



OZ Arts 2022-23 Season Lineup

A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham's An Untitled Love | October 20-22, 2022

Returning to OZ Arts for the first time since his stunning 2015 Nashville debut, Abraham has become one of today's most acclaimed and sought-after choreographers, known for theatrical and poetic work immersed in Hip-hop culture. Sensual, sophisticated, and breathtakingly visual, this new production by Kyle Abraham is propelled by the seductive R&B and soul music of enigmatic GRAMMY-winner D'Angelo. Starting as an electrically charged house party on stage, the evening evolves into a joyous, multifaceted celebration of love with powerful and virtuosic dancing by the 10 members of Abraham's celebrated company Abraham In Motion (A.I.M.). Abraham dedicates this feel-good work — its visceral hope, solace, and joy — to family, culture, and community strengthened over generations and lifetimes.

He has been honored as a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, a recipient of the Princess Grace Statue Award, a Jacob's Pillow Dance Award winner, and was the first Black choreographer to make work for the New York City Ballet in over a decade.

"An Untitled Love beautifully presents dance as interpersonal communication. It's a theatrical love letter to social dance."

— The New York Times

Meow Meow (in partnership with TPAC) | October 28, 2022

Post-post-modern chanteuse Meow Meow has hypnotized, inspired, and terrified audiences around the world with jaw-droppingly fabulous and frequently hilarious cabaret performances. Audiences have given her rhapsodies of praise from New York's Lincoln Center to London's West End; from The Sydney Opera House to Berlin's famed Bar Jeder Vermunft. Prepare for Piazzolla tangos, Weill, Brecht, Brel, and even Radiohead alongside original chansons and wickedly divine comedy.

Named one of the "Top Performers of the Year" by *The New Yorker*, the international diva and comedienne extraordinaire recently made her Kennedy Center debut on Renee Fleming's *VOICES* series. Fleming described Meow Meow as "a performer who gleefully tramples the barriers of genre... Her shows may be moving, hilarious, or even shocking, but you can be sure she is never dull."

Tickets for this special evening are being sold by TPAC.

“There are not many women who can stun an audience into pin-drop silence with an exquisitely delivered torch song one moment and rock the rafters with laughter the next.”
— *The Evening Standard (UK)*

Fable Cry’s Festival of Ghouls | October 29, 2022

Relive your favorite childhood nightmares at this immersive Halloween party and over-the-top cabaret from Nashville’s masters of the macabre, Fable Cry. Conjuring tales that gave you goosebumps and monsters that made you afraid of the dark, the theatrical noir rockers return to OZ Arts with their annual Festival of Ghouls. Turn off the lights and embrace the night with a wickedly nostalgic lineup of live music, burlesque, cabaret, and circus performances.

Lineup:

Fable Cry
Suspended Gravity Circus
Back to Black Burlesque
The Bad Signs
You Bred Raptors

Dress code:

- No weapons or props that look like weapons.
- If you plan to wear a costume mask, please be prepared to remove it at check-in so our staff can verify your photo ID.

This show is recommended for mature audiences due to content that some may deem shocking, including adult language, sexual innuendo, and depictions of horror.

“Fable Cry matched playfully macabre vibes to serious instrumental prowess...as a friend remarked, ‘the Brothers Grimm, making rock music.’”
— *Nashville Scene*

New Dialect & American Modern Opera Company’s Broken Theater | November 17-19, 2022

Celebrated Nashville dance collective New Dialect joins forces with the acclaimed American Modern Opera Company (AMOC) for the must-see collaboration of the season. Featuring evocative choreography by former Batsheva member Bobbi Jene Smith, the compelling new dance and music work assembles some of the most notable talents of the rising generation — including acclaimed dancer-choreographer and New Dialect founder Banning Bouldin in her triumphant return to the stage.

Described as “rapt and raw” by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Broken Theater* imagines a group of artists wrestling with identity and purpose after their audience disappears. Lines between selfhood and the parts we play blur as the virtuosic cast of performers slip in and out of their expected roles: “dancers sing, singers dance, and instrumentalists do both” (*The New Yorker*).

Founded by composer Matthew Aucoin and stage director Zack Winokur, AMOC is a youthful collective of seventeen singers, instrumentalists, and dancers who focus specifically on collaborative and interdisciplinary work. New Dialect is a contemporary dance practice based in Nashville and founded by Banning Bouldin out of a desire to foster a sustainable ecosystem for contemporary dance artists to live, learn, and collaborate in her hometown.

“...revitalizing what American music theater can mean with several of our most revolutionary young talents”

— *The Los Angeles Times* on AMOC

Patti Smith’s Songs & Stories (in partnership with Parnassus Books) | November 21, 2022

In celebration of her newest title *A Book of Days*, legendary singer-songwriter and National Book Award-winning author Patti Smith makes a special one-night-only appearance at OZ Arts Nashville, co-presented with Parnassus Books. Inspired from her wildly popular Instagram and complete with original Polaroids and an introduction by Smith that explores her documentary process, *A Book of Days* is a deeply generous and inspirational map of an artist’s life. With more than 365 photographs that take you through a single year and offer miniature windows into Smith’s world and personal life, the new book is a way to experience the expansive mind of a visionary poet, writer, and performer.

The live event at OZ Arts will include musical performances by Smith along with her son, and a special Q&A with audience members. Tickets are being sold by Parnassus Books and include one unsigned copy of *A Book of Days*.

Martha Redbone’s Bone Hill | December 2-3, 2022

Revered blues and soul singer Martha Redbone takes audiences on a thought-provoking, uniquely American journey inspired by her multicultural upbringing and Cherokee legacy in the Appalachian Mountains. Presented as a dramatic musical work with a cast of eight actors/musicians, *Bone Hill: The Concert* is an epic story of one woman’s return to her homeland in the coal mines of Kentucky, where her family has dwelled for centuries.

Originally commissioned by Joe’s Pub and the Public Theater, *Bone Hill* powerfully explores our nation’s history through the lives of four generations of women in a Cherokee family. What unfolds is the story of one family’s connection to the land — the simplicity and sacredness of that connection and the ruptures that threaten to extinguish it.

Written and performed by the multi-award-winning Redbone, the performance powerfully blends the folk and country sounds of the Appalachian Mountains with the gospel music traditions of Redbone’s African American father and the Cherokee/Choctaw spirit of her mother.

“Martha Redbone’s voice held both the taut determination of mountain music and the bite of American Indian singing.”

— *The New York Times*

Compagnie Hervé Koubi's What the Day Owes to the Night (France/Algeria) | February 2-4, 2023

With gravity-defying athleticism and mesmerizing grace, 12 high-velocity performers astound in a lyrical, explosive marriage of traditional Sufi dance and contemporary hip-hop.

French-Algerian choreographer Hervé Koubi, who trained as both a medical doctor and dancer, grew up in France unaware of his Algerian heritage. When he learned about it at age 25, the revelation launched a personal and artistic journey that led to the founding of his contemporary dance company. Compagnie Hervé Koubi is a brotherhood of dancers primarily from North Africa, most with backgrounds in street dance. The internationally-acclaimed performers combine expertise in capoeira, martial arts, hip-hop, and contemporary styles.

One of the company's signature works, *What the Day Owes to the Night* uses explosive movement and powerful imagery to metaphorically retrace Koubi's family history. The dynamic choreography draws audiences into a world of human architecture, diving bodies, and mesmerizing whirlwinds. *The New Yorker* describes the performance as "an exploration of masculinity and male beauty, meditative and at times tender, containing moments of striking virtuosity."

"A creation of poetic beauty... [Koubi] is an important addition to dance."
— *The New York Times*

DakhaBrakha (Ukraine) | February 25, 2023

A sonic feast as well as a visual spectacle, Kyiv's DakhaBrakha weaves ancient Ukrainian melodies into a subversive musical tapestry that embraces indie rock, pop, Hip-hop, the avant-garde, and traditional instrumentation from around the world. The folk-punk quartet has honed a haunting musical approach based around unearthly vocal harmonies and thunderous percussion, augmented by floating cello and accordion sonorities. Heralded by *Rolling Stone* as the "Best Breakout" of 2014's Bonnaroo festival, their irresistible live shows have captivated audiences the world over.

Political activism — including calls to "Stop Putin!" — has long been part of DakhaBrakha's messaging. A month into the Russian-Ukrainian war, the group escaped from their home city of Kyiv to start touring once again. They are now performing internationally to support Ukraine, raising money and awareness as cultural and humanitarian ambassadors.

"Utter brilliance... The group mixes everything from punk-pop to traditional Ukrainian songs in cool yet beguiling textures."
— *NPR*

Kid Koala's The Storyville Mosquito – A Theatrical Cinema Experience (Montreal) | March 23-25, 2023

In Kid Koala's latest theatrical multimedia collaboration, a young mosquito leaves his small town in the country to seek fame and fortune in the big city and fulfill his dream of playing in one of the greatest bands of all time at Sid Villa's Music Hall. Watch as a team of 14 performers bring

this story to life simultaneously on stage and screen — the full production is performed, filmed, projected, and scored in real time at each performance.

With an innovative mix of miniature sets, live puppetry, cinematography, and live music by Kid Koala and a string trio, *The Storyville Mosquito* proves to be a funny, emotive, Chaplin-esque live theatrical experience that's fun for the entire family.

About the artist:

Kid Koala (real name: Eric San) is an equal-opportunity entertainer. He has toured with Radiohead, Beastie Boys, Björk, DJ Shadow and Arcade Fire; performed as part of two Montreal International Jazz Festival main events (solo and in the alt-hip-hop trio Deltron 3030); contributed music to the films *Shaun of the Dead*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*, *Looper* and *The Great Gatsby*; written a pair of graphic novels; led musical bike tours through Montreal and Toronto; done a performance at the Biosphère in which audience members listened through headphones; conceived a Vinyl Vaudeville show that included cabaret dancers, audience limbo and paper airplanes; released five solo albums, the latest of which is 2012's *12 Bit Blues*; and has a new album of breathtaking atmospheric soundscapes called *Music To Draw To*, featuring Icelandic vocalist Emiliana Torrini, due in the fall.

“The Storyville Mosquito is a veritable celebration of theater as contemporary art. There could hardly be a better argument for going to the theater as often as possible.”

— *The Frankfurt Allgemeine, Germany*

The Yeli Ensemble, Windship Boyd & Christophe Konkobo's Timbuktu Within (Guinea) | April 14-15, 2023

Celebrating the tradition of the West African *jeli* or *griot*, the talented Yeli Ensemble of artists from Guinea presents a powerful evening of dance and drumming in collaboration with dynamic local artists led by Windship Boyd, Christophe Konkobo, Karen Roberts, and Saul Rodriguez. *Griots* are lively storytellers and the keepers of tradition, and *Timbuktu Within* showcases the talents of international artists Sory Diabate, Ibrahima Dioubate, Mohamed Cisse, and Aicha Camara. Through multilayered harmonies and stunning movement, these skilled artists share traditional and contemporary African culture while telling their personal stories and connecting with the local Nashville community, who are invited to join in the community-driven celebration.

Gregory Maqoma's CION: Requiem of Ravel's Boléro (South Africa) | May 4-6, 2023

Gregory Maqoma, one of South Africa's most celebrated artists, is thrilling critics around the world with his newest music/theater/dance production *CION: Requiem of Ravel's Boléro*. Carried by the transformative singing of an African choir, the work weaves a narrative of greed, power, and the pain of mourning with a moving live score interrogating Ravel's music through South African vocal traditions. Maqoma founded Vuyani Dance Theatre in 1999 with the vision to build a platform for artists in South Africa and beyond—where collaboration could be a catalyst for breaking cultural barriers. Maqoma's collaborations with top artists from around the globe include William Kentridge's acclaimed production *The Head and the Load* and Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah's new multimedia musical *Tree*, among others.

“Maqoma has always been expert at conjuring the visionary and the magical.”
— *The Guardian*

Brave New Works Lab | May 18-20, 2023

Now in its second year, *Brave New Works* invites daring Nashville artists to transform OZ Arts into a laboratory for the creation and premiere of new works and works-in-progress.

Encouraging multimedia experimentation and collaboration across disciplines, the lab creates a safe space for high-risk artistic adventures. Celebrate local innovation and creativity with a bold evening of short-form performances featuring dance, theater, music, and multimedia.

Artist applications for OZ’s Brave New Works Lab will open in late September 2022.

About OZ Arts Nashville

Founded in 2013 by the Ozgener family, OZ Arts Nashville has quickly established itself as one of the Southeast’s most influential and respected producers and presenters focused on the creation and presentation of significant performing and visual artworks by diverse cultural visionaries who are making vital contributions to the evolution of contemporary culture. Through performances, exhibitions, and community events, OZ Arts focuses on producing and presenting the work of local and visiting artists who reflect our diverse society, utilize new artistic forms and technology in creative ways, and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with audiences, students and cultural and civic leaders. OZ Arts’ unique creative warehouse has developed a reputation as a major national and regional laboratory for experimentation and a home for contemporary dance and performance. More than 50,000 audience members have been introduced to adventurous artists from around the world since the organization opened, and hundreds of local and regional artists have used OZ’s 10,000 square-foot warehouse theater to develop new works. For more information, please visit ozartsnashville.org.