



NATIONAL
SUMMIT OF
ENSEMBLE
THEATERS

SAN FRANCISCO
JUNE 17-22, 2009

HOSTED BY
NETWORK OF ENSEMBLE THEATERS
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
AND FOOLSFURY



BIOS

Caron Atlas supports arts and culture as integral parts of social change. She is project director for the Pratt Center for Community Development's Arts & Community Change Initiative, Fractured Atlas' Place + Displaced, and State Voice's Arts & Democracy Project. She also consults with APAP, Ford Foundation, and teaches at NYU.

Linda Parris-Bailey is the primary Writer-in-Residence for the Carpetbag Theatre (CBT) Ensemble, she has written touring works *Cric? Cra!*; *Ce Nitram Sacul*; and *Dark Cowgirls & Prairie Queens*. Parris-Bailey has served as the Program Director of the Summer Youth Workshop at the Highlander Research & Education Center; Adjunct Associate Professor of Acting at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and Workshop Facilitator designing workshops for the Managing Information in Rural America Project.

Stephen Buescher is an actor, director, and teaching artist. He is currently an associate professor at Brown University and the director of movement and physical theater in the Brown/Trinity Consortium and will join A.C.T. full-time in 2009–10. He is a first round recipient of TCG's New Generations grant and a graduate of Dell'Arte International and Cal Arts.

Kathie deNobriga worked for Alternate ROOTS for ten years, after working as a director, producer and presenter in North Carolina. She was an ensemble member of The Road Company (Johnson City TN). She is now an organizational consultant and certified mediator. DeNobriga is serving her second term on the City Council in Pine Lake, GA. She is a board member for Art in the Public Interest, Little Five Points Community Center, and Alternate ROOTS.

Amie Dowling is a faculty member in the Performing Arts and Social Justice Department at the Univ. of San Francisco and Artist in Residence at the San Francisco Jails. She also co-directs the Dance Generators, an intergenerational performance company. As a member of the Liz Lerman/Dance Exchange she toured throughout the United States and Europe.

Erik Ehn Work includes *The Saint Plays*, *Heavenly Shades of Night Are Falling*, *No Time Like the Present*, *Wolf at the Door*, *Tailings*, *Beginner*, *Ideas of Good and Evil*, the *Cycle Plays* (new noh), and *Maria Kizito*. Plays have been produced in San Francisco (*Intersection*, *Thick Description*, *Yugen*), Seattle (*Annex*, *Empty Space*), Austin (*Frontera*), New York (*BACA*, *Whitney Museum*), San Diego (*Sledgehammer*), Chicago (*Red Moon*), Atlanta (*7 Stages*), Los Angeles (*Cal Rep*, *Museum of Jurassic Technology*); elsewhere. Graduate, *New Dramatists*. *Artistica Associate*, *Theatre of Yugen*. Currently Dean of the CalArts School of Theater.

Steven Epp was an actor, writer, designer, director and co-Artistic Director at Theatre de la Jeune Lune, winner of the 2005 Tony award for Best Regional Theatre, from 1983-2008. In his 25 years with Jeune Lune, Steven collaborated in the creation and performance of over 50 productions. Steven co-authored *Children of Paradise*, winner of the 1993 Outer-Critics Circle award for best new play. Steven is a Fox Fellow that has toured nationally and holds a degree in Theatre and History from Gustavus Adolphus College.

Hollis Headrick is a consultant for arts, education and philanthropic organizations. He was formerly the director of education at Carnegie Hall and director of Arts in Education at the NYS Council on the Arts. He received the Arts Management Excellence Award from the Arts and Business Council. He is Chairman of the Board of the Irondale Ensemble Project and is a jazz drummer.

Claudio Valdés Kuri is recognized as one of Latin America's artists with the most international acclaim. Founder and director of the company *Certain Inhabitants' Theatre*, his work includes *The Grey Automobile*, *Monsters and Prodigies: The History of the Castrati*, *Becket or the Honour of God* and *Where Will I Be Tonight?*, all presented in Mexico (his native country), and in Europe, Latin America, the United States and the Caribbean.



SAN FRANCISCO
JUNE 17-22, 2009

HOSTED BY
NETWORK OF ENSEMBLE THEATERS
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
AND FOOLSURY



NATIONAL
SUMMIT OF
ENSEMBLE
THEATERS

BIOS

Liam Kaas-Lentz has been a stage manager for over 10 years in a variety of theatrical venues around the country. He is an ensemble member of Sojourn Theatre and an associate artist with Hand2Mouth theatre, both based in Portland. Specializing in ensemble stage management, he recently taught the stage management curriculum at Georgetown University, specifying in devised theatre. He lives with his wife in Portland, Ore.

Kirby Malone (writer/director/projector designer) and **Gail Scott White** (new media scenographer/ animator) are the artistic directors of Cyburbia Productions (cyburbiaproductions.com) in Fairfax, Virginia. Collaborations include the opera Naked Revolution, and original productions Silence & Darkness, a live movie for the cell phone age and Time Traveler Zero Zero. Projection designs include: Encompass New Opera Theatre at NYC Opera's Vox2006/2007; The Heidi Chronicles and Tectonic Theater's workshop, 33 Variations, Arena Stage (DC); Hamlet, Actors Guild of Lexington (KY) and Temple Theatre (NC); José Rivera's Marisol; Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus. They co-edited the book, Live Movies: A Field Guide to New Media for the Performing Arts (www.avt.gmu.edu/mps www.avt.gmu.edu/mps), and wrote "The Case for Live Movies," American Theatre, January 2009.

Kiyoko McCrae graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and works as an arts administrator, actor, theatre arts teacher and community organizer. She is a company member of Junebug Theater in New Orleans.

Jamie Merwin is the Founding Artistic Director of Philadelphia-based olive Dance Theatre and the artist-driven management cooperative Seed Management. She is equally committed to the tradition of Breakin' and the creation of contemporary American theatre. Jamie serves on the Executive Committee for Alternate ROOTS and Board of Directors of Network of Ensemble Theaters' (NET).

Meena Natarajan has guided the artistic and administrative growth of Pangea World Theater, a multi-national, multi-lingual theater in Minneapolis, since 1995. She has adapted poetry, mythology, short stories and written many original scripts. She is passionate about processes that include a search and language for an aesthetic that is truly inclusive.

Joan Osato is Producing Director of The Living Word Project with Artistic Director Marc Bamuthi Joseph. She has brought her multiplicity of producing, production and design talents to Living Word Project Repertory works and projects such as Fear of a Brown Planet, Word Becomes Flesh, Scourge, In Spite of Everything, Regarding Women, the break/s and Life is Living.

Mary Pearson did her theatre training with Giovanni Fusetti at Kiklos Teatro in Italy, and then went on to co-found Fool's Proof Theatre. While in the USA, Mary earned a B.A. in English Literature and Studio Art from Oberlin College, and spent years performing improvised theatre with the Brody Theater in Portland, Oregon.

Martha Richards is the Founder and Executive Director of The Fund for Women Artists. Richards has over thirty years of experience as an arts administrator, including nine years at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (three years as Executive Director), and five years as the Managing Director at StageWest in Springfield, Massachusetts (1989-93). Richards served on the National Endowment for the Arts panel for Theatre Creation and Presentation in July 2000. Richards has a B.A. in Economics from the University of California Berkeley and a J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of Law. She is a member of the California bar, and she was one of the founding directors of California Lawyers for the Arts, serving as its Vice President from 1976-1978.

Michael Rohd is artistic director of Sojourn Theatre, on faculty at Northwestern University, associated with Cornerstone Theater and Ping Chong/Company, author of the book Theatre for Community, Conflict, and Dialogue and developing projects with Woolly Mammoth Theater Company, Kansas City Rep, The House (in Chicago) & Oregon Shakespeare Festival.



SAN FRANCISCO
JUNE 17-22, 2009

NATIONAL
SUMMIT OF
ENSEMBLE
THEATERS

BIOS

Molly Ross is Director and Principal Artist at the University of San Francisco, where she has worked as a visual alchemist inventing innovative and meaningful community identity through shared cultural experiences. She directed the 2008 Halloween Lantern Parade that marched through the city streets. She has a MFA from the Art Institute and a BS in Theater from the University of San Francisco College of Art.

M. Jamil Royesh was born in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has been an actor in BBC dramas, Afghan television, and a performer and teacher for the Mobilizing Arts Project. He has toured to Japan and the USA with the project in India using theatre with young people.

Dominique Serrand Paris native Dominique Serrand (1978-2008). He studied at the National Conservatory of Dramatic Art in Paris. He conceived, directed and designed (sets light and sound) for several productions. Awards include: 2005 Tony Award for Best Lighting Design for "Children of Paradise, shooting a dream." MFA from the University of San Francisco.

Shawn Sides is a founding member of the Seattle-based, collectively-organized, ensemble-based theatre company, The Seattle Ensemble Theatre.

Ashley Sparks is a 2008 honoraria recipient from Virginia Tech. She is an ensemble member of the Seattle Ensemble Theatre in Seattle and Strike Anywhere.

Megan Wanlass Szalla has been a Seattle Ensemble Theatre member for 15 years prior to becoming SITI's Managing Director. She attended the Executive Program for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Ivan Talijancic is a co-founder and artistic director of the art and performance group, The World of Ivan. He has performed in international performance venues and festivals, including the Performing Revolution festival (winter 2009) in France) in the fall 2010.

Carlton Turner is the co-artistic director of the Seattle Ensemble Theatre (Men Under Guidance Acting Before the Fall). He is a blend of jazz, hip-hop, spoken word and performance.

Scott Walters joined the UNC Asheville Theatre from 1998-2002, and the program director of a play analysis book and has directed several productions.

MK Wegmann, President & CEO, National Network of Ensemble Theaters, provides development, artists' services, presenting and providing an important organizing role for the network.

HOSTED BY
NETWORK OF ENSEMBLE THEATERS
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
AND FOOLSFURY



NATIONAL
SUMMIT OF
ENSEMBLE
THEATERS

SAN FRANCISCO
JUNE 17-22, 2009

HOSTED BY
NETWORK OF ENSEMBLE THEATERS
WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO
AND FOOLSFURY



BIOS

Molly Ross is Director and Principal Artist of Baltimore based NANA PROJECTS, a non-profit company of lanterners and visual alchemists inventing innovative artwork that draws people together in public spaces, strengthening their sense of community identity through shared cultural experience. Nana Projects is best known for creating the massively successful Great Halloween Lantern Parade that marches into Patterson Park each October. Molly has an MFA in Sculpture from the School of the Art Institute and a BS in Theater from Northwestern University. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Maryland Institute College of Art.

M. Jamil Royesh was born in Kabul, and graduated from the Theatre Department of Kabul University in 1996. He has been an actor in BBC dramas, Afghan Radio and TV, and an ensemble member of Exile Theater since 2001. He was a performer and teacher for the Mobile Mini Community Circus of Kabul from 2003-2005. With Bond Street Theatre, Jamil toured to Japan and the USA with the premiere production of Beyond the Mirror in 2005, and participates in a US-funded project in India using theatre with youth and women in disadvantaged communities.

Dominique Serrand Paris native Dominique Serrand was Artistic Director and one of the co-founder of Theatre de la Jeune Lune (1978-2008). He studied at the National Circus School and the Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris. Mr. Serrand has acted, conceived, directed and designed (sets lights video) for most Jeune Lune productions for over 30 years, concentrating primarily on directing. Awards include: 2005 Tony award best regional theater, 2005 USA ARTIST Fellow, a Pulitzer Prize nomination for "Children of Paradise, shooting a dream." Mr. Serrand has been knighted by the French Government in the order of Arts and Letters.

Shawn Sides is a founding member and one of six Co-Producing Artistic Directors for Rude Mechs in Austin, TX, a collectively-organized, ensemble-based company creating new work in Austin, TX since 1995.

Ashley Sparks is a 2008 honoraria of the Princess Grace Award and holds an M.F.A. in Directing and Public Dialogue from Virginia Tech. She is an ensemble member of ArtSpot Productions in New Orleans, and has worked with DXM Theatre in Seattle and Strike Anywhere Performance Ensemble in NYC. She is currently the Chair for Alternate ROOTS.

Megan Wanlass Szalla has been a SITI Company member since 1995. Megan was the company stage manager for 5 years prior to becoming SITI's Managing Director. She has an Arts Administration Certificate from New York University, attended the Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders at Stanford University Business School.

Ivan Talijancic is a co-founder and artistic co-director of WaxFactory, a New York based international multidisciplinary art and performance group. The work he has created for the company has been presented at some of the foremost international performance venues and museums. Upcoming projects: QUARTET v4.0 at the Lincoln Center/NYPL Performing Revolution festival (winter 09/10) and PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!, commissioned by Les Subsistances (Lyon, France) in the fall 2010.

Carlton Turner is the co-artistic director, along with his brother Maurice Turner, of the performing group M.U.G.A.B.E.E. (Men Under Guidance Acting Before Early Extinction) a group composed of two brothers performing a theatrical blend of jazz, hip-hop, spoken word poetry and soul music. Carlton is also the Director of Alternate ROOTS.

Scott Walters joined the UNC Asheville faculty in 1998 and served as the chair of UNC Asheville's Drama Department from 1998-2002, and the program director of UNC Asheville's Arts and Ideas Program from 2002-2007. He is co-author of a play analysis book and has directed at TheatreUNCA.

MK Wegmann, President & CEO, National Performance Network (NPN), has 30 years experience in organizational development, artists' services, presenting and producing. NPN supports the creation and touring of contemporary art, providing an important organizing link among communities, artists and presenters in the US.