



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



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CONTACT

Paul Brewster, Managing Director
pbrewster@trustysidekick.org

Drew Petersen, Artistic Director
dpetersen@trustysidekick.org

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

What happens to your shadow when you go to sleep? Trusty Sidekick Theater Company's original play for children from ages 2 - 5 years old sends audiences on a thrilling multimedia, nonverbal adventure answering that very question.

Conceived by Trusty Sidekick's founding Artistic Director, **Jonathan Shmidt Chapman** and board member **Edie Demas**, *Shadow Play* performed at both University Settlement (2012 & 2013) and Lincoln Center Education (2017). Featuring Trusty Sidekick's Artistic Director, **Drew Petersen** as Flash and directed by Trusty Sidekick's Managing Director, **Paul Brewster**, the production uses innovative lighting and projection design by **Simon Harding** and video animations and design by **Zack Ramadan**. Original Direction by **Jonathan Shmidt Chapman**.



Shadow and Flash make amends in SHADOW PLAY
Buatti-Ramos Photography

ARTIST BIOS

Drew Petersen is a New York City based artist and educator. He currently is an educator with Park Avenue Armory, The New Victory Theater, Brooklyn Academy of Music and City Center. As an artist, he is the Artistic Director for Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, a theater company devoted to creating high quality, original work for young audiences and their families. He has been commissioned by and has created original work with Lincoln Center Education, The Kennedy Center, Park Avenue Armory, New Victory Theater, Cleveland Playhouse Square, PACE University, The Tank and Curio Theater Company in Philadelphia.

Paul Brewster is a theatre artist, educator, and administrator residing in NYC. As Roundabout Theatre Company's Assistant Director of Education, Paul has overseen teaching artist training and curriculum development, annually serving 6,000+ students and educators (roundabouttheatre.org). Paul is also Managing Director for Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, which creates bold, original productions for young people and their families (trustysidekick.org). He teaches coursework in both theatre for young audiences and technical theatre for educators at City College of New York, and has numerous directing and stage management credits at regional and off-Broadway theatres. MA, NYU Steinhardt; BFA, Tisch School of the Arts.

Jonathan Shmidt Chapman is an artist, producer, writer, curator, and educator dedicated to the field of Theatre for Young Audiences. Most recently, Jonathan served as the first Producer of Family Programming at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, creating ways to re-imagine the Lincoln Center campus as an international arts destination for families. Jonathan is also the Co-Founder of New York's Trusty Sidekick Theater Company. Recent artistic credits include co-creator of *The Cerulean Time Capsule* for the Kennedy Center, and director of the world premiere of *The Boy at the Edge of Everything* (Finegan Kruckemeyer) at Seattle Children's Theatre. He has held artistic and education-focused roles at The New Victory Theater, True Colors Youth Theatre, and the Cloud Foundation. He serves as an adjunct faculty member at New York University, where he teaches coursework on Theatre for Young Audiences.

Simon Harding is an award-winning designer for live performance. He has designed nationally and internationally for theater, dance, and performance art work. Harding was a co-founder and the resident designer for SaBoogie Theatre, designing all of their productions including the critically acclaimed shows, *Hatched*, *Fathom*, and *Every Day Above Ground*. Upcoming/Recent: *Custodians of Beauty* (Palissimo), *Strangers in Paradise* (Opera Omaha), *The Iceman Cometh* [Act IV] (Target Margin Labs). www.simonhardingdesign.com

Chris Gabriel is a Brooklyn & L.A. based musician, composer, singer, filmmaker and writer. In addition to writing music for Trusty Sidekick's productions of *Up and Away*, *Shadow Play*, *The Haunting of Ichabod Crane* and *Off the Map*, he composes music for commercials, films, documentaries and web series. Most recently, he was the co-director for the full length film, *The Relationtrip*. For more information visit cagabriel.com.

Zack Ramadan is thrilled to see Flash's return in *Shadow Play*, the show that sparked his involvement with Trusty Sidekick five years ago! Since *Shadow Play's* initial runs in 2012 and 2013, Zack has designed projections and graphics for Trusty Sidekick's productions of *Off the Map*, *Earth*, and *Up & Away*. He also oversees all video and animation work at The New Victory Theater as the Digital Marketing Associate. Zack's love of TYA is most likely tied to his unhealthy obsession with the 80s cartoons of his youth.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Based in New York City, Trusty Sidekick Theater Company creates bold, original productions for young people and their families. Hailed by *The New York Times* for “blur[ring] the boundaries between the imagined and the real,” Trusty Sidekick crafts new and exciting ways for audiences of all ages to interact with live performance. By developing new work in collaboration with young audiences as dramaturgs, the theatre-going experience is redefined. Having created works in both unique settings like a Revolutionary War-era battleground and traditional theater spaces, every adventure is rooted firmly in the belief that kids deserve theater that ignites their imaginations and makes them think about the world in a new way.

Recent partnerships and presentations include Lincoln Center (*Shadow Play*), Seattle Children’s Theater (*The Boy at the Edge of Everything*), The Park Avenue Armory (*The Haunting of Ichabod Crane*, *The 7 and ½ Mysteries of Toulouse McLane*), and Classic Stage Company (*The Stowaway*). Commissions by Lincoln Center of multi-sensory work designed specifically for audiences on the autism spectrum (*Up and Away*, *Campfire*) have garnered international attention for Trusty Sidekick’s hallmark of keeping the audience in mind when creating every element of a show.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Trusty Sidekick has developed new work in partnership with some of the most exciting theater venues in the country:

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts - Commission 2014-2017

Governors Island - Family Program 2017

Classic Stage Company - Commission 2016-2017

Seattle Children’s Theatre - Co- Production 2014

The Performance Project @ University Settlement - Artists In Residence 2011-2014

La Jolla Playhouse - DNA Reading Series 2013

Park Avenue Armory - Under Construction Residency 2013

The New Victory Theater - LabWorks Residency 2012/13

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts - New Visions New Voices 2012

Cleveland PlayhouseSquare - Launch Residency Artist 2012

The Old Stone House - Resident Artists 2011/12

Abrons Arts Center/Henry Street Settlement - Resident Artists 2011/12

STAFF BIOS

Paul Brewster (Managing Director) is a theatre artist, educator, and administrator residing in NYC. As Roundabout Theatre Company's Assistant Director of Education, Paul has overseen teaching artist training and curriculum development, annually serving 6,000+ students and educators (roundabouttheatre.org). Paul is also Managing Director for Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, which creates bold, original productions for young people and their families (trustysidekick.org). He teaches coursework in both theatre for young audiences and technical theatre for educators at City College of New York, and has numerous directing and stage management credits at regional and off-Broadway theatres. MA, NYU Steinhardt; BFA, Tisch School of the Arts.

Drew Petersen (Artistic Director) is a New York City based artist and educator. He currently is an educator with Park Avenue Armory, The New Victory Theater, Brooklyn Academy of Music and City Center. As an artist, he is the Artistic Director for Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, a theater company devoted to creating high quality, original work for young audiences and their families. He has been commissioned by and has created original work with Lincoln Center Education, The Kennedy Center, Park Avenue Armory, New Victory Theater, Cleveland Playhouse Square, PACE University, The Tank and Curio Theater Company in Philadelphia.

Spencer Townley-Lott - (Associate Artistic Director) is a puppet artist, director and theater maker living in Brooklyn. He has been a collaborator in six productions with Trusty Sidekick Theater Company and most recently directed Trusty Sidekick Theater Company's *Campfire* at Lincoln Center Education. In addition to his work with Trusty Sidekick Theater Company, he has performed at St. Ann's Warehouse, LaMama, The New Ohio, Dixon Place, BAM, STREB Action Lab, The Bushwick Star, The Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta and more. His TV/film puppetry credits include Disney's *The Muppets*, *America's Got Talent*, *Good Morning America* and *Sesame Street*. He is the recipient of two Jim Henson Foundation Grants for his production *Blossom*, and the inaugural Jim Henson Foundation Residency at the O'Neill Theater Center with collaborator Liz Hara. Spencer is currently a resident artist at HERE Arts and he has been a Works in Progress Artist at the Children's Museum of the Arts and a Guest Artist for Theater Development Fund's Stage Door program. Spencer is a teaching artist at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the New Victory Theater.

SHADOW PLAY PRESS RELEASE (JANUARY, 2017)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 2, 2017

**TRUSTY SIDEKICK THEATER COMPANY
TO REMOUNT PRODUCTION FOR AGES 2-5
SHADOW PLAY AT LINCOLN CENTER EDUCATION**

On January 29, 2017, Trusty Sidekick Theater Company (TSTC) will remount the innovative production of *Shadow Play*—an original play developed especially for audiences aged 2-5. Originally developed as part of The Performance Project @ University Settlement in the spring of 2012 & 2013, this much loved production will return for a limited run for education performances and on Sunday, January 29th, 2017 and Saturday, February 4th, 2017 at 11:00 am & 2:00 pm.

Have you ever wondered what happens to your shadow when you go to sleep? It turns out that some shadows are more mischievous than others. Soon after moving into his new home, Flash discovers that his shadow has moving plans of his own. In the middle of the night, Flash's shadow packs up a few belongings and goes in search of a new home on the moon. Will they ever reunite? Follow Flash on a quest to bring his shadow home in this playful production that utilizes stunning animation, video production and an original score to create a highly sensory, multi-media experience designed with a very young audience in mind.

Shadow Play is based on an original concept by Jonathan Shmidt Chapman and Edie Demas. Chapman is a Co-Founder of Trusty Sidekick and a creator of theatre for young audiences, having worked with Lincoln Center Education, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Seattle Children's Theatre, The New Victory Theater, Wheelock Family Theater, Immediate Medium and New York University's New Plays for Young Audiences Series. Demas is a leader in the field of arts education and theater for young audiences, currently she is the Executive Director of Jacob Burns Film Center and has worked to develop new education programming at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles. She also served as the Director of Education for The New Victory Theater (2001-2010), during which time she has more than doubled the number of school and community-based partners and launched the New Vic in the Classroom Program.

Originally directed by Chapman, this production of *Shadow Play* is directed by Paul Brewster. Brewster is an artist and educator, most recently serving as Roundabout Theatre Company's Assistant Director of Education. He teaches coursework in both theatre for young audiences and technical theatre for educators at City College of New York, and has numerous directing and stage management credits at regional and off-Broadway theatres.

Playing the role of Flash is Trusty Sidekick Artistic Director, Drew Petersen, a New York City based theater practitioner, musician, and educator. He has co-created and performed in almost every Trusty Sidekick production. He has worked creatively and/or educationally with Lincoln Center Education, Park Avenue Armory, New Victory Theater, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, People's Light and Theater Company, Villanova Theater,

Mumpuppet Theater, Commonwealth Classic Theater Company, Egopo Productions and Hedgerow Theater. The multimedia team includes Simon Harding, lighting and projection design; Zach Ramadan, video projection; Noah Press, animation; and Chris Gabriel, score composition.

Trusty Sidekick Theater Company creates bold, original productions for young people and their families. Hailed by *The New York Times* for “blur[ring] the boundaries between the imagined and the real,” Trusty Sidekick redefines the theatre-going experience for audiences of all ages by encouraging youth’s participation in the development and experiencing of live performance. Having created works in both unique settings like a Revolutionary War-era battleground and traditional theater spaces, every adventure is rooted firmly in the belief that kids deserve theater that ignites their imaginations and makes them think about the world in a new way. Recent commissions by Lincoln Center of multi-sensory work designed specifically for audiences on the autism spectrum (*Up and Away*, *Campfire*) have garnered international attention for creating shows where every element has been made with the audience in mind.



SHADOW PLAY PRODUCTION HISTORY AND TIMELINE

September, 2011 - February, 2012:

Devising, Research, Development and In-School Workshops at University Settlement.

March, 2012:

Shadow Play Premieres at University Settlement.

March, 2013:

Shadow Play Remounted at University Settlement.

November, 2016:

Video re-shoots at Jacob Burns Film Center and re-design of scenic and video elements for Lincoln Center Education.

January - February, 2017:

Shadow Play Remounted at Lincoln Center Education



*Flash searches for Shadow on the moon
Buatti-Ramos Photography*

SAMPLE COVERAGE & USEFUL LINKS

SAMPLE COVERAGE

[New York Times Article on Shadow Play](#)

[New York Times Article on Trusty Sidekick's Immersive Theater at Park Avenue Armory](#)

[NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt: Making a Difference Feature on Up and Away \(for children on the autism spectrum\) at Lincoln Center Education](#)

[New York Times feature on Up and Away \(for children on the autism spectrum\) at Lincoln Center Education](#)

[New York Times review of Up and Away \(for children on the autism spectrum\) at Lincoln Center Education](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[Trusty Sidekick Website](#)

[Video introduction to the Company](#)

[Video of Trusty Sidekick's Methodology for Creating Theater for the Very Young](#)

[Shadow Play Select Photos \(Lincoln Center Education Production\)](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Facebook: facebook.com/TrustySidekickTheater/

Twitter: [@Trusty_Sidekick](https://twitter.com/Trusty_Sidekick)

Instagram: [@trustysidekicktheater](https://www.instagram.com/trustysidekicktheater)

SELECT PHOTOS

SHADOW PLAY

Lincoln Center Education, New York NY (January 2017)

Featuring Drew Petersen as Flash

Buatti-Ramos Photography



