



**SAN FRANCISCO  
JUNE 17-22, 2009**

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



## **THURSDAY – JUNE 18**

### **8:30 am – 9:00 am | Early Morning Warm-up**

Each morning summit attendees are invited to warm-up before the days activities. These warm-ups will be lead by a different ensemble each day and involve a variety of physical, vocal, and mental warm-up exercises.

### **9:00 am – 11:30 am | Morning Session**

Welcome: Nick Slie and Stephen Beuscher, NET Update: Mark Valdez  
Presentations and Speakers: Luis Alfaro, Traveling Jewish Theater, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Dell'Arte International & others

### **11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Lunch - Project X/Regional Breakouts**

*Project X: You Are Here* is a living time capsule and interactive museum created by Hand2Mouth and filled in with the stories, memories and experiences of visitors. This site-mobile performance will be used to help document the happenings and visitors at the annual Network of Ensemble Theaters Summit.

**Companies located in the following regions are scheduled for a regional meet & greet during this lunch break. Today the following regions will gather: Northwest, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, Southern Mid-West.**

### **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Early Afternoon Session**

#### **Case Studies and Conversations: Our Field Now and in the Future**

*Moderators: Caron Atlas, Sandra Gibson, Kathie de Nobriga, and Scott Stoner*

What currently are the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing the ensemble theater community nationally?  
What have we learned from projects funded to support innovative collaborations and partnerships?

This session will summarize findings and conclusions drawn from a gathering of grantees from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters' Ensemble Theatre Collaborations (ETC) Program, as well as from case studies of ETC grantees and others (the studies funded under a consortium grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to Arts Presenters and the NET).

Through small group discussions, participants will have an opportunity to reflect and respond to the above - the results of which will be further incorporated into a final report to the field.

Presenters and Discussion Facilitators: Caron Atlas and Kathie deNobriga, Arts Consultants; Sandra L. Gibson, President and CEO, Association of Performing Arts Presenters; Scott D. Stoner, Chief Programs Officer, Association of Performing Arts Presenters; Mark Valdez, National Coordinator, Network of Ensemble Theaters.



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## **THURSDAY – JUNE 18**

**3:00 pm – 3:10 | Break**

**3:10 pm – 5:00 pm | Late Afternoon Session – Studios**

### *Ensemble Creative Collisions*

Over the course of 4-days these “Collisions” are a space for different methodologies to be shared by practitioners in a laboratory setting. Have you ever wondered how another physical-based ensemble creates work? Or how a particular ensemble generates the original music used in their performances? Creative Collisions is your chance to experience not only how others are creating work – but also share your methods. These are reciprocal teaching sessions in which all participants are expected to bring their tools, methods, and processes to the room. Through the theme of “REVOLTING” participants will develop their own unique performance to be shared with the other Collision groups on the last day of the Summit.

### **Skill Building Workshops**

#### **Tradition Be Damned:**

#### **Stage Managing for Ensemble Theatres**

*Facilitated by: Liam Kaas-Lentz*

For decades, the training of stage managers has been based around one fundamental idea: having a script in hand before the rehearsal process starts. But what if you don't? How does a classically trained stage manager alter his or her craft to fit a rehearsal process from which there is no script-based action? How does a devising company best utilize a stage manager in the creation of a new piece of work? This workshop will explore all that and more, as we look into the ways a stage manager operates in the ensemble setting, as well as how the craft of stage management may be bettered, as a whole, by devising and ensemble methodology.

#### **Memory and Gestures**

*Facilitated by: Meena Natarajan*

In this workshop, we will explore place and movement in relation to the personal histories of the participants. We will use drawings, movement and gestures to explore our stories and create a narrative using a symbolic gestural vocabulary. Working with memories, we will explore the connection of movement to remembrance of the past and its continuity with the present and give participants a chance to create individual gestures. These solo gestures will be linked to form a collective narrative. Come prepared to move. No drawing skills necessary. This workshop will also explore and uncover conversations around process.

#### **Parade Laboratory**

*Facilitated by: Molly Ross*

PARADE LABORATORY is a condensed version of Nana Project's Parade School a weeklong intensive focusing on providing training and critical evaluation of best and inspiring practices in the field of Parade Arts. PARADE LAB introduces Parade Arts as a tool for community engagement and a tool to explore new approaches to artistic practice. Through this intensive, hands on workshop participants devise, create, and explore practices related to community celebrations and Parade Arts. This skill-based workshop is perfect for anyone interested in new mediums for community-based creative enterprise, expression and communication.

#### **Performing Arts, Incarceration and Civic Engagement**

*Facilitated by: Amie Dowling*

This workshop includes dialogue about authorship/self-representation, social conditions and performance, video excerpts of theater/dance work created and performed by men and women in the Hampshire County Jail and San Francisco Jails # 5 and #8, and experiencing structures used in developing work with people who are incarcerated.



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**FRIDAY – JUNE 19**

**8:30 am – 9:00 am | Early Morning Warm-up**

**9:00 am – 10:00 am | Performance Responses**

*Discuss "Beyond the Mirror" and "Undine/You Don't Know Jack"*

**10:00 am – 10:30 am | Catalyst Conversations: Arlene Goldbard**

Over the course of the Summit three dynamically different speakers will be reflecting on the state of arts and culture as it relates to ensemble theatre-making.

**10:30 am – Noon | Morning Session**

*Creating in a Challenging Economic Climate*  
*Moderator: Lisa Mount*

Across the country ensembles are wrestling with the shifting landscape of available funding for the arts. As cut-backs happen on local, regional, and a national levels we are each finding new ways to work. We can complain, we can cry, and we can get creative! This ensemble jam session is an opportunity for companies to share the techniques we are using to survive and dream new methods of working that will allow us to flourish in the next economy. As the creative class we can be thought leaders in this transition Lisa Mount will moderate this interactive dialogue among all summit attendees.

**Noon – 1:30 pm | Lunch**

*Project X/Regional Breakout*

*Project X: You Are Here* is a living time capsule and interactive museum created by Hand2Mouth and filled in with the stories, memories and experiences of visitors. This site-mobile performance will be used to help document the happenings and visitors at the annual Network of Ensemble Theaters Summit.

**Arlene Goldbard** ([www.arlene-goldbard.com](http://www.arlene-goldbard.com)) is a writer, speaker and consultant focusing on culture, politics and spirituality. Her books include *New Creative Community: The Art of Cultural Development* (New Village Press 2006), *Community, Culture and Globalization*, an international anthology (Rockefeller Foundation 2002) and *Clarity*, a novel. Her essays have appeared in *In Motion Magazine*, *Art in America*, *Theatre*, *Tikkun*, and other journals. Her current projects include: a book about artists working to heal the prison-industrial complex; a film about Rabbi Arthur Waskow and powerful political spirituality; and promoting Cultural Recovery for the U.S. She is Board President of The Shalom Center.

**Regional Breakout: Companies located in the following regions are scheduled for a regional meet & greet during today's break: Southeast, Southwest, California, New England**



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**FRIDAY – JUNE 19**

**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Early Afternoon Sessions**

***Option One: Community Responsiveness***

***Panelists: Linda Parris-Bailey, Joan Osato, Shawn Sides***

***Moderator: Ashley Sparks***

Ensembles frequently build work in response to community issues or concerns. Three different ensembles will talk about their methodology of responding to the needs of their respective communities. Partial panel and partial group dialogue, attendees will engage with each other in defining who they believe their community is and how their work is generated in response to community needs and desires.

***Option Two: 3 Models for University Partnerships***

***Panelists Kiyoko McCrae, Megan Wanlass Szalla, Scott Walters***

***Moderator: Bob Leonard***

Partnerships between ensemble and universities are obvious: both are committed to community, to learning, and both value the importance of diverse voices and perspectives. This session will look at three models for university ensemble collaborations: 1) *Ensemble Sustainability*. Megan Wanlass Szalla from the SITI Company will speak about the ensemble's evolving partnership with Columbia to create a new program that also allows the company to deepen their roots to their home city. 2) *Ensemble Advancement*. Scott Walters from the University of North Carolina, Asheville is currently laying the foundation for universities to be a resource to promote the creation and support for rural ensembles. 3) *Ensembles Legacy*. After 30 years of working with community, Junebug Theater is partnering with local universities to create the Free Southern Theater Institute. Kiyoko McCrae will discuss this collaboration.

***Option Three: Live Movies: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and New Media Performance***

***Multimedia Talk & Presentation: Kirby Malone and Gail Scott White***

"Live Movies" montages digital images and video clips to depict and discuss new media for, and in, theater, opera, dance and performance art by Cyburbia Productions, and other artists and companies in the field. Through what has been done, comes how it might be done. Particular emphasis is focused on to how to do a lot with a little, in our socially wired and economically gloomy phantasmagoria. The "Live Movies" presentation is part survey, part portfolio, part introduction to theatrical new media production, and discussion. Founded in 1999, by Kirby Malone and Gail Scott White, in Fairfax, Virginia, Cyburbia's focus is the collaborative creation of "live movies," syntheses of cinema, theater and music. The company's work employs digital projection and sound technologies, and filmic narrative techniques such as flashback, lip-synch and slow motion. Multiple, synchronized projections are cast onto scrims, sculptural set elements, stage floors, and performers' bodies and their costumes. Live actors, singers and musicians cross-fade and interact with animated performers, and emerge from, or vanish into projected environments, settings and dreamscapes.



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**FRIDAY – JUNE 19**

**3:00 - 3:10 | Break**

**3:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Late Afternoon Sessions – Studios**

*Ensemble Creative Collisions (Day Two)*

**Option One: Making the Ask**  
*An Interactive Workshop about Fundraising from Individuals*  
*Moderator: Martha Richards*

Raising money from individuals requires different skills than writing proposals to foundations or government agencies. In this interactive workshop, we will discuss ways to identify and approach individual donors for your work. After a brief review of the general principles, we will discuss the participants' projects to help them think about who might be interested in their work, how to make contact, and how much to ask for.

**Option Two: Song Sharing**  
*Moderator: Cristal Truscott*

Bring songs, bring your voice, bring your energy to share in this round-robin style workshop. Participants are invited to share and teach songs they use in their ensemble trainings, productions, or just your favorite tunes you sing in the shower.

**Option Three: Parade Laboratory**  
*Facilitated by: Molly Ross*

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**SATURDAY – JUNE 20**

**8:30 am – 9:00 am | Early Morning Warm-up**

**9:00 am – 10:00 am | Performance Responses**

*Discuss "Fuku Americanus" and "Faust"*

**10:00 am – 10:30 am | Catalyst Conversations: Rhodessa Jones**

Over the course of the Summit three dynamically different speakers will be reflecting on the state of arts and culture as it relates to ensemble theatre-making.

**10:30 am – Noon | Morning Session**

*Ensembles in Transition: Juene Lune in conversation*

*Moderator: Steven Buescher*

Growth, change, and artistic integrity are essential elements of ensemble dynamics, yet we don't always know how to address these issues nor what actions to take once these matters arise. Theatre de la Jeune Lune's co-creator Dominique Serrand and long time core artistic team member Steve Epp will share their insights and their personal experiences in the art and artistry of ensemble theater making and transitions.

**Noon – 1:15 pm | Lunch**

*Project X*

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**1:15 pm – 3:15 pm | Early Afternoon Sessions**

*Bridging Ensembles: Politics and Aesthetics*

*Instigators: Michael Rohd, Carlton Turner*

This participatory session is designed to instigate, ignite, and generate honest conversation about one of the biggest challenges we face as a community. As ensembles we are all driven to create theatre for different reasons. One of the difficult conversations the ensemble community faces is talking about the different aesthetics of our work when we share different values related to the development and creation process of our work. This session is a step at fostering a dialogue and building bridges.

**RHODESSA JONES** is Co-Artistic Director of the San Francisco acclaimed performance company Cultural Odyssey. She is an actress, teacher, singer, and writer. Ms. Jones is also the Founder and Director of the award winning Medea Project: Theater for Incarcerated Women, which is a performance workshop that is designed to achieve personal and social transformation with incarcerated women. In September 2009 Ms. Jones will travel to Moscow, Russia as a part of the U.S. Department of State Speaker's Program where she will conduct residency activities, lecture, and perform at The New Drama Festival.



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## **SATURDAY – JUNE 20**

**3:15 - 3:30 | Break**

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Late Afternoon Sessions**

*Ensemble Creative Collisions (Day 3)*

*Open Space Technology*

Open Space Technology (OST) is a method for organizing a meeting or conference where participants create their own program of work sessions. In these simultaneous sessions people explore issues and opportunities that interest them the most. An Open Space event brings people together, often in large numbers and representing great diversity, to contribute their views, share their ideas and develop plans for creative and collaborative action. The principles and practices of OST can be used to facilitate self-organization in the workplace or the community.

All Summit Attendees are invited to propose a topic for an Open Space session.

Information about rooms available for Open Space convenings is listed outside of the studio theatre.

## **SUNDAY – JUNE 21**

**8:30 pm – 9:00 pm | Early Morning Warm-up**

**9:00 am – 10:00 am | Performance Responses**

Discuss: "Barber of East LA", "Je Suis Dead" and "Shuron"

**10:00 am – 10:30 am | Catalyst Conversations: Mark Russell**

**10:30 – Noon | Morning Session**

*International Companies - Cultural Exchange and Connections*

*Panelists:*

*Claudio Valdés Kuri, Mary Pearson, M. Jamil Royesh, Ivan Talihancic*

*Moderated by: MK Wegmann*

How do we foster International "exchange" that goes beyond touring to reach a deeper level of engagement that involves collaboration and more meaningful engagement? What does "cultural exchange" mean? What does it look like? What required for this to happen?

This prestigious group of artists working abroad will offer their insights as we take steps to promote and build cultural exchange.

**Mark Russell** works and lives in New York City where he produces the Under the Radar Festival at the Public Theater. He was the guest Artistic Director of PICA's 2008 Time-Based Art Festival. From 1983-2004 Russell was the Executive/Artistic Director of Performance Space 122. Russell is married to Jennifer P. Goodale and they have a five-year-old son, Nicholas.



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## **SUNDAY – JUNE 21**

### **Noon – 1:00 pm | Lunch**

#### *Project X*

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### **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | Early Afternoon Sessions**

#### *Ensemble Creative Collisions (conclusion)*

#### **Option One: Workshop: Hip-Hop 101** *Facilitator: Jamie Merwin*

Through this physically and conceptually rigorous workshop we will explore techniques of the Hip-hop form of Breakin' coupled with historical information and the presentation of work samples of this form in contemporary theatre. Participants will learn the "ABC's of Breakin'," with an emphasis on character and strength – and by the end of the session, participants will be ready to put together their own breakin' combinations.

#### **Option Two: Workshop: My Partner is a Puppet (or, playing a scene with an inanimate object)** *Facilitator: Eric Bass*

A workshop in how you can interact with puppets and how a scene changes if some of the characters are actors and some puppets. We'll provide a selection of puppets to play with. No previous puppet experience is required.

#### **Option Three: Parade Laboratory** *Facilitator: Molly Ross*

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### **3:00 pm – 3:30 | Artburst!**

### **3:30 pm – 5:00 pm | ABC'S BREAKOUT GROUPS**

*Moderators: Hollis Headrick, Caron Atlas, Kathie DeNobriga and Lisa Mount*

NET is creating a series of professional development offerings to ensure and promote ensemble sustainability. This session is your chance to weigh in on the program design, to make your needs known and to learn more about this new offering.

### **4:00 pm – 6:00 pm | Closing Session**

All conference session will close out the Summit with field updates from Voices from the Battlefield and Fractured Atlas, as well as the NET Gatherings for 2010.

Erik Ehn will be our closing key-note speaker sharing his thoughts and responses to the Summit.