



**ALRC Separation  
Rundown, June 3,  
2013: Compromise  
for Plan B...**



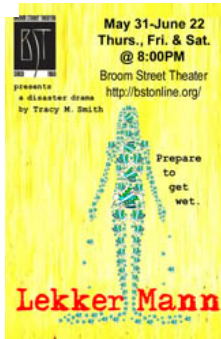
**Madison Arts  
Reads, June 7, 2013**



**Funding for United  
Council of UW  
Students axed by  
Joint Finance...**



**Sector 67 becomes a  
"wrong place" for  
theatre**



- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

### Most Discussed

- [Madison Arts Reads, May 24, 2013](#)  
1 comment · 2 weeks ago

Community on [DISQUS](#)

### Navigation

[2013 Sh\\*tty Barn Sessions launch with pot luck & house show](#)

[A Very Special Ticket Giveaway: Dinner in the Distillery with Underground Kitchen and Death's Door](#)

[A filmic look at this weekend's plays](#)

[Arts Extract Episode 22: The George Harrison of Zombie Movies and Other Spring Film Offerings](#)

[Arts Extract Episode 23: In This Play, Will the Jets Have Cell Phones?](#)

[Arts Extract Episode 24: The Biochemistry of a Reuben Overdose](#)

[Arts Extract Episode 25: Whimsical Accordions, Bullet Belt Speed Metal, and Other Local Album Releases](#)

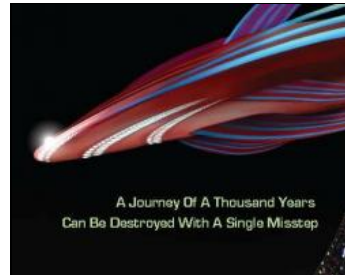
[Arts Extract Episode 27: These Things, In This Order](#)

## "Ten Thousand Moons from Here" brings cerebral sci-fi onstage

[View](#) [What links here](#)

Post by [Christian Neuhaus](#) on 6/18/2013 1:00pm [Arts](#) | [Theater](#)

Last November I attended a reading of an in-process science fiction script by local playwrights Kathleen Allison Johnson and Gail Sterkel called *Ten Thousand Moons from Here*, a play to be directed by Jan Levine Thal for **Kathie Rasmussen Women's Theatre** (KRASS). The first act took place onboard the spaceship Harkness, where a series of crises occurred as the ship neared the end of a one-thousand-year trip to planet New Day. The ship's complement, reduced dramatically to comprise only five humans and one robot, managed to land the ship on New Day, where they made several surprising discoveries in the second act. One of the things I appreciated most about the script was how it emulated the approach of classic science fiction stories: using the futuristic setting as a vehicle for presenting a new perspective on ideas with a contemporary resonance, rather than as an opportunity for interesting action sequences.



KRASS partnered with **Madison Theatre Guild** to bring *Ten Thousand Moons from Here* to the **Bartell Theatre** for a two-weekend run that closes this Saturday. It's in the smaller of the two stages, which is a space that works well for the script's emphasis on character and theme. Despite the smaller space, the sets designed by Phrannie Lyons for both the starship and the desolate planet New Day are convincing. Sharon White's ship uniforms were pastel blue and green combined with black & silver vests, an approach that, like *Space Voyage*, made a virtue out of simplicity. Karyn Schairer, a frequent sound designer for Brian Wild's SFX-heavy Broom Street Theater plays, made the future sound right.

The characters are all well-drawn with acting performances to match but as with many science fiction ensembles, the non-human has the inside track to become a favorite: Eibbor, a quite human-looking robot played by Alex Singer, provides frequent moments of both broad and scientific comic relief as well as thoughtfulness. There are several enjoyable through-lines in the play, like the incomplete *Waiting for Godot* that is the sole survivor or a library conflagration, or the techie crewman's covert career as a romance novelist that has an unexpected payoff. Ideas of loss, responsibility, and immortality arise from in the characters' discoveries and interactions with each other. It's an interesting journey and I enjoyed the opportunity to once again see the techniques of theater applied to a genre I've rarely seen onstage.

*Ten Thousand Moons from Here* appears at the **Bartell Theatre**, 113 East Mifflin Street, Wednesday June 19 through Saturday June 22. Performances are at 8 p.m. The Wednesday performance is "pay what you can," [tickets](#) for the others are \$15.

### Christian Neuhaus Contributor



**Christian Neuhaus** is a writer whose comic short plays have been produced by local theater groups. *You've Ruined a Perfectly Good Mystery!*, a play he wrote with Dane101 contributor Rick Stemm, sold out its world-premiere run in Madison, was part of the 2011 New York International Fringe Festival, and was voted Favorite Theater Production in Isthmus's 2011-2012 Madison's Favorites poll. In March 2011 his comic retelling of the Sherlock Holmes story "The Red-Headed League" was among the plays in *Novel Ideas*, performed by Actor's Factory. In March 2012 Christian was part of the first performance of *Are We Delicious?*, where the ensemble develops a set of eight short plays within a single week.

Search

Follow Us

Become a Member!

Donate



Join our r

Current

- [ALRC Se Rundown, June 3, 2013: Compromise for Plan B, Osaka House renewal recommended](#)
- [Madison Arts Reads, June 7, 2013](#)
- [Funding for United Council of UW Students axed by Joint Finance Committee](#)
- [Madison Arts Reads, May 24, 2013](#)
- [ALRC Rundown, May 22, 2013: Plan B noise, CHI Asian Infused, and license separations](#)

more...

Arts

- [Arts Extract Episode 43: Firmly Pro-Movie](#)
- ["Ten Thousand Moons from Here" brings cerebral sci-fi onstage](#)
- [Madison Arts Reads, June 14, 2013](#)
- [Madison Arts Reads, June 7, 2013](#)
- [Shitty Barn Session #62: Walter Salas Humara & The Wooldridge Bros.](#)

more...

Music

- [Ticket Giveaway! Shitty Barn Session #64: Kelly Hogan](#)