

## Special Thanks

Sydney Scheer

Carolyn Trahan

Raymond Ghirardo

Ithaca College Art Department

Ithaca College Theatre Department

Stella Bowles

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## Hans in Luck

by Isaac VanCuren

Studio 4

Monday Dec 12th, 2016

Independent Study Performance Art Piece

What Now?

This performance art piece revolves around the life of Hans Fallada, who was a German novelist. Some of his better known novels include *Little Man*, *What Now?* (1932) and *Every Man Dies Alone* (1947). His works belong predominantly to the New Objectivity literary style, with precise details and journalistic veneration of the facts. Fallada's pseudonym derives from a combination of characters found in the Grimm's Fairy Tales: the protagonist of Hans in *Luck* and a horse named Falada in *The Goose Girl*.

This performance piece was developed and will be performed by Isaac VanCuren as part of his independent study in animation in combination with using his BA Theatre Studies degree.

I was originally captured by the crazy, wild, and thrilling life story of Hans Fallada; through years in and out of prison and constant drug addiction his narrative was compelling. However, as you dive deeper down into Hans Fallada's writing, you draw out his struggle to relate to "common" people. He felt so distant from those around him. He was too trapped in his mind. Too trapped in his illusions. He wanted to connect to the people around him and try to understand how they were able to fight through their everyday lives. The real struggle to him is the ability to face life. Living life is an act of courage no matter what.

Hans always acted alone. He was able to communicate through writing. Through individuality. I wanted to mirror Hans Fallada's selfness in doing this project most alone. I wanted to feel the pain of having to carry a heavy burden on your own.

I write this tale, this journey about a man fighting for freedom and expression, hoping to shine through the blinding forces of those who oppression. Fear drove me here. The truth drove me here. My life has lead me to this point and apparently your life, no matter how action-packed or wild, has lead you here today. Either you are here to learn the truth about who Hans Fallada is, or you want to support the actor portraying Hans Fallada. He is the one who wrote this, you know.

Hans Fallada's life should be reported from a journalistic mindset, let's agree that this individual playing Hans Fallada is not a journalist. He is an artist and those types of people always love to add a little dramatic flare to things.

You probably won't remember the minor details, I know. Those are constantly said and forgotten. However remember the feeling, remember the flare, and remember humanity.

And always ask,  
What Now?