



Talent Show

Theater

APRIL 14, 2023

8:30 PM

PRESENTED BY

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney

CalArts Theater

CaLARTS

California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandefío, and Venturefío; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

Talent Show

If talent can't be found at CalArts, it can't be found anywhere! *Talent Show* emerges from faculty members Sharon Lockhart and Ariel Osterweis' CalArts course of the same name. Graduates, undergraduates, alumni, and professional guest artists will come together to put on a talent show, featuring acts that may lie outside their formal training. Yes to amateurism! Yes to virtuosity! Yes to awkwardness and adolescence, aspiration, and ambition! From concert performance to clunky experimentalism, *Talent Show* unites high and low. When is a talent show a freak show, a magic show, a circus, a pageant, a musical, or a TV competition? Auditions have been held, cuts have been made, now it's the audience's turn to decide who's got talent.

Sharon Lockhart is an American artist living and working in Los Angeles. Working with communities to make films, photographs, and installations that are both visually compelling and socially engaged, Lockhart's practice involves collaborations that unfold over extended periods of time. Celebrated for her highly conceptual yet effortlessly elegant work, Lockhart's practice often involves architectural elements, extensive periods of research, and longterm relationships with her subjects and collaborators. Selected solo exhibitions of Lockhart's work include Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius (2019); Fondazione Fotografia, Modena, IT (2018); Museu Berardo, Lisbon, PT (2017); the Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, US (2016); Kunstmuseum Luzern, Luzern, CH (2015); Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, SE (2014); CCA Warsaw – Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw, PL (2013); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, US (2012); The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL (2011); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, US (2011); Kunstverein in Hamburg, Hamburg, DE (2008), Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, US (2006); and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, US (2001). She has been included in the biennials of Liverpool, UK (2014), Shanghai, CN (2014), Sydney, AU (2006), and at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, US (2004, 2000, 1997) as well as the FRONT International Triennial, Cleveland, US (2018). In 2019 she received the Grand Prix d'Honneur at the Marseille International Film Festival. She was selected to represent Poland at the 57th Venice Biennale.

Ariel Osterweis (she/they) is a scholar-practitioner of dance and performance. Osterweis has a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from UC Berkeley, a B.A. in Anthropology from Columbia University, and is on faculty at CalArts, where they teach Performance Studies and Critical Dance Studies. Osterweis writes about embodied performance, theorizing at the intersection of race, sexuality, gender, labor, and movement. She has three book projects underway: *Body Impossible: Desmond Richardson and the Politics of Virtuosity* (Oxford University Press, Oxford Studies in Dance Theory Series, forthcoming 2023), *Prophylactic Aesthetics: Latex, Spandex, and Sexual Anxieties Performed* (University of Michigan Press, Theater: Theory/Text/Performance Series), and *Disavowing Virtuosity, Performing Aspiration: Dance and Performance Interviews* (Routledge). As a dancer and performer, Osterweis has worked professionally with Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Mia Michaels R.A.W., Heidi Latsky, and Julie Tolentino. They were also a dramaturg for John Jasperse and Narcissister. Projects on the horizon include an experimental memoir called *Bad Korean* and the development of a space called PALABS (Performance Arts Los Angeles Body Shop) devoted to queer of color performance. Osterweis lives in Los Angeles and adores her kids, Dashiell, Zane, and Soleil.

Our emcee **Christina Catherine Martinez** is a writer, actor, award-winning art critic, and comedian living in Los Angeles. She's been named both a Comedian You Should Know by Vulture and a Comic to Watch by TimeOutLA in 2020, and is a 2018 recipient of the Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant. Her live act has been described as "conceptually highbrow and physically slapstick" by TimeOutLA, and „a great bridge between many different disciplines, including performance art, stand up, and clowning" by The Comedy Bureau. The writer Michelle Tea describes Martinez herself as "Naomi Klein meets Tallulah Bankhead." Christina writes for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Aperture*, *Artforum*, *Art Agenda*, *DOCUMENT Journal*, *Texte Zur Kunst*, and also for television, including The Eric Andre Show and a forthcoming animated series on Adult Swim. She devised and acted in the short-form series Two Pink Doors for FX's late night comedy programming. She is the creator and host of the live comedy talk show Aesthetical Relations. She has performed commissions for The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Art Toronto, REDCAT Center for the Performing Arts, The Geffen Contemporary, the Spit Take Comedy Series in Minneapolis, and at the SXSW Comedy Festival in Austin, Texas.

PROGRAM

ACT I

Bowie Forever

Abriel Gardner and Bowie

Really, What has the Pope Contributed?

Hannah Panov, Gabriella Mykal, Valentina Rosset

Gregor Does Standup

Gregor Martin

Dollee Go Lightly - My Tennessee Mountain Home

Performance, Music, Direction: Christine Yerie Lee

Director of Photography: Calvin Waterman

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow

By Carole King

Singer: Lilli Passero

Guitarist: Elizabeth Woolf

The All-Star Live Painting Extravaganza (WET!) (NOT CLICKBAIT)

Painter: Julia Aguila

Performer and Model: Spencer Miguel-Strah

I'm glad you're here not at Coachella

Choreographer: Hanna Tzong-Han Wu

Performer: Toria Kahni Shi

Amor jodido

Dulce Escobedo and Shoji Yamasaki

Air Quotes

Wes Weisbaum and Zoe Josephina Moon

Introducing SCAR (SCAR = Soleil, Camila, Adrianna, and Ruby)

Dancers: Soleil Wynter, Camila Salcedo-Pockman, Adrianna Iman, Ruby Jackson

Choreographer: Danni Yapps

Musical Director: Jamie Jackson

— *Intermission* —

ACT II

I DO NOT LIKE GREEN EGGS AND HAM

DXCKLIN

She's Not There

Animatronic Woman: Amorette Muzingo

Exploders: Alex Sherman, Kyle Slevira, Shoji Yamasaki

Vocal Coach: Soraya Sebghati

Non-Magical Tricks 2

C. Bain

Souled Out

Created and Performed by Kyle Slevira & Menghe Jing

Choreographed by Kyle Slevira & Zihao Zheng

Vocal Performance by Menghe Jing

Next Level Magician

Louisa Fang, Alan Wen, Bonnie Fu

Beluga Burlesque

Merissa Mann

proceed in almost any direction

Alex Sherman

SHITx Talks

Shoji Yamasaki

Jerry Tinder Rap

Amy Chiao

ALEC BALDWIN BALLISTIC VOICEMAIL

Nikki Ochoa

They See Me Rollin

Toria Kahni Shi

Mommy Meltdowns

Jules Mara & Phoebe McDowell & Noah Am Ende

California Institute of the Arts Official First Ever & Last Ever Cheer Event

Performed by NCA All-Star Collegiate National Champions and

Fine Art World Recognized Official Spirit Squad

Madeleine Barnette, Heather Friedman, Rachel Edelstein, Justine Faith Comesa, Sofia Rahaniotis

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Abriel Gardner is an LA based artist and performer. **Bowie** is her dog and collaborator.

Adrianna Iman is a 2nd grader who loves horseback riding, gymnastics, modeling, fashion, dancing, singing, and the color lavender. She is a level 3 compulsory gymnast and a part of the Red Bird program at Debbie Allen Dance Academy; she is represented by Zuri Talent Agency.

Alan Wen: In this magical world, there are many things we cannot understand, and the magician is to find this impossible, and master the mysterious power. We will reveal mysterious powers beyond human comprehension.

Alex Sherman is a visual and performance artist. Driven by process and gesture, Alex's work examines precarity.

Amorette Muzingo is an MA1 graduate student in the Aesthetics and Politics program at CalArts. She is an interdisciplinary artist, self-declared critical bed scholar, and likes to make obscene hand gestures instead of actually articulating herself.

Amy Chiao is a multimedia artist, performer, designer, writer, and director working in site-specific performance installation, durational character development, and materials design. She holds a BFA in textiles at the Rhode Island School of Design and a CalArts MFA in Scene Design with a concentration in Integrated Media. She performed in the CalArts 2021 Talent Show.

Bonnie Fu is a passionate art photography student who loves to capture the world through the lens. With an eye for detail and creative expression, Fu strives to push the boundaries of traditional photography, experimenting with new techniques and styles.

C. Bain is a very serious gender liminal author and performance artist. More at tiresiasprojekt.com

Calvin Waterman is an LA-based artist and graphic designer. He is co-founder of design studio Violet Office and skateboard brand Mood Worldwide.

With a passion for dance, **Camila Salcedo-Pockman** is a 7-year-old who would rather express herself through movement than words; a member of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, she was hand selected by Ms. Allen to participate in the Red Birds program and is also a member of DADA's Early Rise Musical Theater program. Camila lives in Los Angeles with her two moms, her dog, Luna, and her turtle, Sila.

Christine Yerie Lee is an LA-based visual artist (and Talent Show '21 alum!) working in video,

sculpture, and installation. Raised in the American South by immigrant parents from South Korea, her practice explores performativity and identity-formation.

Dulce Escobedo is a choreographer, dancer, scenic artist born and raised in Tijuana, Mexico and has been cultural manager on several international projects, among them the creation and direction of the International Dance Festival Veinte Once. Dulce is the founder and director of Conservatorio de Danza Mexico.

DXCKLIN is a producer and songwriter looking to bring the funk to all the silly geese of the world.

California grown singer-songwriter/guitarist **Elizabeth Woolf** is known for her nostalgic lyrics and inviting melodies. Her music has been featured on NPR, Earmilk, LadyGunn, and other notable publications. To learn more, visit elizabethwoolf.com.

Gabriella Mykal is a West Indian American visual artist and filmmaker. Through film, video installation, writing, and sculpture, her work treats personal trauma as an access point to humor and vulnerability, femme friendship, romance, and sexual dysfunction as grounds for political discourse.

Gregor Martin moved to Los Angeles from Montreal to study at CalArts. His recent work merges candles, palm fronds, painting, and fabricated metal sculpture.

Hanna Wu is a Taiwanese dancer, choreographer, and pro at butchering Toria's heels dancing.

Hannah Panov can read your mind. Through film, video installation, and digital performance, their work attempts to access subconscious desires through the mystical, the musical, and the over-the-top.

Heather Friedman is a 3rd year MFA Acting candidate at CalArts and holds a BA in Theater from California State University Northridge. Special thanks to her parents, Sebastian Schug, her CalArts cohort, and all her mentors.

Jules Mara is a BFA4 dancer at CalArts; they work with textiles, gender, and memory. Keep calm and dance on!

Julia Aguila is an artist who combines her Filipino heritage and familial photographs into visual works. Originally born in the Philippines, her work is influenced by the stories of her own family as well as the cities, and vast landscapes of her homeland.

Justine Faith (she/her) is a Filipina-American performer straight outta the 818 and currently a BFA3 student at CalArts; when she is not in class or onstage, you'll most likely find her cooking yummy foods, dancing, or watching films. She's grateful for the chance to create with this lovely group of artists.

Kyle Slevira, born in White Plains, New York in 1998, is a Latin-American interdisciplinary Artist and former NCAA baseball player. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Studio Art from Brandeis University where he studied Architecture, Business, and Art. Slevira is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate in Art at the California Institute of the Arts.

Lilli Passero received her BFA in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University and is a singer/songwriter/actor living in Los Angeles. You might've seen her as a Top 9 finalist on Season 12 of The Voice.

Louisa Fang is a Los Angeles based photographer who specializes in architectural and landscape photography but in fact has thousands of similar sunset photos in her phone at the same time. Her zodiacs are snake and Libra; if you would like a more scientific version, her mbti is infj and her favorite phrase is life is short, art is long!

Madeleine Rocha-Barnette is Latinx artist, Baylor University Alum (originally from Texas) and an upcoming graduate from California Institute of the Arts, having earned her Masters in Acting. Special thanks to her loved ones for supporting her in her CalArts journey.

Menghe Jing, a vocalist, composer, performing artist, and voice teacher based in LA, California specializes in rock, metal, pop, musical theater, opera, and experimental vocal arts; with extensive performance experience she is active as a solo singer in China and the US. She has performed with bands on recitals, tours, ceremonies, and music festivals and is a multi-disciplinary vocal artist exploring a diversity of mediums through vocal performance with art, film, photography, and installation. Menghe is currently an MFA student and teaching assistant at CalArts.

Through an ecofeminist lens, interdisciplinary artist **Merissa Mann** investigates how the cultural construction of desire influences human patterns of consumption. Mann currently lives and works in Los Angeles; her paintings and other work can be found at merissamann.com

Nikki Ochoa is an ancient baby from a kudzu covered forest.

Noah Am Ende simply can't they have dance.

Phoebe McDowell is a pretty good dancer, even better friend.

Rachel Edelstein is a BFA3 in the Acting program and so excited to be making her REDCAT debut. Rachel was most recently seen on the CalArts stage in I Want A Country (Everyone); other CalArts credits include Pretty Filthy (Actress Two) and When Five Years Pass (Maid). She is so thankful to Madeleine Barnette for this opportunity and hopes you enjoy the show!

Ruby Jackson is an 8-year-old prankster with a deep love for the arts. She plays violin, guitar, and piano and studies dance at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, where she was hand selected by Ms. Allen to participate in the Red Bird program.

Spencer Miguel-Strah is a BFA4 at CalArts and this show is something that he has never had the chance to experience before. Typically he is a painter working mainly with oil; he enjoys experimenting with materials and other techniques, working with with bright colors and shapes.

Shoji Yamasaki is a dancer and choreographer born and raised in LA. BA from UCLA in World Arts and Cultures (Dance Concentration) and MFA from CalArts in Choreography, class of 2023.

Sofia Rahaniotis likes writing, playing the accordion, and going down the toy aisle at every store. Thank you to the people that she loves.

Soleil Wynter is a 7-year-old dancer in the Red Birds program at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and is represented by District Model and Talent Agency. Soleil attends Mirman School and the National Children's Chorus and also loves drumming, gymnastics, and Shaolin Kung Fu; shoutout to her super fluffy dog, Cleo.

Toria Kahni Shi is a mutation from the Duck Galaxy. Toria's favorite song is the "Egg Song" but Toria is allergic to eggs.

Valentina Rosset is a Brazilian filmmaker and actor currently based in Los Angeles. Her work seeks to explore how the intimacies of daily life create fictions of their own.

Wes Weisbaum is a filmmaker and poet; their work touches on the intersections of their identity as a Trans Salvadoran-American in the San Fernando Valley. Their process is a statement, with collaborative hands from poem, band, to the birth of what word and sound visually demand.

Zihao Zheng is originally from Wenzhou, China. He received his BFA in China's most prestigious dance program, Beijing Dance Academy, and visited SUNY Purchase for one year supported by BDA and the Beijing Government. His choreography is based on his deep physical research as a dancer and his investigation of Chi.

Zoe J Moon is an interdisciplinary multimedia Chicana artist born and raised in Hawthorne, CA who creates visual languages that speak to the complexities of reconciliation and comfortable complacency in society. As a whole, history, power structures, and identity inform Zoe's practice, using her art to direct her on a path of psycho-political-spiritual awareness and healing.

REDCAT TECHNICAL STAFF

REDCAT Technical Director: BILL BALLOU

Associate TD, Sound and Video: PETE PACE

Associate TD, Lighting: CHU-HSUAN CHANG

Lighting Board Operator: RACHAEL NEINAST

Audio Engineer: OLIVIA POPEJOY

QLab: SCOTT GARNER

Audio Assistant: AASHRAY HARISHANKER

Deck: JOSUE CLARK, AASHRAY HARISHANKER

Camera Operator: JOSHUA HILL

UPCOMING AT REDCAT

Okwui Okpokwasili

May 25 - 27

Okwui Okpokwasili's new theater piece centers around a young African American girl who loses all of her hair after using a chemical straightener, only to have it restored by the power of a mysterious, unhoused woman. The young girl's hair comes back with properties that restore genetic and cultural memory and allow her to discover her family's precolonial past. A work that centers around the complexity of repair, physical and psychic, that will require traveling to the past and into the future.

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