

May 20, 2018

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FILE: Theater/Music/Performance

Footloose Presents *YES to Everything* series

Three weekends: Fridays and Saturdays, June 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30, 2018.

EXIT Stage Left, 156 Eddy Street, San Francisco, 94102

ALL SHOWS AT 8:00 pm

Tickets \$15-25 brownpapertickets.com or call 1-800-838-3006

Info:Res: 510-658-3530 ftloose.com; facebook.com/FtloosePresents

YES to Everything Series schedule: (descriptions follow below):

FRI June 15: Jovelyn Richards & Ensemble, plus Ron Jones

SAT June 16: Jovelyn Richards & Ensemble, plus Kathleen Denny

FRI June 22: Julie Drucker, Running With Glitter sketch comedy

SAT June 23: Julie Drucker, plus Kathleen Denny

FRI June 29: Ron Jones, plus Bob Ernst & Aldo Della Maggiora

SAT June 30: Bob Ernst & Aldo Della Maggiora

San Francisco, California: Footloose Presents *YES to Everything*: Footloose presents the fourth YES to Everything series three weeks June 15-30, 2018 at EXIT Theatre in San Francisco. All the guest artists have written and will perform in their own premiere dramatic, comedic and musical pieces. Soloists are: Julie Drucker, Kathleen Denny and Ron Jones. Groups are: Bob Ernst with Aldo Della Maggiora, Jovelyn Richards with her ensemble and live music by jazz pianist/composer, Damu; plus Running With Glitter sketch comedy group. These artists have devised original works, some with location, current events and audience engagement in mind. Each night is a different double bill that runs the gamut from comedy to storytelling to music and movement.

Footloose is devoted to supporting local, national, and international artists in the creation and completion of original theater. Artistic Director/Producer, Mary Alice Fry is constantly on the move to see new work, meet the artists and invite them to bring fresh ideas and their talents to indoor and outdoor venues across the Bay Area. Footloose presents outdoor performance installations, full theatrical runs and reading series for poets and playwrights.

About the plays and playwrights:

Osell's 517 Club

FRIDAY JUNE 15 and SATURDAY JUNE 16

jovelynrichards.com

Written, directed and performed by Jovelyn Richards; live music by jazz pianist/composer Damu Ensemble: Tim Fisher, Krystle Liggins, Jazmine Mora, Roberta Murdock, Sugar, Kimberly Turner, Ricardo Williams, Nekia Wright

Jovelyn Richards, master storyteller of black love and intimacy, heads a diverse ensemble of actors and movers to recreate the smoky atmosphere of the infamous Osell's 517 Club. Racism was softened by blues and later jazz for those migrating to Milwaukee during the 1950's to 1970's. Newly arrived blacks with suitcase in hand, would go hang outside Osell's seeking out kinfolks. Inside, bodies moved with new emotions once away from the brutal skies of the deep south. A haven for musicians, gays and anyone living on the fringes, Osell's was also the place of danger, drugs, betrayal and deception. The story opens in 1963, with a phone call that sets the night on fire.

Jovelyn Richards is a published writer, performance artist and director best known internationally for what she refers to as *Nappy Headed Love Story's Black Love & Intimacy*. Currently an Artist in Residence at La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley, she facilitates their Performance Activism community program. Mz. Richards directed the film, *Every Known Piece Of Me Had To Be Broken*, which premiered at the 2016 Himalayan

Film Festival and was chosen by the Sundance CAAM for a screening at the New Parkway Theater in Oakland. Jovelyn is host and producer of ***The Space Between Us***, a live global consciousness raising show for girls/women and ***Cover to Cover***, a glance into the arts on KPFA.

Naked Zombie

FRIDAY JUNE 15 and FRIDAY JUNE 29

ronjoneswriter.com thewavehome.com

Written and Performed by Ron Jones; Directed by David Ford

Ron Jones takes the stage in his newest solo, ***Naked Zombie***. It all started when he was asked to nude model for a drawing group. The elder artist, Helen Ludwig McGill, (portrayed by Ron) becomes friends with Ron and together they encounter the world of digital madness. A cat named Ralph, a Frog in a tutu, Pixar and Creativity Explored become parts in this comical adventure of mortality and divine revelation.

Ron Jones is a native San Franciscan writing and performing about every day heroes. Solo performances at The Marsh include, ***Buddha Blues***, ***Say Ray*** and ***When God Winked***. Three of his stories, ***The Acorn People***, ***The Wave***, and ***B -Ball*** have been made into TV specials garnering an Emmy, a Golden Globe and a Peabody award. ***Kids Called Crazy*** was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. ***Say Ray*** was honored as the American Book of the Year. ***The Wave*** has been produced as a feature film, ***Die Welle***, and a documentary film, ***Lesson Plan***. The novelization of ***The Wave*** is required reading in Germany and Israel and has been adapted into plays in Hong Kong, Madrid, Berlin, Jerusalem, New Delhi, St Petersburg, among others. ***The Wave Musical***, ***Kids called Crazy***, ***Peanutbutter People*** have been produced at The Marsh Youth Theater and Mercy High School.

To Be of Use

FRIDAY JUNE 22 and SATURDAY JUNE 23

juliedruckerdance.wixsite.com

Written by Julie Drucker in collaboration with and directed by Nina Wise

Julie Drucker performs a solo drama with timely themes of immigration, trauma, forgiveness and the complex family dynamics (and DNA) that are passed down from generation to generation. In a dream, her Romanian Jewish grandfather told her "You have to tell my story!" She vows to do so and ***To Be of Use*** was hatched. Much of his story had been silenced. Julie carefully interviewed family members about barely remembered accounts of his life and death. She did historical research. She even took a trip to Vienna to dig into his past, locating her grandparent's apartment building and Hermann's grave. Julie uncovered the layers of shame, secrecy and guilt surrounding his mysterious demise in Nazi occupied Vienna in 1938. The result is a nail biter with a poetic cadence and fluid narrative guided by the incomparable Motion Theater Director, Nina Wise.

Julie Drucker is a local dancer who performs regularly with Nina Wise's Motion Theater group ***Stories in Motion***. ***To Be of Use*** was accepted into the Monday Night Marsh series in December 2017, where Mary Alice Fry saw it and immediately gave Julie a residency to develop it into a premiere piece for ***YES to Everything***. It has since received a Theater Bay Area CA\$H Grant. Julie's past works include, ***The Grandmother Project***, and ***Risk of Falling***.

Tolerance?!

SATURDAY JUNE 16 and SATURDAY JUNE 23

kathleenmdenny.com

Written and performed by Kathleen Denny

Kathleen Denny is a writer, storyteller and performer long based in Oakland. Her new show ***Tolerance?!*** is a true and funny account from her years as a union machinist and mechanic in the air transport industry. Long before Anita Hill and #MeToo, women of the Rosie the Riveter generation pushed back against intolerance on the job. When Kat decides to do something about the pinup calendar in the machine shop--Miss September is not demonstrating a mechanical technique--she tests the boundaries for women working next to men.

Kathleen Denny's writing has won her residencies at The Mesa Refuge in Point Reyes and at Soapstone in Oregon. Her essays and commentaries on work and family life have appeared in print and on NPR. ***Nice is Not What we Do***, her first one-woman show directed by Mark Kenward, earned a Marsh Rising performance, and delighted fringe festival audiences throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"Funny, a wee bit poignant and entirely honest. 4 STARS" – The Winnipeg Free Press

Running With Glitter

FRIDAY JUNE 22 - One night only

Sketch comedy co-directed by Sara-Jean Bartky and Elizabeth Simone; Lighting/sound Erica Anderson
Performers: Pallav Agrawal, Sara-Jean Bartky, Khela Campos, Rosie Fry, Cesar Herrera, Christopher Hughes, Krystle Liggins, Emily Russell, Elizabeth Simone, Daniel Wilcox

Running With Glitter is a new comedy group out of Oakland. Their fast-paced, original sketches deal with personal and global politics and range from satire to commentary on pop culture. Their first show last month at Oakland's *All Out Comedy Theater* sold out and launched some of the freshest Bay Area comedic writers and actors. They team write and workshop material for the ensemble to perform. These talented newcomers take the stage for one night only in their San Francisco premier at EXIT Theatre.

***HOME*, poems and songs by Keith Lee White**

***Old, New, Borrowed & Blue*, by Bob Ernst**

FRIDAY JUNE 29 and SATURDAY JUNE 30

Live music and spoken word performed by Bob Ernst with Aldo Della Maggiora

HOME is a musical interpretation with minimal theatrics of the songs and poetry of Keith Lee White who was incarcerated at the age of fifteen and is currently doing life at Corcoran State Prison. White captures the sounds and gestures of confinement and constant scrutiny with the accompanying rage, regret, loneliness and enlightenment. **NEW** material by Bob Ernst will be performed with Aldo Della Maggiora. These two versatile performers--Ernst the avant and Aldo the savant--have become collaborators of spoken word and drumming.

Bob Ernst was a principal actor in Epiphany Dance Theater's ***Last Blue Couch in the Sky*** (2017); and Rhythmix Culture Works' ***Island City Waterways*** (2018). Referred to as the "grandfather of solo theater," his list of credits and awards for Bay Area theater is lengthy. He has developed and produced solos, directed large ensemble operas, and mentored many young artists. Bob teaches at Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley.

Aldo Della Maggiora is a San Francisco native, of mixed heritage, Salvadoran and Italian. He leads a substance abuse heal group at Poor Magazine. He has been featured with poet Mark Bamuthi Joseph, Aya De Leon and Avotcja at Brava Theater. Aldo has lived and played with Sonny Simmons; worked with Chepito, former timbale player for Carlos Santana; and Ken Moshesh, Sun Ra Arkestra's former conga player.

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