

Rogue Swan Halloween Vaudeville

at the Opera House in Havre de Grace 2019

“The Strange Case of Rogue Swan”



a Havre de Grace Street mini-project

JAMES CRAIG

from blog entries

Jamescraigphotography.com

b&w photography • blog • project journal

Includes rehearsals through the final performance, plus any rehearsal images that I was asked to hold back until after the performance. And, of course, some of the included performance images were never posted.

The Players



Lilli
Burril



Katie
Gordon



L.H.
James



Nathanael
Gordon



Scott
Kukuck



Marion
Jackson



Mary Cate
Carder



Jesse
Bortell



Bre
Lewis



Jessy
Gordon



Jesse "J"
Hutch



Mya
Kukuck



Jess
Langley



April
Monique



Caleb
Gordon



Jason
Dawson



Josh
Hutch



Edwin
Gordon



Ron
Farrow



Simon
Gusso

Barbershop Harmonies by The Major Men

Images and Synopsis from the Playbill created by April Monique:

Act One: The Troupe is readying for a Halloween celebration, but trouble is brewing. James and Nate have concocted a potion that has gone horribly awry and is bringing out the inner beasts of our troupe. It is up to KT, Jesse and MC to stop them before it is too late. **Act Two:** Allies have turned into enemies as our unlikely heroes desperately try to obtain the ingredients for the antidote. But the monsters are onto them, and will not let them ruin the fun so easily... **Act Three:** Someone has been bitten! Another torn apart! Will our heroes survive the show? Will they make the antidote and save the troupe? Watch to see the thrilling conclusion of The Strange Case of Rogue Swan!

The Rogue Swan Band



Nate Gordon, JimmyO Burril, Jeremy Hicks-Kachik, Willow Burril, Izzy Herlinger, Natasha Herlinger, Alex Fintak, Jason Bock, Josh Hutchinson

Rehearsals – August













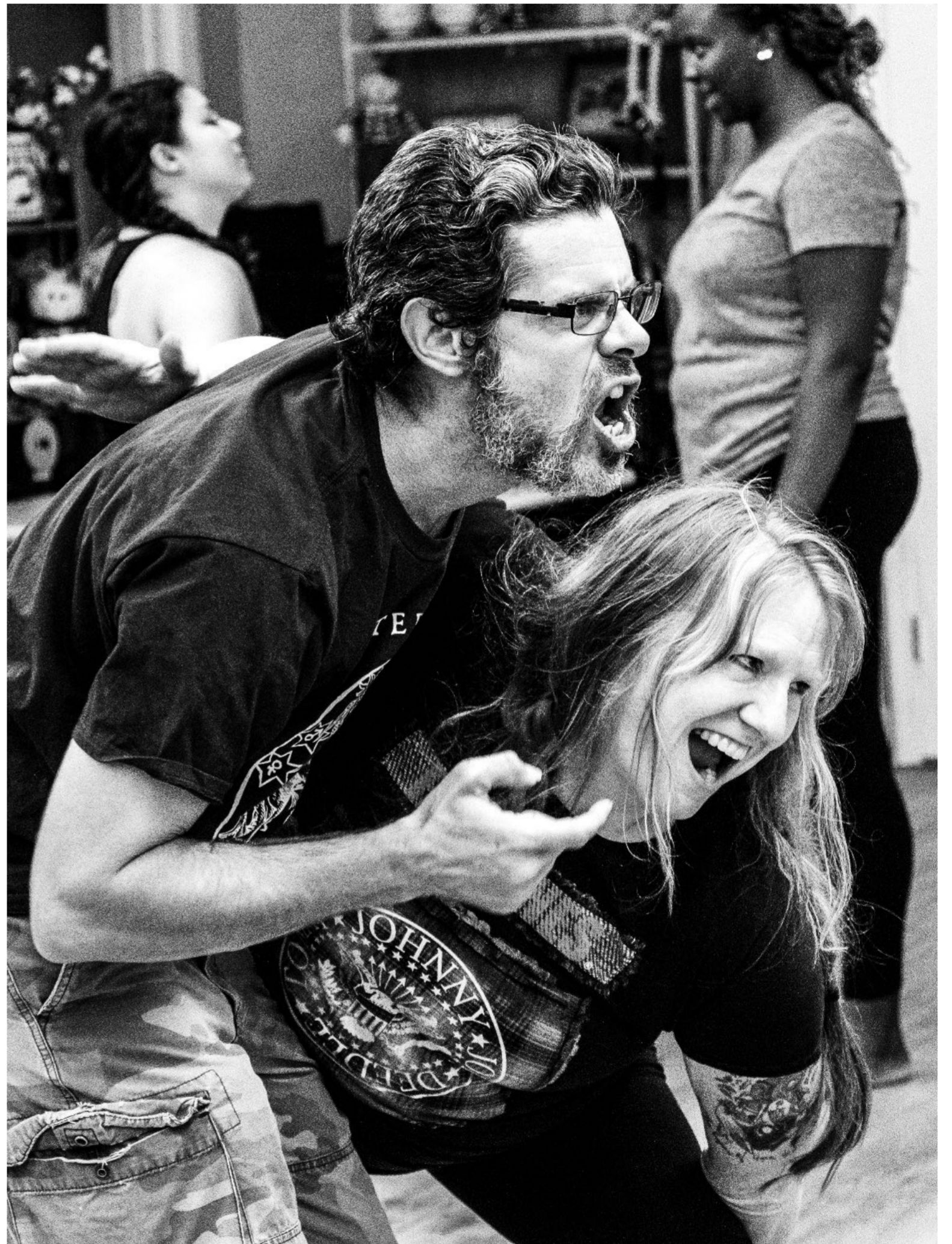




September

























April and Marion practicing their background participation in a number. I held the shutter down for maybe a dozen shots at 8 shots a second:







The final exposure and culmination of the sequence above..















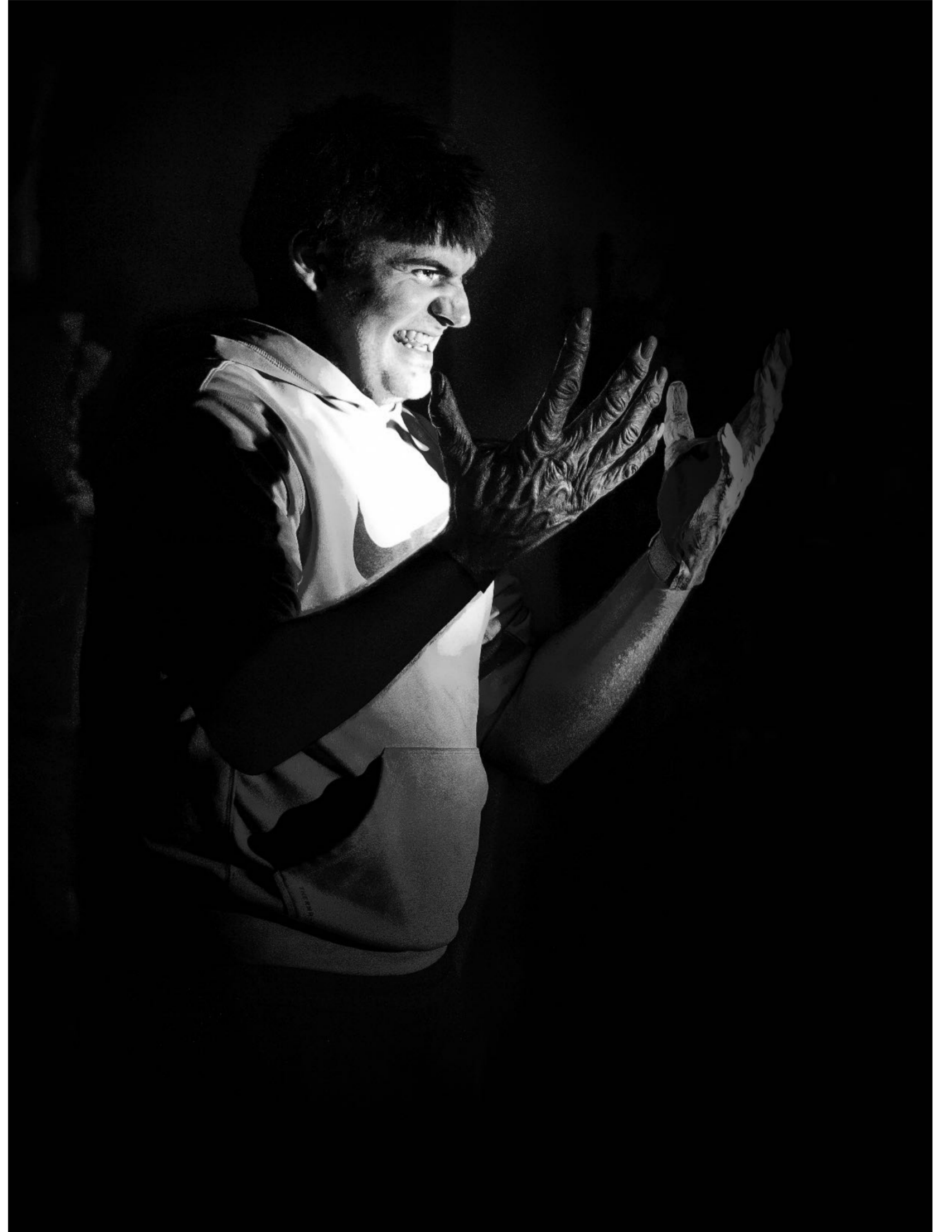




















Katie tries out being carried on stage in the coffin.

Performance Images

Shooting an actual performance, with an audience, requires a whole different bag of tricks. A tripod would have proved far too limiting – as much activity as there was going on both on and off stage, there would be no way to manage the swings, etc. These exposures were made hand-held from the rear of the theater. Most were bursts of two to four images.

I used a Fuji X-T3 with the 40-150 (75-213 equivalent) F2.8 zoom set on wide-open for the whole shoot. Shutter speed was 1/250 and ISO was set on auto – ranging from a very ISO1000 to a very problematic ISO12800. Lighting was a constantly changing array of colors and brightness. The camera was plugged into AC to prevent having to worry about battery life.

A small number of the images were actually taken during dress rehearsal, especially if it would have been impossible to grab it from my performance vantage point. While it's preferable to shoot stills of two performances, I was needed for taking video during the final show – leaving time for very few stills.

Once Upon a Dream





Welcome to My Nightmare



Time to Hyde









Old Souls



Dammit Janet







Dance, Magic, Dance





Dance in the Graveyard





Worst Pies





Play with Me







Mariner's Revenge



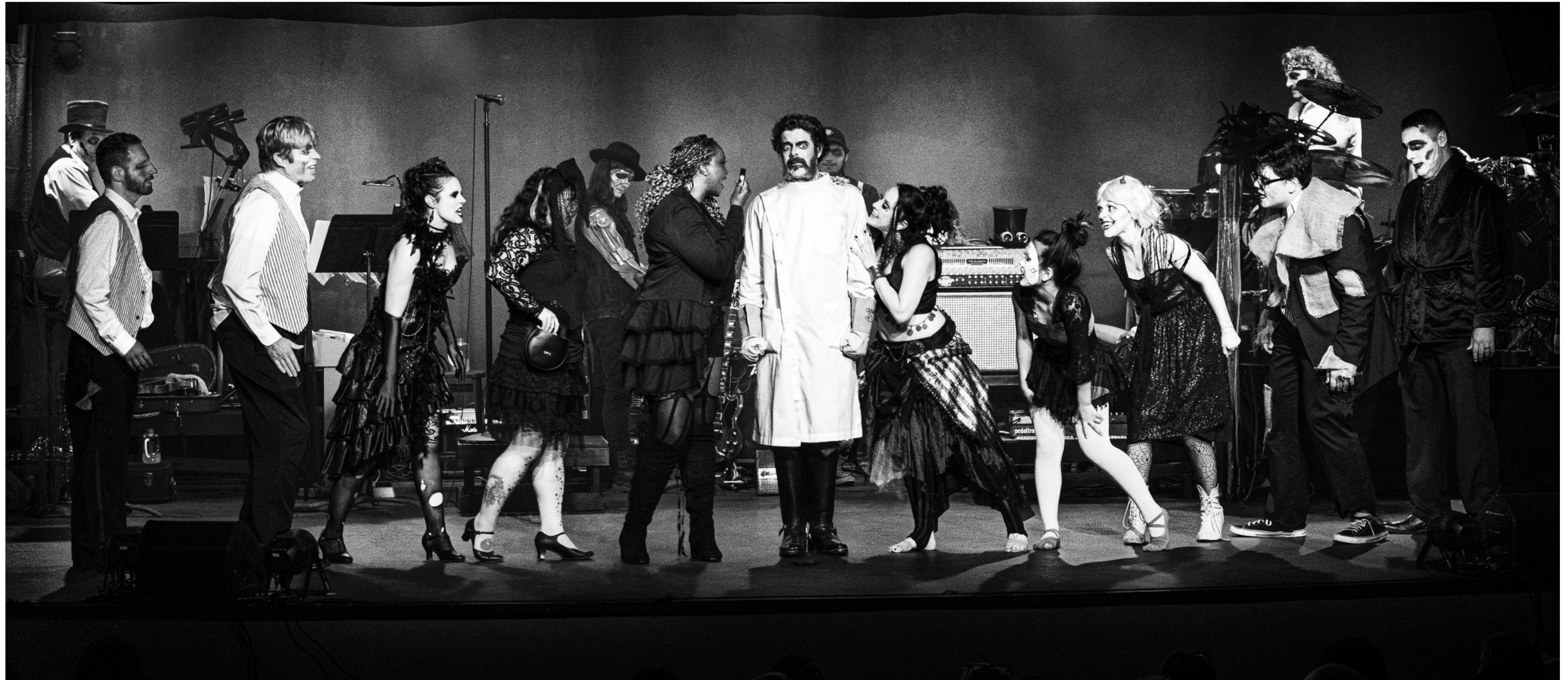




Getting Buried in the Morning







Howl







Day-0



Time Warp







Come Little Children



Spell on You



Transylvania Mania



Gonna Live Till I Die



Remains of the Day





And Then.....







No One Lives Forever







Pure Evil





Somebody Super Like You



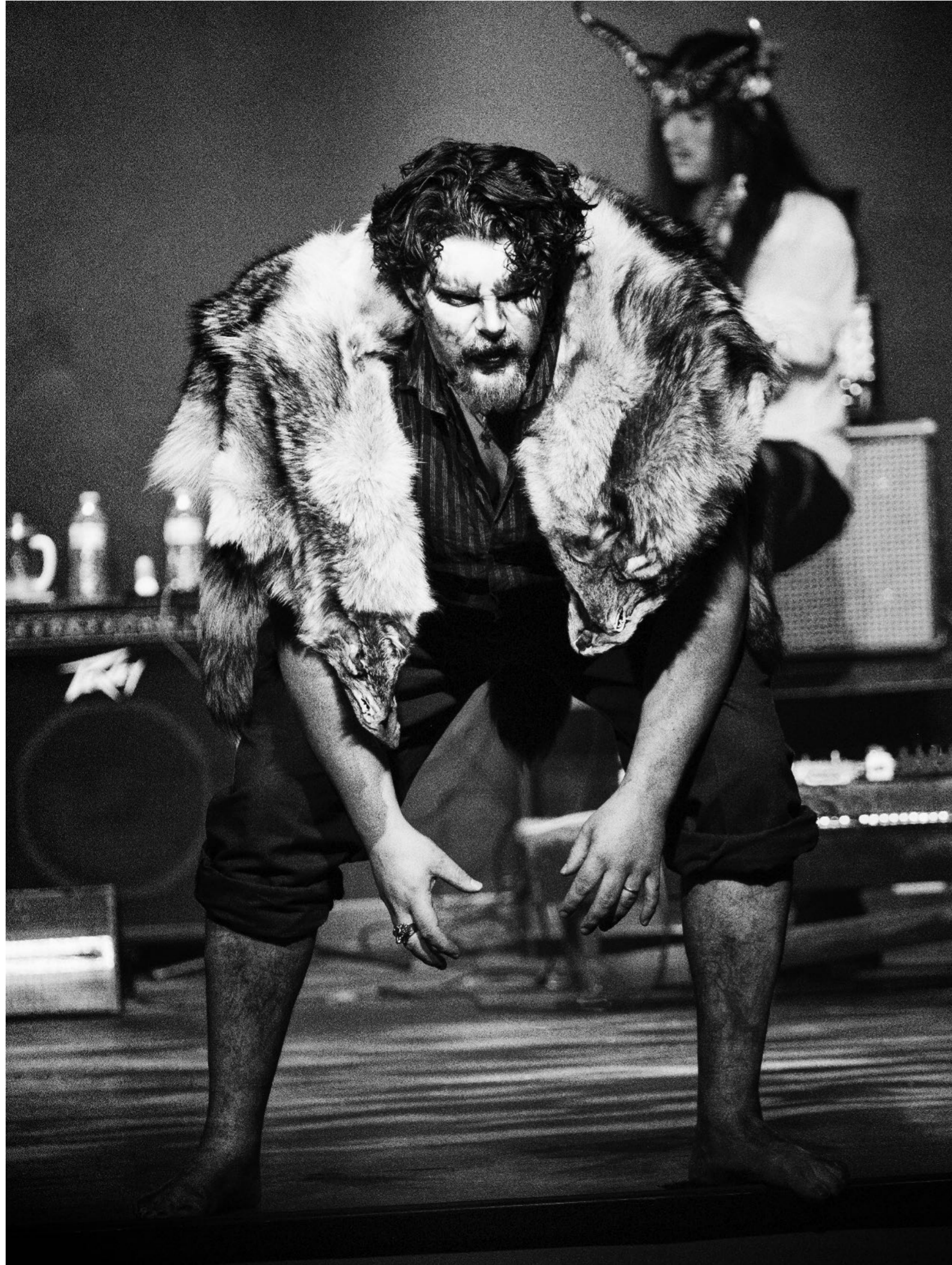




Love You to Pieces



Bad Moon Rising



Creep



Good(?) Omens



April Burril, aka April Monique belly dancer, aka Chain Saw Sally. At one point she dons the two-faced mask and performs her Halloween belly dance. A little confusing at first glance, it all clears up if you just look at the feet.

The Ghost of Stephen Foster



Little Red Riding Hood





This is Halloween





Don't Fear the Reaper



More Cow Bell



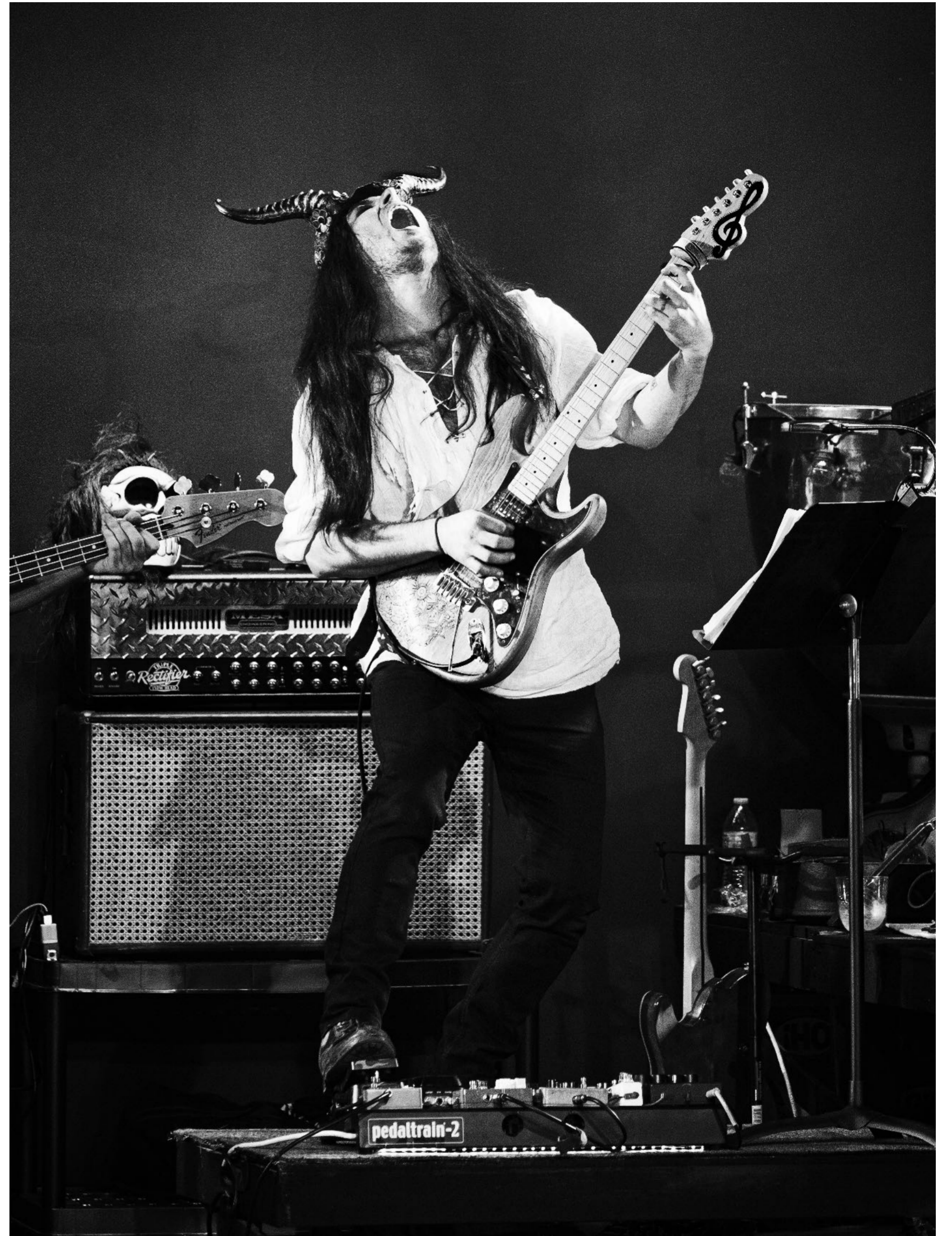


Caleb Gets Rescued



Misc. Background Moments











I like this shot from the dress rehearsal, with Nate approaching Katie from her left, even more than the one from the show – even though here Katie is still wearing make-up that should have come off by this point. So I included it here at the end.

Last, but certainly not least, are the cast pictures, taken just prior to the final performance. Katie set up everything, all I had to do was get the house to turn up the light a little and click the shutter.



Katie says "Everyone smile..."



Katie says "Everyone be serious..."



Katie says "OK, go ahead and be goofy..."

My thanks to Rogue Swan for allowing me to record this whole process from beginning to end. It was a fascinating, if laborious, exercise. I learned a lot in the process, and Nan and I got to know a lot of talented, good and interesting people.