



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 30, 2017



**SLEEPING WEAZEL PREMIERES JAMES SCRUGGS'
3/FIFTHS' TRAPPED IN A TRAVELING MINSTREL SHOW**

Boston, Mass., September 30, 2017 – Multimedia theatre company Sleeping Weazel premieres *3/Fifths' Trapped in a Traveling Minstrel Show*, conceived and written by James Scruggs and directed by Mark Rayment. This show turns minstrelsy inside out and upside down in a blend of song, dance, video, and storytelling, at turns hilarious and terrifying, and sometimes both at the same time. A brand new piece inspired by Scruggs' [critically acclaimed 3/Fifths](#), this lean, mean theatrical machine features three high-voltage actors slyly performing America's racist history and ongoing need for dialogue and change. Performed by Michael Bryan, [Vienna Carroll](#), and Wesley T. Jones, this show is dangerously fun!

3/Fifths' Trapped in a Traveling Minstrel Show will be held on November 3–5 and 9–11, 2017, The Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, Nicholas Martin Hall, South End Campus, [539 Tremont Street, Boston, MA](#).
Tickets: www.bostontheatrescene.com

This production has been made possible, in part, by support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Boston Cultural Council, and 3LD Art & Technology Center.

ABOUT JAMES SCRUGGS

James Scruggs is a writer, performer, producer and arts administrator who creates large scale topical, theatrical, multi-media work usually focused on inequity or gender politics. He was awarded a 2016 NJSCA Fellowship for artistic excellence, a 2016 Creative Capital Grant, and a 2015 MAP Grant to create *3/Fifths*, a piece exploring race and racism today. *3/Fifths* was a “Must See” production in *The New York Times*. *Time Out New York* stated: “The insidious brilliance of SupremacyLand lies in the way that Scruggs co-opts the conventions of immersive theater to deliver a powerful message.” It premiered and ran for the month of May, 2017 at 3LD Art & Technology Center in NYC. He conceived, wrote and produced *3/Fifths*. It was inspired by *Disposable Men*, his 2005 multi-media solo performance work, which juxtaposed images from Hollywood monster movies with the harsh reality of the historical treatment of black men in America. It was produced by HERE Arts Center. Previous theatrical works include *Touchscape, An Emotional Striptease; Tickets To Manhood*, and more recently, *Deepest Man*, an experimental work with a 3D holographic projection surface exploring freediving as a cure for grief. He’s a consultant and Fieldwork facilitator for The Field, and is also currently a Professional Development Program facilitator for Creative Capital. James Scruggs has a BFA in Film from School of Visual Arts.

ABOUT MARK RAYMENT

Mark Rayment has been a professional actor and stage director for over 25 years. Work includes - New York: James Scruggs’ DEEPEST MAN (3LD), TOUCHSCAPE (*Harlem Gatehouse/Baryshnikov Arts Center/Dixon Place*) and TICKETS TO MANHOOD (*HERE Arts Center/Dixon Place ‘Hot Festival’*); EAST TOWARDS HOME (*Chelsea Studios*). London/West End: THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE (*Duchess Theatre*); COMIC POTENTIAL (*Lyric Theatre*); SEPTEMBER TIDE, THE CHALK GARDEN, DECEPTIONS (*Kings Head Theatre*); THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE (*Ambassadors Theatre*); HERITAGE (*Hampstead Theatre*); HIDDEN LAUGHTER (*Vaudeville Theatre*); ON-HOLIDAY (*Duchess Theatre*). Regional/U.K.: THE SUNSHINE BOYS (*National Tour*); BOUNCERS (*Colchester*); CINDERELLA (*Bexhill*); HAPPY NATIVES (*National Tour*); THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE (*National Tour*); South Africa: DIRTY DANCING (*Johannesburg/Cape Town*); Disney’s THE LION KING (*Johannesburg*); THE MOUSETRAP (*Cape Town/Johannesburg*); MY ZINC BED (*Cape Town/Johannesburg*); HAPPY NATIVES (*Grahamstown Festival/National Tour*). Asia: THE SOUND OF MUSIC (*China, Singapore, Hong Kong*), DIRTY DANCING (*Hong Kong/Singapore*); THE MOUSETRAP (*Hong Kong*); Disney’s THE LION KING (*Taiwan*). Film: COLD COMFORT FARM (*BBC Films, Directed by John Schlesinger*)

ABOUT MARK VAN HARE

Mark Van Hare is a composer and sound designer working in New York City. Recent credits include *Oh My Sweet Land* and *Villa* with The Play Company, *3/Fifths* at 3LD Art & Technology, *Loving and Loving* with Radical Evolution Theater, *Destiny of Desire* at The Garden Theatre (Winter Garden, FL), *On The Grounds of Belonging* (Music Associate) at The Public Theater, *Paris!* and *Nutcracker Rouge!* with COMPANY XIV at Irondale Theatre, *Blood Wedding* and *Twelfth Night* at the School of Drama at The New School, *Anna Christie* at The Wild Project, DIRECTORFEST with The Drama League at

The Barrow Group Theatre, *The Wild Party* with The Dramatic Association at Yale University, *Couriers and Contrabands* at The Barrow Group Theatre, *Lost Boy Found in Whole Foods* at Portland Stage (Portland, ME), *Look Upon Our Lowliness* with The Movement Theatre Company, and *In Fields Where They Lay* at the New Ohio Theatre. markvanhare.com

ABOUT BRIDGET K. DOYLE

Bridget returns to Sleeping Weazel after designing the 2016 new play festival *The Birds and the Bees*. Previous design credits include: *Oleanna*, *Ideation*, *Brecht on Brecht*, *Thurgood*, *Good* and *Baltimore* (New Repertory Theatre), *Labyrinth of Desire*, *Aurora Borealis*, *Rosmersholm*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *Vinkensport* (Boston University), *Don't Ask Me* (Concord Academy), *Twelfth Night* and *Metamorphoses* (Gordon College); *Cabaret* and *Dog Sees God* (Salem State University); *A Behanding in Spokane*, *Dead Ringer*, *Speech and Debate*, and *Betrothed* (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater). Bridget also designs for the Charles River Ballet Academy, Julia on Tap's *Beantown Tapfest*, Brookline Academy of Dance, Onstage Dance Co., and Allstar Entertainment. Assistant design credits include *Romeo & Juliet* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Co.), *The Merry Widow* and *Greek* (Boston Lyric Opera); *Can You Forgive Her?* (Huntington Theatre Company); *Saturday Night Fever*, *Dreamgirls*, *Les Miserables*, and *Chicago* (North Shore Music Theatre). She earned her Associate's Degree from Cape Cod Community College, BFA from Salem State University, and is now pursuing her MFA at Boston University. Upcoming projects include *Urinetown* (Concord Academy), *The Nutcracker* (Northeast Youth Ballet), and *Albert Herring* (Boston University School of Theater/Opera Institute).

ABOUT NEJLA YATKIN

Award winning and critically acclaimed choreographer and dancer Nejla Yatkın is the Artistic Director of NY2Dance. She is originally from Berlin, Germany and now residing in Chicago. She has been active as a choreographer and performer at national and international festivals and stages since 1999. Yatkın creates works for a range of companies from ballet to contemporary as well as evening-length and site-specific works for her own company, and dances for short film, theatre and opera. She has been awarded many awards for her choreography including 3 awards from the Princess Grace Foundation NY, a 3Arts Award, 5 Metro DC Dance Awards as well as D.C. Mayor's Arts Award. For more information visit www.ny2dance.com

ABOUT JASON BATCHELLER

Jason is a NYC-based Video Designer and Interactive Programmer who acted as video designer for *3/Fifths*' New York premiere at 3LD Art & Technology Center.

ABOUT SLEEPING WEAZEL

Sleeping Weazel is a Boston-based multimedia theatre company whose socially progressive, experimental work crosses and confounds the boundaries of "mainstream" and "avant-garde" as well as boundaries between art forms. Now in its sixth year, the company has presented more than a dozen productions of original works — at The

Factory Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, for *Outside the Box Boston*, and in ArtsEmerson's *Next Thing Festival*. Sleeping Weazel is currently a resident company at Boston Center for the Arts and a member of the Resident Lab at Charlestown Working Theatre.

Co-producers/playwrights Charlotte Meehan and Adara Meyers work from the premise that the best live theatre celebrates the ridiculous, the earth shattering, and the sublime. Our productions combine bold, experimental style with social justice ideals. The company motto, "Making Different Possible," means we dream awake with our audiences and together we make life-changing art.

www.sleepingweazel.com

AT A GLANCE:

Sleeping Weazel presents:

3/Fifths' Trapped in a Traveling Minstrel Show

Press Nights:

November 3 and 4, 2017

Dates

November 3 at 7:30 pm

November 4 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

November 5 at 2:00 pm

November 9 at 7:30 pm

November 10 at 7:30 pm

November 11 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Nicholas Martin Hall at the Calderwood Pavilion

Boston Center for the Arts

[539 Tremont Street](#)

[Boston, MA](#)

Admission

\$25 general

\$15 students and seniors

For tickets:

www.bostontheatrescene.com

box office: 617.426.5000

Info

www.sleepingweazel.com

Contact

Charlotte Meehan
Artistic Director
charlotte@sleepingweazel.com
508.212.5342