

THE KAY BOURNE ARTS REPORT

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MASCOLL IN GRIMM



A 35-year-old baby who sells, wouldn't you know, talcum powder, but he purveys it only during a small window of opportunity, much to a princess' chagrin. A grumpy dwarf named Curmudgeon whose obsession with Snow White scares even his six, brother mine-workers.

"Wild roles," says KEITH MASCOLL, who's in rehearsal for "GRIMM," a re-imagining of seven fairy tales. The Company One production of these eccentric takes

on old favorites runs through AUGUST 14 in the Roberts Studio Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street, in Boston's South End.

Performing these off beat parts "makes you a better actor as you're constantly thinking on your feet," says Mascoll.

The one in which Curmudgeon lusts after Snow White is by GREGORY MAGUIRE, whose novel "Wicked" was the basis for the hit musical (WINNIE HOLZMAN wrote the book for the Broadway show) and whose best selling works typically reframe fairy tales.

The other playwrights contributing to the Company One production are Boston favorites MELINDA LOPEZ, LYDIA R. DIAMOND, KIRSTEN GREENIDGE, MARCUS GARDLEY, JOHN KUNTZ, and JOHN ADEKOJE, all Massachusetts residents with national reputations.

Mascoll, who has been a regular with Company One for six years or so, finds acting with them "satisfying. They are one of the few companies that does a lot of plays of people of color, local and national." Five of the playwrights for "Grimm" fall into that category.

A native Bostonian with a degree from UMASS/Boston in theater arts, Mascoll is an affiliate artist with Providence Black Repertory Company and works in New York as well. He was nominated for an IRNE twice, both times for performing in plays by ADEKOJE (one of the "Grimm" playwrights).

"John's work is always a challenge. His political references and the rhythms of his dialogue require special attention.

Mascoll has branched out from theater and now has considerable experience as well in TV, films, commercials, industrials for trade shows and the like, and voice overs.

Recently, he was the photo double and stand in for Chris Rock in the feature film comedy "Grown Ups," the Adam Sandler movie about five good friends and team mates, now adults, who reunite after their basketball coach from high school passes away.

Mascoll found Rock as a person "genuinely funny, really shy, pretty much the character we see on his TV show 'Everybody Hates Chris'."

The work went well and Mascoll was hired for a second Happy Madison Production as a deejay in "The Zookeeper" which gets him on camera if for only a few seconds.

The actor says what you bring to the set that matters is "your professionalism. You show up on time. Being prepared every day. Being courteous. Conforming to the environment. Knowing when to talk and not talk."

"Getting work has a lot to do with connections. If people see you as professional, sincere, and talented, then people want to get to know you better."

Mascoll adds that he has also found that "people respect your coming from the theater."

By Kay Bourne

[KEITH MASCOLL's website](#)