



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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AUTORINO CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES ANNOUNCES FALL 2016 PERFORMANCE SERIES

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. September 9, 2016 –

“I am truly excited to bring exquisite artistic talent that has relevance and urgency to the Greater Hartford region. The performers gracing the Autorino stage each have keen intellectual pursuits, which coalesce into precise artistic visions. From Sandglass Theater’s actors/caregivers to their puppets who are afflicted with late-stage Dementia, to the Grammy-Award winning family music adventure band, the Okee Dokee Brothers to a newly inspired and recharged pep rally in a show called Pep Talk by Hand2Mouth Theater it’s a riveting few months at the University,” says Director Steven Raider-Ginsburg

The Autorino Center for the Arts and Humanities at the University of Saint Joseph is proud to announce our affordable, relevant and dynamic Fall 2016 Presenting Series.

All Events take place at the University of Saint Joseph, 1678 Asylum Ave, West Hartford, CT. Parking is free. More information and box office is 860-231-5555 and usj.edu/arts

September 13, 7:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion: “Theater in Times of Crisis”

with Istijmam and HartBeat Ensemble about Theater and Social Change from Algeria to Hartford

FREE, Reception Room, Bruyette Atheneum

Istijmam moves outward from the manifestos of Brecht and Grotowski to repopulate the *halga*, Algeria’s town square, and renew populist traditions of improvisation and physical interaction.

“Theater in Algeria is *in* society, and society is *in* the theater,” says actress Rihab Alloula, the playwright’s daughter. This is no abstract statement for Istijmam’s collective of theater makers who stage their works in cinemas and courtyards, playgrounds and theaters.

Americans will have their first opportunity to experience this Algerian company’s work when **Istijmam** embarks on **its debut tour** of the U.S. in 2016 as part of **Center StageSM**, an

exchange program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts. From July-December 2016, Center Stage will bring five ensembles from Algeria and Tanzania to the U.S. for month-long tours. Residencies will include performances, workshops, discussions, people-to-people exchanges, and community gatherings. Keep up with Center Stage on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#) and at www.centerstageUS.org.

September 16, 17 - 7:30 p.m
Hand2Mouth Theatre's PEP TALK
Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum
\$25/20/15

A theatrical celebration of coaches, teams, and everyday heroes

"Like any good spirit squad, they had me roped in from the get go for their joyous descent into that pillar of American culture: the motivational pep talk." (Aaron Scott, Portland Monthly)

"It's a pep rally for people who hated pep rallies, a simultaneous goof on the trappings of team spirit and sincere acknowledgement that teams can be families, coaches can be life changing, and motivational speeches get people going for a reason." (Allison Hallet, Portland Mercury)

PEP TALK celebrates coaches, teams, and everyday heroes. Combining the bravado of Muhammad Ali and the gravitas of Vince Lombardi with the unique skills of Hand2Mouth's veteran performers, PEP TALK creates an art/sport atmosphere that inspires audiences to reflect on the past, cheer on the present, and step from passive observers to active participants.

<http://www.hand2mouththeatre.org/peptalk/>

September 30, October 1 - 8 p.m
Dahlak Brathwaite's SPIRITRIALS
Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum
\$25/20/15

Blurring the lines between hip-hop and theater, addiction, religion and the law in a timely exploration of the criminal justice system

Addiction, religion and the law intersect in a timely and personal exploration of the criminal justice system.

This multi-dimensional play takes its inspiration, as well as its name, from one of Dahlak's most recent hip-hop albums, layering characters, poetic verse, and dialogue over the content of the songs to create a theatrical piece that blurs the lines between hip-hop and dramatic performance. A timely exploration of the criminal justice system, Spiritrials chronicles the journey of Dahlak's own criminalization along with his struggle to be

vindicated and decriminalized in the eyes of the law and society. The piece works through the personal shame of criminal stigmatization to examine the factors – both internal and external – that have misplaced him in what appears to be a cultural rite of passage.

Written and performed by **Dahlak Brathwaite**
Musical accompaniment by **Dion Decibels**
Directed by **Marc Bamuthi Joseph and Sean San Jose**

October 7-9 – Fri/Sat 7:30 p.m. Sun 2 p.m.
Sandglass Theater's D-Generation: An Exaltation of Larks
Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum
\$25/20/15

This touching puppet-theater performance explores the rich creative potential of people living with dementia

A piece about play, joy, and communication. A piece about dementia.

From playful story circles to dark private terror...
From lyrical inner visions to demanding confrontations...
From the reflections of caregivers to the fragmented memories of residents of care facilities...
D-Generation evokes a complex world of people living with dementia.

D-Generation: An Exaltation of Larks is a full-length theater piece based on stories written collaboratively by groups of people with late-stage dementia. The work is performed by three puppeteers (the caregivers) and five puppets (the residents of a care-facility). Set to a compelling original score and striking animated video segments, D-Generation takes us into a world that is all too much a part of our lives.

D-Generation explores the rich creative potential and ability to communicate that exists in people with late-stage dementia. Their words, their images, and their creative imaginations yield work that is poetic, humorous, and quite mysterious. From these stories, Sandglass Theater forms scenes of the inner lives of the characters, and creates a piece that reflects the stigma and the acceptance, the despair and the joy that is equally present and possible in both the person with dementia and in their caregivers and family members.

The collected stories, which are associative and non-linear, were gathered by Sandglass Theater's performers during 20 visits to care facilities, during which circles of people with dementia were guided through a collective story-making method called Timeslips. These stories reveal humor and playfulness as well as the dark reality of the disease. They stand on their own as dramatic material from a remarkable source. The stories, and the compelling process of writing them, form the inspiration for D-Generation.

Directed by Roberto Salomon

Performed by Eric Bass, Ines Zeller Bass, Kirk Murphy

Music by Paul Dedell

Video by Michel Moyses

Lighting by Sabrina Hamilton

Puppets by Coni Richards, Ines Zeller Bass, Jana Zeller

Stories created by

The Residents of Pine Heights at Brattleboro Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation using Timeslips, (a collective creative story telling model developed by Anne Basting)

Sandglass Theater is driven by a dedication to artistic excellence in the productions of the core ensemble and by a spirit of inclusivity in the presentation of diverse guest artists and community events. Sandglass is inspired by a love of puppetry and live performance, engagement with local and international community, and respect for audience.

Sandglass Theater's mission is to sustain an artist-driven theater with an emphasis on advancing the development of puppetry as a unique and unusual theater form that embodies the human experience. Sandglass creates new work, engages in challenging collaborations, presents thought-provoking and responsible art, hosts other artists to promote the art of puppetry and expose our audiences to diverse styles and traditions, teaches our process and traditions, and cultivates a fire to create and to keep on creating.

October 14, 7pm, reception at 6pm

Noche Latina: Rick Reyes & The Pasofino Social Club

Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum

\$5

A night of celebration! Latin and Caribbean rhythms for a sound that's cross-cultural and highly danceable.

The Pasofino Social Club is your passport to travel across all the borders of the Latin music genres. With singer songwriter Rick Reyes as your tour guide, embark on a musical journey across the Caribbean, Central and South America. Listen to the beat, let your feet guide you on the dance floor, as Rick narrates a travel back in time when boleros mended hearts and Cuban son uplifted your soul.

The concept began in the mind of the singer songwriter Rick Reyes, better known as the founder and leader of the Cosmic Jibaros. Rick wanted to explore more traditional styles of Latin music. To form the band he called out some of the most renowned and experienced Latin players in New England and New York area. Each one of them brought a different expertise in Latin rhythm. None of which is left unexplored. Caribbean/Tropical, Salsa,

Cumbia, Mexican Ranchera, Bolero, Musica Del Ayer, South American folk, Latin Jazz, all make for highly engaging and colorful performances.

Just as a social club, the band brings you great diversity and plays with the complicity that friends and musicians only developed over many nights spent well after dark. The musicians are as comfortable improvising as they are working on more tailored performances.

October 14, 15 – 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

Okee Dokee Brothers

Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum

\$15 or Family Price - \$40 for 4

GRAMMY® Award-winning Americana Folk music, fun for the whole family

As childhood friends growing up in Denver Colorado, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing were always exploring the outdoors. Whether it was rafting down their neighborhood creek or discovering hiking trails through the Rocky Mountains, Joe and Justin were born adventurers. Now, as the GRAMMY® Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, they have put this passion for the outdoors at the heart of their Americana Folk music.

Joe and Justin record and perform family music with a goal to inspire children and their parents to get outside and get creative.

They believe this can motivate kids to gain a greater respect for the natural world, their communities and themselves.

The three-time Parents' Choice Award winners have garnered praise from the likes of NPR's All Things Considered and USA Today, and have been called "two of family music's best songwriters."

October 28-29 – 7:30 p.m.

5x5 Dance Festival

Hoffman Auditorium, Bruyette Athenaeum

\$20/10

Connecticut's Premier Contemporary Dance Festival

The 14th 5x5 Dance Festival brings together choreographers, performers, educators and students to study and perform. Artists, students and audiences share their experience, talent and inspiration through master classes, workshops, discussions and performances.

November 10 – 7:30 p.m. \$25

Women of the World

2nd Annual Chapel Series.

The

\$25/20/15

Singing for wisdom, respect, joy and peace

Women of the World is an ensemble of musicians from different corners of the globe.

By making music together, we have made beautiful friendship. In this spirit, we celebrate the beauty of diversity. We sing for not just tolerance, but wisdom, respect, and joy.

We, as Women of the World, believe in the power of music.
We believe in our bond. We believe in peace.

Women of the World, perform original and traditional folk music with a contemporary twist, in 29 languages. The four singers are Ayumi Ueda (Japan), Annette Philip (India), Deborah Pierre (Haiti/United States), Giorgia Renosto (Italy). Despite differences in their upbringing, language, religion, ethnicity, food, and music, they are bound by one unique desire: to explore sounds, rhythms, and musical vocabulary from all over the world. Since 2008, Women of the World has journeyed through the music of Africa, South America, Asia and Europe, presenting audiences an exhilarating experience through chants, story telling, dance, mouth percussion, and improvisation. The popular and versatile Women of the World have dedicated their careers to performing the music of diverse cultures, integrating their own unique heritages and musical styles in beautiful harmony.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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