

# LINKS HALL



1 of 5

**Media Reminder:** 07.24.09  
*High-res digital images on request.*

**Media Contact:** Linda Solotaire  
773.281.0824  
[LSolotaire@linkshall.org](mailto:LSolotaire@linkshall.org)

## Links Hall presents 100% Farm Fresh Corn this August, 13-16 2009.

Chicago, IL – Links Hall presents *Rustbelt Revival: A New Economic Stimulus Package Featuring 100% Farm Fresh Corn August 13-16, 2009.* These outstanding and intimate theatrical solo-performances are curated by two-time Obie Award-winning artist and playwright Holly Hughes along with Chicago's own Kestutis Nakas. Each evening of *Rustbelt Revival* will provide a unique blend of ideas, stories and thoughts fresher than a farmers market. Watch these individually wrapped slices of life unfold in front of your eyes through musical interludes, comedic stories, burlesque puppets and stilt dancing ballerinas. A new line-up of artists each night features some of the Midwest's finest in solo performance including works by Danielle Abrams, LeVan D. Hawkins, Holly Hughes, E. Patrick Johnson, David Kodeski, Amanda Krugliak, Jenny Magnus, Melanie Manos, Meredith Miller, Erica Mott, Kestutis Nakas, Andy Park, Nick Tobier, Malcolm Tulip and Sarah Weis. Kestutis Nakas will also emcee on opening night along with **Digby Wolfe** co-creator of NBC TV's legendary "Laugh In" in the late 60's.

This summer, buy locally at Links Hall! *Rustbelt Revival: A New Economic Stimulus Package* will be presented at Links Hall, 3435 North Sheffield, Second Floor, Chicago, IL 60657 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 13, 14 and 15, 2009 at 8pm - tickets are \$15 adults/\$10 students. On Saturday, August 15 there will be a *Late Night Cabaret* hosted by Holly Hughes at 10:30pm – tickets \$10. There will be a student performance for \$5 on Sunday, August 16 at 7pm. Proceeds from all tickets sales go to benefit Links Hall's programming all season long. For more information and to purchase tickets, call **773.281.0824** or visit [www.LinkshHall.org](http://www.LinkshHall.org).

Holly Hughes invites audiences to get into the act by taking her performance master class "You Can't Make This Shit Up" on Saturday, August 15, 2009, 11am - 5pm, \$50. Student work will be featured in the Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm performance of the festival. Or sign up in advance for the open mic Late Night Cabaret 10:30pm, Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign ups are on a first come first served basis and will take place prior to the 8pm show Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. See [www.LinkshHall.org](http://www.LinkshHall.org), or call **773.281.0824** for more information.

~ ARTIST BIOS AND DETAILS FOLLOW~

# LINKS HALL



2 of 5



**HOLLY HUGHES, Co-Curator / Performance Artist** - is a two-time Obie Award-winning artist and has performed at venues across North America, Great Britain and Australia, including the Walker Art Center, the Wexner Center for the Arts, the Guggenheim Museum, the Yale Repertory, the Drill Hall in London, and numerous universities. She has also published two books: *Clit Notes: A Sapphic Sampler* and *O Solo Homo: The New Queer Performance*.



**KESTUTIS NAKAS, Co-Curator / Performance Artist** performs his latest solo piece *Remembrance of Things Pontiac* about a hapless teenage caddy from Pontiac, Michigan who hitchhikes to the Goose Lake Rock Festival in hopes of joining the counter culture.

## ~FARM FRESH HIGHLIGHTS~



From **Danielle Abrams'** lineage of Borscht Belt tumblers and bubbies, and African-American ancestry of Southern folks who migrated to Flushing, emerge a blend of unforgettable personae. Danielle has performed at a range of art spaces including The Jewish Museum, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Queens Museum, University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA), The Kitchen, Dixon Place, WOW Café Theater, and at Annie Sprinkle's and Beth Stephens' Green Wedding #4. She is a recipient of fellowships from the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art, New York Foundation of the Arts, and the NY Urban Arts Initiative. Originally from Queens, NY, Danielle is a recent transplant to the midwest where she lives and works in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



**Misty De Berry** is a Chicago-based writer, poet, and actor aiming to question and re-imagine issues of trauma and healing, intimacy and love, along with identity and behavior through performance, text and the body. Since receiving her BFA in acting from North Carolina School of the Arts, she has received numerous fellowships, including: the Kennedy Center; New York Theatre Workshop; and the New Federal Theatre in New York City. She has worked with such esteemed theaters as the NYC Hip-Hop Theater Festival and the 78th Street Theater Lab, with whom she won the coveted best original production by an ensemble at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the Production of *Boy Steals Train*, which later aired on BBC Radio.

# LINKS HALL



3 of 5



A performance by passionate solo performer/performance poet **LeVan D. Hawkins** who describes himself as "an artist striving towards the truth" and "a bridge between races, sexualities, religions, believers and non-believers." Hawkins, formerly of Los Angeles, is new to the Chicago performance scene. He has performed his work at venues and events such as UCLA Hammer Museum, New York Fringe Festival, National Black Theater Festival, Cali Hip-Hop Festival and Disney Hall's Redcat Theater.



**E. Patrick Johnson** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Performance Studies and Professor of African American studies at Northwestern University. He currently touring his one-man show, "Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales," around the country.



**David Kodeski** is the creator of *David Kodeski's True Life Tales*, an ongoing series of critically-acclaimed solo performances which include *Doris* (1996), *Niagara! (you should have been Yosemite)* (1997), *Another Lousy Day* (1999), *The Sycamore Story* (2001), *I Can't Explain the Beauty* (2002), and most recently, *And Some Can Remember Something of Some Such Thing* (2005). His work has been adapted for episodes of *This American Life* and *All Things Considered*. He has performed his work at the Perth International Fringe Festival, The Perth International Arts Festival, and Dublin Gay Theatre Festival and most recently at PSI15 in Zagreb. Kodeski is an ensemble member of the Neo-Futurists, co-host and creator of *The Pansy Kings' Cotillion* and a founding member of BoyGirlBoyGirl.



**Jenny Magnus** is a writer, performer, musician and teacher who is a founding co-artistic Director of the Curious Theater Branch

~MORE~

# LINKS HALL



4 of 5



**Melanie Manos** is a performance and visual artist who was born and raised in Metropolitan Detroit, Michigan. She earned a B.A. at the University of California Los Angeles in 1999, and continued to live in Los Angeles where she performed as a founding member of the performance duo, *Too Much Girl*. During that time she developed a multi-disciplinary practice, exhibiting and performing in galleries, museums, artists' spaces, and many a punk rock club. In 2002, she was an Artist-in-Residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts, and in 2003 was part of *Detroit Now*, a four-gallery exhibition of emerging artists in the Detroit area. Manos earned an MFA at the University of Michigan, School of Art & Design in 2008



**Meredith Miller** (Claire de Lune) is a Chicago-based burlesque performer and puppet-maker who is renowned for her combinations of the two art forms. She has been a regular performer in shows such as Gurlisque Burlesque, Heartless Bltch Entertainment, Genderfusions (Columbia College Chicago), PACEdge Festival, The Belmont Burlesque Revue, Varietease Cabaret, The Girlie-Q Variety Hour, and has appeared in A Sordid Collective's drag/burlesque musical *The Lola Project*, and tours nationally and internationally with *The Windy City Blenders*. Meredith/Claire also appeared as a contestant in Comedy Central's revival of *The Gong Show*, on which she was gonged by Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, who is (ironically), a puppet.



**Erica Mott** is a Chicago-based multi-disciplinary performance maker, whose work is often inspired by discarded objects, images and stories. Through her performances she strives to reveal the magical in the mundane and communicate this over personal, political, and cultural borders. Erica's most recent site-specific performances were featured at the Minneapolis Fringe Festival, Random House Classics, the Chicago Cultural Center, The Spareroom and Performing Arts Chicago 2005 PAC/edge Festival and at the City of Chicago's Lurie Gardens Celebration in Millennium Park.



**Chameleon World**, fronted by that "21st Century City and Eastern Son of the Singing Cowboys" Ray St. Ray, The Singing Cabdriver, is a band of misfits whose music could best be described as nothin' but the 'yellows' — bright, uplifting music for people who can still think and hear... or at least dance!

# LINKS HALL



5 of 5

~DETAILS~

**August 13-16, 2009**

***Rustbelt Revival:***  
***A New Economic Stimulus Package***  
*Featuring 100% Farm Fresh Corn*

Danielle Abrams, LeVan D. Hawkins, Holly Hughes, E. Patrick Johnson, David Kodeski,  
Amanda Krugliak, Jenny Magnus, Melanie Manos, Meredith Miller, Erica Mott, Andy Park, Kestutis Nakas,  
Nick Tobier, Malcolm Tulip, Sarah Weis and Digby Wolfe

*Curated by*

**Holly Hughes & Kestutis Nakas**

*at*

**Links Hall**

3435 N. Sheffield, Second Floor  
Chicago, IL 60657

**Thurs - Sat / August 13 – 15, 2009 at 8pm**  
Tickets **\$15** adults/**\$10** students

***Late Night Cabaret***  
**Sat / August 15, 2009 at 10:30pm**  
Tickets **\$10**

***Student Show***  
**Sun / August 16, 2009 at 7pm**  
Tickets **\$5**

For tickets and more information call  
**773.281.0824** or visit **[www.Linkshall.org](http://www.Linkshall.org)**.

---

**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.**

Links Hall is located at 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, convenient to the Belmont and Addison Red Line El stop in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. For more information call **773.281.0824** or visit **[www.linkshall.org](http://www.linkshall.org)**

###