LAGUARDIA
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER

FALL 2013

LPAC

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This Fall in Long Island City you will be highly entertained and whether you like it or not; there will be a takeaway! Continuing LPAC’s long tradition of bringing the NYC jazz scene to the boros, Jazz guitarist Tom Dempsey kicks off the season at the end of September. We introduce new dance by choreographers Rhapsody James and Cecilia Marta. We continue to develop work from scratch as the New Play Residency series returns for the second year. Surrender, a dystopian play by Joy Tomasko which was part of this program last year and has graduated to a full run on the Mainstage. The humanities department continues to turn out top quality art with their production of Almost Maine, and a collaboration with Kingsboro, LPAC and ASTEP on a devised project, titled Unpacking Home. Yes; social justice and theatre. So yes; social justice can be gorgeous, entertaining, tragic, hilarious—the whole gamut. Hope you enjoy the fall season. We would love to hear how we’re doing. Your input shapes the programming at LPAC.

From Managing Director Steven Hitt

CAN THE ARTS BE USED AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR CHANGE

in societal behaviors? Can social justice be entertaining? Many years ago my Theatre History professor told us the arts have two purposes – to teach and to entertain. That notion stayed with me all of these years.

In programming the 2013-14 season I find these questions popping up more than ever. As we are located at a community college along the No. 7 train, in Queens—the city’s most ethnically diverse borough—we always have to navigate our way between substance and style; a takeaway.

So what is the middle ground when you have so much culture at work? What we have done at LPAC is worry about dedication to craft, quality of art and most of all the process. It has worked for us. Now in addition to being a premier dance space and performing art center we are one of the leading art incubators citywide with more than 55 lab artists and organizations developing work on the LPAC stages over the years. Perhaps social justice comes from understanding the whole artistic process? And the finest art trumps all of these considerations.

Steven Hitt
Managing Director • LaGuardia Performing Arts Center
LaGuardia Community College
718 482-5154 • stevenh@lagcc.cuny.edu
Thu, Sept 26th @ 7:30pm
LITTLE THEATER
“The groove is always present and the solos are melodic. Dempsey’s sound is clear and full.”
—Eric Elias, Just Jazz Guitar

Guitarist Tom Dempsey’s reputation for hard swinging sophistication and pure musicality have made him a distinct voice in the NYC Jazz Scene. Tom has recorded six CDs as a leader and has performed and/or recorded with a virtual “Who’s Who” of world-renowned jazz musicians. Since 1992, Tom has been performing as a leader and a sideman at some of the top jazz venues throughout the world including the JVC Jazz Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center, San Francisco Jazz Festival, The Blue Note, Yoshi’s, Smalls and Smoke.

At this exclusive CD release concert, Tom premieres selections from his new CD Saucy on Planet Arts Records.

Admission: $10 / $5 Students

Photo: Whitney Browne
Setting new heights for commercial dance on the concert stage, Rhapsody James and her dance company R.ED (Rhapsody en Dance) perform in their first concert for the 2013-14 Season at LPAC. R.ED is a contemporary dance company that shatters the boundary between concert and commercial dance by fusing Hip-hop, Jazz, and Contemporary styles. Bringing to life the dramatic emotions of human existence, audiences will join R.ED on a journey exploring the depths of human emotion during the world premiere of Human Metabolism for the first time in its entirety.

Admission: $15 Advance / $20 At the door / $10 Students
CECILIA MARTA DANCE COMPANY
Fri & Sat, October 25th & 26th @ 8pm
MAINSTAGE THEATER

Cecilia Marta Dance Co. invites you to join them in exploring the pull and tug between black/white, chaos/harmony, side A/side B. Kush is the featured piece of Side A & Side B...DARKSHINE. Kush takes its inspiration from the Indies in exploring the hues of familial synchronicity that share ebb and flowing palettes of movement. In the creation of Kush, cultural duality is mysteriously recognizable. A quiet and powerful dance speaks to awareness, as we may not yet know it.

CMDC is a multicultural dance company, committed to celebrating diversity and unity by creating works that inspire collaborations with other artists and art forms.

Admission: $15 Advance / $20 At the door / $10 Students
Wed, Oct 30th
from 4pm–to–10pm
MAINSTAGE THEATER

A return to the late seventies and the first decade of LAGCC in a fun filled evening celebration for LAGCC faculty, staff, and the LPAC arts community. Music, Costumes, lights, mirror balls, food, drinks, and fun!

Free Admission:
RSVP to: rsvp-lpac@lagcc.cuny.edu
In Joy Tomasko’s new dystopian play, *Surrender*, characters and audience alike exist in a world maintained by The Administration’s Protection Policy. D Thomson works as a Reporter of Loss and Recovery, and her latest assignment leaves her stranded in unregulated territory. Offering both a public and personal journey in an environmental setting, *Surrender* questions what it is we hold most dear.

Admission: $10 / $5 Students

This play is developed at LPAC Lab New Play Development Residency and read at the 2012 Rough Draft Festival.
Clara travels with the help of music, dance, and imagination. Her godfather, the mystical clockmaker, Herr Drosselmeyer, is the one responsible for sending Clara on this exotic trip across time with the Nutcracker Prince. Get an injection of holiday cheer, as Clara, Old Drosselmeyer, and the Nutcracker Prince take a frolicking musical journey that happens only once a year.

Just when you think the excitement has ended, you can visit Santa in our magical toyland. Each child will receive a special gift from Santa. Every young dreamer will enjoy this classic holiday tradition!

Admission: Reserved Seating: $15 Advance / $20 At the door
Love’s Labors Lost

Easy Leap Theatre Company is thrilled to use their residency at LPAC to develop Love’s Labors Lost for performance at the Access Theatre in October. This all-female production transposes the story of a group of young men determined to outsmart love into the present day. Shakespeare’s ideas about how to come of age, find yourself, and stop speaking in rhyme all the time collide with pop music, cross dressing, and an epic house party to create a timely investigation of the lives of the young, bored, and over-educated. This performance is followed by a Q&A with the LAB artists.

Free Admission: RSVP to: rsvp-lpac@lagcc.cuny.edu

Love’s Labors Lost

Fri, Oct 11th, 7:30pm LITTLE THEATER

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ALMOST, MAINE

BLACK BOX THEATER • BY JOHN CARIANI, DIRECTED BY GARRETT NEERGAARD

Almost, Maine is not a coastal town. It is nowhere near the ocean and it doesn’t exist. Almost, Maine is a mythical composite, an exercise on love and a beautiful romance. At times extremely funny and at times achingly sad. Seven bright stars of LaGuardia’s theatre department tackle nineteen roles in bringing John Cariani’s wonderful play to life. Admission: $5

Wed, Nov 6th-Sat, Nov 9th at 7:30pm, Wed, Nov 6th & Thu, Nov 7th at 2:30pm

UNPACKING HOME

LITTLE THEATER • Transforming the volunteer experience into theater, LAGCC, LPAC, and Kingsborough Community College (KBCC) collaborate with Actors Striving to End Poverty (ASTEP) to tell true stories from the homeless population. Students partner with shelter residents to devise stories, a theatre piece(s) based on their volunteer work and experience with the people they encounter on this journey. Admission: $5

The boot camp is made possible thanks to the generous support of Trinity Wall Street’s Charlotte’s Place.
Where are they now?

Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre

Since premiering LPAC's first ever fully commissioned evening length work—*Bound*—in the fall of 2011, Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre went on to present *The Store* during their 2012 NYC season at Joyce SoHo, and launch an educational outreach program for underserved NYC youth in 2013. This program culminated in live performances for NYC middle and high school students at the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center in May 2013. Currently based in Palestine, YSDT’s Artistic Director Samar Haddad King has also created works for local companies, and teaches dance for pre-professional and professional dancers in the Arab world. Upcoming projects include the world premiere of *Bound* featuring a mixed cast of American and Arab dancers in the Spring of 2014.

NEW SERIES: LPAC PLUS

LPAC PLUS is the new web-based extension of LPAC. Reaching beyond the stage, LPAC creates a web TV channel available on Vimeo and Youtube. Designed to be an additional voice for LPAC artists, LPAC PLUS presents new work on video in separate music, dance, and theatrical series. Tune-in for interviews with current Lab artists and to see updates on past lab residents. LPAC PLUS is not a recorded copy of what our artists are doing onstage. LPAC PLUS is original work created for the camera. It will introduce new artists to our regular audience to draw interest in their stage work. LPAC PLUS launches at the end of October with our Flashback: *Disco* event.

NEW PLAY Development Residency

Not everyone has a venue and the LPAC Lab New Play Development Residency, part of the LPAC Lab, is dedicated to the development of new plays. We do so by offering a creative home, development readings with a dramaturg and actors, a stage, rehearsal room, skilled technicians, connections to actors and directors, and a production to two Resident Playwrights to develop their original work-in-progress over a ten-month process.

Curated by Francine Volpe; a New York City-based playwright, screenwriter and dramaturge. Her play, *The Good Mother* opened in 2012 under the direction of Scott Elliot and featured Gretchen Mol. The play was subsequently named finalist for the prestigious Susan Smith Blackburn prize. In 2013 Francine was the inaugural winner of the Lanford Wilson Prize in Playwriting. For more info please email: lpaclab@lagcc.cuny.edu
DIRECTIONS TO LPAC:

Take the 7 train to 33rd/Rawson or the E, G, V, R trains to Queens Plaza
10 minutes from Grand Central Station • By car, please call the Box Office

FOR TICKETS: LPAC Box Office: 718 482-5151 Monday–Friday, 10am–4pm
or visit www.laguardiaperformingarts.org

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