

NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2011

ROSANNA GAMSON/WORLD WIDE AND ROBERT CUCUZZA

SEPTEMBER 15 – 17, 2011
8:30 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS



NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2011

ROSANNA GAMSON/WORLD WIDE: LAYLA MEANS NIGHT

by Rosanna Gamson

with Rachel Butler-Green, Lavinia Findikoglu, Clementine Gamson Levy, Greta Grisez, Alice Holland, Carin Noland, Paul Outlaw, Rosanna Tavarez, André Tyson, Alexandria Yalji and Delilah Gamson Levy, Kerrie Schroeder, Julia Zorthian

Music by Houman Pourmehdi and Pirayeh Pourafar

Lights by Tony Shayne

Costumes by Lilia Lopez

Hair and makeup by Patricia Aguirre

Assistant to the Choreographer: Jay Jackson

Special thanks to the performers of this and previous incarnations, who contributed to the development of *Layla Means Night*. Special thanks to Blankenship Ballet, Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts and to Señor Koplowitz and The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance at CalArts. Extra special thanks Bill Ballou and Team REDCAT.

The creation and performance of Layla Means Night is made possible, in part, by support from the County of Los Angeles Arts Commission.



– intermission –

ROBERT CUCUZZA: CATTYWAMPUS

Written and directed by Robert Cucuzza

Taken from August Strindberg's *Miss Julie*

With

Jenny Greer as Chrissie

D.J. Mendel as Donnie

Jillian Lauren as Julie

Musicians: Juli Crockett, Michael Feldman, Joey Maramba, Dominique Rodriguez, John Lugo, Aran Tanchum, Andrew Prahlow

Musical score composed by Juli Crockett

Choreography by Jordana Che Toback

Stage Managed by Hector Machado

Scenic Design by Dorothy Hoover/Alex Gaines

Costume Design by Alice Tavener

Lighting Design by Ellie Rabinowitz

Production Management by Cameron Squire

Special thanks to Scott Shriner and Tariku, Heather Suran, Amelia and Massi, Matt McCray, Cybele Moon, Kitty Pride.

The New Original Works Festival is funded in part by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



ABOUT ROSANNA GAMSON/WORLD WIDE

Rosanna Gamson/World Wide convenes skilled dancers, singers, actors, musicians and visual artists from eclectic backgrounds and diverse countries to create new collaborations. Weaving our different skills, cultural traditions, and points-of-view into a multi-layered vision, we make sumptuous, entertaining and provocative dance theater that reflects the complexity of living in the world together today.

Artistic Director, Rosanna Gamson's dance theater work has been commissioned and presented by many local theaters and museums including Grand Performances, REDCAT, Highways, LACE, the J. Paul Getty Center, Luckman Fine Arts Center, and the Skirball Cultural Center. Her work has been performed on tour throughout the US, and in Mexico and Canada. She currently teaches dance composition at CalArts.

If you would like more information about Rosanna Gamson/World Wide, or want to find out how to get involved with this project, please contact us at tsarina.rgww@gmail.com, or the old fashioned way, 213 250-7500.

Pirayeh Pourafar is a composer whose compositions have been noted for innovative sophistication, thoughtfulness, and commanding technique. She is known not only for her work in traditional Persian music, but also for her creative East-West fusion and performance work. She is cofounder of the Lian Ensemble and recently co-composed/performed the music for *Medea* at UCLA Live.

Houman Pourmehdi is a master percussionist and a composer. His knowledge of traditional repertoire and intimacy with Sufis makes for a very personal style of interpretation in his compositions. He is cofounder of the Lian Ensemble and co-composed/performed the music for *Medea* at UCLA Live. Pourmehdi teaches Persian Percussion at California Institute of the Arts.

Rachel Butler-Green received her B.A in Dance and Performance from LMU, during which she attended the Alvin Ailey Summer Dance Intensive. Since graduating, she has performed with Ledges and Bones Dance Project, TaskForce, and Collective Movement. Rachel has been working with RG/WW since 2009, performing and touring *TOV*.

Lavinia Findikoglu graduated from Boston Conservatory with a degree in ballet and modern dance. Moving to Los Angeles on a whim five years ago she has nestled herself within the modern dance community, performing most recently with Collective Movement, Maia Harari Dance Theatre, and Rosanna Gamson/World Wide. Lavinia shares her joy of movement in the community through teaching Gyrotonic, Gyrokinesis, and Pilates.

Clementine Gamson Levy is a junior at Central Los Angeles High School #9, where she studies theater. She performed in two original pieces directed by Barbara June Dodge at Plaza de la Raza through CalArts' CAP program. This spring she served on Center Theater Group's Student

Advisory Committee, and this summer performed at the American High School Theater Festival in Edinburgh.

Delilah Gamson Levy is a freshman at LACHSA studying dance. She performed with RG/WW at REDCAT and on tour in *TOV*.

Eva Grisez dances, sings and does flips on the trampoline with equal aplomb. Her big brother Nick says she is the most magnificent and challenging person on the planet. Working with Rosanna Gamson/World Wide is fun and makes Eva think of roses.

Alice Holland is from Dallas, Texas and trained at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts. She recently graduated from California Institute of the Arts, and received her BFA in Dance. Alice is grateful for the experience of working with such an amazing cast, and wants to give a special thanks to Rosanna Gamson.

Jay Jackson (Assistant to the Choreographer) was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, and recently earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance at the California Institute of the Arts. In 2007, Jay was named Presidential Scholar in the Arts for Choreography and performed his work at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. While on exchange with the London Contemporary School of Dance, Jay modeled in Gareth Pugh's latest film, which premiered in Florence, Italy.

Lilia Lopez (Costume Design) was born in Los Angeles. She began dancing Mexican folk dance as a teenager and joined Rosanna Gamson /World Wide in 1999 with *Lovesickness*. She has trained in classical ballet under Marat Daukayev and in International Latin Ballroom with Laura Powell. Lilia graduated from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising with an emphasis in costume design for dance and is a freelance costume designer.

Patricia A. Lopez (Hair and Make-up) was born in Michoacan, Mexico, August 24. Married mother of two beautiful daughters, she has been in and around make up since an early age. Patricia graduated from the prestigious make up school Napoleon Perdis in 2005. She has practiced her trade in many fields, including television shows on Univision, *Viva la Familia de Todo Bebé*, *Estrella TV*, *Tengo Talento Mucho Talento*, and *Estudio 2*. She has also worked on runway shows, photo shoots, theater productions, music videos, and most recently Bollywood. Her work can also be see in *Twiiins Int* and *Movimiento Alterado* on Mun2.

Carin Noland joined RG/WW in 2003. She discovered dance after being a competitive gymnast for many years and has performed around the world with RG/WW and Stilt World. You can see her in commercials and videos for artists such as Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears, and Fergie. She recently was a stilt-dancing cheerleader on *Glee* – the Madonna episode.

Paul Outlaw is the recipient of one of the 2012 City of Los Angeles (COLA) Individual Artist Fellowships, which honor mid-career artists who exemplify a generation of core ideas in their field and serve as role models for other artists. He was awarded a 2011 Artists' Resource for Comple-

tion (ARC) Grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation for his most recent solo piece *What Did I Do to Be So Black and...*, which he will be remounting in West Hollywood next weekend.

Born in California, raised in Thailand, **Kerrie Schroeder** graduated from California Institute of the Arts in May 2011 and received her BFA in dance with a minor in Social Sciences. She has been professionally working with choreographers Colin Conner at the ARC in Pasadena and Stephanie Nugent at Highways Performance Space. Kerrie is continuously looking for new works and projects to be a part of.

Tony Shayne (Lighting Designer) Lighting: dance, John Jasperse: *Beyond Belief, Reparté, ShadowLight, Once Upon a Plie* and *125 Years of Dance*; plays, *Oklahoma!, #5 The Angry Red Drum, Noises Off, The Swan, Trojan Women*. Tony received his MFA from UC Davis in Lighting & Scenic Design. His post graduate designs include *Paheliyan: The Story of Alice*, a bollywood dance adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* and a fundraiser event *Cirquewood*, involving Cirque Du Soleil aerialists and contortionists. Film and television: animation, *Family Guy* (Fox) and *Holidaze* (ABC). He has served as the lighting intern at the San Francisco Opera, SF Ballet, Houston Ballet, and LA Opera.

Rosanna Tavares recently received her MFA from Ohio State University after ten years of working in the entertainment biz. She has also worked with Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company, and Ryan Heffington. She is excited to join Rosanna Gamson/World Wide. She is very happy to be doing what she truly loves!

A native of Greenville, North Carolina, **Andre Tyson** began his training as a scholarship student at the School of the Garden State Ballet and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater-Joan Weill Center for Dance. He is a former Principal Dancer and Company Teacher with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and soloist with Complexions Dance Company. Mr. Tyson is also a Certified Pilates Instructor. He has created works for a broad range of companies from Ailey II to the Milwaukee Ballet. Additionally, Mr. Tyson has taught at renowned dance festivals in Asia, Europe and South America served as an assistant to Talley Beatty and received several choreographic grants and academic awards. Throughout his career he has studied and worked with a stellar list of distinguished master teachers, choreographers, directors and performing artists in concert dance, commercial theater, film, television and video. After ten years as an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts, Mr. Tyson is now Assistant Dean at California Institute of the Arts Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance.

When she is not chasing the sun in either direction, **Alexandria Yalj** can be found dancing, surfing or diligently working on the computer. In addition to taking on the Company Manger role last year for RG/WW, she has had the privilege to perform with RG/WW since 2008. Alexandria has an acute passion for the power of dance. She has just recently performed in *Liminal Bust* with KDUB dance at Counter Pulse in San Francisco & at Highways Performance Space. She is very excited to begin teaching at CalState Los Angeles this fall.

Julia Zorthian is a junior at John Marshall Magnet High School. This is her first performing experience.

BIOS FOR CATTYWAMPUS

Robert Cucuzza is a theater artist, filmmaker, actor, and acting teacher. In LA, he directed the world premiere of Iannis Xenakis' *Pour la Paix* (REDCAT), Jillian Lauren's *Mother Tongue* (Steve Allen Theater) and *Hellzapoppin'* (also playwright) and *Measure for Measure* (both at CalArts). He spent six years in New York as an artist-in-residence at Richard Foreman's Ontological Theater where he mounted many highly-acclaimed original plays. As a stage actor he has performed in multiple works by Foreman's Ontological-Hysteric Theater and Elevator Repair Service, most notably creating the role of Tom Buchanan in *Gatz* (fifteen national and international tours). He has written, directed, produced, edited and acted in numerous short and feature-length films. As an acting teacher he most recently taught BFA acting at CalArts and, in NYC, at his own studio, ACME Acting Lab. Awards: Thomas J. Watson Fellowship; Beutner Family Award for Excellence in the Arts. 1990 BFA in Literary and Cultural Studies, Carnegie Mellon; 2011 MFA in Directing, CalArts. www.robertcucuzza.com

Juli Crockett is a playwright, theater director, retired (undefeated) professional boxer and amateur champion, ordained minister, and lead singer/songwriter of the alternative country band The Evangentials. She was born in Coffee County, Enterprise, Alabama.

Alex M. Gaines is an MFA student at CalArts. Selected projects include *The Web* (set design), *Sneaky Nietzsche* (co-set direction), *Milen Kirov's 2* (set design, co-direction), Natalie Metzger's *Sacramento* (set design), and *The Atlantis Program* (direction). Upcoming projects include co-design for LACMA's Halloween masquerade, production design for Miriam Jones' western film, set design for Emilie Sabbath's piece *ISLA*, and a remount of *The Atlantis Program*.

Jenny Greer At CalArts: Abbie in *Desire Under the Elms* (dir. Zoe Aja Moore). *Hellzapoppin'* (dir. Robert Cucuzza), *Henry V* (dir. Mary Lou Rosato), *Ruins* (dir. by Holly Derr); *I'd Like it to be a Play Every Afternoon* and *At Sundown* (Edinburgh Fringe). Regional/NYC: Youngblood/ Ensemble Studio Theater, Cape Cod Theater Project, Cardinal Group, North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, and Kids with Guns. BFA in Acting, Univ. of North Carolina at Greensboro; MFA in Acting, CalArts '11.

Dorothy Hoover is an artist and designer living in Los Angeles. Past scenic design credits include *Moth* (CalArts), *Camino Real* (CalArts/Boston Court) and *Sneaky Nietzsche* (a sketchy warehouse Downtown). She is currently an MFA candidate at CalArts.

Jillian Lauren has performed at spoken word and storytelling events across the country and was a featured dancer with the infamous Velvet Hammer Burlesque. She has worked with directors as diverse as Richard Foreman, Steve Balderson, Lynne Breedlove, Austin Young, Michelle Carr and Margaret Cho among others. She recently debuted her solo performance piece *Mother Tongue*,

also directed by Robert Cucuzza. She is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *SOME GIRLS: My Life in a Harem*. Her novel, *Pretty*, was released on August 30.

Hector Machado. Theater: *Mother Tongue*, *Tartuffe* (ASM), *Measure for Measure*, 2010 Halloween Party: *Nightmare on McBean St.* (Producer), *Hellzapoppin'*, Evolt!on Fashion Show (Producer), *Siete Cuentos*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, Seven Deadly Sins Fashion Show (Producer), *King Richard II*, *Bash*, *Las Meninas* (ASM), *Menstrual Show*, National Black Arts Festival, Irene C. Edmonds Youth Theatre, Tallahassee Triple Threat. Dance: *Winter Dance 2010* – REDCAT, *Liminal*, *Sacrament*, *Turf, & Verge*, MFA I Thesis: *Focus*, *Spring Dance 2008* – REDCAT.

D.J. Mendel Performing credits include: Richard Foreman's *Permanent Brain Damage*, *Panic* and *The Universe*, Lucy Thurber's *Monstrosity*, Robert Cucuzza's *The Sticky Banister*, Karen Coonrod's *Christmas at the Ivanov's* at CSC and 31 Down's *Red Over Red*. A longtime collaborator with Hal Hartley, D.J. has been in Mr. Hartley's films: *Meanwhile*, *Fay Grimm*, *The Book of Life*, *No Such Thing*, *The New Maths*, *The Girl From Monday* and in Mr. Hartley's theatrical debut, *Soon*.

Ellie Rabinowitz. Theater: *House of Bernarda Alba*, *Crocodile Eyes* (Columbia Univ./Premio DAMS, Bologna, Italy), *Close Up Space*, (Chautauqua), *What Do I Know About War?* (Theater for the New City), *Camino Real* (Boston Court/CalArts), *Adam & Eve*, *One Eye Gone* (CalArts), *The Dawn of Quixote*, (Edinburgh Fringe) *Burial at Thebes* (Mighty Theater Company), *Antigone*, *Machinal*, *A View from the Bridge* (Tribeca Perf. Arts). Opera: *Loving* (CalArts). Dance: Dušan Týnek Dance Theater, Andrea Haenggi, Deborah Lohse, and Natalie Metzger.

Cameron Squire CalArts: *Measure for Measure* (PM) *Peter's Shadow* (PM), *Funnyhouse of a Negro* (PM), *Sun* (PM), *John Gabriel Borkman* (APM), *One Eye Gone* (APM), *The Life of the Bee* (TD). REDCAT: *The Exile of Petie DeLarge* (PM). WGTB: *My Name is Rachel Corrie* (PM), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (PM), *Tartuffe* (PM).

Alice Tavener. Steve Allen Theater: *Mother Tongue*; REDCAT: *Pour La Paix*; CalArts: *Measure for Measure*; *Adam and Eve*; *Loving*; *Simple Magic*; *Text[ured] Optimism* (Dance); *Smoke*, *Lilies and Jade* (Asst.); Highways Perf. Space: *Meditations: Eva Hesse*; Kirk Douglas: *Bones* (Asst.); Brevard Music Center: *Susannah*; *Candide*; *Camelot*; *La Boheme*; Long Wharf Theatre/Next Stage Program: *Swimming in the Shallows*; Costume Shop Mgr. (Brevard Music Center); Asst. Costume Shop Mgr. (Long Wharf Theatre). MFA in Costume Design, CalArts.

Jordana Che Toback is a choreographer whose work transcends genre, from the classicist whimsy of Mark Morris, to the art-tronica of Fischerspooner, to the sensual post modernism of her own POON Productions ensemble. Her repertoire of evening length Dance Theatre pieces have been produced by PS122, FringeNYC, HERE, Dixon Place and Dance New Amsterdam, while her infamous 'sexy dance' shows have been presented at nightclubs, art galleries and private events throughout New York City since 1995. www.JordanaDance.com.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES AT REDCAT

September 22 – 24: NOW Festival 2011 Week Three

Tandem & Timur and the Dime Museum: *Zoophilic Follies*

Michel Kouakou/Daara Dance: *Sack*

Victoria Marks: *Medium Big Inefficient Considerably Imbalanced Dance*

October 2:

Roscoe Mitchell Trio and *For People in Sorrow*

October 5–8:

Faustin Linyekula/Studios Kabako: *More More More... Future*

October 17:

Janie Geiser: “Nervous Stories,” *Secret Stories*

October 19 – 22:

Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion: *The Radio Show*

October 28 – 30:

Wadada Leo Smith: *Ten Freedom Summers*

October 31:

Mark Z. Danielewski: *The Fifty Year Sword*

November 9 – 13:

Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine: *A Missionary Position*

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