



The University of Texas at Austin
Theatre and Dance
College of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
AND BROADWAY BANK

PRESENT

THE COHEN NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

A CELEBRATION OF STUDENT-MADE WORK

APRIL 10-14, 2017

The Cohen New Works Festival, a biennial festival presented by the Department of Theatre and Dance at The University of Texas at Austin with sponsorship by Broadway Bank, is returning this year to premiere 38 new student-made projects April 10-14, 2017 on the university campus.

The Festival exists to support, promote and champion original, student-generated work in the form of theatre, dance, installations, music, film, design and a variety of other artistic mediums. It provides a nurturing environment and resources for the creation, development, production and discussion of new and interdisciplinary work by students with the help of faculty, guest artists and scholars.

“The Cohen New Works Festival is true to its name,” shares Liz Engelman, University of Texas at Austin professor and Festival producer. “It is new on all levels: first-time collaborations, fresh takes on form, forays into the future. It is works of all kinds; the grit and sweat of self-producing and corralling over 30 projects and all the bodies, minds and hearts they entail, the incredible diversity of the works of art themselves which range from visual to virtual, and the sometimes

painful but always necessary work of matching the smallest details to the largest of visions. It is the best kind of Festival; inherently communal, inevitably celebratory - and, ultimately a carnival - the students taking over and the faculty moving over and letting them work their skilled magic.”

The Festival empowers students to take responsibility for their own artistic development by encouraging new creative partnerships, providing resources and connections, and opening a space for diverse voices, perspectives, forms and stories to be heard.

A selection of the Cohen New Works Festival projects include:

105

By Daria Mariyeko-Marinelli

Directed by Andrew Valdez

105 is a post-apocalyptic trilogy that follows siblings Jackson and Sybil across the country, into new societies, and onto the battlefield. Spanning radio play, immersive theatre, and dance, *105* offers an interactive theatrical experience that explores sacrifice and survival and ultimately asks who we become when faced with a broken world.

Bathtub Girls: A Punk Rock Musical

Written by Caroline Kinnamore

Directed by Tucker Martin

Bathtub Girls: A Punk Rock Musical is a dark musical comedy about two teenage sisters and a well-planned murder in Canada. When high school pressures are eclipsed by the harsh reality of living with their negligent, drunken mother, Brooklyn and Lucy decide to take matters into their own hands. The question isn't can they do it, but instead - can they live with the guilt? *Bathtub Girls* uses punk rock music to explore the landscape of adolescence, violence and sisterhood.

Bloodthirsty Fiends

Project Lead: Alison Reid

Bloodthirsty Fiends is a new vision of Beowulf told through puppets and original music by string quartet, Invoke. New and traditional puppet technology will be used to create the monsters of *Beowulf*, confronting the audience with gruesome spectacle. Come join us in the mead hall to hear this tale of revenge, glory and puppet monsters.

Swadesh: one's own country

Project Lead: Sofia Aranha

Swadesh is a collaborative dance piece exploring intercultural performance and “cross-culturalism.” Cross-culturalism happens when individuals from one cultural background learn from another culture. *Swadesh* will create a space for the audience to experience such a phenomenon. The piece will serve to speak to themes of tradition, negotiation of identity, tragedy and one's own “roots.”

The Gospel According to Jocelyn

Project Lead: Jocelyn Chambers

A live concept album visualizing Jocelyn's personal experiences as a black woman in America, this piece incorporates original music, film and poetry to detail the journey to self-identity, self-love and royalty. This album seeks to inspire more platforms for uninterrupted black female representation.

TITLE LOADING

By all_caps

Project Lead: Hannah Wolf

“What will happen when my grandchildren find my Twitter?” Ponder this question and many more as we dance together at Austin's most introspective concert. Using Dan Deacon's “America” album, *TITLE LOADING* combines multi-media spectacle with an interactive concert to explore what it means to be ‘authentic’ in the digital age.

For more information on the Cohen New Works Festival, please visit newworksfestival.org

CALENDAR LISTING

April 10 - 14, 2017, The Cohen New Work Festival presented by Broadway Bank

Venues in and around the F. Loren Winship Drama Building (300 E. 23rd St.); A map of the campus: <http://theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking>

Performance times vary daily. Admission is free for all thanks to the generosity provided by Broadway Bank. For more information about the Festival lineup and scheduling, visit newworksfestival.org

ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

ALSO THIS SEASON

UTNT (UT New Theatre)

Curated by Liz Engelman and Steven Dietz

B. Iden Payne Theatre

March 2-12, 2017

Luna

By Ramón Esquivel

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

April 20-23, 2017

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