

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

For immediate release

For more information:

Alan Berks. 612.787.3622

berksa@pillsburyhousetheatre.org

www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

Box Office: 612.825.0459



Pillsbury House Theatre (City Pages Best Theatre 2013) announces Naked Stages Fellows for 2013 along with program changes.

The 2013 Naked Stages artists are **Emily Zimmer, Moheb Soliman, and Zainab Musa**. Zaineb has worked internationally as an actor as well as with local companies like Mixed Blood and Sandbox Theatre. Moheb 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. They were chosen by a panel of artists including past Naked Stages recipients and other professional artists: Sharon Bridgforth, Janaki Ranpura, and Max Wirsing.

A creative opportunity unlike any other in Minnesota, *Naked Stages* is a 7 month development program that provides time, financial support, and mentoring to three artists to develop their unique voices as performance artists and creators.

This year, *Naked Stages* changes from a 4 artist fellowship to a fellowship that provides more opportunities for 3 artists. In the past, the fellowship has culminated in two weekends of performances with two different artists performing each week. This year, two artists will perform their work over the course of two weeks while a third artist will create an installation in the Pillsbury House + Theatre building that will be open to the public overlapping the December performances.

About the 2013 projects

Emily Zimmer's *Three Figure\$* will explore the poetics and problems of the financial crisis through the perspective of three different women.

Moheb Soliman's project deals with circumnavigating the Great Lakes by land—exploring the place of nature in culture, parsing the terms of identity politics and environmentalism, and romancing the heart of a borderland.

Zaineb Musa's *Enough* is an examination of Musa's current ethnic identity as a woman of African descent. "The way in which I speak and move through society has become a means to preserve a stereotype, through my consumption of American pop culture." A self portrait and work in progress, this solo show seeks to challenge the audiences' ideas of what defines an individual as "Black enough," based on the mainstream messages they may have absorbed.

Additional Changes

Molly Van Avery moves from Naked Stages Coordinator under the supervision of Laurio Carlos to Director of Naked Stages. “As the program continues, we are working to broaden the possibilities of performance through encouraging installation pieces, creating a script library of past projects that highlights the incredible work of Naked Stages artists, and also entering into a conversation with other theatres throughout the country who are interested in supporting original performance art that is unpredictable, edgy, and exciting.”

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, Katie Vang, Moe Lionel, Gabrielle Civil, 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.

Naked Stages performances December 4-7, 11-14, 2013 are the final step of a multi-layered program designed to empower artists to be their most bold and creative and to challenge artists and audiences alike to push past their previous boundaries.

All tickets are Pick Your Price. (Regular price = \$15). Performances begin at 7:30 Wednesday thru Saturday. Post-show discussions with the artists following every Thursday performance.

BOX OFFICE AND MORE INFO: 612-825-0459 or www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org

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.

###