

# LIVE & ON STAGE

## NPN ANNUAL MEETING PERFORMANCE SHOWCASES



The Civic Theatre, 510 O'Keefe Ave, New Orleans, LA  
Friday, December 13, 2013; 6:00-9:00pm  
Saturday, December 14, 2013; 3:30-6:30pm



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### Friday, December 13, 6pm

Kataalyst Alcindor (New Orleans, LA)  
ArtSpot Productions (New Orleans, LA)  
Tsunami Dance (New Orleans, LA)  
INTERMISSION  
Michaela Harrison (New Orleans, LA)  
Sean Dorsey Dance (San Francisco, CA)

### Saturday, December 14, 3:30pm

Antonio Garza (New Orleans, LA)  
Nejla Yarkin (NY2Dance) (New York, NY)  
The Mudlark Puppeteers (New Orleans, LA)  
INTERMISSION  
Mondo Bizarro (New Orleans, LA)  
Holcombe Waller (Portland, OR)



# FRIDAY

DECEMBER 13, 6:00PM

## #NewPlay TV!

[www.livestream.com/newplay](http://www.livestream.com/newplay)

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Showcase Manager:

**Anna Henschel**

Production Manager:

**Evan Spigelman**

Stage Manager:

**Rebecca McLaughlin**

Civic Theatre House managers:

**Gail Varuso, Winter Adler**

# Kataalyst Alcindor

## As The Clouds Do & Greater Than Hurricanes

Ehren "Kataalyst" Alcindor is a New Orleans native whose poetry explores topics that directly address the downtrodden. Ranging from themes of sexual abuse, emotional compartmentalization, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome, cultural misappropriation, African diaspora empowerment, transformation, migration and catharsis, all through the use of spoken word. Kataalyst was champion of the 2010 Tennessee Williams Literary Festival Poetry Slam and is a

founding member of the city's first slam poetry team since Hurricane Katrina. He also directed the 21st Annual Southern Fried Poetry Slam, the second largest poetry event in the world, and facilitated writing programs in the Youth Study Center, a juvenile detention facility in New Orleans. In addition to concert offerings, workshops and site-specific work, he is also available for artist residencies. His work can be seen on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) as well as [luxuryawaits.com/versesandflow](http://luxuryawaits.com/versesandflow).

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Kataalyst Alcindor**  
504.485.9511  
[deeper.than.soil@gmail.com](mailto:deeper.than.soil@gmail.com)

# ArtSpot Productions

## Go Ye Therefore... (excerpt)

Writers and Performers:

**Kathy Randels, Rebecca Mwase**

Director:

**Ashley Sparks**

Designer:

**Jeff Becker**

Choreographer:

**Monique Moss**

Costumes:

**Laura Sirkin-Brown**

Music:

**Emanuel "Manny" Burke**

Original Lighting Design:

**Hannah Adams**

*Go Ye Therefore...* is told through the eyes of two women, one black and one white, bound by a foundation in Christianity and distanced by a legacy of colonialism and missionary zeal. It is an exploration of their identities as daughters and granddaughters of Southern Baptist preachers, and a critique of the interactions between "missionaries" and "natives" in post-Katrina New Orleans, and colonial and revolutionary Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

*Go Ye Therefore...* premiered in May 2010 in a New Orleans neighborhood deeply flooded by Hurricane Katrina. Jeff Becker's production design was installed in and around a gutted and partly renovated residence; the audience followed the performers around the grounds as the theatrical journey transpired. Since then, the production has toured widely, with the production design creatively adapted to sites and theater venues.

ArtSpot Productions is an ensemble of artists dedicated to creating meticulously live theater in New Orleans. Productions are a blend of disciplines developed through ensemble authorship, rigorous physical training, original music, interactive sculptural environments, and extended research and rehearsal. *Go Ye Therefore...* is an NPN Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by Ashé Cultural Arts Center (New Orleans), 7 Stages (Atlanta) and NPN.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Sean LaRocca**  
504.826.7783  
[sean@artspotproductions.org](mailto:sean@artspotproductions.org)  
[www.artspotproductions.org](http://www.artspotproductions.org)

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# Tsunami Dance Company

## Holding Chaos (Movement 1)

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Choreographer:

**Kettye Voltz**

Dancers:

**Cristine Barona, Eric Thielman**

The first movement of *Holding Chaos* began as a reflection of the threads of different relationships. The work incorporates pedestrian interactions and movement patterns that are looped and twisted into something new. Tsunami Dance Company is a New Orleans-based modern dance company incorporating athletic, innovative movement with a dynamic, contemporary style in its original works. Tsunami endeavors to be a high-quality modern dance company for the city of New Orleans by offering regular performances of insightful choreography, skilled dancing, and collaborations with artists of other genres.

Since its founding, the company has emerged as a driving force in the renaissance of modern dance in New Orleans. Tsunami is a three-time Big Easy Award winner for Best Modern Dance Production, and director Kettye Voltz is a four-time nominee for Best Original Work. Collaborating artist John Allen is a two-time Big Easy award recipient for his works in Tsunami concerts. Recently, Voltz and Allen were both recognized with Louisiana Division of the Arts fellowships in choreography in 2007 and 2008. Recently, the company has appeared as featured artists in New York City's Cool New York Festival, Houston's Fringe Festival, and The New Dance Festival at The Marigny Opera House.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Kettye Voltz**

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[www.tsunamidance.com](http://www.tsunamidance.com)



# INTERMISSION



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# Michaela A. Harrison

## The Healing Room

Concept, original music and arrangement of traditional music:

**Michaela A. Harrison**

Percussion:

**Alexey Marti**

Guitar:

**Joy Clark**

Cello:

**Monica McIntyre**

Michaela A. Harrison is a New Orleans-based vocalist, healer, educator, writer and actor. Her work focuses on music as a tool for healing and teaching, with a particular emphasis on the history and culture of the African diaspora in addressing individual and societal pathologies resulting from the enduring legacies of slavery and colonization.

*The Healing Room* is an excerpt of a work-in-progress that illuminates Harrison's personal journey of physical and emotional healing, using creative expression and practices rooted in traditional African and Native American spirituality as antidotes for the effects of Post-Traumatic Slave Disorder. Through song and spoken word, the piece explores generational illnesses and how ritual, music, relationship with nature, and identification with divinity assist in the transmutation of suffering into wellness.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

Michaela A. Harrison  
irawoomi@hotmail.com  
www.michaelaharrison.net

# Sean Dorsey

## The Secret History of Love

Choreographer, writer, soundscore designer, narrator:

**Sean Dorsey**

Performers:

**Sean Dorsey, Juan De La Rosa, Brian Fisher, Nol Simonse**

Special musical guest:

**Shawna Virago**

Composers:

**Jesse Olsen Bay, Storm Miguel Florez, Alex Kelly, Ben Kessler, Keith Kenniff, Jeffrey Mooney, Ramon & Jessica**

Technical Direction:

**Emily Paulson**

Lighting Design:

**Clyde Sheets**

Costume Design:

**Tiffany Amundson**

Soundscore features excerpts of oral history interviews with Felicia Elizondo, Nicky Frausto, Laura Godfredsen, Jamison Green, Frank Lapiana, Marilyn Monteiro, Pamela Quiton, Diego Sanchez

Voice of The Doctor:

**Tina D'Elia**

*The Secret History Of Love* reveals the underground ways that LGBT people managed to survive and find love and community in decades past, despite tremendous obstacles. The work is now touring to 20 cities across the U.S.

Dorsey created *The Secret History Of Love* through a two-year National LGBT Elders Oral History Project, in which he traveled across the U.S. and asked transgender, lesbian and gay seniors about their lives, loves and activism. *The Secret History Of Love* features the actual voices and remarkable real-life stories that Dorsey recorded in these interviews – along with powerful, moving and hilarious episodes from the LGBT community's history of finding love and community, against enormous odds.

Sean Dorsey is a San Francisco-based choreographer, dancer and writer. Recognized as the nation's first acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer, Dorsey has won audiences and accolades from San Francisco to New York with his powerful dances that are a fusion of dance, storytelling and theater. He has been named "San Francisco's Best Dance Company" (SF Weekly) and named one of the international dance scene's most promising choreographers by BalletTanz, Europe's leading dance magazine.

*The Secret History Of Love* is an NPN Creation Fund Project co-commissioned by The Theater Offensive (Boston), the Queer Cultural Center (San Francisco), Links Hall (Chicago) and NPN, with additional support from the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, the Creative Work Fund, the San Francisco Arts Commission, and Fresh Meat Productions.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Sean Dorsey**  
artistic director  
415.355.0071  
sean@seandorseydance.com  
www.seandorseydance.com



# SATURDAY

DECEMBER 14, 3:30PM

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# Antonio Garza

## Men in Uniform

What is it like to be hassled by men in uniform for not looking American enough? Antonio Garza, who grew up in southernmost Texas and lived in El Paso, spent most of his life on the U.S./Mexico border. In *Men in Uniform*, an hour-long one-man show, Garza explores this question and its subtler implications.

From nerve-racking interrogations by customs agents during his adolescence to sexually-charged encounters with federal flight security agents, Garza pieces together a narrative of his experience with men in uniform. As he relives a detention and arrest by U.S. Border Patrol agents in the months following 9/11, he exposes the logic and impact of racial profiling in the U.S., from the viewpoint of the profiled. These real life confrontations, and the wrongful arrest lawsuit that followed, push the narrator to come to terms with many things, including his relationship to African American political movements, notions of citizenship, and yes, his mother.

Garza has performed at the New Orleans Fringe Festival, the Minneapolis Fringe Festival, and at theaters in South Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, and France. His essays and narrative non-fiction have appeared in magazines and journals on both sides of the border.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Antonio Garza**  
504-915-3539  
antonioagarza@gmail.com

# Nejla Yatkin (NY2Dance)

## Oasis: Everything you ever wanted to know about the Middle East but were afraid to dance

Concept, Choreography, Direction:  
**Nejla Y. Yatkin**

Dancers:  
**Shay Bares, Sevin Cevinker, Ahmaud Culver, Fadi Khoury, Rachel Holmes, Karina Lesko, Nejla Y. Yatkin**

Music:  
**Shamou**

Lighting design:  
**Ben Levine**

Video design:  
**Patrick Lovejoy**

Animation:  
**Iga Pusalski, Julien Smasal**

Costume design:  
**Ursula Verduzco, Nejla Y. Yatkin**

Text:  
**Nejla Y. Yatkin**

NY2Dance is short for Nejla Yasemin Yatkin Dance, a bridging of cultures from East and West and a virtuosic dance theatre company of engagingly individual dancers from around the world who explore the abstract telling of humanity's story. The company explores topics of identity, transformation, migration and multiculturalism through a dynamic mix of multi-media and diverse theater techniques. In addition to concert offerings, NY2Dance offers workshops, site-specific dances and residencies tailor-made for each community.

*Oasis* invokes the idea of "mystical realism" in literature, existing in multiple realities: magical elements blend seamlessly with the real world so that the "real" and the "fantastic" exist in the same stream of thought. Through the prisms of desert (real) and oasis (mystical), the piece explores issues of identity, veiling, torture, repression, revolution and spirituality, moving through what is familiar; what is imagined or mythical; what is actual; what is out of the Middle East and what is inside it.

*Oasis* is an NPN Creation Fund Project, co-commissioned by Dance Place (Washington DC), Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, ME) and NPN, with additional support from the University of Notre Dame and the Illinois Arts Council, USArtist, 3Arts Project, Turkish Cultural Foundation and the American Turkish Society.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Nejla Yatkin**  
nejla@ny2dance.com

**Ling Tang**  
ny2dance@gmail.com  
www.ny2dance.com



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# Mudlark Puppeteers

## The Mysterious Axeman's Jazz

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Performers:

**Pandora Andrea Gastelum, Aaron Damon  
Porter, Rheanna Keefe-Powers**

The year is 1918. A series of brutal axe murders holds New Orleans in a state of terror. Who is the killer and what are his motives? Is he a Mafia hit man, a mad sadist, or what he claims to be in his letter to the press: "a fell demon from the hottest Hell"? As police are baffled and armed citizens walk the night keeping watch over their families, the burning question on everyone's mind is "Who will be the next to fall under the blows of the terrible axe?"

Based on true events, *The Mysterious Axeman's Jazz* is the product of extensive research into this unsolved murder case, using excerpts from New Orleans' newspapers and police records never reported on after their initial publication. This work exposes aspects of the case all-but-forgotten in contemporary accounts, including the shocking police conspiracy that led to the near-execution of three innocent men. The words of the press are put into conversation with statements by local law enforcement and with public opinions and folklore of the time, to create an elaborate view into this exceptional moment of Louisiana history. Told through rod and shadow puppetry to a score of original music and popular songs of the era, *The Mysterious Axeman's Jazz* is *Mudlark Puppeteers'* most recent work.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Pandora Gastelum**

artistic director

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[www.themudlarkconfectionary.com](http://www.themudlarkconfectionary.com)

# INTERMISSION



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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](http://www.npnweb.org)



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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



# Mondo Bizarro

## Cry You One

From the creators of the 2009 hit *Loup Garou* comes *Cry You One*, a new outdoor performance and online storytelling platform that journeys into the heart of our disappearing wetlands. Part song, part story, part procession for our lost land, *Cry You One* celebrates the people and cultures of South Louisiana while turning clear eyes on the crisis of the vanishing coast. This unforgettable look at the interconnectedness

of land and culture in Louisiana is produced by award-winning theater ensembles Mondo Bizarro and ArtSpot Productions and recently finished a sold-out run in Lower St. Bernard Parish. *Cry You One* is currently available for touring and has touring support through NEFA's National Theater Project, Creative Capital and Alternate ROOTS.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

**Sean LaRocca**  
504.826.7783  
info@cryyouone.com  
www.cryyouone.com

# Holcombe Waller

## Surfacing

Writer, composer, performer, director:

**Holcombe Waller**

Music director, performer:

**Ben Landsverk**

Performer, associate production manager:

**Alexandra Deahl**

Video designer, creative coder:

**Pablo Molina**

Associate lighting designer, production manager:

**Katelan Braymer**

Sound designer:

**Casi Pacilio**

Lighting design:

**Christopher Kuhl**

Video design:

**Holcombe Waller, Nathan Ruyle, Pablo Molina**

Scenic design:

**Bowen Ames**

Additional video performance:

**Galen Cohen, Penny Arcade**

*Surfacing* is the creative echo of a single evening of theater, conversation and storytelling one January evening in Manhattan. On this particular night, Holcombe and his friend Penny Arcade attended The Living Theater's premiere of playwright Judith Molina's work *Korach*. After the play, Holcombe gathered with others in Molina's apartment; the discussions ranged from Occupy Wall Street to the beatification process of Dorothy Day, to the water systems of the Rainbow Gatherings. Using this conversation as a launching pad, *Surfacing* fictionally retells the intriguing testimonies of people who view the world as theirs to shape.

Holcombe Waller is a Portland-based singer, composer and performing artist who composes for concerts, film, dance as well as for his own interdisciplinary performance projects. He was awarded a 2011 United States Artists Berresford Fellowship in Music and is a two-time recipient of the prestigious MAP Fund. He is also a Creative Capital grantee and an Oregon Arts Council Joan Shipley Fellow. *Surfacing* is an NPN Creation Fund Project, co-commissioned by Out North (Anchorage, AK), Myrna Loy Center (Helena, MT) and NPN.

Waller is currently generating a new album of solo work, a new theatrical concert titled *Wayfinders*, and a community-oriented LGBT Requiem Mass in memory of LGBT people persecuted in the name of religion. *Wayfinders* will be featured in the 2014 Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

### FOR INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONTACT

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www.holcombewaller.com

The NPN Annual Meeting is made possible, in part, with generous support from: American Express, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, City of New Orleans, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Greater New Orleans Foundation—Keller Family Foundation, Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnerships, Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, Joan Mitchell Foundation, Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Louisiana Division of the Arts, MetLife Foundation, Nathan Cummings Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, New Orleans Musicians Assistance Foundation, Southwest Airlines, Official Airline of the National Performance Network, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Sordna Foundation

NPN and VAN Partners, and our Friends, Colleagues, Partners & individual donors who all helped to make this Annual Meeting a reality.



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# WHO GETS TO PERFORM IN NPN'S LIVE & ON STAGE?

THE PERFORMANCES  
YOU WILL SEE HIGHLIGHT  
EXCERPTED WORK  
FROM NPN CREATION  
FUND RECIPIENTS AND  
NEW ORLEANS ARTISTS.

## NPN Creation Fund Recipients

Artists who have been co-commissioned by NPN Partners through the Creation Fund over the last three years are considered for the national performances. NPN staff selects work that reflects the artistic, cultural, ethnic, generational, and geographic diversity of the Network. NPN only considers work that has been tested and premiered in front of an audience prior to the end of the previous fiscal year, and has not been showcased at previous Annual Meetings. NPN prioritizes

work that has a high feasibility of touring, taking into consideration quality, scale, technical requirements, and affordability. Artists who will not tour under the NPN Performance Residency Agreement structure and fee scale are not considered. The selection process includes review of stated criteria, proposals submitted by artists, media and press packs, and staff's personal knowledge. Most importantly, staff consults NPN Partners and Co-commissioners who have worked closely with the work.

## New Orleans Artists

New Orleans showcase artists are nominated and selected by local committees, spearheaded by NPN Partners Ashé Cultural Arts Center, Contemporary Arts Center, Junebug Productions, and members of the New Orleans cultural community. Curatorial criteria included: readiness to tour, a mix of disciplines, genres, generations, ethnic and cultural representation, as well as the quality of work.



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