

The Contemporary Arts Center  
and Performing Artists In Residence  
ArtSpot Productions  
present

*New Orleans Suite*  
NEW ORLEANS SUITE

MAY 27 – JUNE 12, 2005



# NEW ORLEANS SUITE

created, directed and performed by  
J Hammons  
Yvahn Martin  
Maritza Mercado-Narcisse  
Kathy Randels  
Roscoe Reddix Jr.

Courtney Bryan  
music

Ellen Macomber  
costumes

Clifton Webb  
sculpture and set design

Rusty Tennant  
lighting design

Sean LaRocca  
technical director

Andrea Freewater  
bodywork

carpentry, painting and construction  
Chris Lane, Ashley Sparks, Robert Savina, Rusty Tennant, Clifton Webb

## Program Note

The idea for *New Orleans Suite* was born on Bourbon Street one year during the French Quarter Festival. I had just moved back to town after an eight-year absence. The live music mixed with sunlight and the stench of the thousands of “last nights” conjured images of Saturday nights and Sunday mornings in this town, and how I have loved them both. These five performers began working on this piece in December, 2004; Courtney joined us in March. We trained together, improvised, and brought to the piece our perceptions of the city and its numerous histories and cultures, as well as our personal impressions of its Saturdays and Sundays. Our designers then came in to watch us play, and gradually *New Orleans Suite* was formed. In keeping with the tradition of our fair city, we have incorporated several improvisational moments into the piece. We hope you enjoy.

— Kathy Randels

## Biographies

**Ellen Louise Macomber** is a local fashion/costume designer. A native of Louisiana with gypsy blood, her lust for travel has taken her all over the world. Her clothing line takes its inspiration from these travels. By obtaining fabric from various countries, Ellen creates one-of-a-kind wearable art pieces, which are available for purchase at the Private Connection and Hemline. For a viewing of her creations, visit [www.elmdesigns.net](http://www.elmdesigns.net) or visit her studio at 3000 Royal St.

**Clifton Webb** holds a BFA and an MFA in sculpture, and teaches art in the New Orleans Public Schools. His works have enjoyed thirty years of exhibitions both local and national, and he has done extensive volunteering with local arts and education organizations. Currently, Clifton’s works are on view at the New Orleans Museum of Art and Dooky Chase restaurant.

**Rusty Tennant** is an MFA Candidate in directing at UNO. Recent productions include *Patterson’s Get Flanagan*; *I Love You: mind, body and soul: The Romeo and Juliet Project*; and *The Laramie Project* (Storer Boone Award, 2004). He has acted Off Broadway (The American Globe, Judith Shakespeare Co. and Primary Stages). New Orleans credits include: *Sordid Lives*; *House of Plunder*; and *Chekhov’s Wild Ride*. Also a closet playwright, Rusty has penned five full-length plays to date. Lighting designs include *Get Flanagan*; *The Shape of Things*; *I Love You...*; and *Andy & Claire*. In September Rusty will venture to Stratford upon Avon to obtain a Masters in Shakespeare at the RSC’s Shakespeare Institute.

**Sean LaRocca** has served in various technical capacities on productions for ArtSpot Productions, Tsunami Dance Company, Deborah Edwards, New Orleans Ballet Association, and Dah Teatar.

**Roscoe Reddix Jr.** (*Brown*) is currently teaching theater at his alma mater, Eleanor McMain High School. He is a 1992 graduate of Howard University's Theater Arts Department, with a BFA in Directing. He toured for two seasons with the African American Dance Ensemble. In New Orleans, he has worked with several performance companies, including Kumbuka African Dance and Drum Collective, N'Kafu Traditional African Dance Company, and Renverser Repertory Company.

**Kathy Randels** (*Black*) grew up in New Orleans and Lakeview Baptist Church. She is the artistic director of ArtSpot Productions and a co-founder of Moving Humans Performance Group. Her solo tribute to Tennessee Williams—*To Flee, Flee This Sad Hotel*—received a Big Easy Award this year, and she won an OBIE award for her work in *Nita & Zita*. She founded and co-directs the Drama Club at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. Her original works have toured throughout the world and include *Rumours of War* and *Rage Within/Without*.

**Maritza Mercado-Narcisse** (*Blue*) was born by the Jersey shore, raised on Venice Beach, and is being fermented and seasoned in the waters of New Orleans. This is her second ArtSpot/Moving Humans collaboration. She is currently mentoring and teaching with KID smART and the New Orleans Ballet Association. Maritza would like to give a shout out to her Mami, Raquel Mercado-Narcisse, her father, Terry Gerrard Narcisse, and to all daughters of the water.

A native New Orleanian, **Yvahn Martin** (*Red*) began her professional training under the tutelage of Syrell Daniels and has studied or performed with various local ensembles, including Creative Movers, the Nandance Project, Adoration, and Zabumba. A graduate of the Tulane's Dept. of Theatre and Dance ('03), Yvahn produced and directed her first evening-length dance work "The Future Is Now" in Los Angeles in 2004. Yvahn is ecstatic at the opportunity to share the stage with such distinguished colleagues and former professors.

**J Hammons** (*Multicolors*) is a co-founder of Moving Humans Performance Group. He was a company member of MOMIX, has worked with Bill T. Jones and David Dorfman, and trained with Anne Bogart's SITI theatre company. J directed ArtSpot Productions' Big Easy Award-winning *To Flee, Flee This Sad Hotel*, and was a co-creator of *Chekhov's Wild Ride* and *The Maid of Orléans*. He is an Adjunct Professor of Dance at Tulane and holds MFAs in Dance and Theatre.

**Courtney Bryan** is a recent graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, as well as a graduate of the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (the old NOCCA). She is leader of her own jazz ensemble and a member of Marcus Belgrave's Quartet and SUGAR (female jazz group based out of Detroit). Courtney's compositions range from solo works, to small ensembles, to Jazz Orchestra, to Symphonic Orchestra. Some of her mentors include Dean Curtis, Clyde Kerr Jr., Daniel Weilbaeher, Roger Dickerson, Jeffrey Mumford, and Wendell Logan. In the fall, Courtney will attend Rutgers University to earn a Masters' Degree in Jazz Studies.

## TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE

INCLUDES  
THE USE OF A

## FOG MACHINE



# A Confederacy of Dances

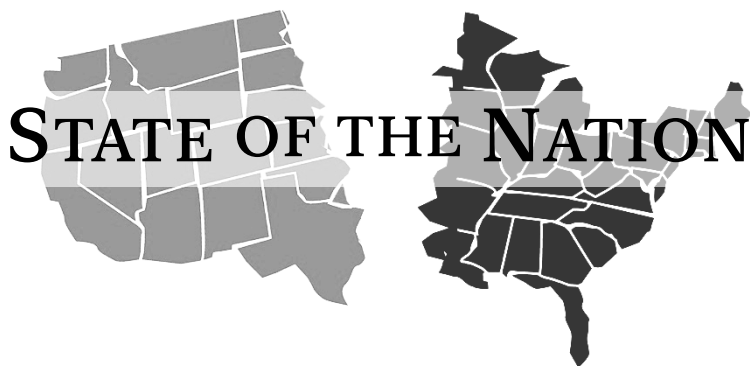
THE  
CONTEMPORARY  
ARTS CENTER

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**June 17 & 18**  
**8:00 P.M.**

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## ArtSpot Productions

Currently celebrating its tenth anniversary season, ArtSpot Productions is a New Orleans-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation and production of original multidisciplinary performance works for local, national and international presentation.



Join us for the next State of the Nation: June 30, 2005, featuring a collaboration by dancer/performer Maritza Mercado-Narcisse, poet/performer Valentine Pierce and composer/pianist Courtney Bryan; a new dance by Stephanie McKee; and new work by Students at the Center. Artists interested in performing at a future State of the Nation may submit proposals to: [info@artspotproductions.org](mailto:info@artspotproductions.org).

### Special Thanks

Perhaps more than ever before, we relied upon the incredible talents and giving natures of many friends and colleagues: for their contributions to the piece itself, Ashley Sparks, Chris Lane, Nick Slie, Robert Savina, Webo O'Neal and Michelle Gibson; for the postcard, Greg Fox Jr. and Dawn Folsie at Fox Print Direct and our photographer, Libby Nevinger; Jeff Zielinski, Gail Hill, and everyone here at the CAC; for the robes, Lakeview Baptist Church; to Andrea Freewater for the bodywork; to Danny Kerwick; NOBA and NOCCA|Riverfront; to Lynae LeBlanc and New Orleans Rum; to Mario Madero and King Bolden's Bar for the premiere party, and inventing the "New Orleans Suite" — *sweet!*

[www.artspotproductions.org](http://www.artspotproductions.org)



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