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For immediate release

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Three Naked Stages fellows premiere completely new, interdisciplinary work at Pillsbury House Theatre Dec 5-14 from artists with local, national, and international credentials.

Naked Stages 2013 Fellows **Emily Zimmer, Moheb Soliman, and Zainab Musa** premiere performances about the Great Recession, The Great Lakes, and the great tension between body freedom and decay.

Zaineb Musa has worked internationally as an actor as well as with local companies like Mixed Blood and Sandbox Theatre. Moheb Soliman is a poet and interdisciplinary artist new to Minnesota by way of Montreal and Egypt. Emily Zimmer is a regular performer on the Open Eye Figure Theatre stage as well as with Frank Theatre and Children's Theatre Company. See more biographical information below.

All tickets are Pick Your Price. (Regular price = \$15). Performances begin at 7:30 pm Thursday thru Saturday. Post-show discussions with the artists will happen on Saturday, December 7 and Friday, December 13.

Naked Stages is a 7 month development program that provides time, money, and mentoring to three performance artists, culminating in four public performances each. This year, **Naked Stages** changes from a four artist fellowship to a fellowship for three artists in order to provide more opportunities and deeper engagement for the artists and the audience.

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3 Figures\$ by Emily Zimmer
December 5, 7, 12, & 14

Disaster doesn't trickle down. It crashes. In 2008, banks were bailed out and ordinary people lost their homes. *3 Figure\$* uses three characters to explore the economic melt down: the philosopher who made it possible, a voice that tried to prevent it, and a former homeowner who has to live with the consequences. The figures who occupy the piece weave in and out of fantasia as they explore the ways money motivates, mystifies, and leaves destruction in its wake. How do we begin to understand what is intentionally incomprehensible? How do we feel money? How can crisis shock us into action?

BIOGRAPHY: Emily performs locally with Frank Theatre, Open Eye Figure Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, in the garage of the Central Neighborhood home she lives in, and various other places. She has also appeared on stage at La Jolla Playhouse, Dixon Place and Florida Stage. She is a teaching artist with the Neighborhood Bridges program at CTC. She studied theatre at Macalester College and physical theatre at the Burlesk Center with Pierre Byeland.

A Great Lakes Vista by Moheb Soliman

December 6, 7, 13, & 14

Part poetry, part performance, part installation, *A Great Lakes Vista* is based on writing and images from a journey along the entire Great Lakes coastline—through Canadian and American cities and hamlets; native grounds to tourist traps; homely beaches, provincial parks, sublime waters and every in-between space of this wild, populous borderland. Exploring the boundaries of nature and culture and the power of place in identity, this show seeks a vast yet intimate geography of home.

BIOGRAPHY: Moheb is a poet and performance artist from Egypt and the Midwest, new to Minneapolis via Montreal. He studied creative writing at the New School and earned a master's at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education. His show *Habib Albi is...Not a Man* appeared at such venues as Bowery Poetry Club and Nuyorican Poets Café in NYC, A-Space and XPACE in Toronto, and featured at MAI and Eastern Bloc in Montreal. He's published with *Three Plum Review*, *Mizna* where he works, Buffalo Runs Press, and has been awarded residences at Vermont Studio Center, Hill House, Salem Art Works, and Banff Centre.

Habeas Corpus by Zainab Musa

December 5, 6, 12, & 13

Habeas Corpus is a demonstration of physical freedom. Using space and sound, darkness and light, body and sense, it explores the contours of the theater space, the audiences' expectations and the performer's body to play with the tension between physical health and decay. Alternately amusing, surprising, immersive, and disorienting, *Habeas Corpus* is animated by an aesthetic that experiments with the edges of choreo-poetry and buffoonery.

BIOGRAPHY: Zainab is an international theater maker and actor whose performances have been captured on stage as well as television. A few selected film credits include: *Get Rich or Die Trying* for MTV/Paramount pictures; *Doomstown* for CTV; *Metropia* for Protocol Entertainment. Zainab is graduate of the BFA acting program at Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto, ON. In Toronto: *Viola* in the Canadian Stage Company *Twelfth Night*. The original production of *The Real McCoy* by Andrew Moodie/Factory Theater. In Minneapolis: *Hijab Tube/Mixed Blood Theater*; *Beatnik Giselle/Sandbox Theater*; *Wilma Ruldoph/History Comes to Life Theater*; *Mohona: Estuaries of Desire/Ananya Dance Theater*.

ABOUT NAKED STAGES 2013

This year, Naked Stages changes from a four artist fellowship to a fellowship for three artists. In addition to regular feedback sessions and money to support development, hiring other artists, and material requirements, the artists work with local creators like Hijack, Late Nite Series Artists and Naked Stages Alums Juma B Essie and Julia Babb as well as nationally renowned artists, Sharon Bridgforth and Daniel Alexander Jones. Once a month, they also participate in production meetings

focused on the business side of art, from audience development to technical support, helping to develop their unique voice into a sustainable, artistic career.

ABOUT PILLSBURY HOUSE + THEATRE

Winner of the 2013 Sally Ordway Irvine Award for Initiative and City Pages Best Theatre of 2013, Pillsbury House Theatre is unlike any other theatre in the country. A professional theatre within an South Minneapolis neighborhood center—and a multicultural company of artist— PHT's purpose is to engage a broad community in art and theatre with programs and productions that provoke reactions to the world around us.

In partnership with Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest human services organizations in the state, Pillsbury House Theatre demonstrates that the highest quality art is an integral part of all healthy communities. Pillsbury House Theatre continues its 21st season with Marcus Gardley's *the road weeps*, *the well runs dry*, September 27-October 27.

Visit pillsburyhousetheatre.org for more information and hi-resolution photographs.

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