

Winter 3-19-2016

## RISD Cabaret 1987-2000 Retrospective Program

Agnieszka Taborska  
*Rhode Island School of Design*, atabor@risd.edu

Bill Newkirk  
*Rhode Island School of Design*, bnewkirk@risd.edu

RISD Archives  
*Rhode Island School of Design*, risdarchives@risd.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.risd.edu/liberalarts\\_cabaret\\_retrospective](https://digitalcommons.risd.edu/liberalarts_cabaret_retrospective)



Part of the [Acting Commons](#), [Art Education Commons](#), [Dance Commons](#), [Fashion Design Commons](#), [Fine Arts Commons](#), [French and Francophone Literature Commons](#), [French Linguistics Commons](#), [German Language and Literature Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Modern Literature Commons](#), [Music Commons](#), [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Other French and Francophone Language and Literature Commons](#), [Other Languages, Societies, and Cultures Commons](#), [Other Theatre and Performance Studies Commons](#), [Performance Studies Commons](#), [Playwriting Commons](#), [Russian Literature Commons](#), and the [Theatre History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Taborska, Agnieszka; Newkirk, Bill; and Archives, RISD, "RISD Cabaret 1987-2000 Retrospective Program" (2016). *RISD Cabaret 1987-2000 Retrospective*. 2.  
[https://digitalcommons.risd.edu/liberalarts\\_cabaret\\_retrospective/2](https://digitalcommons.risd.edu/liberalarts_cabaret_retrospective/2)

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the RISD Cabaret 1987-2000 at DigitalCommons@RISD. It has been accepted for inclusion in RISD Cabaret 1987-2000 Retrospective by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@RISD. For more information, please contact [mpompeli@risd.edu](mailto:mpompeli@risd.edu).

# CABARET

*Evening celebrating the*

## **RISD CABARET 1987-2000**

**Saturday March 19, 2016 – 6:30 pm**

Graham Visual + Material Resource Center  
Fleet Library, room 204

The evening's program will consist of a screening of The Best of the 12 Shows followed by a discussion with the participation of Special Guests, RISD Alumni and Cabaret stars.

*"It was a great experience  
to work in Cabaret. I hope  
you keep doing this forever!"*

*"As a visual and performing  
artist, the development of  
each show, the camaraderie,  
as well as the performances  
will always resonate with  
me. I LOVED IT!"*

## RISD Cabaret

This art history and performance wintersession course, taught alternately by Szymon Bojko (1917-2014) and Agnieszka Taborska (Senior Lecturer, HAVC), directly involved students by immersing them in the art and culture of a particular time and place. The idea originated from Bojko's classes in which students staged historical events and performed excerpts from poems, plays and art manifestos. Lectures, re-creations of historical events, rehearsals of the performance (devoted each time to a different topic), set-building, prop-making and costume-sewing would culminate in the show, presented to the public over three evenings the first week of Spring semester, on the third floor of the Waterman Building. The Cabaret had a faithful audience that came back every year. For many students it was a life changing experience.

1 From Saint Petersburg to Chruszczow's Boot, 1987

2 Vienna, Paris, Berlin: the Golden Age of European Cabaret, 1988

3 The Ox on the Roof, 1989

4 The Unknown and Awakening Europe, 1991

5 Tabou, 1992

6 The Big Yes and the Little No, 1993

7 The Life and Times of Joseph Beuys, 1994

8 Hoppla! Here Comes Grosz, 1995

9 Ubu Roi, 1996

10 The Beat Generation, 1997

11 Dead Souls, 1998

12 Aha! Vivat Homo Sapiens! 2000

*"Cabaret was a huge part of my experience at RISD. It played a big part during these formative years! Even though we were having fun, it really reached out and brought people into a magical world."*

## Excerpts from Ubu Roi, 1996 RISD Cabaret Program

The educational goals of the Cabaret are not unique, but somehow the experience is. It is the direct involvement of students as actors and designers that gives life and meaning to the Cabaret material as it is selected, edited and performed. If all goes well, we are swept into another place or time as participant observers, enriched and open to the culture of the day or the folly of the movement.

Each year, the intensity and necessarily extraordinary level of involvement has caused the director, the choreographer, the sponsoring faculty, the students, individually or in concert to say "NEVER AGAIN!", but each year they come back. Over the past few years, Szymon Bojko and Agnieszka Taborska have alternated as literary directors and Cabaret muse and James O. Barnhill's benevolent presence is always felt. Since 1991 Bill Newkirk and Foundation Studies have been more involved, giving the Cabaret a home on the third floor of the Waterman Building and backing the studio portion of the course.

It is precisely because of the public nature of the performance, the replacement of the lecture hall by the music hall and the desire to successfully communicate to a larger audience, that the performers, researchers, and technicians reach a special level of commitment. In this way, thanks to them, we can all share in the best and most personal manner Liberal Arts at RISD.

Edward Dwyer, Associate Provost  
Baruch Kirschenbaum, Dean, Liberal Arts

*"In addition to introducing me to the history of performance art, the RISD Cabaret opened up a way of making work that is at once rigorous, joyful, and collaborative."*

*"I had a wonderful time in this year's Cabaret. It gave me such a great opportunity to have a theatre experience. I really thought that I wouldn't have this kind of experience at RISD, and I am so happy that I could take this class. You've given me such a fantastic memory for my first year here at RISD."*

The list of people without whom The Cabaret would have not been possible includes: Edward Dwyer and Barry Kirschenbaum who, in their capacity of Liberal Arts Division Deans, were more than generous to the project; Bill Newkirk, Dean of Foundation Studies who offered the top floor of Waterman Building in which to rehearse and perform; James O. Barnhill, professor emeritus of Brown University who, even when he didn't direct, remained a source of support and advice; Julie Strandberg, also from Brown, who directed "Tabou" and "The Life and Times of Joseph Beuys"; Steven Jobe, a musician and author of operas who was on board for almost all the shows; Peter O'Neill and Denis Hlynsky from the FAV Department who videotaped many performances; Marcin Gizycki from LIBA who edited several video recordings and took photographs at rehearsals and shows; and many, many others.

*"Great way to teach people to be loud, to express themselves, to revolt and to have fun."*

An exhibition of Cabaret posters, programs, tickets, photographs and reviews published in Providence newspapers is on view on the second floor of the Fleet Library until the end of March. It is curated by Agnieszka Taborska and Claudia Covert and dedicated to the memory of Szymon Bojko, as well as to all the wonderful students who made RISD Cabaret possible.

Special thanks to Dan Cavicchi, Dean of Liberal Arts for his support for this exhibit and event.

Sponsored by the Division of Liberal Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of the Pell Humanities Initiative.