



WOW Festival Artist/Partner Biographies

Director **Charlotte Brathwaite** (*Shasta Geaux Pop*) is known for staging classical and unconventional texts, dance, visual/performance art, multi-media, plays, site-specific and music events. Her work is seen in the Americas, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia and ranges in subject matter from the historical past to the distant future illuminating issues of race, sex, power and the complexities of the human condition. Named by Playbill as “one of the “up-and-coming women in theatre to watch”, Brathwaite continues to create her own work and has ongoing collaborations with such noted artists as Peter Sellars, Meshell Ndegeochello, Justin Hicks, Abigail DeVille, Ayesha Jordan to name a few.

Max Robert Daily (*OSLO*) Max Robert Daily is a San Diego artist who works in performance and visual art, using any medium that best expresses the story he is telling. He attended the Cotsen Center for Puppetry at Calarts and performs extensively in puppetry, mime, and clowning, as well as being a published author in children's illustration books. Loves teaching and inspiring when he isn't working his day job as an art preparator for the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego.

Yehuda Duenyas (*CVRTAIN*) is an artist, Experience Director, and founder of Emmy Award-winning Mindride, an artist drive company specializing in next generation experiential art and entertainment. *Cvrtain* is created by Yehuda Duenyas, and commissioned by Performance Space 122 with an implementation grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for the Building Demand for the Performing Arts Program.

Tim Etchells (*The Quiet Volume*) is an artist and a writer based in the UK whose work shifts between performance, visual art and fiction. He has worked in a wide variety of contexts, notably as the leader of the world-renowned Sheffield-based performance group Forced Entertainment. Exhibiting and presenting work in significant institutions all over the world, he is currently Professor of Performance & Writing at Lancaster University. Etchells' work has been shown recently at Tate Modern, Cubitt, Hayward Gallery and Bloomberg SPACE in London, at Turner Contemporary, The Grundy and Compton Verney in the UK, at Witte de With, Rotterdam, and MUHKA (Antwerp).

For 20 years, Berlin/Nottingham based **Gob Squad Arts Collective** (*Super Night Shot*) has been searching for new ways to combine media and performance, producing stage shows, video installations, radio plays, interactive live films and urban interventions. They try to scratch beneath the shiny, pixelated surface of the 21st century, seeking out the dark corners and hidden desires of contemporary culture. Gob Squad was founded in 1994, whilst its members were still at Nottingham Trent and Giessen universities. Berlin has been the group's creative home since 1999. Core members are Johanna Freiburg, Sean Patten, Sharon Smith, Berit Stumpf, Sarah Thom, Bastian Trost and Simon Will.

Ant Hampton (*The Quiet Volume*) is a British artist and performance maker whose work, which began in 1998 under the name Rotozaza, has most often involved guiding people through unrehearsed performance situations. From 2007 this started to incorporate the audience: his Autoteatro series tours widely and includes *Etiquette*, *The Quiet Volume*, *Cue China*, *OK OK*, *This Is Not My Voice Speaking* and *The Extra People*. Hampton often collaborates with other artists, including Tim Etchells, Britt Hatzius, Gert-Jan Stam, Ivana Müller and Anna Rispoli.

Ayesha Jordan (*Shasta Geaux Pop*) is a New York City-based multidisciplinary performer and creator. *Shasta Geaux Pop* was part of the 2017 Under the Radar Festival and at The Bushwick Starr (Sept 2016). Ayesha was part of the Broadway production of *Eclipsed* at The John Golden Theatre and returned to her role of "The Girl" at The Curran in San Francisco, March 2017. She has performed abroad in Amsterdam, France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, and Japan.

Dylan Key (*And Then You Wait*) is a director and theatre artist. His work has been seen at Undermain Theatre, the Dallas Museum of Art, Kitchen Dog Theatre, and site-specific work throughout Dallas. He spent five years as the Artistic Associate of Undermain Theatre and cofounded Shakespeare in the Bar and TRIBE, for which he was named a 2016 Dallas Mastermind. He is a second-year M.F.A. Director at UC San Diego where his past credits include (*w*)*holeness* (WNPF 2017).

Mimi Lien (*Model Home*) is a Tony Award-winning designer of sets/environments for theatre, dance and opera. Arriving at set design from a background in architecture, her work often focuses on the interaction between audience/environment and object/performer. She designs performances and installations ranging in scale from the tiniest black box to a 71-acre meadow. Mimi was named a 2015 MacArthur Fellow, and is the first set designer ever to achieve this distinction. Selected work includes *Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812*, *An Octoroon*, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, and a building-wide installation for the inaugural Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts. She is also a recipient of the Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity at Lincoln Center Theater, Drama Desk Award, Lucille Lortel Award, American Theatre Wing Hewes Design Award, LA Drama Critics Circle Award, and an OBIE Award for sustained excellence.

Founded in 2002, **Lux Boreal Dance Company** (*4x4 TJ Night*) is a circle of choreographers and dancers from all over Mexico, converging through dance towards a common language to express their vision of reality through Art. Lux Boreal is part of a bi-national artistic movement, which takes place in the Tijuana – San Diego border region, reinforcing the bonds between artistic communities and diverse audiences. Lux Boreal has been featured in major dance festivals and venues throughout Mexico, and has performed internationally including in the United States, Chile, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, France, Germany and Ireland.

Lily Padilla (*And Then You Wait*) is a playwright, performer and community builder who has developed work in New York City, New Orleans and San Diego, at venues such as the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, INTAR Theatre and the Lark. She is an M.F.A. Playwright at UC San Diego.

Optika Moderna (*Waking La Llorona*) is a ground-breaking, immersive company led by San Diego's David Israel Reynoso, the Obie Award-winning costume designer for the Off-Broadway runaway hit *Sleep No More* (Punchdrunk/Emursive). At La Jolla Playhouse, he designed Liz Lerman's *Healing Wars* for La Jolla Playhouse's WOW Festival 2015 and *The Darrell Hammond Project*, directed by Christopher Ashley. His other regional scenic and costume design credits include returning collaborations The Old Globe, American Repertory Theater, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Lyric Stage and Gloucester Stage, among many others. He is the recipient of the Elliot Norton Award in Costume Design and a multiple nominee for the IRNE and BroadwayWorld awards.

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Founded 20 years ago by UC San Diego music professor Steven Schick, the San Diego-based ensemble **red fish blue fish** (*Faetopia: A Faerie Flash Mob*) performs, records, and premieres works from the last 85 years of western percussion's rich history. The group works regularly with living composers from every continent. Recent projects include the world premiere of Roger Reynolds' *Sanctuary* and the American premiere of James Dillon's epic *Nine Rivers* cycle with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). In the Summer of 2011, red fish blue fish collaborated with George Crumb, Dawn Upshaw, and Peter Sellars to premiere the staged version of *The Winds of Destiny*. RFBF has had a huge impact on new music percussion performances, recordings, and education.

Sledgehammer Theatre (*Under Construction: An American Masque*) has been San Diego's premier alternative theater for over three decades. Known for their flamboyant, muscular, visually dense and provocative style, American Theater magazine observed "their name should be used as a verb, 'to sledgehammer theater.'" They have produced site-specific work throughout San Diego and elsewhere, including New York City for the Whitney Museum of American Art. Their production of Charles L. Mee's *Heaven on Earth* at the UCSD Powell Structural Engineering Lab was one of the highlights of the 2015 WoW Festival.

So Say We All (*Incoming: Sex, Drugs and Copenhagen*) is a proud San Diego-based literary arts non-profit whose mission is to help people tell their stories and tell them better. Veterans are one community in particular that has been talked about more than heard from, and the *Incoming* series strives to provide a forum for that – in print, on radio, and now, on stage. Sosayweallonline.com

Marike Splint (*Among Us*) is a Dutch director specializing in site-responsive and immersive theater. Fascinated by the theme of belonging, she explores the relationship between people, places, and identity. She has created shows in sites ranging from wide open meadows to taxicabs, train stations and hotel rooms. Her work has been presented by festivals and theaters all around the world, such as Urbane Kunste Ruhr (Germany), Oerol Festival (The Netherlands) and the Live Arts Exchange Festival (USA). Splint received her MFA in directing from Columbia University and currently serves as a faculty member in the Department of Theater at UCLA.

Basil Twist (*Faetopia: A Faerie Flash Mob*) is a third generation puppeteer who lives and works in New York City, and is the sole American graduate of the Ecole Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in France. He has garnered an international reputation as an audacious designer, director and performer. He creates iconic, visionary puppetry worlds with a remarkable range of style and scope, appearing in intimate stages to large orchestra halls. His original stage and opera creations have included *The Araneidae Show*, *Symphonie Fantastique* and *Arias with a Twist*. He has received a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, Guggenheim and United States Artist/Ford Fellowships and was recently awarded a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. At La Jolla Playhouse, Twist's credits include *Seafoam Sleepwalk* at the 2013 WoW Festival, *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Dogugaeshi* and *Mabou Mines' Peter and Wendy*.

Twist was recently named La Jolla Playhouse's 2017 **Artist-in-Residence**. This multi-month residency is designed to give artists the freedom to focus on their ongoing body of work, while becoming immersed in various aspects of the institution, from the stage to the boardroom to the classroom. Previous appointees include Tony Award-winning actor and writer BD Wong and award-winning scenic designer and UC San Diego graduate/faculty member Robert Brill.

WoW Festival Partners (South to North)

Border X Brewing is a Mexican inspired craft brewery specializing in true Mexican flavours combined with traditional craft brewing techniques. As the only Latino, family-owned craft brewery in California, Border X Brewing's roots are firmly planted in the "Border Region" between Mexico and US, and they believe that it is not only a unique geography, but a state of mind. The name celebrates the combinations of the best from both sides of the border. Music, art, food and now, craft beer, intersect in new and exciting ways that are only possible when two unique and distinct cultures cross and influence in both directions. Border X Brewing is committed to exploring this fusion in craft brewing in new, exciting and delicious ways.

A former Weber Bakery turned community arts building located in Logan Heights, **Bread & Salt** is a 40,000 square foot rambling structure filled with galleries, event spaces, offices and a soon to emerge neighborhood cooperative café. It is a nexus of artists, artisans, designers, established arts organizations, and community members. In its time, The Weber Bakery was a stalwart of the community, employing local people and acting as a center of the community, offering jobs, hosting weddings, dances, and a home to community meetings. That which provided sustenance of body also aspired to provide sustenance of soul, of community. That is what Bread & Salt aims to resurrect, in this barrio, because this arts center can help to establish this area as a haven for artists, for creative thought, for inclusion and for diversity.

Founded in 1899, the **Athenaeum Music & Arts Library** has a collection devoted to music and art and presents over 200 cultural events annually, including visual art exhibitions, concerts (classical, jazz, acoustic, new music) and lectures. Studio art classes and printmaking are offered through the Athenaeum School of the Arts in La Jolla and the Athenaeum Art Center (AAC) in Logan Heights. The AAC is a multicultural community center with extensive education and outreach programs.

With a vision of being the place for opportunity, discovery and inspiration, the **San Diego Public Library** is a hub for knowledge and lifelong learning. As the largest library system in the region, it serves a population of more than 1.3 million people. Learn about events at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan & Irwin Jacobs Common and 35 community branch libraries, find links to programs and resources or search for materials in the online catalog at sandiegolibrary.org.

The New Children's Museum is a new model of children's museum whose mission is to stimulate imagination, creativity and critical thinking in children and families through inventive and engaging experiences with contemporary art. Serving San Diego for 30 years, the Museum opened in 1983 in La Jolla as the Children's Museum/Museo de los Niños and reopened downtown in 2008. The New Children's Museum brings families together in a rich educational environment that fosters creativity — blending elements of children's museums and art museums. The Museum collaborates with contemporary artists on an ongoing basis, both for large-scale thematic exhibitions, individual installations and educational programs for children. The New Children's Museum is a non-profit institution funded by admissions, memberships and community support.

ArtPower at UC San Diego builds creative experiences in music, dance, exhibition and food for our collective pleasure and inspiration. They engage diverse audiences through vibrant, challenging, multi-disciplinary performances by emerging and renowned international artists. Through extensive partnerships, ArtPower provides exciting opportunities for research, participation, and creation of new work, igniting powerful dialogue between artists, students, scholars, and the community.

Additional Family Days Partners

Located in San Diego's Balboa Park, one of 14 California stage-designed cultural districts, the **Mingei International Museum** collects, preserves and exhibits "art of the world, art of the people," including folk art, craft and design from all eras and cultures of the world. A non-profit institution funded by admission, individuals and community support, the Museum offers inspiring exhibitions and diverse educational programs to more than 100,000 visitors a year. Institutional support for Mingei International Museum is provided by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

The Museum of Photographic Arts is a center for visual learning located in San Diego's Balboa Park. Its mission is to "inspire, educate and engage the broadest possible audience through the presentation, collection, and preservation of photography, film and video." As a 501(c)(3) organization, MOPA is generously supported by members, individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies and offers Pay What You Wish admission six days a week.

The **Timken Museum** opened to the public in 1965, is located in Balboa Park and is considered the second most important midcentury building in San Diego, after Louis Kahn's iconic Salk Institute. The Timken's scale provides visitors with a free, accessible cultural experience that allows for the discovery of the collection in an intimate setting. The collection features masterworks that cover over 700 years of history and a tour de force of artists that include Rembrandt, Jacques-Louis David, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, and John Singleton Copley. Ranging from 14th-century altarpieces through 18th-century portraits and landscapes to 19th-century still life paintings, the collection is superb. The Timken is considered one of the finest small museums in the world.