

HEATHER LITTEER (performer) has toured extensively with Big Art Group in *SOS*, *Cinema Fury* and *House of No More*. Other theatre includes *Secret Sits in the Middle*, *Apt.3a* and *Kurt & Courtney*. Films: *The New Twenty*, *The Notorious Bettie Page*, *Requiem for a Dream* and *In the Cut*. She is also a member of the legendary Jackie Factory!

WILLIE FARRAD MULLINS (performer) was a part of the original cast of *House of No More* at P.S. 122 and he also toured internationally a number of years with *Shelf Life* and *Flicker*. He is currently preparing for the release of his self-titled debut solo pop/dance album, *Farrad*, which serves the hotness and the realness. WWW.FARRAD.COM

EDWARD STRESEN-REUTER (performer) is a NYC based performer, filmmaker, and photographer. He has been a member of Big Art Group for an upside down amount of time. He has honestly put his thyme in NYC and he is looking forward to a warm future and he understands the huge implicit dangers of micro management.

HILLERY MAKATURA (technical director / lighting & set design) is the lighting designer and technical director for Big Art Group. Past BAG productions include: *House of No More*, *Dead Set 2* and, *Cinema Fury*. She is also technical director for The Actors Studio and a free lance lighting designer and master electrician in NYC.

ANA MARI DE QUESADA (production manager) has worked as the production manager for Big Art Group, Rob Roth, Justin Bond and Push Productions. She has co-produced such works as *The Secret Agenda of Trees* and *The Mystery of Claywoman* (Wild Project), *Screen Test* (Abrons Arts Center, October '08) and *Kraken* (Walker Space). She is also the production manager at the Wild Project in NYC.

KATHLEEN AMSHOFF (assistant director) earned her MFA in Directing at Carnegie Mellon and was a Fulbright scholar in Berlin. She recently directed *Rebuilding Appalachian Spring* for New Resonance Orchestra in New Orleans. Next up are two new pieces: *Action Ecuador* with DAT, and *Swell* with LA-based graphic novelist Juliacks. Thanks Big Art.

DAN HANSELL (lighting video tech) is thrilled to be touring with the Big Art Group again. Recent tours include magician Franz Harary Imagination world tour (lighting designer), magician Travis Winkler European tour (Technical Director) & magician duo The Gamester's American tour (Lighting Designer).

JARED MEZZOCCHI (video system designer) is receiving his MFA in Performance and Interactive Media Arts (Brooklyn College). He began programming with Big Art Group in 2008. Programming credits include: *Rob Roth's Screen Test*, *UTC #61's Hiroshima: Crucible of Light*, *Adhesive Theater's I, Object!* and *Noir*. Currently, Jared designs video at Santos Party House in NYC.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

April 15–17: Dance by Neil Greenberg: *Really Queer Dance with Harps*

April 22–26: Marc Bamuthi Joseph/The Living Word Project: *the break/s: a mixtape for stage*

April 29: The Cinema Cabaret: live flim narration

May 14: William E. Jones: Le Grand Mash Up

May 17–18: Spring Studio 2009

For more information visit www.redcat.org

BIG ART GROUP: SOS

April 8–11, 2009 | 8:30pm

April 12, 2009 | 3:00 pm

presented by

REDCAT

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California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS

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BIG ART GROUP: SOS

CAST AND CREW

Created by Caden Manson and Jemma Nelson

Direction, Video Installation, Set, Costumes by Caden Manson

Text, Sound by Jemma Nelson

Performed by David Commander, Michael Helland, Mikeah Ernest Jennings, Heather Litteer, Willie Mullins and Edward Stresen-Reuter

Technical Director, Lighting and Set by Hillery Makatura

Videos by Caden Manson, Jemma Nelson, David Commander, and Edward Stresen-Reuter

Production Manager Ana Mari de Quesada

Assistant Director Kathleen Amshoff

Video System Design by Jared Mezzocchi

Video System Tech Dan Hansell

Produced by Big Art Group and Diane White

Co-produced by The Wiener Festwochen and The Kitchen.

PROGRAM NOTES

SOS is an action media performance exploring future-ness, survivalism, revolutionary movements and change, the performance examines the notion of sacrifice within a supersaturated, hyper-acquisitive society. SOS continues and advances Big Art Group's Real-Time Film technique, a conceptual model conflating performance, television and movies. Using live performance and video, Real-Time Film plays cinematic composition and controlled perspective against the verity of TV broadcast and the immediacy of live performance. Unlike traditional theatrical performance, Big Art Group's extended mediated performances reposition viewers into active editors, challenging audience members to problem-solve complex issues of sexuality, race, narrative and truth as a theatrical mirror to the process of navigation through contemporary society.

ABOUT BIG ART GROUP

Big Art Group is an internationally acclaimed New York based ensemble that uses language and media to push formal boundaries of theater, film and visual arts. The company creates culturally transgressive works and innovative performances using original text, technology and experimental performance forms. Founded by director Caden Manson and writer Jemma Nelson in 1999 Big Art Group has produced eleven original works, *Clearcut*, *catastrophe* (1999) *The Balladeer* (2000) *Shelf Life* (2001) *Flicker* (2002) *House of No More* (2004) *Dead Set #2 and #3* (2006-7) *The People – Italy* (2007) *Cinema Fury: The Sleep* (2007) *The People – Germany* (2008) *Cinema Fury: The Imitation* (2008) and *SOS* (2008). In these pieces Manson invented the integrated spectacle 'Real-Time Film', a hybrid of film and theatre in which actors recombined formal ideas of performance through the use of simultaneous acting on stage and for live video using complex choreography, puppetry and video manipulation. The work blends high and low technology, marginal and mainstream culture, and blunt investigation to push performance boundaries, and in a larger sense to drive questions about contemporary experience. 2009 is Big Art Group's 10th anniversary and to celebrate, the company will create a new group piece, *No Show*, a new Cinema Fury project, *The Dogs*, and unveil *Dead Set #4*.

FUNDERS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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BIOGRAPHIES

CADEN MANSON (director, video, set, costumes) is co-founder of Big Art Group. He has co-created, directed, video and set designed 11 Big Art Group productions. Manson has shown video installations in Austria and Germany; performed *Pain Killer* in Berlin, Singapore and Vietnam; Taught in Berlin, Rome, Paris, and Montreal; his ensemble has been co-produced by the Vienna Festival, Festival d'Automne a Paris, Hebbel Am Ufer, Rome's La Vie de Festival, PS122, and Wexner Center for The Arts. He is a recipient of the 2001 Foundation For Contemporary Art Fellowship, is a 2002 Pew Fellow and received a 2009 Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

JEMMA NELSON (writer, dramaturg, sound) is co-founding member of Big Art Group. He has written and composed *SOS*, *The People*, *Cinema Fury* series, *Dead Set#2* and *#3*, *House of No More*, *Empty Island*, *Flicker*, and *Shelf Life*, and has published several articles about contemporary performance. He makes political pop music in the group Apokalipps, and his visual work is published by *Spank zine* and is represented by Gallery SexPot in Amsterdam. Jemma Nelson received a 2009 Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

DAVID COMMANDER (performer/video) has worked the last nine years with Big Art Group and has had a hand in performance, set and video design, technical operation and assistant direction. His own plays *The Machine World Gospel* and *PIGGY 1.5* premiered at the 2007 Philly Fringe festival and the 2006 NYC Fringe Festival.

MICHAEL HELLAND (performer) is originally from the Seattle area and is a Brooklyn-based artist performing in the works of Big Art Group, Faye Driscoll, robbinschilds, and RoseAnne Spradlin. His works for the stage and collaborative event structures have been presented across NYC and beyond, in venues including the Chocolate Factory Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, the Scope International Art Fair, and Studio 303.

MIKEAH ERNEST JENNINGS (performer) is excited to return to REDCAT. PLAYS: *The Shipment* (Young Jean Lee), *A Dream Play* (St. Ann's Warehouse), *Dead Set #2 & #3* (The Kitchen), *House of No More* (Dance Theater Workshop), *Apostasy* (Dixon Place), *Flicker* (REDCAT), *Gunplay* (Chocolate Factory). FILM: *Failing Better Now* (Keren Atzmon), *Sister Blister* (David O'Connor), *Things That Go Bump in The Night* (Adam Salky).