Triple Canopy and Group Theory present:

BARTLEBY. A Rereading

April 23-25, 2010
177 Livingston Street,
Brooklyn NY

Conceived and directed by
Ben Vershbow

Created with the ensemble:
Jeremy Beck, Daniel Larlham,
and Craig Pattison

Designed by
Ben Vershbow and Dorit Avganim

Friday, April 23

Paul Chan (artist, Waiting for Godot in New Orleans, Sade for Sade’s sake), Edwin Frank (editorial director, New York Review Books), Lynne Tillman (novelist and critic; author of American Genius, a Comedy and Bookstore: The Life and Times of Jeanette Watson; fiction editor of Fence magazine)

Moderated by Abha Dawesar
(novelist, Family Values, That Summer, Babaji)

Saturday, April 24


Moderated by Alice Boone
(PhD student in English and comparative literature, Columbia University; editor of the New York Public Library's Candide 2.0)

Sunday, April 25

Graham Parker (artist; author of Fair Use [notes from spam]), Molly Springfield (artist; author of “Inside the Mundaneum”), McKenzie Wark (professor of culture and media, the New School; author of A Hacker Manifesto and Gamer Theory)

Moderated by Greg Wayne
(PhD student in neurobiology, Columbia University)

Group Theory is a new New York–based theater company founded by Ben Vershbow and Dorit Avganim. Before coming to 177 Livingston, Bartleby was premiered at IRT Theater, then performed at the East Side Institute for Group and Short Term Psychotherapy and Brooklyn Social Therapy. Bartleby was in part inspired by Vershbow’s work at the Institute for the Future of the Book and the New York Public Library.

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It is, of course, indispensable part of a scrivener’s business to verify the accuracy of the copy, word by word. Where there are two or more scriveners in an office, they assist each other in this examination, one reading from the copy, the other holding the original. It is a very dull, wearisome, and lethargic affair.

—Herman Melville, Bartleby, the Scrivener

It is an operation contrary to the commercial and ideological habits of our society, which would have us “throw away” the story once it has been consumed (i.e., digested), so that we can then move on to another story, buy another book. And it is only once it has been consumed (i.e., digested) that we can begin to understand the story and to have any say in it.

—Roland Barthes, S/Z

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Group Theory gratefully acknowledges The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, and the Buddy Taub Foundation, as well as the many individuals and in-kind contributors who have generously given their support.

177 Livingston Street, a 5,000-square-foot storefront space in downtown Brooklyn, is the home of the organizations Triple Canopy, Light Industry, and The Public School New York. Independently and collaboratively, the three groups present screenings, lectures, classes, artist talks, readings, and performances, all of which are open to the public. The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, which works in part to enhance the area’s cultural activity, has made 177 Livingston Street available to the above organizations on a temporary basis.

177 livingston.org

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