

NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2011

MICHEL KOUAKOU/DAARA DANCE, VICTORIA MARKS AND
TANDEM & TIMUR AND THE DIME MUSEUM

SEPTEMBER 22 – 24, 2011
8:30 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS



NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2011

MICHEL KOUAKOU: SACK

Choreographed and performed by Michel Kouakou

People: Abdou Liassou, Komlavi Yeye, Souley Willy, Britannia Jones, Devanghn Ragston, Audrey Morris, and Jessica Emmanuel

Lighting: Shelly Rodriguez

Music recording by Shamou Mou, Ballake Sissoko and Igor with Mayim Mayim Ensemble

Special thanks to Laura Faure, Victoria Marks, MAPP International, UCLA World Arts and Cultures, Reggie Wilson, David Rousseve, Dan Agbetou, Germaine Acogny, Werewere Liking, Leyna Marika Papach, Erine Marie Fordman, Dorothy Chen, Daudet Grazai and to all the volunteers.

– PAUSE –

VICTORIA MARKS: MEDIUM BIG INEFFICIENT CONSIDERABLY IMBALANCED DANCE

Choreographic direction: Victoria Marks

Lighting: Shelly Rodriguez

Collaborators/Performers: Dorothy Chen, Michel Kouakou, Carol McDowell, Alexandra Shilling, Wilfried Souly and Lailye Weidman

d. Sabela grimes composed digitally manipulated reconstructions, mashups and remixes of Bonobo's, *Black Sands*, Kamikaze Ground Crew's, *Duke's Entrance*, *Chorales for America: Birds & Bottles* and *House Rockas*.

Special thanks to my family, REDCAT and UCLA.

Funds from the Center for Cultural Innovation's "Investing in Artists" grant and UCLA's committee on research supported the creation of this work.

– INTERMISSION –

TANDEM & TIMUR AND THE DIME MUSEUM: ZOOPHILIC FOLLIES

Directed and Designed by: Caitlin Lainoff and Danrae Wilson

Composer: Daniel Corral

Libretto: Sibyl O'Malley

Singers: Timur Bekbosunov, Maesa Rae, Abby Travis and Dorian Wood

Puppeteers: Nicole Emmons, Miriam Jones and Catherine Strecker

Music performed by Timur and The Dime Museum

Costumes: Sandra Burns

Lighting: Ellie Rabinowitz

Sound: Pete Pace

Zoophilic Follies is the story of mythological Greek inventor Daedalus and his relationship to the Cretan royal family. Daedalus was taken in and employed by King Minos and his wife, Pasiphae. His work for them led to the birth of the Minotaur, the creation of the labyrinth that housed him, and the eventual death of Daedalus' own son, Icarus.

I was initially drawn to Daedalus and the mythological characters around him as archetypes indicative of the unconscious mind. The ethics of Daedalus' actions are ambiguous, making him neither hero nor villain, but merely human - a mythological modern man. His inventions are powerful symbols for the workings of the mind: a convoluted maze housing a terrible beast within, a facade to enable idiosyncratic fetish, piecemeal wings on which one can cross the deep sea, a means of escape. – Daniel

For libretto, visit tinyurl.com/zoophilicfollies or



Special thanks to Annie Cleveland, Scott McKim, David Wilson, Thomas East, Emily Oliveira, Katie Shook, Mark Miller, Beverly Lorenc, Art of Opera Foundation and Delora Donovan, Ariel Boroff, Anne-Marie Drummond, Anne Coté, Garry Lennon, Lianne Arnold, Rory Cowal, Independent Shakespeare Company, Richard Valitutto, our Kickstarter Supporters.

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



BIOS FOR MICHEL KOUAKOU

Michel Kouakou is an active performer of both traditional and contemporary dance. He has made appearances in numerous European countries, as well as in Japan, Africa and the United States. He began his career studying dance, acrobatics, and Marionette Theater in his home country. After receiving several prizes in Abidjan for dance, he continued his study of contemporary dance with Germaine in L'école de Sables in Senegal. As a dancer, he has worked with choreographers such as Germaine Acogny (Senegal), Seydou Boro (Burkina Fasso), Bud Blumenthal (Belgium), Kota Yamazaki (New York/Japan), Jutta Czurda (Germany), Giorgio Rossi (Italy), and Reggie Wilson (USA). In 2003, he formed his own company, "Daara Dance" in which his pieces have since been performed in the US as well as in Holland, France, Chad, Ivory Coast, Tunisia, Italy, Israel, and the Czech Republic. As a teacher, Michel has given several workshops throughout Europe, US, and Japan. In 2003 he was invited to teach modern dance at the Duncan Centre Conservatory in Prague and served as a full-time faculty member for six months. Michel currently lives in New York, frequently performing with the Reggie Wilson Performance Group, and teaching workshops at various dance schools and communities alongside his own work. He recently started teaching at Bates Dance Festival and UCLA in Los Angeles. Michel is a recipient of the 2007 NYFA (New York Foundation of the Arts) Artist Fellowship.

Shelly Rodriguez (Lighting Designer) New York: *The Country Wife* (Odyssey Productions), *Den of Thieves* (Labyrinth Theater), *RealPolitik* (Theater for the New City). Regional: *Thujone*, *One on Ones* (Williamstown Theater Festival), CalArts: *Phaedra's Love*, *The Pillowman*, *Ruins*. Choreographer collaborators: Lisa Long and Rachel Boyajian. Shelly is a third-year master student at CalArts. www.shellynrodriguez.com

BIOS FOR MEDIUM BIG INEFFICIENT CONSIDERABLY IMBALANCED DANCE

Victoria Marks' choreographic projects migrate between choreo-portraits for military veterans, elderly men, and moms and daughters, as well as dances for and with dancers. This evening's choreography is the culmination of a year of working as an ensemble, creating new choreography as well as just spending time learning from one another through an improvisational practice. Marks is a recent recipient of the Center for Cultural Innovation's "Investing in Artists" grant and has served as a 2010 choreographic mentor through CHIME. She has been a Guggenheim Fellow, and an Alpert and Fulbright award winner. A Professor of Choreography in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA, Marks has been practicing knowing and unknowing, making dances for stage and film, for the past 27 years.

Multi-hyphenate artist, **d. Sabela grimes**, has conceived and presented a body of creative work that journeys through the current future of the present past and the corrugated spaces of many incarnations. Each creative offering is a familiar ritual, a conscious spectacle, the stillest rumination. In the NOW, Sabela manifests as Sonic Vibe Selektas offering a layer of soul syrup to *Medium Big Inefficient Considerably Imbalanced Dance*.

Dorothy Chen received her B.A. from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures. She is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Victoria Marks, Cheng-Chieh Yu, and Maria Gillespie. Dorothy hopes to continue exploring and discovering a world of infinite movement possibilities.

Carol McDowell is an interdisciplinary dance artist and teacher. Born in California and raised in Hawai'i, she fell in love with modern dance while studying with Betty Jones. Since then, McDowell has danced KeiTakei's *Light*, Pooh Kaye's *Active Graphics*, Barbara Dilley's *Naked Face*, and jumped from an airplane in Tim Miller's *Cost of Living*. She is delighted to dance in this ensemble for Victoria Marks.

Alexandra Shilling is committed to investigations of the body, its ability to tell stories and to heal. Currently, she is spending time with her hula-hoop, super 8 films, her collaborators Mimi Yin and Quintan Wikswow, learning Yiddish and unraveling from exhilarating asymmetrical dancing with Victoria Marks. Gratitude to J.

Wilfried Souly is a dancer and choreographer trained in West African traditional dances. His work blends and transforms dance, theater and martial arts. Willy is also a member of Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project.

Lailye Weidman is a dancer/maker, who specializes in telepathic invisible dances as well as big awkward movement. This summer, she was a resident artist at UCLA's Hothouse, performed at the Hammer with Hana Van der Kolk, swam with sharks, and gratefully continued this collaborative investigation with Vic and crew.

ABOUT TANDEM & TIMUR AND THE DIME MUSEUM

The puppet theater company **Tandem** is comprised of composer Daniel Corral and designer/director Caitlin Lainoff. Their first puppet opera, *Le Petit Macabre*, travelled to The Great Small Works International Toy Theater Festival in New York and back to the Santa Monica Museum of Art. *Lolo and Lola*, a WWII-era puppet show based on true stories collected from Daniel's grandparents, premiered at the Boulder Fringe Festival. Tandem is passionate about creating a community of long-term collaborators.

Timur and the Dime Museum's music has been called "among the most original being made in LA today" (*Flavorpill*). Their dark glam opera styling has received praise and built a strong following from artists such as Amanda Palmer, Devotchka, Kristian Hoffman and Sondre Lerche. Timur and the Dime Museum consists of CalArts graduates who individually have performed in countless major projects, festivals and venues around the world.

Matt Barbier (CIM-BM/CalArts- MFA) is a trombonist and composer focused primarily in the fields of experimental intonation and noise music. Ice cream is his kryptonite.

James Barry (cello) is a cellist/bassist/accordionist from the LA area and has performed alongside the likes of Tears of the Moosechaser, Free Reed Conspiracy, Hurt Model, Tinhorn Justice, Dog Shit Taco, and 18 Squared to name a few. He studied cello performance at CalArts and currently resides in Los Angeles.

Kazakh-American tenor **Timur Bekbosunov** (Daedalus), is a noted interpreter of contemporary opera. He has performed with Los Angeles Philharmonic, Bang on a Can, Israeli Opera-JFLA, Santa Cecilia Academy, Opera Boston, Modern Art Ensemble of Berlin, American Repertory Theater, Long Beach Opera; at the Hollywood Bowl, Walt Disney Concert Hall, BAM and Berlin Konzerthaus, among others. He was profiled in LA Weekly's BEST OF LA People Issue 2011.

Sandra Burns (costumes) is an award-winning artist based in Los Angeles. She designs costumes and sets for theatre, dance and film. Past collaborations include work at DouglasPlus, REDCAT, The Broad Stage, LATC, Odyssey Theater, St. Ann's Warehouse and PS 122. Sandra was the costume designer for the Academy Award nominated short film, *New Boy*. She received her MFA from CalArts.

Daniel Corral (composer/accordion/conductor) has composed for avant-garde puppetry, various chamber ensembles, an orchestra riding a Ferris wheel, music boxes, accordion orchestra, player piano, film, dance, theater, and much more. He is also the primary composer/arranger

for Timur & the Dime Museum. Daniel received his MFA from CalArts in 2007. For more info visit www.spinalfrog.com

Nicole Emmons (puppeteer) received her MFA from CalArts Experimental Animation as a Jacob K. Javits Fellow. Her quirky and sometimes dark films combine elements of folklore, myth, and fairytale structure with pop-culture surrealist kitsch. In addition to making animated films, she works as a freelance animator, puppeteer, and teaches stop motion and puppet building

John A. Graves (bass) received his BM in composition from UCSB. His compositions have been featured in the promotional campaigns for *Rango*, the 2010 Winter Olympics, *Rio*, *Flight Night*, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, and *The King's Speech*. He currently performs with The Shpil, Charles Sharp Quartet, and Svara.

Yvette Holzwarth, a violinist and vocalist since the age of three, moved from the SF Bay Area to Los Angeles to attend UCLA in 2005. She has performed classical concerts with the American Youth Symphony, Arabic music with MESTO, and contemporary music with artists ranging from folk to electronic.

Miriam Jones (puppeteer) has made original things in places like Philadelphia, Chicago, Honolulu, and Los Angeles. She helped other people make things at Mass MoCA, St. Ann's Warehouse Puppet Lab, and Mum Puppet Theatre. She learned to make complex thoughts and stories at Bryn Mawr College and is currently making puppet shows and integrated media work at CalArts.

Caitlin Lainoff (director/design) is a scene designer and puppetry artist who received her MFA from CalArts. She designs for theater, opera, and film, from LA to Philadelphia. She teaches at CSU Northridge and heads the puppetry program for the Community Arts Partnership. She designed *Jerry Springer: The Opera* at the Chance Theatre, which received an Ovation recommendation.

Andrew Lessman (drums) is a drummer and composer who completed his BFA at CalArts. He has played Steve Reich's music on a moving carousel; performed at the Angel City Jazz Fest and The Stone; and recorded with the Vinny Golia Sextet, Pitch Like Masses, and the Joe Santa Maria Quartet feat. Larry Koonse.

Humor, visual poetry and spectacle are hallmarks of (playwright) **Sibyl O'Malley's** plays. Recent credits include *Ten Seconds in the Water* (East LA Rep), *Oh My Tiger* (Highways), *Alice and the Majestic Guts* (Toy Theater Festival/ Walt Disney Concert Hall), *Yes is a long time* (Bootleg Theater) and *Stall* (Celebration Theatre).

Matthew Setzer (guitar) is a guitarist, composer, and music technologist based in Los Angeles. A CalArts grad, he recently performed in Lyon, France utilizing EEG biofeedback with the performance art group AMF. Further credits include touring the US/Europe/Mexico with London After

Midnight, londonaftermidnight.com, Music Director for CoRE, www.wearecore.com, and Engineer/Producer at Wonderland Recording Studio, www.wonderlandrecordingstudio.com.

Ellie Rabinowitz (lighting design) Theater: *Camino Real* (Boston Court/CalArts), *House of Bernarda Alba* (Columbia University/Premio DAMS, Bologna, Italy), *Close Up Space* (Chautauqua), *What Do I Know About War?* (Theater for the New City), *Adam & Eve*, *One Eye Gone* (CalArts), Palomino (Kirk Douglas, associate). Opera: *Loving* (CalArts). Dance: Dušan Týnek, Andrea Haenggi, Natalie Metzger.

Maesa Rae (Ariadne) grew up in Beachwood Canyon with summers at a ranch in Montana. She got her BA from Hampshire College in Massachusetts, where she studied Interdisciplinary Performance. She is currently songwriting, performing with her band, The Glory Glory, collaborating, and recording her EP of original raw and shining music in LA.

Catherine Strecker (puppeteer) graduated from CalArts with a BFA in theatre emphasizing in puppetry. She has puppeteered in theatre, music videos and commercials, including Will.I.Am.'s *Heartbreaker* and Zune's *Piece of Me, Piece of You*. She has designed and performed in LA; NY; Prague; Rwanda and across the globe. She currently designs costumes for Ballet Nouveau Colorado.

Abby Travis' (Pasiphae) self-penned critically acclaimed albums (*Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, NPR, AP) include *The Abby Travis Foundation*, *Cutthroat Standards & Black Pop* and *GlitterMouth*. In addition, Abby played bass and/or sang with acts including Beck, Elastica, Eagles of Death Metal, KMFDM, and The Bangles. Abby played Janice in Justin Tanner's *Oklahomo* (Celebration Theater), her catalogue was adapted in *Little Black Veil*.

Brian Walsh (clarinets) specializes in the clarinet and bass clarinet, and graduated from CalArts. Mr. Walsh performs with diverse groups such as The California E.A.R. Unit, wild Up, The New Century Players, The Industrial Jazz Group, PLOTZ!, and the Vinny Golia Large Ensemble. Mr. Walsh also leads Walsh Set Trio, a jazz ensemble that performs his own compositions.

DanRae Wilson (director/video design) is an experimental, object-oriented artist with a love for all things knitted. She completed her MFA in Puppetry at CalArts, recently she has: costumed/built puppets for the Community Arts Partnership, designed an installation at Machine Project, and created a puppet sequence for MTV's *The Hard Times of RJ Berger*.

Dorian Wood (Minos/Minotaur) is "armed with a vocal charisma that would befit a preacher and an experimental streak that would make avant-gardists swoon" (WNYC Culture). He has performed at LACMA, UCLA, Pacific Design Center, LACE, YBCA (San Francisco) and Stockholm Fringe Fest, among others. In October, Dorian will be staging a large-scale performance installation for Los Angeles Goes Live. www.dorianwood.com

REDCAT TECHNICAL STAFF

Technical Director	Bill Ballou
Assistant Technical Director	Eric Nolfo
Assistant Technical Director Audio/Video	Ian Burch
Lighting Designer	Patrick Traylor
Electrics Crew	Watson Bradshaw
Running Crew	Israel Mondaca and Kenny Valero
Stage Manager	Emily Carter

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES AT REDCAT

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*

For more information visit redcat.org

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