



# Advance Program Notes

## The Intergalactic Nemesis

*Book One: Target Earth*

Thursday, September 25, 2014, 7:30 pm

Friday, September 26, 2014, 7:30 pm

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

## THE INTERGALACTIC NEMESIS

### *Book One: Target Earth*

*A live-action graphic novel*

*Written by Chad Nichols and Jason Neulander*

*Adapted and directed by Jason Neulander*

*Adapted from the radio drama by Ray Patrick Colgan, Jessica Reisman, Julia Edwards, and Lisa D'Amour*

*Based on an original idea by Ray Patrick Colgan*

*Comic book artwork by Tim Doyle*

*Color art by Paul Hanley and Lee Duhig*

*Production designed by Jason Neulander*

*Sound effects created by Buzz Moran*

*Improvised score by Graham Reynolds*

*Sound engineering by George R. Stumberg IV*

*Company manager, Jessie Douglas*

### **CAST** *(in order of appearance)*

**Rachel Landon**

Molly Sloan, Bird, Lead Hive Voice, Aughy, Claire, Queen of Zygon, Little Girl

**Brock England**

Timmy Mendez, Assassin, Jeeves, Shopkeeper, Clint, X-7, Silcron, Zygonian guard

**Christopher Lee Gibson**

Vlad, Ben Wilcott, Driver, Mysterion the Magnificent, Lord Crawford, Thug, Omar, Jean-Pierre Desperois, Elbee-Dee-Oh

**Kelly Matthews**

Foley Sound Effects

**Harlan Hodges**

Piano and Organ

*There will be a 15-minute intermission.*

*Comic books, sound-effects gadgets, posters, shirts, and Zygonian Slime available in the Grand Lobby at intermission and after the performance. The cast will be signing books after the show.*

*This production received its world premiere at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin, Texas, 2010. New York premiere at the New Victory Theatre, 2012*

# *Who's Who in the Cast and Crew*

**RACHEL LANDON** (*Molly Sloan, Aughy, Queen of Zygon, et al.*)

Rachel Landon is happy to be performing in her first season with The Intergalactic Nemesis. She hails from Houston, Texas, and attended The University of Evansville in Indiana for a bachelor's degree. Landon has performed as an actor and singer all over the country. You may have last seen her on Broadway eating a jumbo soft pretzel. Some of her favorite regional credits include Emma in *Tell Me On a Sunday*, Mrs. Walker in *The Who's Tommy*, Rona in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Diana in *Next to Normal*, Jean in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and Bernie Bernstein in *Bigfoot and Other Lost Souls*. Landon is also a founding member and artistic director of Standing Room Only Productions in Houston, Texas.

**BROCK ENGLAND** (*Timmy, Shopkeeper, Webster, et al.*)

Brock England is an actor, director, and producer, and has been active in stage and film for over 20 years. He's either performed or assisted in a performance of just about every major musical you can name, toured the country with an equestrian circus, and is an accomplished Shakespearean actor. He's been seen in numerous short films and his first feature film, entitled *Zero Charisma*, premiered at the South By Southwest Film Festival in 2013, garnering the audience award for Best Narrative. He was awarded Best Lead Actor by the Austin Critic's Table for his performance in Hidden Room Theatre's original practices production of *Rose Rage*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's Henry VI plays. He also writes and co-produces an original web series called *Clown vs Mime*. In his spare time, he enjoys running, sailing, working on his motorcycle(s), and singing.

**CHRISTOPHER LEE GIBSON** (*Ben Wilcott, Mysterion, Jean-Pierre, et al.*)

Christopher Lee Gibson is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (1990), and was an actor for several producing companies in Tampa, Florida: The Loft Theatre, The Tampa Players, American Stage Theatre, The Off-Center Theatre, B.O.B. (theatrical palindrome), and The Hillsborough Moving Company. Gibson acted as producer of the Orlando International Fringe Festival (2001-2004) and production manager at Orlando's Mad Cow Theatre (2005). He also acted for Mad Cow and The Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, as well as The Austin Playhouse, Zach Scott Theatre, Salvage Vanguard Theatre, and The Da! Theatre Collective.

**KELLY MATTHEWS** (*Foley artist*)

Kelly Matthews holds a bachelor of fine arts in acting from Texas State University. Her favorite stage credits include *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds* (Tillie), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Germaine), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *What Light Through Yonder Window Breaks* (Laura), and *Almost Maine* (Ginette/Sandrine/Gayle), for which she won the TSU Ramsey Award for Best Actress and an Irene Ryan nomination. Matthews has also studied abroad in England with The Royal Shakespeare Company. She has participated in the Commedia Del'arte troupe Heartfelt Tricks playing such characters as Isabella and Smeraldina, as well as having participated in The Paramount Theatre's Story Wranglers and an Austin favorite, FronteraFest. Matthews is also an acting teacher at the ZACH Theatre Performing Arts School in Austin, Texas.

**HARLAN HODGES** (*piano and organ*)

Harlan Hodges is a pianist, composer, and producer from West Texas who has been actively performing and collaborating within a wide range of musical styles and performance mediums over the past decade. Along with other leading musicians, artists, and creators, he has produced works that range from orchestra and big band to electronic and multimedia art installations. Hodges studied piano performance, jazz, and composition at Texas Tech University. Now residing in Austin, Texas, he is regularly performing on the music scene and writing for film and television.

# *Who's Who in the Cast and Crew, cont'd*

## **GEORGE "JEDI" STRUMBERG IV** (*technical director/front of house audio*)

Episode II: George "Jedi" Strumberg IV is returning for his second year helping to rid the universe of Zygonians. He began his career in audio in 2005 as the first graduate of Mediatech Institute Austin. Since then he has worked with over 2,000 bands. He worked for several years at South By Southwest, a 10-day music, film, and fashion festival in Austin, Texas, for brands like The Roxy, The Viper Room, and CNN/PRG. He has also worked at Bass Concert Hall in Austin, Texas, as audio department head and soundboard operator for the nation's largest touring Broadway Across America theatre, on shows like *South Pacific*, *In the Heights*, and *West Side Story*. Strumberg has enjoyed working with comedians such as Jerry Seinfeld, Chelsea Handler, Daniel Tosh, and Mike Epps. Some of his favorite musicians, with whom he has worked in various capacities, are Widespread Panic, A Great Big World, Neil Young, Levon Helm, Yo Yo Ma, Paul McCartney, and David Crosby and Graham Nash. He returns to *The Intergalactic Nemesis* as a lifelong comic book and science fiction fan. Strumberg is a sixth generation Texan and a full time Jedi. Confirmed Zygonian kills: CLASSIFIED

## **JESSIE DOUGLAS** (*company manager*)

This year will be Jessie Douglas' fourth season on the road with *The Intergalactic Nemesis*. Douglas spent last summer as the assistant stage manager on ZACH Theater's production of *One Night with Janis*. At ZACH, in Austin, Texas, Douglas worked as rehearsal assistant stage manager for *Hairspray*, assistant stage manager for *August: Osage County*, assistant stage manager (and in the ensemble) for *Rent*, the assistant stage manager for *Our Town*, and running crew for *The Grapes of Wrath*. Other credits include acting as stage manager for *Barefoot in the Park* at Unity Theater in Brenham, Texas, and *Proof*, produced by Thunder Mountain Theater Project in Juneau, Alaska. Douglas spent a year in Juneau working for Perseverance Theatre as the company/stage management fellow. She is a graduate from Texas State University, San Marcos, where she earned a bachelor of the arts in theater with a business minor.

## **GRAHAM REYNOLDS** (*composer*)

Called "the quintessential modern composer" by the *London Independent*, Austin-based composer/bandleader Graham Reynolds creates, performs, and records music for film, theater, dance, rock clubs, and concert halls, with collaborators ranging from Richard Linklater and Jack Black to DJ Spooky and Ballet Austin. Heard throughout the world in films, on TV, on stage, and on radio, from HBO to Showtime, Cannes Film Festival to the Lincoln Center, and BBC to NPR, he recently scored *Before Midnight* with Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy, as well as *Bernie* featuring Jack Black. With the jazz-based but far reaching Golden Arm Trio, Reynolds has repeatedly toured the country and released four critically acclaimed albums. As co-artistic director of Golden Hornet Project with Peter Stopschinski, he has produced more than 50 concerts of world-premier alt-classical music by more than 60 composers. *The Intergalactic Nemesis* is one of his many collaborations with writer-director Jason Neulander. Find out more at [grahamreynolds.com](http://grahamreynolds.com).

## **BUZZ MORAN** (*sound effects designer*)

Buzz Moran has been performing live sound effects for *The Intergalactic Nemesis* since developing sounds for the first production in 1996. Since then he has worked steadily as a sound designer for countless (he has not yet counted them) theatre productions. Moran is responsible for the sporadically performed Foleyvision shows in Austin, Texas, wherein odd foreign films receive new music, voices, and sound effects performed live in the theatre. Also in Austin, Moran helps run *The Dionysium*, a monthly show featuring lectures, drinking, and debates. On the music side of audio, he has recorded, mixed, and produced several CDs, which are small silver discs that can play sounds. Often working closely with Graham Reynolds, Moran is a music editor on such films as *Bernie* starring Jack Black, and *Before Midnight* starring Ethan Hawke. You can learn more about sound effects by watching Moran's PBS web series, *What's That, Buzz?*, available on the Internet's YouTube.

# *Who's Who in the Cast and Crew, cont'd*

## **TIM DOYLE** (*artwork, Target Earth*)

Tim Doyle is an illustrator and print-maker working out of Austin, Texas. Growing up in the suburban sprawl of the Dallas area, he turned inward and sullen, only finding joy in comic books, television, and video games. Moving to Austin, Texas, in 1999 to fulfill a life-long dream of not living in Dallas, Doyle began painting and showing in galleries in 2001. He self-published a diary zine, *Amazing Adult Fantasy*, from 2001-2003. He has held many nerd-friendly jobs, including running a small chain of comic book stores, as well as designing t-shirts and art-directing the poster series for the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema. Doyle left 'jobs' behind and launched his company, [www.Nakatomiinc.com](http://www.Nakatomiinc.com), in January of 2009. In the summer of 2009, Tim Doyle, along with artist Clint Wilson, built their own screen printing studio, [NakatomiPrint.com](http://NakatomiPrint.com), out of which they and other artists work. Since then, he has produced art for companies such as ABC/Disney's Lost Poster project, Mattel's He-Man art show in L.A., and has had artwork used by Lucasfilm/ILM, Hasbro, and IDW, among others. He has had several sold-out solo art shows hosted by *SpokeArt* in San Francisco and has exhibited in galleries all over the world. Doyle lives and works in Austin, Texas, with his wife and two children. You can see more of his work at [www.MrDoyle.com](http://www.MrDoyle.com).

## **CHAD NICHOLS** (*co-author*)

Chad Nichols received a master of fine arts in screenwriting and fiction from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas. Nichols has collaborated with Jason Neulander and Ray Colgan through many stages of The Intergalactic Nemesis project, contributing to all three parts of the trilogy. Known for introducing such crowd-pleasing characters as Heinrich Heinemuellerschlossenschlagermeisterschloss and Sujeet Ranamaharavna, he hopes to bring the same level of nominal absurdity to his screenplays. Nichols sings for the Texas-noir band The Transgressors and plays guitar with both The Damn Times and T. Tex Edwards & the Texwardians. He also speaks in funny voices for the trash-film celebrating Foleyvision troupe, and his deadpan delivery caused *Austin Chronicle* critic Wayne Alan Brenner to dub him the "Charles Grodin of Austin."

## **JASON NEULANDER** (*co-author, director, and producer*)

Jason Neulander is an internationally acclaimed writer, director, and producer whose work fuses multiple artistic disciplines with technology to create unique and original theatrical and literary experiences. In the '90s, Neulander founded the avant-garde company Salvage Vanguard Theater in Austin, Texas, and during his 15-year run as artistic director, developed and directed more than 50 original experimental plays and music-theatre productions. During his tenure he was named Best Theatre Director three times by the readers of the *Austin Chronicle* and won numerous awards for his work. In his final years at Salvage Vanguard Theater, he designed and oversaw the construction of the company's current home, a venue with two small theatres and a gallery for visual art. Of his work, the *Austin American-Statesman* said, "Neulander aims to change the world... Unlike most of his artistic compatriots, he is winning." His current project, the independently produced transmedia sci-fi multiverse The Intergalactic Nemesis, takes the form of graphic novels, radio plays, podcasts, novels, e-books, web series, and live stage productions. The "live-action graphic novel" Intergalactic trilogy has been booked into more than 140 venues around the world, including runs on Broadway and sold-out performances at the Kennedy Center. It was named "Best of Austin" in 2011 and has been featured on PBS, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and TBS's *Conan* (with Conan O'Brien as a performer). The web-series version of the project is available through PBS Digital. The graphic novels are available in print and through [comiXology](http://comiXology). He is currently expanding the Intergalactic universe into a noir-inspired series of novels and podcasts entitled *SALT*, featuring the enigmatic Jean-Pierre Desperois. For more information, visit [www.theintergalacticnemesis.com](http://www.theintergalacticnemesis.com).

# *The Intergalactic Nemesis Thanks...*

Cliff Redd; Derek Rosenstrauch; Mical Trejo; Shana Merlin; Molly Rice; Japhy Fernandez; (The Real) Ben Willcott; John Weiss; Tony Nozaro; Lindsay Doleshal; Corey Gagne; Dan Dietz; David Sangalli; Ben Anderson; John DeFore; Rachel Koper; Laura Phelan; Peter Stopschinski; Lee Eddy; Brent Werzner; Shannon McCormick; Mike D'Alonzo; David Higgins; LB Deyo; Jon Watson; Diana Duecker; Derek Menningen; Cynthia Patterson; Charles Leslie; Pebbles Wadsworth; Conrad Haden; Texas Performing Arts; Christine Tschida; Rena Shagan; Seth Goldstein; The Splinter Group; Bill Hofstetter/Agency 212; Mammoth Advertising (NYC); Rob Nuell; Maria Quinn; Pam Lubell; Leanne Schanzer; Jeff Croiter; Jonathan Herzog; Jeremy Lee; Robert Fried; Neil Patel; Bridget Klapinski; Carter Jackson; Robert Faires; The Austin Chronicle; KUT-FM; Ratgirl; Cliff and Cynthia Chapman; Adam Russell; Lars Nilson; Henri Mazza; Tim and Karrie League; the managers and staff of Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas; The HighBall; Fantastic Fest; STAPLE!; Chris Nicholas; Rebecca Campbell; Dragon's Lair; Tribe Comics; Austin Books & Comics; Amy's Ice Creams; House Pizzeria; Donna Taylor; Little City Espresso Bar & Cafe; Book People; Paul, Mark, Shaady, Kyle, Eric, Jim, and the rest of the staff at the Long Center for the Performing Arts; Sarah André; and the thousands of people who've seen and loved the show since its inception back in 1996.

## *A Brief History of The Intergalactic Nemesis*

In 1996, Ray Colgan approached Jason Neulander about the idea of creating a science-fiction radio serial to be performed live in installments and maybe even to be aired on the radio. Neulander jumped on the idea. He invited Jessica Reisman, Julia Edwards, and Lisa D'Amour to join Colgan on the writing team and The Intergalactic Nemesis was born. The original concept was that the writers would provide two 15-minute scripts per week for five weeks. Neulander got these scripts on a Friday, rehearsed with actors and sound on Saturday, and performed the two episodes on Sunday for five weeks at Little City coffeehouse. Because the process was so quick, the writers named the main characters after the actors who played them: Ben Willcott, Molly Rice, and Japhy Fernandez. Buzz Moran grabbed stuff out of his kitchen to make the last-minute sound effects. The first week, more than 100 people showed up at Little City to catch the show, and week after week the crowds stuck it out. Moran captured the show on a cassette-tape four track and the next summer KUT aired the show in serial format on their Sunday morning show Soundsight. And that was that. Or so they thought...

In 2000, Buzz bought a portable digital recording studio and suggested to Jason that SVT remount the show, cut it down to an evening-length format, perform it again and record a true broadcast-quality recording. Again, Neulander jumped and asked Ray and Jessica to help him rewrite it. On Memorial Day 2000, the crew set up shop at the State Theatre to a capacity crowd. The only original cast member was Ben Willcott, so the names of the other two main characters were changed. The performance was received so well that Ray and Jason immediately knew that the next summer they would have to create a sequel, which they did. Return of the Intergalactic Nemesis was performed and recorded in June 2001, both shows were performed in rep in 2002, and KUT aired a three-part edit of the show on its "Best of Public Radio" series. And that was that. Or so they thought...

In January 2009, Neulander approached artist Tim Doyle, who had created the backdrops for various productions, about developing a comic book version of the story. As the two collaborators began work on the comic book, Cliff Redd asked Neulander to bring the show into Dell Hall at the Long Center. In that meeting, Neulander came up with the idea of combining the comic book artwork with the live show. In September 2010, the Long Center premiered this new form of entertainment to an audience of over 2,100 people. Currently, the project has spawned two sequels and is in the midst of a multi-year international tour, including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; the New Victory in New York City; and more than 100 venues around the globe.

The adventure continues in the form of podcasts, web series, and more at [theintergalacticnemesis.com](http://theintergalacticnemesis.com) or by following the project on Facebook and Twitter.

To be continued...

# *Engagement Activities*

Thursday, September 25, 2014, 5:30 PM

## **Open Exhibitions of Selections** from the William J. Heron Speculative Fiction Collection

*Multi-Purpose Room and Special Collections Reading Room, Carol M. Newman Library at Virginia Tech*

In Special Collections in the Carol M. Newman Library at Virginia Tech, the William J. Heron Speculative Fiction Collection contains approximately 16,000 American, British, and Australian books and magazines from the 1920s to the 1980s relating to science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Among the works included are those exploring utopias and dystopias; adventures involving technological gadgetry, lost worlds, undiscovered lands, and heroes such as Doc Savage and Tarzan; ghost stories and fairy tales; and futuristic spy and espionage thrillers. Before facing off with *The Intergalactic Nemesis*, be introduced to this rich collection in University Libraries. Issues from the Heron Collection will be on display in the Special Collections Reading Room, while a visual panorama of the collection will be on view in the Multi-Purpose Room, also on Newman Library's first floor. Tours of Special Collections will be available during the exhibition as time and space permit, and refreshments will be served in the Multi-Purpose Room.

*Free*

Thursday, September 25, 2014, 6:30 PM

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## **PLAY IN THE LOBBY:** Cover Art from Pulp Magazine *Astounding Stories*

*Grand Lobby*

Drawn from the William J. Heron Speculative Fiction Collection in Special Collections in the Carol M. Newman Library at Virginia Tech, fantastic images from select issues of the pulp magazine *Astounding Stories* will be on display. Featuring alien invaders, futuristic machines, and intergalactic adventures, the colorful cover art from these issues, which date 1930-1935, will ignite your imagination and illuminate past visions of sci-fi worlds.

*Free*

Friday, September 26, 2014, 10 AM

## **The Intergalactic Nemesis:** Youth Performance

*Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre*

The Intergalactic Nemesis brings a special presentation of *Book One: Target Earth* to area high schoolers.

*Free; private event*

Thursday, September 25, 2014, 9:30 PM

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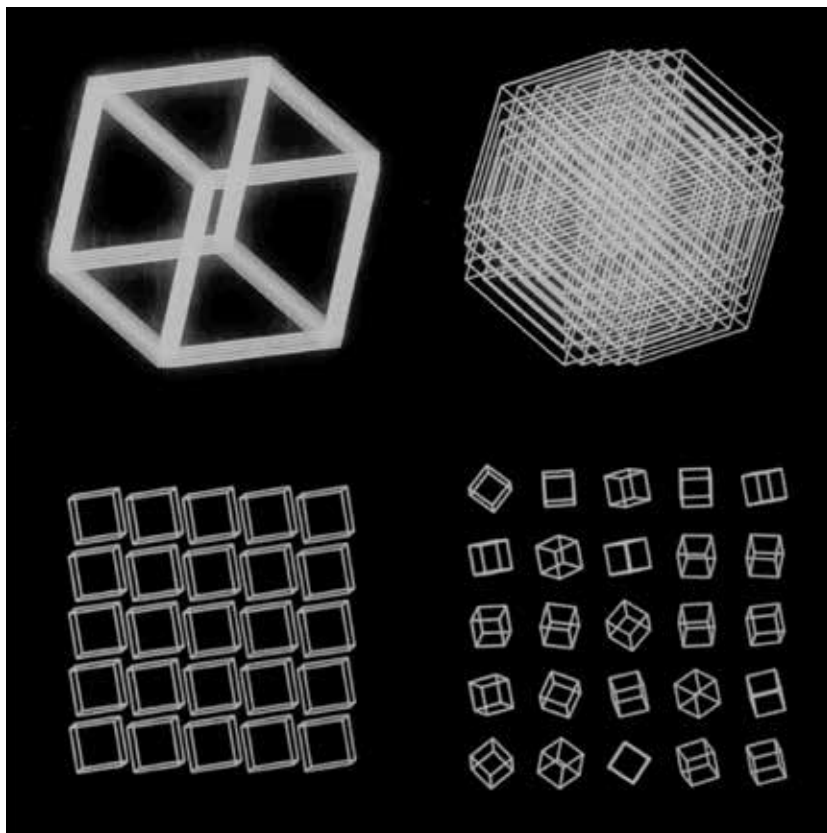
## **MEET THE ARTIST:** The Intergalactic Nemesis

*Grand Lobby*

Comic books, sound-effects gadgets, posters, shirts, and Zygonian Slime available in the Grand Lobby at intermission and after the performance. The cast will be signing books after the show.

*Free*

# *In the Galleries*



**Manfred Mohr**

Stills from *Cube Transformation Study*, 1972

Digitization of original 16mm film

Programmed in FORTRAN IV

Explore CONNECTIONS between works of art, artists, and viewers; between art past and present; and between ideas and their aesthetic manifestation.

## ***Evolving Geometries: Line, Form, and Color***

Thursday, September 25, 2014–Thursday, November 20, 2014

Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 AM–6 PM/Saturday–Sunday, 10 AM–4 PM

Three one-person exhibitions by renowned artists Manfred Mohr, Patrick Wilson, and Odili Donald Odita, who inventively explore geometry from multiple perspectives.

Thursday, September 25, 2014, 6:30 PM

**ARTIST TALK:** Patrick Wilson

*Ruth C. Horton Gallery*

Artist Patrick Wilson discusses his work in *Evolving Geometries: Line, Form, and Color*. Los Angeles artist Patrick Wilson creates luminous, sumptuously colored abstract paintings composed of richly layered geometric forms—lines, squares, and rectangles. A consummate colorist, he works with acrylic on canvas, meticulously deploying a palette of potent colors that range from muted grays and blues to intense vermilion, bright greens, yellows, and deep purples. Superimposing what seem like disarmingly simple geometric forms—on top of, beside, or inside each other—Wilson devises complex modular sequences that achieve mesmerizing visual effects.

*Free*