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**WASHED UP SUPERHEROES REINVENT THEMSELVES IN A NONPROFIT
THINK TANK IN LUCKY PLUSH PRODUCTIONS WORLD PREMIERE OF
TRIP THE LIGHT FANTASTIC: THE MAKING OF SUPERSTRIP,
MARCH 3 AT CHICAGO'S HARRIS THEATER**



Click [here](#) for advance images of *Trip the Light Fantastic: The Making of SuperStrip*
photos by Cheryl Mann, graphic design by Liviu Pasare

CHICAGO, January 13, 2016 – Chicago's **Lucky Plush Productions** is celebrating its 15th Anniversary with the creation and debut of a new dance-theater work, ***Trip the Light Fantastic: The Making of SuperStrip***.

Commissioned by Chicago's **Harris Theater for Music and Dance** and the **Pamela Crutchfield Dance Fund of the Imagine Campaign**, this new evening-length work from Lucky Plush seamlessly blends comic book graphics, sound effects, and immersive video to create an experience like none other—contemporary dance theater meets animated graphic novel.

Trip the Light Fantastic: The Making of SuperStrip will premiere Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 7:30 p.m., marking the debut of Lucky Plush Productions at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St. in Chicago's Millennium Park. Tickets are \$40-\$10. Purchase tickets online at HarrisTheaterChicago.org, or by calling The Harris Theater Box Office, **(312) 334-7777**.

Featuring Lucky Plush's signature blend of nuanced dialogue, complex choreography, and off-the-cuff improvisation, ***SuperStrip*** follows a group of washed up superheroes attempting to reinvent themselves by starting a non-profit think tank for do-gooders. Complex training missions and specialized movement techniques bring structure to their collective, but the unlikely supers are unable to find a shared mission and brand. In the struggle to achieve consensus, they discover that real-world problems are far more complex than singular forces of evil, and that having power is part of the problem.

Trip the Light Fantastic: The Making of SuperStrip is a collaboration among Lucky Plush's founder, director and choreographer **Julia Rhoads**, composer **Michael Caskey**, visual designer **Liviu Pasare**, lighting designer **Kevin Rechner**, sound designer **Mikhail Fiksel** and costume designer **Jeff Hancock**.

Though Rhoads has fun weaving in riffs on the exhausting trend of hyper-personal branding and the tropes of meeting culture, the themes of **SuperStrip** are particularly relevant to her experience leading a nonprofit and the tragicomic circularity of organizational efforts in order to simply “do good.”

“So often organized efforts to effect change - to improve workplace, community, or to make the world a better place - can be incredibly circular, stunted by non-consensus, or limited by the politics that frame the efforts,” explained Rhoads. “While the characters of **SuperStrip** are invested in deeply held values, they are challenged to uphold their importance within contemporary platforms that support empty self-promotion and flavor-of-the-day innovation, like so many people today from all walks of life.”

Ultimately, **SuperStrip** reveals how communication is constructed, breaks down, and evolves within insular communities, and “trips the light fantastic” on everyday do-gooders who strive for high impact with limited resources.

About Lucky Plush Productions

Lucky Plush Productions is a Chicago-based dance theater company led by founder and Artistic Director Julia Rhoads. Lucky Plush is committed to provoking and supporting an immediacy of presence – a palpable liveness – shared by performers in real-time with audiences. The company is dedicated to creating work that is both richly complex and broadly relatable, and the company is recognized for its complex choreography, moving content, surprising humor, and social commentary.

Lucky Plush has premiered over 30 original works, including 13 evening-length productions. The company has performed in over 35 national and international venues in the last five seasons alone, including ODC (CA), Portland Ovations (ME), Maui Arts and Cultural Center (HI), North Carolina State University (NC), Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (VT), Spoleto Festival/USA (SC), Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (MA), Skirball Center (NYC), Connecticut College (CT), Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (IL), and the Dance & Physical Theatre Trust of New Zealand, among others.

Lucky Plush has received awards from National Performance Network, NEFA's National Dance Project, National Endowment for the Arts, Illinois Arts Council, Metlife Foundation, and the Lester and Hope Abelson Fund. Commissioning partners include Harris Theater, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (MD), Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (VT), and Links Hall. Rhoads has received fellowships and awards from the Herb Alpert Foundation, Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, Chicago Dancemakers Forum, Cliff Dwellers Foundation, Illinois Arts Council, the Jacob K. Javits Foundation, and she received a 2014 Fractured Atlas Arts Entrepreneurship Award for initiating Creative Partners, a new nonprofit financial model.

Rhoads has been named in Dance Magazine's “25 to Watch” and in Newcity's “Players: The 50 People Who Really Perform for Chicago,” and Lucky Plush features include The Boston Globe's "10 Best Dance Performances of 2013," Chicago Public Radio's "Best of 2011"; and Time Out Chicago's "The Decade's 10 Best Original Dance Works" and cover story "5 reasons to love dance in Chicago," among others.

Trip the Light Fantastic: The Making of SuperStrip is commissioned and presented by the Harris Theater for Music and Dance and the Pamela Crutchfield Dance Fund of the Imagine Campaign. Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign supports the creation of **Trip the Light Fantastic: The Making of SuperStrip** through a creative and technical residency funded by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation. **SuperStrip** is also supported through a production residency at Martha's Vineyard's The Yard, and preview performances at Hope College (MI) and Diana Wortham Theatre (NC).

Additional support for **SuperStrip** is provided by project grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation. Season support of **SuperStrip** is provided through operating grants from the Grover Hermann Foundation, the Alphawood Foundation, the MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Peter G. and Elizabeth Torosian Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

In addition to Producing Artistic Director **Julia Rhoads**, the Company Manager of Lucky Plush is **Kim Goldman**, and the current ensemble includes **Michel Rodriguez Cintra**, **Daniel Gibson**, **Marc Macaranas**, **Elizabeth Luse**, **Melinda Jean Myers**, **Benjamin Wardell** and **Meghann Wilkinson**.

For more information, visit LuckyPlush.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

About Harris Theater for Music and Dance

The Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance is a 1500-seat state-of-the art performance venue located in Chicago's Millennium Park. Opened in November 2003, the nonprofit Harris Theater was the first multi-use performance venue built in downtown Chicago since 1929. Harris Theater serves as a unique national model of collaboration between the philanthropic community and performing arts organizations in music and dance. More than a decade later, the theater features the most diverse offerings of any venue in Chicago, hosting local, national, and internationally renowned artists and ensembles.

The Harris Theater's primary mission is to partner with an array of Chicago's music and dance performing arts organizations to help them build the resources and infrastructure necessary to achieve artistic growth and long-term organizational sustainability. The Harris Theater's original group of 12 resident companies has grown to include 35 diverse and exceptionally talented performing arts organizations, including internationally acclaimed Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Music of the Baroque, Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNow, and collaborations with Lyric Opera of Chicago, National Museum of Mexican Art, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and Columbia College Chicago. Through these partnerships, the Theater has earned national recognition as a distinctive model for collaboration, performance, and artistic advancement.

The Theater supports its mission by providing partner organizations with subsidized rental, technical expertise, and marketing support, allowing the organizations to focus on what they do best—bringing the finest in music and dance performances to the public. The Theater offers professional development opportunities, including the innovate Learning Lab, endorsed with grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Harris Theater is also dedicated to presenting internationally acclaimed music and dance organizations to enhance its reputation and build audiences for the Theater's resident companies. Through the Harris Theater Presents series, the Theater has achieved widespread recognition as a vital cultural anchor in Chicago. Daniel Barenboim, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Renee Fleming, the Hamburg Ballet, Lang Lang, the New York City Ballet, the Paris Opéra Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet, Stephen Sondheim, and many others have graced the Harris' Elizabeth Morse Genius Stage through this series.

To learn more about the Harris Theater, please visit HarrisTheaterChicago.org. Call the Marketing Department at **(312) 334-2419** to request a brochure or additional information. The Harris Theater for Music and Dance can also be found on [Facebook](#) and Twitter.