



Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens

• **Playing with Fire: An Ecosexual Emergency**

Film

**September 26**

**SAT, 8 PM**

**CaLARTS**

**REDCAT**

**ROY AND EDNA DISNEY  
CALARTS THEATER**

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

*Playing with Fire: An Ecosexual Emergency* is a documentary by Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens that imagines the Earth as a lover. When lightning ignites the redwood forest surrounding their home in Boulder Creek, longtime partners Beth and Annie are forced to evacuate and their lives are forever transformed. Blending loss with art, humor, and community care, the film interweaves stories from formerly incarcerated firefighters, an Indigenous scholar, neighbors, a fire tassel twirling burlesque dancer, and a witch therapist. Drawing from Stephens and Sprinkle's interdisciplinary, sex-positive practice, the film also features performances including a fire stunt by the artist Cassils, a volcanic fire-play massage with sex educator Barbara Carrellas, and an impassioned ritual by performance poet Guillermo Gómez-Peña. Born from the ashes of California's devastating wildfires, *Playing with Fire: An Ecosexual Emergency* is a creative and urgent call to action that illustrates how climate catastrophe intersects with social justice, and portrays the power of queer resilience in the face of a world in flames.

The screening will be preceded by an Ecosex 101 Primer, a performative introduction by Sprinkle and Stephens to the Ecosexual movement, which they describe as an environmentalism that is feminist, queer, sensual, sexual, post-human, materialist, and steeped in humor. A post-screening conversation with the filmmakers will be moderated by Amelia Jones.

*Please note: Playing with Fire: An Ecosexual Emergency contains flashing lights, nudity and loud sounds.*

*Playing with Fire: An Ecosexual Emergency* was developed in support of The Guggenheim Foundation, Robertson Family Foundation, UCSC Arts Research Institute, San Francisco Arts Commission, The Fleishhacker Foundation, California Arts Council, Palimpsest Foundation and Grants for the Arts.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Beth Stephens & Annie Sprinkle** have created multimedia art projects about love, sex, and queer ecologies together since 2002. Sprinkle was a sex worker who morphed into a feminist performance artist. Since 1994, Stephens has been a professor at the University of California Santa Cruz. They co-direct the nonprofit E.A.R.T.H. Lab SF and together make printed matter, write books, and have gallery exhibitions. They also create performance art, do walking rituals, and produce eco-activist symposiums. Their book, *Assuming the Ecosexual Position—the Earth as Lover* (University of Minnesota Press) chronicles their epic love story and adventures in art/life. Their new feature film, *Playing with Fire: An Ecosexual Emergency*, is the third film in a trilogy that explores environmental issues through an ecosexual lens.

**Amelia Jones** is a curator and influential scholar of contemporary art and performance based in Los Angeles. She is the Robert A. Day Professor of Art and Design at the University of Southern California, where her research focuses on feminist and queer art history, performance and body art, identity politics, and visual culture. Jones is widely recognized for reshaping the field of art history by foregrounding the work of women, LGBTQ+, and other historically marginalized artists. She is the author or editor of numerous influential

books, including *Body Art/Performing the Subject*, *The Feminism and Visual Culture Reader*, *Seeing Differently*, and *In Between Subjects*. Her scholarship has had a profound international impact on contemporary art history, performance studies, and feminist and queer theory.

## **CAST & CREATIVE TEAM**

Directed by Beth Stephens & Annie Sprinkle

Produced by Keith Wilson, Oana Tenter, E.A.R.T.H. Lab SF

Executive Producers: Xandra Coe, Judy Meath, Julia Robertson,  
Joseph Kramer

Director of Photography: Jordan Freeman

Editor: Diana J. Brodie

Original Music Composed by Guillermo Galindo

Featured Interviewees & Performers: Laurie Hennig, Aaron Allen, Kate Freeman, Agnes De Lucchi, Melonie Green, Melorra Green, Madison Young, Dan Hennig, Joe Raley, Hilary Kay, Lady Monster, Deborah Oak, Melissa Nelson, Brandon Smith, Julie Weitz, Antigoni Tsagkaropoulou, Huntrezz Janos, Cassils, Barbara Carrellas, Guillermo Gómez-Peña

Albert's Voice: Rodney Earl Jackson Jr.

Creative Consultants: Larry Tuch, David B. Steinberg, Mona Card

Main Cinematographers: Jes Gallegos/Substance Creative

Vernon Legakis, Alessia Lupo Cecchet, Cemile Cedoy Kiziltug, Huy Truong, Mark McBeth Projects, Beth Stephens, Annie Sprinkle, Madison Young, G(wen) Thompson

Artist Film clips and Other Media: thanks to Alessia Lupo Cecchet Cassils, Julie Weiss, Antigoni and Huntrezz, Lykourgos Porfyrus

Motion Graphics & Titles: Kia Simon of Sneaky Little Sister

Symposium Crew: Joy Brooke Fairfield, Huy Truong, Jordan Freeman

Beth & Annie's Costumes by Monica Canilao, Azul Water Witch, Piedmont Boutique

Inspiration & Guiding Light: Linda M. Montano

Projects Managers: Jane Hamilton, Sam McGinnis

Publicist and Producer Rep: Matthew Johnstone

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**ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER**

Huge thanks to all the world's firefighters! You are our heroes!  
Shout out to the Boulder Creek Volunteer Fire Department and CAL  
Fire.

**REDCAT CREW**

Show Supervisor/Sound Engineer - Shivani Desai

Projectionist - JP Jones

Assistant Projectionist/Lighting - Jennifer Gonzalas

*REDCAT would like to extend a special thank you to our devoted team of  
Volunteer Ushers*

## **REDCAT STAFF**

**João Ribas**, Steven D. Lavine Executive Director of REDCAT & Vice President for Cultural Partnerships

### **Programming**

**Katy Dammers**, Deputy Director and Chief Curator

**Jheanelle Brown**, Film Programming

**Fina Zhou**, Temporary Administrative Manager

**Jessica Martin**, Temporary Box Office and Visitor Services Manager

### **Finance & Operations**

**Alistair Keating**, Deputy Director, Finance and Operations

**Naomi Oppenheim**, Front of House Manager

### **Production**

**Adam Matthew-McMillen**, Director of Production & Technical Director

**Chu-Hsuan Chang**, Associate Technical Director, Lighting

**Lucio Maramba**, Associate Technical Director, Audio and Video

**Jacques Boudreau**, Facilities and Production Manager.



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