

LIONEL POPKIN: *THERE IS AN ELEPHANT IN THIS DANCE*

MAY 20–22, 2010 | 8:30 PM

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presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS



LIONEL POPKIN: *THERE IS AN ELEPHANT IN THIS DANCE*

Choreography: Lionel Popkin (in collaboration with the performers)

Performers: Carolyn Hall, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Peggy Piacenza, and Lionel Popkin

Original Music: Robert Een

Music Performance: Robert Een, Hearn Gadbois, and Valecia Phillips

Costumes: Jean Landry

Original Lighting Design: Kathy Kaufmann

Lighting Director and Production Supervisor: Chris Kuhl

Production Assistant: Heather Coker

Video: Kyle Ruddick and Cari Ann Shim Sham*

There Is An Elephant In This Dance is made possible, in part with funds from the 2008-2009 Danspace Project Commissioning Initiative with support from the Jerome Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Roy and Edna Disney/Cal Arts Theater (REDCAT), the Department of World Arts & Cultures at UCLA, the Council on Research, and the Djerassi Artists Residency Program. This performance is also supported by the Alma Hawkins Memorial Fund from the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA

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Lionel Popkin is a member of Pentacle (DanceWorks, Inc.), a non-profit service organization for the performing arts. Mara Greenberg and Ivan Sygoda, Directors. 246 West 38th Street, 8th floor, New York, NY 10018. Tel. 212-278-8111; Fax 212-278-8555. Web site: www.pentacle.org. Information about Lionel Popkin's activities may be obtained by contacting Ivan Sygoda at the above address and number, extension 300 or at ivans@pentacle.org or by contacting Lionel Popkin directly at lionelapop@aol.com or www.lionelpopkin.org.

Contributions in support of Lionel Popkin's work are greatly appreciated and may be made payable to **501 (see three) ARTS** earmarked for "**the project of Lionel Popkin.**" All donations should be sent to **Lionel Popkin, 3117 17th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405**. A description of the work and current project activities for which such contributions will be used are available from Lionel Popkin upon request. All contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.

BIOGRAPHIES

Lionel Popkin (choreographer/performer) has had his choreography presented nationally and internationally at numerous venues including Danspace Project and Dance Theater Workshop in New York City, The Getty Museum, REDCAT, and Highways in Los Angeles, the Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Series, On the Boards in Seattle, the Wilma Theater in Philadelphia, Sushi Performance in San Diego, Dance Place in DC, and The Place Theater in London. He has received grants from the City of Los Angeles' Department of Cultural Affairs, the Danspace Project's Commissioning Initiative through the Jerome Foundation, the Nonprofit Finance Fund, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the New York State Music Fund, and the Durfee Foundation. From 1999-2000 Lionel was a Choreographer-In-Residence at the Susan Hess Studio in Philadelphia, PA and was commissioned by San Diego's Lower Left Performance Collective's Satellite Project in 2005. As a dancer, Lionel has performed throughout the US and Europe in the companies of Trisha Brown, Terry Creach, and Stephanie Skura. He has served on the faculty of Bates College, London's Laban Centre, Sarah Lawrence College, Temple University and the University of Maryland and is a certified teacher of Skinner Releasing Technique. Currently Lionel is an Assistant Professor of Choreography and Performance at UCLA. Upcoming performances of *Elephant* include The Southern Theater in Minneapolis and Velocity Dance Center in Seattle. For more info: www.lionelpopkin.org

Robert Een (composer) Robert Een, is an acclaimed composer, singer and cellist. The recipient of a 2004 Obie Award for music composition and a 2000 New York Dance and Performance Award for sustained achievement, Een has performed his music on concert stages and in unusual venues throughout the world, including the Buddhist caves of Ellora, India; the Shinto shrine in Tsurugi, Japan; a theater above the Arctic circle in Norway; the Pushkin Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia; the Fringe Club in Hong Kong; as well as such New York venues as Lincoln Center, the Whitney Museum and the Knitting Factory. Known for his use of extended vocal and cello techniques, he has recorded nine albums of genre-bending original music. His scores for film and documentary include; *My Horrible Year* directed by Eric Stoltz, *Mr. Jealousy* directed by Noah Baumbach, *Trouble on the Corner*, starring Edie Falco and Tony Goldwyn, and *The Rook*, starring Martin Donovan. Een's music is also featured in Gregory Colbert's photography and film exhibition, *Ashes and Snow*, presented in the unique Nomadic Museum in New York, Los Angeles and Tokyo. Robert Een's music for theater and dance can be heard in the work of Dan Hurlin, Liz Lerman, Stephan Koplowitz, David Dorfman, Yin Mei, Brian Selznick, Jennifer Muller, Yoshiko Chuma, Pearson/Widrig, Heidi Duckler and Ron K. Brown, among others. As a teacher he has been a guest lecturer and an artist-in-residence at colleges, universities and professional schools around the globe. His various creative projects have been funded by the McKnight Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Rockefeller MAP Fund, the MacDowell Colony, Creative Capital, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Asian Cultural Council, the Minnesota State Arts Board, Meet the Composer, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Mary Cary Flagler Charitable Trust. His long association with Meredith Monk culminated in their evening length performance duet, *Facing North*.

Hearn Gadbois (musician) began playing professionally as a teenager, slapping congas in funk and jazz bands throughout the Midwest. He moved to New York in the early 80's and became heavily involved in the downtown scene, collaborating with a diverse array of artists that included Bebe Miller, Meredith Monk, Saqqara Dogs, Sussan Deihim, Annabouboula, Patti Smith, and Yoko Ono. Along the way, he studied instrument making and has designed and crafted many of his own instruments. In addition, he has conducted much of his own field research into the hand drumming traditions of Morocco, Iran, India, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Following the 9/11 attacks, he gradually relocated to the Czech Republic where he performs and teaches, and has recorded two solo CDs: *Joinery* and *One Thousand and One Fingers*. He lives in Prague with his wife, choreographer Renata Milgromova, with whom he frequently collaborates.

Carolyn Hall (performer) is originally from Los Angeles but has made her home in New York City since 1996. For most of her post-college life she has worked as a freelance dancer nationally and internationally and was awarded a "Bessie" for performance in 2002. She took a detour from the dance world to complete a master's degree in marine science in 2009 and after spending the last few years sitting and staring at a computer she is very happy to be moving again. Many thanks to Lionel for the continued collaborations and love to Kelly Ray.

Ishmael Houston-Jones (performer) has had his improvised dance and text work performed in New York City, across the United States, in Europe, Canada, Australia and Latin America. Ishmael Houston-Jones' *Nowhere, Now Here* was commissioned for Mordine and Company in Chicago and *Specimens* was commissioned for Headlong Dance Theater in Philadelphia. He was the choreographer for Nayland Blake's *Hare Follies* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. From 1995-2000 he was part of the improvised trio "Unsafe/ Unsited" with Keith Hennessy and Patrick Scully. Houston-Jones and writer Dennis Cooper presented *The Undead* at the Los Angeles Festival of the Arts. He collaborated with filmmaker Julie Dash on the video *Relatives*, which was aired nationally on the PBS series *Alive From Off-Center* (Alive TV). Houston-Jones and Fred Holland shared a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie Award" for their *Cowboys, Dreams and Ladders*. He has appeared in the work of John Bernd, Ping Chong, DANCENOISE, Terry Fox, Lionel Popkin, Mike Taylor, Yvonne Meier, and in the films *The Brother from Another Planet* by John Sayles and *Circle's Short Circuit* by Caspar Strache. Ishmael will be teaching and performing at Pietr Pasd next week. Info at www.pietrpsad.com

A native of New York City, **Kathy Kaufmann** has been lighting dance and performance around the world for over 20 years. She has had the good fortune to work with many wonderful artists including David Parker, Meredith Monk, Gina Gibney, Ben Munisteri, Yvonne Meier, Jacques D'Amboise, Jody Oberfelder, and Hilary Easton. She was honored to be included in *Curtain Call: Celebrating a Century of Women Designing for Live Performance*, an exhibition at the NYPL Performing Arts Library. Kathy received a Bessie award for her body of work in 2004. She is particularly happy to be working, learning, experimenting and having fun with Lionel again.

Christopher Kuhl (Lighting Director and Production Supervisor) is a lighting and scenic designer based in Los Angeles, CA. His recent work includes *Under Polaris* (REDCAT, Los Angeles; EXIT Festival, Paris; Fusebox Festival, Austin); *Tov* (Rosanna Gamson, REDCAT); *ABACUS* (EMPAC, Troy, NY); *Eclipsed, Next Stop Amazingland* (Center Theatre Group); *Everyone Who Looks Like You, Uncanny Valley, Dos Pueblos, Project X* at the Bumbershoot Festival (Hand2Mouth Theatre); *Monster* (Pappas and Dancers); *Monster of Happiness* (Ovation Award Nomination); *Model Behavior* (Theatre Movement Bazaar); Associate Design for *Mycenaean* (BAM Next Wave). Other credits include: Lighting Director for The Actors' Gang National Tour of *The Exonerated*; *Not about Iraq* (Victoria Marks), and *Saudade* (David Rousseve). Chris is originally from New Mexico and a graduate of CalArts.

Jean Landry (costumes) has developed two, often dueling, careers as both a visual designer and a modern dancer. After attending North Carolina School of the Arts and Cal Arts, she moved to New York City to dance professionally, then leapt across the country into the LA film industry. After the earth shook her loose in 1994, she landed in Seattle with one foot in the dance scene and one in design. Her visual design talents have since then extended into film, television, photography, dance, theater, and interior design. Last year she returned to Los Angeles for yet a third time and is working as a set decorator in film. Please visit jeanlandry.com.

Valecia Philips (musician) is an arts administrator, vocalist and emerging documentary filmmaker. With roots in New York, she performed in several venues such as Danspace, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Dance Theater Workshop, 92nd Street Y, Judson Church and Wave Hill. She also produced eclectic arts programming for over a decade at WBAI Pacifica Radio. Valecia made her Los Angeles singing debut in September 2008 at REDCAT as part of Robert Een's International Mystical All-Star Band performing the concert version of *The Escape Artist*. She is a member of the LA-based Gwen Wyatt Chorale whose repertoire is African-American folk spirituals, and participated with the group at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for the 49th Annual LA County Holiday Celebration in December 2008. She is currently working on an ambient dance single for release in the Fall.

Peggy Piacenza (performer) became a 2010 graduate of the Ada Comstock Scholars program at Smith College this last week. For most of her pre-college life she has worked extensively as a choreographer and performer touring both nationally and internationally.

Kyle Ruddick (video) is a graduate of USC's School of Cinema and Television, is an accomplished filmmaker who cut his industry teeth working on the release of *Star Wars Episode III*, launching a record breaking opening weekend at the Box Office. Under the guise of George Lucas, Kyle was introduced to the collective film making paradigm by acting as art director on the feature length documentary *Within a Minute*. He now owns and operates Eyestorm Productions, a creative production company in Venice, CA. In the last two years Kyle has won five Telly Awards for Directing, Cinematography and Animation. In addition, he took a Best of Industry award for the creation of the ground breaking THX Trailer *THX Amazing Life*. Since 2003 Kyle has worked with Cari Ann Shim Sham on at least eight different productions with varying roles ranging from Director, Producer, Editor, Cinematographer, and Visual FX Artist. Most recently, Kyle has developed a technique to shoot 360 degrees simultaneously on video. He premiered the technique in the recently completed Cut Chemist music video, *My 1st Big Break*. He is currently developing a revolutionary participatory media project called *One Day On Earth* that will combine over 100,000 filmmakers documentation of a 24 hour period.

Cari Ann Shim Sham (production assistant) is an award winning filmmaker noted for her surreal visual style and precise manipulation of the edit. She's presented work at the Joyce Soho, & Danspace in NYC, Highways Space, REDCAT, The Brewery, The Henry Huang Theater and Bergamot Station in Los Angeles. She works in the mediums of Dance for Camera, Multi Media, Installation and Documentary film. EMPAC Dance Movies Commission short-listed her in the 2010, 2009, 2008 & 2007 grant cycles and she was the recipient of the Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship in 2007. She writes for the *Screendance* journal and is a member of the screening committee for Dance Camera West. She's taught workshops in Dance for Camera in Malaysia and in Los Angeles and guest lectured on Dance for Camera at UCLA and UC Riverside. Her films screen internationally with her newest film *SAND* premiering next Friday June 4th at REDCAT for Dance Camera West's Gala Opening. www.cariannshimsham.com