

John Pierson www.johnjugheadpierson.com has been an ensemble member of *The Neo-Futurists* for the past 15 Years where he has written a variety of long form plays alongside hundreds and hundreds of two minute plays for their staple show **Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind** (Chicago's longest running late night show.) An ensemble member of The Neo-Futurist collective is mandatorily, an actor, writer, director, policy-maker, and office staff. Their aesthetic incorporates, chance happenings, task based acting, a non-illusory relationship with their audience, writing and crafting poetry, monologues, dialogues, movement, and image based material written new every week 50 weeks a year. John has been teaching Neo-Futurism with the companies founder Greg Allen for over 10 years. He helped to create the New York branch of The Neo-Futurists. He has taught Neo-Futurism forms of writing, acting and directing in Theaters, highs schools and colleges across the USA including: Woolly Mammoth Theater (Washington DC), Dad's Garage (Atlanta Georgia), Carnegie Mellon University (Pennsylvania), Northwestern University in Evanston Illinois, and The University of Chicago in Chicago Illinois. www.neofuturists.org

From the Neo-Futurist aesthetic John has nurtured his very own physical performance approach to creating highly visual work based on one's own life. He teaches these skills in a class called **Self As Metaphor**. (Class description in separate attachment.) He has devised, acted, and directed a few plays based on this style: **The Fool Returns To His Chair**, **Crisis A Musical Game Show**, **The Fall Of The House of Usher/FEAR**, and **Targets**. Most of the Neo-Futurists' long form shows are devised and created by members of the ensemble in a six to eight week rehearsal/devising process. Other critically acclaimed plays with the Neo-Futurists include **Daredevils**, **Simulticity**, **Daredevils' Hamlet**, **A Duchampian Romp**, and **Chalk & Saltwater: The Ladder Project**. <http://theladder.wikispaces.com/>

John is the founder of *Hope and Nonthings*, which besides being a theater production company also publishes works by Chicago Playwrights (including Mickle Maher and The Neo-Futurists) and Punk Rock Musicians. With Hope and Nonthings, John has written, directed, and produced 15 full length plays including the critically acclaimed **Living in The Present Tense**, and **Four Clowns & A Bench**. Many of his plays are compiled in a book called, **The Philosophy Of Hope And Nonthings**.

John tours across the USA in a puppet theater company called **Madcap Puppets**, established 30 years ago by Jerry Handorf, who previously worked with Jim Henson at Henson Studios. www.madcappuppets.com

John studied theater at *Columbia College* in Chicago and majored in Literature and Theater Improvisation. He performed and taught Improvisation for ten years. He was an ensemble member of the University of Chicago based improv troupe *Sheila*. With Sheila he performed at Jimmies' Woodlawn Tap and The Organic Theater. Sheila was the direct descendent of Avante Garfield which included Greg Kotis, fellow Neo-Futurists and Tony Award winner (Urinetown). John performed at the Woodlawn Tap for five years while simultaneously touring another Sheila improv show called **Sheila's Giant Wall of Plot Twists**.

Through the years, while pursuing theater John was concurrently touring and recording with the seminal punk band **Screeching Weasel**, which he co-founded with frontman Ben Weasel. With Screeching Weasel he recorded 20 full length records and has toured the states many times over. They have sold over a million records. His newest band is called **Even In Blackouts**. Even in Blackouts has released 5 records and currently tours the US and Europe.

John has published 2 fiction novels: **Weasels In A Box** and **The Last Temptation of Clarence Obody**.