

2009-10 SEASON

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

San Francisco Mime Troupe  
**TOO BIG TO FAIL**

*In collaboration with the Department of Theatre*

*Sponsored by the Cromer/Flory Artist-in-Residence Endowment*



Friday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.  
Gates-Abegglen Theatre



**Tonight's Performance**

The Miami University Department of Theatre and the Performing Arts Series present

**San Francisco Mime Troupe**

***Too Big to Fail***

Written by Michael Gene Sullivan

Directed and choreographed by Wilma Bonet

Scenic design Nina Ball

Score, lyrics, musical direction Pat Moran

Costume design Emilica S. Beahm

Fight choreography Carla Pantoja

Sound design Will McCandless and the SFMT Band

**Cast of Characters – in order of appearance**

Michael Gene Sullivan\*

Lizzie Calogero\*

Ed Holmes\*

Velina Brown\*

Adrian C. Mejia

Wilma Bonet\*

storyteller

Boy, Kuta, Bamusa, Demon of Privatization

Lion, Chief, Second Privateer, Phil, Kodo the Great

Gazelle, Jeneeba, The Big Fish

Monkey, Filije

Old Woman, First Privateer, Carly

**Band**

Aharon Wheels Bolsta

James Mitchell

Pat Moran

drums/percussion/flute/kalimba/calabash

keyboard/percussion

guitar/ukulele/banjo/percussion

**Our Story Takes Place...**

*Two Stories*

**The Wedding**

*The Jackal and his Wife*

**The Gates of Nafa**

*Birth of the Mockingbird*

**In the Village**

**Sea of Acquisition**

*The Doves and the Fox*

**The Crash**

**In the City**

**The End of it All**

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

## Production

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Additional dialogue     | Ellen Callas   |
| Additional underscoring | Aharon Wheels Bolsta, James Mitchell                     |
| Scenic artist           | Nina Ball  |
| Props                   | Daniel Yelen   |
| Fish Heads              | Emilica S. Beahm, Adrian C. Mejia,<br>Eleni Zaharopoulos |
| Poster art              | Spain Rodriguez  |
| Stage manager           | Karen Runk*  |
| Sound engineer          | Will McCandless  |
| Technical director      | Maurice Beesley  |

## Staff

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| General manager      | Jenee Gill       |
| Production manager   | Liza M. Frolkis  |
| Development director | Jerome Moskowitz |
| Bookkeeper           | Michele Rudenko  |
| Publicist            | Erica Lewis      |
| Workshop teacher     | Victor Toman     |
| Intern coordinator   | Pat Moran        |

## SFMT Collective

Velina Brown, Ellen Callas, Michael Carreiro, Ed Holmes, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Will McCandless, Pat Moran, Keiko Shimosato, Michael Gene Sullivan, Victor Toman

*\*The actors and stage managers are members of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States*

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*The Performing Arts Series prohibits photography and audio or video recording during its performances. Please turn off alarms, pagers and cell phones.*

**Ohio Arts Council**  
A STATE AGENCY  
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PROGRAMS IN THE ARTS

## About the Artists

### San Francisco Mime Troupe

Founded in 1959, the San Francisco Mime Troupe - which does NOT perform silent pantomime - is one of the oldest and arguably most notorious theatre groups in the country. In its first 50 years, the Troupe has been censored, thrown in jail, banned from college campuses and entire cities, toured in war-torn countries, and launched the careers of many notables - including those of rock promoter Bill Graham, and actors Peter Coyote and Shabaka, among others. The group is as equally revered as it has been vilified, however, and has been honored with a Tony Award for Excellence in Regional Theatre, three Obies, and numerous other accolades in its half century of free public performance.

Based in the traditions of commedia dell'arte, melodrama, and broad farce, the San Francisco Mime Troupe creates original musical comedies that both satirize and try to make sense of the headlines. Past shows have tackled everything from racism ("*A Minstrel Show, or Civil Rights in a Cracker Barrel*," 1965) and women's rights ("*The Independent Female*," 1970), to labor issues ("*Steel Town*," 1984), the Israel-Palestine conflict ("*Seeing Double*," 1989), gentrification ("*City for Sale*," 1999), religious fundamentalism ("*Factwino Meets the Moral Majority*," 1981; "*Godfellas*," 2006), genetically-modified food ("*Eating It*," 2007), and the seemingly endless fodder provided by the second Bush presidency ("*1600 Transylvania Avenue*," 2001; "*Making a Killing*," 2007). 2009's 50th Anniversary production, "*Too Big to Fail*," satirically examined the pitfalls and absurdities of a national economy based on credit.

### Synopsis

"A story, a story!" cries the Griot. "Gather 'round, and I will tell you a tale of greed, and sacrifice, high finance, love, goats, and the terrible curse that tore our little village apart... the evil, magical spell of... Credit! It all began at the wedding of Filije and Jeneeba! Filije was a fine man, who only wanted the best for his new bride. So when a mysterious Old Woman offered him a loan against Jeneeba's dowry goat - with low, low interest - he thought it was a wonderful shortcut to the prosperity he knew they deserved. Who could he have guessed that the Old Woman was actually a Demon casting a Spell of Debt! Or that one missed payment would mean a repossessed goat? And so, with their future - and marriage - in jeopardy, Filije must begin an epic journey: through the Land of Privatization, over the Sea of Acquisition, facing demon after demon as he tries to cancel his debt, and get his goat back. But each struggle takes him one step closer to... Corporate Headquarters, and the Greatest demon of them all! Meanwhile, Jeneeba is trying to warn the rest of the village about the Old Woman's evil Spell! But Credit Debt is already ensnaring them all, as they use their new Plutonium Cards to buy whatever their hearts desire! Can Jeneeba save the village from the Spells of the mindless consumerism the Old Woman is casting? Can Filije recover the dowry goat from clutches of a heartless bottom line? And can the new couple find a way to challenge a system of evil magic that seems created to cause misery, or is the whole Cruel Credit Conjuraction... Too Big To Fail?"