

### 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, Babyji)*

#### Saturday, April 24

John Bryant (professor of English, Hofstra University; author of *The Fluid Text*; editor of *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*), Vivian Gornick (critic and memoirist; author of *Pierce Attachments*, *The Situation and the Story*, *The Men in My Life*), Joseph McElroy (novelist, *A Smuggler's Bible*, *Women and Men*, *Actress in the House*)

*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*.  
group-theory.org

*Triple Canopy* works collectively with writers, artists, researchers and other collaborators on projects that deal critically with culture and politics, and the ways people engage them, both online and in the world at large. These investigations are realized in an online magazine as well as in public programs and print publications encompassing various fields and locales. We aim to present work and advance ideas informed by a multitude of disciplines and perspectives, and to disseminate them among a broad and diverse audience. *Triple Canopy*, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, was founded in late 2007; our first issue was published on March 17, 2008.  
canopycanopycanopy.com

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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

It is, of course, an indispensable part of a scriener's business to verify the accuracy of his copy, word by word. Where there are two or more scrieners 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 Scriener*

—Roland Barthes, *S/Z*

Rereading, 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 ("devoured"), so that we can then move on to another story, buy another book, and which is tolerated only in certain marginal categories of readers (children, old people, and professors), rereading is here suggested at the outset, for it alone saves the text from repetition (those who fail to reread are obliged to read the same story everywhere).

