

THE FOURTH WALL
PRESS KIT



HYBRID ARTS ENSEMBLE



**THE
FOURTH
WALL**

— THE FOURTH WALL :: HYBRID ARTS ENSEMBLE —

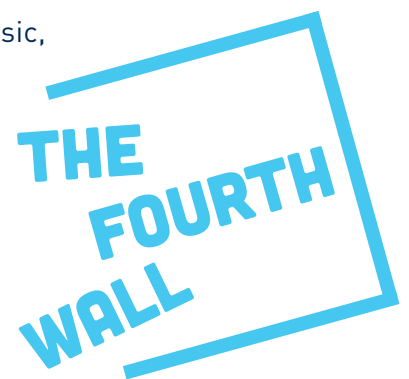
The Fourth Wall explores a new hybrid of the performing arts in which musicians are also dancers and actors. Stretching the boundaries of instrumental performance, The Fourth Wall commissions new interdisciplinary works and reinterprets established repertoire to make music that leaps off the stage. The ensemble is comprised of flutist Hilary Abigana, bass trombonist C. Neil Parsons, and percussionist Greg Jukes.

The Fourth Wall inspires and delights audiences across North America with their hybrid arts performances in venues ranging from performing arts centers to elementary school cafegymnatoriums, from an off-Broadway run at the SoHo Playhouse in New York City to ABC Television's The Gong Show. A favorite at Fringe theatre festivals, the trio has sold out shows in Edmonton, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, Orlando (Patrons' Pick and Critics' Choice awards), and Winnipeg, where they received 5 stars from both the CBC, Manitoba and the Winnipeg Free Press for their vaudeville-inspired show, "Fruit Flies Like a Banana" and their nostalgic journey into childhood, "Fallen from the Toy Box." The Fourth Wall won the 2014 Savvy Musician in Action chamber music competition and was presented at the innovative music entrepreneurship retreat as performers and workshop leaders. The Fourth Wall has been featured on six National Flute Association annual conventions with gala performances, recitals, and their audience interactive project, "Mixer." Collaborating with conductor Victoria Gau, The Fourth Wall created an orchestral hybrid arts performance that was premiered with the Capital City Symphony in 2013.

Collaboration has been a key element of The Fourth Wall's work from the very beginning. The Boston Composers' Coalition chose the ensemble for their inaugural concert in 2010, bringing together six composers plus a student composer to create new works for the unconventional trio. Since then, The Fourth Wall has reached out to composers from around the world for new music; developed new choreography as members of Windfall Dancers in Bloomington, IN; and created a body of winter holiday repertoire working with the Phoenix Theatre of Indianapolis. In January 2016, The Fourth Wall was invited to participate in the second New Music Gathering, earning a picture in the Wall Street Journal and credit for their "deft choreography."

The Fourth Wall offers workshops, masterclasses, and performances that teach students how to incorporate interdisciplinary performance techniques into their creative work. The trio has been in residence at the Universities of Alabama, Alaska, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Virginia; presented masterclasses and lectures at the Oberlin Conservatory, Eastman School of Music, and Rice University among others; and performed for various Percussive Arts and Flute Societies. The Fourth Wall is a teaching ensemble for Young Audiences of Massachusetts and Indiana's Arts for Learning program.

Members of The Fourth Wall have attended The Eastman School of Music, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, Ohio University, Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, and Boston Conservatory at Berklee.



— WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE FOURTH WALL —

“Deft choreography”
— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



“The Fourth Wall is turning music performance on its ear. Once I experienced one of their performances, I started wondering why all music performances didn't include dance, comedy and theater. My expectations for what an evening music performance should be like have completely changed thanks to The Fourth Wall.”

— WFIU BLOOMINGTON



“They have the unique ability to not just play the music, but to seemingly become the music.”

— THE ORLANDO SENTINEL



“FIVE STARS. Serious music by seriously talented musicians in a show that doesn't take itself seriously at all.”

— CBC MANITOBA



“The best way to describe this ‘hybrid arts ensemble’ whose shows give a whole new meaning to ‘interactive’, is one that is a combination of Keystone Cops energy, Three Stooge silliness, and virtuoso musicianship — all rolled into one to create a madcap circus in which the zany clowns also double as members of the band.”

— THEEXAMINER.COM



“FIVE STARS. Both joyful and touching — so beautiful you might get a little verklempt. Go feel what it's like to be a kid again.”

— WINNIPEG FREE PRESS



“Make no mistake, this is real musicianship – just with a fresh-eyed approach.”

— THE ORLANDO SENTINEL



“Their musicianship would be impressive if they just stood still and stared at their music stands and their acrobatics would impress if they never saw an instrument, but together they make stage magic.”

— INK19.COM



“Bottom line: if you don't smile during this show, you have no soul.”

— MISSION INTRIGUE



— WHO WE ARE —



HILARY ABIGANA is a hybrid arts flutist dedicated to finding new, innovative ways of moving and interacting with the instrument. Before moving to Massachusetts with The Fourth Wall, she held positions as the second flutist for the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and piccolo player of the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra. She was the first prize winner of the 2008 Houston Flute Club's Byron Hester Young Artist Competition, was a silver medalist at the 2014 Midwest Fleadh Cheoil Céilí Band Competition (with the Indianapolis Céilí Band), and a silver medalist at the 2008 Fiscoff Competition (with Trio Destino). Passionate about teaching, Hilary was on faculty at Froot Fire in Texas and the International Flute Symposium, co-founded the Irish Arts Academy of Indianapolis, and continues to inspire young flutists in masterclasses at universities across the country.

Hilary received her Bachelor of Music degree with Distinction from The Eastman School of Music, where she also was awarded the Performer's Certificate in Flute. She received her Masters Degree from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music where she studied with Leone Buyse. Together with previous teachers Bonita Boyd and Timothy Day, these three musicians have been the greatest influence on her playing. Hilary is a proud Verne Q Powell Flutes Artist.

www.hilaryabigana.com



C. NEIL PARSONS has been performing for as long as he can remember, appearing in his first professional theatre production at age three. Extensive touring has taken him to 40 states, with performances at major performing arts centers such as the Kennedy Center, residencies at numerous universities, and solo engagements with symphony orchestras, including the Boston Symphony. His creative output runs the gamut of music, theatre, and dance productions: from solo to chamber to orchestral music; from Shakespeare to musical theatre to outdoor drama; and from modern to tap to site specific dance pieces.

Neil is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and received a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he studied bass trombone with Ray Premru. While at Oberlin, he combined his interests in music, dance, and teaching into an individual major: Interdisciplinary Performance and Education. Neil received a Master's degree in Contemporary Classical Music Performance from Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where he currently serves on the faculty for the Contemporary Theater program.

www.cneilparsons.com



GREG JUKES creates musical experiences that expand the boundaries of traditional performance. In addition to his work with The Fourth Wall, Greg collaborates with various organizations in Boston and the Mid-Atlantic. With Kadence Arts, Greg developed the Beat Bus, an electronic bucket drumming workshop that gets kids around New England excited about music through a mix of technology, movement, and grooves. In the Marimba Cabaret, Greg accompanies and directs singing marimbist, Brian Calhoun in evenings of songs and stories. As a narrator, Greg has introduced thousands of children and families to the wonders of orchestral music with established pieces like "Peter and the Wolf" and shows he has written around works such as Wagner's "Ring Cycle," Holst's "The Planets," and Copland's music inspired by the American west.

Greg graduated from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University, where he studied with Robert van Sice, Svet Stoyanov, Tom Freer, and So Percussion. He has collaborated with conductors David Amado, Ken Lam, Jason Love, and Piotr Gajewski; directors Gary Race and Diane Brewer; and choreographers Mariel Greenlee, Neil Parsons, and the Windfall Dancers.

www.gregjukes.com

— THE FOURTH WALL :: HYBRID ARTS ENSEMBLE —

WORKSHOPS + DEMONSTRATIONS

GENERAL AUDIENCES

Creative Process Workshop

The Fourth Wall will bring participants into its creative process using elements taken from the worlds of music, acting, and dance. Musicians will broaden their perceptions of space, actors will develop new ways to work in an ensemble, dancers will find new sources of inspiration for movement, and those who don't consider themselves performers will have a chance to unleash their creativity.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Introduction to the Hybrid Arts, Lecture/Demonstration

The Fourth Wall will demonstrate and discuss the core elements of Hybrid Arts performance. Students will get to know a new, innovative performance style and see the various stages of development and experimentation involved in creating a hybrid arts piece.

Introduction to the Hybrid Arts, Interactive Workshop

Students will explore new ways to approach performance by combining techniques used in dance, acting, and music under the guidance of The Fourth Wall. Using a mixture of demonstrations and activities, the members of The Fourth Wall will broaden musicians' perceptions of space, movement, and stage presence; build ensemble skills in actors; and give dancers new sources of inspiration for movement.

Chamber Music through the Hybrid Arts

Students will participate in various activities inspired by combining acting and dance with music to improve chamber music skills. By exploring different ways to relate within a chamber music group, performers will develop greater communication skills, become more responsive to real-time changes, and increase their overall feeling of ensemble.

PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS

Hybrid Arts Interactive Workshop

Students will explore new ways to approach performing by combining techniques used in dance, acting, and music under the guidance of The Fourth Wall. Using a combination of demonstrations and activities, the members of The Fourth Wall will develop basic stage presence and ensemble skills in musicians; build ensemble skills in actors; and help dancers feel the music in new ways.

MAKE YOUR OWN

Choose from the Following Options to Create a Workshop Specifically Tailored to You!

LEVEL :: Pre-College, Undergraduate, Graduate

TOPICS :: Stage Presence, Working As An Ensemble, Developing a Narrative, Moving While Playing, Working with Text, Interpreting New Works, Using Instruments as Props, + Interacting With Your Audience.

Any of our workshops/demonstrations can last from 45 minutes to 2 hours depending on your needs.

— THE FOURTH WALL IMAGERY —

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— CONTACT US —

For inquiries about bookings, workshops, or lectures/demonstrations by THE FOURTH WALL HYBRID ARTS ENSEMBLE, please feel free to drop us a line:

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