

# **NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2010**

RAE SHAO-LAN BLUM & TASHI WADA, CHRISTINE MARIE  
& ENSEMBLE, AND RAPHAEL XAVIER

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JULY 29 – 31, 2010  
8:30 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS



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## **RAE SHAO-LAN BLUM & TASHI WADA: *SYSTEMS OF US***

Concept & Choreography by Rae Shao-Lan Blum

Concept & Music: Tashi Wada

Light Design: Tiffany Williams

### **Performers**

Dancers: Erin Beneze, Rae Shao-Lan Blum and Amanda Furches

Musicians: Douglas Wadle, tenor trombone; Matt Barbier, bass trombone;

Mark So, harmonium; Tashi Wada, reed organ; Orin Hildestad, violin; Laura Steenberge, contra-bass

### **Program note**

*Systems of Us* is a collaborative performance by choreographer Rae Shao-Lan Blum and composer Tashi Wada weaving movement and sound scores into a diffuse exchange between dance and music.

Special thanks to Erin Beneze, Phil Davis, Amanda Furches, George Lugg, Lailye Weidman, The Dragon's Egg, CT, Subterranean Art House, Berkeley, and the REDCAT staff.

– intermission –

## **CHRISTINE MARIE & ENSEMBLE: *GROUND TO CLOUD***

Written, Directed & Created by Christine Marie

### **Cast**

Barbara: Jessica Unker

Ben: Steven Wendt

Saint Barbara: Rachelle Mestrovich

Lead Puppeteer: Russell Howze

### **Production Design**

Scenic Design and Hand made shadow lights: Christine Marie

Original Composition: William Mark

Mask Design: Carlo Vogele

Make up, hair and wardrobe: Michelle Lanunziata

## Program Note

Lightning /electricity. Natural phenomena/man – made invention. Logic/superstition. *Ground To Cloud* is a composite of data collected about historical figures and invention. We witness the ingenuity of Ben Franklin and the tragic life of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of lightning. While studying in Bali, I learned to honor the gods who give you your art. *Ground To Cloud* is an homage to AC (alternating current).

Special thanks to the original G to C ensemble, Bryan Yu, Chris Webb, Louisa Collins, Kat Heverin, Eddy Rollins, Leslie Tamarbuchi, Charlotte Lipman, George Lugg, Bill Ballou, The Calarts New Works Festival, The Cotsen Center for Puppetry and the Center for Integrated Media.

– pause –

## **RAPHAEL XAVIER: BLACK CANVAS**

Concept and Choreography by Raphael Xavier

Directed by d. Sabela grimes

Performed by Raphael Xavier, Taj “Krash” Speights, and James Datu

Light Design by Tiffany Williams

Music: *Nine Horses* remixed by Raphael Xavier and *Line* by Portico Quartet

## Program Note

*Black Canvas* represents a period in my life that takes on the many experiences or times that have made a serious impact on what I do or have done over the course of my lifetime. It is all about a time and a place but throughout time, place as a working piece or cog. What the myriad environments have painted on me, I paint on the stage allowing the hands and the body to manipulate the environment.

A Moment

II. Schools Game

III. Nick of Time

Special thanks to Dr. Rennie Harris, George Lugg, Anna B. Scott, d. Sabela grimes and the REDCAT staff.

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the **James Irvine** foundation



## ABOUT SYSTEMS OF US

**Matt Barbier** (CIM - BM /CalArts - MFA) is a Los Angeles based trombonist working primarily in the field of Just Intonation. He is a founding member of Trio Kobayashi and „ duo – two groups dedicated to exploring the applications of JI for brass instruments.

**Erin Beneze** dances, choreographs and teaches Pilates in Los Angeles. In her three years on the west coast she has danced for Holly Johnston, Los Angeles Movement Arts, Rae Shao-Lan Blum/icebergs are melting, and IN/EX dance project. Her most recent work, in collaboration with Amanda Furches, has been shown at Pieter Pasd (Los Angeles) and 21 Grand (Oakland). She has collaborated on a handful of short dance films including *The Tragic Vacation*, *Tunnel Dance* and *Cracker Jack #1*. Erin would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support.

**Rae Shao-Lan Blum** is the artistic director of icebergs are melting / I AM, a performance group that fosters collaboration between dance artists, composers, musicians, writers and visual artists. Her choreography develops in the meeting of sensory-imagination, somatic awareness and kinetic immediacy. Rae splits her time between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Recently, her first film, *Wintering*, premiered at Pieter Pasd. *Captain*, a film collaboration with Pooh Kaye, screened at the Dance Camera West Film Festival in 2009. Rae participated in the 2008 cycle of Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange with mentor, Simone Forti, and with a commission from The Wooden Floor, developed *Captain* into a multimedia performance. She was the movement director for a re-invention of Alan Kaprow's *18 Happenings in 6 Parts*, directed by Steve Roden, during MOCA's Kaprow retrospective. Rae is a grantee from The Puffin Foundation, The Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, and The Durfee Foundation – for *Without Risk of Excessive Loss*, a 2007 performance collaboration with video/visual artist Elizabeth Leister.

**Amanda Furches** is a dancer, Pilates instructor, hobby linguist and a student of cooking all things from scratch. She has a BFA from NC School of the Arts. Since moving to Los Angeles, she's choreographed for musicians Spring Summer, Bobby Evans, SoloBob, and Bob Dylan plus collaborated on the Dance film *Crackerjack no.1*. Her work, in de facto collaboration with Erin Beneze, has been performed at Pieter PASD in Los Angeles and 21 Grand in Oakland.

**Orin Hildestad** plays the violin. He is currently working on his DMA in Contemporary Performance Practice at UCSD. Orin works closely with composers Tashi Wada, Mark So, Cat Lamb, and Michael Winter, among others.

**Laura Steenberge** lives in Los Angeles and works playing music, writing music, giving lectures, and researching child language acquisition.

**Mark So** grew up in Syracuse and has lived in Los Angeles for the past ten years. He has written hundreds of pieces exploring the nuances of ordinary situations, including a vast cycle of work around the poetry of John Ashbery, and performs frequently in works from the experimental tradition. He has published a book, *Bangs*, chronicling Manfred Werder's ongoing performance of So's piece *Bangs* [to Manfred Werder].

Born in New York City, **Tashi Wada** currently divides his time between San Francisco and Los Angeles where he composes and performs music. His work has been performed in the United States and Europe.

**Douglas C. Wadle** is a composer, theorist, and performer whose work focuses logical structures expressed through rational tuning systems and experimental notation and relying on studies of aural and visual perception. He is currently adjunct faculty in music theory and analysis at the California Institute of the Arts, where he studied with James Tenney and Marc Sabat.

## **ABOUT GROUND TO CLOUD**

**Christine Marie** (Director/ Creator) is an integrated media artist and director. She has been creating original work for over a decade, specializing in experimental spectacle theater, video production and design. She is a former ten-year company member of Shadow-Light theater and has studied Wayang Kulit traditional shadow puppetry in Bali. Recently, Christine Marie created puppets for *Pee Wee Live!* at the Nokia Theater and has created shadow scenic design for *Shipwrecked!* at South Coast Repertory and the Geffen Playhouse. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts in Theater, Puppetry and Integrated Media. Her original work, *Ground To Cloud* will have an east coast premiere at the NYC International Fringe Festival this August. Currently, she is creating a new immersive production in which the audience holds stereoscopic opera glasses as they traverse an atmosphere of 3D shadows.

**William Mark** (Composer): *Ground to Cloud* (Christine Marie), *Scratcher* (Mark/Ware), *Cho* (Mark), *Le Ruban Rose, Night*; (Writer) *AER Hyperopera*; (Director) *Stanza*; (Movement). He graduated from California Institute of the Arts in 2009.

**Carlo Vogele** (Designer) was born in Luxembourg. After high school graduation in France and five years of theatre art studies in Berlin, he attended the Gobelins School of Anima-

tion in Paris in 2005. During the three-year program, he learned the craft of traditional hand drawn animation and stop motion techniques. He worked as an animation intern at Framestore CFC in London. In spring 2008, during an exchange semester at the California Institute of the Arts, he created his final student film, *For Sock's Sake*, winning the Best Graduation Film at ANNECY 2009, Best animation at IMAGINA 2008, Best Direction at ANIWOW, Beijing, and Best Stop Motion at ANIMEX, UK. Carlo now works as a character animator at Pixar.

**Steven Wendt** is an actor, puppeteer and musician. He graduated from CalArts in 2009. Steven has since been performing as a puppeteer for WB kids online shorts and is currently workshopping a new piece with Phil Soltanoff and Jim Findlay for Center Theater Group (scheduled to premiere in spring 2011). He has his two bands: Teleconference and The Neapolitans (a Los Angeles based wedding band). Steven has skills as a rag time improvisational pianist, Chinese Vocalist, plays guitar, banjo and ukulele. Some performance credits include *The Birthday Party Harold Pinter* (CalArts), *Growing Up Linda* (Marsian De Lillis, Edinburgh Fringe) and *Michael Jackson Shadow Hands* (youtube).

**Russell Howze** previously shadow casted with Christine Marie in *Enanteodromia* (PuppetLOVE! 2006) and the *Rootabega Opera* (2009). He has also worked with the Big Tadoo Puppet Crew and produced/performed at the Funky Puppet Suppers I to IV. When not manipulating objects, Russell spends his time photographing, cutting, and painting stencils. He recently released the book *Stencil Nation* and lectured in sixty cities. Find him at [www.stencilarchive.org](http://www.stencilarchive.org). Russell is mighty glad to be here this weekend.

**Jessica Unker** is a performer, director, and writer currently residing in San Francisco. Jessica is the Producing Artistic Director for the physical theatre/circus troupe Fish & Bicycle Theatre Co. where she has spent the last couple of years collaborating and performing around the country. Jessica has worked and trained extensively with organizations such as the SITI Company, Double Edge Theatre, FoolsFury Theatre, and Philadelphia School of Circus Arts. Originally from Atlanta, GA, Jessica loves life.

**Rachel Mestrovich** recently graduated with an MFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts. She holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology and knows what you all are thinking. Her most recent work include *John Gabriel Borkman* and various short graduate films. She is currently rehearsing the role of Juliet for the Los Angeles based company, Shakespeare and Friends.

## ABOUT *BLACK CANVAS*

**d. Sabela grimes** is a composer and scholar who merges the elements of language, sound and movement. Performing as an international vocalist, dancer/choreographer, actor and poet, Sabela teaches Funkamental and MetaKinetix dance/movement workshops. He was a core dancer and artistic contributor with Dr. Rennie Harris' Puremovement. His theater works include *Philly XP*, *World War What? Ever?* and *40 Acres & A Microchip: Salvation or Servitude* from his EXPERIMENT EARTH sound-movement triptych, and his solo-dynamo *Bulletproof Deli*. All of these celebrate the history, traditions and spiritual elements of African-American social dance. Sabela is a native of California and holds an MFA in choreography from UCLA's World Arts and Culture Department and a BA in English. His scholarship primarily focuses on corporeality in regards to the global dissemination of black cultural products via human agency and cyber-space.

**Taj "Krash" Speights** is twelve years old and was born and raised in Los Angeles. He is member of the X-Mob Crew and Mighty Zulu Kings. In 2009, he and the X-Mob (formerly with the Boogie Brats) were flown to the Netherlands for a breaking exhibition. He has been classically trained at the Basement Dance Center and has worked with choreographers such as Sho-Tyme, Rich and Tone, Hi-Hat, among others. Krash is also a professional actor and artist.

**Raphael Xavier** is an award-winning artist from Wilmington, Delaware who is credited for the resurrection and the growth of the Breaking community in Philadelphia from 1996 to present day. He is also a member of the world renown Hip Hop Dance Company, Rennie Harris Puremovement. Raphael is a Pennsylvania Fellow of the Arts in Folk and Traditional forms and has been funded by the Independence Foundation, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and is a 2010 Durfee Grant recipient. He has been a professional dancer for the last fifteen years and works in a variety of fields including music, photography and film. A self taught Hip Hop dancer and Breaking practitioner since 1983, Raphael continues to learn and recreate new ways to expand the vocabulary of the dance form through constant research of the culture, performance and practice and staying present in the community.

## **REDCAT TECHNICAL STAFF**

Technical Director

Assistant Technical Director

Assistant Technical Director Audio/Video

NOW Festival Tech Coordinator

Sound/Video

Electrics Crew

Running Crew

Stage Manager

Bill Ballou

Eric Nolfo

Ian Burch

Tiffany Williams

Matt Setzer

Kenny Valero and Patrick Traylor

Bryce Hall and Harlow Price

Christian Johnson

## **NEW ORIGINAL FESTIVAL 2010 UPCOMING PERFORMANCES**

**August 5 – 7:** Week Three

Alexandro Segade: *Replicant VS Separatist*

Hana van der Kolk: *Once More, Again, One (Solo)*

Miwa Matreyek: *Myth and Infrastructure*