

# Isaac's Eye

by Lucas Hnath

**Sex, drugs & science in the 17th century - Five additional performances of our successful production of the best science comedy out there!**



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Young **Isaac Newton** desperately wants to become a member of the honorable British Academy of Sciences: the Royal Society. He conducts a peculiar self-experiment to win over the curator of experiments, **Robert Hooke**. By manipulating his eyeball with the help of a needle, he attempts to prove that light is made of particles and not, as Hooke surmises, of waves. 300 years later, it turns out they were both right.

With a strong foundation in scientific history, **Isaac's Eye** playfully mixes the facts of Newton's life and his research on the structure of light with an equal dose of fiction. In doing so, it explores what great people are willing to sacrifice in order to become great people.

As part of the series **SCIENCE & THEATRE**, Prof. Regine Hengge (Institute for Biology/Microbiology at Humboldt Universität Berlin) and advanced science students will serve as scientific advisers for the production.

**Zitty**, May 2014:

“Connecting the mystical with the trivial, that is the magic formula of the much-praised US playwright Lucas Hnath. [...] Quite suitable for the production of tears of laughter.”

**Exberliner**, April 2014:

“A humorous and humanising exploration of the struggles of a young Isaac Newton [...] “

Directed by Günther Grosser | With Logan Verdoorn, Mary Kelly, Ben Maddox, Jeffrey Mittleman | Set Design by Tomás Fitzpatrick | Lighting Design by Katri Kuusimäki | Scientific Coordination by Prof. Dr. Regine Hengge (Humboldt Universität Berlin) | Assistant Director/Stage Manager: Ruby Grosser | Directing Assistant: Annie Womack | Set Assistant: Max Wilhelm

**Performances:**

**Tuesday, March 24 2015, 7pm | Wednesday, March 25 – Saturday, March 28 2015, 8pm**

**Post-performance discussion** with Prof. Regine Hengge, Günther Grosser and the cast on **Friday, March 27th.**

**LUCAS HNATH** is one of the most promising voices in contemporary US theater. His plays *Death Tax*, *NightNight*, *A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay about the Death of Walt Disney* and *Red Speedo* have been produced by some of the most important art theaters in the United States, including Soho Rep in New York and the Studio Theatre in Washington. He is a current Resident Playwright at New Dramatists and has enjoyed residencies at the Royal Court in London and 24Seven Lab, New York. Hnath is a two-time winner of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant for screenwriting. In 2014 he returns to the internationally renowned Humana Festival of New American Plays two years after his first invitation in 2012.

Lucas Hnath is part of the new generation of US playwrights like Annie Baker (*Circle Mirror Transformation*), Jackie Sibblies Drury (*We Are Proud to Present...*) or Thomas Bradshaw (*Southern Promises*) whose work quite successfully takes the classic naturalistic play and expands it into new formats that are currently critically discussed in Great Britain and the United States.



**SCIENCE & THEATRE** is a transdisciplinary cooperative project at the interface between science and art. In doing so, the academic training of scientists is connected with the production of *science plays* and the communication of science through theater in a completely new way.

Productions dealing with *Science & Theatre* have been produced at English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center under the artistic direction of Günther Grosser in collaboration Prof. Regine Hengge and advanced science students since 2010. Following an initial seminar at the university, scientists and science students work with the director, dramaturg and actors to prepare the production.

More info at <http://www.etberlin.de/producing-series/science-theatre>