

NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2009

PROGRAM ONE

July 23 – 25, 2009
8:30pm

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS

REDCAT

NOW FESTIVAL 2009: PROGRAM ONE

EARLY MORNING OPERA: [AB][AC][US]

work-in-progress

direction/text: Lars Jan

paul abacus: Sonny Valicenti

steadiman: Garrett Wolf

video/lights: Pablo N. Molina

sound: Nathan Ruyle

data visualizations: J. Nick Sears & Jonathan Cousins

movement: Shawn Hove & Garrett Wolf

costume: Leah Piehl

Text inspired by (and occasionally plagiarized from): Buckminster Fuller / Joel Osteen / Edward Tufte / Charles Darwin / Carl Sagan / Al Gore / Lord Kurzon / Benedict Anderson

The Geoscope will make possible communication of evolutionary phenomena not hitherto comprehendingly communicable via humans' conceptual faculties regarding their Spaceship Earth's orientation and course of travel amongst other planets around the Sun, as well as of the comprehensive evolutionary developments occurring around the surface of our Spaceship Earth as already described. Many events about to take place will be dramatically evidenced, as will the avoidability of many events which, if unanticipated by humans, would tend to destroy us all—and on the other hand, if reliably anticipated, will make possible safe and happy continuance.

— R. Buckminster Fuller, *Critical Path*

Special thanks to REDCAT, George Lugg, Bill Ballou, Eric Nolfo, Chris Khul, Travis Preston, Steven Lavine, Gary Kechley, Carol Bixler, Jeremiah Thies, Lisa Barr, Kevin Gould, Jon Gotlieb, the Center for New Performance at CalArts, Johannes Goebel, Kathleen Forde, EMPAC, Dan Ikeda at Steadicam, Garrett Brown, Chi-Wang Yang, Shawn Hove, Yari Alcaraz, Benj K. Lein, Emily Auble, Margaret Martin, Daniel Shiffman, and the inhabitants of 1417 Calumet.

The development of [AB][AC][US] is supported in part by The Experimental Media & Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) @ RPI; The Transatlantic Arts Consortium; The Center For New Performance at CalArts.

– b r i e f i n t e r m i s s i o n –

SHEETAL GANDHI: BAHU-BETI-BIWI (DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, DAUGHTER, WIFE)

excerpt

choreographed, written, directed and performed by Sheetal Gandhi

music by Joseph Trapanese

featuring *lok git*, women's folk songs from North India

music produced by Joseph Trapanese and Sheetal Gandhi

costumes by Sheetal Gandhi and Camille Villanueva

Kurjan is a Rajasthani women's folk song that was taught to me by Akbar Khan and his sons,

NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL STAFF

Technical Director

Bill Ballou

Assistant Technical Director

Eric Nolfo

Assistant Technical Director Audio/Video

Ian Burch

Sound/Video

Harlow Price, Colbert Davis

Electrics Crew

Tiffany Williams, Bryce Hall, Jeff Teeter

NOW Fest Tech Coordinator

Christopher Khul

Crew

Matthew Setzer, David Offner

Stage Manager

Christie Nelson-Sala

NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2009 UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

July 30 – August 1 : Program two

Carole Kime w/ Oguri, Alex Cline and Dan Clucas: *N1*

Jennifer The Leopard: *Leap Year (No Jamming)*

August 6 – August 8 : Program three

Zackary Drucker / Mariana Marroquin / Wu Ingrid Tsang: *PIG*

Meg Wolfe: *Watch Her (Not Know It Now)*

Lauren Weedman: *Off*

ABOUT SHEETAL GANDHI

Sheetal Gandhi's career has spanned genres and disciplines for the last fifteen years. She worked as a creator and performer in Cirque du Soleil's *Dralion*, and toured with the international cast from 1999-2001. Gandhi was Co-Artistic Director of the modern dance company California Contemporary Dancers in San Francisco from 2001-2004. Her solo and group work has been presented in theaters and festivals around the country and in Mexico, Canada, Ghana, Israel and India. Her New York credits include: leading role in the Broadway production of *Bombay Dreams*, Stephen Schwartz's *Children of Eden* at the Paper Mill Playhouse, and the revival of *Hair*. She draws on her strengths and professional successes from the subway platform to the Broadway stage to create work that blurs cultural and disciplinary boundaries, promoting intercultural understanding through artistic excellence. Visit her at www.sheetalgandhi.com.

ABOUT THE AYANA HAMPTON SHOW

Charlotte Di Gregorio (Leche) is happy to make her REDCAT debut with The Ayana Hampton Show. Charlotte is a Los Angeles native who earned a BFA in Theatre from CalArts ('05). She would like to thank Ayana for her dedication and guidance in creating this piece.

Ayana and **Clayton Shane Farris** (Guest Star) have inspired each other since they were youngsters. He is thrilled to finally be on stage with her again. L'Chaim!

Ayana Hampton earned her MFA in Acting from CalArts and her BA from Smith. Through CalArts' Center for New Performance (CNP) she has worked with national and international renowned directors Richard Foreman and Robert Cantarella. Her freshest screen efforts include *House on Echo Park*, a slasher-film written /directed by William Burgess and a regular role on *Eden's Court*, a web-series hosted by funnyordie.com. Ayana has also worked closely with Still Frame Production. More about Ayana Hampton visit missayanahampton.com.

As a child actor, **Robin Menken** (Director) work-shopped and apprenticed with the original Second City Company. She was the Head Writer and performed with Donald Sutherland, Jane Fonda and Ben Vereen in the anti-war review *The F.T.A. Show*. As the Artistic Director of the Second City Workshops she developed 54 SRO shows at the historic 450 seat Mayfair Theatre in Santa Monica. She taught at UC Berkeley, USC, The Esalen Institute and the Ateneu in Barcelona. Work-shopping is her Holodeck.

Imamddin and Kamruddin Khan of the Ustad Arba Music Institute in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The song is about a woman, separated from her lover. She appeals to a great bird, *Kurjan*:

Immediately spread your wings and fly. Deliver my message to my handsome lover. I will write my complaint on your beak, and send my greetings on the feathers of your wings. Oh Kurjan, bring my husband back to me.

Kathak *bols* based on a traditional kathak composition taught by Bandana Sen. Text of the 'grinding section' is an English translation of a traditional women's folk song in the genre called *giddha* (satirical songs of resistance).

Special thanks to REDCAT staff, George Lugg, Edgar Miramontes, Chris Khul and the audience: What we be without you?

- i n t e r m i s s i o n -

AYANA HAMPTON: THE AYANA HAMPTON SHOW

NOTE: Strobe light is used during performance

created by Ayana Hampton
directed by Robin Menken / Debra Skeleton / Ayana Hampton
choreographed by Candice Palmer
graphic design by Madilynn A. Beck & Ayana Hampton
lyrics by Ayana Hampton
music by Brian Barrale / Ayana Hampton / Mark Mendelson
lighting design by Jeff Teeter
sound design by Colbert Davis
costume/set design by Ayana Hampton & Jeff Teeter
produced by Madilynn A. Beck
hair & make-up by Natalia Gonzalez
photography by Blackant Photography

THE LUSTROUS BLACKUP DANCERS: Charlotte Di Gregorio, Candice Palmer, Bradley Rogers and Bri Sinclair

THE MORNING AFTER BAND: Piano: Brian Barrale; Guitar: Chili Corder; Keyboard: Ben Ginsberg; Bass: Sean O'Hara; Drums: Mike Pettett; Kelley Brooks: Electric Guitar

GUEST STARS: Kelley Brooks and Clayton Farris

Special thanks to REDCAT Staff, Original THE MORNING AFTER cast, The Hampton Family, Mooma Hayen, The Corder Family, The O'Hara Family, The Pettett Family, Mark Mendelson, The Obama Family, Javier Ochoa, Still Frame Productions.

The New Original Works Festival is supported by grants from The James Irvine Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

the James Irvine foundation



ABOUT EARLY MORNING OPERA

Early Morning Opera (EMO) is an LA-based artlab specializing in genre-bending live performance. EMO has exhibited original performance and film works at The Whitney Museum, Symphony Space, The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, The Venice Architectural Biennale, Kabul University, EMPAC, and REDCAT among others.

Jonathan Cousins is a designer and programmer specializing in the creation of information visualizations and user interfaces. Although he focuses primarily on social network analysis, computational social science and the promotion of government transparency, his design practice extends to other kinds of commercial, philosophical and artistic enterprises. His efforts on projects have been presented at various conferences such as ETech, Where2.0, SIGGRAPH Asia and the Lightwave Festival in Dublin. He has a masters from NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program at Tisch School of the Arts.

Lars Jan is a director, media artist, and founding artistic director of Early Morning Opera (earlymorningopera.com). Not so long ago, he trained and performed with a Bunraku company in Kyoto for a year. During the summer of 2005, he taught as an artist-in-residence at Kabul University and developed a number of public art projects in Afghanistan with the support of a grant from the US State Department. More recently, he was a Fellow at Princeton University's Atelier program. Lars is a graduate of Swarthmore College and recently completed his MFA in Directing and Integrated Media at CalArts as a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar. He is the recipient of the 2008 Sherwood Award, granted by Center Theatre Group, for which he is directing *The Lunacy Commission* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City this November.

Pablo N. Molina is a Los Angeles and NYC based video, lighting and sound artist who specializes in software development and finding creative uses for emerging technologies. During the last year he co-designed a large-scale interactive video installation for the new headquarters of Microsoft's Entertainment and Devices division in Redmond and his animation content was prominently featured in Linkin Park and Nickelback's world concert tours. He has contributed his multidisciplinary skills to new theatrical, music, and dance works shown at EMPAC, REDCAT, BAM, PICA, The Wexner Center, COSI, The Hangar Theater, Beta Level, and the Katmandu International Theater Festival. He is a founding member of Mira Kingsley's dance theater company A Little Bit Above The Earth and an associate artist with MODE Studios in Seattle and Early Morning Opera in Los Angeles. Pablo serves in the faculty for the new Video for Performance program at the California Institute of the Arts.

Nathan Ruyle is an artist, designer and producer whose professional credits include sound, music, performance, visual and interactive media creation for gallery, stage and screen. Nathan is the '09-'10 visiting artist for the Center for Integrated Media and adjunct faculty in the School of Film/Video at CalArts while also contributing as an audio producer on the public radio show Marketplace. Additionally, Nathan maintains his own private studio and consulting company, focusing on new media creation and integration strategies. His work has been presented at Sundance, Cannes, MOMA, Microsoft and many other venues around the world. His ongoing collaboration on *Under Polaris*, with the multimedia performance group Cloud Eye Control, will be presented by REDCAT later this year. In the winter, Nathan will be traveling to Cuba with Project Por Amor to premier *The Closest Farthest Away* at the Havana International Film Festival. More info @ www.thisissounddesign.com

J. Nick Sears is an interactive artist, exploring the boundaries between physical and virtual, and between reality and illusion. A start in music combined with a love of technology illuminates Sears' quest to create new means to affect the human experience. In 2006, midway through the Interactive Telecommunications Program at NYU, he created The Orb, the first in a series of three-dimensional display surfaces, aimed at visualizing our planet Earth. His work has been a part of exhibitions and events such as SIGGRAPH, Wired NextFest, Coachella, and TED and has been featured in The New York Times.

Sonny Valicenti is a performer living in NYC and a graduate of CalArts. Work in theatre includes: Cornerstone Theater Company's *Demeter in the City*, a 2006 world-premiere by Sarah Ruhl, *Autopilot* by Jane Pickett at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival 2006, NOW Festival at REDCAT 2007, and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2007. He is presently a member of The Acting Company and will shortly be touring the US as Romeo in, well, in a familiar play.

Garrett Wolf, from Wasilla, Alaska, is an elite level gymnast who furthered his skills in gymnastics and partner stunts at the University of Anchorage, Alaska where he studied American Sign Language. Starting his professional theater career when he moved to Los Angeles, CA to join Diavolo Dance Theater in the year 2000, Garrett has been entertaining audiences nationally and internationally with his stunt, dance, and acrobatic work. A working model for film, television, and print, Garrett's professional skills are complimented by his enthusiasm for downhill skiing and sea kayaking.