognized for innovative productions, exceptionally talented artists and acclaimed Theatre for Children touring series since its founding in 1992. Central to Brüka is the commitment to the re-investigation of contemporary and classic plays and developing new plays within Brüka's Artistic Collective, a group that includes winners of the Nevada Arts Council and Sierra Arts Foundation artist grants and nine local best actor honors. Brüka was named "Best Theatre Company" by Reno News and Review for twenty-one years. Brüka is a non-equity, small, not-for-profit member theater company and affiliate of the national TCG (Theatre Communications Group). Brüka Theatre has produced over 200 shows in our downtown Reno location. Sign up for our newsletter by going to our website at www.brüka.org.

If you are associated with a **local charity** that you believe in and would fit with our season line-up, please reach out to marybruka@gmail.com and we will do our best to access and serve the needs while we enhance the experiences of the organizations.

PRICES: General admission: \$30. Admission for Students/Seniors/Military: \$26. All tickets are \$35 at the door. Artist Night Tickets are \$17. Additional Ticket fees will be incurred on all online and phone ticket transactions.

REQUIREMENTS DUE TO COVID - 19: If you are feeling sick or feel that you have been exposed to COVID - 19 please use precautions, communicate and wear a mask to the theatre so as not to expose others to illness. We appreciate your understanding and support as we continue to navigate keeping our theatre safe and a vital part of the Reno community. We reserve the right to change these protocols based on CDC guidelines. All ticket holders will be notified well in advance if changes arise.

RESERVATIONS are available in person through the Brüka Box Office (775) 323-3221, online at www.brüka.org or at the Melting Pot World Emporium @ their location: 1049 S. Virginia Street, Reno. Our box office is open Thursday through Saturday from 3-6 PM and on Wednesdays by appointment. We are closed on most holidays. Our 2023/2024 Season Tickets are on sale beginning September 1, 2023. Individual tickets go on sale the Monday after the previous show closes. Check us out at www.brüka.org. All Brüka mainstage evening shows begin at 7:30 PM. Matinees begin at 2:00 PM. Doors open 30 minutes before curtain time. There is NO late seating and all ticket sales are final.

PARKING: Court Street parking lot across from The Pioneer Theater. FREE after 5:00 PM weekdays and NO CHARGE on weekends. We validate parking at the Parking Gallery on First and Sierra Street.



BRÜKA THEATRE INCLUDES: Holly Natwora - Operations Director, Mary Bennett - Producing Artistic Director, David Simpson - Technical Director
Photo Credit: Bill Quinby

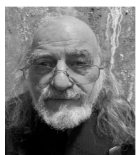
BRÜKA THEATRE - 31 YEARS OF LIVE THEATRE

As we reflect back on our 30 years, we champion the incredible dedication of our staff, board of directors, actors, directors, stage managers, crews, writers, costumers, set designers, lighting & sound designers, graphic artists, business partners, supporters, foundations, community leaders, volunteers and our patrons, who have helped to keep us here, through thick and thin, good and challenging times and have kept the dream of producing, creating and presenting live theatre that flourishes in downtown Reno.

Cheers & respect to all who have gone before us and to those who may follow in our footsteps. It is an honor to serve the community by producing and creating for Brüka Theatre.

In great love & appreciations,
Mary Bennett
Producing Artistic Director
Brüka Theatre

TARANTULA JONES ~ CAST @ BRÜKA



Martin A. David works and plays in as many of the rooms in the mansion called ART as he can. He earned a degree in Theatre from Brooklyn College in 1961. His first professional acting role came when Joseph Papp invited him into the cast of *Julius Caesar* in New York's Central Park. His modern dance company toured Europe in the 1960s and 1970s. He has published books, newspaper and magazine articles, essays, and columns. His paintings, drawings, and original design jewelry have been exhibited and sold in Europe and America. Martin will be offering acting classes in Reno in the spring of 2024.



Amber Teen originally began acting with Brüka Theater in 1997 and has had the immense honor and pleasure to appear in many roles on the Brüka stage over the years. Some of her favorite roles with Brüka include Mrs. White in Sandy Rustin's *Clue*, Desdemona in Shakespeare's *Othello*, Polly in Bertolt Brecht's *Three Penny Opera*, and Pamela in The Hitchcock parody: *The 39 Steps*. Amber would like to thank her amazing husband and wonderful children for supporting her, as always, while she feeds her artistic soul.



Michela Muñoz-Brown is excited to be joining her first production with Brüka Theatre! She most recently worked with Wild Horse Stage Co. as Judy Turner in *A Chorus Line*, but her other favorite past roles include Jo in *Little Women* and Elsa Schraeder in *The Sound of Music*. Michela studied acting at Whitworth University, where she received a B.A. in Theatre. Off the stage, she enjoys spending time walking her dog, creating cosplays, and playing tabletop games. She would like to thank her wonderful husband for his support and love throughout pursuing her creative endeavors.



Bella Mason is delighted to be a part of such an experimental production at her second show with Brüka Theater! A San Francisco native, Bella has performed with various Bay Area and Reno-Tahoe local community theater groups. Bella's favorite role was Patrice in *13 The Musical* with 42nd Street Moon in San Francisco. Bella is a 3rd year student at the University of Nevada-Reno dual-majoring in Physics and Math, and minoring in Theater.



Jessey Richards Has been working with Brüka both on and off stage since 2013. You most recently saw him as Jov Bon Johnnie in *Buttcracker: Rockstar!* You may have also seen him in *Nation Of Two*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and a plethora of other shows! He is currently in Brüka touring Theatre For Children, *The Paramount* and *Sometimes Wildly Ridiculous History of Nevada*.



Christopher Ross has relocated to Reno a total of four times. The gorgeous scenery and thriving arts community is why he loves this town and can't seem to stay away. He is a brother to three, an uncle to two and a dog dad to one. This is his second show of 2023 after a three and a half year hiatus. His most recent appearance was as Richard Bailey in *Kinky Boots*. When not on stage he's a homebody who enjoys a good book, a sweaty workout, an interesting "something" on TV, or shaking it to music whilst cleaning. Thank you for supporting the arts and joining us for the opening of what is sure to be an exciting season here at Brüka. Wishing you love and happiness, enjoy the show.

TARANTULA JONES ~ CAST @ BRÜKA



Ender Riddle is a 22 year old male that enjoys anything involving the arts (except musicals), and has been involved in theatre since kindergarten. His first role was a mouse puppet at his elementary school. He spends his free time doing graphite drawings and playing the ukulele. Ender's dream job is to be an actor or a concert photographer. He expresses his emotions through the lyrics in songs and used to dream of being in a punk band. Singing is his passion, and if you spend enough time with him, he might just play a song for you. He pet sits full time, and loves all animals, he'd adopt them all if he could.



Ryan Corrigan is excited to be taking the stage again at Brüka! You may have seen him in *Lifespan of a Fact* at Brüka, *Popcorn Falls* at RAT, or *How to Survive your Family at Christmas* at RLT. Ryan would like to thank this amazing cast and crew for making this show such an amazing experience and his friends/family for supporting him in whatever he does.



James Mardock has appeared in several shows in Reno and elsewhere, including *Stupid F***ing Bird* and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at Brüka; he also directed *The Exit Interview*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *The Imaginary Invalid* at Reno Little Theater. In his spare time he teaches Renaissance drama at UNR and edits old plays for new technologies for the Digital Renaissance Editions. He's grateful to Emilie, Diggory, and Felicity for giving up bedtime snuggles to let Dad be terrifying.



Kim Rochelle has had a lifelong love for the arts and is grateful to be a part of it all. This is her first time performing at Brüka and she is thrilled to be working with this wonderful cast and crew. During her downtime she enjoys reading, binge watching shows, going to concerts, thrifting, and hiking.



Steven Stille has a history in fashion modeling, ballroom dance, and acting on stage & screen. He enjoys artistic outlets in writing, photography, costume design, wood carving, and more. Steven is a collector of art, books, & antiques. He is a nature enthusiast, explorer, and fanatical recycler.



Maesson Bowman is a 16-year-old actor who is thrilled to be joining Brüka for this production! Maesson has been performing since 2022, their favorite roles include Gomez Addams (*Addams Family: A New Musical*), Jack Skellington (*Nightmare Before X-mas: A Musical Parody </3*), Mowgli (*The Jungle Book*), and Jetsam in an upcoming production of *The Little Mermaid Jr*. Maesson participates in school activities such as Jazz Band, Marching Band, Theatre Club, and Wrestling in which they competed in the state championships.



Alicia Gardner is a Reno native with a lifelong love of performing. She has appeared in several plays, musicals, singing and dance performances locally, including *The Norwegians* at Reno Little Theater, Hot August Sock Hop at Good Luck Macbeth, and most recently, the *10-10 Play Festival*. Alicia earned her BA and MBA from UNR, and loves the creative outlet that being on stage brings. She's excited to work with the rest of the cast to bring Tarantula Joes to life!

TARANTULA JONES ~ CAST @ BRÜKA



Brian Hanson This is Brian's first performance with Brüka Theatre. He brings with him more than 50 years of performing arts experience, and is overjoyed to be a part of the Tarantula Jones family. He has performed locally at John Ascuaga's Golden Nugget with Red Skelton and Tennessee Ernie Ford, among others, and has had the great honor and privilege of sharing a stage with the incomparable Ella Fitzgerald. Brian is a proud Wisconsinmexicalivadan.



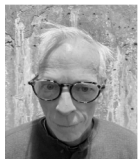
Rachael Gottas is a co-founder of Brüka Theatre. After a longer than expected hiatus, she was delighted to perform on stage again with Miss Mary Bennett playing young Clara's mother in the 2022 production of *The Buttcracker*. She is so grateful for the amazing fortitude and dedication of the artistic direction, production staff, board and volunteers over the last 30 incredible years and of the refreshing waves of new talent and creativity that continue to build the bridges for a multiplicity of artists to cross. In her other world she is a singer songwriter & handywoman living in the mountains overlooking the Sierra Valley at the headwaters of the Feather River. Much love and light to the Patrons of Brüka Theatre.



Carrie Lynn As a Reno native, Carrie spent most of her adult years immersed in the local arts community as a ceramicist, painter, sculptor, and all-around creator and community organizer and supporter. Carrie's true passion for the stage is found in the form of clowning. She is part of a duo performing short original pieces under the name "Frankee and Matilde Productions."



Riley McKinney has been working with Brüka since she graduated high school in 2015. You've seen her in many *Buttcrackers*, *The Crucible*, *Green Show*, and serving drinks at Nickey's! Riley is a 2020 graduate of UNR with a degree in theater where you may have seen her as the titular *Eurydice* or Assistant Directing *Twelfth Night*.



Kell Kittell is a Reno native, veteran, playwright, and writer. Besides appearing in his solo works, *The Fastest Queen on the Planet* and *In the Navy*, he has performed in *Camille* (Ludlam), *The Claudine Longet Story*, *The Linda Blair Affair*, *The Karen Black Attack*, and *The Poseidon Adventure Live!* His musical theater of the Ridiculous Company, The Tuck 'n' Roll Players, received multiple commendations including the Bay Area Critics Circle's awards for Best Book, Lyrics and Music for his reinterpretation of Dante's poem from 1347 about Hell, *Club Inferno*. He is thrilled to work with Brüka Theater for the first time.



Yadira Duarte earned her B.F.A. in acting from Cornish College of the Arts. She is thrilled to return to her hometown for the opening weekend of *The Reflections of Tarantula Jones*. Recent performances include the lead role of Marisol for The William's Project, upstart crowd's adaptations of the *Henry IV Trilogy*, *Bring Down the House pt 1 & pt 2*, and *Richard III*. She has also played the titular role in Lydia and performed in *Our Country's Good* for Strawberry Theater Workshop. Additionally, she has worked with Seattle Shakespeare's Company in *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Tempest*, and *Medea*, The Seattle Children's Theater, & Rebel Kat Productions. She aims to see beauty in all things and can't wait to see what beauty is captured from the audience on this spooky October night.

TARANTULA JONES ~ CAST @ BRÜKA



Rose Carter I've been acting since freshman year of high school it went from a Hobby to a dream full-time job, (currently Manifesting a Netflix Deal) this will be my second show at Brüka Theatre after *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, which was one of the best things I've ever had the privilege of getting casted in. It's on to bigger and better things and hopefully many more shows....and maybe some singing lessons. It's okay, you can laugh.



Rachelle Resnick is making her Brüka Theatre debut and is excited to be part of this wonderful ensemble. Other favorite roles include Trudy Heyman in *Social Security*, Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple*, and Jesse Mae Watts in *The Trip to Bountiful*. Thanks to everyone at Brüka Theatre for welcoming her, and to her friends who support her passion for theater and put up with her fanaticism for her beloved University of Oklahoma Sooners. Boomer!



Zyon Iubelt has been a part of Brüka Theatre since 2013, taking part in the kids camp up until 18 years old. She loves theatre and loves that it pulls her out of her comfort zone. There are so many little things involved in theatre that bring so much joy, the connections, the laughter, and obviously the drama. She is so incredibly excited and grateful for this production and won't shut up about it. Shout out to her friends and family for supporting her in everything she does and all her siblings and cousins who begged to come but are too little.



Kaymin Sambrano This is Kaymin's first show with Brüka, and he is head over heels to be here. He would like to thank his wife, friends, and family for the support. As well as Mary Bennett for giving him a heads up about this opportunity.



Mary Bennett – PRODUCER/DIRECTOR/PLAYMAKER

Over the years at Brüka Theatre Mary's directing has included: *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Angry Housewives*, *BUTTCRACKER*, *Three Penny Opera*, *Under Milkwood*, *Clue - On Stage*, *Bloody, Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Bell, Book & Candle*, *Wild Party*, *Creature*, *Trailer Park The Musical*, *Metamorphosis*, *Pageant*, *Mr. Burns*, *Abducting Diana*, *Amadeus* and Brüka's Theatre For Children Productions. Mary has been producing since 1994. SEE BRÜKA CREATIVES BIO.



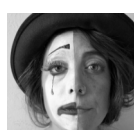
Holly Natworah - LEAD TELL TALE DIRECTION

SEE BRÜKA CREATIVES BIO.



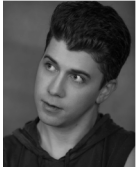
Riley McKinney - LEAD LOOKING GLASS DIRECTION

SEE CAST BIOS



Lyndsey Langsdale - DORIAN GRAY CO-DIRECTION

Lyndsey is a cultural anthropologist, farmer and artist in Reno, Nevada. She earned a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology and has worked both locally and internationally in human rights advocacy, urban agriculture, ethnography and community organizing. Langsdale studied anthropology and art at the University of Nevada, Reno and Northern Arizona University focusing on Cultural Anthropology, sculpture, silversmithing and jewelry design. She has also studied theater clown with Giovanni Fusetti and Sue Morrison in Portland, OR, Toronto, Canada. For the past twelve years she has been working with local community theaters as a costumer.



Stephen Moore - MOVEMENT ADVISOR

Stephen is thrilled to be back again at Brüka Theater! He worked primarily as a movement advisor for several scenes within the show. Stephen has previously danced with competitive performance companies out of Southern California and participated in two national competitive dance tours. Now, he is becoming increasingly involved in Reno's local community theater programs. Recent performances include Bobby in the 2022 *A Chorus Line* with Wild Horse Stage Company as and choreographed the 2023 winter production: *Spring Awakening*. He then graced the Brüka stage as an Angel in the 2023 production of *Kinky Boots*. Stephen will be back for more at Brüka this winter, performing in their holiday production of *Christmas with the Crawfords*.



Kaitlynn Cooper - STAGE MANAGER

SEE BRÜKA CREATIVES BIO



Rose Sambrano - ASST STAGE & HOUSE MANAGER/UNDERSTUDY

This is Rose's second show with Brüka and is super excited to be working on this immersive experience. She is so grateful for everyone on this team and the opportunity to create amazing art.



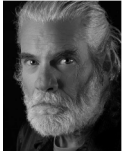
Grace Thompson - COSTUME CREW

Grace is a proud Mama of three, and a Nevada native that began sewing at the age of three with her grandmother, this love of sewing grew into a passion for repurposing clothing, shoes, and accessories. Grace has been a part of the Brüka Theatre since 2013 working with the children's theatre productions, and behind the scenes with several Brüka projects as a costume and prop designer. Grace is excited to be a part of this terrifying original piece.



Lewis Zaumeyer - SET DESIGN

SEE BRÜKA CREATIVES BIO.



David Simpson - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

SEE BRÜKA CREATIVES BIO



Alexandria Pauletto - INTERIOR DESIGN/FLOWERS

Alexandria is thrilled to be a part of this original, spooky, and captivating show. These cast and creatives have taken a vision and created a truly enchanting and immersive experience. Alexandria reunited with the stage after a four year hiatus, with the privilege of playing George in *Kinky Boots*. It quickly reignited her passion for theater, and inspired her to be a part of Brüka's season in any and every way possible. She is absolutely giddy for the opportunity to play one of the Siamese twins this season in *Side Show the musical*. She dedicates her work to her incredibly talented step-brother who passed away in March of 2023.

MEET TARANTULA JONES' HOOK & CROOK PLAYERS

Tarantula Jones appeared (born? hatched? created?...who knows?) on February 28th 1839. He came to Reno in 1880 with a Traveling Theatrical Company called "Hook & Crook." When setting up their performance on the north side of the Truckee, where the Masonic Building now stands, Mr. Clarence Jones was bitten by a ferocious tarantula, the likes of which had not been seen in these parts: As Tarantula transformed into an immortal being, he pulled many entities into his nest and over the years has become a legend in western lore. Widow was his first conquest...but not his last.

Widow found a dark, warm, and comforting home traveling with the Hook & Crook Theatrical Company, after becoming entangled with the mysteriously intoxicating Tarantula Jones. She had never had much luck with men and to find an equal in this cluster of life was priceless. She helps Tarantula look for stardom-starved talent to lure into the web.

Wolf is thrilled to have found her way to the web of Tarantula Jones. She could previously be seen wandering the world alone after the mysterious disappearance of her mother and sisters. Since then, she grew fond of the West, and made her start in the Main Street saloons of Bodie, CA. Wolf arrived in Reno in 1889, and found work shortly thereafter with a local performance troupe. She is best known for her original solo act, "Chase and Seize", which she wrote, directed, and executed. Wolf would like to thank Mr. Jones for all that he is.

Hobo, previously known as Hillary, was born into a missionary family that migrated from Maryland to the Pacific Northwest in the 1850s. The journey was treacherous and tragic leaving the entirety of Hillary's pilgrimage, including her whole family, deceased. Hillary became a nomad, traveling between regions by herself with her surviving horse. The skills of persuasion became essential to Hillary's survival, and she became very good at tunneling people in to get what she needed from them. In 1872, Hillary came to Reno where she first met Tarantula Jones. Hillary had neglected to notice until their meeting that she had not aged since 1862. This made her a perfect candidate to join the web.

Not much is known about the mysterious **Stoic Spider**, aka the Long Arm of the Law, aside from his ability to make the best gin martini on this side of the Mississippi. Slings whiskey and pouring from the keg, Stoic is here to match you with the perfect refreshment or snack.

What do you get when you mix a giant spider web, a dreadfully handsome standup **Comedian** and 60 forgotten years. Daddy Eight Legs. After performing for the likes of Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable in the sky room of the relatively short-lived Mapes hotel Casino, it was time to refine a new act. Little did he know it would be his finale performance. What a shame, with him being at the top of his game and all. But don't be too disappointed. Here, on this historical ground, you may catch a snippet, if you're lucky. Some say you can still hear the laughter, echoing in the bowels of the building.

Mr. Webster was the **VIP Elevator Operator** at The Mapes. He loved the vaudeville shows at The Sky Room, where he befriended Tarantula Jones who was performing there nightly. The two would often retreat to the underground tunnels of downtown Reno after performances and explore the passages together talking for hours. When The Mapes forced Mr. Webster into early retirement and he had nowhere to go, Tarantula took him into his world of wonder where he remains Tarantula's loyal and humble friend and manservant. Forever.

MEET TARANTULA JONES' HOOK & CROOK PLAYERS

The notorious **Edgar Mariner** was apprehended for the grisly murder of one Clarence Dowd, 67, in May 1852. Heroic officers of the police, investigating neighbors' reports of nocturnal distress, visited Mr. Mariner in the wee hours of the morning of 13 May and searched the premises, eventually uncovering the remains of the victim. Mr. Mariner was judged mad and unfit to stand trial, and was remanded to the Schuyler Colfax Reformatory for the Criminally Insane. Recently his handlers have deemed his wits recovered to such a degree that he may benefit from interaction with carefully selected members of the public. His ravings are not to be trusted, and members of the public are warned to approach Mr. Mariner at their own risk.

Ryan Corrigan has been a **Guard** at the asylum for a few years now. He has enjoyed most of his job but has started to become jaded due to all the visitors. The people who pay to be able to see the side show of the insane has led him to care less and less about the patients and more about the extra money he can make from the people coming to see them. He has begun neglecting cleaning up the webs gathering around the asylum, thinking they add to the atmosphere.

Ned Charter is an **Orderly** at an "insane asylum." He spends his days moping, cleaning, and helping the nurses carry heavy objects, such as the chains most of the inmates wear. He was placed in the asylum to work and live by none other Tarantula Jones Himself. Mr. Jones cut Ned's tongue off years ago, all because he tried talking shit about how Mr. Jones runs the web. Ned used to be a wonderful singer, but now he can only show his talents through humming. He's still very weary about living in the web with the other spiders, but that's just because he spends most of his time with his guard up due to working in the asylum.

Bernadette is a strong and confident woman. She was named after her great grandmother and looks a lot like her. When she was younger, about 12 years old, she and her twin sister, Beatrice, were exploring the woods by their house and they came across a giant cavern in the ground. It was covered like a blanket in spider webs. Beatrice got a little too close to the edge of the hole and fell inside. Bernadette tried to grab her, but Bea had fallen too far inside. She called to her sister, but no reply came. The cavern was vast and expanded for miles underground. It was searched by a rescue team, but Bea was never found. From that moment on, Bernadette vowed to never stop looking for her sister. She knew she was taken somewhere and was going to do anything she could to find her.

Bradley. Named by his father (the word renowned entomologist) in "honor" of the destructive, nuisance insect *Conopomorpha Sinensis* Bradley. Throughout his childhood: The entire house was filled with specimens, both living and dead on display in cabinets, frames, and tanks. Bradley's mother died, from some sort of "bug" that weakened her beyond recovery. Bradley: Who was very young at the time; As a result has no memory of her. When Bradley's father died, apparently of a bite from one of his poisonous specimens. Bradley was just 14 years old. As he left the family homestead after his father's death, Bradley set fire to the grand house, burning it to the ground, along with everything in it, specimens and father's corpse alike. He took with him only his father's ring. Bradley decided to dedicate the remainder of his life to helping people rid themselves of any insects that bother them.



MEET TARANTULA JONES' HOOK & CROOK PLAYERS

Haigha & Hatta (Attendees to the Queen) are sisters who were abandoned by their father, and were looking for a father figure and role model to give them direction in life. Tarantula Jones took them under his wing and provided the fatherly presence they craved, but it was not without cost. The sisters, in exchange, are expected to do his bidding and help him uphold the strange and twisted web he's weaving throughout the performance.

Kingston Hart and his lovely wife, **Queenie** are actual royalty, being the true King and Queen (as well as the sole residents) of Hartasia, a small micronation just outside of Gabbs, Nevada. They ran The Queen of Harts Bakery featuring Queenie's delicious handmade sweet and savory tarts. One October night while lighting a candle Queenie accidentally singed a large spiderweb, destroying it. The candle suddenly and inexplicably extinguished, the room went dark, and next they knew they found themselves in a strange place uncontrollably making tarts. The last thing they recall is hearing the words "Yes, sir that's my baby."

Alice Carroll came to Reno in 1972 by accident when she following a white rabbit, fell down a hole, and woke up on the Virginia Street Bridge. A man named Tarantula Jones took her in and she's been here ever since.

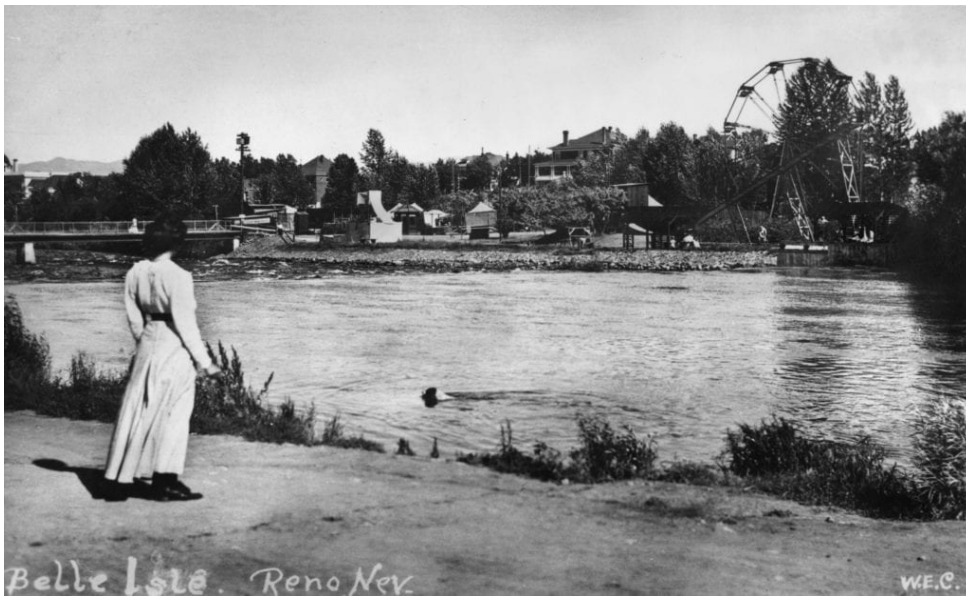
The **Red Queen** was always drawn to the limelight and could be swayed easily by others with simple compliments. It was her adorable blush that gave her the "red" in her Queenly title. She came to the comstock to strike it rich and ended up under the bridge with Mr. Jones. The rest is herstory.

The Name is **Gray**. I come from wealth, loving parents with a leisurely life, absolutely everything handed to me on a silver platter, but none of it made me happy. Seeing absolutely no flaws when I look in the mirror is what makes me happy, you see me! Do I need to say more? No rashes, no flakes, no unsightly bumps or blemishes. Beauty always comes with a price, some of us are willing to pay more than others...but something feels off...I can hear them crawling on the walls, I can feel them crawling on my skin....look at me...do you see them?

Basil was born in Reno, NV in 1879. A child prodigy artist, Basil had their first exhibition at age 17 in Reno. Basil met Gray at their exhibition in Reno in 1909. Basil instantly knew they'd found the muse they'd been searching for. Gray inspired Basil's art to new heights and soon they gained national and international acclaim. Basil was scheduled to open their first international exhibition in Paris in six months when Gray introduced them to Tarantula Jones. Through Gray, Jones ensnared Basil. Basil now exists in the world Tarantula Jones has created, though they still hold onto the hope of exhibiting in Paris.

We are known only as the **Lady's Vain**. We were given to Basil and Grey who never really acknowledge our existence but that's ok, they so much as breathe our way, we feel fulfilled. As for our little situation, we are made up of two, we got caught up in a webbing incident decades ago and no arachnid has found a way to remove this permanently wrapped web, our brain have slowly merged into one, people often find us a little odd or irritating but we keep ourselves company. We've never really found a way out of this.

The best way to remember loved ones is by preserving a part of them, especially their head. **Disembodied heads** can still laugh and cajole, be witty and help you find your way through the web.



“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.”

~ MARGARET MEADE

Thank
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BRÜKA THEATRE CREATIVES

MARY BENNETT - BRÜKA THEATRE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mary Bennett's training and performances include American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco), Bay Area TheaterSports, Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) Dell'Arte International Theatre Company, New York Stage & Film, B Street Theater, Reno Philharmonic, Reno Jazz Orchestra, Sierra Nevada Ballet, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, and Kennedy Center training as a teaching artist, Arts Integration Specialist and mentor. Currently, Producing Artistic Director of Brüka Theatre & Theater Artist-in-Residence with Nevada Arts Council and Sierra Arts Foundation. Her *Dorothy Parker...Shivering and Sighing* won Best of The San Francisco Fringe Festival, and was performed in NYC, June, 2017. Named "Best Actor" in Reno News & Review ten times. She organizes and artistically directs the Carson City Ghost Walk and has appeared on screen, most recently in Nowhere Nevada and Dear George, and commissioned for solo shows with NAMI and The Nevada Museum Of Art. Mary is currently the drama instructor at Doral Academy.



DAVID SIMPSON, BRÜKA THEATRE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

David Simpson, born in Reno, Hug High School graduate, learned the art of photography during five years in the Navy as a Photographer's Mate aboard the U.S.S. Constellation. In the early 90's he was introduced to theatre in Modesto, CA and has been involved since "sometimes immersed in it, sometimes not [with] various duties, a few roles, numerous venues, a lot of shows." At Brüka, Dave brings stage productions to life through his lighting and sound expertise. Artists and audiences throughout the region have benefited from his tireless work ethic and attention to detail when building a world on stage with sight and sound.



LEWIS ZAUMEYER - SET DESIGNER/ BRÜKA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A practicing Architect and Artist, I have been enthusiastically involved at Brüka Theater since 1997, Acting, doing Set Design and Construction, Directing and serving on the Non-Profit Board of Directors. I've worked on almost every project since I showed up and a quite a few memorable acting projects include *Hair, King Lear, Waiting for Godot, Cabaret, Buried Child, The Underpants, Metamorphosis, Irma Vep, The Goat, Richard III, MacBeth, then most recently Tooth of Crime, Stupid Fucking Bird & Acknaton.*



HOLLY NATWORA – BRÜKA OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Holly Natwora received her MFA from Columbia University in NYC and has acted in over 75 plays including two summers at Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival, touring *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* in Berlin, Germany and performing as *Lady Macbeth* in the first ever New York Fringe. Holly has also appeared in television and film, most notably in *Law & Order* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*. Since moving to Reno in 2005, she has performed or directed at the Brüka Theatre, Reno Little Theatre, *Good Luck Macbeth*, and *TheatreWorks* of Northern Nevada. Holly currently teaches Theatre at Truckee Meadows Community College and Shakespeare for Social Justice at High Desert State Prison. She is the Operations Director at Brüka Theatre-her theatrical home.



KRISTINA WORTHLEY - BRÜKA PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Kristina is the assistant to the producer. Brüka is a place she calls home. Kristina has performed at many theaters around Reno. She attended UNLV to earn a bachelors in English with a minor in Theater Arts. Kristina is a high school teacher at Spanish Springs High School. She teaches a program that provides life skills, job training, career and trade skills, and problem solving skills.



KAITLYNN COOPER - BRÜKA COMPANY MANAGER/STAGE MANAGER

Kaitlynn is our company manager at Brüka, overseeing human resource details and working behind the scenes and as stage manager for many of Brüka's productions including *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, The Crucible, Stupid Fucking Bird, Anne Frank, Clue, Mr. Burns, The Legend of Georgia McBride, and Dollhouse 2.* She is an English teacher at McQueen High School.



SUE KEPHART - BRÜKA BOOKKEEPER Bookkeeper and QuickBooks expert, Sue began by volunteering for the organization. She continues to upgrade the accounting systems used in Brüka Theatre and other businesses around town.



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Brüka Celebrates 30 Years of Live Theatre. Becoming a donor and a friend supports our programming from our main stage productions, our summer workshops for kids, Master Workshops, our Artist In The House Series, our original works series and our Theatre For Children. Without your support we wouldn't be here. We appreciate your care and patronage so very much. ~ Brüka Theatre.

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BRÜKA THEATRE 2023/2024 SEASON SURVEY

1. How many shows have you seen at Brüka?
2. Where are you from? City: State: Postal Code:
3. Please check your opinion of our theatre based on our unique ratings scale:
*One of the great highlights of my existence *Excellent – just can't get enough *Great ~ I go if I can, but I'm a busy person *I'm a middle of the road person. * I could take it or leave it. *I am underwhelmed

4. How did you hear about our production? (Please circle that apply)
*I'm on the mailing list * Word of mouth * Website
* Newspapers (News & Review, Reno Gazette, Sparks Tribune, NV Appeal, Other) * Radio * Another way:

5. How did you get tickets for this production? (Please circle)
Season Tickets. * Purchased them online * Purchased at the Melting Pot World Emporium
* Purchased through the Brüka Box office by phone * Through the Brüka Box Office in person * They were a gift
* Another way: _____

6. What is your age? (Please Circle any that apply)
*0-20 * 21-30 * 31-40 *41-50 * 51-60 *61-70 * 71....

7. Male or Female?

8. Where do you park?

9. What is your favorite Brüka show?

10. What show would you like to see produced at Brüka?

11. Your feedback/comments:

NAME: _____
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Thank you for taking the time. We are listening.

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