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## **BRIC Arts | Media | Bklyn 2009 Spring Performing Arts**

**BROOKLYN, NY – BRIC Arts | Media | Bklyn** announces its 2009 spring performing arts season, which will run from **Thursday, March 26 through Sunday, May 17 at BRICstudio**. The eight week season of theater, music, and dance features new works by artists from the BRIClab residency and commissioning series, including:

**Wally Cardona**, choreographer  
**The TEAM (Theater of the Emerging American Movement)**, ensemble theater company  
**Abena Koomson**, actress, playwright, and singer  
**Abigail Nessen and Shaun Bengson**, rock opera performance duo  
**Ethel with Gutbucket**, in a new project commissioned for **BRIC's Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival**.

Additionally, Spring 2009 marks the return of two popular BRIC Co-Presentation series:

**Danspace@BRIC**  
**651 Arts Salon Series**, presenting hip hop musician, poet, and activist **Toni Blackman**.

Artists and audiences will receive an opportunity to meet, greet, and party at three special events this spring: *Bowling for BRIClab* celebrates three years of BRIC's artist residency program on Saturday April 18 with a post-show talkback with the TEAM, moderated by the Public Theater's Artistic Director Oskar Eustis, followed by an after hours party at BRICstudio. Danspace@BRIC introduces two new events to the popular performance series: a happy hour in Manhattan on April 28 and a pre-performance Show & Tell event with special guests on May 16.

2009 marks the third year of the **BRIClab** commissioning and residency program for the development of new works in the performing arts. BRIClab is a vital incubator for emerging and established local artists working in theater, dance, music, and multi-disciplinary performance. New works in various stages of development receive a one-week intensive residency at BRICstudio that includes over 50 hours of on-site development time and artistic mentoring. Residencies culminate in two work-in-progress performances followed by public conversations with the artists, moderated by special guests.

Tickets are on sale starting February 23, and can be purchased online at [www.briconline.org/bricstudio](http://www.briconline.org/bricstudio) or by calling **866-811-4111**.

Performances take place at BRICstudio, **647 Fulton Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn** (entrance on Rockwell Place, around the corner from the BAM Harvey Theater).

### **BRIClab**

**WALLY CARDONA**

*Really Real*

**Thursday and Saturday, March 26 and 28 at 8pm**

**\$12 Adults; \$10 Students**

**DANCE**

Called "One of the most adventurous choreographers of his generation" by *Brooklyn Magazine*, Brooklyn-based, internationally acclaimed choreographer Wally Cardona creates vast yet personal works that transform venues. A departure from his traditional use of objects (one recent presentation included 300 columns), Cardona's new work exposes the complex and intimate landscapes that exist between people in movement. This BRIClab workshop will feature Cardona performing one on one with members of his company, encounters that are central to the finished work which will grow to include the Brooklyn Youth Chorus and an expanded cast. *Really*

*Real* is co-commissioned by Brooklyn Academy of Music, International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and WCV, Inc. **Creative Advisor: Richard Maxwell.**

**BRIClab**

**ABENA KOOMSON**

**MUSIC/THEATRE**

***Cozi Sa Wala***

**Thursday and Saturday, April 2 and 4 at 8pm**

**\$12 Adults; \$10 Students**

Called “heavenly voiced” by Ben Brantley of the New York Times, **Abena Koomson** is a stunning singer and performer who recently starred Off-Broadway in Bill T. Jones’ *Fela!* Koomson powerfully blends narrative and song in *Cozi Sa Wala*, a one-woman piece about the necessity of storytelling and the preservation of the oral tradition. A Brooklyn local born of Ghanaian immigrant parents, she will use her BRIClab residency to expand this short work, originally performed at FringeNYC, into a full-length theatre piece complete with West African music, Fanti fables, and dance. **Directed by Keith Oncale. Creative Advisor: Lynn Nottage.**

**BRIClab**

**THE TEAM**

**THEATRE**

***To the Boys and Girls in America, I am taking a sick day***

**Thursday, April 16 at 8pm**

**Saturday, April 18 Performance at 7:30pm\* [includes *Bowling for BRIClab* After Party, details below]**

**4/16: \$12 Adults; \$10 Students**

**4/18: \$20 (includes performance and after party)**

Acclaimed for their rigorous explorations of contemporary American themes, **The TEAM** (Theatre of the Emerging American Movement) presents a new work grappling with the question “What is American capitalism vs. capitalism as a theory?” With a title inspired by a Hold Steady album; content filtered through the lens of cowboys, bowling and Chekhov’s *The Cherry Orchard*; and mentorships that partner each company member with an expert from the financial sector, the development of this piece began before the economy collapsed and is sure to remain subject to market fluctuations through the BRIClab process. Fresh off sold-out runs of *Architecting* at the Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival and Performance Space 122, and won the Fringe First award at the Edinburgh Fringe. **Directed by Rachel Chavkin. Creative Advisor: Morgan Jenness.**

*Saturday April 18 performance by the TEAM followed by:*

**\*Bowling for BRIClab**

**After Party at 10pm**

Following **The TEAM**’s final BRIClab performance, and a special eLABorate conversation moderated by The Public Theater’s Artistic Director **Oskar Eustis**, embrace your inner suburbanite as BRICstudio is transformed into the local bowling lanes, complete with disco dancing, pizza, beer, and America’s favorite sport (*Wii*™, of course). Please note early start time. \$20 ticket includes performance and after party.

**BRIClab**

**ABIGAIL NESSEN BENGSON & SHAUN MCCLAIN BENGSON**

**MUSIC/THEATRE**

***Ain’t That Good News***

**Thursday and Saturday, April 23 and 25 at 8pm**

**\$12 Adults; \$10 Students**

Performance duo **Abigail Nessen** and **Shaun Bengson** have embarked on a wildly dynamic two-person rock musical. Bringing together their varied musical skills (including banjo, accordion, horse-head-fiddle, trumpet, flute, piano, and electronic sampling) with folktales and fables, first person accounts of survival, and interviews with refugees and retirees, their new work is a revelatory celebration of everyday people doing small and large things to positively change their lives and their communities. **Directed by David Eppel, Market Theatre (South Africa).** **Creative Advisor: David Neumann.**

**Co-Presentation**

**DANSPACE@BRIC**

**DANCE**

**Various programs & dates (see below)**  
**\$15 General Admission**

**Danspace Project** returns to BRIC for a sixth season of co-presentations, bringing celebrated, contemporary artists together in a new series exploring the concepts of *Home* and *Stranger*. Is home where you're from or where you are? What does it mean for Danspace to present performances outside of its iconic "home" of St. Mark's Church? How does BRIC's co-presentation program open its "home" to organizations from outside of Brooklyn? Curators **Abby Harris Holmes** and **Sarah Maxfield** consider these questions in a new series with New York choreographers exploring what it means to be home, and how it feels to be a stranger.

**Week 1: HOME**

**Happy Hour: Tuesday, April 28 at 6PM**

Join Danspace@BRIC artists and staff in Manhattan for a homey Happy Hour featuring imported beers at one of Danspace Project's local bars, Jimmy's #43 in the East Village.

**Performances: Saturday, May 2 at 8pm & Sunday, May 3 at 5pm**

Performances at BRICstudio: Kawamura the 3rd's Sweets to the Sweet; Elke Rindfleisch/Andrea Haenggi's In My Bones; and Adam H Weinert's Match Box Dance.

**Week 2: STRANGER**

**Show & Tell: Saturday May 16 at 6:30pm**

This pre-performance event at BRICstudio explores the Home/Stranger themes from the perspectives of food, shelter and transportation. Special guests include: Chef Joshua Stokes, architect David Taylor (Arup), and the New York Transit Museum.

**Performances: Saturday, May 16 at 8pm & Sunday, May 17 at 5pm**

Performances at BRICstudio: Maura Nguyen Donohue/inmixedcompany's what it was; Sahar Javedani/compani javedani's in the Middle, somewhat aggravated (excerpts); and Colleen Hooper's Solved, Part Two.

Please note April 28 special Happy Hour location. All other events take place at BRICstudio.  
May 16 Show & Tell is free to ticket holders for that evening's performance.

**BRIClab: ETHEL with GUTBUCKET**

**MUSIC**

***The Monsters' Ship (La Nave De Los Monstruos)***

***Commissioned for the Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival***

**Thursday and Saturday, May 7 and 9 at 8pm**

**\$12 Adults; \$10 Students**

**ETHEL**, the nation's premier rock-infused, postclassical string quartet, teams up with the avant-squonk art-rock wild men of **Gutbucket** to tackle the vintage Mexican science fiction classic *La Nave De Los Monstruos (The Monsters' Ship, 1959)*. In the film, the last male on Venus has died and the planet's regent sends Gamma and Beta, two gorgeous aliens, on a quest to find men on other planets. ETHEL and Gutbucket dig into this fertile ground and create a new original score which will be performed live to the film. After this BRIClab work-in-progress performance, the completed work will have its world premier at Celebrate Brooklyn! (Summer 2009). *The Monsters' ship* is commissioned for the Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival with support from the Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation. Creative Advisor: Annie-B Parson.

**Co-presentation: 651 ARTS**

**MUSIC/THEATRE**

**TONI BLACKMAN**

***Travels of a Lyrical Ambassador***

**Thursday, May 14 at 8pm**

**\$10 General Admission**

**651 ARTS** presents the sensational musician, poet, activist and international champion of hip-hop culture, **Toni Blackman** for this work-in-progress showing at BRICstudio. One of the first artists to break ground using hip hop to promote international peace and understanding, Toni Blackman never imagined that hip hop would be so universally spoken in places such as Swaziland, Botswana, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan and the Philippines. *Travels of a Lyrical Ambassador* examines her belief in the power of music and poetry to inspire personal and social change.

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**Tickets and Information:** Tickets go on sale **February 23**.

Purchase online at [www.briconline.org/bricstudio](http://www.briconline.org/bricstudio), or call 866-811-4111

For tickets to Toni Blackman's performance presented by 651 Arts call: 718-636-4181 x2229

Sign up to receive weekly e-mail alerts about upcoming performances at [www.briconline.org/bricstudio](http://www.briconline.org/bricstudio).

### **Ticket Packages**

**labPass** (Includes access to one performance of each BRIClab resident artist, 5 total): \$48

**2009 dansPASS** (Includes access to one performance each of *Home* and *Stranger*, 2 total): \$25

### **Directions**

BRICstudio is located on the 2nd floor of 647 Fulton Street. Enter at 57 Rockwell Place, around the corner from the BAM Harvey Theater.

Subway: 2, 3, 4 or 5 to Nevins St; B, M, N, Q, R to DeKalb Av; G to Fulton St

Bus: B25, B26, B38, or B52 to Ashland Place/Rockwell place, turn right on Rockwell.

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**About BRIC:** BRIC Arts | Media | Bklyn is a multi-disciplinary arts and media non-profit dedicated to presenting performing arts, contemporary art, and community media programs that are reflective of Brooklyn's diverse communities, and to providing resources and platforms to support the creative process. All of our offerings are free or low cost, to enhance the public's access to and understanding of arts and media. Each year, upwards of a million people in Brooklyn and citywide are served through our programs.

**About BRIC Performing Arts:** BRIC performing arts programs present emerging and established artists in music, dance, theater and multidisciplinary performance to broad audiences from Brooklyn and throughout New York City, and support the development of new work. Signature programs include the Celebrate Brooklyn! Performing Arts Festival, which presents 25 or more free performances each summer at the Prospect Park Bandshell, and BRIClab, a commissioning and residency program presented at BRICstudio.

2009 Spring Performing Arts at BRICstudio have been supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Councilmembers Vincent Gentile, Darlene Mealy, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., David Yassky, and Assemblymembers William F. Boyland and Hakeem Jeffries, the Brooklyn Delegation of the New York State Assembly, and State Senator Martin Golden. Support for ETHEL comes from the Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation.

**For more info visit [briconline.org/bricstudio](http://briconline.org/bricstudio)**