



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2015**

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**SLEEPING WEAZEL PRESENTS *IN THE WAKE OF THE GRAYBOW RIOTS*  
BY LISA SCHLESINGER**

*The year is 1912, the beginning of an industrial century.  
The year is 2015, mid-July on a lake in New England.*

*What is then? When is now?  
An old story of a new tale.  
There's never enough to go around.*

*Come One, Come All  
for this play with music, mystery, and love in spite of it all.*



**Boston, Mass., June 23 2015** – Multimedia theatre company Sleeping Weazel hits the Boston 'burbs for summer with its first-ever theatre production in the bandstand on Massapoag Lake, including a post-show hootenanny. *In the Wake of the Graybow Riots* is a new play with live music written by Lisa Schlesinger, directed by Shana Gozansky, and composed by Ben Schmidt. One performance only on July 23, 2015 at 8:00 pm. Lake Massapoag, 1 Beach Street, Sharon, MA 02067. Free admission and open to the public.

*In the Wake of the Graybow Riots*, described by Schlesinger as “a back porch blues play,” transports audiences to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century American South, where the lives of the



haves and have-nots collide and coalesce in a swirl of composer Ben Schmidt's contemporary blues tunes. This vibrant play is at turns classical and hip, asking us an age-old question: how can we know where we belong?

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Lisa Schlesinger** is a playwright/writer/theatre activist. Her plays include the *Celestial Bodies* trilogy, *The Bones of Danny Winston*, and *Rock Ends Ahead*. She is writing *Endangered States of America* including *In the Wake of the Graybow Riots* and *I Dreamed the Last Diamond Darter* and adapting *Iphigenia*. A recipient of the NEA/TCG Playwrights Residency Award, the BBC International Playwriting Award, and a nominee for a USArtists Fellowship, her work is produced in the U.S. and internationally and published in *American Theatre Magazine*, *Performing Arts Journal*, *Theatre Communications Group* and the *New York Times*. Her plays are forthcoming from *Broadway Plays* and *NoPassport Press*. She is an affiliated artist with *Sleeping Weazel* and *In Parenthesis* in New York City. She teaches playwriting at the University of Iowa.

**Shana Gozansky's** work has been produced at Trinity Repertory Company, The Hangar Theatre, The Calderwood Arts Pavilion, The Factory Theatre, The Bowery Poetry Club, and Manhattan Theatre Source. She has taught at Brown University, College of the Holy Cross, and Trinity Rep. Shana holds a MFA in Directing from Brown/Trinity and a BA in Theater from Bard College, was an Artist-in-Residence at The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and is a Drama League Directing Fellow.

**Ben Schmidt** is a singer/songwriter, actor and theatre designer. He has released three CD's of original music; *Write it Down* (2001), *While You Were Sleeping* (2005), and *Silt* (2009). His forthcoming CD's are *Muse* and *In The Wake*, a concept record released in tandem with Lisa Schlesinger's play, *In the Wake of The Graybow Riots*. Schmidt is producer and engineer at Rescued Rabbit Studio in Iowa City, IA, where he has produced the work of Iowa artists and composed the original score for Danny Wilcox Frazier's 2010 Emmy-nominated documentary, *Driftless*. Schmidt has appeared as an actor in Iowa Summer Repertory theatre and collaborates as actor/designer with long time partner and playwright, Lisa Schlesinger. Schmidt has been a guest designer at The Goodman Theatre, The University of Iowa, Cornell, and Coe College, where he is currently Technical Director and teaches theatre design.

## ABOUT SLEEPING WEAZEL

Sleeping Weazel explores and engages novel approaches to developing, presenting, and exhibiting new art—multimedia theatre, interdisciplinary installations, performance events, music, poetry, and video/audio. Hailed by *HowlRound* as "the most serious show in town," Sleeping Weazel develops work that crosses and confounds the boundaries of "mainstream" and "avant-garde" as well as boundaries between art forms.

Based in Boston and fanning out virtually across the globe, our projects include individual and collaborative productions in the theatre, on DVD, CD, and Vimeo, at readings, audio-theatre concerts, and performance events. We've produced works that have been hailed "as one of the more fearless performances in recent memory" (*The Boston Globe*) and "some of the most interesting experimental theatre in New England" (*EDGE Boston*). [www.sleepingweazel.com](http://www.sleepingweazel.com)



## CALENDAR LISTING

*In the Wake of the Graybow Riots*  
a back porch blues play

written by Lisa Schlesinger  
directed by Shana Gozansky  
composed by Ben Schmidt

Thursday, July 23, 2015  
8:00 pm  
FREE and open to the public

Lake Massapoag  
1 Beach Street  
Sharon, MA 02067

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