



**For immediate release:**

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**Images Available At:**

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE**  
**AND BROADWAY BANK**  
**PRESENT**  
**THE COHEN NEW WORKS FESTIVAL**  
**APRIL 13-17, 2015**

The Cohen New Works Festival, the largest collegiate festival of its kind, returns to The University of Texas at Austin April 13-17. Presented by the university's Department of Theatre and Dance and new sponsor Broadway Bank, the biennial Festival will showcase 38 original, student-produced works in five days on the university campus.

The Festival exists as an incubator for innovative and original forms of theatre, dance, music, film, design, visual art, architecture and a wide variety of alternative mediums. It provides a nurturing environment and practical resources for the creation, development, production, and discussion of new and interdisciplinary work by students, faculty, guest artists, and scholars who come together in the spirit of collaboration and critical inquiry. The variety of ideas and forms explored in these pieces provides a glimpse into what an emerging generation of artists-scholars consider important and relevant.

The following projects highlight the range in diversity of both topics and genres in the 2015 Festival. For more information about the Festival lineup and events, please visit [newworksfestival.org](http://newworksfestival.org). Thanks to the support of Broadway Bank, admission to Festival events is free.

## **Apocalypse Radio**

Inspired by the catwalk system in the university's Oscar G. Brockett Theatre, *Apocalypse Radio* aims to disrupt the typical theatergoing experience by providing audience members with a place to nest on-stage, complete with blankets, sleeping bags and pillows. Set in Chicagolandia, one of the major mega-cities left in this particular retro-future America, this piece, rather than being guided by a traditional narrative, relies heavily on the atmosphere, tone and experiences. "We are building secrets into our show. We might kidnap certain audience members. There may be hidden codes," share project leads Katie Van Winkle and Lydia Blaisdell. "We want to surprise and delight and terrify."

## **Eye See... I Forget**

*Eye See... I Forget* combines documentary storytelling and visual art to create an experiential piece that is a reflection and dedication to life and memory. Representing the seven stages of Alzheimer's, this installation resembles the structure of a brain with audiences crawling inside to hear and experience the life and memories of an actual Alzheimer's patient. As the Festival progresses, so will this disease. Each day brings new changes to the "brain": lights becoming tangled and dim, pictures torn, props displaced and corners emptied. By the end of the Festival, the brain will be an organ that is no longer functioning.

## **RE/CONNECT**

Investigating loneliness, community and intimacy through projections, music and text, *RE/CONNECT* asks what is a "right" relationship to technology? In an era of intense interfacing with i-devices and avatar identities, this interdisciplinary performance prioritizes what the performing arts contribute to understanding the relationship of humans to each other, both on screen and off. These vignettes and narratives of music, movement and media address concepts of human-to-technology relationships, communication and our understanding of how humans connect.

## **Shrines to Childhood**

*Shrines to Childhood* is an experiential site-specific art installation and performance that examines how sharing stories in, around and through ensemble-created shrines to childhood may make meaning from our own childhood experiences while examining the memories that physical objects can hold. Led on a pilgrimage to these shrines, the audience experiences stories of childhood and may interact with the performers and spaces in different ways. They might be offered food, write a note and add it to the shrine, play a game, or listen to an audio installation.

## **The DJ is My Griot**

To be aware of the vast scope of America, one must comprehend the full extent of its cultural contributors. *The DJ is My Griot* is a dance theatre piece exploring the notion of how the way we dance as a culture reveals who we are and where we've been. Led, guided and taught by the DJ Griot, "Generation Now" will discover their shared history through dance movements derived from popular social dance forms that showcase

influence from Africanist Aesthetic and emphasize the cultural debate surrounding concepts of power, survival, misappropriation and diaspora.

### **Welcome, Home**

*Welcome, Home* considers how the complexities of language and communication, and how it has influenced the study of dance, art and life. As the pioneers of a new international, collegiate exchange program, four dance students were fully submerged into the culture of Angers, France to study the art of dance. Through a series of choreographed vignettes, these dancers bring home a taste of their international experience while sharing their evolving thoughts, amazements, frustrations and unexplainable impulses. The movement elements combine with surround-sight media to create an interactive, living blog. Set in the scene shop of the F. Loren Winship Drama Building, the audience is invited to find a seat wherever to become one with this multi-sensory immersive dance experience.

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

#### **April 13-17, 2015 - The Cohen New Work Festival presented by Broadway Bank**

Venues in and around the F. Loren Winship Drama Building (300 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> St.); A map of the campus: [utexas.edu/finearts/tad/season-tickets/map-directions-parking](http://utexas.edu/finearts/tad/season-tickets/map-directions-parking)

Performance times vary daily. Admission is free for all. For more information about the Festival lineup and scheduling, visit [newworksfestival.org](http://newworksfestival.org) or phone 512-471-5793

### **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**

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

#### ***MOVE!***

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

March 6-14, 2015

#### ***Enter a Woman, Pretty Enough***

Premiere of a new play by Diana Lynn Small

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

March 27-April 3, 2015

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