



"There's a bit of nostalgia,
a bit of pride, a lot of love."
New City Stage

AN UNTITLED LOVE

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

DANCE R&B

Thursday, September 22 at 7:30pm
Friday, September 23 at 7:30pm
Saturday, September 24 at 7:30pm

Philadelphia Film Center
1412 Chestnut St
\$35

a Black love sitcom dance

culture, family, and community.

You know how when you're out at a place with a jukebox, you can tell who's picked what song by their reaction when the song comes on? "Anybody? Anybody? Is this your jam too?" (The New York Times)

An *Untitled Love* is a new evening-length work from acclaimed choreographer Kyle Abraham (2013 MacArthur Fellow, Ash, The Runaway). Drawing from the catalogue of Grammy Award-winning R&B legend D'Angelo, this creative exaltation pays homage to the complexities of self love and Black love, while serving as a thumping mixtape celebrating our

Co-Producers
Lynne & Bert Strieb
Michael Lillys
Jane G. Pepper

"A portrait of the choreographer which
is as sensitive as it is conceptual." *Florian Gaité*

JÉRÔME BOL

Jérôme Bel
with Megan Bridge

DANCE AUTO-BIO-CHOREO-GRAPHY

US Premiere
Friday, September 30 at 7:30pm
Saturday, October 1 at 7:30pm
Sunday, October 2 at 3pm

2 hours
FringeArts
\$25

A lifetime of dance and choreography.

Memories of gestures and scores. A self-portrait of a 21st century artist.

French choreographer Jérôme Bel (*Gala, The show must go on, Cédric Andrieux*) continues his renowned portrait series, this time examining himself. Through a combination of lecture, archival video excerpts, and live dance, Bel constructs a genealogy of the driving forces behind his work — what he calls an "auto-bio-choreo-graphy." He reflects on the doubts, commitments, failures, and questions present throughout his career and creative process. In this impassioned illumination of the motivations of contemporary performance and postmodern dance, the personal becomes entangled with the artistic and the political.

For ecological reasons, Bel and his company stopped traveling by plane in 2019. This performance, therefore, relies on a unique collaboration with Philadelphia dancer Megan Bridge (Fidget). Bridge serves as director and translator, in addition to portraying Bel on stage. She embodies Bel's honesty and vulnerability, holding tension between humanism and formalism.

The writing of the text of this show is part of the creative process of *Sustainable theatre ?*, conceived by Katie Mitchell, Jérôme Bel and Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, and co-produced by STAGES (Sustainable Theatre Alliance for a Green Environmental Shift). Co-funded by European Union; Dramaten Stockholm; National Theater & Concert Hall, Taipei; NTGent; Piccolo Teatro di Milano; Teatro d'Europa; Teatro Nacional D. Maria II Lisboa; Théâtre de Liège; Lithuanian National Drama Theatre; National Theatre of Croatia Zagreb; Slovene National Theatre Maribor; Trafo Budapest; MC93 – Maison de la culture de Seine-Saint-Denis. RB Jérôme Bel receives support from the Regional Department of Cultural Affairs of Île-de-France – Ministry of Culture.

LATE NIGHT SNACKS

The Bearded Ladies

CABARET LIVE MUSIC / THEATER

September 9—October 2
Visit FringeArts.com for
the full list of show times.

Voltage Lounge
421 N. 7th St

potluck of a performance series

A mixed-plate performance that's 50% cabaret destination, 50% neighborhood jaw, and 100% good to the last bite.

The Bearded Ladies Cabaret shares a new selection of guilty pleasures, soul nourishment, and tasty cabaret treats in this year's *Late Night Snacks*. Performances feature different artists every night — from opera singers to drag queens, cabaret stars to art clowns, and everything in between — all baked together and seasoned to perfection, blending the rich cultures of Philadelphia with entertainment like you've never sampled before.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Ingredients may include artistic experimentation, adult content, consensual touch, ear worms, nudity, jubilation, great selfie material, rampant queerness, works-in-progress, and many repeat visits. Not every show will be for everyone so feel free to come, and go, as you please. You know your diet, taste, allergies, and aphrodisiacs better than we do.

Lead support from the William Penn Foundation, with additional support from Barbara Teichert.

Executives
Linda & David Glickstein, Arthur Kaplan & Duane Perry
Co-Producer
Marty Maynard

Whether you come for one night, come every night, or just stop by on your way to the corner store, this potluck of a performance series is here to welcome you with music, drinks, and more enticing entertainment than you can fit on a single paper plate. Check our website for detailed ingredients for each show so you can decide how best to snack.



"Proudly unruly"
Broad Street Review

SPOKAOKE

Annie Dorsen

THEATER KARAOKE

Friday, September 16 at 10pm

120 mins
La Peg
\$15

spoken karaoke

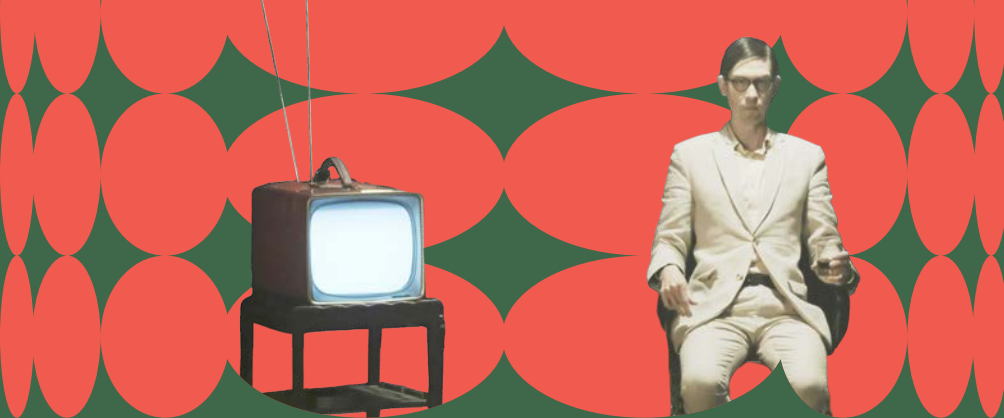
Pick your soapbox! We're bringing unrehearsed, amateur speech-making to a bar near you. Politics, philosophy, pop culture — which speech will you choose?

Spokaoke invites the audience to perform speeches as they would ordinarily perform songs in a karaoke bar. Created by writer and director Annie Dorsen (2019 MacArthur Fellow, 2018 Guggenheim Fellow, *Infinite Sun, The Great Outdoors, Yesterday Tomorrow*), this participatory event plays with the legacy of spoken artifacts, treating snippets and snatches of public address like a Top 40 radio of collective discourse.

Over a hundred texts are available on the karaoke system and arranged in a catalog that audience members can peruse. Some texts are familiar to the point of iconic status ("I have a dream," "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall"), while others are lesser-known. Texts come from a wide variety of sources and eras — Socrates' trial speech, Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman," Colonel Qaddafi at the United Nations. All texts are in English. Hearing the speeches in relation to each other reveals new connections between them, as distinct moments of socio-historical urgency collide in unpredictable and unexpected ways.



"Creative energy sparking through the
space" *New York Theatre Review*



BLACK LODGE

Music by David T. Little • Libretto by Anne Waldman
Story & Screenplay by Michael Joseph McQuilken

INDUSTRIAL ROCK OPERA FILM / LIVE MUSIC

World Premiere
Saturday, October 1 at 9:00pm
Sunday, October 2 at 8:00pm

1 hour, no intermission
Philadelphia Film Center
Visit operaphila.org to purchase tickets.

psychological escape room

What does it take to face ourselves? Enter the darkness in search of something beautiful, transcendent. But be very careful what you need to know...

Drawing on the complicated mythologies of the surrealist writer William S. Burroughs (*Naked Lunch*), *Black Lodge* uses dance, industrial rock, classical string quartet, and opera to take viewers through a Lynchian psychological escape room.

Set in a nightmarish Bardo, a place between death and rebirth, a tormented writer faces down demons of his own making. Forced to confront the darkest moment in his life, he mines fractured and repressed memories for a way out. A woman is at the center of all the writer's afterlife encounters. She is the subject of his life's greatest regret, and she materializes

everywhere in this Otherworld. The writer cannot detach any thoughts of his life from her.

Part film screening and part industrial rock opera concert, this world premiere event features glam opera band Timur & the Dime Museum alongside musicians from the Opera Philadelphia Orchestra.

Composer: David T. Little
Librettist: Anne Waldman
Story, Screenplay, & Director: Michael Joseph McQuilken
Producer: Beth Morrison Projects
Performers: Timur and the Dime Museum, Opera Philadelphia Orchestra

Co-Producers
Sissie and Herb Lipton (tentative)



FOOD

Geoff Sobelle

INTERACTIVE/IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE / THEATER

World Premiere
Sep 8 at 7pm (VIP Opening Night)
Sep 9 + 10 at 7:30pm
Sep 11 at 3pm
Sep 13–17 at 7:30pm
Sep 18 at 3pm

75 minutes
FringeArts
140 N Columbus Blvd
Old City
\$45

the ways and whys of eating

Why do we eat what we eat? Where does it come from? Do we need what we eat? Do we eat what we need? What does it really cost?

An intimate dinner party performance of smell, taste, and touch, *FOOD* offers a meditation on the ways and whys of eating. The audience gathers around a white linen-covered dining table, engaging with each other and their empty plates in an immersive, constantly transforming performance. Sounds, scents, and tactile elements shape a conversation about personal memories, consumption, and the evolution of food production over generations.

FOOD is the third work in a trilogy by renowned clown and devotee of the "sublime ridiculous" Geoff Sobelle. Continuing the investigations of *The Object Lesson* and *HOME*, *FOOD* provokes questions about everyday experiences that many of us take for granted, served with Sobelle's signature flavor of rigorous design, stage illusion, and an absurdist sense of humor.

FOOD is commissioned by Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and FringeArts Philadelphia. Additional support provided by the Wyncote Foundation and Garth Patil.

Producers
Bob Dever, Andy & Bryna Scott, Ann Rosen Spector
Co-Producer
Shelley Green

THE PATH OF PINS OR THE PATH OF NEEDLES

Josephine Decker + Pig Iron Theatre Company

"Daring, transgressive"
The Philadelphia Inquirer

IMMERSIVE/INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE / THEATER DARK FAIRY TALE

World Premiere
Sep 16–18, 20–24 at 6:45pm
Sep 25, Sep 27—Oct 2 at 6:30pm

Rigby Mansion / Germantown
\$35

An immersive journey for pregnant dreamers

Welcome, pregnant one, to our sunset reality. Here at the edge of day and night, awake and asleep, we fall through the veil. Walk quickly. Hide the garlic in your pocket. You found your way here, but can you find your way back out? Will these whispers protect your unborn child from the curse?

Visionary writer and filmmaker Josephine Decker (*Shirley, Madeline's Madeline*) joins forces with Pig Iron Theater Company (*Superterranean, Love Unpunished*) for a dark fairy tale about the terrors, joys, and deep uncertainties of pregnancy. Inspired by Maria Tatar's research on the history of fairy tales, this immersive performance dreamscape explores the complex decisions that mothers, fictional and real, must make about their children's lives. This new work brings Decker's singular vision into conversation with Pig Iron's 20-year investigation with site-specific and immersive theater.

Each audience member becomes "The Pregnant Dreamer," seeking to evade a curse on their unborn child by choosing their own path through Rigby Mansion and its grounds. Interactive scenes — weaving contemporary dance, physical theater, and performance art — unlock secret knowledge and whispers of horror. All bodies are welcome; come prepared to wander.



Performance Note: Much of the performance installation is outdoors on uneven ground. Some audience members will be invited to sit down outside on grass or dirt. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Patrons with limited mobility can be accommodated; please call or email ahead of your performance night so we can provide proper support. If there is light rain, performances will still occur; please bring an umbrella.

Content Warning: This performance contains references to family violence and to termination of pregnancy. This performance is not suitable for children.

SPEECH

The Lightning Rod Special Production of
SPEECH

Created by Shayok Misha Chowdhury, Scott R. Sheppard, and Alice Yorke
Written by Scott R. Sheppard in collaboration with the ensemble
Directed by Shayok Misha Chowdhury

CABARET LIVE MUSIC / THEATER

Wednesday, September 28 at 7:30pm
Thursday, September 29 at 7:30pm
Friday, September 30 at 7:30pm
Saturday, October 1 at 2pm

Saturday, October 1 at 7:30pm
90 minutes, no intermission
Proscenium Theatre at The Drake
\$29

a poisonous love letter to cancel culture

and performativity infect all aspects of our lives.

The show isn't just happening on stage. It's happening in your DMs. And in your kid's eye rolls. In your hook-up agreements. In your attempt to actually compost this year. During your daily subway cry. It's all the things we don't say about the things we DO say.

Lightning Rod Special (*The Appointment, Underground Railroad Game*) offers a satirical scrutiny of the free speech debate and the rapidly shifting terrain of civil discourse within our hyper-visible social-media-centered world. Characters careen through different microcosms of American culture in a searing look at how trepidation

Philadelphia-based performance company Lightning Rod Special specializes in raucous and contemplative works that scramble theatrical conventions and intellectual assumptions. *SPEECH* continues their investigations into lightning rod topics, exploding complex questions with precision and play.

Icon Producers: Lisa Roberts & David Seltzer
Star Producers: Mark & Tobey Dichter
Producers: Carol Klein & Lawrence Spitz
Associate Producer: Christie Hartwell
Photo Credit: Friday Anderson

