
For Immediate Release
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LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES PROJECTS AND PARTNERS FOR INAUGURAL “WITHOUT WALLS” FESTIVAL

RENOWNED LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS JOIN PLAYHOUSE FOR INNOVATIVE SITE-BASED EVENT IN OCTOBER, 2013

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse is pleased to announce the major projects and partners for its inaugural **Without Walls (WoW) Festival** of site-based work, running **October 3 - 6, 2013**. This one-of-a-kind Festival will showcase events occurring simultaneously in and around the Playhouse Theatre District, presented by the Playhouse as well Festival partner institutions: **Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD)** and **UC San Diego**.

Featuring 12 to 15 site-based works by local, national and international artists, the WoW Festival will serve as a cultural and artistic hub, including a vibrant central **Festival Village**, where patrons can gather to eat, drink and share their experiences. Like the spontaneous nature of WoW productions, the Festival Village will be a casual space with communal dining tables, a stage for live music and break-out areas featuring small performances and artist salons. Local San Diego breweries will be on hand to pour the best in craft brews in a beer garden atmosphere, and the Playhouse will continue its successful Foodie Friday series with a selection of food trucks available throughout the day. The Festival Village will be the first place to open and last place to close every day. It will be the space where artists and patrons mingle, where people from different parts of the city meet and exchange ideas, the place to break bread and toast to new friends.

“Our previous WoW offerings have each been singularly remarkable experiences — all extended by popular demand, demonstrating that San Diego audiences have a voracious appetite for unique theatrical events. The WoW Festival gives us the opportunity to create a spectacular community-wide event that will continue to transform our customary idea of theatre,” said **Playhouse Artistic Director Christopher Ashley**.

Funded by a generous grant from The James Irvine Foundation, **WoW** is a La Jolla Playhouse program designed to break the barriers of traditional theatre. Since 2010, the Playhouse has been commissioning and presenting a series of site-specific productions at locations throughout the San Diego community. Underscoring the theatre’s mission of providing “unfettered creative opportunities for the leading artists of today and tomorrow,” coupled with the idea that the Playhouse is defined by the work it creates – not the space in which it is performed – WoW is designed to offer theatrical experiences that venture beyond the physical confines of the Playhouse’s facilities.

Admission to the Festival Village, including Village-based performances, is free, with tickets for select shows priced at \$25 or less. Tickets to the Festival productions will go on sale in the spring. Artist information and photos will be available at www.LaJollaPlayhouse.org.

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The major WoW Festival projects will include:

Platonov, a new multimedia adaptation of Chekhov's play by renowned artist and M.I.T. Faculty member **Jay Scheib**. Set in an outdoor space with a voyeuristic, carnival atmosphere, *Platonov* will take place inside and outside of a uniquely-designed modular home while video cameras project the action.

100% San Diego, a customized, reality-based piece by the German theatre group **Rimini Protokoll**, in which San Diego County's population is represented by 100 people. Each participant is chosen according to select statistical criteria that reflect the city's demographics from census data. These 100 citizens create a living, breathing portrait of San Diego: a whole city on stage, part theatre, part reality, 100% San Diego.

We Built This City, from Australia's **Polyglot** company, entails a giant public construction site that uses thousands of cardboard boxes and the energy and ingenuity of kids and families to build a magnificent imagined city in one day. At the end of the event, everyone joins in trampling the city down into a gloriously chaotic heap of cardboard rubble.

Basil Twist, world-renowned puppeteer, will create an intimate new work, commissioned by the Playhouse, to be staged at the water's edge at a La Jolla beach. The project will feature creatures emerging from the sea, celebrating the magic and vitality of the ocean.

Kamchàtka revolves around eight characters, lost in a city. They move together, each carrying a suitcase and a souvenir. Be they travellers or immigrants, they are open to the world around them, showing us how to view everything as if it were the first time we are seeing it, teaching us to look at ourselves through their eyes. *Kamchàtka* is an improvisation show which deals with the essence of theatre in public space, crossing the borders between theatre, game and life.

Our Town, with actors and audience sharing a meal together, Thornton Wilder's classic is re-imagined and directed by UC San Diego M.F.A. graduate **Tom Dugdale** as an intimate backyard gathering featuring live, original music and real-time video assemblage.

As previously-announced, the Playhouse will bring back *Moving Arts' The Car Plays: San Diego* in a special return engagement featuring newly-commissioned works.

Additional programming will be presented by students and faculty from partner institution **UC San Diego's** acclaimed theatre, music and visual arts departments, who will contribute site-based works and take part in artist salons and presentations in the Festival Village.

Partner institution **MCASD** will present works by renowned visual and performance artists **James Luna, Kate Gilmore** and **Jacolby Satterwhite**. In a new work commissioned by MCASD, Luna takes up the iconic image of the American Indian storyteller as a vehicle for his narratives of contemporary Indian life. His fireside stories incorporate multimedia projections and live music, interweaving past and present, autobiography and cultural identity, and poignancy and humor. Projects by Gilmore and Satterwhite will be announced shortly.

MCASD will also help launch the WoW Festival with a special version of their signature "**TNT**" event to take place at La Jolla Playhouse on **Thursday, October 3**. TNT, which stands for Thursday Night Thing, is typically held three times each year at MCASD's downtown location. It is a dynamic event that brings together artist talks and performances, hands-on activities, live music and cocktails, all inspired by the exhibitions on view.

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Ashley continued, “Working with these artists from around the globe, as well as with our partners at MCASD and UC San Diego, this unparalleled Festival will help shine a national spotlight on San Diego as it brings site-specific work never before seen in the States to our community.”

The nationally acclaimed, Tony Award-winning **La Jolla Playhouse** is known for its tradition of creating the most exciting and adventurous new work in regional theatre. The Playhouse was founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, and is considered one of the most well-respected not-for-profit theatres in the country. Numerous Playhouse productions have moved to Broadway, including the currently-running hits *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *Jersey Boys* – both Best Musical Tony Award winners, as well as *Big River*, *The Who’s Tommy*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Walk in the Woods*, Billy Crystal’s *700 Sundays*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *I Am My Own Wife*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *33 Variations*, *Bonnie & Clyde* and *Chaplin*. Located on the UC San Diego campus, La Jolla Playhouse is made up of three primary performance spaces: the Mandell Weiss Theatre, the Mandell Weiss Forum Theatre and the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Center for La Jolla Playhouse, a state-of-the-art theatre complex which features the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre. La Jolla Playhouse is led by Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg.

At **UC San Diego**, innovation and creativity are central to who they are and what they do. Students learn that knowledge isn’t just acquired in the classroom – life is their laboratory. UC San Diego is an academic powerhouse and economic engine, recognized as one of the top 10 public universities by *U.S. News & World Report* and ranked number one in the nation for public service by the *Washington Monthly*. Celebrating its 40th anniversary, **UC San Diego Theatre and Dance** has been one of the top-ranked theater programs in the country for more than a decade. Training is purposefully imaginative, eclectic and interdisciplinary. The department does not believe there can be – or should be – one approach to making work. UC San Diego shapes minds, changes lives, launches industries and builds the future ... one student, one discovery and one achievement at a time. Visit ucsd.edu and theatre.ucsd.edu for more information.

Founded in 1941, the **Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego** (MCASD) is the preeminent contemporary visual arts institution in San Diego County. The Museum’s collection includes more than 4,000 works of art created since 1950. In addition to presenting exhibitions by international contemporary artists, the Museum serves thousands of children and adults annually at its varied education programs, and offers a rich program of film, performance, and lectures. MCASD is a private, nonprofit organization, with 501c3 tax-exempt status; it is supported by generous contributions and grants from MCASD Members and other individuals, corporations, foundations, and government agencies. Dr. Hugh M. Davies is The David C. Copley Director and CEO at MCASD. Institutional support for MCASD is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and the James Irvine Foundation. mcasd.org

The James Irvine Foundation is a private, nonprofit grantmaking foundation dedicated to expanding opportunity for the people of California to participate in a vibrant, successful and inclusive society. The Foundation’s grantmaking focuses on three program areas: Arts, California Democracy and Youth. Since 1937 the Foundation has provided over \$1 billion in grants to more than 3,000 nonprofit organizations throughout California. With about \$1.5 billion in assets, the Foundation made grants of \$65 million in 2011 for the people of California.

Biographies

Director **Tom Dugdale** holds a Master of Fine Arts in Direction from UC San Diego and is the recipient of a 2012 Princess Grace Award in Theatre with La Jolla Playhouse. He wrote and directed *Making Love Over There* for the Hollywood Fringe Festival 2012 (a "Best of Fringe" production). Upcoming projects include *Cry Old Kingdom* at the 2013 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theater of Louisville.

Kate Gilmore's work combines performance, sculpture, and video to explore ideas of feminist struggle, physical labor, slapstick comedy and various legacies of twentieth century art. In her performances staged for video, or public works incorporating other performers, she often employs visual motifs derived from the corporate and domestic world, and confronts tasks and obstacles that must be accomplished or overcome in real time. kategilmore.com

Through improvisation, street theatre techniques and non-verbal communication, the Spanish theatre company **Kamchátka** creates their own clear and sensitive language in performances that include audience participation. Their shows share reflections on immigration, exile, the function of art in public space and socially accepted codes of communication. kamchatka.cat

In his performances and conceptual artworks, **James Luna**, a Luiseño Indian living on the La Jolla Reservation in northern San Diego County, employs humor, satire, and cultural anthropology to address myth and reality in American Indian culture. Luna's work has been collected by museums nationally and internationally, and he was commissioned by the Smithsonian Institution to represent the National Museum of the American Indian at the Venice Biennale in 2005. jamesluna.com

Conceived by Paul Stein and produced by **Moving Arts**, *The Car Plays* is "adventurous theatre packed into a Jeep or a Jetta or an Audi" (*Huffington Post*). For Stein, who lives in LA, his car was a haven of solitary moments of reflection, long talks with friends, an occasional breakup or two and more. Drawing on those memories, Stein collaborated with playwrights to create an experience that engages audience members in a new "performance model" of voyeuristic intimacy. Moving Arts is dedicated to the production of original works and continues to show a remarkable versatility and commitment to the craft of theatre. movingarts.org

Polyglot is Australia's leading creator of experiential, interactive and installation theatre for children aged up to 12 years. Their artists view children as genuine collaborators, facilitating a professionally-led artistic process to create imagined worlds where audiences actively participate in performance through touch, play and encounter. polyglottheatre.com

Germany's **Rimini Protokoll** has exerted a powerful influence on the alternative theatre scene as leaders and creators of the theatre movement known as "Reality Trend" (Theater der Zeit). They have attracted international attention with their dramatic works, which take place in the colorful zone between reality and fiction. Since 2000, Rimini Protokoll has brought its "theatre of experts" to the stage and into city spaces, interpreted by non-professional actors who are called "experts" for that very reason. Among other awards they gained the National German Theatre Award DER FAUST, the European Theatre Prize in Thessaloniki (category New Realities) and the Silver Lion of the 41st Theatre Biennale of Venice. rimini-protokoll.de

Rising art world star **Jacolby Satterwhite** creates exuberant artworks integrating drawing, dance, video and 3-D animation to explore themes of memory, desire and heroism. The New York-based artist frequently performs in concert with elaborate costumes, props and videos. In Satterwhite's virtual universe, 3-D modeled versions of the artist's body mix with animated figures as well as drawings made by his mother and collaborator, an artist who struggles with schizophrenia. This partnership results in a compelling overlap of distinct visual trajectories, in which a private, domestic world collides with popular culture, art history, and politics. jacolby.com.

Jay Scheib is a director, designer and author of plays, operas and live art events. He is at the forefront in developing new forms in theatre, known for "mixing multimedia with deadpan-cool" (*Time Out New York*). Named by American Theater Magazine as one of the 25 Artists who will shape the next 25 years of American theatre, he is internationally renowned for works of daring physicality, genre-defying performances and deep integration of new technologies. Scheib is a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow and a recipient of the Edgerton Award, The Richard Sherwood Award, and the NEA/TCG Program for Directors. He is a regular guest professor at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria and is Professor for Music and Theater Arts at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. jayscheib.com.

Internationally-renowned puppetry designer **Basil Twist** continually expands the realm of puppetry by creating new works that have been described as "kaleidoscopic, romantic, joyful, haunting and hallucinogenic." The sole American graduate of the Ecole Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in France, Twist is the recipient of an Obie Award, two Drama Desk Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship and five UNIMA Awards for Excellence in Puppetry. Twist is the director of The Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE Arts Center. His Broadway credits include *The Pee Wee Herman Show* and *The Addams Family*. At La Jolla Playhouse, his credits include *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Dogugaeshi* (presented as part of The EDGE series) and Mabou Mines' *Peter and Wendy*. basiltwist.com.