

PLAYGROUND SOLO PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

PlayGround: <http://playground-sf.org/solofest>

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PlayGround Announces 2nd Annual SOLO PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

MARGA GOMEZ, MATTHEW MARTIN & NINA WISE

3 WEEKS / 11 WRITER-PERFORMERS / 12 DOUBLE-BILL PERFORMANCES

+ OPEN MIC NIGHT (MON 1/28)

Lineup- Ron Campbell, Julie Gieseke, Malcolm Grissom, Emil Guillermo,
Michael Phillis, Fred Pitts, Kathryn Seabron, Talisha Tolliver

January 24-February 10

POTRERO STAGE

1695 18th Street, San Francisco, CA

SAN FRANCISCO – PlayGround has announced the lineup for its second annual PlayGround Solo Performance Festival, a celebration of the best in Bay Area solo performance, running January 24-February 10 at Potrero Stage. The festival features 12 double-bill performances by 11 local artists over three weeks, including new works by **Ron Campbell, Julie Gieseke, Malcolm Grissom, Emil Guillermo, Michael Phillis, Fred Pitts, Kathryn Seabron, and Talisha Tolliver**, as well as special guests **Marga Gomez, Matthew Martin, and Nina Wise**, with each evening running a little over two hours. PlayGround opens the program to the next generation of performers with a special **Open Mic Night** on Monday, January 28, at 8pm. The festival, initiated last winter as one of PlayGround's new "pop-up" programs, represents an extension of PlayGround's mission and commitment to the discovery of bold new voices for the stage and the first PlayGround offering fully dedicated to solo performance. Tickets, on sale beginning December 1, are \$31-\$46 and All-Festival Passes start at just \$93 (unlimited access to all 11 artists, 12 performances and a reserved seat for Open Mic Night). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <http://playground-sf.org/solofest> or call (415) 992-6677.

Ron Campbell • HOW TO FAIL

Jan 27-7PM / Feb 3-7PM / Feb 10-7PM • Being dumb for dummies in one uneasy lesson.

Julie Gieseke • BORDERLINE AHOLE**

Jan 25-8PM / Jan 31-8PM / Feb 9-8PM • After years of chasing unavailable women, Julie thought she found her ideal girlfriend; they just can't agree on one thing — that Julie is the problem.

Marga Gomez • THE LATIN STANDARDS HOUR

Jan 25-8PM • "The Latin Standards Hour" is Marga Gomez's 55 minute, streamlined and supercharged version of "Latin Standards," her critically acclaimed funny and true story of perseverance and creative addiction passed down from immigrant father to lesbian daughter. As a tribute to her dad, a blustery Cuban showman, Marga defies reason and launches a hipster comedy night at "Esta Noche," a doomed Mission district Latino drag club, during the onset of San Francisco's gentrification crisis. "Critic's Pick" NY Times.

Malcolm Grissom • STOP HAVING ZOMBIE SEX

Feb 2-8PM / Feb 7-8PM • *Stop Having Zombie Sex* is a humorous and intimate exploration of love, intimacy, sex, and monsters. A sequel to last year's *Me, My Song, and I*.

Emil Guillermo • EMIL AMOK: SEX & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Jan 27-7PM / Feb 1-8PM / Feb 7-8PM • Emil Amok Guillermo begins his Filipino American journey from his dad's colonization to his own encounters with race in America from the Mission, to Harvard, to NPR. It's Spalding Gray meets Ferdinand Marcos in a story rarely told about America's first colony.

Matthew Martin • MATT ON TAP

Feb 1-8PM • Award-winning actor and drag performer Matthew Martin is "laying down the irons", scorching the floor with persuasive percussion and returning to his Tap Roots in this new work-in-progress!

Michael Phillis • PATTY FROM HR WOULD LIKE A WORD

Jan 24-8PM / Feb 2-8PM / Feb 8-8PM • No, you're not fired... but it may be even worse. Patty is giving a company-wide presentation and attendance is MANDATORY. But when things go spectacularly wrong, everyone's least favorite HR manager goes outrageously off-script and inadvertently destroys every human resource in her path. This new solo comedy by award-winning writer/performer Michael Phillis (*D*Face, Dolls*) is a hilarious and poignant parody of corporate culture and political correctness that skewers the San Francisco elite and disrupts the disruption generation.

Fred Pitts • THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS AND RACE TOUR

Jan 24-8PM / Feb 3-7PM • In 2012, Fred visited all 21 California Missions and discovered which famous black people folks thought he most resembled.

Kathryn Seabron • ANGRY BLACK WOMAN

Jan 26-8PM / Feb 8-8PM • "They" say we are living in a "post-racial" society where "all lives matter". However, Black women are fighting for their humanity. They are demanding to be seen, heard, valued and respected. Activist and raconteur Kathryn Seabron has a tale to tell. She is the quintessential "Angry Black Woman". In this one-woman show, she chronicles misogynoir, the patent hatred of Black women, that has made her exasperated to shed light on the racism and sexism that infects her daily life. She is here to educate and preach.

Talisha Tolliver • SIR, I'M SORRY, MA'AM!

Jan 26-8PM / Jan 31-8PM / Feb 10-7PM • Stories of a tall, outspoken, educated, Black man...I mean woman!

Nina Wise • CURRENT

Feb 9-8PM • Nina Wise will create an evening-length improvisation based on the events of the past 24 hours.

PlayGround Solo Performance Festival 2019

Artist Bios

Ron Campbell is an actor, poet and Cirque du Soleil clown. Previous one person shows include *R. Buckminster Fuller*, *The History and Mystery of the Universe*, *The Thousandth Night*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Dybbuk*, *Shylock*, Beckett's *Eh Joe*, and *The Boneman of Benares*. Despite these successes, he is an expert on failure. More at <https://www.soarfeat.org/home-page.html>.

Julie Gieseke was a writer that didn't write until eight years ago when a solo performance workshop changed everything. Since 2011 Julie has written and performed 16 solo shows in the US and Canada. She has gained a loyal following for her courageously authentic and hilarious true stories.

Marga Gomez is the author/performer of twelve solo plays which have been presented Off-Broadway, nationally and internationally. Gomez can be seen in season two of the Netflix series "Sense8." She is a

GLAAD Award Winner and named "Best Bay Area Comedian" numerous times by the SF Weekly, Bay Area Reporter and The SF Bay Guardian. Robin Williams called her "Amazing..a lesbian Lenny Bruce." For more about Marga, visit margagomez.com.

Malcolm Grissom's life started in the back seat of a sports car, in front of his entire neighborhood. So, it's no surprise that he has spent most of his life onstage. Former stand-up comedian turned monologist, Grissom performs around the country in various festivals and introduces his latest venture.

Emil Amok Guillermo is an award-winning journalist at www.amok.com, SF native, and former host of NPR's "All Things Considered." His "Amok Monologues" are adapted from a column collection that won an American Book Award. A Filipino American, he graduated from Harvard, and performs his solo plays around the country.

Matthew Martin is an actor, singer, dancer, director, choreographer and native San Franciscan. He has been incarnating Stars of the Silver Screen, including Bette Davis and Joan Crawford (for which he recently won a TBA Award for the production of *Trog!*) on stage and screen. He also has demonstrated a wide theatrical range in dramatic roles as well as comedic turns, including productions at Theater Rhino, Magic Theatre and several Darcy Drollinger productions at Oasis. Martin also plays Blanche in *The Golden Girls* at the Victoria Theatre. Matthew's first love has always been tap dancing and is delighted to be bringing a show all about the art form to PlayGround.

Michael Phillis is an award-winning Bay Area writer, director, performer, educator, and filmmaker. He began his career as a solo performer, producing and performing his solo plays *Finding Mrs. Miller* (2004), *D*Face* (2006), and *Dolls* (2008) in San Francisco, New York, LA, and schools and universities around the country. As a playwright his works include *Wish We Were Here* (2010), *The Bride of Death* (2012), *Wunderworld* (2013), *It's Christmas, Carole!* (2013) and numerous short plays for adults and children. He is the co-creator and director of *Baloney*, San Francisco's popular gay all-male revue, and an actor in many theater, film, television, and drag projects. Michael's film directorial debut, *Mini Supreme* (2015), was an Official Selection for Frameline, Outfest, Palm Springs ShortFest, and over a dozen film festivals worldwide. He recently completed his first feature film, *The Bride of Death*.

Fred Pitts is a San Francisco-based actor. He is a company member of African-American Shakespeare and Custom Made Theatre companies. This is his first attempt at a writing and performing a solo piece. He was an Emergency Medicine doctor for 18 years. He's now in recovery from that job.

Kathryn Seabron is a producer, performer, MC, teacher, activist, and proud womanist. Seabron has been performing under the burlesque name Juicy D. Light for 20 yrs. She led the internationally known troupe Rubenesque Burlesque for 10 years. As producer and MC she does both for First Friday Follies in Oakland, MCs Debauchery in Berkeley and Bad Influences Burlesque in San Jose. Seabron is delighted to be able to tell her story.

Talisha Tolliver is the charismatic, witty math teacher people wish they had in school. The actor, writer, comedian, flashmob dancer, and creator of MAFF (Math Activities For Fun) is known for eccentric characters and using humor to create friends out of strangers.

Nina Wise, performance artist and writer, is known for her provocative and original performance works which have been produced in the United States, Europe and Asia. Her work has received seven Bay Area Critics' Circle Awards, and three NEA fellowships. She has authored numerous stories and articles, which have appeared in journals and anthologies, and a book, *A Big New Free Happy Unusual Life*. Nina is the founder of Motion Theater® and in addition to teaching performance art, teaches Buddhist practice at Spirit Rock.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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**PlayGround Solo Performance Festival
Performance Schedule**

Thursday, January 24, 2019, 8pm

**Fred Pitts, *THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS & RACE TOUR*
Michael Phillis, *PATTY FROM HR WOULD LIKE A WORD***

Friday, January 25, 2019, 8pm

Julie Gieseke, *BORDERLINE AHOLE*
Marga Gomez, *THE LATIN STANDARDS HOUR***

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 8pm

**Kathryn Seabron, *ANGRY BLACK WOMAN*
Talisha Tolliver, *SIR, I'M SORRY, MA'AM!***

Sunday, January 27, 2019, 7pm

**Emil Guillermo, *EMIL AMOK: SEX & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION*
Ron Campbell, *HOW TO FAIL***

Monday, January 28, 2019, 8pm

Open Mic Night!

Thursday, January 31, 2019, 8pm

Julie Gieseke, *BORDERLINE AHOLE*
Talisha Tolliver, *SIR, I'M SORRY, MA'AM!***

Friday, February 1, 2019, 8pm

**Emil Guillermo, *EMIL AMOK: SEX & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION*
Matthew Martin, *MATT ON TAP (work-in-progress)***

Saturday, February 2, 2019, 8pm

**Malcolm Grissom, *STOP HAVING ZOMBIE SEX*
Michael Phillis, *PATTY FROM HR WOULD LIKE A WORD***

Sunday, February 3, 2019, 7pm

**Fred Pitts, *THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS & RACE TOUR*
Ron Campbell, *HOW TO FAIL***

Thursday, February 7, 2019, 8pm

Malcolm Grissom, *STOP HAVING ZOMBIE SEX*

Emil Guillermo, *EMIL AMOK: SEX & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION*

Friday, February 8, 2019, 8pm

Kathryn Seabron, *ANGRY BLACK WOMAN*

Michael Phillis, *PATTY FROM HR WOULD LIKE A WORD*

Saturday, February 9, 2019, 8pm

Julie Gieseke, *BORDERLINE A**HOLE*

Nina Wise, *CURRENT*

Sunday, February 10, 2019, 7pm

Talisha Tolliver, *SIR, I'M SORRY, MA'AM!*

Ron Campbell, *HOW TO FAIL*

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