

For Immediate Release: June 21, 2002

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**INVENTIVE BRITISH TROUPE IMPROBABLE THEATRE IN
TOWN FOR WEXNER CENTER RESIDENCY AWARD PROJECT**

***GROUP HOLDS FREE PUBLIC EVENT IN JULY TO DISCUSS
A NEW WORK PRODUCED BY THE WEXNER CENTER***

The members of England's lively **Improbable Theatre** will hold a **free public conversation** on **Tuesday, July 9 at 7 pm** in the Wexner Center Performance Space as part of its creative residency here this summer. Back at the Wexner Center for the fourth time, the ever-inventive storytellers behind *70 Hill Lane*, *Spirit*, and the international smash hit *Shockheaded Peter* have received the 2002–03 **Wexner Center Residency Award** in performing arts to launch their next production, *Bruff's Neck* (working title), while working at the Center. The troupe will be in town the first part of July to develop the show, which is sure to include Improbable's trademark storytelling techniques, rich visuals, and offbeat humor; on July 9 the spirited members of this group will discuss this production, past productions, and their creative process.

Bruff's Neck is slated to be presented at the Wexner Center in the fall of 2003. In this work, the central character can't seem to shake the noose he's created through a lifetime of mean-spirited contrariness. As the Improbables explain, *Bruff's Neck* will "likely...feature a man hanging by the neck...hopefully the show will also feature an elephant." For *Bruff's Neck*, Improbable Theatre co-directors Julian Crouch, Phelim McDermott, and Lee Simpson are collaborating with a diverse team, including American sound designer Darron L West, a key member of SITI Company, who provided the sound effects for SITI's production of *Score* at the Wexner Center in March. The Wexner Center is a lead commissioner of *Bruff's Neck*, alongside other international collaborators.

MORE ON IMPROBABLE THEATRE

Formed in 1996, Improbable Theatre brings together some of England's most imaginative and experimental theater directors, writers, and performers. Currently, the award-winning company is touring Australia with the show *Sticky*, which involves a large, growing tower of sticky tape, light displays, and pyrotechnics. Additionally,

news release

Improbable Theatre has been in Germany performing its work *Spirit* (performed two years ago at the Wexner Center). For more information, visit www.improbable.co.uk/.

WEXNER CENTER RESIDENCY AWARDS

The Wexner Center Residency Awards afford artists time, funding, technical support, and other resources for artists to develop new work in each of the Center's program areas every season. The 2002–03 season's recipient in performing arts is Improbable Theatre; past years' recipients have included Anne Bogart and SITI Company, the Wooster Group, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, and Elizabeth Streb. In 2002–03, Wexner Center Residency Awards will also go to visual artist Lee Mingwei through the exhibitions program and Dutch photographer Rineke Djekstra through the film/video program.

SEASON SUPPORT

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2002–03 performing arts season is provided by **Bank One** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION

Meet the Improbables: A Conversation with Improbable Theatre

Description: The members of Improbable Theatre, recipients of the Wexner Center Residency Award in performing arts for the 2002–03 season, discuss the development of its Wexner Center-commissioned production *Braff's Neck* (working title).

Date and time: Tuesday, July 9 at 7 pm

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 N. High St. at 15th Avenue on the campus of The Ohio State University

Admission: Free

Public information: www.wexarts.org or 614/292-3535

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The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

The Wexner Center galleries will be undergoing renovations in mid-2002 through fall of 2003. Check the web site at www.wexarts.org for updates on programs and locations.

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