



CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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EXPERIMENTAL ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR SECOND YEAR Center for the Performing Arts Showcases Local Avant-Garde Artists and Performers

PHOENIX, AZ (January 19, 2007) -- After the success of the inaugural edition of the **PHOENIX EXPERIMENTAL ARTS FESTIVAL** last year, Dr. Christopher Scinto, chair for the Performing and Fine Arts Division at Paradise Valley Community College, has announced a second year to showcase the edgier, avant-garde artists that are pushing the boundaries in the visual and performing arts. The **PHOENIX EXPERIMENTAL ARTS FESTIVAL**, which is co-sponsored by the Phoenix New Times, will be presented February 9th and 10th, 2007, at the Center for the Performing Arts in North Phoenix. This year's festival includes the addition of visual arts including several installations in the lobby gallery by Adria Pecora and Kjel Alkire. The lobby opens at 5:30 p.m. with main stage performances at 7:30 p.m. each night.

Highlights of the performances on Friday, February 9th include an appearance by Crossing 32nd Street featuring the world premiere of a new composition by Barry Moon and an avant-garde piece of music for cello performed with a live painter. Musician Issac Wallis will present "Nimis," a digital composition for a computer programmed in Python. CONDER/dance, a local dance company, will present "Upsurge," an impassioned exploration of the desire to escape which is a desire inherent in both nature and man. Next, choreographer Mary Fitzgerald will present "Dream Work - The Poetics of Human/Nature," inspired by the poetry of Mary Oliver. Fitzgerald's work was funded by a 2006 Artists Project Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Crossing 32nd Street kicks off Saturday's performance with "Alloy," a composition for four percussionists/readers forged on the concept that a metal alloy takes on both the strongest and weakest properties of its constituent elements. Essentially a structured improvisation, the four performers are perpetually modulating each other via the smelting pot of real-time computer processing. Crossing 32nd Street will also present Michael Gordon's "XY," a musical piece about rhythmic interaction.

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Theatre in My Basement returns to the Festival on Saturday with “Deseo/Desire,” a multi-media performance by Chris Danowski and Natalia Jaeger. This performance draws images and words together including a television show for a new millennium, a new lie that a cynical generation can believe and a singularly one-armed lobster. “Deseo/Desire,” contains mature themes, adult subject matter, nudity, strong images, and multiple languages, some of which are illegal in wartime.

This performance also includes Via Corpo Dance Research, who will present “The Perfect Crime,” choreographed by Aroldo Fernandes. This is the story of the murder of reality and the extermination of an illusion. Desert Dance Theatre will perform “Quereres (Desires).” Choreographer Lisa Chow commented, “In human characteristics such as sex, illness and death, identity is perpetually changing. This is the body as projection of self, the individual appropriation of desire, of one’s appearance, one’s image. If the body is no longer a site of otherness but of identification, then we have urgently to become reconciled with it, repair it, perfect it, turn it into an ideal object. And it is the body’s resemblance to its model which becomes a source of eroticism and seduction.”

As the one of the latest additions to the Valley’s rapidly-expanding cultural scene, the Center for the Performing Arts opened to great acclaim in October, 2005. The fully-professional theatre is equipped for music, theater and dance productions plus film presentations. In addition, the lobby space serves as an art gallery. The multi-use facility houses student productions, touring acts and educational programs, and will be utilized for instructional purposes. The venue is outfitted with the latest technology and contains state-of-the-art lighting system, sound and audio visual equipment, as well as an orchestra pit and seating that accommodates approximately 300 patrons.

Admission is free to the lobby gallery events. Tickets to the main stage performances are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students. All events are intended for an adult audience with strong language and mature themes. The Center for the Performing Arts is conveniently located at 34th Street and Union Hills at the east end of the campus of Paradise Valley Community College in North Phoenix. Newly-expanded parking is free. For additional information or reservations, please call 602.787.7738.

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