SPECIAL THANKS

The Onion: America's Finest News Source
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Brian Adoff
Baylor Harton
Bill Brock (Photoshop Wizardry)
Jim Caiola, David Salama and Georgia
Leslie and the staff at L’Etage
AxD Gallery
Ryan McMenamin
Tina Brock
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Gail Furman
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The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium

The Best of Raw Onion:
Let Us Eat Cake!

Our favorite community voices from The Onion:
America’s Finest News Source

One night only!
Sunday, April 3, 2011
L’Etage Cabaret

www.idiopathicridiculopathyconsortium.org
P.O. Box 63872
Philadelphia, PA 19147

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The Onion: America's Finest News Source
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April 3, 2011

Happy Birthday little Idiopathic!

It was May 2006 when the IRC first hoisted the absurdist sails. Our mission: to bring to the light of day works from a loosely-defined group of playwrights from the Theater of the Absurd. The IRC’s first two-show annual budget was $11,000. Five years later, our budget is up over the $40,000 mark: we’re still dusting off the absurdist gems and discovering the timelessness in these universal classics.

The IRC presented its first works on this cabaret stage, and I am truly indebted to an old colleague, Jim Caiola, for providing the IRC a home since 2006. Jim and his partner David Salama have enabled the IRC to grow within the safely and luxurious confines of this cabaret theater while finding our audience.

Many, many thanks to the powers that oversee The ONION, America’s Finest News Source for granting us the rights to perform this material since 2008. Tonight’s slice of RAW ONION is our “Best Of” homage, filled with our favorite opinions and characters from past shows that we couldn’t resist bringing back.

The ridiculous characters inhabiting the stage this evening (the actors, I mean) are just the folks you’d want to have at your fifth birthday party. Big kids all, (disguised as respectable adults) their view of the world is well-suited for this material. Hugely talented, strikingly diverse in their approach to the craft, they are among the people I’m most indebted to for helping the IRC get to this watershed.

Looking forward to this year’s Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe Festival in September, the IRC will serve up Swiss novelist and playwright Max Frisch’s provocative and ingenious comic parable The Firebugs (1958). We’ll be working with the 2007 translation entitled The Arsonists, first performed at London’s Royal Court Theatre. Subtitled “A moral play without a moral,” this devilish satire considers the dangers of a life without principles. We hope you’ll make plans to join us at the Walnut Street Theater Studio 5 in the fall.

I’m guessing you didn’t venture out tonight without knowing there might be some cringe-worthy moments. I promise if you’re in the audience for our next Ionesco or Beckett production, there won’t be single foul word or graphic reference in the evening. For tonight, we hope you laugh a little and relish the absurdity of our life and times.

Thanks for celebrating five years of controlled chaos with us this evening... and please, leave your cell phones on and text your heart out!

Tina Brock
Producing Artistic Director

The Best of Raw Onion:

Let Us Eat Cake!

Why Do Porn Actors Have To Use Such Foul Language?
Sharon Geller as Maggie Lehman
I Make The Best Spaghetti
John D’Alonzo as Chris Feyen
I’ve Got A New Soup That Will Knock Campbell’s On Its Ass
Sonja Robson as Trudy Schiff
Do Waiters Always Have To Swear So Much?
Bayard Walker as Edgar LeBlanc
If I Die, Please Eat This Sandwich
Michael Dura as Gary Stapleton
As An Upper-Class Gourmand - Nothing Less Than The Luxury Of Ritz-
Brand Snack Crackers
Lee Pucklis as Reginald Worthington
You Will Suffer Humiliation When The Sports Team From My Area
Defeats The Sports Team From Your Area
Liam Castellan as Bill Brodhagen
I Apologize in Advance for My Inappropriate Actions
Michael Harrah as Senator in Question
I’m a Diseased and Deformed Animal Lover
Kate Black-Regan as Tricia McCory
I Will Do Whatever It Takes to Restore Your Faith in My Excuses
Jesse Delaney as Curtis Manion
We’ve Been Planning This Sepia Wild West Family Portrait For Too
Long For You To Mess It Up
Kati Kertesz as Freida Becker
Who Says You Can’t Buy Fun Underwear For Your Buddies
Kevin Murphy as Bill Anders
This Promotional Pen Works So Great, Imagine How Well The Drug
Must Work
Jane Stojak as Dr. Jeanne Horschart
Guns Are Only Deadly If Used For Their Intended Purpose
Ethan Lipkin as Ted Farner
I’m Sorry Jesus
Jane Moore as Eugenia Korner
Inconveniencing Others Makes Me Feel Alive
Mark Knight as Paul Hale
Why Can’t I Sell any of These Fucking Bibles?
Bill Rayhill as Edwin Childress
2011 Season Contributors

$500.00 and above
The Samuel S. Fels Foundation
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Earl Wilcox, Plannerzone, Inc.
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Brian and Morgan Adoff • Fred Barfoot • Bill Brock
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Andy Lamas & Ginny Vanderslice • Askold Zagars & Marie Feehan

$50.00 - $99.99
Herman & Madeline Axelrod • Pat & Stacey Bishop
Harvey & Mary Goldstein • Mrs. Leonie Luterman
Michael Lynch • Christopher & Jennifer Rule
Bob & Pat Schmidt • Alexandra Townsend
Dr. Robert J. Wallner

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John & Alberta Chiaravalloti • Norman & Carolyn Ellman
Sharon Geller • Dan Gottesman • Jeanette Hartunian
Frederick D. Jackes • Moe & Sandy Lebo
Lawrence Lindsay and Carla Puppin • Jane Moore
Marc Scheiner & Jonathan Hamm • Will & Jessica Stanforth
Bertram and Lynne Strieb • Michael R. Treat
Kent & Sara Weymouth

The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium
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The Best of Raw Onion:
Let Us Eat Cake!

Part I: Sex and Food
Sharon Geller as Maggie Lehman
John D’Alonzo as Chris Feyen
Sonja Robson as Trudy Schiff
Bayard Walker as Edgar LeBlanc
Michael Dura as Gary Stapleton
Lee Pucklis as Reginald Worthington

Part II: Sports and Politics
Liam Castellan as Bill Brodhagen
Michael Harrah as Senator in Question
Kate Black-Regan as Tricia McCory
Jesse Delaney as Curtis Manion
Kati Kertesz as Freida Becker

Part III: Guns and Religion
Kevin Murphy as Bill Anders
Jane Stojak as Dr. Jeanne Horschart
Ethan Lipkin as Ted Farner
Jane Moore as Eugenia Korner
Mark Knight as Paul Hale
Bill Rayhill as Edwin Childress

Directed by
Tina Brock

Light and Sound Operator:
Ryan McMenamin

Playing time is 70 minutes; there will be no intermission.

Feel free to visit the bar and the accommodations, located in the lobby, throughout the show.
WHO’S WHO

Kate Black-Regan  (Tricia McCory) Previous performances with the IRC include The Young Pupil in The Lesson (2009), Irma in The Madwoman of Chaillot (Fringe 2010), Zenobia in The Empire Builders (2011), an inexperienced midwife in the Raw Onion and the rabid animal lover in the Onion before that one - glad to be back and sicker than ever! Upcoming performances include Prometheus Bound with Renegade Classic Theatre, Lady M with Live Arts Brewery under direction of Adrienne Mackey, and Water Bears In Space with PuppeTyranny for the 2011 Fringe. HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY IRC!!! So much thanks to Tina and all of the fellow Onioneers. Thanks to my 2 beautiful sisters, Jas and Deva, who are both in the important and loving field of animal care...this is for YOU!

Liam Castellan  (Bill Brodhagen) has been in every Raw Onion, and is proud to go down with the ship. He has directed for Plays & Players, the Walking Fish Theatre, and Curio Theatre Company where he is a company member. As an actor: IRC (Four of a Kind, Fringe ’07), Curio (9 shows and counting), Simpatico, EgoPo and others. Next up: acting in Much Ado About Nothing with Shakespeare in Clark Park, July 20-24.

John D’Alonzo  (Chris Feyen) has tears running down his cheeks from all this onion cutting going on around here! John is honored to be working with the IRC again, he was last seen as The Waiter in The Madwoman Of Chaillot. Next up in April, he helped produce The April Arts Festival at The Shubin Theater, all proceeds benefiting Project H.O.M.E, more info at www.ActforCharity.org. Then in May he will be helping Mark Knight raise money for the March of Dimes via OverKnight Theatre, look us up on Facebook! Thank you for supporting the Arts!

Jesse Delaney  (Curtis Manion) is excited to be working with the Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium again. He has appeared as the Doorman in IRC’s The Madwoman of Chaillot, a giant fox in Workshop for Potential Movement’s Speak, Mascot!, a doppelganger in IRC’s The Chairs, and as a party goer in Troma’s Terror Firmer. If you squint at just the right moment, you can glimpse him in The Last Airbender as a water soldier. More likely though you’ll see him riding his yellow 10-speed around town.

Ryan McMenamin  (Lights and Sound) Ryan was lucky enough to get a chance to work with IRC when Tina formed the company in ’06. And although work and other recent projects have pulled him away, Ryan has always jumped at any opportunity to help the Consortium out in whatever way possible. Ryan is the managing director of AxD Gallery, a Center City art gallery and rehearsal studio that IRC regularly uses. Ryan is also the technical director for The Waitstaff Sketch Comedy Troupe. Look for the Waitstaff’s 2011 Fringe Festival show here at L’Etage in September!

Bob Schmidt  (Stage Manager) is a founding member of the IRC and has appeared in many productions since the company’s founding in 2006: Boris Vian’s The Empire Builders; Jean Giraudoux’s The Madwoman of Chaillot; Eugène Ionesco’s The Chairs, Victims of Duty, The Leader, and Foursome; Christopher Durang’s The Actor’s Nightmare, Wanda’s Visit, Samuel Beckett’s Catastrophe, and numerous Raw Onions. Many thanks to all of the Onioneers for taking the time to share their talents and time to help us out, and, of course, to YOU for coming out to support the IRC. Next up: Pocket Size Plays for The April Arts Festival (ActForCharity.org) in April and The Arsonists with the IRC in September.

Consider helping us grow!

Your contributions to The IRC are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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P. O. Box 63872
Philadelphia, PA 19147

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The IRC is a 501C3 non-profit corporation.
Jane Stojak (Dr. Jeanne Horschert) is an actress, director, and producer and former owner of the Triangle Theater in Philadelphia. She has produced more than 50 shows and directed more than 20 plays. She will direct Melissa McBain’s Going Back Naked for the upcoming Philly Fringe Festival based on McBain’s discovery of her mother’s love letters (shortly after her mother’s death) and the rugged and passionate life her feisty mother led. Hats off to my looney colleagues in this cast! You are all a pleasure to work with!

Bayard Walker (Edgar LeBlanc) is delighted to be working with IRC again, and this wonderful demented cast. He most recently appeared as The Broker in IRC’s The Madwoman of Chaillot. He has worked at The Walnut Street Theatre (The Rivals), The Wilma Theatre (Arcadia) and The Philadelphia Theatre Company (Getting Out). Locally, he has worked with Iron Age Theatre, Hunger Theatre, Independent City Theatre, and The Repertory Theatre, among others. He has also appeared in numerous commercials and industrial films. Many thanks Tina, and to Peter for the use of his ascot.

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Michael Dura (Gary Stapleton) has been actively involved in theatre, film, music and dance for over twenty five years. He received his BA degree in Music at La Salle University in 1975 and went on to study voice with Regina Zona, Joyce M. DiDonato, Thomas Scurtodavis, and finally Enrico Di Giuseppe. Theatrically he has performed with such companies as The Vagabond Acting Troupe, Big Mess Theatre, Iron Age Theatre, and The Brick Playhouse. Philadelphiaans got to know him for his annual portrayal of Edgar Allen Poe with the Philadelphia Orchestra in its Halloween Concert at the Kimmel Center. He is also known for playing Dick Deadeye in the Savoy Company’s last production of H.M.S Pinafore at the Academy of Music. He has performed operatically for such companies as Delaware Valley Opera, Amici Opera, Blue Planet Opera, and the West Chester Opera Society. Previous performances with The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium include his shared performance with his brother, Tomas, in Samuel Beckett’s Ohio Impromptu, his portrayal of the street singer in The Madwoman of Chaillot, and The Neighbor in The Empire Builders.

Sharon Geller (Maggie Lehman) has appeared on Saturday Night Live several times, as well as the TODAY Show with Al Roker as "Lucy". She performed at the PIT in NYC with MC Hammerstein, her musical improv troupe and in 2007, she won the January 2007 Manhattan Monologue Slam. Her completely improvised mock-umentary, "The Making of 'Bush: The Musical," won audience best award at the 48-hour Philadelphia Film Festival and 2 commercials in which she was the sole principal received the National Telly Award and the Addy Award. When not doing radio and TV commercials, Sharon can be found selling novelties on QVC. Combining her training as a facilitator in team-building activities and her talent as a comedic actress, Sharon has been creating corporate programs for over 15 years and leads humorous workshops on communication, diversity, team-building. She also has an entertainment company which provides murder mysteries, comedy improv, magicians, jugglers, etc. for your special event. Sharon teaches IMPROV for LAWYERS at the Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University and conducts CLE programs for the Pa. Bar Institute on how to communicate more effectively. She has taught comedy improvisation at the Walnut Street Theatre for over 15 years. www.sharongeller.com

Mike Harrah (Senator in Question) First professional appearances were in the Greek drama The Oresteia, with Dame Judith Anderson, and The Birds with Bert Lahr, a very long time ago. He more recently appeared in Aspects of Love at the Media Theater, and Romeo and Juliet with Shakespeare in Clark Park. Other stage
roles include Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*. TV appearances include *The Unusuals, All My Children, As The World Turns* and *Ghost Stories*, and national commercials for the Royal Bank of Scotland and national health care, as well as regional and local commercials. Catch his brave USDA official fighting the system currently on the Onion News Network at: http://www.theonion.com/video/usda-official-takes-courageous-stand-against-inter,14293/.

**Kati Kertesz** (Freida Becker) was last seen in *Raw Onion: Winter Onionland* and is happy to be back with The IRC. Other credits include Marlene in *The Marvin Party* at Passage Theater in Trenton, NJ; Margaret in *Painting Churches* at the Deertrees Theater Festival in Harrison, Maine. Katrina/Bein in *Anton in Show Business* (2006), Iris in *Down the Road* (2005), Irene in *Hard Feelings*, and as Darlene in *The Water Children* at the Spring Garden Mill in Newtown, PA. Also: *Still Blonde, Still Here and Still a Wild Ride* (Philly Fringe Festival 2004), Lizzie in *Women of a Certain Age, Women Who Have Walked Through the Fire*, *Motherlode*, Gussie in *A Catered Affair*, Yelena in Anton Chekhov’s *The Bear* (Philly Fringe Festival 2003) at the Triangle Theater in Philadelphia. This performance is dedicated to my mother and father.

**Mark Knight** (Paul Hale) is British and a permanent legal alien. He has appeared in over 377 theatre productions. No, wait, 392 (including the clown stuff). Radio; yep. TV; star of a show called Knightmare. Toured; UK & Europe with several theatre companies. Is a playwright, producer & director. He was resident Actor-Teacher at Shakespeare’s Globe Ed (UK) for years. Then he produced, directed and appeared in the opening of the Globe’s first season performing before His Royal Highness, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Mark can’t go back to Britain for the moment. It’ll all blow over. Really.

**Ethan Lipkin** (Ted Farner) is glad to be back with the IRC, where he has previously appeared in their productions of *The Madwoman of Chaillot* and *A Streetcar Named Durang*. Most recently he has appeared as Snug the Joiner in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Sir Jack Falstaff in *Henry IV Part I* at the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theater, and as Wendell in New City Stage’s production of *Chicken*. He has also performed locally with the Wilma Theater, Shakespeare in Clark Park, Vagabond Acting Troupe, The Walking Fish, and has been featured in works by Beckett, Chekhov, Mamet and Williams. Next up: *Killing Neil LaBute* by David Robson for The April Arts Festival (ActForCharity.org) in April and *The Arsonists* with the IRC in September.

**Jane Moore** (Eugenia Korner) is pleased to have this opportunity to work with The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium. After receiving her MFA from Temple University’s graduate theater department, Ms. Moore went on to host WHYY TV’s award-winning interview show *Jane Moore &…* Theatrically she has worked at the McCarter Theatre, Virginia Museum and Virginia Stage and Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Locally she has worked at The Lantern Theater Company, Theatre Exile, Pig Iron Theatre Company, The Wilma and Act II Playhouse, where she received a Barrymore nomination for *Grace and Glorie*.

**Kevin Murphy** (Bill Anders) About a year ago, Tina Brock tapped Kevin to perform in his first Raw Onion show, and he is thrilled to return for this swan song production! Kevin is the Artistic Director/Acting Teacher for Room6 Theatre here in Philadelphia, and is currently in pre-production for their first Fringe show: the Philadelphia premiere of *This is How it Goes* by Neil LaBute. Check out www.room6theatre.org for details. Past productions with Room6 include directing David Mamet’s *All Men Are Whores* and playing Vince in the 2009 production of *Tape* at the Shubin Theatre. Currently, Kevin is serving as the acting coach for Outbreak Creative Group’s current film production *The Final Round* in North Philadelphia and he will be performing in *Super Heroes Who Are Super* at Plays and Players next week.

**Lee Pucklis** (Reginald Worthington) appeared in the IRC’s *The Madwoman of Chaillot, Victim’s of Duty, The Chairs, and The Gnädiges Fraulein*. He has acted and produced on and off Broadway, in regional and stock theatre, film and TV. His formal training came from Meisner, Strasberg, LeGallienne, and Lortel. Additional NY theatre work includes the general management and stage and production management functions at Lucille Lortel Productions, The Actors Studio, Union Square Theatre, American Place Theatre, and Circle Rep. Lee is a past member of the NY League of Theatre Producers, and also a former theatre program auditor for the New York State Council on the Arts. Presently, he is a board member of the IRC aiding in fundraising and production development.

**Sonja Robson** (Trudy Schiff) This will mark Sonja’s 5th adventure into the land of The Onion. She was last seen as Mug in *The Empire Builders* and Lady Constance in *The Madwoman of Chaillot* both with The IRC. Thanks to Tina and The IRC for so many opportunities to be silly. Sonja can also be enjoyed doing various commercials on local TV. She wishes to thank her family and is looking forward to welcoming a new grand baby into the world any day now.
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Mike Harrah (Senator in Question) First professional appearances were in the Greek drama The Oresteia, with Dame Judith Anderson, and The Birds with Bert Lahr, a very long time ago. He more recently appeared in Aspects of Love at the Media Theater, and Romeo and Juliet with Shakespeare in Clark Park. Other stage
WHO’S WHO

Kate Black-Regan (Tricia McCory) Previous performances with the IRC include The Young Pupil in The Lesson (2009), Irma in The Madwoman of Chaillot (Fringe 2010), Zenobia in The Empire Builders (2011), an inexperienced midwife in the Raw Onion and the rabid animal lover in the Onion before that one - glad to be back and sicker than ever! Upcoming performances include Prometheus Bound with Renegade Classic Theatre, Lady M with Live Arts Brewery under direction of Adrienne Mackey, and Water Bears In Space with PuppeTyranny for the 2011 Fringe. HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY IRC!!! So much thanks to Tina and all of the fellow Onioneers. Thanks to my 2 beautiful sisters, Jas and Deva, who are both in the important and loving field of animal care...this is for YOU!

Liam Castellan (Bill Brodhagen) has been in every Raw Onion, and is proud to go down with the ship. He has directed for Plays & Players, the Walking Fish Theatre, and Curio Theatre Company where he is a company member. As an actor: IRC (Four of a Kind, Fringe ’07), Curio (9 shows and counting), Simpatico, EgoPo and others. Next up: acting in Much Ado About Nothing with Shakespeare in Clark Park, July 20-24.

John D’Alonzo (Chris Feyen) has tears running down his cheeks from all this onion cutting going on around here! John is honored to be working with the IRC again, he was last seen as The Waiter in The Madwoman Of Chaillot. Next up in April, he helped produce The April Arts Festival at The Shubin Theater, all proceeds benefiting Project H.O.M.E, more info at www.ActforCharity.org. Then in May he will be helping Mark Knight raise money for the March of Dimes via OverKnight Theatre, look us up on Facebook! Thank you for supporting the Arts!

Jesse Delaney (Curtis Manion) is excited to be working with the Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium again. He has appeared as the Doorman in IRC’s The Madwoman of Chaillot, a giant fox in Workshop for Potential Movement’s Speak, Mascot!, a doppleganger in IRC’s The Chairs, and as a party goer in Troma’s Terror Firmer. If you squint at just the right moment, you can glimpse him in The Last Airbender as a water soldier. More likely though you’ll see him riding his yellow 10-speed around town.

Ryan McMenamin (Lights and Sound) Ryan was lucky enough to get a chance to work with IRC when Tina formed the company in ’06. And although work and other recent projects have pulled him away, Ryan has always jumped at any opportunity to help the Consortium out in whatever way possible. Ryan is the managing director of AxD Gallery, a Center City art gallery and rehearsal studio that IRC regularly uses. Ryan is also the technical director for The Waitstaff Sketch Comedy Troupe. Look for the Waitstaff’s 2011 Fringe Festival show here at L’Etage in September!

Bob Schmidt (Stage Manager) is a founding member of the IRC and has appeared in many productions since the company’s founding in 2006: Boris Vian’s The Empire Builders; Jean Giraudoux’s The Madwoman of Chaillot; Eugène Ionesco’s The Chairs, Victims of Duty, The Leader, and Foursome; Christopher Durang’s The Actor’s Nightmare, Wanda’s Visit, Samuel Beckett’s Catastrophe, and numerous Raw Onions. Many thanks to all of the Onioneers for taking the time to share their talents and time to help us out, and, of course, to YOU for coming out to support the IRC. Next up: Pocket Size Plays for The April Arts Festival (ActForCharity.org) in April and The Arsonists with the IRC in September.

Consider helping us grow!

Your contributions to The IRC are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium
P. O. Box 63872
Philadelphia, PA 19147
www.idiopathicridiculopathyconsortium.org

The IRC is a 501C3 non-profit corporation.
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Marc Scheiner & Jonathan Hamm • Will & Jessica Stanforth
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The Best of Raw Onion:
Let Us Eat Cake!

Part I: Sex and Food
Sharon Geller as Maggie Lehman
John D’Alonzo as Chris Feyen
Sonja Robson as Trudy Schiff
Bayard Walker as Edgar LeBlanc
Michael Dura as Gary Stapleton
Lee Pucklis as Reginald Worthington

Part II: Sports and Politics
Liam Castellan as Bill Brodhagen
Michael Harrah as Senator in Question
Kate Black-Regan as Tricia McCory
Jesse Delaney as Curtis Manion
Kati Kertesz as Freida Becker

Part III: Guns and Religion
Kevin Murphy as Bill Anders
Jane Stojak as Dr. Jeanne Horschart
Ethan Lipkin as Ted Farner
Jane Moore as Eugenia Korner
Mark Knight as Paul Hale
Bill Rayhill as Edwin Childress

Directed by
Tina Brock

Light and Sound Operator:
Ryan McMenamin

Playing time is 70 minutes; there will be no intermission.

Feel free to visit the bar and the accommodations, located in the lobby, throughout the show.

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(2011)
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Happy Birthday little Idiopathic!

It was May 2006 when the IRC first hoisted the absurdist sails. Our mission: to bring to the light of day works from a loosely-defined group of playwrights from the Theater of the Absurd. The IRC’s first two-show annual budget was $11,000. Five years later, our budget is up over the $40,000 mark: we’re still dusting off the absurdist gems and discovering the timelessness in these universal classics.

The IRC presented its first works on this cabaret stage, and I am truly indebted to an old colleague, Jim Caiola, for providing the IRC a home since 2006. Jim and his partner David Salama have enabled the IRC to grow within the safely and luxurious confines of this cabaret theater while finding our audience.

Many, many thanks to the powers that oversee The ONION, America’s Finest News Source for granting us the rights to perform this material since 2008. Tonight’s slice of RAW ONION is our “Best Of” homage, filled with our favorite opinions and characters from past shows that we couldn’t resist bringing back.

The ridiculous characters inhabiting the stage this evening (the actors, I mean) are just the folks you’d want to have at your fifth birthday party. Big kids all, (disguised as respectable adults) their view of the world is well-suited for this material. Hugely talented, strikingly diverse in their approach to the craft, they are among the people I’m most indebted to for helping the IRC get to this watershed.

Looking forward to this year’s Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe Festival in September, the IRC will serve up Swiss novelist and playwright Max Frisch’s provocative and ingenious comic parable The Firebugs (1958). We’ll be working with the 2007 translation entitled The Arsonists, first performed at London’s Royal Court Theatre. Subtitled "A moral play without a moral," this devilish satire considers the dangers of a life without principles. We hope you’ll make plans to join us at the Walnut Street Theater Studio 5 in the fall.

I’m guessing you didn’t venture out tonight without knowing there might be some cringe-worthy moments. I promise if you’re in the audience for our next Ionesco or Beckett production, there won’t be single foul word or graphic reference in the evening. For tonight, we hope you laugh a little and relish the absurdity of our life and times.

Thanks for celebrating five years of controlled chaos with us this evening... and please, leave your cell phones on and text your heart out!

Tina Brock
Producing Artistic Director
SPECIAL THANKS

The Onion: America's Finest News Source
(www.theonion.com)
Greg Day, The Onion
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  Baylor Harton
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  Tina Brock
Susan Feagin
  Gail Furman
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