

**The Theatre School at DePaul University Presents  
Sharon Bridgforth's Theatrical Jazz Institute at Links Hall, Chicago, IL**

**Contact:** Erica Mott [eduaction@linkshall.edu](mailto:eduaction@linkshall.edu) / [Linkshall.org](http://Linkshall.org) 773.281.0824

Inspired by traditional Jazz methods of training, this Institute is designed for artists interested in learning the Theatrical Jazz Aesthetic by *being in the room*\* with practitioners. Theatrical Jazz Aesthetic practitioners will visit the Institute, offering public talks, workshops, and informal presentations of their work.

**PRODUCER/ FACILITATOR**



**Sharon Bridgforth**, a resident playwright at New Dramatists since 2009, is a writer working in the Theatrical Jazz Aesthetic. Her piece, *blood pudding*, was produced in the 2010 New York SummerStage Festival. She is the 2010 – 2011 Visiting Multicultural Faculty Member at The Theatre School at DePaul University. <http://sharonbridgforth.com>

**APPRENTICE**



**Ni'Ja Whitson** will serve as Bridgforth's Apprentice in the Theatrical Jazz Institute. Bridgforth and Whitson have been in since 2009, supported formally by Links Hall and informally by their own means and commitment. Ni'Ja Whitson, a transdisciplinary artist and activist, holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work engages a nexus of postmodern and African diasporic performance practices. She is currently on faculty at Columbia College Chicago.

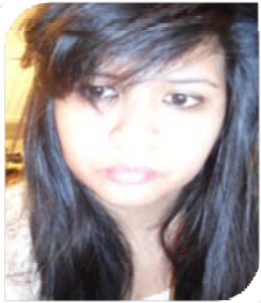
## PARITICIPANTS



**K. Bradford** is a believer in the page and the stage as holy and revolutionary spaces. A working poet and a queer cultural worker, K. teaches poetry & literature at Columbia College Chicago where she is also the coordinator of the LGBTQ Office of Culture & Community.



**Marie Casimir** is a Haitian-American writer and performer who is currently exploring the marriage between native and learned language as dialogue and thought processes. Marie holds a B.A. in Journalism from Ithaca College, with a minor in Art History. She is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Non-Profit Administration at North Park University.



**Eleanore Catolico** is a Creative Writing major at DePaul who loves dogs and good people.



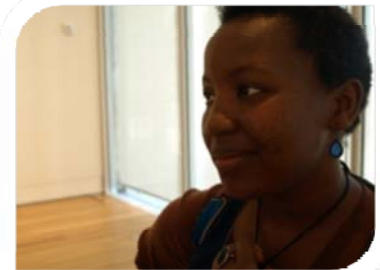
**Ching-In Chen** is the author of *The Heart's Traffic*, is a Kundiman and Lambda Fellow, and a member of the Macondo Writers' Workshop. She is also in the PhD program in Creative Writing at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee where she has discovered that she's a fan of mac 'n' cheese pizza and many other forms of cheese. <http://www.chinginchen.com>



**Misty De Berry** is an Interdisciplinary Artist with a background in movement theatre. Currently a Visiting Professor at DePaul University in the Women and Gender Studies Department, her work explores ways in which communities heal and identify through shared artistic practices.



**Jonathan Kitt** hails from New York City and is an alumnus of Clark Atlanta University as well as The Theatre School at DePaul. He is a loving husband, father, and Black Theatre activist.



**Constance Michelle Lee** is a BFA costume design student at The Theatre School at DePaul University. As a fiber artist she strives to incorporate the body, movements, rhythms, and the clothing to create fluid design.



**Shannon Matesky** is 22 year old actress, poet, activist, and educator from Berkeley, California.

<http://www.shannonmatesky.com>



**Dalila Paola Méndez** is a first generation queer Central American artist. She works in painting, photography, performance, and film.



**Erica Mott** is a choreographer, installation/visual performance maker, and cultural organizer who, through a variety of body based sculptural forms (mask, costume, object), transforms discarded materials and disregarded spaces into sacred objects and sites. Using the tools of humor and surprise, she attempts to capture and heighten the magic and mystery of the mundane and invite communities to re-view and re-envision shared spaces and practices.

<http://www.ericamott.com>



**Stacey Nwokeyi** is a Nigerian-American artist interested in the things that burn, hide, and echo. Her work is forged in a connection between groundedness and necessary honesty.



**Isaac Fosl-van Wyke** is a floating performer currently docked in Chicago. With a background in theater, anthropology, and skateboarding, he dreams of kinetic story-dancing at the crossroads of universal identity, ritualized uses of space, the language of music, and the music of language.



**Kyla Searle** hails from the San Francisco Bay Area where she has focused on interview-based theatre spoken word, and multidisciplinary performance projects.

## GUEST ARTISTS

All guest artist events are FREE, open to the public.

Links Hall is located at: 3435 N. Sheffield Avenue, Suite 207 Chicago, IL 6065

The Theatre School at DePaul University is located at: 2135 N. Kenmore Ave  
Chicago, IL 60614

Workshop Registration Contact: Erica Mott at [education@linkshall.org](mailto:education@linkshall.org)

[Linkshall.org](http://Linkshall.org) / 773.281.0824



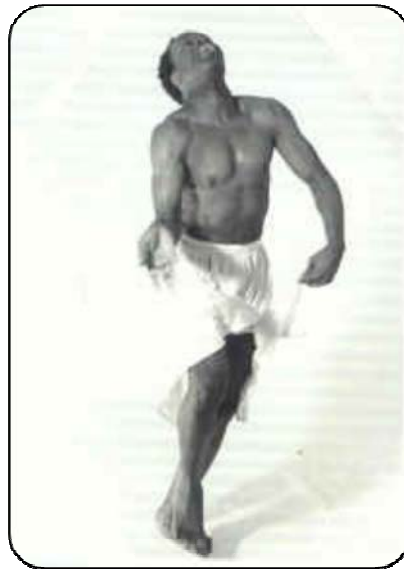
**Omi Osun Joni L. Jones, Sunday  
1/23 @ Links Hall.**

**Performance** "sista docta"

(an excerpt): This piece interrogates racism and sexism in the U.S. academic institutions using personal narratives, statistics, movement, and improvisation.

**Workshop:** Fusion of Forms through writing, movement, & collaborative exercises.

**Lecture Demo Monday 1/24 5PM  
@ The Theatre School at DePaul**



**Baraka de Soleil, 2/13**

**Performance:** *Water Moves the Soul Immersed:* An experimental body-based work, *this piece* traces the transatlantic slave voyage from Africa to America; unearthing the ancestral, emotional and spiritual memories of a 'people' – who endured one of the most horrific experiences in World history; a testimony to survival in the midst of loss and longing.

**Workshop:** Work will reflect traditions of the African diaspora, immersed in a post-modern sensibility. Participants will explore conventions of theatre, dance, communal and interdisciplinary performance.

**Lecture Demo Monday 2/14 @  
The Theatre School at DePaul TBA**



**Daniel Alexander Jones 2/27**

**Performance:** *Notes From An Integrator's Manual*

**Workshop:** The Jazz Aesthetic & The Actor  
**Lecture Demo @ The Theatre School at DePaul 2/25 TBA**



**Lenelle Moïse, 4/10**

**Performance:** *Be/Holding Home*: an evening of poems, performance, essays and music about place, compassion and resilience.

**Workshop:** Radical Voice & Movement. This is an interactive and highly physical performance workshop for actors, musicians, dancers, poets or anyone interested in radical self-expression & improvisational vocal composition.

**Lecture Demo @ The Theatre School at DePaul TBA**



**Helga Davis, 4/17**

**Performance:** *Spontaneous Act of Theater*: Using a device that allows her to sample her voice, and using the device to create a musical soundscape around a theme that she or an audience member will present. The audience will offer text or musical ideas that get incorporated into the piece. Helga will also use this method to perform some of her own original songs.

**Workshop:** Helga will offer a body/mind/breath workshop in which participants will use the breath to open the body and the mind to create short pieces which can be performed within just a few minutes of their inception. Helga has led these workshops for the last 3 years at Robert Wilson's summer theater lab, Watermill, with great success.

**Lecture Demo @ The Theatre School at DePaul 4/18 TBA**