

FRINGE ARTS

Media Contacts:

Canary Promotion | Office: 215-690-4065
Megan Wendell, megan@canarypromo.com
Carise Mitch, carise@canarypromo.com

Tickets: 215-413-1318 or fringearts.com
Hi-res photos: canarypromo.com/fringearts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2014

FringeArts Announces 2014 Fringe Festival Programming and Official Opening of First-Ever Permanent Headquarters With Bar, Restaurant and Late-Night Programming

Tickets on sale now for 18th annual festival of provocative international performance and local world premieres, September 5-21

PHILADELPHIA — Tickets are [on sale now](#) for “Presented” shows in the **2014 Fringe Festival** presented by **FringeArts**, bringing the world’s most daring and innovative performers to Philadelphia stages for the 18th year in a row from **September 5–21**. The 2014 Fringe Festival is supported by Presenting Sponsor PNC, through the PNC Arts Alive initiative. The Lincoln Motor Company is the Official Automotive Sponsor of the Festival.

Coinciding with this year’s Fringe Festival Opening Night is the grand opening of **La Peg** at FringeArts, acclaimed Philadelphia chef/restaurateur **Peter Woolsey**’s brand-new waterfront brasserie, representing the culmination of FringeArts’ years-long evolution from a two-week festival producer to a bustling year-round destination for artistic and social activity. The bar and restaurant will include a new stage at FringeArts for cabaret-style performances year-round, beginning with free late-night **Festival Bar** programming every night of the Festival. A grand opening celebration to unveil La Peg and its shared outdoor plaza will take place on **Friday, September 5**; details to be announced at a later date.

“After being nomadic for almost two decades, FringeArts finally has a place to call home,” says FringeArts President and Producing Director **Nick Stuccio**. “We want to be a place for Philadelphians to see the world’s most exciting artists all year long, and in turn support our city’s incredible local artists as they make their way in the world. With our Festival, year-round programming, residencies and waterfront restaurant, FringeArts is truly a destination for bold thinkers, art makers and arts lovers to come together and celebrate Philadelphia. We couldn’t be more excited.”

Taking place at FringeArts’ new waterfront headquarters and at unique venues across the city, this year’s festival breaks boundaries and exceeds expectations, with **6 world premieres** from beloved local artists **Pig Iron Theatre Company**, **New Paradise Laboratories** and **The Pennsylvania Ballet**; New York-based public artist/installation inhabitant **Mary Mattingly** and immersive-experience specialists the **Institute for Psychogeographic Adventure**; and acclaimed international theater makers/data analysts

Rimini Protokoll (Germany), whose **100% Philadelphia** is an open invitation for Philadelphia's citizens to see their demographic makeup come to life onstage in powerful, unexpected ways.

This year's lineup of **Presented Fringe** performances also includes work from provocative Italian theater maker **Romeo Castellucci**, coming to the Fringe Festival for the second consecutive year; experimental New York choreographer **Trajal Harrell**; Obie Award-winning New York-based theater company **Half Straddle**; and Iranian playwright **Nassim Soleimanpour**. In addition, FringeArts will extend the Fringe Festival into October to present the seminal 1983 Belgian dance piece **Rosas Danst Rosas** (Oct. 4-5), recently made famous by Beyoncé, who drew heavily on the work for her "Countdown" music video. *[Programming details follow below.]*

As FringeArts continues its tradition of providing a platform for artists to independently produce their visions in a Festival environment, hundreds more artists will participate in the **Neighborhood Fringe** and perform their work to Festival audiences. This confluence of risk-taking, independently produced shows animates the spaces of Philadelphia and enriches the city's communities.

The 2014 Fringe Festival is a platform for daring and innovative artists, bringing leaders of the contemporary performing arts world to Philadelphia stages and showcasing the groundbreaking work of Philadelphia-based performers. Each year, the Festival draws tens of thousands of people who come to experience Philadelphia's thriving cultural scene and interact with hundreds of artists at thousands of performances.

Tickets to most Presented Fringe shows are on sale at FringeArts.com or via phone at 215-413-1318. Tickets to Neighborhood Fringe shows will go on sale beginning in July.

2014 FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

INTERDISCIPLINARY

[2014 FRINGE FESTIVAL CENTERPIECE] **100% Philadelphia** (Sept. 19-21) is a unique interactive performance work featuring a cast of 100 Philadelphia citizen-artists (non-actors) under the direction of German artist collective **Rimini Protokoll**. Part-theater, part-data analysis **100% Philadelphia** will be cast based on the city's 2010 U.S. census data for age, gender, geography, ethnicity, race, class, sexual identity and more. Based on that criteria, more than 40 cast members will be African-American, half will be women and approximately 20 will be children. FringeArts is also casting individuals of various sexual orientations, gender identities, physical and intellectual disabilities, and undocumented and homeless Philadelphians to represent a multi-dimensional view of its citizens. In a city full of people with wildly different experiences, the cast members will interact with audiences through a series of narrated

questions that will slowly dig deeper and deeper, revealing who we are as individuals and how we impact each other as a community. Who has ever held a gun? Who dropped out of school? Who are our teachers, top earners and unemployed? Says show creator Helgard Haug, “By watching how the 100 representatives make decisions, you can ask yourself where you stand: How would I answer this question? Would I dare to express my own thoughts, even if it means I would stand alone?”

Rimini Protokoll's *100%* public-practice performance series, which gives Venn diagrams, bar graphs and bell curves a distinctly human face, has been performed around the world, but this is the first time a major U.S. city has been selected. To encourage all Philadelphians to participate, tickets for *100% Philadelphia* will be pay-what-you-wish. *Rehearsals for 100% Philadelphia will take place in late August and early September; cast members may be available for interviews in advance of the performances. This presentation is supported in part by PNC Arts Alive.*

[WORLD PREMIERE] Created by Brooklyn-based installation artist **Mary Mattingly**, *WetLand* (Aug. 15-Sept. 21) is an interactive public art installation, island-based ecosystem and mobile habitat moored on the Delaware River. Mattingly will live on *WetLand* for six weeks, including the entirety of the Fringe Festival, during which time she will host performances, workshops, skill shares and artistic gatherings. *WetLand* responds to the conditions of a near future when people live alongside the water again, as rivers and oceans overtake our cities and towns. Says Mattingly, “I wanted to bring more attention to the necessity of wetlands, and pair it with a sinking house to describe causation through symbolic artwork.”

WetLand is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Philadelphia Academies, Inc., Aqua America, AT&T, The Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, Door to Door Organics, The Dow Chemical Company, Organic Mechanics, PECO, the Puffin Foundation, and Skidmutro. The installation is currently being built on Pier 9 on Philadelphia's Delaware River waterfront.

[WORLD PREMIERE] The New York-based **Institute for Psychogeographic Adventure** (IPA) invites Festival-goers on a guided adventure in Old City, transforming Philadelphia's oldest neighborhood into a giant stage. After filling out a psychological survey, **Experiment #39 (OLD CITY)** (Sept. 6-7) audience members are sent one by one on a personalized walking tour through town, wandering down alleys, sneaking through doorways, dancing on rooftops and being surprised with performances and encounters created by dozens of artists and residents. According to the IPA, “When you embark on one of the IPA's ‘experiments,’ your entire perspective on the neighborhood [starts to change]. You will start to notice things about the urban landscape that were already present, but not in your conscious awareness.”

THEATER

[U.S. PREMIERE] Inspired by Mark Rothko's withdrawal of his commissioned work in New York's Four Seasons restaurant, internationally acclaimed Italian experimental theater maker **Romeo Castellucci** and his company **Societas Raffaello Sanzio** return to Philadelphia to present ***The Four Seasons***

Restaurant (Sept. 11-13), a highly stylized, visually stunning exploration of absence, negation and solitude. Says CultureBot's Agnès Silvestre of the performance, "His pieces are ruthless and demand that you approach them in a state of wonder. You get out in direct proportion to what you put in." Castellucci, who has been called a visual artist working in the realm of theater, brought his provocative *On the Concept of the Face Regarding the Son of God* to the Fringe Festival in 2013.

On the Concept and The Four Seasons Restaurant have been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts.

[IRANIAN EXPORT] When **Nassim Soleimanpour** refused military service and was forbidden to leave his home country of Iran, he wrote the play ***White Rabbit, Red Rabbit*** (Sept. 6-21) and sent it off to see the world in his stead. Part of an ongoing international tour, FringeArts' 12-performance engagement follows Soleimanpour's directives: A script waits in a sealed envelope. The audience arrives. Each night, a different actor steps on stage and opens the envelope, reading the script aloud for the first — and last — time. A brilliant work of theater, *White Rabbit, Red Rabbit* brings its author in touch with an audience to have a shared, intimate and exhilarating experience despite being separated by thousands of miles. *Actors taking part in the performance may be available for interview after their reading takes place.*

Urgent Note for Press: All media have to keep in mind that the playwright lives in Iran. This play is NOT overtly political, and should not be portrayed as such. It operates on a deeper, metaphoric level, and very expressly avoids overt political comment. We therefore ask the press to be judicious in their reportage.

[TEAM SPIRIT] In Obie Award-winning New York City-based theater troupe **Half Straddle's *In the Pony Palace/Football*** (Sept. 17-19), an all-female cast puts a gender spin on the players, coaches, and cheerleaders of the historically male backdrop of American high school football. The show follows the players through a season of wins and losses, shifting allegiances, power plays, hormonal imbalances and adolescent turmoil, using the lexicon of football and awkward teen vernacular to convey a time in the lives of young people when everything is a big deal yet nothing matters. A live marching band performs a live score blending deconstructed pop songs. Says writer/director Tina Satter, "I'm always interested in theater taking me beyond the edges of reality into a liminal and exciting space in subtle, unexpected ways. I want it to feel like something we've never quite seen or felt before."

[LOCAL WORLD PREMIERE] Fringe Festival favorite **Pig Iron Theatre Company** returns to the Festival with the world premiere ***99 BREAKUPS*** (Sept. 5-16; preview Sept. 4), a theatrical — and scientific — look at endings, exits, disintegrations and the stories people have in common. Working with writer Kirk Lynn (Rude Mechs; Austin, TX) and choreographer Dayna Hanson (33 Fainting Spells; Seattle, WA), *99 BREAKUPS* is a collection of small moments writ large, allowing audiences to witness when private conversations are exposed to public spaces and when suppressed emotions explode into tantrums.

[LOCAL WORLD PREMIERE] **New Paradise Laboratories** presents the world premiere ***The Adults*** (Sept. 5-14; previews Sept. 3-4), a run-of-the-mill multi-family vacation turned on its head by adults behaving badly. Influenced by Anton Chekhov and the paintings of Eric Fischl and set to a score by local experimental composer **Bhob Rainey**, *The Adults* is a highly physical show that explores intimate cruelty and shifting emotional landscapes. Says McLaughlin, “The idea of weather as a dominant force informs *The Adults*: the environment of a room full of people changing like the weather.”

This presentation of The Adults has been supported by the Charlotte Cushman Foundation. The Adults has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

DANCE

[POST-MODERN DANCE MEETS HARLEM VOGUE] Experimental New York-based choreographer **Trajal Harrell** explores a dance style from the gay ballroom scene, fashion and the runway, race and gender in the all-male ***Antigone Sr./Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at The Judson Church (L)*** (Sept. 12-13), part five in Harrell’s seven-part series. A revelatory investigation of ancient Greek themes set to deep-bass club music, this inventive and energetic piece imagines what would happen if the voguing Harlem ball culture of the 1960s had headed downtown to witness postmodern dance being born at the Judson Church arts center. Says *The New York Times*’ Claudia LaRocco, Harrell “fashion[s] his own fierce, ragged mythology — one pieced together from pop culture, theory, voguing, dance history — and, always, the runway. However much in disarray, its denizens are fabulous.” Additionally, Harrell will perform ***Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church (XS)*** (Sept. 9) a 25-minute solo performed for a limited number of audience members.

This presentation of Antigone Sr. is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

[LOCAL WORLD PREMIERE] In this unprecedented collaboration between the **Pennsylvania Ballet**, the **Curtis Institute of Music** and **FringeArts**, three superbly adventurous choreographers from around the world will create new cutting-edge, experimental works on the classically trained dancers of the Pennsylvania Ballet. Set to music created and performed by **Curtis Institute** composers and alumni, ***What I Learned About Outer Space*** (Sept. 5-7) is contemporary performance art at its highest level, with a high wire creation process: the three choreographers (Zoe Scofield, Seattle; Itamar Serussi, Israel; and Georg Reischl, Austria) gather with the 20 Pennsylvania Ballet dancers to create the dances from scratch and rehearse in the three weeks leading up to opening night. *Rehearsals may be open to the press; details forthcoming.*

[EXTENDED FESTIVAL] Presented by FringeArts on October 4–5 as an extension of the 2014 Fringe Festival, **Rosas Danst Rosas** is a reintroduction to the seminal dance work made famous in 1983. Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker founded the Rosas company in 1983 with *Rosas Danst Rosas*, which launched her career as an internationally respected and sought-after artist; the work is marked by rhythmic complexity, stylized minimalism, fierce abstract feminism and choreographic rigor, and, according to *The New York Times*, “It hasn’t lost anything of its original power.” Coming to Philadelphia as part of a limited three-city tour, *Rosas Danst Rosas* was recently made famous by Beyoncé, whose “Countdown” music video draws heavily on the work for choreography, costuming and set.

This presentation of Rosas Danst Rosas is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

FESTIVAL BAR PROGRAMMING

FringeArts’s new bar and restaurant, La Peg headed by acclaimed Philadelphia chef/restaurateur Peter Woolsey, will serve as a late-night hub for Fringe Festival activities with free performances each night of the Festival. Featured performers will include Philadelphia’s favorite drag cabaret performer **Martha Graham Cracker**; New York-based performer and rapper **Champagne Jerry** (aka Neal Medlyn whose work has appeared at the New Museum for Contemporary Art, the Andy Warhol Museum and Dance Theater Workshop); singer **Christeene** whose sexually-charged performances showcase a wide range of musical styles: from Electro to R&B, Hip Hop to Dub Step; and virtuoso cellist **Maya Beiser**, described by *The Boston Globe* as possessing “virtuoso chops, rock-star charisma, and an appetite for pushing her instrument to the edge of avant-garde adventurousness...the post-modern diva of the cello.” *A full schedule of performers will be announced at a later date.*

FEASTIVAL

The fifth annual **FEASTIVAL**, a benefit for FringeArts, will be held during the 2014 Fringe Festival, date to be announced. The 2014 event will feature a culinary feast from dozens of the city’s top chefs, hosted by **Stephen Starr, Michael Solomonov** and **Audrey Claire Taichman**, with live performances by Festival artists and silent and live auctions. Says FringeArts Board President **Richard Vague** of the annual event, “World-class cities need world-class culture. FEASTIVAL celebrates both our artistic and culinary scenes — two great economic engines that push Philadelphia forward.” For invitations, announcements and other updates, visit phillyfeastival.com.

PROGRAM INFO/TICKETS

The 2014 Fringe Festival runs September 5–21, 2014. Tickets for most shows are priced between \$10 and \$29; some shows are free. Students and Festival-goers age 25 or younger pay \$15 for Presented Fringe tickets and receive \$5 off Neighborhood Fringe tickets priced above \$10. Discounted tickets are

available to Members. Members save 30% on all shows (including year-round programming), can exchange tickets, receive admission to exclusive artist receptions and other special events, and enjoy priority seating at select performances. Groups of 10+ save 25%.

Tickets to the 2014 Fringe Festival are on sale at FringeArts.com or via phone at 215-413-1318. Tickets to Neighborhood Fringe shows will go on sale beginning in July.

ABOUT NICK STUCCIO

FringeArts President and Producing Director Nick Stuccio's career in the arts began with an intensive study of classical ballet at Skidmore College, where he also earned a degree in biology. His dedication to the form led to an apprenticeship with the Pennsylvania Ballet and eventually a position as a corps member with the company, where he danced for eight years. At the Ballet, Stuccio danced under the artistic direction of Ricky Weiss, Christopher d'Amboise and Roy Kaiser.

Stuccio retired as a dancer and began producing full-time in 1995. He co-founded the Philadelphia Fringe Festival (now FringeArts) in 1997 and that same year was named "Person of the Year" by *Philadelphia Weekly*. He was included in *Philadelphia Magazine's* 2000 edition of "People to Watch," as well as *Philadelphia Magazine's* 2009 and 2014 "Power Issue" rankings of the city's most influential people. His many production credits include co-founding *Shut Up and Dance*, the popular annual benefit that showcases work choreographed and performed by dancers of the Pennsylvania Ballet and raises more than \$100,000 net every year to benefit the Metropolitan Aids Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA). Stuccio was also the original curator of the Wilma Theater's *Dance Boom* series, serving in that role from 2002 to 2005. Other leadership roles include producing two dance films and serving on the Philadelphia Cultural Fund board for the past six years. In 2005, Nick was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts by the University of the Arts.

ABOUT FRINGEARTS

FringeArts supports artists and brings the world's newest and most cutting-edge cultural experiences to Philadelphia, amplifying the vibrancy of the city as a renowned cultural center and an unparalleled place to live, work and visit. Founded in 1997 and formerly known as the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival and Philly Fringe, the organization serves local, national and international artists of all disciplines and levels of achievement through an annual 18-day Festival along with a year-round series of high-quality contemporary dance, theater and music performances; commissioned public art installations; and a residency program that continues to expand and grow as a state-of-the-art incubator for artists. In 2013, FringeArts opened the doors to its brand-new waterfront headquarters in Old City Philadelphia.

A full schedule of additional festival events, performance dates, times and locations will be announced soon. Visit FringeArts.com for up-to-date Festival information.

#

To request interviews, photos and more information, please contact:

Canary Promotion | 215-690-4065
Megan Wendell, megan@canarypromo.com

Festival Website: www.FringeArts.com
Electronic Press Kit: www.canarypromo.com/FringeArts