

LWP derives personal performed narratives out of interdisciplinary collaboration. Though its methodology includes dance, music, and film, the company's emphasis is spoken storytelling. LWP creates verse-based work that is spoken through the body, illustrated by visual and sonic scores, and in communication with the important social issues and movements of the immediate moment. LWP is the theater's connection from Shakespeare's quill to Kool Herc's turntables; from Martha Graham's cupped hand to Nelson Mandela's clenched fist: a new voice for a new politic. Repertory works include *No Man's Land*, *Cause*, *Word Becomes Flesh*, *Scourge*, *In Spite of Everything* and *War Peace*. For further information, please visit www.livingwordproject.org/core.

Artistic Director, Marc Bamuthi Joseph
Producing Director, Joan Osato
Associate Artistic Director, Chinaka Hodge

MAPP International Productions, based in N.Y.C., works in close partnership with diverse artists and arts organizers throughout the world to develop functional and sustainable environments for artists to create, premiere and tour performing arts projects. It provides support and opportunities for challenging artistic voices to be fully heard and engaged by bringing together arts, humanities and public dialogue.

MAPP International is co-directed by veteran arts producers and managers, Ann Rosenthal and Cathy Zimmerman, who have developed 27 multi-disciplinary projects and produced well over 50 multi-city tours with U.S. and international artists from 13 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean. Working on behalf of artists and their organizations, Rosenthal and Zimmerman have raised and managed more than \$3.5 million from foundations, corporations, government agencies and co-commissioners for the realization and distribution of new work.

For more information about *the break/s* please contact
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MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH FOR THE LIVING WORD PROJECT: *THE BREAK/S: A MIXTAPE FOR STAGE*

April 22 – 25, 2009 | 8:30pm
April 26, 2009 | 3:00pm

presented by
REDCAT
Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater
California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS



MARC BAMUTHI JOSEPH FOR THE LIVING WORD PROJECT: THE BREAK/S: A MIXTAPE FOR STAGE

Directed by Michael John Garcés
Performed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph, DJ Excess and Ajayi Lumumba Jackson
(sitting in for Tommy Shepherd aka Soulati)

Executive Producer: MAPP International Productions

Dramaturgy by: Brian Freeman
Video & Co-Set Design by: David Szlasa
Lighting & Co-Set Design by: James Clotfelter
Choreography by: Stacey Printz
Documentary Films by: Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi
Musical Score Composed by: Ajayi Lumumba Jackson
Arrangements and Remixes by: DJ Excess and Soulati
Artistic Consultation by: Jeff Chang
Production Support Provided by: Kelvin Productions, LLC
Technical Supervisor: Pamela Traynor
Stage Manager: Rebecca Cullars
Audio/Video Technician: Bill Toles

REDCAT performances are made possible in part with generous support from Lillian and Jon Lovelace, Judith O. and Robert E. Rubin, and Abby Sher.

World Premiere Productions: 2008 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville (March 11-29, 2008) Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN (April 10-12, 2008)

Lead commissioning and development support: Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Walker Art Center, with support from a Joyce Award, National Black Arts Festival and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

the break/s was developed during residencies at Actors Theatre of Louisville, KY; Painted Bride Art Center in Philadelphia, PA; University of Wisconsin at Madison, WI; Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, MN and Z Space in San Francisco, CA.

The project has received generous support from The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Emerging Playwrights 2006 Initiative, The National Endowment for the Arts, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Creative Capital, The James Irvine Foundation, Rockefeller MAP Fund, Association of Performing Arts Presenters Ensemble Theatre

Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi (Filmmaker) is a graduate of UC Berkeley and received his MA from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU in 2004. Before graduation, he won the prestigious juried Student Filmmaker Award from the Pan African Film Festival for his documentary *Inventos: Hip-Hop Cubano*, a film he shot, directed, edited, and produced. Jacobs-Fantauzzi has traveled extensively in the Caribbean and Africa and produced and directed several shorts and music videos, including the award winning music video from Ghana, *Besin*. His first film, *i of MOTION us of MOVEMENT* chronicled the life of four women hip hop artists in the San Francisco Bay area. *Inventos* is the first in-depth look at hip-hop culture in Cuba, which premiered in Havana Cuba and at the H2O International film festival in New York in November 2003, and has since shown across the U.S. to great reviews. Jacobs-Fantauzzi has been featured in *Anthem Magazine*, *NRG Magazine*, and the *Libertad Journal* that wrote, "*Inventos* embodies the true spirit of hip hop, which is to build a powerful and useful mechanism out of what is seemingly impossible." Currently, Jacobs-Fantauzzi is in production on his next film entitled, *HomeGrown*, a unique documentary on hip-hop in Ghana, West Africa. He is a powerful filmmaker, whose philosophy is built on experiences of struggle, and who is dedicated to craft coupled with commitment to social justice and awareness.

PRODUCTION

KELVIN PRODUCTIONS, VINCENT J. DEMARCO (Production Supervisor) KelVin Productions is a full service production company based in Brooklyn, NY. Select NY & Touring theatre credits: *The Screwtape Letters* (FPA/Aruba Productions), *51st dream state*, *Blessing the Boats*, *Low: Meditations with the Goddess* (MAPP); *Fantasy Traveller* (CAMI), *Cookin'* (RFPNY). Production Supervisor for Classical Theatre of Harlem productions 2006-2008. Currently supervising the *Seaside Summer* and *MLK Concert Series* in Brooklyn, NY. Artist roster includes: Anita Baker, John Legend, Liza Minelli, Natalie Cole, LL Cool J.

Pamela Traynor (Production Manager) makes her home in New York City where she is currently working as a Production/Video Specialist. Her credit include: *Power to Pleasing: The Sex Lives of Teenage Girls*, *The Wedding Channel*, *Eat-Drink-Live 24-7-365*, *Pilobolus* and *Children of Children*. And the up coming documentary, *Our Children: Death Row*. www.pamelatraynor.com

Rebecca Cullars (Lighting Director and Stage Manager) was Assistant Lighting Designer for productions of *Nathan the Wise*, *Cyclone* and *the Pig-faced Lady*, and *Lobby Hero*. She was Stage Manager for *Hip-Hop Monologues: Inside the Life and Mind of Jim Jones*. Rebecca is thrilled to be working on *the break/s!*

Bill Toles (Video and Sound Supervisor) is a musician, producer, filmmaker and sound designer. He has collaborated as sound designer on Marlies Yearby & Craig Harris' *Brown Butterfly* (live in 5.1 surround), as sound designer and composer with Sekou Sundiata's *blessing the boats* which has toured continuously for five years, and has contributed as a composer to *51st Dream State* by Mr. Sundiata which made its debut at BAM in 2006. He made his theatrical debut as a producer with Tracie Morris' one-woman show *Afrofuturistic*, at The Kitchen in New York City, May 2003. *Afrofuturistic* is a recipient of NEFA/NDP funds.

The Living Word Project (LWP) is the resident theater company of Youth Speaks, Inc., a premiere youth poetry, spoken word, and creative writing program. The Living Word Project is committed to producing literary performance in the verse of our time. Aesthetically urban, pedagogically Freirean,

From 2002-2004 Szlasa was the Production Manager and Designer in Residence at the Culture Project @ 45 Bleecker where he opened *The Exonerated* (Obie Award), *Sarah Jones' Bridge* and *Tunnel* (Lortel Award), and Red Bull Theater's *Pericles*, among others. Previously, Szlasa was the Production Manager and Designer for Theater Artaud in San Francisco. As a designer, Szlasa has collaborated with Bill "Crutchmaster" Shannon for the past 6 years and played venues including the Edinburgh Fringe, Walker Arts Center, The Kitchen, and Sydney Opera House. In 2001, Szlasa toured to the Harare International Festival of the Arts in Zimbabwe with Universal Arts' the Beat. Other design credits: Rennie Harris Puremovement's *Facing MeKka* (lights), Synaesthetic Theatre's *The Trial of K* (set), Deb Margolin's *Index to Idioms* (lights and video), Marc Bamuthi Joseph's *Scourge* (video), Encore Theater's *Five Flights* (lights). Szlasa is the production designer Sara Shelton Mann's *Telios/Telios* and *Inspirare*. Szlasa holds a BFA from Tisch School of the Arts and MA in New Media and Performance from the Gallatin School, NYU and has been a teacher of design for Playwrights Horizon's Theater School, a division of NYU.

James Clotfelter (Lighting and Co-Set Designer) is committed to the creation of collaborative and socially conscious work for theatre and dance. He is the Resident Lighting Designer and Production Manager for Miro Dance Theatre, an Artistic Associate with Pig Iron Theatre Company, and a co-founder of Mlab, a laboratory for innovations and design technologies in the live arts. James has had the pleasure of collaborating with artist and choreographers such as Johannes Wieland, Rennie Harris, Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Dan Rothenberg, Bill Shannon, Reggie Wilson, Antony Rizzi, and Thaddeus Davis as well as companies such as Dayton Contemporary Dance, Southern Repertory Theatre, Z Space Studios, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Peoria Ballet, and Lubelski Teatr Tanca. His work has been seen at the Walker Center, Yerba Buena, Jacob's Pillow, Bates Dance Festival, Fall for Dance OC, The New Victory Theatre, The Kimmel Center Philadelphia, Queen Elizabeth Hall, The Pleasance London, Whitney Museum Altria, and The Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Stacey Printz (choreographer) is artistic director of the Printz Dance Project (PDP) and a Bay Area based choreographer, dancer and educator. Printz received her sociology and dance degrees from UC Irvine. In addition to teaching at San Francisco Dance Center, she has been on faculty at St. Mary's College, Sonoma State University and RoCo. She has taught master classes and workshops for Universities and studios across the United States as well as internationally in Amsterdam, Belgium, Russia, Lithuania and Ireland. Founded in 1998, her company has performed extensively in California with home seasons at the Cowell Theater in SF, and has toured all over the U.S. being presented in such places as New York, Los Angeles, Memphis, Arizona, Colorado, and internationally in Lithuania, Russia and Ireland. Printz has been commissioned to choreograph for many companies in California and has received numerous awards and grants from organizations such as the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the W&F Hewlett Foundation, Fort Mason Foundation, and is the recent recipient of the New Work Fellowship from the Marin Arts Arts Council. Highly interested in collaborative experiences, Printz had the pleasure of co-choreographing Marc Bamuthi Joseph's previous piece, *Scourge* and creating new work with live music and spoken word for Intersection for The Arts 40th Anniversary. From joyous to playful and sensual to fierce, Stacey's musically driven choreography "blends dance techniques that include modern, jazz, ethnic, and hip-hop with a flow that motivates eye, energy and spirit" (Marie Beneat, Attitude Magazine) Visit www.printzdance.org for more information.

Collaborations Grant Program, a component of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Theatre Initiative and was commissioned by Youth Speaks through the East Bay Fund for Artists at EBCF. Support for the EBFA comes from the Ford Foundation's LINC Initiative, The James Irvine Foundation, The Surdna Foundation, The Wattis Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the EBCF.



Marc Bamuthi Joseph would like to extend Special Thanks to: The Youth Speaks/Living Word Family, Erica Geller, Chinaka Hodge, Mai-Lei Pecorari, Danny Hoch, Faustin Linyekula, Ken Foster, Claire Verlet and the Centre National de la Danse, the entire staff at MAPP International Productions and Willie Ney.

MUSIC AND TEXT CREDITS:

Record Stacks composed by Soulati

Gravity Can't Help Me Now composed by DJ Excess

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Marc Bamuthi Joseph (playwright, performer and Artistic Director of The Living Word Project). Marc Bamuthi Joseph is an educator, performer, and the artistic director of The Living Word Project, a theater company dedicated to the aesthetics of post-hip hop performance. In the Fall of 2007, Bamuthi graced the cover of Smithsonian Magazine after being named one of America's Top Young Innovators in the Arts and Sciences. He is a National Poetry Slam champion, Broadway veteran, GOLDIE award winner, featured artist on Russell Simmons' Def Poetry on HBO and inaugural recipient of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship. He has entered the world of literary performance after crossing the sands of "traditional" theater, most notably on Broadway in the Tony Award winning *The Tap Dance Kid* and *Stand-Up Tragedy*. His evening-length works have been presented throughout the United States and Europe and include *Word Becomes Flesh*, *Scourge*, *De/Cipher* and *No Man's Land*. Bamuthi's current solo piece, *the break/s*, co-premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays and the Walker Arts Center in the Spring of 2008. His work has been enabled by several prestigious foundation awards including grants from the Ford Foundation, the Center for Cultural Innovation, Creative Capital, the National Performance Network Creation Fund, the Wallace A. Gerbode Foundation, the Creative Work Fund, the Rockefeller MAP Fund, the NEA, the Hewlett Foundation, and a Dance Advance award from the PEW Foundation. A gifted and nationally acclaimed educator and essayist, he has lectured at more than 100 colleges and universities, been a popular commentator on National Public Radio, and has carried adjunct professorships at Stanford University, Mills College, and the University of Wisconsin. A resident at ODC Theater, YBCA, and Intersection for the Arts in San Francisco, Bamuthi's proudest work has been with Youth Speaks where he mentors 13-19 year old writers and curates the Living Word Festival for Literary Arts. Mr. Joseph's next project, *red black and green: a blues* performatively documents the eco-equity movement towards green collar jobs in Black neighborhoods.

DJ Excess (musician) is a pioneer in the world of scratch music, who refuses to adhere to musical boundaries, and is constantly searching for new and innovative ways to blur the lines between genres.

His efforts in melding standard music production with his turntable skills have solidified his place as one of the great scratch musicians of his generation. He is part of the world-renowned DJ Crew Ned Hoddings and of the up-and-coming crew The Crate Bullies. DJ Excess, along with fellow New York native IXL, is the main force behind Hop-Fu, a project melding Hip-Hop and Kung-Fu into an exciting audio-visual experience, created by John Carluccio and Barry Cole. Other scoring projects include *No Condition Is Permanent* and *Apostrophe* for the graffiti collective The Barnstormers. Studio production credits include: releasing mix CDs and vinyl Bringles (break record / singles) through his own record label Styluswars; scratches created for Pepsi International, *Sesame Street* and Schieffelin & Sommerset (Hennessy Cognac); as well as music featured in the 2004 Showtime series *Street Time*, and on the 2005 Playboy video game *The Mansion*. Excess has performed extensively in North America, Asia and Europe. He won the 1999 International Turntablist Federation East Coast Advancement Class Championships and the 2000 U.S. Advancement Class and Western Hemisphere Scratching Championships. DJ Excess has been featured in the *URB Magazine's* "Next 100" issue as well as in publications including *Newsweek*, *Scratch*, *The Source*, *XXL*, and *Fader*.

Tommy Shepherd aka Soulati (musician) is an actor, playwright, b-boy, rapper, drummer, and beatboxer. Most recently, Shepherd created and performed his first one act solo performance piece *The MF in ME*, premiering at Intersection for the Arts' Grounded Festival of New Works. Shepherd is an actor on the children's cooking show *Doof* and performed and toured internationally with Marc Bamuthi Joseph in *Scourge*. Shepherd created the score for Donald Lacy's *Color Struck*. Shepherd is the co-founder of the hip hop band, Felonious: onelovehiphop, which plays throughout the world and also develops and creates theatrical productions. Shepherd is a long time Hybrid Resident Artist at Intersection for the Arts in San Francisco and is also a member of resident theatre company Campo Santo. Most recently for Intersection for the Arts, Shepherd acted in and created the live score for *Hamlet: Blood in the Brain*, by Naomi Iizuka with Campo Santo and created the sound design and score with Howard Wiley for *A Place To Stand*. He performed with Erika Chong Shuch's ESP project in San Francisco in the sold-out runs of the dance theatre piece *One Window* and *51802*. He also acted, beatboxed, and composed a live score with Scheherazade Stone for *Domino* by Campo Santo. In 2004, he was an actor, the Musical Director and live vocal musician for the play *A Fist of Roses* by Philip Kan Gotanda created with Campo Santo and Intersection for the Arts. He is currently collaborating with Dan Wolf on the creation of *Stateless*, which will tour Europe in 2008.

Ajayi Lumumba Jackson (Composer, musician sitting in for Tommy Shepherd) is an eclectic and versatile musical artist known for his performance, composition, production, and educational talents. Jackson holds a bachelors degree in classical bassoon performance and is also a respected Haitian and West African percussionist and trap drummer. He serves as the musical director for performance artists and dance and theater companies. Jackson is currently on the faculty of the Oakland Public Conservatory. He also directs his own Haitian folkloric dance company (NEG DIASPORA) and operates OAKLION PRODUCTIONS, a film score and commercial production house. His credits include Marc Bamuthi Joseph's *Scourge* and *Word Becomes Flesh*. Jackson has composed for and or performed with Deep Waters Dance, Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers, New World Ballet, L.E.E.Movement, Traci Bartlow and Dancers, Dimensions Dance Theater, Ase Dance Collective, Petit la Croix, Lauryn Hill, The Black Eyed Peas, Zion I, E.W.

Wainwright, Prince Lawsha, John Santos, Omar Sosa, Faye Carrol and Adam Rudolph among others. Upcoming composition works include *Beauty The Beast* and *Bopha*.

Michael John Garcés (Director) is the Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles. Other directing credits include *Someday* by Julie Marie Myatt for Cornerstone, *The Falls* by Jeffrey Hatcher (The Guthrie Theatre/Cornerstone); *Dark Play, or Stories for Boys* by Carlos Murillo and *Finer Noble Gases* by Adam Rapp (Actors Theatre of Louisville - Humana Festival); *Light Raise the Roof* (New York Theatre Workshop) and *Snapshot Silhouette* (The Children's Theatre) by Kia Corthron; Teo Castellanos' solo performance *N.E. 2nd Avenue* (Miami Light Project and subsequent engagements); *The Cook* by Eduardo Machado (Hartford Stage and INTAR) as well as plays at Second Stage, Woolly Mammoth, the Atlantic Theatre Co., The Cherry Lane, Repertorio Español, the Huntington Theatre, Florida Stage, Playwrights Horizons and Yale Rep. Cornerstone recently produced his play *Los Illegals*, created in residence with day laborers and domestic workers. Other playwrighting credits include *Tostitos* (Ensemble Studio Theatre 2008 Marathon), *Points of Departure* (INTAR), *Acts of Mercy* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre), *Audiovideo* (The Directors Project), *Agua Ardiente* (The American Place Theatre), and *Stations*, a collaboration with composer Alexandra Vrebalov (Rhode Island Civic Chorale and Orchestra). Garcés is the recipient of the Princess Grace Statue and the Alan Schneider Director Award. He serves on the Executive Board of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. Garcés is a resident playwright at New Dramatist.

Brian Freeman (Dramaturg) is a playwright, dramaturg, theater director and actor. He has taught theater, playwriting and performance at the Art Institute of Chicago, California Institute for the Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, Colorado College and is currently a visiting artist at UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures. His work has been published in the anthologies: *West Coast Plays; Out, Loud and Laughing* and *Colored Contradictions: Contemporary Black Plays and Performance and Staging Gay Lives*. His play *Civil Sex* was published in *The Fire This Time: African American Plays for the 21st Century* by T.C.G Press. Awards include a "Bessie," California Arts Council Playwriting Fellowship and the CalArts Alpert Award in Theater. In his role as dramaturg he developed works such as: *Crossing America* by Keith Adkins; *The Gibson Girl* by Kristen Greenidge; *The Watts Towers Project*, by Roger Guenvere Smith; *Slide/Glide the Slippery Slope* by Kia Corthron; *Live From the Front* by Jerry Quickley; *Last Rites* by Letta Neely; *Mother's Milk* by Wayne Harris; *Aesop: Alive & Well* by Diane Ferlatte; *Dreaming Backwards* by Diane Ferlatte, Anita Jones & Rhodessa Jones; *The Sweetest Taboo* by Ricardo Braccho; *Perfect Courage* by Rhodessa Jones, Bill T. Jones and Idris Ackamoor; *Ashes to Ashes* by Marijo; *The Gospel According to Wayne* by Wayne Corbett; *Sapelo: Time Is Winding Up* by Diane Ferlatte; *I Think It's Gonna Work Out Fine* by Ed Bullins & Cultural Odssey; *The Rent Party* by Cultural Odyssey.

David Szlasa (Video and Co-Set Designer) is committed to producing art and artists with a conscious desire to affect social change. Szlasa has created, directed and produced three original interdisciplinary performance pieces: *Dissection* (1997), *Light* (2000), and *Gadget* (2006), an immersive, media-based performance developed through a series of original interviews conducted with living members of the Manhattan Project. Szlasa's next piece, *My HOT Lobotomy*, is currently under development as part of STREAM/fest, a program of Counter Pulse Theater in San Francisco. Szlasa is the Managing Director and part of the curatorial team at the Z Space Studio in San Francisco, an organization dedicated to the development of new theater by Bay Area artists.