



dean moss/gametophyte, inc.
new york



nora chipaumire
zimbabwe/new york



marc bamuthi joseph/the living word project
oakland



voices of strength: contemporary dance & theater by women from africa



gregory maqoma/vuyani dance theatre
johannesburg, south africa



leila buck
new york

Dean Moss/Gametophyte, Inc. : New York*Nameless forest* (tour dates open)

Dean Moss' cross-disciplinary collaboration transforms South Korean sculptor Sungmyung Chun's disquieting figurative installations into live performance. Six performers from diverse artistic backgrounds create vivid and arresting movement with and among an on-stage audience to explore ideas of "self," "other," and the formation of "community." *Nameless forest* transports audiences into an exquisite landscape where ritual (in life, in community, in theater) is navigated and turned inside out. "A tour de force... Moss involves the audience in a kind of ritual process of becoming that wavers between comfort and discomfort, intimacy and distance, stability and uncertainty." – *Studio Magazine* (Studio Museum in Harlem)

Nora Chipaumire : Zimbabwe/New York*MIRIAM* (premieres September 2012; tour dates open) NDP Tour Support available!

Set into an evocative stage environment that suggests township nightclubs and dressing rooms, Chipaumire merges monologue and movement in this character-driven one-woman show. *MIRIAM* is inspired by Chipaumire's personal history of self-exile and self-discovery and by the legendary South African singer and activist Miriam Makeba. Grammy Award-winning composer/musician Omar Sosa will create a score that builds on his jazz and Afro-fusion roots while referencing South African township jazz. "By making her art, she shows the highest achievement of humankind—a gift of performance to the audience, yes, but a greater gift in the sense of hope for what is possible in any life." – *The Herald-Sun* (Durham, NC)

Marc Bamuthi Joseph/The Living Word Project : Oakland*red, black & GREEN: a blues* (premieres October 2011; tour dates open)

Marc Bamuthi Joseph's newest multi-disciplinary project layers poetic text, dance, music, and film to jumpstart a conversation about environmental racism, social ecology, and collective responsibility in the climate change era. Designed as a performance as well as an interactive on-stage installation by visual artist Theaster Gates, Joseph is joined by an ensemble cast directed by Cornerstone Theater's Michael John Garcés. *red, black & GREEN: a blues* has been developed during a three-year community-based civic and creative process, and strives to unite communities around a broader definition of sustainable living.

Word Becomes Flesh (recreated with an ensemble cast; tour dates open)

First performed by Marc Bamuthi Joseph in 2003, *Word Becomes Flesh* returns to the stage, re-invented with a new generation. Presented as a series of performed letters to his unborn son, *Word Becomes Flesh* uses spoken word, dance and live music to document nine months of pregnancy from a young single father's perspective. Now performed by a 6 member ensemble, this choreopoem critically, lyrically and choreographically examines fatherhood in the black urban community. "Joseph's words can take an audience's breath away, then coax out sighs, exclamations of approval, and finally draw them to their feet." – *The SF Bay Guardian*

Voices of Strength : Contemporary Dance & Theater by Women from Africa

(U.S. tour September - October 2012)

A dynamic two-evening program of contemporary performance from five women choreographers in Africa. Curated by MAPP and presented in partnership with The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium, *Voices of Strength* vividly articulates multiple perspectives and offers audiences rich cultural exchange. The program features: *Correspondances*, a duet by Kettly Noël (Mali & Haiti) and Nelisiwe Xaba (South Africa); *Madame Plaza*, an ensemble work by Bouchra Ouizguen; plus two U.S. premieres, *Sombra*, a solo by Maria Helena Pinto (Mozambique); and *Un Espace Vide: Moi* by Nadia Beugré (Côte d'Ivoire). "Whatever the country, whatever the circumstance, the complex mixture of longing, regrets, hopes and frustrations played out on stage speaks to an understanding of friendship and female solidarity which will be immediately recognizable to everyone." – *Deutsche Welle*, Germany (on *Madame Plaza*)

Gregory Maqoma/Vuyani Dance Theatre : South Africa*Exit/Exist* (premieres December 2011; U.S. tour dates TBD)

In *Exit/Exist*, Gregory Maqoma is joined by guitarist Guiliano Modarelli and four South African singers from the entourage of Hugh Masekela who bring us live songs by Simphiwe Dana, a wildly popular singer and composer from Maqoma's native province of the Eastern Cape. In an unparalleled dance idiom that bridges the gap between tradition and contemporary forms of movement, Maqoma seeks the lost innocence of childhood, which he attempts to express in words, dance, music and contemporary movements. "What distinguishes Maqoma... is his intelligently provocative exploration of kinetic African identity where the rural impinges on the urban, where the hallowed intersects with the popular." – *The Star*, Johannesburg

Leila Buck : New York*Hkeelee (Tell Me a Story)* (premieres Spring 2013)

Hkeelee (Tell Me a Story) is an ensemble play linking Buck's personal journey to connect with her Lebanese mother's native culture before losing her grandmother to dementia, with timely questions about what it means to be (and to become) American. Using a story-within-a-story structure inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*, Buck weaves her grandmother's irreverent and poignant tales with a chorus of voices and interactive scenes, inviting the audience to participate in a fluid exploration of language, immigration, culture, politics, religion, family, history and story—and how they define us as people and nations. "Experiencing Buck's work is like receiving a sharp blow to the chest: painful, surprising, and ultimately awakening." – Naomi Wallace, playwright (*Things of Dry Hours*)

Photo credits from top left: Julieta Cervantes, Susy Simonetto SSVT, Bethanie Hines, Joan Osato, Eric Boudet, Maria Helena Pinto, E.Fitte-Duval, Hibou Photography, Gregory Maqoma, Leila Buck

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