

Freedom of the Modern Ape



A bilingual German Studies theater production
based on Franz Kafka's *Report to an Academy*

May 9th 7:00 p.m. Bard Hall

Report to an Academy (1917) by Franz Kafka
 adapted for the stage by the students of the German Studies
 Theater Tutorial 2002 under the direction of Stephanie Kufner



F. Kafka

What would happen if you took an "upwardly mobile ape" and integrated him into human society? What if you asked him to leave behind everything he knew to adopt an entirely new identity? Say this ape attained success and fame, going on to teach other's his secrets of success.

You'd invite everybody to hear distinguished guest Rot Peter speak about his astounding transformation from ape to man – "if you are lucky enough to have come at the right time, for Rot Peter cannot always perform!"

So what have we got? An ape with an attitude? Monkey love? A satire on mainstream-society or on mankind's pretensions to superiority over the animal world in an age of DNA and cloning? The story from capture to civilization or vice versa: the loss of individual freedom and "no way out"?


What if your only reason for seeing this piece is to watch some guy act like an ape? We say, all the power to you. It doesn't matter how or why you are there. The point is you're there! Thank you for coming and...

Enjoy the show!

Actors:
 (in order of appearance)

Impressario	Bryan Bower
Rot Peter	Adam Christopher
Chimpanzee / Rot Peter's wife	Claire Diamond
Student	Christian Luethi
Rot Peter's Son	Clayton Kennedy
Man 1 / Lab Assistant	JennaLee Dixon
Dance and Music Teacher	JennaLee Dixon
Man 2 / Lab Assistant 2	Bryan Bower

Musicians:

 Luke Massouh, Drums
 Margot Kreidemüller, Piano
 Jean Pesce, Guitar

All images taken from:
 Klaus Wagenbach's *Kafka; Bilder aus seinem Leben*

Musical Excerpts from:
Cabaret
America, The Beautiful
Ape Man (The Kinks)

Text taken from Franz Kafka's:
Fragmenta
Bericht an eine Akademie
Der Prozeß



Acknowledgements:



Set Construction	Adam Christopher
Posters	JennaLee Dixon
Stage Lights	Stephanie Kufner
Portable Light	JennaLee Dixon
Program Design	Markus Kirschner

We would like to thank:

The Music Department for allowing us
to use their space here at Bard Hall



From Darwin's *Descent of Man*:

"Many kinds of monkeys have a strong taste for tea, coffee, and spirituous liquors: they will also, as I myself have seen, smoke tobacco with pleasure. Brelun asserts that the natives of north-eastern Africa catch the wild baboons by exposing vessels with strong beer, by which they are made drunk. He has seen some of these animals, which he kept in confinement, in this state, and he gives a laughable account of their behaviour and strange grimaces. On the following morning they were very cross and dismal; they held their aching heads with both hands, and wore a most pitiful expression; when beer or wine was offered them, they turned away with disgust; but relished the juices of lemons. An American monkey after getting drunk on brandy, would never touch it again, and thus was wiser than most man."
