



Change of State Performance Project

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Theatre

Contact: Andrea del Moral (c)(510) 684-9950

Take This House (and Float It Away)

Date

Venue

Address

City

In the heart of levee-protected suburbs along California's American River, a middle-aged couple suffers from insistent complacency, convinced they're immune to everything nature blows their way. When winter storms bring a catastrophic flood, they find themselves terribly deluded. Change of State's original *Take This House (and Float It Away)* (58 min.) spirals into the tragicomic world of Stu and Marlene's floodplain living room, where the couple is unable to comprehend nature's effect on their safe, suburban sphere. As Stu hides behind "groundbreaking" research into bird gestures, Marlene extrapolates caffeinated solutions to newspaper headlines, conflating staying informed with staying afloat.

Choreographer Carol Swann calls Change of State performances "**clear, dynamic, and spacious.**" Of *Take This House* she says, "**All of a sudden [I was struck] with the absurdity of our society's madness.**"

University of Iowa MFA playwriting candidate Andrew Saito describes the play's quality as "**enriched by moments of sudden speed and exaggerated slowness, as well as sequences dreamlike and otherworldly, which augment with the otherwise naturalistic and comedic tone.**"

The evening opens with two shorts:

Hoprocks (7 min.) explores possible virtuositities in playing the "udderbot," an invented slide woodwind instrument composed of glass, rubber, and water. *Hoprocks* arranges an original poem among extended vocal techniques, microtonality, and their relationship to this new instrument.

A collage of visual and audio imagery, *Water Finds its Way* (8 min.) uses storytelling, extended vocal techniques, and gesture to wind a path through personal and cultural narratives of water as a metaphor for experience.

About the Company

With background in contemporary dance techniques, theatre, and improvisation, the four-year old Change of State Performance Project makes poignant and unsettling performances that unravel expectations of symmetry and the methodology of logic. The company is co-directed by Andrea del Moral and K. Qilo Matzen, and includes multi-faceted, Midwest performers Jacob Barton and Elizabeth Simpson. Matzen and del Moral, based in Oakland, California, frequently perform in collaboration with community organizations to engage audiences with understanding and improving water systems, policy, and sustainable technologies. For three years they commissioned dances from Illinois choreographer Lisa Fay, a two-time Illinois Arts Council Fellowship recipient.

Calendar Editor:

Change of State Performance Project: *Take This House (and Float It Away)*

Date

Venue

Time

Admission

Box Office Contact

Take This House (and Float It Away) presents the tragicomic world of an oblivious couple in their floodplain living room. Stu hides behind obsession with bird gestures while Marlene fixates on newspaper headlines, conflating staying informed with staying afloat. Two short water-based acts, instrumental and interdisciplinary, open the program.

Visit www.changeofstate.org for video clips and high-res photos.

Performer Bios

Andrea del Moral, co-director (b. 1978), provides theatrical direction for Change of State Performance Project. She studied theatre at Boston University and dance at the School for New Dance Development (Amsterdam). Her work is influenced by training in Skinner Releasing Technique and other somatic practices, theatre directing, improvisational dance and theatre, contemporary dance, clowning, aerial dance, and writing. Andrea has expansive teaching background at all age levels. For two years she directed a summer theatre workshop for young women. She has also taught about water systems, agriculture, plant breeding, economics, white supremacy, and global economics. She wrote several chapters in *Dam Nation: Dispatches from the Water Underground*, has also published poetry, and recently completed her first full-length, nonfiction book.

K. Qilo Matzen, co-director (b. 1980), brings a technical movement background to Change of State, with a BFA in Dance from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and training in Martha Eddy's Integrative SMTT (Somatic Movement Therapy Training). Ze works with clients and teaches through a Somatic Movement Therapy perspective. Qilo has performed in North America and Europe, touring the Balkans with activist arts collective Building Bloc, working with European director/choreographers, and locally as artist-in-residence at the Jon Sims Center, San Francisco. In addition to hir Somatic Movement Therapy practice, Qilo works as a plumber's apprentice. Qilo is a contributing author to *Dam Nation: Dispatches from the Water Underground* (Soft Skull, 2007), where ze wrote about the Dishwater Deviants, the guerrilla plumbing wing of Change of State Performance Project.
(ze and hir are gender neutral pronouns)

Jacob Barton (b. 1985) pursues an amateur virtuosity in composing and in performing, in music and in language. In addition to collecting and learning new instruments (most recently a trombone), he also builds new ones (most notably the udderbot, a new slide woodwind instrument). He plays these instruments in house concerts and with An Exciting Event, a round-singing puppet troupe. A graduate of Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, Jacob was a recipient of a 2006 BMI Student Composer Award for composing "Xenharmonic Variations on a Theme by Mozart" for microtonal player piano. Jacob's interest in microtonality has led him to organize a Xenharmonic Wiki, the Seventeen Tone Piano Project concert series (Houston), and the Chicago-based UnTwelve. It has also given rise to his participation in the Garden Performance Project (NYC) and the School for Designing a Society (Urbana, IL).

Elizabeth Simpson (b. 1976) describes her experience of living as "Finding out what it's like to be alive." Through this look she engages in various forms of creative and social justice work, always striving to act in awareness of the rich intersections of personal, social, present, and historic domains of human living. She has been doing performance art incorporating vocal composition, puppetry, fire-spinning, street theater, and storytelling since 1994. Elizabeth studied Theater of the Oppressed with Augusto Boal and Story Circles with John O'Neal. She is a co-founder of the anti-racist community learning project, Liberation Education, and continues to teach anti-oppression and creativity workshops throughout the country in academic and community settings. At home in Illinois, Elizabeth is the Peer Mediation Coordinator at Urbana Middle School and teaches the class "Being White in a Multiracial Society" at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.