

HIP-HOP LIVE + REEL

*REGGIE WATTS, THE SUICIDE KINGS, TEATRO LUNA,
YURI LANE, AND YOUNG CHICAGO AUTHORS*

April 24–27, 2008



HIP-HOP LIVE + REEL

The MCA presents a four-day series of theater, film, comedy, and more, conceived by some of the most creative and dramatic minds in hip-hop today.

Presented in association with Young Chicago Authors
Featuring Itch13 on turntables all four nights

REEL

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Tonight's program is in memory of Tony Silver, codirector of *Style Wars*.

7 PM

Style Wars (dir. Henry Chalfant and Tony Silver, 1983, US, 69 minutes)

Followed by a talk with Henry Chalfant

8:30 PM

From Mambo to Hip-Hop: A South Bronx Tale (dir. Henry Chalfant, 2006, US, 60 minutes)

Followed by a DVD and book signing with Henry Chalfant

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

1:30 PM

Rock Fresh (dir. Danny Lee, 2004, US, 81 minutes)

3 PM

Breath Control: The History of the Human Beat Box (dir. Joey Garfield, 2002, US, 73 minutes)

Followed by a talk with Joey Garfield and beatboxer Yuri Lane

5 PM

Dave Chappelle's Block Party (dir. Michel Gondry, 2005, US, 103 minutes)

LIVE

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

DEJA TAYLOR

School Agers

TEATRO LUNA

Excerpt from *Machos*

Developed and directed by Coya Paz

Created by Teatro Luna

Performed by

Belinda Cervantes

Maritza Cervantes

Gina Cornejo

Ilana Faust

Miranda Gonzalez

INTERMISSION

REGGIE WATTS

Disinformation

Performed by Reggie Watts

Directed by Tommy Smith

Featuring Amy O'Neal and Orianna Herrman

Lighting design by Seth Reiser

Animation by Edmond Hawkins

Videos cowritten by Reggie Watts and Tommy Smith

Directed and edited by Tommy Smith

Intro shot by Jakob Lodwick

Videos performed by

Kurt Braunohler

Chris Ferry

Beth Hoyt

Joel Israel

Jackson Loo

Sarah-Kate McIntyre

Olivia Poulet

Stephanie Silver

Reggie Watts thanks Jakob Lodwick, Mark Russell, Meiyin Wang, Michael Lopez, E.Lo., David Banyan & PICA, Jörg Jakoby, Clyde Valentin, Lane Czaplinski and On The Boards, Christina Dunham, APA, Christiane Watts, the Cities of Seattle and New York, and our friends and families

Dedicated to the memory of Charles Alphonzo Watts

Sponsors: Normative, Line 6, Sennheiser, and The Carnaidesai Group

SATURDAY, APRIL 26



YOUNG CHICAGO AUTHORS

All Star Winners of Louder Than a Bomb 2008

Demetrius Amparan

Nate Marshall

Melanie Decelles

Esther Ikoro

Team Kuumba Lynx

YURI LANE

Excerpt from *From Tel Aviv to Ramallah: A Beatbox Journey*

Written and directed by Rachel Havrelock

Performed by Yuri Lane

Video by Sharif Ezzat

THE SUICIDE KINGS

In Spite of Everything

Directed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Written and performed by the Suicide Kings

Geoff Trenchard

Jamie DeWolf

Rupert Estanislao

Lighting design by Sarah Sidman

Sound design and music by Sam Bass

Produced by Hip-Hop Theater Festival On Tour

The Suicide Kings: *In Spite of Everything* is supported by a National Performance Network Residency.



Backstage hospitality is generously provided by Whole Foods Market.



In Spite of Everything was commissioned by Youth Speaks/The Living Word Project with DiverseWorks and the Creation Fund of the National Performance Network and has received significant funding from the Zellerbach Family Foundation and the City of Oakland.

In Spite of Everything is part of the Hip-Hop Theater Festival (HHTF), made possible through generous support from AT&T, The Union Square Arts Awards, The Ford Foundation, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation, Time Warner, Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and individual supporters like you. HHTF is a participant in the New Generations Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Trust/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for American Theatre. HHTF is also supported in part by Artography: Arts in a Changing America, a grant program of Leveraging Investments in Creativity, funded by The Ford Foundation.

www.hhtf.org

Hip-Hop Theater Festival On Tour is administered in partnership with

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Hip-Hop Theater Festival On Tour

ARTISTS UP CLOSE

To increase appreciation of Hip-Hop Live + Reel, the MCA in partnership with Young Chicago Authors (YCA) and Little Black Pearl organized a series of Up Close programs to bring together audience members and featured artists in a wide range of intimate settings.

On April 22, YCA hosted the Suicide Kings during Word Play, the writing workshop and open mic organized by and featuring top young talent as well as adult writers-in-residence, which takes place every Tuesday at YCA's headquarters, 1180 N. Milwaukee Avenue.

On April 24, the Suicide Kings led a writing and performance workshop with students at Little Black Pearl, 1060 E. 47th Street, which aims to deepen the community's involvement in the arts, cultivate entrepreneurial skills, and use the arts as a means for empowerment and transformation.

First Night

Friday, April 25

Following the performance, stay for a rousing discussion with Reggie Watts and collaborators.

After-party

Friday, April 25

Join the party with Reggie Watts and other artists at Funky Buddha Lounge, 728 W. Grand Avenue. Mention "MCA" at the door for free cover. You must be age 21 or over to enter.

First Night

Saturday, April 26

Following the performance, stay for an insightful discussion with the Suicide Kings moderated by Dr. Dexter Voisin, Associate Professor at the School of Social Service Administration and Faculty Associate at Chapin Hall Center for Children and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture at The University of Chicago.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

LISTED IN PROGRAM ORDER



FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Teatro Luna

is Chicago's first and only all-Latina theater company. Led by co-artistic directors Coya Paz and Tanya Saracho, the company creates works based on the notion that stories and history matter, seeking seldom-heard narratives that represent collective experiences. Since 2000 Teatro Luna has created seven ensemble performances based on true life stories and family histories, including *Generic Latina*, *Dejame Contarte (Let Me Tell You)*, *The Maria Chronicles*, *S-e-x-Oh!*, *Lunatic(a)s*, and *Machos*.

The company has incubated two works by Mexican-born playwright Tanya Saracho, *Kita y Fernanda* and *Aparicion*, and presents a reading series of new plays by emerging Latina/o writers on an ongoing basis. Its writing workshop *Sólo Latinas Project* has spawned more than 25 new solo shows by Latinas. Its second installment titled *Sólo Tú* ran earlier this month at Chicago Dramatists. The monthly open-mic *Proyecto Latina*, produced in partnership with Tianguis Books and Mariposa Atomica Inc. and hosted at Radio Arte in Pilsen, serves as an open space for Latina writers, poets, and artists. Teatro



Luna also curates *OYE-Listen*, a bimonthly performance series for women of color, with the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum.

Teatro Luna's work *Untitled Hoodoo* by Tanya Saracho opens October 2008 at Chicago Dramatists, and its first-ever ensemble musical is planned for February 2009. By its 10th anniversary in 2010, the company plans to launch a Latina Playwriting Lab and Latina Directing Lab. Teatro Luna ensemble members include Belinda Cervantes, Maritza Cervantes, Gina Cornejo, Yadira Correa, Dana Cruz, Miranda Gonzalez, Suzette Mayobre, Coya Paz, and Tanya Saracho with artistic associates Liza Anne Acosta, Anna Espinosa, Diane Herrera, Dawn Terry-Herrera, Tamara Roberts, and Nina Xoomsai.

Reggie Watts

works in stand-up comedy, musical composition, web video, and alternative contemporary performance. He is currently recording an EP for Jakob Lodwick's new web-centric non-label Normative, performing comedy sets for College Humor's touring division, appearing as a recurring character in the newly revived television series *The Electric Company*, and



creating short features for DumbFilms. Watts has performed solo at Madison Square Garden (New York), Lakeshore Theater (Chicago), Hudson Theatre (Los Angeles), Moore Theatre (Seattle), PopTech! (Camden, Mass.), Fillmore Theatre (San Francisco), Roundhouse Theatre (London), Dexter Hall (South Africa), and Blue Note (Tokyo). He is a recipient of the 2006 Andy Kaufman Award for comedic performance and won the first annual Oy! Oy! Award, given in honor of legendary British comic Malcolm Hardee, at the 2005 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Edmond Hawkins

has presented his animation and film work internationally, including at Annecy Festival in France and the Tribeca Film Festival in New York. He works regularly with Augenblick Studios, notably contributing special effects and animation for *Wonder Showzen* and the feature film *The Ten*. He is currently working as an animator for a new Cartoon Network [adult swim] series called *Super Jail!* and developing his next short film. To view his work, visit www.burpscream.com.

Orianna Herrman

has appeared in several feature and short films. A Portland, Oregon–based actress and singer, she has recently emerged on the Northwest theater scene with performances at the Portland Center Stage’s Just Add Water: A Playwrights Festival and the educational outreach program Visions and Voices, both in 2007. Herrman will soon release her second album with the band Oracle, produced by Keith Schreiner (of the bands Dahlia and Auditory Sculpture). For more information, visit www.myspace.com/oracleportland.

Amy O’Neal

is a performer, choreographer, teacher, and codirector (along with Zeke Keeble) of the Seattle-based music/dance/video company locust, which tours nationally. O’Neal teaches contemporary dance technique and funk at the Velocity Dance Center in Seattle and has taught and conducted residencies at the University of Washington, University of Idaho, Idaho State University, Texas Woman’s University, University of Oregon, Lane Community College (Eugene, Ore.), Northwest Vista College (San Antonio, Tex.), and Cornish College of the Arts (Seattle, Wash.). Her work has been commissioned by Moving Current in Tampa and the Seattle-based companies Spectrum Dance Theater; Cornish Dance Theater; and Seattle Theatre Group, where she collaborated with Sonia Dawkins and Savion Glover. O’Neal was a member of Scott/Powell Performance for six years and a performer with the Pat Graney Company for three years as well as in Mark Haim’s acclaimed Goldberg Variations. A former choreographer-in-residence at Bates Dance Festival in 2007, she is currently in residence at Headlands Center for the Arts in California and will be in residence in Japan, New York, and Massachusetts through Dance Theater Workshop and the Japan Society in 2009. She holds a bachelor of fine arts in dance from Cornish College of the Arts and is a

frequent collaborator with Reggie Watts. For more information, visit www.locustsucka.com and www.myspace.com/locustsucka.

Seth Reiser

earned a master of fine arts degree from New York University and designs lighting and scenery for theater and dance. His recent credits include *Rabbit Hole* (dir. Cigdem Onat), *People Like US* (dir. Silas Reiner and Kristen Arnold), *The Dripping Portrait* (dir. Meg Madorin and Chelsea Bonosky), *But I Expected . . .* (dir. Jennifer Jones), *I am a Camera* (dir. Constance McCord, NYU), *The End* (dir. Christopher Denham, Kiss Productions), *Days and Nights, page 121, lines 11 and 12* (dir. Marc Weitz, Purple Man Theatre Company), and *Shakespeare’s Tap Sonnets* (dir. Awoye Timpo, Novisi). He is the resident designer for the Novisi production *The Vanished*.

Tommy Smith

has collaborated with Reggie Watts on experimental comedy since 2001. His previous shows include *The Stuntmen* and *A Very Reggie Christmas* along with the film series *Nighthawk*, *Jenny+Reggie*, and *Zip Kode*, among others. Also a playwright, Smith is the author of *White Hot*, *Sextet*, *Air Conditioning*, *Sunrise*, *Demon Dreams*, *Caravan Man* (with Gabriel Kahane), and more. His work has been seen at The Flea Theatre, The Ontological Theatre, and 78th Street Theatre, all in New York; The Huntington Theatre (Boston); American Conservatory Theater (San Francisco); and Portland Center Stage as well as at Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts, Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, and Soho Repertory Theatre’s Writer/Director Lab. He is a two-time winner of the Lecomte du Noüy Prize for emerging writers (2005 and 2006). Smith is a graduate of The Juilliard School’s Playwriting Program and a recipient of the 2008 P73 Playwriting Fellowship.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

Young Chicago Authors (YCA)

encourages self-expression and literacy among Chicago's youth through creative writing, performance, and publication. YCA provides free student-centered, artist-led workshops to youth ages 13 to 19 in the belief that through their words, young people can promote tolerance and remove barriers to transform their lives and society.

Now in its 16th year, YCA offers free programs to any Chicago teenager who has an interest in writing and self-expression. Artistic excellence and mentorship are at the core of its programs. Workshops follow the master of fine arts model: young authors read both contemporary and traditional literary texts, focus on forms and writing devices, receive feedback from teachers and peers, and edit their work with publication as the goal. Visiting artists connect students to new voices and help sustain a multigenerational, Chicago-based literary community of emerging and established writers.

YCA programs include the Saturday Writing Program, a three-year intensive writing workshop series for high-school students taught by professional writers; Watch the Steps Press, YCA's publishing wing that produces *Say What* magazine; WordPlay, Chicago's longest-running teen-oriented open mic and writing workshop series now

in its ninth year; the annual Louder Than a Bomb Poetry Festival, engaging schools and community organizations from the Chicago area in workshops, panel discussions, and a six-day teen poetry slam; and GirlSpeak, integrating feminist-conscious initiatives into YCA's core programming. YCA also provides professional creative-writing programs to Chicago-area schools and community organizations. For more information, visit www.youngchicagoauthors.org.

Yuri Lane

spent his teenage years on the stages of the American Conservatory Theater and the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. His plays include *Soundtrack City*, a chronicle of the shifting landscape of the American city from the perspectives of real-estate power players, tenants, and the homeless; and *The Making of a Human Beatbox*, which tells the story of growing up in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood and emerging as a hip-hop Jew. His work *From Tel Aviv to Ramallah* was nominated for the Charles MacArthur Award for Best New Play at the Helen Hayes Awards and toured in the United Kingdom, Helsinki, and



Yuri Lane
Photo by Nhat Nguyen

Jerusalem as well as extended runs since 2003 in New York; Chicago; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C. His numerous appearances at colleges have been sponsored by Jewish, Muslim, and Arab student groups, often as collaborations.

Lane's television credits include *Nash Bridges* (1997–2000), *Party of Five* (1998), *Mix It Up* (2003), and PBS's *Independent Lens* (2004). He stars in the independent film *Compulsory Breathing* (2002), for which he was awarded Most Outstanding Actor in the Reel One Seattle Film Festival. Other film appearances include *Playing Mona Lisa* (1999), *Farmer and Chase* (1997), and Joey Garfield's *Breath Control: The History of the Human Beat Box* (2002). Lane's music and sound effects can be heard in the ads for Nickelodeon and was featured in the Show Us Your Character campaign for the USA Network. His eponymous debut CD released this year features Lane on beatbox harmonica, among other talents. For more information, visit www.yurilane.com.

Rachel Havrelock

is a professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she is codirector of the Jewish-Muslim Initiative. She is a coauthor of *Women on the Biblical Road: Ruth, Naomi and the Female Journey* (University Press of America, 1996) and a contributor to the forthcoming *Women's Commentary on the Torah*. Havrelock is currently finishing a new book, *River Jordan: The Mythic History of a Dividing Line*, which considers the Jordan River as a border in the Bible, Judaism, and Christianity as well as in Jewish and Palestinian national movements. Her script for *From Tel Aviv to Ramallah* reflects the years that she spent as a student at Tel Aviv and Bir Zeit Universities. Having studied the mother tongues and cultures of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, she finds hip-hop to be one language that crosses the divide.

The Suicide Kings

is comprised of Geoff Trenchard, Jamie DeWolf, and Rupert Estanislao, collectively known for performances that combine punk-rock theatrics, a cappella hip-hop, and vaudeville comedy. Its work has been featured on two seasons of Russell Simmons's HBO series *Def Poetry*, UPN, *60 Minutes*, and radio stations from the Midwest to the Philippines. A poem by the Kings has been turned into the acclaimed short film *The Question*, directed by Ramsel Cruz and screened in film festivals nationwide.

The Kings have performed and led writing workshops at more than 70 universities and high schools, including Stanford University, California Polytechnic State University, San Francisco State University, University of Minnesota, and University of California at Berkeley. They continue to develop curriculum and mentor young writers as artists-in-residence with Youth Speaks and Opera Piccolo. The Kings also facilitate workshops and host slams for the inmates in San Quentin Penitentiary and create feature-length performances with students from the Youth Empowerment School in Oakland, California. Its ongoing variety show *Tourettes Without Regrets* was awarded Best of the Bay by the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* in 2003. *In Spite of Everything* is the group's first full-length play and has been performed at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art's TBA:07 Festival, Under the Radar Festival at the Public Theater (New York), and Diverse Works (Houston).

Sam Bass

received a bachelor of music degree in 1994 from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Irene Sharp. Bass performs and composes for solo cello and piano, and his compositions have been featured in several independent feature films. He has performed on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and has shared stages with David Byrne, Thomas



The Suicide Kings
Photo by Amy White

Dolby, Les Claypool, and others. He has performed on recordings with Mr. Bungle, Mars Volta, Third Eye Blind, Vanessa Carlton, and Madeleine Peyroux. He performs and teaches in the Bay Area and throughout the United States. For more information, visit www.loopthis.com and www.hhjazzsf.com.

Jamie DeWolf

lives and teaches in Oakland, California. He is a National Poetry Slam champion and recipient of a National Performance Network Creation Commission in 2006. Creator of the Suicide Kings' long-running vaudeville show *Tourettes Without Regrets*, DeWolf hosted the Kings' first poetry slam with the inmates at San Quentin Penitentiary. He is working on his first feature film, *Smoked*, and the short *Ricochet in Reverse*, adapted from the play *In Spite of Everything*.

Rupert Estanislao

is based in San Francisco and emigrated from the Philippines in 1993. He writes and performs his poetry and short stories in both English and his native language Tagalog. As a community activist, Estanislao works with San Francisco's Filipino Cultural Center in the Excelsior district as an educational committee member of Active Leadership to Advance the Youth. Since winning his first poetry slam in 2000, he has been a finalist in numerous competitions and was awarded Best Spoken Word Artist by the *East Bay Express*. He has performed his work on air for Pacific Time Radio, NPR, KPFA in Berkeley, KZSU in Stanford, and NU107 in the Philippines. He is the vocalist for the hardcore punk bands Eskapo and Echo of Bullets and a regular participant at Bindlestiff Studios.

Marc Bamuthi Joseph

is a resident artist at Stanford University's Institute for Diversity in the Arts, HBO Def Poet, inaugural recipient of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship, and one of America's Top Young Innovators in the Arts and Sciences as named by *Smithsonian Magazine*. His critical writing is featured in Jeff Chang's *Total Chaos*. Bamuthi made his Chicago debut at the MCA in 2006 with *Word Becomes Flesh*, which along with his other full-length works *Scourge*, *De/Cipher*, and *No Man's Land* has been presented throughout the United States and Europe. Bamuthi's newest solo work, *the break/s*, is a performed travel diary across planet hip-hop and will receive its Chicago debut at the MCA in 2009 after premiering this spring at the Humana Festival for New American Plays as a co-commission with the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis. A resident at ODC Theater and Intersection for the Arts in San Francisco, Bamuthi is most proud of his work with Youth Speaks, where he mentors 13- to 19-year-old writers and curates the Living Word Festival for Literary Arts.

Geoff Trenchard

is based in Brooklyn. Since touring as part of the 2000 San Jose Slam Team, he has continued to be an integral part of the Bay Area poetry scene, winning a place on five different teams including the Berkeley team in 2002, which won the Western Regional the same year. He was a lead organizer at the Craigslit Foundation's Non-Profit Boot Camp in 2006 and has been a guest lecturer at Stanford University, University of California at Berkeley, and New College of California. In addition to his work as a mentor with Youth Speaks, he consults for Art Gate and Urban Word New York City. His poems and essays have been published in *The National Poetry Slam Anthology*, *Tea Party Magazine*, *Kitchen Sink Magazine*, and the *Worcester Review*.