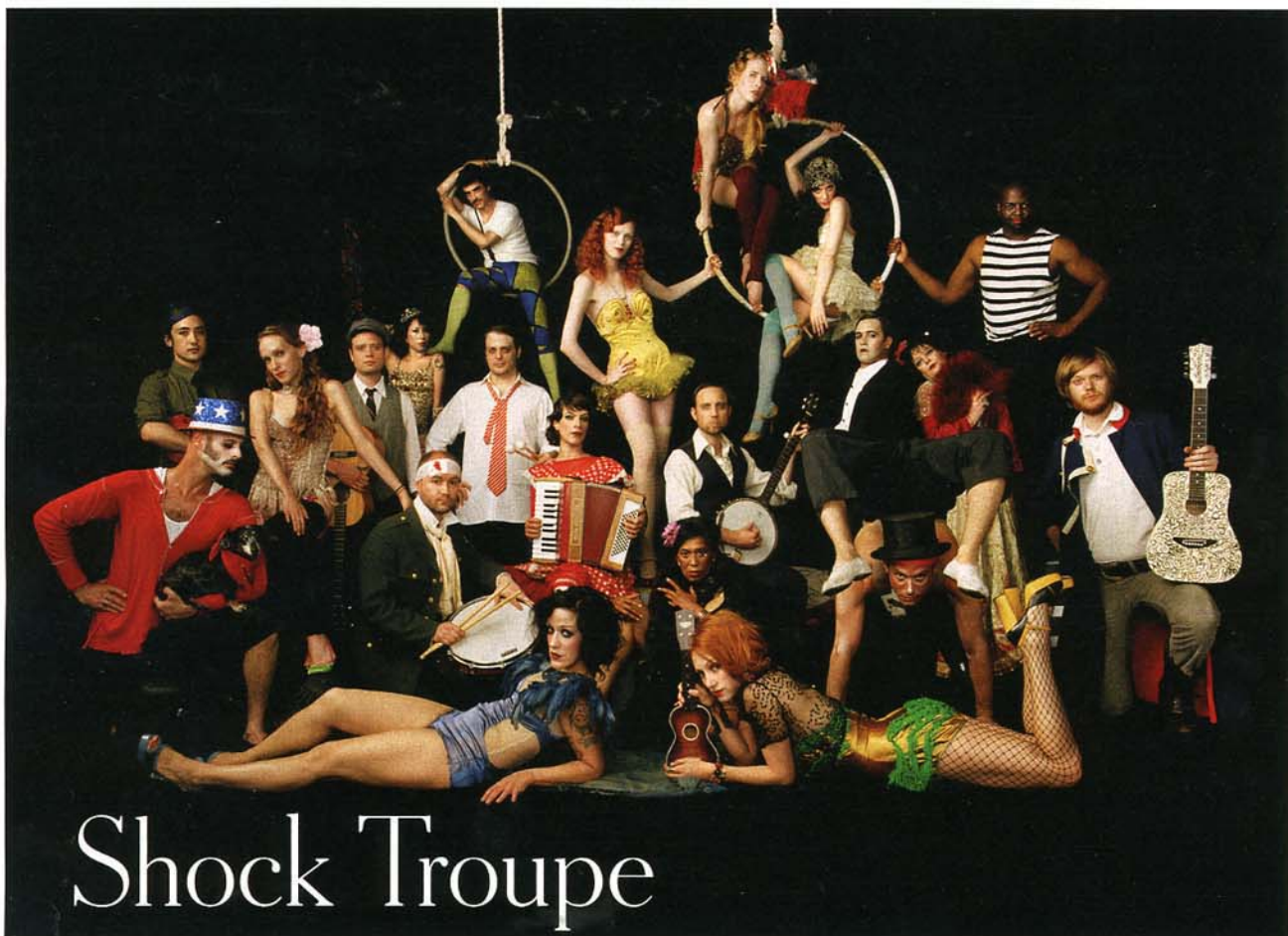


Fall 2005



Shock Troupe

WITH MODELS IN BLOOMERS AND A FLYING TRAPEZE, IT'S SHOWTIME FOR THE CITIZENS BAND.

Who says style can't have substance? The Citizens Band, a sexy take on Weimar-era cabaret, may count some scantily clad supermodels and trapeze artists among its performers, but it's not all titillation. In elaborately staged shows, with themes that explore love and loss, religion and politics, the band walks a tightrope between the serious and the surreal. The model and singer Karen Elson, the composer Paul Cantelon, the recording artist Angela McCluskey and the aerialist Chelsea Bacon are among the band's 30 members. The roster keeps growing as like-minded friends pile on, according to the filmmaker Sarah Sophie Flicker, who founded the troupe with the singer Jorjee Douglass and the director Adam Dugas.

The collective's latest production, "The Trepanning Opera," which satirizes the American health care system, will have its debut next month at Deitch Projects' Wooster Street space. The gallery's owner, Jeffrey Deitch, who represents Citizens, has also enlisted the group to make a float for the Art Parade, which marches down Grand Street on Sept. 10 — a fine day to jump on the bandwagon. SANDRA BALLENTINE