

PRESS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL THEATRE + FRINGE FESTIVAL CLEVELAND

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 – Saturday, July 27, 2019

www.BorderLightCLE.org

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, May 9, 2019

BORDERLIGHT INTERNATIONAL THEATRE + FRINGE FESTIVAL TO BRING 100 EXCITING THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS TO CLEVELAND IN JULY

[Cleveland, Ohio, May 9, 2019] — BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival is bringing exciting contemporary theatre from across the world to downtown Cleveland, Ohio from Wednesday, July 24, 2019 through Saturday, July 27, 2019.

The inaugural BorderLight Festival will span Public Square to Playhouse Square, featuring 100 theatrical performances and special events. Included in the lineup are 40 unique productions on 14 stages across multiple indoor and outdoor venues.

Programming includes more than 100 artists from 9 countries, including Bolivia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea, Syria, as well as the United States.

The BorderLight Festival was founded as a non-profit in 2016 by Cleveland-area theatre artists Dale Heinen and Jeffrey Pence, and is made possible through the generous support of the Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation, Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation and many others.

The inaugural festival's core international programming features 3 critically-acclaimed touring productions: "Creatures" by Roger Tittle (South Africa)—a free, public procession of life-size animal puppets, presented in partnership with Cleveland Public Library's 150th Anniversary celebration; "Under Construction" by Davai Theatre Group (Israel)—a hilarious, non-verbal physical comedy, presented in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland; and "Silent" by Fishamble: The New Play Company (Ireland)—a devastating and redemptive solo performance by Olivier-award winning actor-playwright Pat Kinevane, brought to Cleveland with support from Culture Ireland.

Connecting the festival to Cleveland's vibrant theatre community, BorderLight will host collaborative projects between 5 international theatre artists and Cleveland professional theatre companies: Cleveland Play House (featuring work by Mexican playwright Javier Malpica), Cleveland Public Theatre (original works created with South Korean director Hyeja Ju and Bolivian director Diego Aramburo), Karamu House Theatre (featuring work by Canadian playwright Lisa Codrington), and Dobama Theatre (sponsoring work by Syrian

playwright Mudar al-Haggi, directed by the celebrated Syrian director/actor Naila Al Atrash). Support for these collaborative projects is made possible by the Cleveland Foundation's Creative Fusion program, the George Gund Foundation, and Alkhayat Foundation.

BorderLight will also include Cleveland's first "Fringe Festival," featuring original theatrical productions from 8 U.S. states. The Fringe Festival programming covers a wide spectrum of genres and offers shows for all interests --- drama, stand-up comedy, interactive experiences, solo performance, circus theatre, new scripts, street spectacle, physical theatre, and conversation-provoking works addressing timely political, cultural, and social justice topics.

Mission:

BorderLight International Theatre + Fringe Festival's mission is to present visionary international theatre and build cross-cultural understanding while shining a light on Cleveland as a cultural center, home to the second largest performing arts center in the United States.

2019 Programming Line-Up:

The complete schedule, along with descriptions, showtimes, tickets, and venue information is available below and online at www.borderlightcle.org.

Tickets:

Tickets go on sale Friday, May 17th at www.borderlightcle.org.

Tickets for International shows range in price from free to \$30 (prices vary based on the selected performance). Tickets for some shows will be sold through the Playhouse Square box office – see www.borderlightcle.org for details.

All fringe festival tickets are \$12 each. Discounted multi-ticket packages are available at a discounted rate: 4-pack \$40 (\$8 Savings) and 8-pack \$70 (\$26 Savings).

Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.borderlightcle.org. Due to the intimate size of some fringe venues, advance purchase is recommended to guarantee a seat. During the festival weekend, walk-up tickets can be purchased at the door, as well as ticket hubs located throughout the BorderLight festival.

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FOR A FULL LIST OF PROGRAMMING VISIT: WWW.BORDERLIGHTCLE.ORG

FOR MEDIA MATERIALS VISIT: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y5A22VAL](https://tinyurl.com/y5a22val)

For more information or to schedule an interview with BorderLight, contact: Angie Hetrick, Axon Creative Agency 216.773.0210 or angie@axonagency.com

Continued – Full Festival Programming & Show Descriptions

BORDERLIGHT FESTIVAL CORE: INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCES

BorderLight Festival is proud to present three special international theatre companies, bringing their productions to Cleveland for the first time. *Note: Show times are subject to change, please see website for most up-to-date info.*

“Creatures” by Roger Titley (South Africa), featuring Djapo Cultural Arts Institute

“Creatures,” created by acclaimed South African puppeteer Roger Titley, is a free, all-ages performance presented in partnership with Cleveland Public Library's 150th-anniversary celebration. Be amazed as a fantastical menagerie of life-sized animal puppets takes over the streets of downtown Cleveland. Powered by human volunteers, the procession will feature cheetah, kudu, elephants, birds and more. Volunteers (ages 12+) are invited to join us before the event to build and learn to operate a beautiful raven puppet as part of the procession. This spectacular event kicks off with a free performance of “Toukki ‘Journey,’” African drumming and dance by Cleveland's own Djapo Cultural Arts Institute.

The procession will depart from the Main Branch of Cleveland Public Library and travel to Public Square on Saturday, July 27th

- 1:00 - 2:00 & 2:00 - 3:00: Two FREE 1-hour puppet workshops open for public signups
- 2:45 – 3:15: Performance by Djapo Cultural Arts Institute
- 3:15 - 3:30: Dance & Puppet procession departs Cleveland Public Library to Public Square

Venue: Public Square

Website: <http://www.creatures.co.za>

“Under Construction” by DAVAI Theatre Group (Israel)

Performance Venue: Helen Rosenfeld Lewis Bialosky Lab Theatre (Playhouse Square)

Shows: Thurs. 7/25 @ 6:30pm | Fri. 7/26 @ 6:00pm | Sat. 7/27 @ 1:00pm | Sat. 7/27 @ 9:00pm

Genre: Comedy / Physical Theatre

Show Synopsis: “Under Construction” is a physical comedy about three eccentrics sharing a crammed run-down flat: bulbs burning out, pipes bursting, mosquitoes biting, brains jammed, the outer world sending threatening signals... But these gentlemen want to have tea, and they will have it, even if the entire world is falling to pieces! The show reveals insights about the world and how we cope with it.

Website: <http://davai-group.org/>

Credits: Written, directed and performed by DAVAI group. Set and sound design: Losha Gavriellov, Costumes: Yasmin Wollek, Original music: Daniel Sinaisky, Light design: Ilya Gerchikov, Cast: Vitaly Azarin, Alexey Gavriellov, Fyodor Makarov

“Silent” by Fishamble: The New Play Company (Ireland)

Performance Venue: Helen Rosenfeld Lewis Bialosky Lab Theatre (Playhouse Square)

Shows: Wed 7/24 @ 6:30pm | Thurs 7/25 @ 1:00 PM | Fri 7/26 @ 9:00 PM | Sat 7/27 @ 6:00 PM

Genre: Mental Health

Show Synopsis: Homeless McGoldrig has lost it all - including his mind. Dare to laugh at despair and gasp at redemption in this brave, bleak, beautiful production for which Fishamble and Pat Kinevane

won an Olivier Award in 2016. Fishamble is an internationally acclaimed Irish theatre company, dedicated to the discovery, development, and production of new work.

Website: www.fishamble.com/silent

Credits: Written and performed by Pat Kinevane, Directed by Jim Culleton, Sound Design & Composition by Denis Clohessy, Costume Stylist Catherine Condell, Choreography Adviser Emma O'Kane, Dramaturg Gavin Kostick, Produced by Eva Scanlan

Awards: Olivier Award 2016, Argus Angel Award at Brighton Festival 2012, Fringe First and Herald Angel at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2011

CONNECTING: CLEVELAND THEATRE MEETS INTERNATIONAL WORKS

Connecting the festival to Cleveland's vibrant theatre community, BorderLight will host collaborative projects between international artists from Bolivia, Canada, Mexico, South Korea, and Syria, and Cleveland area professional theatres: Cleveland Public Theatre, Karamu House, Cleveland Play House, and Dobama.

“Our Dad is in Atlantis” (Mexico)

Collaboration: Cleveland Playhouse (Cleveland) | Playwright, Javier Malpica (Mexico)

A funny, candid, and ultimately heartbreaking tale of separated families, growing up, and the children lost in migration. The play was originally written in Spanish by one of Mexico's premiere writers, Javier Malpica, and will be presented as a reading in an English translation by celebrated Cuban-American playwright Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas.

“The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for God” (Canada)

Collaboration: Karamu House Theatre (Cleveland) | Playwright, Lisa Codrington (Canada)

Based on George Bernard Shaw's short story, this side-splitting comedy follows a young African girl who is abandoned by a white missionary for asking too many questions about God. Taking matters into her own hands, she sets off on her own to find out who—or what—God really is. Along the way she meets a number of characters who have very different views on God. In the end she's forced to make her own decisions on God and her search.

“Good at Heart” (South Korea)

Collaboration: Cleveland Public Theatre (Cleveland) | Theatre-maker, Hyeja Ju (South Korea)

South Korean theatre-maker Hyeja Ju is the director of B.B.G. Theatre, which translates to Actors, Audiences, and Spaces Theatre. B.B.G. Theatre creates new work seeking to explore the human essence through experimental theatre and actor-centered stagecraft. “Good at Heart” is a physical, non-verbal performance inspired by the story of Anne Frank.

“When Farah Cries” (Syria)

Sponsor: Dobama Theatre (Cleveland) | Playwright, Mudar al-Haggi (Syria)

A story of emancipation centered upon the life of Farah, a young woman in Syria. During the Syrian revolution, Farah tries to liberate herself from family, social and patriarchal constraints. Set one year after the revolution began, this haunting drama foretells the events which turned a liberation dream into a nightmare of extended war, flight, and exile. It is a deeply human story that reminds us of the revolution's origins, and the hopes that were invested in the uprising. By Mudar al-Haggi. Translation by Nashwa Gowanlock with Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp (first published in Another Europe, European Cultural Foundation, 2015).

Original Production by the Student Theatre Enrichment Program (S.T.E.P.) (Bolivia)

Collaboration: Cleveland Public Theatre (Cleveland) | Director, Diego Aramburo (Bolivia)

Created and performed by the Student Theatre Enrichment Program (STEP) ensemble, in collaboration with Diego Aramburo. CPT's Student Theatre Enrichment Program (STEP) is a rigorous

arts-based program that provides hands-on job training, engaging Cleveland youth in a powerful 8-week intensive that focuses on excellence in performance, play creation, writing, production, and set design/construction. Under the guidance of visiting Bolivian artist, Diego Aramburo and CPT artistic mentors, teens develop an original play and then tour it to public parks throughout the city of Cleveland. Website: <https://www.cptonline.org/education/student-theatre-enrichment-program/>

FRINGE FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING

2 The Left: A Tribute to the Life of Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes

Company: Kerisse Hutchinson | Creator / Playwright Credit: Kerisse Hutchinson

An inspiring multimedia experience chronicling the life and spiritual journey of Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, the controversial member of 90s pop music phenom TLC. A young woman of color endeavoring to find her artistic voice and purpose invites the audience to glimpse behind the legend and discover how her path may mirror our own.

A Kingdom, A Chasm

Company: Vagabond Inventions | Creator / Playwright Credit: Written by the VI Ensemble with collaboration from Zina Camblin

Three unlikely companions must sustain a "community" in the ravaged wilderness that was once New Orleans. Through absurd humor and exuberant physicality, Vagabond Inventions uses its contemporary approach to classic clowning to tell a surrealistic tale of friendship amidst crisis.

Accidental Comedy Presents: Che Guerrero

Company: Accidental Comedy Productions | Produced by Cody Cooper & Josh Morrow

Get out. Laugh. Make Fun. Accidental Comedy is a group of performers dedicated to enriching the arts in Cleveland through live comedy and other productions. Enjoy a lineup of local comedians headlined by NYC-based Che Guerrero, whose comedy tackles race, marriage, and the experience of growing up as an undocumented immigrant in America. Enjoy an evening with a fresh and revolutionary voice of the national comedy scene.

Accidental Comedy Presents: Nancy Norton

Company: Accidental Comedy Productions | Produced by Cody Cooper & Josh Morrow

Get out. Laugh. Make Fun. Accidental Comedy is a group of performers dedicated to enriching the arts in Cleveland through live comedy and other productions. Enjoy a lineup of comedians headlined by nationally-acclaimed Nancy Norton, whose hilarious and fast-paced improvisational style leaves audiences with little time to catch their breath. Enjoy an evening with one of the most unique and authentic voices of the national comedy scene. (Winner, 2018 Boston Comedy Festival)

Aim'd So Near

Company: Shark Eat Muffin Theatre Co. | Creator / Playwright Credit: Written by Catie O'Keefe, Conceived by Courtney Brown and Amy Fritsche

Two spirited women, a locked room, a tape recorder, and a puzzle. Based upon significant, courageous, and often overlooked characters from Shakespeare's "Othello" and "Romeo and Juliet," Emilia and Angelica uncover the secrets keeping them trapped. Will accepting past sins free them from confinement?

AntiCone

Company: Happy Theatre | Creator / Playwright Credit: Natasha Mirny and Tia Shearer

Inspired by Sophocles' "Antigone," "AntiCone" is the largely wordless story of an immigrant who is put to work building a wall against her country of origin (and, therefore, her brothers), under the dangerous eye of new leader, Creon, and against the pull of her ancient namesake. Scored by evocative and visceral original music, the play combines physical theatre, clowning, and audience interaction with unique, powerful dances. AntiCone was an official selection of FringeNYC festival in the fall 2018. Recommended for ages 13+.

Anywhere But Here, a solo experience

Company: One On One Chicago | Creator / Playwright Credit: Andrew Lund

Congratulations! You are a winner of Allegiance Travel Agency's WORLDWIDE SWEEPSTAKES! You have won a ticket to anywhere in the world, well, anywhere but here, obviously. Set up your appointment with an agent to undergo this 15-minute immersive production, uniquely experienced by one audience member at a time.

Betsy Carmichael's BINGO Palace

Company: Betsibu Productions | Creator / Playwright Credit: Joey Bucheker and Mary Kate O'Connell

Join the fabulous Betsy Carmichael as she hosts an unforgettable night of BINGO. Betsy brings the audience "into the act" with special BINGO games, prizes, fun and surprises! A BINGO bash beyond belief... don't miss a moment of the hilarity.

Distant Shores

Company: Maelstrom Collaborative Arts | Creator / Playwright Credit: Jeremy Paul

A collaborative storytelling 'game' where the audience determines the outcome. A small group of audience-explorers work with two guides to tell a story that might be fantastic, mundane, profound, light-hearted, or tragic. Based on past interactive works by Maelstrom Collaborative Arts, Distant Shores is both a game and a play, a journey and a destination.

Form I-485

Company: Renee Bertin | Creator / Playwright Credit: Renee Schilling

A newly married couple is put to the test by immigration officers.

Galahad and the Dragons

Company: Arif Silverman | Creator / Playwright Credit: Arif Silverman

The town of Galahad is dwindling in population. Its current residents include the janitor of an old church, the lonely matriarch of a once-great family, and a priest gone mad with grief. Individual secrets and hopes are revealed as the townspeople recall the arrival of a floating island in their skies, carrying with it the remnants of a distant world. Enjoy this powerful story about the many ways a community can react to newcomers unlike themselves.

In Their Footsteps

Company: Infinite Variety Productions | Creator / Playwright Credit: Ashley Adelman, Kelly Teaford and Caroline Peters

Thousands of American women served in the Vietnam War. Infinite Variety Productions interviewed five of these women- all volunteers. Through a script created from the oral histories and an innovative set using five blocks, IVP tells the often unknown, yet timely, story of the human side of war.

Love's Lost Raree Box

Company: Chris Seibert | Creator / Playwright Credit: Chris Seibert

"Love's Lost Raree Box" is a long-term collaborative conversation between curious audience members and artists Chris Seibert (conceiver, director/performer), Inda Blatch Geib (costume designer, specialty props), Ian Petroni (set designer, installation elements), and Ben Gantose (lighting designer, visual effects).

Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi and Teatro Publico de Cleveland

Company: Cleveland Public Theatre (Cleveland)

A double bill presentation of original works by Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi and Teatro Publico de Cleveland, multi-national and multi-lingual community ensembles resident to Cleveland Public Theatre.

Parents & Children, Husbands & Wives: It's All Relatives

Company: Penny: For Your Thoughts | Creator / Playwright Credit: Penny Sterling, Mike Muscarella, Mel Muscarella

Acclaimed storyteller Penny Sterling ("Spy in the House of Men") teams up with musicians Mike and Mel Muscarella (Violet Mary) to present songs and stories about our relatives. It's an evening of tales about the people we love, told with humor, poignancy, and great music. And maybe a little wine. Okay, more than a little.

Peter Pan and Wendy

Company: Burning Coal Theatre | Creator / Playwright Credit: Adapted by Lillian White, after the novel by J.M. Barrie

A fresh take on a beloved story follows Wendy's adventures in Neverland with the charming immortal Peter Pan. Through make-believe that becomes all-too-real in battles with the fiercest lady on the seas, Captain Hook, Wendy discovers that to love truly is to risk loss - but to risk loss at the ticking hands of time is to embrace the possibility of loving truly.

Pinch and Squeal's WIZBANG!

Company: WIZBANG! Circus Theatre | Creator / Playwright Credit: Jason and Danielle Tilk

Step into the WIZBANG! Circus Theatre tent and be transported to another world! Hosted by kamikaze vaudeville duo, Pinch and Squeal, WIZBANG! features a full lineup of live musicians, circus acts of all genres (that fit inside and out), big production numbers, and complete mayhem. (Winner, Best of Cleveland 2017)

Resistance

Company: Powerful Long Ladder | Playwright Credit: Written by Regina Taylor (Winner, Golden Globe)

Written by award-winning actress and playwright, Regina Taylor (Crowns), "Resistance" is a series of short plays that deal with topics ranging from voting to LGBTQ rights, to gun rights, to the 13th amendment's tie to modern slavery, and the American prison system. These diverse and unflinching plays ignite a questioning of our current social political terrain. World Premiere.

Table For Two

Company: Bare Theatre | Creator / Playwright Credit: Flora Bare

Once upon a time there was a woman and a man. For clarity's sake, we will call them Mr. and Mrs. They were in love and because of that, they decided to marry one another. And for the sake of all of you, let's just say this love story does not end well.

The Children of Lir

Company: Zana's Grandma | Creator / Playwright Credit: Gail Nyoka and Meta Epstein

What happens when a druid and a harper who share a granddaughter meet in the land of Celtic myth? Travel with storyteller Gail Nyoka and harpist Meta Epstein on a magical voyage of music and story, transported on the wings of imagination, in the company of the Swan Children of Lir, who enchant all who hear their voices.

The Coitus Society Soiree

Company: A Lady Slay Production featuring Suga Shack Entertainment | Creator / Playwright Credit: Lady Slay

An inexperienced young man stumbles into an establishment after receiving a mysterious invitation. He is met by the host of the venue and so begins his journey of self-awareness and lust. Will the bevvvy of beauties entice him? Will they entice you? Featuring The Suga Shack Girls - professionally trained dancers and Cleveland's only All Black Burlesque Troupe - "The Coitus Society Soiree" is a sensual dance production with pulse-pounding music and dazzling costumes. Come dressed in your sexiest attire! Guests are encouraged to indulge their dress up fantasies. Masquerade masks, BDSM apparel...show your dark side at the Soiree!

This Is NOT About My Dead Dog

Company: Amy Schwabauer | Creator / Playwright Credit: Amy Schwabauer

A comedic one-woman show reflecting on sex, alcohol and an awkward girlhood. Follow actor/playwright Amy Schwabauer on a journey from young partier to young adult as she tackles German Shepherds, breakups and offbeat ruminations of the natural world. Bracingly honest, funny

and heartbreaking, "This is NOT About My Dead Dog" will have you crying and laughing at the same time.

Trouble Down South

Company: Teatro Travieso (Troublemaker Theatre) | Creator / Playwright Credit: Janna Haywood

A funny and daring look into what it means to be a young, gay woman from the South. It follows the protagonist's journey through adolescence and into adulthood as she realizes she is nothing like the women around her. It explores sexuality, class, and being raised in a family where lady-ness is close to godliness.

Uncle Toots' Pasta Dish

Company: Ray Caspio | Creator / Playwright Credit: Ray Caspio with Ryan Lucas, Cassie Neumann Lucas, Kevonn T. Smith & Lauren B. Smith

Uncle Toots wants one last pasta dinner in the home he's about to lose, but more than sauce is stirred up and served when his family and longtime hospice nurse ambush him about a 60 year relationship he packed away. With you, Toots' wide-eyed sister, Aunt Barb, World War II veteran, Rocky, and longtime hospice nurse, Nancy, at the dining room table, a tale of lost love awakens this contentious family to realities they've never faced before. "Uncle Toots' Pasta Dish" is an improvised experience you help bring to life even if you decide to just shut up and eat!

Waiting on Godot

Company: Robert Hawkes | Creator / Playwright Credit: Robert Hawkes

The waiting is over! Godot has arrived!...at a modest French restaurant called "Chez Lucky." So let the waiting begin, as the staff seek to satisfy the somewhat unusual order of their long-expected but unexpected guest.

Who is the Poetry Psychic?

Company: Denis Griesmer | Creator / Playwright Credit: Denis Michael Griesmer with Chris Seibert

Can you see your fortune in a random poem?" Take a seat across from Denis Michael Griesmer who uses poetry as a divination tool. He'll show you how coincidence and accident -and especially random poetry - can illuminate the choices you have in deciding your fate.

Why Do You Always Wear Black?

Company: Organic Theatre Company | Creator / Playwright Credit: Inspired by the works of Anton Chekhov, devised by the ensemble

Inspired by the works of Anton Chekhov, this mashup of devised theater and feminist fanfiction explores what happens when the women of his major plays collide.

About the Co-Directors:

Dale Heinen is a director/dramaturge who has directed new plays in Chicago, Glasgow, Cleveland, New York and London, and has workshopped plays in Tokyo and Brazil. Her previous experience includes seven years as a dramaturge and then Artistic Associate at Soho Theatre in London's West End. She also served on literary panels for leading London theatres and has judged international playwrighting competitions. Prior to that, for seven years, Dale was co-Artistic Director of Footsteps, an equity theatre in Chicago, and was listed three times as one of Chicago's "Best Directors" in the trade paper, PerformInk. Dale has directed over thirty professional productions; her work has been recognized by the Jeff Awards and After Dark Awards (both Chicago), and she was the recipient of the Arches Award for Directors (Glasgow). She has a BA from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) and an MFA in theatre directing from Middlesex University (London), where she studied international theatre in London, Moscow, Madrid, and Bangkok.

Jeffrey Pence is a Cleveland-based filmmaker and screenwriter. He produced the award-winning feature *Kitchen Hamlet*. He co-founded the production company Art+Practice, whose web-based series of documentary shorts about ordinary, yet extraordinary, individuals in Northeast Ohio, *The Amerikans*, has become an international cult sensation, with viewers in over 135 countries (one million in China alone). Currently, Art+Practice is producing its first feature, *Amerika*, with principal photography in Japan already completed. Jeff is also writing scripts for future screen and stage projects. He is Professor of Cinema Studies and Chair of English at Oberlin College, where he cofounded the Cinema Studies Program and

served as Director for five years. His writings on narrative and culture have appeared in prestigious journals and collections worldwide. Jeff's play, *Omena*, was recently produced as part of Test Flight at Cleveland Public Theatre.

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