

Symposium on
MASCULINITY AND EMBODIED PRACTICE

10AM - 9PM, JULY 29, 2010

hosted by
Urban Research Theater
and
Movement Research Studies Project

at
Medicine Show Theatre
549 West 52nd Street, 3rd Floor
New York City

Guest attendees are welcome.
Please RSVP to:
<symposium@urbanresearchtheater.com>

EXCERPT FROM THE “CALL FOR PROPOSALS”

Proposals for this one-day symposium may be of any format, including: formal papers, work demonstrations or performances, multimedia documentation (with commentary), etc. Feminist, queer, and critical race perspectives on masculinity are especially welcome, as are those grounded in the experiences of actors, dancers, athletes, and teachers.

How can we approach the notion of masculinity today? While academia remains firmly invested in deconstructing gender performativity, many artists and other embodied practitioners continue to rely on archetypal or essentialist notions of the masculine. The phenomenology of the body and its knowledge has yet to be reconciled with materialist approaches to gender, race, class, and nationality.

How do notions of masculinity circulate through the materiality of theater, dance, sports, martial arts, and yoga? How do these bodily practices construct masculinity in ways that intersect with social power structures? Is masculinity a biological function? An identity group? A genre of performance?

SCHEDULE

9:30AM-10:00AM COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

Doug Risner, "Dancing Boys' Lives: Moving Masculinities & Cultural Resistance in Professional Dance Training and Education" (virtual presentation via DVD).

10:00AM-10:15AM WELCOMING REMARKS and OPENING BURLESQUE

Aimee Rose Ranger, "Gender Dazed and Confused"

10:15AM-11:15AM PAPERS (15 minutes each)

Jeff Casey: "Post-feminist Masculinity in Performance Theory and Practice."

Karl Rogers: "Dancing Camp / Camping Dance: Christopher Williams' *The Golden Legend*."

Shelby Hibbs: ""Repellant Effects of the Masculine Midas Touch: Consequences of the Ideology of Claiming Examined through Patrick Meyers' *K2* and Lee Blessing's *Great Falls*."

Milton Loayza: "Doing and Undoing Masculinity in the Performance of *Ella*, by Susana Torres Molina."

11:30PM-12:30PM PRESENTATIONS (15 minutes each)

Susan Mar Landau: Excerpts and documentation of *Making Men*, a series of videos and installations.

Chris Kilmartin: Excerpts from *Crimes Against Nature*.

Catalina Florina Florescu: Excerpts from *Three as in Tri-Angle, or the Aftertastes of Life*.

Jef Johnson: "Reflexive Association: Keying from Symbol, Archetype, and Faith."

12:45PM-1:15PM KEYNOTE

John Stoltenberg: "The Bully and the Bitch: Pro Wrestling and Drag as Spectacles for Gendering the Audience."

1:15PM-2:15PM LUNCH BREAK

2:15PM-3:15PM PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP

Fred Landers: "Accessing A New Masculinity Through Imaginative Embodied Play."

3:30PM-5:00PM PERFORMANCES

Salvatore LaRussa Dance Theatre: *decode* (25' excerpt).

Music: Steven Sclafani. Costumes: Guillaume Boulez.

Michael DiPietro: *Moz Ulterior* (20').

Austin Selden (directed by Sarah Konner): *Ashamed to be Balding* (10').

Karl Rogers: *Trio B* (10 minutes).

5:15PM-6:15PM OPEN DISCUSSION

Moderated by Ben Spatz.

6:15PM-7:45PM DINNER BREAK

8:00PM-9:00PM EVENING PERFORMANCE

Urban Research Theater: *PLAY/WAR*

HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS

URBAN RESEARCH THEATER

Urban Research Theater (Ben Spatz and Maximilian Balduzzi) develops original performances out of a continuous, long-term practice of embodied research. Our commitment to integrating narrative and image with irreducible *liveness* in performance draws on traditions ranging from Stanislavski and Grotowski in theatre to postmodern dance and performance art. We aim to be a performance laboratory for the twenty-first century.

Urban Research Theater is a 2010-2012 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence.

Upcoming Summer Project 2010 events:

- Performances of PLAY/WAR (July 15 - August 14, Thursday - Saturday @ 8pm)
- "Lines of Flight" intensive workshop with guest teachers (August 2 - 5)
- Closing Party (September 4)

See website for more.

<www.urbanresearchtheater.com>

MOVEMENT RESEARCH STUDIES PROJECT

Movement Research is one of the world's leading laboratories for the investigation of dance and movement-based forms. Valuing the individual artist and their creative process and vital role within society, Movement Research is dedicated to the creation and implementation of free and low-cost programs that nurture and instigate discourse and experimentation. Movement Research strives to reflect the cultural, political and economic diversity of its moving community, including artists and audiences alike.

The "Studies Project" is an artist-curated series of panel discussions, performances and/or other formats that focus on provocative and timely issues of aesthetics and philosophy in the intersection of dance and social politics, confronting and instigated by the dance and performance community. All Studies Project events are free and open to the public. The Studies Project is coordinated by Rebecca Brooks.

<www.movementresearch.org>

PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Guillaume Boulez was born in Vichy, France and moved to Paris at age 18 to study at the famed Studio Bercot fashion academy. He relocated to New York in 2004 and quickly made his mark with downtown design collective threeASFOUR and later joined the design team of Zac Posen. Currently, Boulez divides his time between styling and consulting for various fashion collections.

Rebecca Brooks is a dance artist and AmSat certified Alexander Technique teacher. She has taught group classes at Balance Arts Center, ADF, and CLASSCLASSCLASS, and teaches privately in Brooklyn. As a performer Rebecca currently works with Marina Abramović, Amanda Loulaki and Kathy Westwater, and recent work includes projects with robbinschilds, Heather Kravas, Jillian Peña and Katy Pyle. Her own works have been presented throughout NYC and in California. <www.rebeccabrooks.com>

Jeff Casey is a theater theorist and critic, playwright, dramaturge and teacher. He was born and raised in rural West Texas. He earned a BA in Philosophy and English Literature and an MA in Creative Writing at the University of Texas at Austin and is a Theater Research PhD student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His original play Hermetic was staged at UW-Madison this spring. He serves on the Artistic Committee of the UW-Madison Theatre and Drama Graduate Student Organization.

Michael DiPietro is a New York-based performer, sculptor and fashion designer. Michael has performed at Dance Theater Workshops, Bushwick Project for the Arts, 3rd Ward, Market Hotel, and The Suffolk, in New York, NY. His work has been exhibited at Gallery Z in Providence, RI; 3rd Ward and the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at Parsons in New York, NY. Michael holds a BFA in Integrated Design from Parsons the New School for Design.

Catalina Florina Florescu won a 2006 Purdue Research Grant for her proposal, *The Acquisition of the Body's Language(s): An Interdisciplinary Study in Literature, Art, and Bioethics*. In the summer of 2007, she earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Purdue University with a dissertation entitled, *Transacting Sites of the Liminal Bodily Spaces*. While at Purdue, she taught Mythology, Latin and also served as a researcher within the Comparative Literature department. During the academic year of 2007-2008, she worked at Rutgers University as a lecturer of Expository Writing. Her list of publications includes book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals, pedagogy publications and book reviews. Her first play, *Eternelle*, will be published in an edited collection entitled, *(In)scribing Gender: International Female Writers and the Creative Process*. She has been recently awarded a fellowship in MLA's International Bibliography Program and will be teaching at St Peter's College this fall. Contact: <plutesc@aol.com>.

Shelby Hibbs: I'm currently a third year Master of Fine Arts Directing candidate at Baylor University. My upcoming Thesis will investigate the Directing process with Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*. I have presented papers at the last two Mid-American Theatre Conferences in Cleveland and Chicago. Upcoming directing projects include assisting at the Berkshire Theatre Festival with *K2* and *The Slant Theatre Project* in New York with *Binge*.

Jef Johnson is a principal clown in the international touring company of Slava's Snowshow. As Clown, he has also toured with Cirque du Soleil. Jef has more than 20 years of experience working in a wide range of physical styles. His approach is rooted in subjective expression, physical expression of condition through impulse and reflex. He has studied corporeal expression from disciples of Grotowski, Suzuki,

Marceau, Decroux, Lecoq, Meyerhold, M. Chekhov, Vakhtangov. He has been commissioned for Master Classes, Lectures and Workshops in Acting, Theory, Character, Mask, Creative Play, Improvisation, and Clown for numerous theatre companies and universities, including Cirque du Soleil, New York Clown Theatre Festival, Camp Broadway, University of Houston, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, University of Minnesota, Empire State College and NYU. < www.nyclown.com >

Dr. Christopher Kilmartin is a college professor, author, stand-up comedian, actor, playwright, consultant and professional psychologist. He is a Professor of Psychology at The University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. He holds a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a licensed clinical psychologist who has a great deal of experience consulting with businesses, college students, human services workers, and counselors. His major scholarly work is *The Masculine Self* (4th edition, Sloan, 2010). He has also co-authored *Men's Violence Against Women: Theory, Research, and Activism* (with Julie Allison, Erlbaum, 2007), *The Pain behind the Mask: Overcoming Masculine Depression* (with John Lynch, 1999), and *Sexual Assault in Context: Teaching College Men about Gender* (with Alan Berkowitz, Erlbaum, 2005). Drawing on his background as a professional stand-up comedian, Dr. Kilmartin wrote a solo theatre performance on men's issues entitled *Crimes Against Nature*. This work, an integration of his scholarly and performing interests, and performed by the author, debuted in March, 1998 and toured to over 150 campuses and other venues before he retired the performance in 2004. He is currently touring with a lecture/storytelling hybrid entitled *Guy Fi: The Fictions that Rule Men's Lives*.

Sarah Konner received a BFA in Dance and a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Michigan. She has performed major works including a restaging of Laura Dean's *Impact*, an original work by Ginger Thatcher, Forsythe repertory at the ADF in 2008, a new work by Michael Miller at the ADF in 2009, an original work by Amy Chavasse premiered in 2010, and a restaging of Paul Taylor's *Le Sacre du Printemps* (The Rehearsal) performed in 2010. In addition to her dance training she has made numerous original works of choreography, is certified in both Pilates and Yoga, and teaches regularly.

Susan Mar Landau is an interdisciplinary artist whose work has been shown in exhibitions and art festivals in both the United States and Europe. She holds a B.A. from Hampshire College, an M.A. in Scenography from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, The University of the Arts London, and a Graduate Certificate in Performance and Interactive Media Arts from Brooklyn College, CUNY. From 1997-1999 she attended the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris as a recipient of the Harriet Hale Woolley Scholarship from the Fondation des Etats-Unis de Paris. Ms. Landau has taught courses at colleges within both the CUNY and SUNY systems and was a Visiting Professor of Art and Cultural Theory at Hampshire College from 2006-2008. Since 2009 she has worked as the dramaturge for the choreographer Vanessa Anspaugh, a current *Fresh Tracks* artist at Dance Theater Workshop, New York City. Ms. Landau has been short listed for the *2010/2011 DANCE MOVIES Commission*, from the Experimental Media & Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy New York. The recipients of the award will be announced after June 15, 2010. Ms. Landau currently lives and works in New York City.

Fred Landers, MA, RDT-BCT, LCAT, works (plays) with adolescents in a middle school clinic in the Bronx and with adults in his private drama therapy practice in Manhattan. He co-teaches the Advanced Seminar at the Institute for the Arts in Psychotherapy and is completing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Union Institute & University.

Salvatore LaRussa, a native New Yorker, is a graduate of Hofstra University, under the direction of Lance Westergard. LaRussa premiered his first NYC season in 2004 which marked the start of his company, Salvatore LaRussa Dance Theatre. SLDT has performed extensively in New York City in traditional and non-traditional spaces, including Merce Cunningham Studio, the Goldman-Sonnenfeldt Auditorium, DEEP, Green Space, and Knitting Factory, and have been part of numerous festivals in NYC and across the country, including the Emerging America Festival at the A.R.T. / Harvard University, Blooms Dance Festival, and the Queens Art Express. Commissions have included Hofstra University and Gritty Cherries Productions. LaRussa received critical acclaim in Dance Europe Magazine where Tim Martin writes, "...another example of LaRussa's excellent sense of dance theatre." LaRussa has been a panelist for the Queens Council on the Arts and was featured in their artSPY Series: Dance in Queens. In 2009, LaRussa founded Salvatore LaRussa Dance Theatre - The Academy, a performing arts institution and home for his company, in Middle Village/ Queens NY. LaRussa has been named one of the Top Five Queens Trendsetter by the It's Queens magazine. LaRussa's dance credits include Robin Becker Dance, Now Dance, La Compania, Michael Mao's ballet, Firecracker, and numerous projects with Broadway Choreographer, David Marquez, including Tom Sawyer (Broadway); and the Alan Awards.

Milton Loayza received a doctorate in Theatre Studies from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2008. He Teaches At SUNY Oswego and Syracuse University. Last Fall he inaugurated Autopista del Sur Theatre Group, dedicated to the performance of Latin American plays. Recent publications include an article on Argentine Grottesco theory in the *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*. He is currently working on a performance of *Asuncion*, by Ricardo Monti and interested in researching the representation of the global multitude in performance.

Aimee Rose Ranger: I am a local Boston actor. I am currently in a comedic film about the Apocolypse. I have created two one-woman shows, one of which I premiered at the New England Fringe Festival. I perform stand up comedy, burlesque, and give ghost tours downtown with the company Ghosts and Gravestones. I also host a once-a-month storytelling performance potluck in my basement called SOOP, Stories of our People. I love bell hooks. I am currently writing a short comic strip about an androgenous super hero called Woeman who saves people from the villain Gender Norm and His Secretary.

Dr. Doug Risner, scholar, researcher and former professional dancer, has studied the lives and experiences of student dancers for over two decades. Widely published, he presents his work throughout the U.S. and internationally. Risner's book, *Stigma and Perseverance in the Lives of Boys Who Dance*, presents the findings of his three-year, national study of boys and young adult males in pre-professional dance training. He is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Dance Education*, a member of the board of directors of the *National Dance Education Organization*, and co-chair of the International Working Group for Dance and Theatre Teaching Artists. Dr. Risner is currently Associate Professor of Dance at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, USA.

Karl Rogers (MFA 2003) is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Dance at The Ohio State University and member of David Dorfman Dance. He also is on faculty and the co-director of Bates Dance Festival's Young Dancer's Pre-Professional Workshop. He has performed in the work of Terry Creach, Colleen Thomas, Paul Matteson, Melinda Ring, and others. In addition to performing and making his own dance/theatre works, he teaches dance technique, improvisation, composition and courses in contemporary dance and theatre history. He has taught at Kenyon College, Dickinson College, Knox College, 100 Grand and is a guest artist at Dance New Amsterdam.

Steve Sclafani can't remember when he graduated - it was definitely after the arrival of fire (but before Google) though it was from SUNY StonyBrook, and there could have been a BA in Theatre Arts... I think. Previous SLDT credits include live performance in last two year's fall concerts; music for 'Breath' and 'Hooked'; and various video compilations.

Austin Selden, dancer, choreographer, video artist, improviser, received his BFA in Dance from the University of Michigan, as the recipient of the Earl V. Moore award. He is co-founder of Bedlam Dance Collective with Sarah Konner and Nadia Tykulsker to collaborate and create original dance theater works. He has performed in the works of Peter Sparling, Leyya Tawil, Amy Chavasse, Jason and Lindsey Dietz-Merchant, Jessica Fogel, and Robin Wilson. He was also in the re-staging of Laura Dean's, Impact and Paul Taylor's, Sacre de Printemps (the rehearsal). He was selected to be part of the Choreographers Workshop in Pro Danza Italia in July of 2008, premiering Nella Notte at Castello Pasquini in Castiglicello. In 2010, Dirty Up to the Knuckles, an original collaborative duet was selected to be performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. for the National College Dance Festival.

Ben Spatz is Artistic Director of Urban Research Theater (founded 2004 in Wroclaw, Poland). With Associate Director Maximilian Balduzzi, he has organized the Summer Project 2010 which includes an extended run of the performance PLAY/WAR along with this symposium and several workshops and other events. In addition to leading the song-work of Urban Research Theater, Ben is a doctoral student in Theatre at the CUNY Graduate Center and a teaching fellow at Brooklyn College. He is currently in the development phase of a dissertation project on "practice as research." His artistic and scholarly writings have appeared in *New York Theatre Review*, *Movement Research Performance Journal*, *Slavic and Eastern European Performance*, and *Theatre Topics*. <www.urbanresearchtheater.com>

John Stoltenberg A long-time activist against sexual violence and philosopher of gender, John Stoltenberg is the author of *Refusing to Be a Man: Essays on Sex and Justice* (UCL Press), a radical examination of male sexual identity. His book *The End of Manhood: Parables on Sex and Selfhood* (UCL Press) is a practical guide to everyday relationships—how to live as a man of conscience in love, in sex, in families, among friends. John is also the author of *What Makes Pornography "Sexy"?* (Milkwood Editions), as well as numerous articles and essays. John's nonfiction work—which is based on what he calls a game theory of gender—owes a great deal to his background in theater. He began writing and directing plays in college; had several produced off-off-Broadway; and in the early 1970s was administrative director and writer-in-residence with The Open Theatre. For Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR), a nonprofit based in Washington, DC (www.mencanstoprape.org), John conceived and creative-directs a media campaign based on the theme line "My strength is not for hurting." Widely recognized as the nation's best-designed and most effective public service advertising sexual-assault-prevention outreach to young men, media materials creative-directed by John have appeared in all 50 states and in 20 foreign countries. He also creative-directs MCSR's "My Duty" sexual-assault-prevention media campaign, which was licensed to the U.S. Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (sapr.mil) and distributed on military bases around the world. In addition, John has more than three decades of experience working professionally in publishing. He has been managing editor of six national consumer magazines—including *Essence*, *Lear's*, *Working Woman*, and currently *AARP The Magazine*—and served as editorial and creative consultant to many other publications. He lives in Washington, D.C.