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Contact: Joseph Hall
Programs Manager
P: 718-636-4181 x2234
press@651ARTS.org

651 ARTS Announces its 2014 Fall Season: Love in the Time of Brooklyn

Brooklyn, NY, September 22, 2014 - This season, 651 ARTS reflects on its home, Brooklyn. The organization was founded in 1988 with the charge to present contemporary performing arts generated by artists of African descent. Since its inception, 651 ARTS has remained a national and international leader in supporting and presenting dynamic black artists and producing award-winning projects like choreographer **Camille A. Brown's** *Mr. TOL E. RAnCE*, nominated for this year's BESSIE Awards. Now, as 651 ARTS prepares to occupy new administrative and performance space in 2017, they reflect on the borough they've called home for 25 years.

"We're proud to be a staple in the community and provide contemporary arts experiences that reflect life in Brooklyn. This season is full of artists who are imagining and reimagining personal and community identity in the 21st Century," says Shay Wafer, 651 ARTS Executive Director.

The fall season brings playwrights, poets, musicians, dancers, and arts administrators into dialogue and performance rooted in personal reflections, changing social climates, and major historic events. The season kicks off with a remount of the popular **Soundtrack '63** at The New School after receiving major funding through a Kickstarter campaign with additional support by the University Senate. The show features new music arrangements of songs essential to the civil rights movement by Soul Science Lab and archival footage designed as a multimedia installation by Elektric Breakfast.

In collaboration with MAPP Productions and the Brooklyn Museum, **Triple Consciousness** examines the role and identity of Black women with a three part dialogue series. Leading voices in the arts, academia, and popular culture discuss black women on "stage" and in pop-culture, and reframe black feminism(s) in the 21st Century. The series is curated by **Ebony Noelle Golden**, Executive Officer of Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative.

This year the acclaimed playwright **Ntozake Shange** celebrates the 40th anniversary of her choreopoem **for colored girls...**, and returns to 651 ARTS with a new work-in-progress **Lost in Language and Sound**. Ms. Shange is joined by director Rhodessa Jones and choreographer, Dianne McIntyre to explore the intuition of an artist of color in the 21st century through poetry and monologues.

We round out our fall season with international choreographers **Panaibra Gabriel Canda** (Mozambique) and **Faustin Linyekula** (Congo) in **Look Back, Dance Forward: TALES OF HOME | Congo/Mozambique**. Co-presented by BRIC with the US tour produced by MAPP International Productions in partnership with The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium, this two-evening program features performances that grapple with the political and personal as it relates to colonized Africa as home.

651 ARTS
651 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Telephone:
718 636-4181

Fax:
718 636-4166

Email:
info@651ARTS.org

THEATER

DANCE

MUSIC

COMMUNITY

Soundtrack '63

October 3 & 4, 2014 | 7:30PM

Tishman Auditorium at The New School – 66 W 12th St. New York, NY 10011

Tickets | \$20 general, \$10 students

In February 2013, in the midst of a major snowstorm, 651 ARTS, in collaboration with Soul Science Lab and Elektric Breakfast, premiered one of its most successful productions to date – **Soundtrack '63**. On October 3rd & 4th they remount this incredible production at The New School. The performance features a host of amazing artists who breathe new life into the sights and sounds that shaped the music of an era. Celebrate the peak of the civil rights movement and re-live musical classics that were popular prior to, during, and following the revolutionary year 1963 with new arrangements. Let the music carry you away as we transport you back in time with a live video installation that will immerse your senses and make you re-think, re-new, and re-mix the power of an era.

Soundtrack '63 is produced by 651 ARTS and co-presented with the EUGENE LANG COLLEGE THE NEW SCHOOL FOR LIBERAL ARTS at The New School

Triple Consciousness

October 18, November 8 & 15, 2014 | All programs begins at 2PM

Brooklyn Museum – 200 Eastern Pkwy, New York, NY 11238

Tickets free with Museum admission | RSVP required

Derived from W.E.B. Dubois's concept of "Double Consciousness", "Triple Consciousness" speaks more acutely to the experience of black women as both black and American but also female. Through a series of three public dialogs, **Triple Consciousness** delves into and looks beyond the current representations of Black female identity in mainstream media and culture. Each conversation features a different theme to explore black women on "stage" and in pop-culture, and to reframe black feminism(s) in the 21st Century. Formats and discussants vary for a dynamic conversation with audience participation.

Body Rock: The Politics of Black Female Identity on "Stage"

October 18, 2014 | 2PM

Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium, 3rd Floor

This panel discussion, moderated by playwright and Medger Evers College professor **Nina Angela Mercer**, examines the ways in which black female identity is both desired and treated with disdain in public space, whether on the stage, in the digital sphere, or on the street. Participants include **Reverend Desiree Allen**; theater director **Charlotte Braithwaite**; and Digital Advertising Creative Director, **Shannon Washington**.

Mythologies of the “DIVA”: Reexamining the Image of Black Women in Pop-Culture

November 8, 2014 | 2PM

Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Pavilion, 1st Floor

This conversation, moderated by human rights activist and broadcaster **Shani Jamila**, uses the “Long Table” format, which invites the audience to the table with preselected discussants to encourage an informal dialog on a serious subject. Participants will consider the archetypal role of the “diva” in pop culture, and will examine, criticize and recreate a narrative around their own ideas of the “diva” as they pertain to black female identity. Discussants include performers **April Matthis** and **Okwui Okpokwasili**; **Kameelah Rasheed**, Creative Director of Mambu Badu and studio instructor at the Brooklyn Museum; **Amanda Seales**, artist and media culture critic; and **Adaku Utah**, founder of the community healing space, SouLar Bliss.

Beyond Binaries & Boxes: Deconstructing and Re-envisioning Black Feminism(s)

November 15, 2014 | 2PM

Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, Forum, 4th Floor

This forum, moderated by the series curator **Ebony Noelle Golden**, asks participants to reframe and envision a 21st Century practice of Black Feminism(s) based in creativity, abundance and collective liberation. Participants include **Tanya Fields**, activist for food justice and economic development; **Florence Noel**, Northeast Director of Girls Who Code; **Jamiliah Lemieux**, Journalist and Editor of Ebony.com; and **Aiesha Turman**, Executive Director of Black Girl Project.

Lost in Language and Sound

October 24 | 7PM

Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts – Long Island University, One University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Tickets | \$20

Lost in Language and Sound, a choreoessay, is an exploration of the aesthetics, politics and primal intuition of an artist of color in the 21st century through poetry, monologues and inquiry. The ensemble of twelve, including poets, actors, musicians and dancers, challenges the many barriers confronting artists of color through a multidisciplinary prism. The text by acclaimed playwright **Ntozake Shange** is drawn from her acclaimed collection of essays, *Lost in Language and Sound*, from works spanning her entire career.

Directed by **Rhodesa Jones** with musical arrangements by **Michael Ray** and choreography by **Dianne McIntyre**.

Lost in Language and Sound is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by 651 ARTS in partnership with Kelly Strayhorn Theater and NPN. The Creation Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). The Forth Fund is supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For more information: www.npnweb.org.

Look Back, Dance Forward: TALES OF HOME | Congo/Mozambique

October 24 & 25 | 8PM

BRIC – 647 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY 11217

Tickets | \$25 general, \$20 students/seniors

A two-evening program with works by **Faustin Linyekula** (Democratic Republic of Congo) and **Panaibra Gabriel Canda** (Mozambique)

I am Kabako, my name is Kabako, again Kabako, always Kabako
-**Faustin Linyekula**, *Le Cargo*

My name is Panaibra Gabriel Canda. The son of Gabriel Canda, a Marrabante singer and guitar player born in Inhambana- immigrated to Lourenco Marques, today Maputo; my mother was a dress maker, and protestant, together they had four kids...

- **Panaibra Canda**, *The Marrabenta Solos*

So begins each work in **Tales of Home: Congo/Mozambique**—a unique two-evening program of dance-theater featuring extraordinary contemporary artists from the African continent. In both full length works, Linyekula and Canda grapple with the complex histories of their countries by re-igniting memories of and/or experiences with their fathers. They present, in very different ways, intimate, and personal points of view on colonialized Africa, on their home countries, on family and national histories, and on our global society—and in the process, reveal the rigor and passions of their contemporary lives.

Linyekula and **Canda** are internationally recognized artists who play vital roles in their communities. Beyond their aesthetic inquiries, they share a certain perspective on their society, on their histories, on their peculiar contexts; and they share a vision of the artist-citizen and of what a society could/should be...one day.

Co-presented by 651 ARTS and BRIC. US tour produced by MAPP International Productions in partnership with The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium.

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About 651 ARTS:

651 ARTS is committed to developing, producing and presenting performance and cultural programming from the African Diaspora, with a primary focus on contemporary performing arts. 651 ARTS serves the cultural life of New York City, with a particular focus on Brooklyn, one of America's most culturally diverse communities.



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