



FESTIVAL NO. 15
2011 PHILADELPHIA
LIVE ARTS FESTIVAL
+ PHILLY FRINGE
SEPTEMBER 2-17
LIVEARTS-FRINGE.ORG

Festival Press Representative:
Canary Promotion | Office: (215) 690-4065
Megan Wendell, megan@canarypromo.com
Emaleigh Doley, emaleigh@canarypromo.com

Web: www.livearts-fringe.org
EPK: www.canarypromo.com/LiveArtsFringe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2011

Opening Week of 2011 Philadelphia Live Arts Festival Kicks off with 8 Festival premieres Live Arts runs in conjunction with the Philly Fringe, Sept. 2 – 17

PHILADELPHIA – The [15th annual Philadelphia Live Arts Festival](#) is just **two weeks** away. The 16-day Festival, running **September 2 – 17, 2011**, kicks off opening week with 7 World and U.S. premieres and 1 Philadelphia premiere, at venues throughout the city. The Festival opens with two adventurous takes on Shakespeare and an array of contemporary work with shows exploring both magic and science, realism and fantasy, ideas about cross-cultural identity, online life, and much more. The Live Arts Festival, which runs in conjunction with the **Philly Fringe**, features cutting-edge dance, theater, visual art, music, and interdisciplinary works by renowned artists from the U.S. and international contemporary arts scene alongside talented artists from Philadelphia's dynamic arts community.

Opening weekend welcomes the fantastical [Elephant Room](#) featuring illusionists **Dennis Diamond**, **Louie Magic**, and **Darryl Hannah** who will invite audiences into a most secret society, a realm where mind and sense part ways, at Plays & Players Theatre, 1714 Delancey Pl (Sept. 2-4, 8-11, and 15-17). The trio promises to entertain, distract, confuse, confound, amaze, and mystify in a World premiere production directed by **Paul Lazar** and written by **Trey Lyford** and **Geoff Sobelle** (*Amnesia Curiosa*, '06; *all wear bowlers*, '03) with **Steve Cuiffo**.

In Northern Liberties, the participatory performance [Red Rovers](#) explores the lives of robots on Mars and the scientists who created them. In the show, the imaginative Philadelphia-based **Headlong Dance Theater** (*More*, '09; *Cell*, '07; *Hotel Pool*, '04), in collaboration with visual artist **Chris Doyle**, invite audiences to take part in a scientific conference hosted by Jeffrey Merbold (**David Disbrow**) and Clementine Nardello (**Christina Zani**), scientists of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The production runs from Sept. 2-4 and Sept. 6-11 at the Live Arts Studio (919 N 5th St).

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival's first-ever large-scale visual art presentation will open on First Friday on the Delaware River waterfront. [Zon-Mai](#), an installation in motion by visiting artists **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** of Belgium and **Gilles Delmas** of France, will be installed at the Former Pumping Station (140 N Columbus Blvd, at Race St, across from the Race St Pier). At the crossroads between architecture, art, and dance, *Zon-Mai* – which translates to “at home, elsewhere” – is a giant house of screens featuring projections of 21 dancers performing inside their own bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, and living rooms around the world. The free visual art and multimedia show is part of the 2011 spotlight series [At Home](#).

[Elsewhere](#), a look at cross-cultural identity in the 21st century. *Zon-Mai* will be open during the entire Festival. The official **gallery opening** will be held on Thursday, September 8 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. For gallery hours, visit www.livearts-fringe.org.

An epic homage to exploration and adventure will take place just off the Avenue of the Arts at the Prince Music Theater (1412 Chestnut St), which will also play home to the Festival Box Office this year. **Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental's** [WHaLE OPTICS](#), directed by Thaddeus Phillips (*¡El Conquistador!*, '10; *Flamingo/Winnebago*, '07), takes audiences on a journey through big city libraries to the Colombian Pacific and back, and to the white ice of Antarctica in an examination of worldwide communication systems and dinner at Applebee's (preview Sept. 1; Sept. 2-4, 6-11).

The Philadelphia premiere of [The Method Gun](#) by the Austin-based theater troupe Rude Mechs offers a theatrical exploration about the ecstasy and excesses of performing, Sept. 2-4 at The Wilma Theater (265 S Broad St, at Spruce). The production explores what happened to Stella Burden, a 60s and 70s actor-training guru who mysteriously disappeared in 1972, and her theater company after her departure, as the group struggles to complete a nine-years-in-the-making production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Swim Pony Performing Arts' twist on Shakespeare's *Macbeth* will open at the Arts Bank at The University of the Arts (601 S Broad St, at South St). [Lady M](#) places a 180° spin on the story of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* using extreme sound and the play's supernatural underbelly to turn this classic story on its head. The World premiere production, directed by Live Arts Brewery Fellow **Adrienne Mackey**, stars veteran actress **Catharine Slusar** as the violent heroine Lady Macbeth, alongside an all-female chorus of ten Philadelphia actors (preview Sept. 1; Sept. 2-4, 6-9).

New Paradise Laboratories (*FREEDOM CLUB*, in collaboration with Riot Group, '10; *FATEBOOK*, '09; *BATCH*, '07) presents the World premiere of ***Extremely Public Displays of Privacy***, a performance adventure in three acts, that begins online, moves to Center City with a free walking tour, and concludes in a to-be-revealed secret location. [Act 1, Extremely Public](#), part of the Live Arts Festival, begins entirely online at www.extremelypublicdisplays.com. In the Philly Fringe, take a free walking tour of [Act 2, Displays](#) (beginning Sept. 9) and discover the secret location of [Act 3, Privacy](#) (Sept. 14-Oct 1).

The Obie Award-winning **Pig Iron Theatre Company** (*Welcome to Yuba City*, '09; *Isabella*, '07) presents the World premiere of [Twelfth Night, or What You Will](#), an exuberant staging of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Dueling musicians, wine-drenched debauchery, gender confusion, erotic misunderstandings, and practical jokes are mixed into a new visual and aural approach to Shakespeare. With a gypsy-rock score by **Rosie Langabeer** (*Cankerblossom*, '10), *Twelfth Night* welcomes a cast of familiar Pig Iron faces (**Sarah Sanford**, **James Sugg**, **Alex Torra**, and *Isabella's* **Birgit Huppuch**) and the Philadelphia favorite, Barrymore Award-winning actor **Scott Greer** (making his company debut). Previews run Sept. 1-3; opening night is Sunday, Sept. 4; show closes Sept. 17) at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, home of Philadelphia Theatre Company (480 S Broad St, at Lombard).

FESTIVAL BAR + SOCIAL CLUB

[The Festival Bar + Social Club](#) will bring together Festival artists and audiences after-hours each night of the Festival at **RUBA Club Studios** (416 Green St, one block north of Spring Garden), an intimate bar and performance space in Northern Liberties. The Festival Bar serves as a versatile space for Festival goers to unwind, enjoy post-show drinks and conversation, late-night cabaret and variety shows hosted by **BRAT Productions**, live music and deejays. Admission is free and 21+. Doors open at 10pm nightly. Visit www.livearts-fringe.org for a full schedule of performers, DJs and other entertainment.

READY, AIM, CLICK!

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe, in partnership with **Phillyfunguide.com** and **PNC Arts Alive**, is holding a photo competition as part of this year's festival. Festival visitors can submit photos in three categories, and the participant with the most popular photo will win the Grand Prize – an All Access Pass to the 2012 Festival. Photo submissions begin on Aug. 22, the day the Festival box office opens, and voting goes live starting on Sept. 2. Submit and vote for your favorite photos online at www.Phillyfunguide.com/contest or www.livearts-fringe.org/contest.

TICKETS

Tickets to all shows are now available for purchase online at www.livearts-fringe.org, or after Monday, Aug. 22 for phone and walk-up sales at the Festival Box Office at **(215) 413-1318**. The 2011 Festival Box Office is located at the **Prince Music Theater, 1412 Chestnut St.** Box Office Hours: Pre-Festival, Aug. 22-Sept. 1, 12 p.m.-7 p.m.; Festival Hours, Sun.-Thu. 12 p.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sept. 5 (Labor Day) 12 p.m.-7 p.m.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival features performances by renowned contemporary performing artists from the U.S. and around the world who are selected and invited to the Festival by Producing Director, Nick Stuccio. The Philly Fringe is an unfiltered Festival, where new and established artists of all kinds present their own work, free of a selection process. Together, the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe establish Philadelphia as a city bursting with wild creativity, bringing audiences sixteen days of the most stimulating, provocative new art being created in Philadelphia, across the U.S., and around the world.

PNC Arts Alive is the 2011 Presenting Sponsor of the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe.

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To request interviews, photos, and more information please contact:

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