



THE ETHEREAL MUTT LIMITED



Starring John Kaufmann & Dan Dennis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Returning to Seattle this fall, the critically acclaimed
Musical Astronomy Extravaganza.*

AT A GLANCE:

The Ethereal Mutt - Limited presents

Starball

By John Kaufmann & Dan Dennis

Directed by Rachel Katz Carey

Smith Planetarium, Pacific Science Center

200 2nd Ave North

September 29th – October 23rd

Thursdays, Saturdays, & Sundays at 8pm

Fridays at 10pm

****Special Showing: Saturday October 1st, 10pm only****

Tickets: ADULTS-**\$17** CHILDREN & STUDENTS **\$12**

GROUP SALES - \$12 for parties of 6 or more

Call 206-352-1777 for reservations

www.emutt.com/starball

IMAGINE THE SKY HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY...

Imagine that the night sky has been taken away. Everything you learned of mythology and the constellations is a fading memory, not used in your daily life. Imagine the chaos this creates. Now, imagine that you and everyone in your neighborhood is challenged to use only the materials you have – your dreams and a single fleeting night under a clear sky – to re-imagine a shared sky mythology that will guide your lives.

WE'RE HERE TO TAKE IT BACK!

Starball makes our night sky immediate. Described as a "**Jungian astronomy extravaganza**", the show combines live theatre, improvisation, original music, cosmological inquiry and the exploration of human consciousness into an entertaining performance that challenges us to deepen our understanding of the universe. Written and performed by veteran performers John Kaufmann and Dan Dennis, **Starball** invites audience members of all ages and backgrounds to forge a visceral connection to the night sky using their own dreams as the vehicle for their journey.

An updated **Starball** returns to Seattle from tour a US tour, where it played several of the most prestigious astronomical institutions in North America: The Hayden Planetarium in New York City, The Fels Planetarium in Philadelphia, and the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. In 2004 **Starball** was performed at the International Planetarium Society conference in Valencia Spain. The show will have a 5 week Chicago run in 2006.

Tickets are \$17 for Adults; \$12 for Students (12 & under) and Seniors (65+).

Group Sales are available for a fun family event, an office party like no other, and school clubs & groups.

"Out of this world"

--The Seattle Times

**"Hurry to the Smith Planetarium
to see the maestros at work before it's too late"**

--Brendan Kiley, The Stranger

"A delightful evening. I enjoyed it very much."

--Dave Beck, KUOW Radio

So, WHAT'S THE STORY?

For over 3 years, Seattle theatre artists Johnny Kaufmann and Dan Dennis have been developing and performing **Starball**. With the backing of The Ethereal Mutt, **Starball** has travelled across the country (and even to Spain!). These guys have been very busy working in theatre here in Seattle – Dan is rehearsing with Seattle Children's Theatre ("Suessical" and "Peter and the Wolf"), and John is working with Open Circle's Youth Project ("The Perception Project") and has finished a new script for Macha Monkey Productions ("Green Light"). AND they still have time to bring their **"singular experience (and) delightful discovery"** (Planetarium Magazine) back to where it all began – the **Pacific Science Center!** We've also convinced director Rachel Katz Carey to step out of the classics (Fyodor Dostoevsky's "Notes from Underground", Richard Wagner's "Lohengrin", John Moe's "The Big Time") and join us in a trip through the collective unconscious.

Starball is a unique production: astronomy lesson, musical theatre, planetarium show, scripted play and improv night... all in a 90-minute show that's appropriate for the grade schoolers just learning about the constellations, as well as parents, Theatre Hipsters, Science buffs, Fans of Mythology and all the city dwellers who've forgotten the wonders above our heads every night of our lives.

THE STARBALL TEAM:

JOHN KAUFMANN (WRITER/PERFORMER) John Kaufmann grew up in Iowa, then moved to Bar Harbor, Maine where he and his sister founded The Unusual Cabaret where he adapted and directed Aristophanes' **The Birds**, played Mrs. Peachum in **Threepenny Opera**, and wrote a musical adaptation of Ben Jonson's **The Alchemist** with composer Mark Hollmann. Since relocating to Seattle, John has performed with Jet City Improv and Village Theatre, and has played misguided crooner Tony Polar in Empty Space's **Valley of the Dolls**. His own theatrical creations have transcended the boundaries of more "traditional" theatre: in his solo show **linger**, he explored a life frozen every moment his pager beeped. In his recent ensemble show **Line One**, actors spoke only the lines that were communicated to them via the earpieces of their cell phones. John has taught Improvisation and Theatre to students of all ages, recently developing a program called

"Improvisation for the Chaplain" for Harborview Medical Center. John loves games and was on the development team for **Cranium Cadoo**, **Hullabaloo**, and other games for kids. He supervised and developed programming for Seattle's Pacific Science Center. His experiences in PSC's planetarium inspired him to create **Starball** in collaboration with Dan Dennis. In 2003, John was shortlisted for *The Stranger* weekly's Annual Genius Award.

DAN DENNIS (WRITER/PERFORMER) Dan Dennis left his native Wisconsin ten years ago to find his fortune in Seattle. Since then, he has performed as actor, singer, musician, and clown with Seattle Opera, Intiman Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, Village Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, UMO Ensemble, and Seattle Children's Theatre, where he is currently playing The Cat in the Hat in **Seussical** and will portray Peter in **Peter & the Wolf**. His original music and sound compositions include book-It's stage adaptations of E.M. Forester's novel **Howard's End** and Dicken's **Hard Times**, theatre simple's **Caucasian Chalk Circle**, Seattle Shakespeare's **Taming of the Shrew**, **King Lear**, & **Othello**, and Living Voices' multimedia pieces **La Causa** and **Native Vision**. Dan has served as teacher with many Seattle institutions including the Seattle Public School District, Seattle Opera, village Theatre, Youth Theatre Northwest, and Pacific Science Center, where he developed programming for the Willard Smith Planetarium. He performs **Journey from the Dust**, a one-man, multimedia show about the Great Depression throughout the United States, and toured South Korea with friend and collaborator John Kaufmann, performing for children.

RACHEL KATZ CAREY (DIRECTOR) Rachel began her professional directing career in Minneapolis as the Associate Lab Director at the Playwrights' Center. Her Minneapolis credits include **Burn This**, **School For Wives**, **Orphans**, **The Caretaker** and **A Streetcar Named Desire**. For theater simple she has directed award-winning productions of **The Master & Margarita**, **Escher's Hands** & **The Snow Queen**. Seattle credits include **Desdemona**, **Misalliance**, **Life Is A Dream**, **7 Stories**, **Winners**, **Smash**, **21A**, **Motorcade**, **Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead**, and the world premiere of **The Visible Horse** by Mary Lathrop. Recent productions include Jeffrey Hatcher's **Three Viewings**, and **Notes from Underground** by Dostoevsky at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. Last year took her to her hometown of Duluth, Minnesota where she directed **The Philanthropist** by Christopher Hampton. Last spring she sent **Notes From Underground** and **The Big Time** (a musical by John Moe with songs by Chris Ballew of The Presidents of the United States of America) to the Adelaide Fringe Theatre Festival where they played to rave reviews and excited crowds. Last summer she brushed up her German for **Lohengrin** at the Seattle Opera as Stephen Wadsworth's Assistant Director. Her teaching credits include University of Minnesota--Duluth, Lewis and Clark College, University of Washington and Taproot Theatre in Seattle. She is a member of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab West and the American Guild of Musical Artists.

AJ EPSTEIN and THE ETHEREAL MUTT (PRODUCER) Emutt is a Seattle-based company producing theatre and live interactive presentations. In 1995 AJ presaged the webcam revolution when he broadcast *Cowboys in Love: The Hank Plowplucker Story* live to the Internet. Emutt also co-produced the 3 films for the gala opening of Marion Oliver McCaw Hall in 2003; produced the Flying Karamazov Brothers multimedia extravaganza, **L'Universe**, John Kaufmann and Dan Dennis' **Starball**, Scot Augustson's **Gilgamesh Iowa** and **Brent or Brenda?** as well as Keri Healey's **Parrot Fever (Or, Lies I've Told in Chat Rooms)**.

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*With school just starting, we're still not sure if this is covered in the W.A.S.L. this year
... but why take the chance?*

For more information, please contact AJ or Ray at 206.352.1777 or ray@emutt.com

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