

**For Immediate Release: Dance/Theater**

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**Avy K Productions Presents:**

# **Ir-Rational**

World Premiere by

**Avy K Productions / Erika Tsimbrovsky and Vadim Puyandaev**

San Francisco, December 2012—*Ir-Rational* is a grotesque fantasy about an imagined meeting between Mary, Queen of Scots and Queen Elizabeth of England. The two represent opposing archetypes: Mary intuitive, Elizabeth rational. In the multimedia dance performance—a highly structured improvisation—the queens will be portrayed as characters in the constantly changing environment of a computer game. Their collision reflects the struggle in each of us between impulse and reason. Avy K's signature *audio-visual-kinetic* approach combines contemporary dance, live painting, evolving material installation, video projection, and live music to create unique and vital performances.

The physical, visual, and audio environment will be manipulated by visual artist Vadim Puyandaev, lighting and video artist Lucas Krech, and musicians Joan Jeanrenaud, formerly of the internationally renowned Kronos Quartet, PC Muñoz, and London based musician Grundik Kasyansky. *Ir-Rational* is directed/choreographed by Erika Tsimbrovsky, in collaboration with dancers Bianca Cabrera and Ronja Ver, and dancers/active observers Daniel Bear Davis, Kristen Greco, Sarah Day Hanson, Kristina Kirshner, and Mihyun Lee.

*Ir-Rational* is made possible by funding from the Lighting Artists in Dance Award, CHIME, Zellerbach Family Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

## **Calendar Editors:**

What: ***Ir-Rational***

New Work by Artist Avy K Productions/Erika Tsimbrovsky and Vadim Puyandaev

When: December 7, 8 FRI-SAT at 8pm

Where: [ODC Theater](#) 3153 17th St. San Francisco 94110

Tickets:\$30

Advance purchase: (415) 863-9834

Box office hours: Wed-Fri 12-6pm or [www.odctheater.org](http://www.odctheater.org)

more info: [http://avyk.org/pg2\\_ln-3.html](http://avyk.org/pg2_ln-3.html)

### **About the Artists:**

Founded by long-time collaborators Erika Tsimbrovsky, Vadim Puyandaev, and Laura Maguire, **Avy K Productions** is an experimental interdisciplinary company that explores aspects of improvisation (particularly structured improvisation), creates multimedia productions with dance as the main focus, and presents dance media in different types of venues. Avy K's signature *audio-visual-kinetic* approach combines contemporary dance, live painting, installation, music, and video. Avy K uses improvisation as an effective way to create a conversation between artists of different media. Themes explored are the presence of ancient archetypes in our urban reality, the flow of information from past centuries into our technological, mass media world, and the intersection and balance between shifting contradictions.

Avy K's work has strong visual elements—sets and costumes take on a life of their own, breathing and dancing with the performers as the space evolves, and visual codes spark the audience's imagination, creating a puzzle to be solved. Avy K's artists use the principles of visual art and the tools of physical movement and improvisation.

Avy K premiered their work in the Bay Area with *The Garden* (2007) at NOHSpace, San Francisco, and at Dinkelspiel Auditorium at Stanford University. This was followed by *Scrap- Soup* (2008) and *Nocturnal Butterflies* (2009), both premiering at Theater Artaud. Notably, Avy K participated twice in the WestWave Dance Festival with *The Silence of Stones* (2008) and *Full Moon Syndrome* (2010). *The Book* (2010), a series of performances culminating in an installation-performance at SOMArts Center in July (2011); and *Rustling Silk* (2011) presented by CounterPULSE as part of the Summer Special Program; *Ir-Rational* (2012) premiered at ODC Theater; *The Book, Page Two* (sculptures in action) at YB (2013) and *LABrynths* at the Center for New Music (2013), *Minotaur* (NOHSpace, 2015), *Un Still Life* (Vorres Gallery, 2015).

Avy K has been awarded funding from the Stanford Arts Initiative, CASH grant, the Lighting Artists in Dance Award (2009, 2011), the Zellerbach Family Foundation (2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014), the Guzik Foundation (2009), and Lincoln University (2009, 2010). Avy K was awarded the Commons Curatorial Residency at SOMArts Main

Gallery for July 2011 for *The Book*. Recently, Avy K was awarded the Paul Drescher Ensemble Residency for *Minotaur*, as well as the CHIME mentorship program for *Irrational*.

More information on Avy K can be found at [www.avyk.org](http://www.avyk.org)

**Erika Tsimbrovsky** is an innovator in the field of improvised dance performance. Born in Kazakhstan, she studied modern and contemporary dance in Belarus, Moscow, and Amsterdam. In Israel, where she lived for twelve years, she co-founded the award-winning experimental performance group EVM Laboratories to research the interaction between diverse media structures and to develop specific improvisational performance techniques. Avy K Productions is the San Francisco-based incarnation of her and visual artist Vadim Puyandaev's 18-year collaboration, featuring their signature "audio-visual-kinetic" approach, which brings together contemporary dance, live painting, evolving material installation, video projection, and live music to create unique and vital performances. [full bio](#)

**Vadim Puyandaev** has worked as a painter, sculptor, and designer for over twenty years and has been participating in multi-media installation-performances since 1994. His fine art has been shown in solo and group exhibitions in Russia, Israel, Japan, Switzerland, France, Spain, Canada, and the US. Puyandaev had also produced numerous pieces of monumental art, including a commission to design a bridge over the Red Sea in Israel. With Tsimbrovsky, he is a founding member of the creative collectives EVM Laboratories (Israel) and Avy K Productions (US), dedicated to investigating what emerges in performance at the nexus of different genres. <http://vadimpuyandaev.com/>

Cellist and Composer **JOAN JEANRENAUD** has been involved in music for over 40 years. Growing up in Memphis Tennessee she was exposed to the sounds of the blues, Elvis, soul and classical music. She learned to play her instrument from cellists Peter Spurbeck, Fritz Magg and Pierre Fournier, studied jazz with David Baker, Hal Stein and Joe Henderson, worked with Kronos Quartet as cellist for 20 years and now for the past 13 years has been involved with solo and collaborative projects in composition, improvisation, electronics, and multi-disciplinary performance. She has completed more than 50 compositions for cello and small ensembles many of these multi-media works. Recent projects include her installation work 'ARIA' with collaborator Alessandro Moruzzi premiered at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the

composition and performance of 'ODD' with choreographer Shinichi Iova-Koga and the AXIS dance company. Her CD, 'Strange Toys', released on the Talking House label in 2008 was nominated for a Grammy and her most recent release, 'Pop-Pop', appears on her new record label Deconet Records. Go to [www.deconetrecords.com](http://www.deconetrecords.com) and [www.jjcello.org](http://www.jjcello.org) for more information.

**PC Muñoz's** genre-defying projects as a recording artist and producer have historically been stylistically broad and deep, revealing an aural explorer equally at home with quirky electronic funk, all-acoustic hip-hop, world music mash-ups, text-driven spoken-word, and instrumental compositions for dance. His partnership with composer/longtime Kronos Quartet cellist Joan Jeanrenaud has yielded two highly acclaimed projects: the Grammy-nominated album "Strange Toys" and the iTunes-charting cello and beats duo album "Pop-Pop". A frequent and enthusiastic collaborator, PC has recorded with rock legend Jackson Browne, dream-pop poet/chanteuse Ingrid Chavez, Kulintang virtuoso Danny Kalanduyan, San Francisco sonic surrealists Broun Fellinis, woodwinds renegade Kyle Bruckmann, and countless other musicians and recording artists across a wide range of genres. He currently leads the art-funk ensemble PC Muñoz's Singing Blood. Visit [pcmunoz.com](http://pcmunoz.com) for more information.

**Grundik Kasyansky** is a London-based artist who works in improvisation, live installation, and audio collage, designing sound for dance, theatre, and film. With Slava Smelovsky he formed Grundik+Slava, the duo quickly emerging as key players in the Israeli experimental and electronic scene. He has collaborated with musicians Frank London, Eddie Prevost, Jack Wright, Seymour Wright, Jamie Coleman, Chaos As Shelter, and Victoria Hanna; with choreographers Erika Tsimbrovsky and Dganit Shemy; and with video artists Shige Moriya, Ofri Cnaani, and Hagar Goren. <http://www.myspace.com/grundikkasyansky>

**Lucas Krech** is a multi-media artist working in light, video projection, and code. He has designed over 300 operas, dances, plays and performance pieces across the United States, Romania, and the UK. His work has been nominated for the New York Innovative Theater and Bay Area Critics Circle Awards. Lucas received a 2011 Lighting Artist in Dance award. His design work has been featured in *American Theater Magazine* and his writing on aesthetics and performance appeared in *Stage Directions*, *On Stage Lighting*, *Parabasis Blog*, and *PLSN* magazines. He has been a guest artist at UC Berkeley, Williams College, and USF. His installation work has shown at various venues

in New York, California, and Nevada. He received an MFA in design from NYU. His portfolio is available at [www.LucasKrech.com](http://www.LucasKrech.com)

**Ronja Ver** is a working artist, dancer and dance maker, activist, anarchist and teacher, a native of Finland, living and making work in the Bay Area. Since 2001 she has created several full evening works for both theatre and found spaces. Her work has been performed internationally, in Finland, France, Austria, Ireland, and in the USA at Danspace Project in NYC and at the American Dance Festival. She has performed and collaborated in works by Nancy Stark Smith and Mike Vargas, Deborah Hay, Jaana Klevering, Mirja Tukiainen, Keith Hennessy, Avy K Productions, David Hurwith, Scott Wells and Dancers, Laura Arrington, and was proud to perform on Steve Paxton's DVD Material for the Spine. She is co-founder of the Finnish CI Festival Skiing On Skin, and holds an MFA in Dance from Hollins University/ADF. <http://ronjaver.com>

Since her relocation to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2010, **Bianca Cabrera** has performed with Kim Epifano, LEVYdance and Christine Bonansea. Bianca is the Artistic Director of Blind Tiger Society and teaches weekly classes at Project Bandaloop in Oakland and ODC in SF. Ms. Cabrera's work has been curated by ODC's Pilot program, CounterPULSE's Summer Special and through her 2011 Artistic Residency at Studio Gracia. Formerly of Seattle, Bianca danced with KT Niehoff's Lingo Dance from 2003-2011, and with Paige Barnes, Amii LeGendre, Ricki Mason, and Kristen Tsiatsios. [www.heybianca.com](http://www.heybianca.com)

**Images:** photography by Aleksey Bochkovsky <https://www.flickr.com/photos/46586310@N03/albums/72157632329745863>

more info on the performance page: <http://www.avyk.org/ir-rational-2012>