

# Grim and Fischer by WONDERHEADS - PROGRAM CREDITS & BIOS -

WONDERHEADS (Victoria BC)  
www.wonderheads.com

## **Credits**

Devised in Ensemble by: Kate Braidwood and Andrew Phoenix  
With Additional Direction by: Nathaniel Justiniano  
Mask Design: Kate Braidwood  
Set Design: Andrew Phoenix  
Sound Design: Kate Braidwood  
Lighting Design: Andrew Phoenix

## **Cast (in order of appearance)**

Mortimer Grim (a.k.a. The Grim Reaper): Andrew Phoenix  
Mrs. Fischer: Kate Braidwood  
Nurse Doug: Andrew Phoenix

## **About WONDERHEADS**

WONDERHEADS is a multi-award winning physical theatre company specializing in mask performance and visual storytelling. Their work is performed in full-face mask, a wordless, whimsical form rarely seen on North American stages, and has been described as “Utter magic” (CBC), “Powerful, surprising and moving” (The Globe and Mail), and “Fantastic, in every sense of the word” (Cincinnati Enquirer). In this distinct style of storytelling, WONDERHEADS make it their business to step beyond words and ignite the hearts and imaginations of every audience member.

The co-founding ‘heads’ of WONDERHEADS are Kate Braidwood and Andrew Phoenix, who came together in 2009 resolved to do their part in conjuring a little magic and wonder into the world. Armed with their respective careers in the professional theatre and a shared background in the most curious of MFA degrees (Ensemble Based Physical Theatre, Dell’Arte International), they set out to create their first show, *Grim and Fischer*, the story of a feisty grandmother who battles it out with the Grim Reaper himself. The popular success of this show served as a launchpad for the company and over the past decade they have developed four original productions: *Grim and Fischer*, *LOON*, *The Middle of Everywhere*, and *The Wilds*, which they have toured extensively to festivals and performing arts centres throughout Canada and the United States, from Alaska to Hawaii, Newfoundland to Victoria. Their work has consistently garnered rave reviews and been honoured with accolades such as twelve Best of Fest awards, five Critics’ Choice Awards, and in 2013 the company was named one of ten Scion Motivate finalists, a US national contest recognizing entrepreneurs in the creative arts.

The WONDERHEADS also frequently engage in a variety of outreach and teaching activities in the communities they visit, including workshops, in-depth residencies, lecture demonstrations and master classes. They consider

themselves a 'Can-American' ensemble, with one founding member from Canada and the other from the United States. When not the road, the WONDERHEADS call Victoria, BC home.

For more information about WONDERHEADS, please visit [www.wonderheads.com](http://www.wonderheads.com), and for the most up to date inside scoop, follow them on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wonderheads](http://www.facebook.com/wonderheads).

## **Company Bios**

### *Kate Braidwood* (Cast, Deviser, Mask and Sound Designer)

Kate Braidwood, WONDERHEADS Co-Founding 'Head', is an actor, deviser, sound designer, director and teacher. She is also a professional mask maker, responsible for the big heads used in WONDERHEADS' work and whose masks are used on stages, in films and in classrooms around the world. As an actor she has performed nationally and internationally, including credits with Miracle Theatre (Portland OR), Theatre SKAM (Victoria BC), The Dell'Arte Company (Blue Lake, CA), Furano Natural Studio (Japan), and Four on the Floor (Arcata, CA). Kate is a graduate of the University of Victoria with a BFA in Acting and she earned her MFA in Ensemble Based Physical Theatre from Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, where she trained as an actor-creator, studying the development of original, physically driven work in ensemble. It was at Dell'Arte that her passion for mask was truly ignited and developed, during which time she trained in the Italian form of Commedia Dell'Arte, studied mask performance with Joan Schirle and Ronlin Foreman, studied mask design with Bruce Marrs and worked with Berlin-based mask company Familie Flöz. In 2009 she teamed up with fellow Dell'Arte graduate, Andrew Phoenix, to create the WONDERHEADS and has been busy touring their work since that time. In 2015 Kate was awarded the Oregon Arts Commission Fellowship, an initiative designed to recognize the achievements of outstanding Oregon artists. Kate now lives in Victoria, BC.

### *Andrew Phoenix* (Cast, Deviser, Set Designer)

Andrew Phoenix, WONDERHEADS Co-Founding 'Head', is an actor, deviser, director and teacher. Andrew holds a BFA in Acting from Texas State University and has worked with Dallas Children's Theatre, Appel Farm Arts and Music Center in New Jersey, and the Texas Shakespeare Festival. Driven by a longing to create original and innovative work on his feet and away from the page, Andrew completed his MFA in Ensemble Based Physical Theatre at Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre and went on to perform and teach in India with Clowns without Borders U.S.A., direct and teach at Intiman Theatre (Seattle, WA), and perform with the Dell'Arte Company (Blue Lake, CA) and Miracle Theatre (Portland, OR). In 2009 he joined forces with Kate Braidwood to create their first show, Grim and Fischer, and the WONDERHEADS were born. As a company they have created four award winning productions and tour their work to festivals and performing arts centres throughout Canada and the US and beyond. Andrew also has a background as a theatre technician and designer, having served as Technical Director and Master Carpenter at Miracle Theatre in Portland, OR, and is responsible for many of the set and lighting designs for WONDERHEADS' productions. When not on the road with WONDERHEADS, Andrew makes his home in Victoria, BC.