

CAPTAIN MARBLES RETURNS!



Hi!

I'm Fred Marbles... but everyone calls me the Captain.

The Acting Squad is excited to be opening our show at the DCA Storefront Theater this November!



I know we don't look that old (thanks!) but *Captain Marbles and his Acting Squad* first appeared in Chicago a long, long time ago...



Back in the 1960's, Bob Sickinger, director of Chicago's Jane Addams Hull House Theater, was leading the excitement of the city's off-loop theater movement with all kinds of adventurous plays...

A playwright who worked with Bob -- a man of mystery named John Stasey -- had an idea: create the continuing adventures of an Acting Squad ...led by a Captain who was always losing his fuzzy red marbles.





John asked a young man named Alaric Jans to write the music. That's how we met "Rokko." One day Rokko would become one of Chicago's most recognized, award-winning composers... but at the time, he was still a teen-ager.

Every few weeks, the Marble Squad would put on new shows on the sets for the adult plays. We'd sing new songs that Rokko wrote (often that day), along with old favorites.

That's John in the upper left... and me (with the marbles).



Sorry, there they go again...

It was great to have so many fans, young and old, who came to see each new episode. We even toured in schools all over the area.

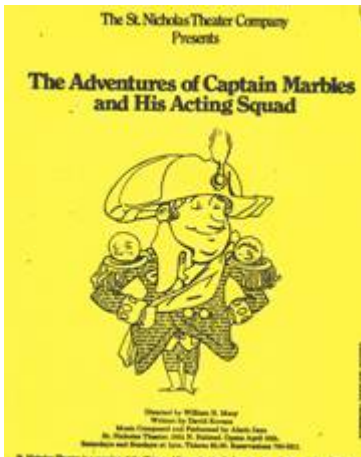
But sadly, John died in a tragic car accident, and the Marble Squad disbanded.



Then, about 10 years later, the young St. Nicholas Theater Company was creating a new kind of excitement in Chicago.

David Mamet, Steven Schacter, Patricia Cox and William H. Macy wanted to have a kids' show.

David Kovacs, a young Chicago writer, had joined the Marble Squad as a teenager in a memorial performance for John Stasey. He teamed up with Rokko Jans and Bill Macy to write the first new episodes of the Squad's adventures.



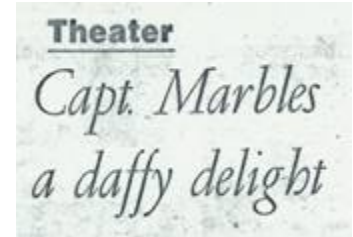
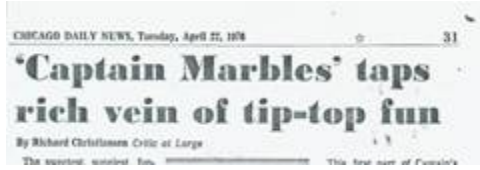
We took on the challenge of presenting Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet...

...including cameo appearances by tap dancers, opera singers, and medieval combatants.

There was even a tuba and violin duet.

Critics raved... and kids and adults flocked to St. Nicholas on weekend afternoons.





Episode 2 was called "Something Special" ...an adaptation of the only full-length Captain Marbles show John Stasey ever wrote.



And Episode 3, "Cliff Notes" featured a young Tom Mula in the role of Treetrunk. We even did shows late at night, for actors and others who wanted to entertain their inner child.

We toured a lot in those days, too. Here's Rokko at Ravinia, with members of the Mundelein Elementary School Marching Band. The band auditioned for the role of Romeo, but unfortunately, they didn't get the part.



Now we're back - and the Squad couldn't be happier!

Starting November 1st, we'll be at Chicago's DCA Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph St., running through December 14, on Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at noon.

Episode One features Rokko (of course) at the piano, and is directed by Tim Gregory, in a co-production of Provision Theater and the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs.

Tickets are on sale now at www.dcatheater.org or 312-742-TIXS.

Hope to see you there!

