



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2011

2011 Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe continues with World premieres of *The Devil and Mister Punch & Canyon*, Philadelphia premiere of *Namasya*

PHILADELPHIA – The [15th annual Philadelphia Live Arts Festival](#) enters its second week with three Festival premieres – the theater production *The Devil and Mister Punch* and the contemporary dance works *Canyon* and *Namasya*. The 16-day Festival, which runs in conjunction with the **Philly Fringe**, opened on September 2 to enthusiastic audiences and rave reviews, and features cutting-edge dance, theater, visual art, music and interdisciplinary works in venues throughout the city.

The centerpiece theater work of the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival is the World premiere of the darkly funny [The Devil and Mister Punch](#) by London's **Improbable**, the company behind the international smash-hit *Shockheaded Peter*. The production runs from Sept. 8-11 and 13-16 at Christ Church Neighborhood House (20 N American St) in Old City. This co-commission of the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and the Walker Arts Center is inspired by the iconic and perversely violent English puppet show *Punch and Judy*. The highly visual production features a company of actors, musicians, and wooden and papier mâché players, exploring the familiar tale of the mischievous Punch, while simultaneously leading the audience on an unexpected detour into the complex and dark world of Punch's manipulators, the puppeteers themselves. Improbable's award-winning creative team has created a stage within Christ Church reminiscent of a giant Victorian armoire with secret openings, a piano, and surprise performances areas. Visit www.thedevilandmisterpunch.com to learn more about the show and watch a video preview.

On the Avenue of the Arts, acclaimed American choreographer **John Jasperse** will offer the World premiere of the new evening length work [Canyon](#), Sept. 9-11 at The Wilma Theater (265 S Broad St, at Spruce). Dance critic Claudia La Rocco of *The New York Times* has said, "When John Jasperse makes a new work, it should be seen: end of story." The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival is thrilled to present *Canyon* to local audiences and bring Jasperse, who has never performed in Philadelphia, to the region. The New York-based choreographer's collaborative work captures the wonder of the ineffable. Six dancers, including Jasperse, create a space where the supremacy of the intellect is humbled into a state of awe. Integrating an evocative musical score and striking stage design, *Canyon* plays with engineered disorientation, sensory overload, spaciousness, fractured connectivity, and rapture.

Just a few blocks away from *The Devil and Mister Punch* is [Zon-Mai](#), an installation in motion by **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** of Belgium and **Gilles Delmas** of France. Part of the 2011 Spotlight Series on cross-cultural exchange ([At Home, Elsewhere](#)), *Zon-Mai* is the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival's first-ever visual art exhibition, currently on view at the Former Pumping Station (140 N Columbus Blvd, at Race St, across from the Race St Pier). Festivalgoers are invited to the official **gallery opening** on Thursday, September 8 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. The party will feature complimentary beverages and pay-as-you-go offerings from Philadelphia's finest food trucks – Gigi & Big R's Caribbean Soul Food, Nomad Pizza, Little Baby's Ice Cream and Sweetbox. For gallery hours, visit www.livearts-fringe.org.

Choreographer and dancer **Shantala Shivalingappa**, who appears on film in *Zon-Mai*, will also present the contemporary solo [Namasya](#) at the Arts Bank at The University of the Arts (601 S Broad St, at South St) from Sept. 11-12. Born in Chennai, India and raised in Paris, Shantala Shivalingappa is the child of east and west and a master of Kuchipudi, a classical dance form of South India. *Namasya*, Sanskrit for “reverence” or “to pay homage”, showcases Shivalingappa in a solo in four parts, with pieces choreographed by Pina Bausch, Ushio Amagatsu, Shivalingappa and the dancer's mother, the acclaimed choreographer Savitry Nair. *Namasya* is presented in association with the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts where Shivalingappa will perform the traditional Kuchipudi piece, *Shiva Ganga* on November 5 ([a special ticket package is available here](#)). The following week, Shivalingappa will perform alongside choreographer and dancer Sidi Lardi Cherkaoui in the U.S. premiere of [Play](#) in its only U.S. engagement at the Prince Music Theater (1412 Chestnut St), Sept. 15-17.

Philadelphia Live Arts Festival productions continuing this week include [Red Rovers](#) by the imaginative Philadelphia-based **Headlong Dance Theater**; the exuberant [Twelfth Night, or What You Will](#) by **Pig Iron Theatre Company**; [WHaLE OPTICS](#), an epic homage to exploration and adventure, by **Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental**; Act 1 of [Extremely Public Displays of Privacy](#), an online adventure by **New Paradise Laboratories**; and the fantastical [Elephant Room](#) featuring illusionists **Dennis Diamond**, **Louie Magic** and **Darryl Hannah**, directed by **Paul Lazar** and written by **Trey Lyford** and **Geoff Sobelle** with **Steve Cuiffo**.

Live Arts Festival productions opening during the final week of the Festival include the Philadelphia premiere of [Traces](#) by the high-energy urban acrobatic troupe **7 Fingers**; the Philadelphia premiere of [The Radio Show](#), the Bessie Award-winning dance by New York-based choreographer **Kyle Abraham** and his company **Abraham.In.Motion**; the U.S. premiere of French choreographer **Xavier Le Roy**'s expressive multi-disciplinary work [More Mouvements für Lachenmann](#); and [Play](#), a duet commissioned by Live Arts, created and performed by Shantala Shivalingappa and choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

FESTIVAL BAR + SOCIAL CLUB

[The Festival Bar + Social Club](#) brings 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 Festivalgoers 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/conte st or www.livearts-fringe.org/conte st.

TICKETS

Tickets to all shows are available for purchase online at www.livearts-fringe.org, or by 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: Sun.-Thu. 12 p.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 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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