



News Release

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QuestFest, the Extraordinary Visual Theatre Festival, Returns to Baltimore/Washington Area Venues March 9 – April 8

BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 23, 2012 – QuestFest 2012, the biennial premier international visual theatre festival produced by Quest Visual Theatre, will return to the Baltimore/Washington area March 9-April 8, 2012.

Two remarkable shows, “Alonzo’s Lullaby” by Nana Projects (March 9, 10 and 11) and “Myth and Infrastructure & Dream of Lucid Living” by Miwa Matreyek (March 16, 17 and 18) will launch the festival at the Theatre Project in Baltimore. And then there is a two-week intensive schedule of performances at venues in Baltimore and the metropolitan Washington area from March 25-April 8.

A highlight of the festival will be the one-day FreeFest on Saturday, March 31, on the Gallaudet University campus. The FreeFest will present a full day of performances, featuring two remarkable groups from Catalonia, Spain – Los Caneca and Chez Leandre as well as Happenstance Theatre, one of the D.C. areas top visual theatre companies, and Dan Kamin performing his Mr. Slo-Mo. FreeFest will also have street performers, stilt walkers, food and crafts. Admission to FreeFest is free.

Quest is presenting the festival in partnership with Gallaudet University in Washington, Joe’s Movement Emporium in Mount Rainier, Md., and the Theatre Project and Creative Alliance in Baltimore.

The festival will feature an international roster of deaf and hearing artists in an array of family-friendly, cutting-edge work that welcomes all people to the fascinating world of visual theatre.

“QuestFest 2012 has attracted a full schedule of exceptional visual theatre artists from around the world. Their work represents cutting-edge performances that audiences have described as ‘breathtaking,’ ‘inspiring,’ and ‘profound’.” says QuestFest producer, Tim McCarty. “It is a remarkable thing at QuestFest to see the diversity and richness of visual theatre created by artists from around the world. With QuestFest, cultural and language divides evaporate and for that time we all share together in the theatre, we are all simply human.”

In addition to the shows at FreeFest, the festival will present the world premiere of “Between Mean” by the Cherry Puppet Theater featuring their dramatic puppetry at the Creative Alliance in Baltimore.

Among the international performers will be the Mehr Aeen Disabled Theatre Association from Tehran, Iran, and Ramesh Meyyappan from Glasgow, Scotland.

Drew “The Dramatic Fool” Richardson will return to QuestFest with his classic “What The Fool?!?” Also performing will be Parallel Exit, a New York group that blends theatre, dance and music into works of physical theatre that transcend age, language and cultural barriers, along with the acclaimed visual comedian Dan Kamin, who will present “Funny Bones: The Comedy of Charlie Chaplin.”

Quest will perform its powerful and visually rich “Mosaic,” Brian Sostek and Barry Kornhauser who will present “Balloonacy,” which is very popular with pre-school age children, and “Fireflies” will be presented by Baltimore-area artists.

QuestFest will offer 20 free residencies to students who will have the opportunity to develop and perform visual theatre pieces they have created at the QuestFest Community Showcase on Saturday, March 24, at the Creative Alliance.

In addition to the performances, QuestFest 2012 will offer master classes, workshops, residencies, panel discussions and post-show discussions.

For a complete detailed listing of performances and other festival offerings, visit www.questfest.org. Tickets will go on sale in the weeks to come on the QuestFest website, or reservations can be made at the venue ticket offices. People are also invited to join Callboard, Quest’s online newsletter, which provides monthly updates on QuestFest 2012 and other Quest productions. To subscribe, visit www.questvisualtheatre.org and click on “The Callboard.”

QuestFest 2012 is the fifth QuestFest. It is produced by Quest Visual Theatre, a Maryland-based award-winning organization that is internationally recognized for its innovative work in visual theatre and its leadership in welcoming people of diverse backgrounds to the world of theatre. Quest is winner of the 2010 Arts Presenters/ MetLife Arts Access Award. QuestFest 2012 is presented with the support of the United States Department of Education, Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, the U.S. Department of State, William G Baker Jr. Memorial Fund, VSA/MetLife Foundation, Herbert Bearman Foundation, John L. Leidy Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Joe’s Movement Emporium is located at 3909 Bunker Hill Road in Mount Rainier, Md. The Baltimore Theatre Project is at 45 West Preston St. and the Creative Alliance at the Patterson is at 3134 Eastern Ave., both in Baltimore. Gallaudet University is at 800 Florida Ave., N.E. in Washington, D.C. For information about all these organizations, visit <http://questfest.org/about/venue-partners/>.

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