

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR 2024 WOW FESTIVAL

**Playhouse's Acclaimed Annual Festival of Immersive and Site-Inspired Work
To Be Presented In Partnership with UC San Diego, With Projects Taking Place
Across the UCSD Campus**

**Event Will Be Free of Charge and Feature More Than 20 Thrilling Projects
By Local, National And International Artists**

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse is pleased to announce initial programming for the [2024 WOW Festival](#) of immersive and site-inspired work, presented in partnership with **UC San Diego**. The WOW Festival will take place **April 4 – 7** on the UC San Diego campus, where the inaugural WOW Festival took place in 2013.

Like previous WOW Festivals, the 2024 event will feature four action-packed days of theatre, dance, music, puppetry, spectacle events, and more, with multiple performances by acclaimed local, national and international artists occurring throughout the weekend. All projects at the WOW Festival will be offered **free of charge**, with reservations recommended for select performances with limited capacity. The full WOW Festival schedule and reservations are available at wowfestival.org.

“The lineup for our 2024 WOW Festival once again offers a thrilling combination of intimate and large-scale spectacle events, created by acclaimed local, national and international artists – all free of charge,” said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse. “We are overjoyed to celebrate this four-day, community-wide event in partnership with UC San Diego. Returning to the site of our very first Without Walls Festival in 2013, is a wonderful full-circle moment.”

“We are delighted to welcome the WOW Festival back home to UC San Diego and build upon our long-time partnership with La Jolla Playhouse,” said **Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla**. “The festival exemplifies the uniqueness of our campus community as it celebrates innovation, pushes boundaries and stretches our thinking. As our campus continues to transform into a regional destination, we look forward to using immersive art as a way to introduce guests to new spaces like the Theatre District Living and Learning Neighborhood and the Epstein Family Amphitheater, as well as highlight the world-renowned Stuart Art Collection and beautiful architecture on campus.”

The WOW Festival will feature several UC San Diego projects, including **Princess Lockeroo's The Fabulous Waack Dancers: The Big Show**, presented by **ArtPower**; **Folding Futures**, by **Origami Air Co**, presented in collaboration with MAVERiC Studio in the **Design and Innovation Building**, **Bodily Autonomy**, by **Lauren Lee McCarthy**, presented by **UC San Diego's Mandeville Art Gallery**; **Everyone Is an Entrepreneur**, by **The Basement** at UC San Diego; **Fish Phone Booth**, by

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Ash Eliza Smith + Robert Twomey (A Speculative Devices Cohab Labs Production), in collaboration with **Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography**; and experiences at **Do Ho Suh/Stuart Collection's Fallen Star**. The **UC San Diego Department of Theatre & Dance** undergraduate students will also be producing two WOW projects under the mentorship of faculty members Christopher Khul and Deborah Stein: **Fallen Star(s)** and **Letters to Home**.

The WOW Festival will also feature **59 Acres**, by the Los Angeles-based Dutch artist **Marike Splint** (2017 WOW Festival's *Among Us*; Digital WOW's *You Are Here*); **The Apple Avenue Detective Agency**, by the Los Angeles-based **Mister and Mischief** (2022 WOW Festival's *40 Watts from Nowhere*); **Beautiful Escape: Emergency Exit**, by the French company **ADHOK**; **Damoclès**, by France's **Cirque Inextremiste**; **Downstream (tributaries)** by **BANDALOO**, the acclaimed Oakland-based company that contributed the vertical choreography for the Playhouse's world-premiere musical *Redwood*; **Duo**, by the Taiwan-based **0471 Acro Physical Theatre**; **Erin The Caterpillar → Butterfly**, by the San Diego-based **Friendly Futures**; **Inertia**, by New York-based artist **Drew Petersen**; **iykyk**, by the San Diego-based **Blindspot Collective** (2023 WOW Festival's *salty water*, 2022 WOW Festival's *Black Séance*, Digital WOW's *Walks of Life*); **Les moutons**, by the Toronto-based **CORPUS** (2022 WOW Festival's *La Bulle*, 2015 WOW Festival's *A Flock of Flyers*); **Pásale Pásale**, by San Diego's **TuYo Theatre** (2023 WOW Festival's *Las Cuatros Milpas*; 2022 WOW Festival's *On Her Shoulders We Stand*); **Pigments of Imagination: An Interactive Virtual Reality Composition**, by San Diego artists **Timothy "Ill Poetic" Gmeiner and Eito Murakami**; **Reflexion**, by the San Diego-based **ArtBuilds**; **The Running Show**, by the New York-based **Monica Bill Barnes & Company**; and **Spectrum: Society of Wonder**, by San Diego's **Animal Cracker Conspiracy** (2022 WOW Festival's *Transmythical*; Digital WOW's *Society of Wonder*, 2015 WOW Festival's *Gnomesense*).

Additionally, the Playhouse will present performances of the 2024 Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour, **Abeba in the Tall Grass**, during the WOW Festival, along with two WOW workshops: **How to Write an Opening Number**, presented by TuYo Theatre; and **Theater Is Easy: Creating Theater with Nearly Nothing Except for You**, presented by Drew Petersen.

The 2024 WOW Festival is made possible through the partnership with UC San Diego and support from the City of San Diego and the Roberta Baade Charitable Fund. Additional support comes from the Performing Arts Fund NL, Dutch Culture USA, Western States Arts Federation, Netherland-America Fund, Enterprise Foundation, and Residence Inn. In-kind supporters include Culinary Concepts, XTECA Beer, Bright Event Rentals and Show Imaging. Individual supporters include David and Alisa Barba, Edward and Martha Dennis, Susan Dube, Dwight Hare and Stephanie Bergsma, Gail and Doug Hutcheson, Jay Jeffcoat and Joyce Gattas, Robin and Larry Rusinko, Jay and Julie Sarno, Ira and Dawn Smalberg, Hans Tegebo, Pam Wagner, Peggy Ann Wallace and WALLY, along with Mark Ashton, Debby and Todd Buchholz, Mary Walshok and the Playhouse Leadership Council.

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The Playhouse's signature **Without Walls (WOW)** series has become one of the region's most popular and acclaimed performance programs. Since its inception in 2011, the Playhouse has been commissioning and presenting this series of immersive, site-inspired and virtual productions throughout the San Diego community, including eight stand-alone productions, six WOW Festivals and fourteen Digital WOW pieces.

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WOW Festival Projects**59 Acres**

By Marike Splint

Los Angeles, CA

WOW Festival Location: La Jolla Playhouse

Grab your headphones and comfy shoes for a site-specific, immersive soundwalk that takes you on an urban odyssey exploring the built environment and natural world around La Jolla Playhouse and UC San Diego. This poetic, meditative and innovative work offers new ways of seeing and listening as it navigates you through the physical, cultural and geographical landscapes we inhabit, in search of the extraordinary amidst the mundane.

Abeba in the Tall Grass

La Jolla Playhouse 2024 POP Tour

WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza

Written by Jonathan Norton and directed by Nikki Mirza, *Abeba in the Tall Grass* is about a fifth-grade aspiring horticulturist and the urban garden that has become her sacred space. Through encounters with the school goof-offs, she realizes that, like plants need water and light to flourish, people need friendship and community to thrive.

The Apple Avenue Detective Agency

By Mister and Mischief

Los Angeles, CA

WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza

Inspired by real childhood events, this adventure inducts audiences into a pint-sized investigator club to uncover local mysteries and find closure for a good friend in very real trouble. Mischievous and deeply personal, this playable coming-of-age tale takes audiences from a backyard clubhouse through the nooks and crannies of the neighborhood, all the way to the treacherous border of growing up. When you're a kid the world is full of mysteries, and no one solves them alone.

Beautiful Escape: Emergency Exit

By ADHOK

France

WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza

With life expectancy more than doubling in the last century, what does it mean to be old? Featuring seven actors between ages 60 and 80, this trilogy of performances reflects on childhood, adulthood and senescence. Poetic, non-narrative and conceived for the street, this promenade of theatre and dance highlights our perception of getting older, the fears it carries and the treasures it hides.

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Bodily Autonomy

By Lauren Lee McCarthy

Presented by UC San Diego's Mandeville Art Gallery

WOW Festival Location: Mandeville Art Gallery

With her thought-provoking "Saliva Bar" art installation, Los Angeles-based Lauren Lee McCarthy examines the current state of bio-surveillance in times of rapid technological development and increased corporate and government monitoring. At the saliva exchange station, visitors can trade their own samples with one another through the assistance of an attendant, inviting active discussions on data privacy, race, gender and class as they pertain to genetic material.

Damoclès

By Cirque Inextremiste

France

WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza

Faced with a collective perception of danger, audience members must confront a potential obstacle – together – in this participatory performance. Can we trust one another and decide on a common course of action to solve a problem? Can we all be the leader of the group? *Damoclès* is a show where the audience are the actors -- and maybe the heroes!

Downstream (tributaries)

By BANDALOOOP

Oakland, CA

WOW Festival Location: Design and Innovation Building

Downstream (tributaries) is a set of excerpts from *Downstream*, a new vertical dance work premiering in entirety in the Russian River Watershed at the Green Music Center in Rohnert Park, CA, April 19th 2024. Directed by Melecio Estrella, *Downstream's* dances are a confluence of personal and shared waterways. In a process that mixes the gravitational variance of vertical dance, ecological watershed education and research, and personal reflection, *Downstream* brings forward a tender, embodied inquiry to our relationship with water, land and one another. Built amidst a time of profound personal and collective grief, *Downstream* honors the grace found in sharing stories of flow, saturation, flooding and restoration.

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Duo

By 0471 Acro Physical Theatre

Taiwan

WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza; Design and Innovation Building

This dance-infused acrobatic circus performance from Taiwanese company 0471 Acro Physical Theatre is an eloquent, subtly layered feat of artful invention. Two agile performers combine technical prowess and emotional expression to tell a story about the shifts, twists and turns of an ever-changing relationship. Whether lifting each other up or bringing each other down, they display physical grace, strength and emotional vulnerability, demonstrating how everything they have to “say” is in their bodies.

Erin The Caterpillar → Butterfly

By Friendly Futures

WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza

Welcome to our Playdate for all ages! Our design friend, Erin The Caterpillar → Butterfly, architecturally classified as Friendly Wall v004, is a joyful playsculpture that breaks out into gamified and functional objects and seating. It demonstrates how design can be used as a tool to ignite people - particularly adults! - to play, and in doing so guides people to connect, communicate, and collaborate. Big picture, we find the silly design to have serious implications, as we believe that being friendly is the next frontier in well-being.

Everyone Is an Entrepreneur

The Basement at UC San Diego

WOW Festival Location: Design and Innovation Building

Come explore, play, and learn how to unlock your inner entrepreneur through interactive and informative displays. Step through our Triton Tank elevator doors and take a shot at delivering your best pitch in 60 seconds. Get inspired by student entrepreneurs at UC San Diego to think outside the box, color beyond the lines, and think creatively!

Fallen Star

By Do Ho Suh; UC San Diego – Stuart Collection

WOW Festival Location: Jacobs Engineering Building

Explore notions of home with an art installation that looks like a small cottage has been picked up, as if by some mysterious force, and “landed” atop Jacobs Hall. The remarkable Fallen Star sits crookedly on a corner of the building, cantilevered out over the ground seven stories below, and features a lush garden and panoramic views of the UC San Diego campus and beyond. Inside, its incongruent angles cause a sense of dislocation – some would say vertigo – and prompt ideas about cultural displacement and one’s perception of space while the visitor physically and mentally accommodates a new perspective of the world.

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Fallen Star(s)

By UC San Diego Department of Theatre & Dance Students
WOW Festival Location: Jacobs Engineering Building

A group of irreverent, clout-chasing influencers get trapped in the famous art piece, *Fallen Star*. As things start going supernaturally wrong, the streamers have to figure out why they're trapped and how to get out. Can they get their audience to help them escape – or will they be stuck there forever? *Fallen Star(s)* explores how the faulty emotional connections between influencers and their fans are caused by the sensationalism of social media.

Fish Phone Booth Playtest

By Ash Eliza Smith + Robert Twomey (A Speculative Devices Cohab Labs Production)
In collaboration with Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography
WOW Festival Location: Design and Innovation Building

Fish Phone Booth Playtest is an interspecies communication experience that uses interactive audio and sensory media with scientists, data, and machine learning (AI). The aim is to engage the public with ocean acoustics, a broad field focused on studying sound, its propagation, and fish behavior underwater.

Folding Futures

By Origami Air Co. / UC San Diego
WOW Festival Location: Design and Innovation Building

See the strange, and change the future as a Time Tourist to the year 2064. Guided by Systems Rangers and their Ai Guardian, Ava Waters, you will make first contact with the incredible world that is the future of Earth. Travel beneath the Ancient Redwood forests of Cascadia to the home of a newly discovered creature emerging from the "Otter World." Along the way, the Intertemporal Quantum Reality Operating System will send its agents and Paradox Researchers with an opportunity to take the future into their own hands.

Inertia

By Drew Petersen
New York, NY
WOW Festival Location: La Jolla Playhouse

This touching and humorous "theatrical encounter" invites the audience into an exploration of how we, in this moment, are all at the center of both our individual and communal stories – and what role art plays in it. Interactive prompts, movement, personal narrative and lush sound design are some of the techniques and elements that will transport audience members to the generative center of the artistic experience.

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iykyk

By Blindspot Collective

San Diego, CA

WOW Festival Location: Che Café

Step into the provocative world of youth and rebellion at the iconic Che Café. Featuring nine unique performances that promise a kaleidoscope of experiences celebrating counter-culture, protest, revolutionary conversations and the spirit of defiance. *iykyk* is about choice. Will you choose the allure of a captivating musical, the graceful movements of a spellbinding dance, or the thought-provoking narrative of a poignant play? The power is in your hands.

Letters to Home

By UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance Students

WOW Festival Location: La Jolla Playhouse

Moving to a new home often involves us packing our most precious items into a slew of cardboard boxes and reminiscing about fond memories as we prepare to transport our belongings to a new location. Join us as we attempt to navigate the in-between stage of life where we're forced to choose what to take with us and what to leave behind. We invite you to build, decorate and create the space to make it your own.

Les moutons

By CORPUS

Toronto, Canada

WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza; Design and Innovation Building

Travel to a strange and hilarious universe where reality meets fantasy as Canadian company CORPUS reveals a carefully studied, surrealistic overview of sheep behavior. You'll meet Julie, Marie-Louise, Bernadette and César – three healthy ewes and a young ram – in the recreation of a bucolic country scene where routine activities include shearing, feeding, milking and more. This truly innovative performance twists reality in surprising ways and takes audience interaction to new and surprising heights!

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Pásale Pásale

By TuYo Theater
San Diego, CA
WOW Festival Location: La Jolla Playhouse

Pásale Pásale is a heartwarming and humorous musical that immerses audiences in a vibrant world inspired by the National City Swap Meet. Señor Muchascosas has decided to raise the vendors' fees, creating a wave of anxiety among those already struggling to make ends meet. Audiences become active participants and stand in solidarity with the vendors on their journey towards self-determination. Amidst the laughter and music, *Pásale Pásale* unfolds as a celebration of community, resilience, and the power of unity in the face of economic challenges.

Princess Lockeroo's The Fabulous Waack Dancers: The Big Show

UC San Diego – ArtPower
WOW Festival Location: Epstein Family Amphitheater

Experience the Epstein Family Amphitheater like never before, as the stage is transformed into a post-modern disco saloon, hosting the premiere of *The Big Show*, performed by The Fabulous Waack Dancers. The audience, welcomed as club goers and seated on-stage, will be immersed in the culture, history and scene of waacking as Princess Lockeroo, the “Queen of Waacking,” honors her mentor, pioneering queer Black waack dancer and Soul Train legend, Tyrone Proctor, and carries on his legacy through the dance he championed. Renowned composer Harold O’Neal contributes an energizing and nostalgic soundtrack that takes audiences on a musical journey through various eras of American Black music culture.

Reflexion

By ArtBuilds
San Diego, CA
WOW Festival Location: Revelle Plaza

You hold the power to control the art in an installation that is a meditation on the competing, distorting and clarifying roles played by lenses and frames in contemporary life. By manipulating mirrored columns of individually rotatable prisms and nighttime custom lighting animations, audience members can shift perspectives, interact with the environment and each other, and discover something new.

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The Running Show

By Monica Bill Barnes & Company
New York, NY

WOW Festival Location: Epstein Family Amphitheater

A 7-year-old falls in love with dance—40 years later, she works every day to stay in the game. Both live documentary and performance, this piece features a large cast of San Diego dancers from 12-80 years of age who have learned their parts over the week leading up to the WOW Festival. Interviews incorporate their voices and stories into the show, giving the audience an unprecedented look into the life of a dancer as a new kind of sports hero: one who keeps moving against all odds.

Spectrum: Society of Wonder

By Animal Cracker Conspiracy
San Diego, CA

WOW Festival Location: Galbraith Lawn

Four celestial entities have arrived on the campus of UC San Diego to confront a mysterious force threatening to consume the very fabric of our existence. Using ancient star lore, the visitors conjure mythological beings to regenerate the Earth and guide humanity towards a luminous existence. Enlivened by a San Diego Symphony string quartet, this full-on puppetry spectacle channels the silly, supernatural and sublime, inviting us to appreciate the universe and our place in it.

WOW Workshops**How to Write an Opening Number**

Presented by TuYo Theatre

April 5 at 5:30pm

WOW Festival Location: La Jolla Playhouse

Join TuYo Theatre's Mario Vega and Eliza Vedar as they discuss the construction of opening numbers in musical theatre. Learn their process for the opening number of *Pásale Pásale* in the WOW festival and brief history of their work, then learn to sing the music from *Pásale Pásale* with these fabulous artists.

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Theater Is Easy: Creating Theater with Nearly Nothing Except for You

Presented by Drew Petersen

April 6 at 1:30pm

WOW Festival Location: La Jolla Playhouse

Employing arts education and devised theater exercises and structures, this participatory workshop drops attendees into the process of creating authentic theatrical encounters that ask us to look at our world through a fresh dramatic lens. Primarily using the participants prior experiences and knowledge, this 60-minute workshop invites the group to explore how simple prompts, offers, and gestures can yield a tremendously interesting and joyful theatrical experience. Everything is and can be theater in this workshop.

WOW Festival Artist Biographies

Founded in 2020 by Sun Cheng-hsueh and Lsia Ling, **0471 Acro Physical Theatre** (*Duo*) is one of the few circus teams in Taiwan specializing in acrobatic stacking. The team is dedicated to using acrobatic techniques to create a gravity-defying visual experience, transforming the theater into a world of imagination. Through the language of acrobatic movement, they aim to create a space for dialogue with others.

Created in 2010, **ADHOK** (*Beautiful Escape: Emergency Exit*) has given birth to five creations in the Theatre-Dance field designed for the public space. These creations are part of a Trilogy that addresses issues related to today's generations. In Europe, ADHOK company is part of the European "In situ" network coordinated by Lieux publics in Marseille. Each of the creations enabled us to share the issues associated with each generation. The founders of Cie Adhok, Doriane Moretus and Patrick Dordoigne, have been working for over 30 years in the public space, and are keen to pursue their activities in this direction.

San Diego-based artists Bridget Rountree and Iain Gunn are **Animal Cracker Conspiracy** (*Spectrum: Society of Wonder*), a contemporary hybrid puppet company invested in pushing the boundaries of kinetic performance. Joining forces in 2004, their ongoing practice is based on a shared interest and exploration of where fine art, puppetry, performance art, physical theatre, film and mixed media intersect. They actively cultivate the suspension of disbelief by embracing the unknown and using the manipulation of puppets to create original stories. Past work includes: 2022 WOW Festival's *Transmythical*; Digital WOW's *The Society of Wonder*, *Adrift*, *Myth Project 1*, *Paper Cities Project*, *The Collector*, *Desire to Fly* and many others.

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ArtBuilds (*Reflexion*) was founded in 2019 and is a collective of artists who traverse traditional disciplinary boundaries with a passion to cultivate community through expansive participatory art installations. The collective is 100% volunteer run with a focus on the creation of large format sculptures that captivate imagination through play and invite action through interactivity. They have created a 12' tall sundial with interchangeable disks (*About Time*), a 60' long and 20' tall series of climbable hexagonal gates (*Re:Emergence*), and a steel unfolding dodecahedron covered in 17,000 LEDs (*Unfolding Humanity*). ArtBuilds has been commissioned by the City of San Diego, received a grant from the Burning Man Project, and raised funds through public donations.

Monica Bill Barnes & Company (*The Running Show*) was founded in 1997 as a New York based dance company. Since then Barnes has worked with many artists and performers, including long time collaborators/designers Jane Cox and Kelly Hanson and performer Anna Bass in developing relatable work with a subversive sense of humor. Since 2013, MBB&CO has been co-led by Monica in partnership with Robbie Saenz de Viteri where the mission evolved to “bringing dance where it doesn’t belong.” They cross genres between dance, theatre, storytelling, creative nonfiction, feminist treatises, and comedy. Their work has been honored by the Bessie Awards, the Lilly Awards, and the Chita Rivera Awards, as well as numerous foundations.

An innovator of vertical dance, **BANDALOO** (*Downstream (tributaries)*) seamlessly weaves dynamic physicality, intricate choreography and the art of climbing to turn the dance floor on its side. Since 1991 BANDALOO’s indoor and outdoor work has been presented in theaters and museums, on skyscrapers, bridges, billboards and historical sites, in atriums and convention halls, in nature on cliffs, and on screen. BANDALOO honors nature, community and the human spirit by bringing dance to new audiences, activating public and natural spaces, and re-imagining what’s possible. Visit www.bandaloop.org and connect with @bandalooping.

Blindspot Collective (*iykyk*) develops transformative theatre that amplifies marginalized voices, illuminates untold stories, bridges disparate experiences, and energizes vulnerable communities. Previous collaborations with La Jolla Playhouse include *salty water*, *Black Séance*, *Hall Pass*, *Walks of Life*, and *when the bubble bursts*. Since its founding in 2017, Blindspot Collective has collaborated with The Old Globe; Diversionary Theatre; ARTS (A Reason to Survive); UC San Diego; and other community partners to develop projects that meaningfully engage audiences and artists in the blindspot of society. They were the first theatre company to be awarded a performing arts residency at the San Diego International Airport and was selected “Theater of the Year” in 2020 by the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Cirque Inxtremiste (*Damoclès*), created in 2009, blends dance, circus, street arts and music. The first show “Inxtremiste” was created by this dangerous, extreme and defiant circus troupe in 2007, using a trampoline and gas cylinders. In 2017 the troupe worked on two major street show projects: a spectacular musical concert (*Extreme Night Fever*) and a hot air balloon air show (*Exit*). In 2024, Cirque inxtremiste, directed by Yann Ecauvre, presents eight shows and has around fifty members. With their wacky humour and “real risk” mantra, they are constantly pushing back the boundaries of the extreme and have been travelling around theatres and festivals across Europe for ten years.

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Co-founded by Sylvie Bouchard and artistic director David Danzon, Canada's [CORPUS](#) (*Les moutons*) is known for its precise and surrealist humour that combines movement with theatrical imagery. CORPUS' unique and engaging performances are presented in both traditional and unusual locations for large and diverse audiences. Created in 1997, CORPUS now has 15 pieces in its repertoire and has presented over 2500 performances at venues and events across Canada and around the world in 35 countries on five continents.

[Do Ho Suh](#)'s (*Fallen Star*) work explores the notions of home, cultural displacement, one's perception of space and how one builds a memory of it. What is home, after all? A place? An idea? A sentiment? A memory? Born in Korea, Do Ho Suh attended Seoul National University. He earned a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA in sculpture from Yale University. His works are in museum collections around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art; Whitney Museum of American Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Walker Art Center; Artsonje Center, Seoul; and the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo. He represented Korea at the Venice Biennale in 2001. Suh lives and works in New York, London and Seoul.

Friendly Futures (*Erin The Caterpillar → Butterfly*) is a joyful design studio + social club that believes being friendly is the next frontier in well-being. We bring people together in healthy and joyful ways by inviting our friends to reconnect with their superpower to play.

[Timothy "Ill Poetic" Gmeiner](#) and [Eito Murakami](#) (*Pigments of Imagination*). Gmeiner is a multidisciplinary artist and music producer as well as the assistant director/producer at Sonic Arts, a research & development group housed within the audio spatialization lab at Qualcomm Institute. His prior work has garnered public acclaim from Portishead, Rolling Stone and Pitchfork among other nationally recognized publications. Through his company SoundRzn Design, he's provided audio and visual services for an array of artists, universities and companies including the San Diego Symphony, OWN, RJD2, San Diego City College and HBO. Eito Murakami is a master's student at Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA) at Stanford University. He graduated from UCSD with degrees in Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts Music (ICAM) and Political Science/International Relations. Eito is an electronic conformer, sound designer, and virtual reality developer. By combining his classical music training with proficiency in audio and graphics software, he creates digital interfaces and instruments that promote intuitive musical performance. Eito is a former member of the Sonic Arts Research and Development group at UC San Diego's Qualcomm Institute.

[Lauren Lee McCarthy](#) (*Bodily Autonomy*) is an artist examining social relationships in the midst of automation, surveillance and algorithmic living. She has received grants and residencies from Creative Capital, United States Artists, LACMA, Sundance, Eyebeam, Pioneer Works, Autodesk and Ars Electronica, and her work is in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her work *SOMEONE* was awarded the Ars Electronica Golden Nica and the Japan Media Arts Social Impact Award, and her work *LAUREN* was awarded the IDFA DocLab Award for Immersive Non-Fiction. Lauren's work has been exhibited internationally, at places such as the Barbican Centre, Haus der elektronischen Künste, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Seoul Museum of Art, Chronus Art Center, Onassis Cultural Center, IDFA DocLab, Science Gallery Dublin, and the Japan Media Arts Festival.

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Mister and Mischief (*The Apple Avenue Detective Agency*), a.k.a. Jeff and Andy Crocker, create fun-forward interactive experiences designed to delight audiences and turn strangers into pals. Mixing games, theater, and comedy into playful, participatory events, Andy and Jeff are passionate about increasing the visibility of immersive design and people-powered shenanigans wherever they go. Previous shows include the absurd and award-winning *Escape from Godot*; the wordless clowning adventure *Builder and the Dove* for the Skirball Cultural Center; and the interactive pirate radio documentary *40 Watts From Nowhere*, which made its world premiere at the 2022 WOW Festival.

Origami Air Co (*Folding Futures*) is leading the charge towards a new era of virtual world publishing. Their goal is to leverage the latest advancements in XR and AI to revolutionize the gaming and entertainment industry. By partnering with studios in the public and non-profit sectors, they are able to develop cohesive speculative futures that utilize XR technology to create immersive experiences that seamlessly flow across platforms. This innovative approach to creation and monetization empowers both local creators and consumers, allowing them to bring cutting-edge content to a wider audience.

Drew Petersen (*Inertia*) is a New York City based multi-disciplinary artist and educator. He currently works with Park Avenue Armory, The Met Museum, New York Theater Workshop, and New Victory Theater. Drew has been commissioned, presented and created original work for Lincoln Center Education, The Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, The Met Museum, Park Avenue Armory, Trusty Sidekick, Big Apple Circus, Wallis Annenberg Center, Segerstrom Center, and Sound Lounge in New York City, among others. He is an arts education consultant with Brown Arts Institute, MASS MoCA, and Charleston Gaillard Center. In 2018, Drew was the first recipient of the National TYA/USA Artistic Innovation award.

Princess Lockerooo (Samara Cohen) is a visionary in the dance industry, known for her exceptional work as a producer, public speaker, event curator, director, and choreographer. With a reputation for excellence and numerous accolades, including a Bessie award for Breakout Choreographer and a nomination for Sustained Achievement as a fellow of the RSA, Princess is a highly regarded artist and leader in the dance world. In 2022, she founded The Fabulous Waack Dancers, a dance company, and the Waack dancer training program, showcasing her commitment to preserving the legacy of Waacking. Princess is dedicated to preserving the history of waacking and conducted the interview for the oral history of Choreographer and Waacking Pioneer Bill Goodson for the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

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Ash Eliza Smith + Robert Twomey (A Speculative Devices Cohab Labs Production) create emergent narrative systems and performative AI through techniques including collaborative co-production, magic circles, and participatory play for real-time performances. Smith is an artist and designer who uses storytelling, worldbuilding, and speculative design to shape new realities through liveness, performance, play, and co-design. An alum of the Visual Arts program at UC San Diego, she is a visiting fellow at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London and an Assistant Professor at the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. Twomey is an artist and engineer exploring poetic intersections of human and machine perception, particularly how emerging technologies transform sites of intimate life. He is an Assistant Professor of Emerging Media Arts at the Johnny Carson Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he directs the Machine Cohabitation Lab, and an Artist-in-Residence with the Arthur C. Clarke Center for Human Imagination, UC San Diego.

Marike Splint (*59 Acres*) is a Dutch French-Tunisian theatre maker based in Los Angeles on Tongva/Kizh land, specializing in creating work in public space that explores the relationship between people, places and identity. Her works *You Are Here* and *Among Us* have been presented as part of previous WOW programming. Other presenters and commissioners of her original work include Center Theater Group, UCLA Center for the Art of Performance, Skirball Cultural Center LA, Oerol Festival, Theaterfestival Boulevard (The Netherlands); Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires; Anciens Abattoirs de Casablanca (Morocco). Marike received her M.F.A. in directing from Columbia University and currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Theater at UCLA.

TuYo Theatre (*Pásale Pásale*) is a professional Latinx Theatre committed to creating and producing theatre in the San Diego area that tells stories from and by diverse Latinx perspectives. TuYo is committed to professional artistic rigor, forging authentic connections, developing community artists, and furthering the discourses that affect our community.

The Stuart Collection (*Do Ho Suh Fallen Star*) is unique among universities in the United States, given its scope and approach to commissioning contemporary sculpture. The collection is made possible through an innovative partnership between the University of California San Diego and the Stuart Collection Foundation. The Stuart Collection continues to shine a spotlight on UC San Diego as a destination for visitors from across the nation and around the world. The collection invites, cultivates and inspires art students, art enthusiasts and prominent collectors from throughout the United States and abroad.

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UC San Diego Department of Theatre and Dance (*Fallen Star(s)*, *Letters to Home*) trains the next generation of artists and scholars who will reimagine the way we interpret our world through the performing arts. They cultivate bold, highly talented artists capable of thriving in a variety of professional contexts. The faculty and students represent a wide range of theatrical and dance traditions and methodologies. They encourage diversity to create work that speaks to our historical moment. They foster a community in which artists and scholars can realize their full potential. Production is at the core of their training program. It is the laboratory where they experiment, energize, and explore. Actors, directors, choreographers, designers, playwrights, dramaturgs and stage managers develop their skills by working on full-scale productions while being mentored by distinguished artists. Their goal is to inspire artists and scholars with a depth of knowledge and a breadth of practice who will become leaders in the field.

Founded as an experiment in 1960, **UC San Diego** scholars aren't afraid to challenge convention if it means they can accelerate answers to our society's most pressing issues. As one of the top 20 research universities in the world, they are driving change far beyond its walls to advance society and propel economic growth. And the world has taken notice. UC San Diego's main campus is located near the Pacific Ocean on approximately 1,200 acres of coastal woodland in La Jolla, California. The campus sits on the ancestral homelands of the Kumeyaay Nation. Kumeyaay people continue to have an important and thriving presence in the region. UC San Diego's rich academic portfolio includes eleven academic, professional and graduate schools and eight undergraduate residential colleges. UC San Diego is also home to the prestigious Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the UC San Diego Health System.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 60 new works, and sending 36 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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