

# RADAR L.A. SYMPOSIUM PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

## WELCOME

### **Mark Murphy**

Executive Director, REDCAT

Mark Murphy, Executive Director of REDCAT, is an influential leader in the national and international field of contemporary performing arts, with over 25 years of experience producing, presenting and developing audiences for interdisciplinary performances. Murphy served as Chairman of the Choreographer's Fellowship Panel for the National Endowment for the Arts, was a founding board member of the National Performance Network, an advisor to the National Dance Project, and a member of the Advisory Board for the Japan Foundation's Performing Arts Program. As Artistic Director of On the Boards, a contemporary performing arts center in Seattle (1984-2001), Murphy helped emerging and established artists create and tour new work, and served as a leading host of major international and national productions. He is the winner of first place awards from the Society of Professional Journalists for Feature Writing and radio documentary production. He is a graduate of Fairhaven College.

### **Diane Rodriguez**

Associate Producer/Director of New Play Production, Center Theatre Group

Diane is an Obie Award winning multi-disciplinary theatre artist. She is an accomplished actor, anthologized writer, regional theatre director and Associate Producer/Director of New Play Production at Center Theatre Group (CTG), Los Angeles. Recognized as one of the country's leading advocates for non-text based and ensemble driven work as well as a long time advocate of Latino playwrights and actors, Diane maintains her artistic career while being a member of the artistic staff of Center Theatre Group, which includes the Mark Taper Forum, the Ahmanson Theatre and the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Currently, under her tenure as Director of New Play Production (NPP), CTG's NPP program was awarded a one million dollar grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the commissioning and development of seven new collaborative works from ensembles or creative collaborators. She lives in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles with her long time husband, friend and advisor, Jose Delgado.

### **Olga Garay-English**

Executive Director, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

Olga Garay-English is the Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), a position she assumed on August 1, 2007. Reporting directly to the Mayor of Los Angeles and managing a \$40 million budget in FY12/13, the Executive Director is DCA's chief artistic and administrative officer. Since her appointment with the City, DCA has been awarded \$21 million in funding support from private and public entities. These funds are being used to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts organizations through programs such as the Cultural Exchange International Fellowship Program, which provides support for LA-based artists to conduct extended residencies around the world; increase DCA programs, including its celebratory Heritage Month Celebrations; and refurbish its theaters and art centers. The LA Weekly Theater Awards of 2013 made Ms. Garay-English the Queen of Angels for Special Achievement in theater and for being instrumental to the vitality of performance in Los Angeles, playing a large role in bringing the Radar LA Festival to the city. Ms. Garay-English was named a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture and Communications in 2012 for her significant contributions to the arts. In 2011, Los Angeles Magazine named Olga one of ten "Game Changers," women who make an impact in LA every day. She received a "Bessie," the New York Dance and Performance Award, and was named the Cuban Artists' Fund Distinguished Honoree in 2006. Olga was born in Santa Clara, Cuba, and came to the United States in 1961. She is bilingual in English and Spanish.

## ARTIST MANIFESTOS

Moderator: Diane Rodriguez (*see bio on page 1*)

### **Claudio Valdés Kuri**

Claudio Valdés Kuri, a prestigious Mexican director, is recognized as one of Latin America's artists with the most international acclaim. Founder and director of the company Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes, his work includes *The Grey Automobile*, *Monsters and Prodigies: The History of the Castrati and Becket* or *the Honour of God and Where Will I Be Tonight?* Presented in Mexico (his native country), and in Europe, Latin America, the United States and the Caribbean area. Specialized critics named him the best direc-

tor in experimental theatre as well as best group theatre director, best visiting director of New York and the Golden Laurel Wreath for best direction. Several important governmental offices have commissioned and co-produced his productions: Compañía Nacional de Teatro (Mexico), National Autonomous University of Mexico, International Cervantino Festival (Guanajuato), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), Kunsten Festival des Arts (Brussels) and Wiener Festwochen (Vienna). Claudio Valdes Kuri was selected to develop the "Translation and Contextualization" project for Arts International (New York City) and took part in the "Artist in Context" program sponsored by the John Hope Franklin Center of North Carolina's Duke University and "Arts Management" program in the Kennedy Center (Washington D.C.). monthly publication Mexican Leaders has acknowledged him as one of the top 300 most influential leaders in the country. He is currently a member of the Sistema Nacional de Creadores FONCA-CONACULTA.

### **Mariano Pensotti**

Mariano Pensotti (Buenos Aires - 1973) studied cinema, visual arts and theater. His performances have been presented in Argentina and in festivals and venues in Belgium, Germany, France, Ireland, Latvia, Brasil, Canada, Japan, Austria, Spain, Chile, England, Denmark and Switzerland. For his work he has won the prizes Rozenmacher, Clarin and Premio F; and the scholarships Unesco-Aschberg, Rockefeller Foundation, Fundación Antorchas and Casa de América de Madrid.

### **Alice Tuan**

Alice Tuan is a playwright and teacher. She emerged in 2000 with recognition from the LA's Richard E. Sherwood Award as well as NY's Colbert Award for Excellence. *Ajax (por nobody)* premiered at New York's Flea Theater, performed at the Melbourne Fringe (2001) and was presented last August at Toronto's SummerWorks Festival. *Last of the Suns* premiered at Berkeley Rep and was recently published in *Version 3.0: Contemporary Asian American Plays*. Other produced plays include *Ikebana*, *Some Asians*, *Iggy Woo*, *The Roaring Girl* and the Virtual Hypertext Theater play *Coastline (Serious Play!, Edinburgh Fringe)*. *BATCH: An American Bachelor/ette Party Spectacle*, her collaboration with New Paradise Laboratories, premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in 2007. Ms. Tuan holds an MFA from Brown University in Creative Writing and has taught at the Los Angeles Theater Center, East West Players, and the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas, Austin. She has guided high school playwrights in a 24-hour Play process in Shanghai, Kansas, and Amsterdam. Ms. Tuan has held one-year teaching posts in both Guangzhou and Shanghai, China; excerpts from her blog *Alice in Shanghai-land* will be seen in the online exhibition *Love of Sun* in September, 2013. This past summer, she was playwright in residence at the 2013 Ojai Playwrights Conference. Ms. Tuan has a commission from Yale Repertory/Binger Center for New Theater and teaches at Cal Arts.

### **Basil Twist**

Basil Twist (Puppeteer, Designer, Director) is a puppeteer, designer and director who furthers the artistry and technical craft of puppetry through his diverse range of works. Originally from San Francisco, Twist is a third generation puppeteer who lives and works in New York City, and is the sole American graduate of the École Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in France. His original stage and opera creations include *The Araneidae Show*, *Symphonie Fantastique*, *Petrushka*, *Master Peter's Puppet Show*, *Dogugaeshi*, *La Bella Dormente Nel Bosco*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Arias with a Twist*. Twist's Broadway credits include *The Pee-wee Herman Show* and *The Addams Family*. He has received numerous awards including an OBIE, five UNIMA Awards for Excellence in Puppetry, Bessie Awards, New York Innovative Theatre Awards and a Drama Desk. He has received Guggenheim and United States Artist/Ford Fellowships and was recently awarded a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. In 2012 Washington, DC hosted a retrospective of his work, *Twist Fest D.C.*, of which *Dogugaeshi* was a part. He is the Artistic Director of the Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE Arts Center in NYC. His *Rite of Spring* premiered at Carolina Performing Arts this past April as a part of RITE at 100. A new site-specific work, *Sea Foam Sleepwalk*, will premiere at the La Jolla Playhouse this October. [basiltwist.com](http://basiltwist.com)

### **Wunderbaum**

Based in Rotterdam, Wunderbaum is a group of actors who work collectively, together with a designer and a dramaturge, as well as musicians, writers, photographers and film producers. Chameleonic, collaborative and often site-specific, the performances of Wunderbaum take on many shapes resulting in newly discovered theatre forms combined with new interests in humankind or social themes. Through the examination of literature, documentary, people and place, the group explores the friction between group interests or individual interests, interests that might be public or strictly personal. Interests that continuously have to be defended, questioned, disputed, negotiated.

## CONVERSATION: INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

Moderator: Mark Murphy (*see bio on page 1*)

### **Claudio Valdés Kuri**

*see bio under artist manifestos*

### **Angela Mattox**

Portland Institute for Contemporary Arts Artistic Director Angela Mattox joined PICA's team in 2012. She is responsible for conceiving and guiding the artistic vision for the organization and curating a range of interdisciplinary programs and activities for the TBA Festival, in addition to year-round artistic and educational events. Her global curatorial approach focuses on experimental practice, cross-cultural exchange, and interdisciplinary work that creates meaningful intersections between art, audiences, and ideas. Mattox was the former Performing Arts Curator at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), San Francisco's leading multidisciplinary contemporary art center. Before her tenure at YBCA, she served as Program Coordinator at Arts International, a New York-based organization dedicated to global cultural exchange in the arts. In this capacity, she coordinated national grant programs including the Artists Exploration Fund, the California Presenters Initiative, and The Fund for US Artists at International Festivals and Exhibitions. She served as a Hub Site for the National Dance Project for a four year appointment and has participated in the Japan Foundation's Performing Arts Japan Committee. Mattox is a member of several networks, including the Contemporary Arts Centers Network, the Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium, and the Headlands Center for the Arts Program Advisory Council, and has served on panels for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Creative Capital, Multi-Arts Production Fund, Mid-Atlantic Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, and Western Arts Alliance. She received her BA degree through the World Arts and Cultures program of UCLA.

### **David Roussève**

Artistic Director of REALITY since 1988, Roussève has created thirteen full-evening works for the company that have toured throughout the U.S., Europe, and S. America, including three commissions for the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival. His works for other companies include Dancing Wheels, Ririe-Woodbury, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, Dance Alloy, Ballet Hispanico (in collaboration with Eddie Palmieri), Atlanta Ballet, and Houston Ballet. In 2006 Roussève spent 7 weeks in Tashkent, Uzbekistan creating a piece for Ilkhom Theater Company. In 2012 David directed, wrote, and co-choreographed his third dance film, *Two Seconds After Laughter*. Filmed in Java by Cari Ann Shim Sham\*, the film has screened in 11 countries and won 10 festival awards including four for Best Short or Best Experimental Short. Twice a fellow in the Sundance Institute's Feature Film Screenwriter's Lab, David's writing has been published in collections by Bantam Press and Routledge Press. His awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a 'Bessie', three Hortons, the Cal Arts/Alpert Award, Best Choreography IMZ Int'l Dance Film Festival, two Irvine Fellowships, and seven consecutive NEA Fellowships. David is Professor of Choreography and former Chair in UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance.

## ARTIST TALK: LEMI PONIFASIO

### **Lemi Ponifasio**

Theatre artist Lemi Ponifasio founded the Company MAU in Auckland in 1995, an ensemble of dancers and artists from New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. MAU is a Samoan word that means a declaration to the truth of a matter or revolution as an effort to transform. Ponifasio presents his productions in major theatres and festivals including the Lincoln Center New York, Edinburgh International Festival, Theatre de la Ville Paris, Holland Festival, Santiago a Mil Chile, Roma Europa Festival, FTA Montreal, and Berliner Festspiele. Originally from Samoa, Ponifasio illuminates compelling and potent subjects through the power and majesty of his theatre poetry, touching the nerve point of our times. He is unique internationally for his vision and for the originality of his aesthetic, born out of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific. In his artistic universe, Ponifasio repeatedly takes the modern individual to a different space of consciousness by way of the decelerated rhythm of his strict aesthetic, making use of striking images, movement and dynamic interplay of light and darkness. A pioneer at the international frontier of dance and theatre arts, Ponifasio remains true to his Oceanic ancestral roots. His theatre vision transcends the barriers between genres and nations and transmits the universal power of art. Ponifasio is the recipient of the Carl Orff Prize 2013 for his highly acclaimed opera production *Prometheus* at the Ruhrtriennale 2012. He is a New Zealand Arts Laureate and a founding member of the Academy of The Arts Of The World in Cologne.

# DRAMATURGY ACROSS DISCIPLINES: APPROACHES TO DANCE, THEATER, OPERA AND NEW FORMS

Moderator: Pier Carlo Talenti

## **Pier Carlo Talenti**

Pier Carlo Talenti is resident dramaturg/literary manager at Center Theatre Group, where he has developed scores of plays and musicals by such talents as Julia Cho, Dael Orlandersmith and Michael Friedman. He is currently overseeing the development of 16 new plays and musicals, all commissioned by CTG (the list of commissioned artists includes Dael Orlandersmith, Marco Ramirez and Danai Gurira). He has served as production dramaturg on many CTG productions, including John Belluso's *The Body of Bourne* (dir. Lisa Peterson), *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* by Rajiv Joseph (dir. Moisés Kaufman) and *The Nether* by Jennifer Haley (dir. Neel Keller). As the head of CTG's literary department, he oversees the care and handling of approximately 1,000 scripts submitted each year to CTG.

## **Tobias Kokkelmans**

Tobias Kokkelmans is dramaturge (literary advisor and script strategist) at theatre company Wunderbaum. He graduated Cum Laude at the theatre science and musicology institutes of the University of Amsterdam, after which he was engaged for a.o. the Edinburgh International Festival, the Festival of Flanders and the Ro Theater – one of the main theatre companies in the Netherlands. Besides his work for Wunderbaum, he is dramaturge at Operadagen Festival Rotterdam. He is also a history teacher at the Theaterschool of Amsterdam and a critic for several theatre magazines in Belgium and The Netherlands.

## **Tina Kronis**

Tina Kronis (director/choreographer) is Artistic Director and co-founder of Theatre Movement Bazaar and co-creator on all TMB projects. Director/choreographer: HOT CAT, ANTON'S UNCLES, THE TREATMENT, CHERRY JAM, MODEL BEHAVIOR, MONSTER OF HAPPINESS, STRANGE BELIEFS, CIRQUE PICNIQUE, HOLLYWOOD MACABRE, DUMBSHOW, SEAGULL, CHEKHOV'S SISTERS and CORNOGRAPHY. Performer/choreographer: DRY CLEANING, CAFÉ OUBLIÉ and WATCH. Co-wrote, directed, and choreographed ANTON'S UNCLES. She serves on the faculty CalArts and Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy. With the latter, she co-directed/choreographed the original work UNTITLED WARHOL PROJECT and WITHIN US, both regional selections to the KCACTF.

## **Jose Luis Valenzuela**

José Luis Valenzuela is Director of the Los Angeles Theater Center and Artistic Director of the Latino Theatre Company, located in downtown Los Angeles. The center produces plays reflecting all the communities in Los Angeles. Valenzuela's roots are in the Chicano Theater movement of the 1970s. Valenzuela is a Professor of Theater at the School of Theater, Film and Television at UCLA and has directed at several prestigious regional venues including the Los Angeles Theater Center where he developed the Latino Theater Lab; El Teatro de la Esperanza; Mark Taper Forum and Teatro Jorge Negrete where his production of *Hijos* won Drama-Logue Awards for Best Direction, Ensemble and Actor. His international theater directing credits include Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* at the Norland Theatre in Norway and Manuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the National Theatre of Norway. He serves as the Artistic Director of the Latino Theater Company in Los Angeles, a group of artists committed to creating and producing new works that examine in bold contemporary terms the Latino/a experience in the United States. He directed the play and feature film *Luminarias*, that challenged Latina stereotypes. The film starred Cheech Marin, Scott Bakula and Lupe Ontiveros. Valenzuela directed the world premiere of *Dementia*, written by Evelina Fernandez, for the Latino Theater Initiative. The play was the first of its kind to tackle the HIV/AIDS issue in the Latino community and won the 2003 GLAAD Award for Outstanding Theater Production in Los Angeles. He was honored with the 2003 Hispanic Heritage Month Local Hero of the Year Award recognizing distinguished citizens for contributions to improving the quality of life in their communities.

# CREATING THEATRICAL CONTENT FOR OUR URBAN CENTERS: LOCATION MATTERS

Moderator: Olga Garay-English  
*see bio on page 1*

## **Deborah Cullinan**

Deborah Cullinan is the newly named Executive Director of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts – San Francisco's premiere contemporary art center. She is the outgoing Executive Director of Intersection for the Arts. Under her leadership, Intersection achieved a strong reputation as a powerful arts-focused community development organization committed to radical partnership across sectors to achieve equitable community change. Intersection is playing a lead role on the 5M Project, a 4-acre prototype for the next generation of urban development that embraces diversity of thought, life experience, and culture. Under her leadership, Intersection received numerous awards including an Inaugural ArtPlace America Award, The Cyril Magnum Award for Non-Profit Excellence, and the 2012 Philanthropedia Award for Highest Impact Arts Non-Profit in the Bay Area. She has presented at the NEA, SF Planning & Urban Research Center, Center for the Theater Commons, GrantMakers in the Arts and more. She is co-founder of ArtsForumSF; a member of the Board of the California Arts Advocates, Californians for the Arts, and The Community Arts Stabilization Trust. She is on the advisory boards of The Center for the Theater Commons and The Catalyst Initiative. She received the 2013 Visionary Leadership Award in Honor of Margo Jones from Theater Communications Group. She is a Rockwood Fellow; a Gerbode Fellow; and a participant in National Arts Strategies' Chief Executive Program an initiative gathering 100 top culture sector leaders to re-imagine what cultural institutions are and how they contribute to society.

## **Manuel Orjuela**

Manuel Orjuela (director) is the Artistic Director of the Casa Ensemble Theater Company, where he has directed *Tengo una tia en la soledad*, *Santadiccion*, *Habitacion 333*, *Cabared*, *Monik y sum undo de carton*, and *Un cuarto par alas siete* micro-theater. As an independent director, he has worked extensively around the world, including projects in South Africa, he Berlin Theater Festival, and festivals in Brazil, Spain, and Ireland.

## **Elizabeth Doud** (translating for Mr. Orjuela)

Elizabeth Doud is a Miami-based arts protagonist who has over 15 years experience as a cultural organizer, and educator, with an emphasis on international cultural exchange in the performing arts. She herself is a generative interdisciplinary artist who actively tours performance work, and is a tenacious champion of creating and protecting the space to experiment with and experience contemporary performance. Besides her work as an independent arts consultant, she served as the Artistic Director of Miami Dade College's *Cultura del Lobo* Performance Series from 2009-2011, and she has been the Coordinator of National Performance Network's *Performing Americas* Program, an international arts exchange program between the U.S. and Latin America and the Caribbean since 2005. Among other awards and recognition, she was awarded a State of Florida Individual Artist Fellowship for 2011. Currently she is building a multi-year environmental performance event in Miami, FL, which will launch in 2014.

## **MK Wegmann**

President and CEO, National Performance Network

MK Wegmann, President & CEO, National Performance Network (NPN), has more than 35 years of experience in organizational development, artists' services, presenting and producing for non-profit visual and performing arts organizations. NPN supports the creation and touring of contemporary performing and visual arts, providing an important organizing link among communities, artists and presenters in the US. As an independent consultant, she works with organizations and individual artists in long-range planning, organizational development and systems management. Clients have included Alabama Dance Council, JumpStart Performance Co., Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts, Southern Danceworks, Dallas Black Dance Theatre and Young Aspirations/Young Artists (Ya/Ya). From 1978-1991 she was Associate Director for the Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans, a \$2.2 million, multi-disciplinary artists' organization, and from 1993-1999 served as Managing Director of the theatre company Junebug Productions. She has served on and chaired panels for the National Endowments for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Louisiana Division for the Arts, The Kentucky Arts Commission and the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. Wegmann serves on Boards of Directors for National Performance Network and Junebug Productions, Performing Arts Alliance, and Creative Alliance of New Orleans. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spring Hill College and a Master of Arts degree from Louisiana State University of New Orleans (LSUNO). As a life long resident of New Orleans, Wegmann is active in its recovery efforts.