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THIS LIST REFLECTS GIFTS RECEIVED AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 1997

The Myth of Cosmogonia

story composed, costumed, conceived, directed, designed, and constructed by

COOCOOHANDLER

Paul Braucher, Tom Burnett, Matt Hausmann, and David Yearwood

with musicians Elliott Levin and Michael Leonhart

lighting design by Jason Sturm lighting associates Jamie Burnett, Paul Jones, Pam Traynor

videos by Rani Saha and Kevin Scott

additional songs and material by Dale Goodson

additional material and improvisations by Andrew Farrell, Jay Rhoderick, John Thies, Kevin Scott & Zero Boy

Staging Consultant David Simonds

Fight instructor Ron Peretti

Special thanks to fight participants:
Chris Bugg, David Braucher, Sheri Cloninger,
Joey Cuales, Anthony Gallet, Carla Greene,
Al Gromulat, Ruby de Jesus, Larry Hudson, Kathy Keane,
Dan Kinsella, Kellene Kulas, Sophie Malleret, Aline Milev,
Jenny Prichard, Susana Raines, Rani Saha,
Kevin Scott, Shut-Up Shelly, Ken Silverman

The Kitchen 512 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011 212.255.5793

November 20, 21, 22, 23, 1997 8 pm



COOCOOHANDLER was a name penned by James Joyce in Finnegan's Wake to describe the character known as Earwick. Since its inception in 1994, the band COOCOOHANDLER has performed its own brand of Post-Freudian- Jazz-Punk Cabaret, ranging freely between chamber music and Freak show.

COOCOOHANDLER is composed of:

Paul Braucher, guitarist, writer, painter
Tom Burnett, performer, musician, writer/poet
Matt Hausmann, percussionist, sculptor, installation artist
David Yearwood, multi-instrumentalist, composer, costumer

Regular guest artists include Michael Leonhart (Sunnyside Records recording artist), Elliot Levin (Cecil Taylor veteran), Bohdan Hilash, and others.

COOCOOHANDLER has performed at the Cucaracha Theatre, CBGB's Gallery, Surf Reality, Comic Strip, Sun Mountain, South Street Seaport for the Toyota Comedy Festival, and Webster Hall for the New York Fringe Festival and will be the official performance orchestra for the '98 Fringe Festival. COOCOOHANDLER has appeared on promotional spots for MTV's M2 and has been featured on PBS City Arts.

COOCOOHANDLER is also proud to announce the release of their first CD, *Collagen*, in the spring of 1998 and is looking forward to a European tour.

Paul Braucher, born in Chicago, Illinois, comes from a musical family (his grandfather taught violin and played in the Chicago Lyric Opera orchestra, his mother taught piano, and his father played the trumpet). Paul's early interest in both music and the visual arts eventually led him to take up the guitar and to study painting at Knox College (B.A. 1981) and Queens College (M.F.A. 1986). He has presented solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Realist/Hackett-Friedman Gallery, San Francisco, in 1989 and 1996, and has been a member of COOCOOHANDLER since its inception.

Tom Burnett has presented his own performance poetry at many New York venues including Nuyorican Poet's Cafe and St. Marks Poetry Project, and in Chicago, Seattle, and San Francisco. He is the founder of the 8th Avenue session and was featured in a National Television Campaign sponsored by the Cultural Alliance to Support Arts in America. Directing credits include the plays of the late Winchester Chimes, American Fat and I Want Tonsils. As co-director of Danny Mydlack's Mr. Big Company, he has presented "Heads" shows at La Mama, Cucaracha Theatre and Lincoln Center. He has also acted in plays and films and will be seen in the title role of A Piece of Eddie Rush to be shot in the winter of 1998.

Matt Hausmann was born and raised in Alton, IL. on the bluffs of the Mississippi. Hausmann's first drum kit was fashioned from old pans and stolen pot lids. At the age of fourteen, Hausmann and childhood friend David Yearwood began the first of a long history of music making with their band The Problems. Hausmann first appeared on television in a 1986 feature on *Good Morning America* with David Hartman. He received a B.A. in Studio Art from Knox College where he met Paul. Since moving to New York in 1981, Hausmann has perfected his ability to build anything, working as a steeplejack and a sculptor, a treehouse builder and a set designer, and a builder of walls, stairs and homes. Much love to the Kitchen staff.

David Yearwood is the primary composer and costume designer for the performance orchestra, COOCOOHANDLER. He studied at the University of Illinois, receiving two B.F.A. degrees in creative writing and string bass performance. Since arriving in New York City in 1993, he has focused his creative energies into COOCOOHANDLER, which has performed consistently and to growing acclaim since 1994.

Micheal Leonhart, born in New York City in 1974, grew up surrounded by music at home. Michael went to the High School for the Performing Arts in New York City but cites his family as his biggest inspiration. He has won over thirty international awards in performance and composition, including a Grammy Award in 1992. In addition to recording twenty-three albums with other artists, he has recorded two CDs for Sunnyside, the current Glub Glub vol. 11 and Aardvark Poses.

Elliott Levin (saxes/flutes/poetry) has been performing music and poetry in New York (and native Philadelphia) as well as the rest of the world for over twenty years. He has toured with Harold Melvin and the Bluenotes, Cecil Taylor Ensemble, and his own band New Ghost. He has recorded original poetry and music with Olduvai, Iltar, Interplay, New Ghost, Jackson Krall Ensemble, Cecil Taylor Ensemble, and the Elliott Levin 4-tet (on C.I.M.P. Records). He has published a book of poetry does it swing? (on Heat Press). Levin is resident musician for Theater Double (Philadelphia/New York), and the inimitable, indisputable, indescribably delicious COOCOOHANDLER.

Dale Goodson is a poet and actor hailing from Seattle where he received a Regional Emmy Award for his work with the Off The Wall Players, a comedy group of which he was co-founder. In New York he has received performance grants for his poetry from NYSCA and Franklin Furnace. His material has been performed at The Public Theater, The Kitchen, Cucaracha, West Bank, PS 122, Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, and the Organic Theater in Chicago. His poetry has also been featured on MTV in the Rolling Stone 25th Anniversary Show and MTV's Poetry Breaks.

Zero Boy (The Wasp), international cyberclown, has performed in Russia, Berlin, Amsterdam, Geneva, Italy, and Spain with tales of sounds and story. He recently did promo spots for MTV's M2, has been host of High Times Cannabis Cup for two years in Amsterdam, and is director of Ooga Ooga at Winston Hotel. Zero Boy will be performing new routines every weekend at 10 pm in January and February at Baby Jupiters.

Jay Rhoderick (The Moth)-- For the past year-and-a-half, he has been performing Spontaneous Theater (midnight shows) at NADA Theatre with Burn Manhattan, slowly constructing a scripted spectacle of cosmic proportions. Jay is performing *The Misanthrope* in January and is teaching theatre to some of NYC's youngsters.

Kevin Scott is thrilled to be part of Cosmogonia, the biggest extravaganza from the mad geniuses of COOCOOHANDLER. He is also a member of Burn Manhattan, the critically acclaimed Spontaneous Theater troupe, recent winner of the New York Improvisation festival. Thanks to Rani and Herb the Christmas Angel.

John Thies is a founding member and is currently performing with Burn Manhattan Spontaneous Theater at Toda con Nada. Before moving to New York he performed with Chicago's The Second City for more than five years, receiving a Jeff Nomination for Best Actor. His television credits include a series of blink-and-you'll miss-him-appearances.

Catherine Sand (Ocean Mother) is an artist, poet, and founder of Space Monkey/French Kiss productions.

Rani Saha is a graduate of Loyola University. She moved to New York in the winter of '95 to work in film and video. Her works include Senseless, Burn Manhattan, Fringe, and various other film and video shorts and theater. Thanks to Kevin Scott and Maya.

Jason Sturm (Lighting Designer) has created lighting and scenery for hundreds of shows in the worlds of Broadway, Regional Theatre, Opera, Ballet, Modern Dance, and Rock 'n' Roll. He also lit the world's largest sand-castle. Broadway credits include Chu Chem and Miss Margarida's Way. His many world premiers include works by Mark Medoff (The Heart Outright), Eduardo Machado (Once Removed), and Todd Alcott (Girl In the Ashes, Royal Blood). He has worked with such noted artists as John Cage, Peter Sellers, Vincent Price, Roy Orbison, Bonnie Raitt, John Denver, and many others. Mr. Sturm is currently a freelance artist living in New York City.

Devin Lidlow's recent stage managing credits include *Turn, Turn, Turn, a Tribute to Pete Seeger, Vanaver Theater Caravan,* and the Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre, '94-'97 season. She is currently an electrics intern at The Juilliard School.

Ron Peretti is a fight director and certified teacher for the Society of American Fight Directors. He recently coordinated the fights on the film Adverse Possession, staged fights for WPA's production of Queen Amarantha, The Boys in the Band, and Marking produced by Pure Orange Productions. He has staged fights for Ensemble Studio Theatre, MCC, Naked Angels, Malaparte, American Globe Theater, and The New School/Actor's Studio MFA program. He has worked as a fight consultant for The San Francisco Opera's production of Carmen and as fencing coordinator on the television show As the World Turns. Ron is on faculty at Ann Reinking's Broadway Theater Project in Tampa, Florida. He received his M.F.A. from the Goodman School of Drama.

David Simonds (Staging Consultant) co-founded Cucaracha Theatre in New York and served as their associate director for ten years. He directed Cucaracha's *Underground Soap* and coordinated the *Cucaracha Warehouse Cabaret*. He has also directed both of Dale Goodson's solo shows, *The Ballad of Ten Thousand Men* and *Hey, I've Got a Problem*. Film credits as an actor include *Amateur, Henry Fool, Conspiracy Theory, Peacemaker, Fish in a Bathtub, Urban Legend, Cardiac,* and the upcoming *B-Movie*. Television credits include *Cosby, Conan O'Brien,* and *NY Undercover*.

Dan Kinsella (Tweet) is one of New York's favorite alternative comedy performers. He has appeared in plays, films, TV's, scenes, sketches, comedy clubs, performance holes, and COOCOOHANDLER shows. Kinsella can also be heard playing harmonica with the band The Blind Pharaohs.

Sophie Malleret (Dusk) is one of Richard Caliban's interns from Performance Piece #27, *The French Gal.* She is very happy to work with COOCOOHANDLER after having watched them at Cucaracha.

Jennifer Prichard cracks a whip every Saturday night as Mistress Elsa, the host of NYC's longest running all female variety show, Surf Reality's Witching Hour at Baby Jupiter. "All my love to husband Robert and daughter Skye."

Kathy Keane (Monk & Armed Response) is saving up to move to Cosmogonia. Here in New York City, she writes, performs, sells glasses, and practices yoga. Om.

Shut-up Shelley - Normally a dominatrix, Shut-up Shelley spends her free hours reading Albert Schweitzer, sewing her own clothes, and trying to look taller. For fun she yells, screams, and wears steel-toe boots.

Carla Greene is currently a Junior at NYU. She is a Drama major, specializing in acting and directing for stage. Carla is also Pre-Med and attempting to go to med school. Wish her luck.

Rani Saha and Kevin Scott (Video Design) are digital junkies. With their company Sweet Potato Pictures they design graphics and other media for various theater troupes, bands, performers, as well as create their own original works.

Andrew Farrell (the Monster) says Cosmogonia seems like a nice place and given the chance he would move there. He is pleased to finally be working with the COOCOOS.

FIGHTERS

David Braucher's improvisers dot the alternative theater landscape from major metropolitan centers to certain obscure rural redoubts. In Cosmogonia his long repressed insectivorous proclivities find their fullest expression, thanks in no small measure to Jen, Kate, and Meg.

Chris Bugg (Wood Sprite)- An aspiring method actor, avid Star Wars fan, and all around hero, Chris will continue to fight the forces of evil. . . hopefully in Hollywood on a big budget movie.

Cheri Cloninger- After graduating from NYU in May, Cheri plans to be one of the first colonists on Mars. She will continue to study acting and will earn her keep on Mars by growing spider plants for oxygen.

Joey Cuales- Hair Stylist Assistant, Superintendent, Paralegal Graduate '97, Certified Exterminator, and other titles. I am not allowed to print.

Ruby De Jesus has fairy god parents, Fay L. & Al G. She is a dreamer, and yes, she's been to the moon.

Anthony Galleti, in waking hours, is an inspector for the Federal Bureau of Lesion and Sore Enhancement, "Omni hora vulnit, ultima occidet" (Each hour wounds, the last kills).

Al Gromulet wandered into Cosmogonia while looking for tickets to another show, DING DONG.

Larry Hudson panders to the computing needs of small Third World governments. In his spare time, he foments anarchy, writes, and seeks enlightenment.

Kellene Kulas is feelin' very good in black plastic. Very good.

Aline Miller has appeared previously in Main St. Theater productions of Grease, Little Mary Sunshine, Damn Yankees, and How to eat like a Child. She is currently enrolled at UNIS, lives on Roosevelt Island, and has a cat named Summertime.

Susana Raynes teaches Hudson County politics at Jersey City State University. She served as the moral advisor for Star Trek: Next Generation. In addition to enjoying a lucrative career as an elbow model, she has been engaged in a four year, two month, and five day love affair with Amy, Matt Hausmann's consort.

Ken Silverman- Mr. Silverman recently authored the NY Times bestseller, *As It Were and Other Useless Expressions*. Recently, he was given the title "Sir" by Queen Elizabeth for his groundbreaking study of sanitation practices in Old England. A huge thank you to the following, without whom the Myth of Cosmogonia would have remained a myth!

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Gods

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The Myth of Cosmogonia is part Connections: Tones and Textures, a series presented by The Kitchen & Composers' Forum.

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