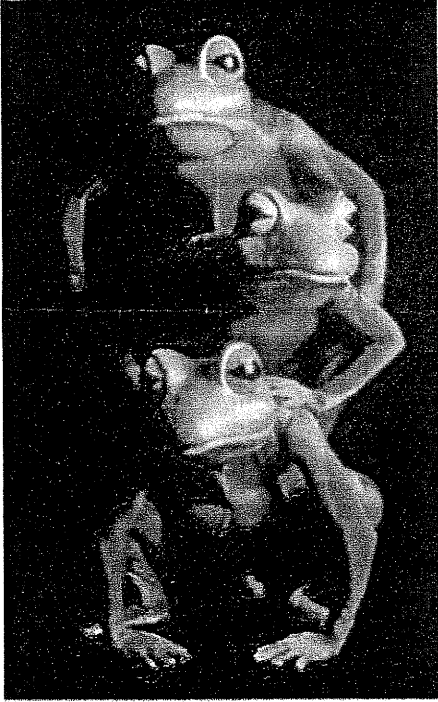


**Frogz**

by Matthew Robinson  
EDGE Boston Contributor  
Friday Jun 1, 2007



The frogs of Frogz.

Having sold out the American Repertory Theatre's Zero Arrow Theatre space, Oregon's Imago Theatre returns this weekend for six shows only (Thursday through Sunday) at the Cutler Majestic Theatre with an ever-evolving version of **Frogz**.

After an extended introduction of eerie ethereal music, the curtain comes up to reveal the titular amphibians (actually troupe members in the first of many clever and oft-complex costumes) who proceed to do...nothing.

Eventually, the piped-in sound of crickets excites one of the frogs/z who, in true Blue Man style, sets himself apart as the excitable misfit - a rebel who, it turns out, can't leap and, even worse, is afraid of flies. Blurring the line between man and beast, the "frog" swats his airborne enemy and, emboldened by the experience, goes after a pair of red-eyed alligators who swoosh

and roll around the stage until they are joined and overtaken by a pair off wrestling lizards. This animalistic theme is even carried through the segment known as Paper Bag, in which a giant grocery carrier rights itself before folding again and eventually letting part of the cat out. Once that tail is done, a family of slinky squeezeboxes harm-onize in the musical interlude Windbags (apparently, the second theme is "bags"). A stretched-out set of glow-in-the-dark Strings combines elements of Blue Man Group, a laser show and Amazon Women on the Moon, but it nicely sets off the show's low-tech high point: the creatively crank-y Cowboy in which a face says more than any words ever could (though the man behind the mask does whisper a few cues).

The performance's usual closer Paper has been smartly moved to precede the intermission, which gives the stage crew just enough time to clean up before a group off onion-y Orbs show a big-headed baby that they will not be kicked around anymore. After the butt-headed being of Larvabatic amazes the crowd even after the trick is revealed, a group of extra-giant Penguins play a game of musical chairs that may or may not have an anti-global warming message. Once they have finally all waddled away, the show winds up with another confetti-filled fight scene, this time courtesy of a set of Peter Pan ninjas and their world-premiere Bows and Arrows. When it is all done, the kids are laughing, the parents are clapping and everyone is covered in tissue paper.

Sounds like a fun night at the theatre to me!

**Frogz** plays at the Cutler Majestic Theatre (219 Tremont Street, Boston) Friday, June 1 at 7:30 PM, Saturday, June 2 at 3 and 7:30 PM, and Sunday, June 3 at 2 and 5 PM. For tickets, call 800 233 3123 or go to [www/telecharge.com](http://www.telecharge.com).