

# MICHAEL TRAUTMAN

## HEAD IN THE CLOUDS

Michael Trautman has his HEAD IN THE CLOUDS. Where else would he come up with the inspired looniness that he presents in his solo theater performance? This show is comprised of Mr. Trautman's finest works developed over a career spent performing and touring around the world, working in theaters, festivals, circuses, universities, schools, plays, and even on street corners. From his signature clown routine revolving around far too many things to do with ping-pong balls, to his stage version of the Road Runner cartoon, to his manic run-in with the IRS, to his humorous and deeply touching story about the keys collected throughout the lifetime of a gracefully aging grandfather, Michael brings a delightful array of eccentric characters to life in a theater performance that is not to be missed. Inspired by the developing mediums of film and television still in the hands of vaudeville and variety artists, Mr. Trautman has embraced a style of performance that requires an artist to hone the associated physical skills that most effectively astonish audiences in live performance.

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS is directed by Robert Post. Mr. Post is a current Lincoln Center Fellow, an alumnus of the Affiliate Artists program and has toured his one-man performance to forty-five US states, Canada, Mexico and Japan. Since 1994, Post's work has been seen across the US and in Canada on national television (PBS) in an award-winning special, Robert Post – In Performance. Post Comedy Theatre was presented by Broadway's internationally acclaimed New Victory Theater to rave reviews and sold out houses. In addition to his touring Post has helped direct various theatre and dance productions including Cinderella, Coppelia and The Nutcracker for BalletMet Columbus as well as theater productions of Noises Off and Urinetown.

Michael Trautman started out in life as a fairly normal person. Growing up in Springfield, Illinois, he graduated from high school and went to William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri where he studied Political Science with the intention of becoming a lawyer. After four years of college, Michael decided that the legal profession was not going to be much fun, so he left school and started looking for something to do that would be fun. In 1976 he took his first Mime class. In 1977 he was invited to become a founding member of Mimewock, a Kansas City based school and performing company. Since then, he has been having fun performing throughout the world. Variously identified as a visual comic, performance artist, new vaudevillian, mime (gasp), physical comedian, storyteller, magician, and fool, he claims only to be a clown ... and not a very traditional clown at that. He has appeared in such prestigious venues as the New York International Festival of Clown Theater, Festival D'Ete in Quebec, the General Jackson Showboat at Opryland USA, the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal, and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He was featured on "WOW! The Most Awesome Acts On Earth", an ABC Television Special, and "The Statler Brothers Show" on TNN. Obviously he has little discretion. Michael was an Artist-in-Residence at Mabou Mines Theater Company in New York City, and has also been an Artist-in-Residence for the Drama Department of The Catholic University of America where he adapted and directed UBU ROI. From October 1999 through June 2000, Michael was the star clown in the national tour of "OOPS! The Big Apple Circus Stage Show" directed by Tony Walton. In the fall of 2006 Michael had the pleasure of working with Mr. Walton on a production of "BUSKER ALLEY" starring Jim Dale and Glenn Close.

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Mr. Trautman's Repertoire:

**THE ROAD RUNNER** - This fast paced, live version of the classic cartoon shows why Mr. Trautman is known as "the human cartoon." Playing both Wyle E. Coyote and The Road Runner, Michael recreates several well known scenes with the ending he always wanted to see.

**BUBBLEGUM** - Mom said: "Don't play with your food!" "Don't put any more of that in your mouth." and "If you swallow that, it'll stay in your stomach until you die!" What haven't kids done with their gum?

**I FLY** - I always dreamed of flying. I still do. Maybe I can't really, but you'll believe in the magic of flight after seeing this routine.

**RUDY, THE TRAINED FLY** - Michael's version of the ancient physical comedy routine draws the viewer in, and sometimes onto the stage, often leaving them muttering "I was acting just like it was a real fly!"

**BALLOON** - Mom always said: "You could put your eye out with that thing!" ANY thing. Even a balloon.

**KEYS** - A story that seems so familiar. Your grandfather probably told you one just like it.

**TAXES** - A masked everyman vs. the IRS. What do all those forms really ask of us?

**THE WEDDING** - What can a clown do with a kazoo and a few animal balloons? Be afraid, be very afraid.

**SAWMILL** - Michael's signature clown routine breaks as many rules as possible in one act. Centered on a character that engages and invites the audience to enter the unsteady and unpredictable world of his sick imagination. The clown is an angel who has forgotten how to fly. He is innocence and worldliness at once. Although rooted to the earth, he has the ability to make souls soar. He is a poet of movement, a juggler of words. He comes to you and shows his foibles, his fears, his failings – and in his moment of failure – he flies.