

LinksHall

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

Media Contact: Marie Casimir
773.281.0824
845.659. 6229
Marie@linkshall.org

Media Reminder: Updated 12/2/10
Hi-res digital images available on request

Links Hall presents *Calisthenics for Shrapnel: SMASH featuring Fulbright Fellow Patrick Rosal and def poet Kristiana Colón , December 9 - 11, 2010 at Links Hall.*

Chicago – Links Hall co-presents *Calisthenics for Shrapnel*, a festival curated by **Mary McConnell**. This two weekend festival offers audiences and performers the opportunity to "work it out" over two of the most volatile issues in our lives and our world. After a successful weekend of "fleshing out" gender relations we move on to other characteristics that fabricate our society: Race and Class in *SMASH*, headlined by Fulbright Fellow and author of "Uprock, Headspin, Scramble, and Dive" and "My American Kundiman" **Patrick Rosal**, -- and local favorite poet superstar playwright **Kristiana Colón**. Spoken word artist Avery Young returns to MC the Flight Variety. The event will be hosted by local spoken word artist and poet **Avery Young**.

Performers include Trinidadian born poet **Roger Bonaair-Agard**, local hip-hop artist FM Supreme, Performance artist and activist Mars Caulton, break dancers , musician Otoniel Michel. A short film will be shown by **The Connect Force Breakers** *Calisthenics for Shrapnel: SMASH (Patrick Rosal only Saturday Night)* runs Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8 pm located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, on the second floor in Chicago IL 60657. The second installment, *SMASH*, will run December 9-11 Friday & Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 7pm at Links Hall. Tickets are \$15General/\$12 Online/\$10 Students and are available online at www.LinkshHall.org. For more information call 773.281.0824, or purchase tickets online at www.linkshall.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

7:30 pm sign up: Show Starts Promptly at 8pm

The Calisthenics for Shrapnel Festival presents
an all-ages THEME SLAM on gender and sexuality
\$50 cash prize!

On Thursday, December 9, the Calisthenics for Shrapnel festival, SMASH edition, presents the all-ages cash prize THEME SLAM featuring author and Young Chicago Authors' Poet in Residence **Roger Bonair-Agard**.

Novice, experienced and newbie poetry slammers are invited to participate in an all ages slam about race and class.

3435 North Sheffield, Suite 207, Chicago, Illinois 60657

773.281.0824

www.LinkshHall.org

LinksHall

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

8 p.m.

The Calisthenics for Shrapnel Festival presents

Elastic Collision: a night of poetry and dialogue around race and class featuring Fulbright Fellow and poet **Patrick Rosal** and Chicago Def poet **Kristiana Colón**.

Elastic Collision brings together a poet esteemed for her/his work in print, a poet highly regarded for her/his work in performance, and a youth poet for dialogue in verse and conversation. In physics, an elastic collision is one in which equal forces meet and no kinetic energy is lost -- in Elastic Collision, the worlds of academia and performance meet and fuse, intersecting with and investing that energy in the next generation of poets.

hosted by **Marty McConnel**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

8 p.m.

The Calisthenics for Shrapnel Festival presents

Flight: Variety, a sampling of performance celebrating and exploring aspects of race relations and racial identity .

In wine tasting, a "flight" is an array of variations for the purpose of sampling and comparison. In our festival's Talent Flight, performers will line up to form a "tasting night" of exciting performance exploring the topics at hand.

hosted by **Avery R. Young**, featuring comedy, dance, music, hip-hop, poetry and more!

Performers include:

Avery R. Young (host/performer)

* **FM Supreme** (hip-hop artist)

* **Mars Caulton** (performance artist/activist)

* **The Connect Force Breakers** (breakdancers)

* Short films by **youth from Alternatives, Inc.** (Uptown youth and family center)

* **Otoniel Michel** (musician/)

LinksHall

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

~BIOS FOLLOW~

CURATOR BIO

MARTY MCCONNELL appeared twice on HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*, is currently a member of her seventh National Poetry Slam team, received her MFA in poetry from Sarah Lawrence College, and travels the country regularly performing and leading workshops with youth and adults. For nearly a decade, she co-curated the flagship reading series of the New York City-based louderARTS Project. She returned to Chicago in 2009 to create Vox Ferus, an organization dedicated to empowering and energizing individuals and communities through the written and spoken word. Her work is broadly published in journals and anthologies including *Word Warriors: 35 Women Leaders in the Spoken Word Movement*, *Spoken Word Revolution*, *Salt Hill Review*, *Rattapallax*, *Fourteen Hills*, and *Rattle*.

~ARTIST BIOS~

ROGER BONAIR-AGARD is a native of Trinidad & Tobago, a Cave Canem fellow and author of two collections of poetry: "tarnish and masquerade" (Cypher Books, 2006) and "GULLY" (Cypher Books, Peepal Tree Press, 2010). He is co-founder and Artistic Director of New York City's louderARTS Project and an MFA candidate at University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Program. He is a poet-in-residence at Young Chicago Authors and teaches at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center.

KRISTIANA COLÓN, one of Chicago's Def Poets, is a poet, playwright, actress, and educator who has been writing and performing for eight years. Kristiana has rocked the mic at some of the Midwest's top venues including the Park West, the Metro, the Star Plaza Theater, the Aragon, the HotHouse, Darkroom, Subterranean, the Funky Buddha Lounge and Sonotheque, as well as venues across the nation and abroad. Kristiana's first original play, "but i cd only whisper" was produced at the University of Chicago. It has since received a reading at the Lincoln Center in New York and won 2nd place in the 2008 Theodore Ward Playwriting Competition. She believes in the power of art as an educational tool and is committed to arts integration as a way to reinvigorate the learning experience, build social awareness, and provoke critical analysis of the world in which we live.

PATRICK ROSAL is the author of two full-length poetry collections, *Uprock Headspin Scramble and Dive*, which won the Members' Choice Award from the Asian American Writers' Workshop, and more recently, *My American Kundiman*, which won the Association of Asian American Studies 2006 Book Award in Poetry as well as the 2007 Global Filipino Literary Award. In 2009, he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to the Philippines. He currently teaches at Drew University's Low-Residency MFA program and Sarah Lawrence College. The son of immigrants from the Ilocos

LinksHall

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

region of the Philippines, Rosal is a New Jersey native, a life-long amateur musician, an old-school b-boy and DJ. In the late 80s and early 90s, he produced music for Metropolitan Recording Corporation, working with acts like April Kelly, Laissez Faire, and Joey Gold. He can still uprock and do baby swipes.

ROGER BONAIR-AGARD is a native of Trinidad & Tobago, a Cave Canem fellow and author of two collections of poetry: "tarnish and masquerade" (Cypher Books, 2006) and "GULLY" (Cypher Books, Peepal Tree Press, 2010). He is co-founder and Artistic Director of New York City's louderARTS Project and an MFA candidate at University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Program. He is a poet-in-residence at Young Chicago Authors and teaches at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center.

FM SUPREME is a 22-year-old Nigerian American, born and raised in Chicago, IL. She has been writing raps since she was ten years old and at fifteen she found her passion for performance and slam poetry. FM Supreme later became a 5x Finalist and 2x consecutive champion of "Louder Than A Bomb" Chicago's citywide high school poetry slam festival. As a performance poet and teaching artist, FM Supreme has trained under Kevin Coval, Toni Asante Lightfoot (Cave Canem) Roger Bonair-Agard (Cave Canem), avery r young, Ugochi and other highly skilled prolific writers.

FM Supreme has shared the stage with Boyz II Men (WGCI Back to School Jam, 2001) MC Lyte (Africa Fest, 2007), David Banner (University of Chicago, 2008), Saul Williams (Sarah Lawrence College, NY 2007, Columbia College, 2009), The Cool Kids (Every Drop Counts, 2010), Jean Grae (Every Drop Counts, 2010) and a host of other well known performers, poets and artists.

She has independently released five projects in the past five years: The Diary of A Mad Black Woman Mixtape (2005), Forever Maroon EP (2006), Basik Gumbo (2007), The Beautiful Grind Mixtape (2008), The FM Supreme Project EP (2010). FM Supreme has performed all over the United States and briefly toured Europe, performing at clubs and venues in Amsterdam and London. In addition to traveling and performing, FM Supreme is a creative writing teacher, where she is actively a part time faculty member at private high school.

AVERY R. YOUNG has been a staple in the spoken word community since 1996. His style of writing, singing and performance is labeled "Sunday Mornin' Jook-Joint." His blend of spoken word, song, jazz, gospel and chant distinguishes him from any other performance artist on the scene today.

Avery has traveled throughout the country and internationally performing with the likes of; Gwendolyn Brooks, Roy Ayers, Mos Def, Les Nubians, Sharon Bridgforth, Staceyann Chin, Jill Scott, Ugochi, Billy Branch, amongst others.

LinksHall

Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts

His work as a teaching artist and mentor for schools and community organizations has made him not only an artist but also advocate for such social dilemmas like HIV, domestic violence and education reform.

Avery has appeared and work has been featured at The Museum of Contemporary Art, House of Blues, BET, WGN Morning News, MTV, VH1, Kevin's Room 2, The Hip Hop Theatre Festival, Dance Africa, Lalapollza, Wordstock, A New World Reveal-A-Solution, Denizen Kane, New Skool Poetics, World Can't Wait and Taste of Chicago.

DECEMBER 9- 11, 2010

Calisthenics for Shrapnel: SMASH

Curated by Artistic Associate Marty McConnell

Audiences and performers have the opportunity to "work it out" over two of the most volatile issues in our lives and our world.

RACE and CLASS

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8pm • Tickets \$15/\$10 Students

*Tickets are \$12 online

Links Hall is located at 3435 North Sheffield Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60657—convenient to the BROWN, RED & PURPLE line stop at Belmont and RED line Addison stop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. For more information call 773.281.0824 or visit www.LinksHall.org.

Links Hall is supported by Alphawood Foundation, Arts Midwest, Arts Work Fund for Organizational Development, The Boeing Company, The Chicago Community Trust, Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, James S. Kemper Foundation, Lisa Dershin Creative Dance Fund, MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, National Performance Network, The Weasel Fund and many individuals.

Links Hall's Performance Series is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and a CityArts Program 2 grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs

Links Hall encourages artistic innovation and public engagement by maintaining a facility and providing flexible programming for the research, development and presentation of new work in the performing arts.

###

LinksHall

*Chicago's Center for Independent Dance
and Performance Arts*