

Gallery 1

knowing his shame. Again, Mr. Fox invites him to the greenhouse. Finally the work overwhelms the Cadet and he submits, all the while praying for Mr. Fox’s death. Each night before he goes to bed he studies the map to Rachel’s house.

X Scene: The Invention of Monsters

The Cadet sneaks past the distracted guards at the headmaster’s cottage. The knowledge he has gained from studying Rachel’s map, the methodical crawling on his knees, the dance lessons, the astronomy, all conjoin to make the forest as navigable as a formal garden. The Cadet passes the remnants of the closed carnival and thinks of dinosaur bones, The Lost World, and ancient astronauts.

XI Scene: Fragrance and Facade

Emerging from the forest he reaches Rachel’s house. She is in the playhouse, her eyes red from weeping. He charges into the house and is confronted by the unmistakable smell of liquor and sex. Their intimate meeting is interrupted by police lights flashing through the windows and naked, they run from the house into the forest.

XII Scene: The Moon in the Lake

Mr. Fox and the Father appear to commiserate on ungrateful children. Rachel and the Cadet speak of their love, of how they will live in the forest. She explains how her father came to her in the darkness. Becoming cold and tired, they both realize they will not escape. Flashes of light from police flashlights interrupt them as the clock tower strikes 12. When Rachel publicly blames the Cadet of their situation, the Cadet rushes into the Black lake, hoping to drown, as did the Indian boy, rather than be taken away. He discovers that Indian lake is merely a pond.

END

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Hyde Park**ART**CENTER

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org
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GOD’S PUNK

a video opera by

MAX KING CAP

Set realization
by Jim Zimple

Video
production
by Thomas S. Lee

Music
by Mung



February 4 –
April 8
2007

Performance dates:
February 4, 5 pm
March 5, 5 pm
April 8, 5 pm

Max King Cap
Ghost
2006
ink on paper
30 x 24 inches

A production of the Hyde Park Art Center and Creative Capital.

GOD’S PUNK

Cast:
Cadet.....Missy Peifer
Rachel.....Jeremiah Barber
Mr. Fox.....Max King Cap

Other characters:
Rachel’s Father
God
Cadet’s Mother
Indian Boy

The characters are represented by symbols:
Cadet a suit of lights
Mr. Fox a belying pin
Rachel a crown
Father a cuspidor
Mother a jellyfish
God a three-tiered cake
Indian Boy bubbles

I Scene: The Initiation

Mr. Fox speaks of the school’s history. He compares it to a boy, captured as a toddler by Indians, who grows into a proud member of their tribe. Years later, when soldiers come to rescue him he chooses to drown in the black lake. He explains that no one is allowed in the lake. It is respected.

II Scene: Concentricity

The school is on the edge of a forest. Currently there is a carnival. Neither Rachel nor the Cadet visit the carnival but fantasize of meeting their dream lover there. The small town’s few street lamps are too weak to outshine the stars that appear each night in the darkness. The Cadet looks up at the stars. In town Rachel is also looking up at the stars and dreaming of escape.

III Scene: Cabinet of Curiosities

Mr. Fox, the headmaster, is not a military man but an educator, a historian. An elegant, charming man, he cultivates orchids in the gothic revival greenhouse, an oasis for the Cadet. His office, on the lower level of the schoolhouse, is a cabinet of curiosities. Their lessons continue in the old greenhouse where Mr. Fox soon reveals his desire to cultivate the Cadet as well.

IV Scene: March of the Uncles

Coming home from a tavern a beautiful but boozy mother introduces her son, the Cadet, to his uncle. This is one of many uncles the boy has met. These

uncles sometimes bring flowers but more often liquor. The boy becomes familiar with the scents of the home: the liquor, the flowers, and the pungent muskiness of fresh copulation. His mother sees him passing her open door while entertaining and flies into a rage. She sends him to military school.

V Scene: Sin of Origin

Mr. Fox is a lay Minister and is asked occasionally to deliver a sermon in the chapel where attendance is compulsory. He speaks of the boys who came before, of the first graduating class, all of whom perished in the Civil War. There are 12 stained glass windows in the church depicting the passion of Christ but at a closer look, they illustrate the Cadet’s trials. The Cadet is nearing his 12th birthday.

VI Scene: A Squeeze of the Hand

The Cadet and Rachel see each other from across the room of a dance lesson, which are in anticipation of the military ball. The mirror ball has made his uniform into a suit of lights as if full of stars. They dance and fall in love. Ashamed of his secret relationship with Mr. Fox the Cadet is unable to kiss her, although they promise to meet again. When Rachel returns from the restroom, where she is offered a drink of whiskey, the Cadet becomes aroused by the liquor on her breath.

VII Scene: The Pantomime

Both Rachel and the Cadet must avoid surveillance. They rendezvous when it turns dark, following the stars. He tells her of his family life, she confesses she has a sister, Phoebe, who ran away, escaped this little town. She makes a map for him. When Rachel misses the next meeting the cadet goes to the chapel to pray. He returns to his cottage and Rachel phones to apologize but cannot tell him why she couldn’t come.

VIII Scene: The Marriage of Smoke and Silk

Mr. Fox is first resentful then pleading when the Cadet no longer consents to their meetings. The Cadet’s mother pays him a visit to inform him of her marriage to the uncle. That night he dreams that he attends his Mother’s marriage and must dress his naked mother in her gown before the dead boy soldiers, but the dress is too small. It is Rachel’s ball gown. He cannot cover her from the eyes of the leering boys. The mother becomes Rachel and the cadets become Indian girls in ball gowns, all disappearing into a gray fog.

IX Scene: Billy Budd

For punishment, Mr. Fox has the Cadet performing rigorous chores. While working in the basement archives, he learns that all of the dead first class fought for the South. The exhausted Cadet also pulls weeds crawling in the formal garden. He imagines the clock tower to be the eye of God looking down upon him and