

*International Institute*

Center for World Performance Studies

What's Happening at CWPS

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About the Center

The Center, established in 2000, strives to be a place where boundaries are traversed and called into question. The Center is dedicated to building an interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary vocabulary which engages performance on a global scale, from the intensely local to the trans-

national. CWPS offers seminars which bring together graduate students and faculty from a diverse constellation of disciplines. The Center also provides short and long-term visiting artist/scholar residencies. CWPS has hosted numerous scholarly and performance events that have created vibrant discourse with other disciplines.

Artists in Residence Program

CWPS offers both short and long term residencies. Residencies range from two weeks to a full semester. One of the priorities of the selection process is to pair artists and scholars working within the same genre or tradition. Such pairings are often between an artist from abroad and a scholar or faculty member already in residence.

The goals of the Center are to (1) bridge the gap between performance and scholarship; (2) bring into intellectual focus the increasing globalization of the performing arts; and (3) take advantage of interdisciplinary opportunities at the University of Michigan.

The Center is hosting 7 new artists in residence for 2005-2006. They are:

Sigit Adji Sabdoprojono, a traditional shadow puppet master from Indonesia and **Yulisa Mastati**, his wife, an accomplished Indonesian dancer.

Muhammad Rabiuh Isah, a community health dramatist from Nigeria

Jun Wakabayashi, a Japanese butoh artist

Branwen Okpako, screen writer and film maker of Nigerian-Welsh descent

Eduardo Lopez-Banzo, from Spain, who will be teaching and conducting Latin American colonial opera

José Torres Tama, a performance artist who explores the social and cultural identities of Hispanics.

Rolando Estevez, a visual artist who explores social and cultural issues in Cuba.

All of the visiting artists will be collaborating with University faculty members and will have scholarly contact with students through classes, workshops and/or guest lectures.

Graduate Residency Program

The Center sponsors a 3-term Residency that is open to graduate students who are interested in international performance studies and seek a more interdisciplinary approach than is possible within given departmental structures. The graduate residency is intended to help students strengthen their analytic skills and develop an awareness of the theoretical and aesthetic issues that have fueled debates in the field. The residency allows students to pursue Performance Studies in a cross-cultural fashion at the same time that they gain an appreciation of it as a discipline with an established intellectual history.

The 2005-2006 Graduate Residency cohort consists of Danna Agmon, Shanesha Brooks, Alyson Jones, Dana Levin, Kristina Richardson and Yona Stamatis.

Danna Agmon is in the Anthropology and History Doctoral Program. Her research is on performance, ritual and food in Guadeloupe, specifically the “festival of female cooks” which she sees as an act of identity and politics.

Shanesha Brooks is an Ethnomusicology student researching Afro-Cuban Christian Hip-Hop and Oral Poetry performance.

Alyson Jones is a classically-trained violinist pursuing a doctorate in Ethnomusicology focusing on Italian and Arabic folk music.

Dana Levin is a student in the Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Psychology. Her research interests are in theater, performance, power, adolescent socialization and gender-based violence. Her research looks at the similarities and differences between the US and Israel.

Kristina Richardson is a doctoral student in Near Eastern Studies who is pursuing research on the slave entertainers of the Early Abbasid Period, 750-932 CE, in Baghdad and Samarra.

Yona Stamatis is studying for a doctorate in Ethnomusicology with emphasis on nationalism and regional identity construction as presented in the performance of Greek music.

As the culminating event in their three semester residency, the current graduate cohort will produce an interdisciplinary symposium to highlight their research findings and explore how performance scholarship can be enacted. Diana King, Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish Director of the Hemi-

spheric Institute of Performance and Politics at the Tisch School of the Arts (NYU), will serve as respondent to their work. The symposium, “**Fixed and Fluid**” will be held on **March 21, 2006 at 7:00pm in Room 1636 of the International Institute.**

The Center is pleased to welcome the 2006-2007 Graduate Residency students. They are Talia Dejas, Ozgen Felek, Tayana Hardin, and Carrie Morris.

Talia Dajes is a doctoral student in Spanish. Her research interest is in Peruvian and Argentinean women’s performances and artistic inventions within city .

Tayana Hardin is a first year doctoral student in American studies. Her research interests include Josephine Baker and her impact on the perception of the Black female body in the US and France.

Ozgen Felek is specializing in Ottoman literature. Her doctoral studies include Ottoman poetry.

Carrie Morris is pursuing an MFA from the School of Art & Design. Her interest is in studying Indonesian puppetry.

Director Produces Educational DVD

Glenda Dickerson is pleased to announce a forthcoming DVD/documentary about her **Project for Transforming thru Performing: re/placing Black womanly images**. The DVD/documentary can serve as an interactive teaching tool for those interested in learning more about the transforming thru performing techniques, or simply as a catalyst for discussion.

Housed in the Center for World Performance Studies at the University of Michigan and supported by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation, **the Project for Transforming thru Performing** has worked since 2000 to enter the Black woman's performing voice into the scholarly discussion surrounding gendered identity. After 9/11, **The Project** embarked on a series of presentations called "Kitchen Prayers Performance Dialogues" in an effort to capture, reflect and understand the global impact of 9/11 and other acts of war and terror on women around the world. By using the kitchen as the central metaphor for this work, **The Project** aims to (re)create a space in which Black women are made central and shift scholarly attention to the experiences, music, public and private conversations

and everyday behaviors of "ordinary", easily forgotten women. New performance dialogues in the "Kitchen Prayers" series have been presented annually, including performances in Istanbul, Turkey.

The documentary, narrated by Glenda Dickerson, will come in a two DVD set and will be available for distribution by July 2006.

DVD 1 offers an overview of the work of **The Project** and is titled:

**What's Cookin' in the Kitchen?
a planetary portrait
9/11/01 – 9/11/04**

DVD 2 is in three parts:

**Recipes for Free Women
(creating the script)
Good Table Manners (breaking
bread with the Prayerful Performers)
Food for Thought (the Scholars
talk along)**

For more information about the DVD or **The Project**, contact us at: cwps@umich.edu



Glenda Dickerson, Center Director, plans to premiere the new documentary, "**What's Cookin' in the Kitchen?**" at the Black Theater Network 20th anniversary conference.

Shahnaz showcases student talent



Michael Ibrahim, Alyson Jones and Yona Stamatis performing with *Shahnaz*

Shahnaz, an Arabic music ensemble made up of 5 very serious University musicians and singers, presented their first UM concert on January 20. Amer G. Zahr, the group's spokesman, explained the historical, social context of music within the Arab world. In this role, Zahr was very serious in his description one minute and then making the audience laugh in another—such as when he said “all Arabic songs are about love”, and that Abdel-Halim Hafez: was “The Elvis of the Arab world”. Zahr showed off his multi-talents during the hour and

a half the concert lasted. He played the oud (Arabic lute), riqq (tambourine), and sang with a voice that can be described as full and sweet. Michael Ibrahim, the other male member of the ensemble, spoke fluent Arabic (Syrian background), played the oud, riqq, nay (Arabic bamboo flute) and also sang in Arabic. The three American members of the group are women pursuing their degrees in ethnomusicology at UM. Violinist and CWPS graduate resident Alyson Jones, has studied with the contemporary Arab American composer Simone Shaheen and

wants to travel to Egypt to learn Arabic. Yona Stamatis, also on violin and a CWPS graduate resident, is of Greek heritage with an interest in Greek and Arabic music. The 5th member of the ensemble is Jacqueline Arrington, a freshman, played the flute.

The group's name comes from the term for one of the maqams, or melodic modes, in Arabic music.

(Excerpted from a letter to the *Ann Arbor News* by Ferial Salloum Rewoldt)

Upcoming Events

**March 8 –
CWPS Panel
Discussion Series
6:00pm in 1644 SSWB**

**March 12 –
“Wayang Sandosa”
5:00pm Hill Aud.**
Yulisa Mastati and the Michigan Gamelan will join Sigit Adji Sabdoprijono in a new production combining both traditional and contemporary elements. Mas Sigit, an honored puppet master, and Yulisa, his wife and an accomplished dancer, are visiting artists from Indonesia who have been teaching at UM since September 2005. They will be assisted in this production by their students which includes CWPS graduate resident Carrie Morris.

**March 21 –
“Fixed and Fluid”
7:00pm in 1636 SSWB**
CWPS 2005-2006 Graduate Residents Danna Agmon, Shanesha Brooks, Charles Gentry, Alyson Jones, Dana Levin, Kristina Richardson and Yona Stamatis present their research.

**March 25 –
“La Purpura de la Rosa”
2:00pm McIntosh Theater**
Eduardo Lopez-Banzo will be conducting the first opera that was performed in the Americas on March 24 & 25. Lopez-Banzo is traveling from Spain to be in residence at the School of Music March 12-26. A conductor and harpsichordist, he will be joined by fellow musicians Daniel Zuluaga, Han-

nelore Devaare, Jesus Fernandez and baroque music students from the School.

**March 29 –
CWPS Panel
Discussion Series
6:00pm in 1644 SSWB**

**April 12 –
CWPS Panel
Discussion Series
6:00pm in 2609 SSWB**