

NIGHTJAR APOTHECARY

www.nightjarapothecary.net

DARWINII: The Comeuppance of Man

Playwright Glen Berger and Performer Brett Keyser
Take On the Founder of Modern Biology

Nightjar Apothecary's current offering, ***DARWINII: The Comeuppance of Man*** is a swashbuckling, one-man "tour de farce" created by "the ferociously physical and vocally chameleonic" **Brett Keyser** and award-winning playwright **Glen Berger** (Broadway's ***SPIDER-MAN: Turn Off the Dark***, Off-Broadway's ***Underneath the Lintel***).

An Argentine convict brings new meaning to "Survival of the Fittest" in this sincerely funny, (and scientifically accurate) search for family origin, which audiences have described as "intellectually seductive," and "one hell of a ride!"

Cleveland's Scene Magazine reports, "[Keyser] works this blood-red runway with the fierceness of Tyra Banks on meth.... Darwinii is an immediate contender for the title of Most Enjoyable and Engrossing 70 Minutes on Stage in 2011."

"One of the most mesmerizing pieces of theatre this town has seen in a decade." —The Plain Dealer

Created by performance artist Brett Keyser and playwright Glen Berger, *Darwinii* features Keyser in the role of Cristóbal, a wild-eyed gaucho hustler convicted of various crimes, including stealing original Charles Darwin manuscripts from rare book libraries around the world. Why? Because he's convinced he's the great-great-great-great (bastard) grandson of the father of Natural Selection. As part of his sentence he must deliver a public apology, during which he digresses, with flamboyant intensity and bawdy humor, into the story of his life, growing up as an orphan in Tierra del Fuego and inadvertently becoming an expert Darwinologist, exploiting every opportunity to prove (and cash in on) his unbelievable pedigree. The performance is a tango-tinged dance of life, a fresh take on some of Darwin's ideas about the struggle for survival, sexual selection, the origin of species, and the descent of man.

Picked for "**Best of the Live Arts Fest**" by the Philadelphia Weekly, *Darwinii* sold out its 2009 premiere run at the American Philosophical Society Museum, the historic Philadelphia institution that commissioned the piece (among six performance works Keyser produced for the museum over as many years).

Brett Keyser is a physically trained actor and creator of numerous original theatre works. His production company, Nightjar Apothecary, specializes in intimate performances that delightfully dissect and explore diverse topics in the history of science and technology. Keyser is also an associate artist with the North American Cultural Laboratory (NACL Theatre), contributing regularly to company productions including *The Little Farm Show*, *Self-Portrait at County Fair*, *The Uncanny Appearance of Sherlock Holmes*, and the work-in-progress *Exilio: My Life as Bolaño*, a collaboration with Mexican and Canadian artists for which he received a 2010 Independence Foundation Fellowship. He is a former core collaborator with Cleveland performance ensembles *Wishhounds* and *Theatre Labyrinth*.

Glen Berger is an award-winning playwright and the co-bookwriter of the Broadway musical *Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark*. A New Dramatists alumnus, Glen has written numerous plays including *Underneath the Lintel* (over 450 performances Off-Broadway, several Best Play awards, over 150 productions nationally, translated into eight languages), *O Lovely Glowworm* (2005 Portland Drammy Award), and *Great Men of Science, Nos. 21 & 22* (1998 Ovation Award). He has received commissions from the Children's Theatre of Minneapolis, Berkeley Rep, the Alley Theatre, and Lookingglass Theatre. He has won two Emmys (12 nominations), and written over 150 episodes for children's television series, including *Arthur*, *Postcards from Buster*, *Curious George*, and *Fetch* (for which he was head writer for the show's entire five-year run).

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Booking and Media Contact: **BRETT KEYSER**
215.850.6729 brett@nightjarapothecary.net