

Tuesday, October 16, 2012



For immediate release

Contact: Alan Berks, 612-787-3622,

berksa@pillsburyhousetheatre.org

Box Office: 612.825.0459 or www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

Pillsbury House + Theatre announces packed line-up of the coolest underground artists and boldest experimental performers in November and December.

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the *Non English Speaking Spoken Here: The Late Nite Series*, curated by eg bailey and Laurie Carlos, returns Saturdays, November 3, 10, and 17 starring Bao Phi, Intikana, Beverly Cottman, Sarah White and Rico Mendez, and more. It's a different line-up each night, with at least one artist from New York and great, emerging artists from Minnesota.

Then, *Naked Stages*, December 5-15, presents *Oklound Sowell* by Ahanti Young, *A.SM.I.L.8* by Jeffrey Lusiak, *bagman* by David Steinman, and *Devon* by Zoe Sommers Haas.

The Late Nites Series brings some of America's most dynamic interdisciplinary performers together to explore the cross-currents of contemporary culture through music and sound, text and images, and movement and dance. Food is available starting at 8 pm where audiences can mingle with artists before the show. The show starts in the theatre at 9 pm. There is always a dj.

Last year's highlights included Nioka Workman, an innovative jazz/funk cellist who has appeared on stage with Kanye West, Jay-Z and Common and whose R&B collaborations include India Arie; New York-based, Minneapolis-favorite Daniel Alexander Jones; local storyteller Katherine Glover; Julliard-trained Curio Dance; and the New York-based jazz saxophonist, composer and improviser Matana Roberts on November 5. Visit <http://pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/mainstage/late-nite-series/> for full line-ups and artist statements and biographies.

TICKETS FOR LATE NITE SERIES:

\$10, adults. \$5 students/seniors.

\$24, all three shows (20% discount)

Under 16 years old: Always Free

Naked Stages is a 7 month development program that provides time, money, and mentoring to four performance artists, culminating in four public performances each.

Dec 5-8 @ 7:30 pm

Aklound Sowell by Ahanti Young

Acclaimed actor and musician Ahanti Young brings our culture's invisible people to life on stage using comedy, music, dance, and poetry—to reveal the specific humanity underneath the stereotypes. What is the face that you hide your true self behind?

BIOGRAPHY: Ahanti has been a professional performer for over twenty years. A seasoned actor, musician, spoken word artist, choreographer, and teaching artist, Ahanti is also a company member at Penumbra Theatre. Most recent credits include *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Two Trains Running*, *Zooman and the Sign*, and *Jitney*. An international artist, Ahanti has appeared at The Guthrie Theater, Ten Thousand Things, History Theatre, The Fitzgerald Theater, The Illusion Theater, Intermedia Arts, Walker Art Center, Round House Theatre (MD), Alchemy Theatre (NY), Arizona Theatre Company, Herberger Theater (AZ), Paramount Theatre (CA), and Patinoire Saint-Léonard (Switzerland). As a musician, Ahanti has toured internationally with Edupoetic Enterbrainment (spoken word band), producing three albums. He was most recently seen in Pillsbury House Theatre's *The Brothers Size*. His pioneering work with such groups as Sirius B (black male performance artist collective), African Perfection (drill team), In Da Belly (social change theater), Royal Guard (drum and bugle corps) and his work as a teaching artist at Walker West Music Academy, VocalEssence, SteppingStone Theatre, and many more have made Ahanti Young a recognizable face within the national arts community.

bagman by David T Steinman

In the world of an airline baggage handler, TSA patdowns, labor rights disputes, terror alert levels, and jet fuel surround the lowly laborer. *Bagman* combines live music, masked characters, storytelling, and projected images to reveal the chaos of a life where days flow between brutal acts and dreamlike flight, and heavy baggage is the bane of the bagman's day.

BIOGRAPHY: When not slinging baggage at the airport, David works as artist, teacher, and musician – often combining puppetry, projection, and poetry. In addition to David's independent performance-making, he enjoys working as a freelance video projection designer and performer with various theatre and dance companies in the Twin Cities including Hinterhands, Theatre Novi Most, Annicha Arts, Workhaus Collective, and Barebones Productions. David graduated in 2010 with a B.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota, and for the past four years has been a member of MAW (Minneapolis Art on Wheels) - projecting light and sound in public art events and guerrilla urban interventions. Elsewhere onstage, and in basements, David makes music as a member of The Big Sillies playing trumpet, guitar, and singing.

December 12-15 @ 7:30 pm

A.S.M.I.L.8 by Jeffry Lusiak

Performance artist Jeffry Lusiak weaves questions of assimilation within queer identity into a visually-arresting, dynamic collage of live performance and layered video projection to create a bold and unsettling world of high heels, pop culture, violence, desire, shame, and love.

BIOGRAPHY: Jeffry Lusiak is a queer artist, activist, educator and performer who has been creating art in the Twin Cities for the past twelve years. He was the Artistic Director of Outward Spiral Theater Company for over 5 years, in that time he help to start *Queertopia; A Cabaret Celebration of Queer Love*, and Empowered Expressions a Queer Youth Theatre Troupe. In recent years Jeffry has devoted his time to working with middle school students as the Artist in Residence at Project SUCCESS, along with continuing to curate *Queertopia* through Bedlam Theatre and creating his own solo performance art which has been seen at the Bryant Lake Bowl, Intermedia Arts, Bedlam Theatre, and Patrick's Cabaret.

***Devon* by Zoe Sommers Haas**

Welcome to Devon's world. Love him or hate him, once you've seen him lose himself in this fantasy world of dreams, joys, failures, and self-discovery—full of movement, video, lighting effects, and pop songs—you'll understand that he's just looking for love like everyone else. Can he make himself worthy? Directed by Bedlam Theatre's Maren Ward.

BIOGRAPHY: Zoe Sommers Haas grew up in the Minnesota theatre community, but her personal interest in performance began at twenty years old as a back-up dancer for local band FAGGOT. She participated regularly in the monthly Full Moon Puppet Cabaret and has performed for Open Eye Figure Theatre's Drive Way Tour for the last two years. In 2011, she conceived, created and performed *The Learning Fairy* for Open Eye, which played to sold-out audiences, and is creating *Episode 2*, opening this month. She is grateful for the learning experience *Naked Stages* offers.

TICKETS FOR NAKED STAGES:

Always Pick Your Price!

BOX OFFICE AND MORE INFO:

612-825-0459

www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

LOCATION:

3501 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

ABOUT PILLSBURY HOUSE + THEATRE

Now in its 20th year, Pillsbury House Theatre is proud to be a professional theatre unlike any other. In partnership with Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest human services organizations in the state, Pillsbury House + Theatre is a model for social service and arts organizations nationwide.

When you visit, you'll see a growing integration of arts and human services program throughout the building. Call us at 612-787-3622 for more information.

Hi-res photographs, interviews, and more information about individual artists available on request.

###