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**WALKER ART CENTER AND SOUTHERN THEATER'S OUT THERE 16
FEATURES MONTHLONG CELEBRATION OF
PERFORMANCE ALTERNATIVES**

**SERIES TO OPEN WITH WORLD PREMIERE OF THE WALKER-
COMMISSIONED *PLAN B* BY BIG DANCE THEATER**

Out There, the popular annual showcase of boundary-crossing performance alternatives by some of the best national and international creators, returns for a 16th season January 8-February 1. A presentation of the Walker Art Center and the Southern Theater, the series features the world premiere of **Big Dance Theater's** *Plan B*, a work that blends Taiwanese torch songs reconstructed by Gary Lucas (Captain Beefheart) with Big Dance Theater's witty tale that pits a world of scheming power players against the innocent (January 8-11); spoken word artist **Sekou Sundiata's** evocative theatrical look at the cycles of life, *blessing the boats* (January 15-18); *Room Tone*, the newest work by New York's irreverent performance ensemble **Elevator Repair Service** (January 22-25); and the Midwest debut of **Tim Etchells' Instructions for Forgetting**, an intimate performance documentary performed by the artistic director of the U.K.'s lauded and challenging performance company, Forced Entertainment (January 29-February 1). All performances take place at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis. Copresented with the Southern Theater and supported in part with funds from the McKnight Foundation and the Walker's Doris Duke Fund for Jazz and Dance, with promotional support provided by *City Pages*.

Again this year, *Out There* includes a unique interactive series, **Inside Out There**, which offers the hands-on opportunity to get the inside story from visiting *Out There* artists and participate in workshops and demonstrations presented at 2 pm on the Saturday afternoon of

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each week. Sessions are at the Southern Theater and are free with a paid ticket for the performance. Space is limited and the series is expected to fill up early. To reserve a spot, call 612.375.7622. In addition, on each Thursday of the series, Walker members receive half-price tickets and free, informal receptions for artists and audiences take place after the show. Each Friday performance concludes with a post-show talk with the artists.

A complete listing of Out There performances follows.

Out There 16

Copresented by the Walker Art Center and the Southern Theater

January 8-February 1

Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tickets and information: 612.375.7622 (additional discounts may apply)

World Premiere

Big Dance Theater:

Plan B

Thursday, January 8, 8 pm \$18 (\$9 Walker members)

Friday–Saturday, January 9–10, 8 pm; Sunday, January 11, 2 pm

\$18 (\$14)

“In Parson and Lazar’s magic realism, surprising events seem normal, comedy and tragedy dance hand in hand, and the trivial assumes profundity.” —*The Village Voice*

The Walker and the Southern again launch Out There with a newly commissioned work—this time from the fertile, surreal imaginations of Big Dance Theater directors Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar. *Plan B* imaginatively explores the intrigues of power and betrayal, wittily blending Taiwanese torch songs reconstructed by Gary Lucas (Captain Beefheart) with textual material from the “secret” Nixon tapes and the biography of Kaspar Hauser, the famous “wild child” of 19th-century Germany. Visually arresting and emotionally resonant, *Plan B*’s surprising blend of dance, music, spoken text, and vivid design elements powerfully convey the absurdities and melancholy of modern life. This premiere features guest artist Kate Johnson, former principal dancer with Paul Taylor Dance Company and Mikhail Baryshnikov’s White Oak Dance Project.

Co-commissioned by the Walker Art Center and presented in association with the National Performance Network (NPN). Supported in part with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Inside Out There

Big Dance Theater

Saturday, January 10, 2 pm, Free with a paid performance ticket

Join Annie-B Parson, Paul Lazar, and company members for an insightful interchange about their piece and practice. Dance—study part of an ancient Japanese dance used in the performance. Learn—explore ways this movement has been adapted theatrically for *Plan B*. Talk—join the artists for a discussion about their work and process. Limited to 20 participants.

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Sekou Sundiata:
blessing the boats

Thursday, January 15, 8 pm \$18 (\$9 Walker members)

Friday–Saturday, January 16–17, 8 pm; Sunday, January 18, 2 pm \$18 (\$14)

“Sundiata’s poems moan, soothe, stir, and shake. His strength as teacher/poet . . . confirms that he is the griot of our times.” —*Vibe*

Written and performed by one of today’s most electrifying poets, *blessing the boats* looks at illness, treatment, recovery, relationships, art, life, and death in a search for order from the chaos of a life fundamentally altered by disease. Sekou Sundiata’s deeply personal new work bears witness to five tumultuous years in his life—kidney failure and transplant, a near-fatal accident, and his subsequent physical and spiritual recovery. A lean mix of sound, text, lighting, and video underscores this evocative and unsentimental look into a time of profound change, when the artist was “an exile from the self I had come to know,” and the resulting state of unexpected, precious grace. “*blessing the boats*. . . moves with the delicate precision of a surgeon’s scalpel—slicing open a soul and setting its survivor’s spirit loose” (*Berkshire Eagle*). Copresented with the Minnesota Spoken Word Association.

Inside Out There
Sekou Sundiata

Saturday, January 17, 2 pm, Free with a paid performance ticket

Conducted by Sekou Sundiata, *Poetry Circle* is designed to bring together writers of poetry to share and examine with others their own works. Each participant should bring two pieces of original material and one published piece by an established author. The discussion will focus on both the technical elements of writing as well as the work in a greater context. Limited to 15 participants.

Special Event

Insight News/KMOJ Public Policy Forum

Tuesday, January 13, 9-10:30 am FREE

Lucille’s Kitchen, 2013 Plymouth Avenue North, Minneapolis

Join Sekou Sundiata as he discusses his career in spoken word and the process of creating *blessing the boats* with Al McFarlane, CEO of *Insight News*. This community event features live music by Wain McFarlane & Jahz. Live Webcast via Time Warner Cable at www.insightforumlive.com. The Public Policy forum will be aired live on KMOJ 89.9 FM.

Elevator Repair Service
Room Tone

Thursday, January 22, 8 pm \$18 (\$9 Walker members)

Friday–Saturday, January 23–24, 8 pm; Sunday, January 25, 2 pm \$18 (\$14)

“Elevator Repair Services’ latest wacky collage . . . ponders the bugaboos—supernatural and otherwise—that haunt us all.” —*The Village Voice*

New York’s cheeky performance ensemble Elevator Repair Service offers a sinister romp through religious rapture with the atmospheric mise-en-scène accentuated by a sound score of Balinese gamelan, innovative staging, and intricate choreography. Based on Henry James’ classic ghost story *The Turn of the Screw* and his brother William James’ research into the supernatural and the unknown, *Room Tone* weaves together a haunting and suspenseful narrative. As in its last

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Walker performance (*Total Fictional Lie* at Out There 2000), the company mines the deepest recesses of civilization with clever intimacy and trademark irreverence that leaves everything—including the imagination—up for grabs.

Supported in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; additional funding provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Altria Group, Inc.

Inside Out There
Elevator Repair Service

Saturday, January 24, 2 pm. Free with a paid performance ticket

Company members lead a workshop and theatrical exercises in conjunction with a discussion touching on the relationship of various other media to theater and ERS' process and the creation of *Room Tone*. Limited to 15 participants.

Tim Etchells
Instructions for Forgetting

Thursday, January 29, 8 pm \$18 (\$9)

Friday–Saturday, January 30–31, 8 pm; Sunday, February 1, 2 pm \$18 (\$14)

"Funny, sad, oblique, and moving . . . one of those rare theatre experiences where artist and audience find a kind of communication which makes you forget all about time and space."

—*Wiener Zeitung*

Part intimate essay, part fragmented narrative, *Instructions for Forgetting* is a comical, surprising, and ultimately moving work that maps the links between personal history and the broader histories called culture and politics. Combining home movies, interviews, letters, and tapes from friends alongside recordings of world events, Forced Entertainment's artistic director creates an intimate performance documentary exploring video as a container of image and memory and an occasion for speculation, interpretation, and storytelling. Contains adult subject matter.

Forced Entertainment's residency and performances are made possible in part by generous support from The British Council, the Bush Foundation, and Target.

Inside Out There
Tim Etchells/Forced Entertainment

Saturday, January 31, 2 pm. Free with a paid performance ticket

Join Forced Entertainment's artistic director for an informal discussion about *Instructions for Forgetting* and explore the intersections of narrative and technology in the creation of new work. Limited to 15 participants.

The Walker Art Center's Performing Arts Program is generously supported by funds from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the Doris Duke Fund for Jazz and Dance and the Doris Duke Performing Arts Endowment Fund.

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