



# Advance Program Notes

*Faster Better Social*

**Mike Daisey**

**Saturday, February 22, 2014, 8 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.

## *FASTER BETTER SOCIAL*

Created and Performed by **Mike Daisey**

Directed by **Jean-Michele Gregory**

## *Biographies*

### **Mike Daisey**

Mike Daisey, hailed as “the master storyteller” and “one of the finest solo performers of his generation” by *The New York Times*, is the preeminent monologist in the American theater today. He has been compared to a modern-day Mark Twain and a latter-day Orson Welles for his provocative monologues that combine the political and the personal, weaving secret histories with hilarity and heart.

This fall he performed a critically acclaimed 29-night live theatrical novel, *All the Faces of the Moon*, at the Public Theater in New York. At 29 continuous nights and 40 hours in duration, it is the longest sustained theatrical narrative work in American history. You can listen to this entire show and many of Daisey's other stories on his free podcast, *All Stories Are Fiction*.

Since his first monologue in 1997, Daisey has created over 20 monologues, including the groundbreaking *The Last Cargo Cult*, the incendiary *How Theater Failed America*, the Disney/Burning Man/ Occupy mashup *American Utopias*, the scathing *F\*\*king F\*\*king F\*\*king Ayn Rand*, the 24-hour feat *All the Hours in the Day*, the international sensation *21 Dog Years*, and many, many more.

He has performed in venues across five continents, ranging from Off-Broadway at the Public Theater to remote islands in the South Pacific, from the Sydney Opera House to an abandoned theater in post-Communist Tajikistan. He's been a guest on *Real Time with Bill Maher*, the *Late Show with David Letterman*, a longtime host and storyteller with *The Moth*, as well as a commentator and contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Daily Beast*, *WIRED*, *Vanity Fair*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *NPR*, and the *BBC*. In a brief, meteoric career with *This American Life*, his two shows are among the most listened to and downloaded episodes of that program's 18-year history.

As a playwright, his controversial work *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* was downloaded over 100,000

times the first week it was made available. It has seen more than 100 productions around the world and been translated into six languages. It has been adapted into a musical, restaged with shadow puppets, performed by 15-person ensembles of high school students, and produced in countries from France to Kazakhstan. The first Chinese production opened last year in Beijing, and is currently touring to Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Shenzhen.

He is currently at work on his second book, *Here at the End of Empire*, which will be published in 2015 by Simon and Schuster. The first film for which he wrote a screenplay, *Layover*, was shown at the Cannes Film Festival in 2010. He has been nominated for the Outer Critics Circle Award, two Drama League Awards, and is the recipient of the Bay Area Critics Circle Award, six Seattle Times Footlight Awards, the Sloan Foundation's Galileo Prize, and a MacDowell Fellowship.

Daisey is active on Facebook and Twitter, and you can listen to his stories online through his podcast. You can find this all at his site, [mikedaisey.com](http://mikedaisey.com).

## **Jean-Michele Gregory**

Jean-Michele Gregory works as a director, editor, and dramaturg, focusing on extemporaneous theatrical works that live in the moment they are told. Working primarily with solo artists, for 16 years she has been Mike Daisey's chief co-conspirator, staging his monologues at venues across the globe, including the Public Theater, the Sydney Opera House, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, the Spoleto Festival, T:BA Festival, Under the Radar Festival, and many more. She has also directed New York storyteller Martin Dockery, as well as author and performer Suzanne Morrison. Her productions have received the Bay Area Critics Circle Award (*Great Men of Genius*), nominations from the Drama League and Outer Critics Circle (*If You See Something Say Something*), and six Seattle Times Footlight Awards (*21 Dog Years*, *The Ugly American*, *Monopoly!*, *The Last Cargo Cult*, *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs*, and *F\*\*king F\*\*king F\*\*king Ayn Rand*).