

BIOS

Degenerate Art Ensemble makes performance work inspired by punk, comics, cinema, protest, nightmares and fairy tales driven by the power of live music and our own style of movement theater and dance. The work is realized through a process of deep collaboration and continuous research. The group has toured internationally as a theatrical dance company, a punk big band and as re-imaginiers of public space.

Learn more about our work at www.degenerateartensemble.com

The interactive performance was made in collaboration with students from **Path With Art**. Path with Art transforms the lives of people recovering from homelessness, addiction, and other trauma by harnessing the power of creative engagement as a bridge to community and a path to stability. For this project, students of Path With Art worked with the ensemble to develop strategies for discovering the ways in which people find their voice. Please join the Path With Art crew at intermission and contribute your stories.

www.pathwithart.org

Paris Hurley (voice, violin) is a Seattle-based maker and performer working in music, dance, and installation. A classically trained violinist of 27 years, Paris thrives in a wide-array of roles – composing, recording, producing, directing, and creating with a long list of the Northwest's most influential artists including Kultur

Shock (2008 – present), Jherek Bischoff (2007-present), and Degenerate Art Ensemble (2005-2008, 2014-present). Her work has been presented in Seattle at On the Boards, the Northwest Film Forum, CityArts Fest, the Henry Art Gallery, Velocity Dance Center, Seattle Center, and the Hedreen Gallery. She has toured extensively throughout Europe and has performed in some of the world's most esteemed venues, including Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. More info at parishurley.org.

Joshua Kohl (music director, composer, guitar, electronics, sound design) is music director, composer and co-artistic director of Degenerate Art Ensemble (DAE). Joshua has led the musical evolution of the group through manifestations including punk big-band, orchestra, alt-rock combos and chamber music - each birthed to conjure the spirits needed for the work at hand. Joshua's work *Warrior* was performed by the Kronos Quartet in 2012 and 2015. DAE's work *Red Shoes* was awarded the Music Theatre Now Award in 2012 from the International Theatre Institute. Joshua recently collaborated with his father author Herbert Kohl for a Frye Art Museum commissioned work that has become a part of the museum's permanent collection. Also an avid conductor of the works of his peers he conducted the music of composer Jherek Bischoff with the Wordless Music Orchestra in New York at Lincoln Center with vocalist David Byrne in 2012. In 2015 he music directed *95 Rituals* by the Bay Area dance company Inkboat to celebrate

the 95th birthday of choreographer Anna Halprin.

While working with the Degenerate Art Ensemble, **Benjamin Marx** (associate music director, composer, guitar, electronics, sound design) helps realize the many layers of sound that go into an immersive performance experience. Ben also composes pop, noise, and chamber music, often pairing his compositions with film or dance. His work leans towards the repetitive and the minimal.

Haruko Crow Nishimura (Ximena, choreographer / director) is co-artistic director, choreographer, musician and performer who is always searching to discover how art can create deeper connections and awakenings. She has led the creation of large scale theatrical works as well as having performed as lead vocalist for DAE's touring experimental punk orchestra. Her work with DAE was the subject of a major exhibition at the Frye Art Museum in 2011 and was commissioned by director Robert Wilson to interpret his work *Einstein on the Beach* in 2012, and in 2012 was commissioned by the city of Seattle to create a massive site specific collaboration with Olson Kundig Architects to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Seattle World's Fair. Along with DAE she has released 8 music albums including two that charted in the top 100 for college radio featuring her vocal performances. Crow is constantly pushing the boundaries of her medium; dancing in the street, creating rituals for strangers and seeking collaboration outside of her media.

She has been a long time company member of the Bay Area company Inkboat. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship in choreography in 2012.

Okanomodé (vocals) is a performance artist of the highest order. A renaissance. An exhibition. A glamazon warrior born of grit, gut, & paganfire. He's the grandson of a pastor & protégé of afronauts, poets, sex therapists & porn stars. He is a post-soul, post-punk, sissy-funk, genderf**k, kinkazoid, electrochamberpopcabaret... & he has come, with a host of others, to shake & stir u from your sleep. more at **okanomode.com**.

Douglas Ridings (Xavier) is a dancer, choreographer and actor who joined DAE in October of 2014. He performs regularly in the US and India with The Urvashi Dance Ensemble (Odissi, Indian classical dance under the direction of Guru Dr. Ratna Roy). He has collaborated with experimental dance theater group Saint Genet (formerly Implied Violence), appearing with them at the Donau Festival in Krems, Austria and the Luminato Festival in Toronto, Canada. He was a founding member of the performance art group P.A.N. and appeared with them in the San Francisco and Seattle International Butoh Festivals. Other collaborators include Amy O'Neal, Waxie Moon, Lily Verlaine, Rob Kitsos and many others. Immediately after the showing of *Predator Songstress* in Seattle, he will return to Bhubaneswar, India to appear as a soloist in the Odissi International Festival and to teach Yoga to dancers there in exchange for additional

dance training and home-cooked Odia food.

Colin Ernst (scenic builder) has been collaborating with the Degenerate Art Ensemble since its inception, contributing a wild parade of ride-able rolling contraptions and wearable musical instruments. He is grateful to be a part of their ongoing creative process because it always means he gets to combine his metal sculpture and music sensibilities into a new and unusual project. Besides his work with Degenerate Art Ensemble he was a founding member of Circus Contraption and a composer and trombonist with Orkestar Zirkonium.

Michael Joseph Hanley (stage manager) is a freelance theatre artist based in Seattle, WA. He has directed plays with the Bathhouse Ensemble, Project Scorpion, Bold Print Theatre Company, and the UW Undergraduate Theater Society. Michael serves as the current Producing Artistic Director of Bold Print Theatre Company, an organization he co-founded. Stage management credits include shows with Seattle Public Theater, New Century Theatre Company, ACTLab, and On the Boards. Michael is also an accomplished drag performer, dazzling Seattle nightclubs every weekend under the guise of his alter ego, Arson Nicki. He received his BA in Drama Performance from the University of Washington in June 2015. For more information, please visit michaeljosephanley.com.

Elizabeth Jameson (video production

design) is a Seattle-based artist and musician who does sculpture, drawing, painting, performance art, and costume design. She has a BA from Western Washington University and an MFA from Mills College, where she received the Jay De Feo award for outstanding MFA graduate. In 2004 she was selected by The Stranger as “One to Watch” in its annual “genius” awards. Notable shows include *Splendorform* at the Henry Art Gallery; a performance, *You Are Not Welcome Here* in Vienna; *Cuckoo Crow* costume design for Degenerate Art Ensemble; and *Softly Threatening: Artwork of the Modern Domestic* at Bumbershoot 2006. She has attended artist residencies at the VBKO in Vienna, Villa Montalvo in Saratoga, and at Centrum in Port Townsend, Washington. She is represented by G. Gibson Gallery in Seattle.

Olson Kundig is a Seattle-based design practice founded on the ideas that design can serve as a bridge between nature, culture and people, and that inspiring surroundings have a positive effect on people’s lives. Led by five owners, the firm’s work can be found across the globe, with projects as wide ranging as huts to high rises, homes—often for art collectors—to academic, cultural and civic projects, museums and exhibition design, places of worship, creative production, urban design and interior design.

Alenka Loesch (costume design), born May 16, 1969 is an American artist. She graduated with honors from The University of Texas, Austin , with a BA in Art

History receiving her MA from San Francisco State University in Inter-Disciplinary Arts. She has been a dance theatre performer, choreographer, costume, set and fashion designer, as well as an art director for two and a half decades. She began her career in 1990 in Prague, Czechoslovakia and has been prolifically active since. She is a third generation Butoh dancer and is renowned for her costume and fashion design. She has designed for Yumiko Yoshioka, Minako Seki, Dohee Lee, InkBoat, Cafe Nordo among others and currently designs for Degenerate Art Ensemble and Jm Couture who recently debuted the Fall/ Winter '15 Obsidian Collection at NY Fashion Week.

Ian Lucero (cinematography, documentation): "Capturing the performances of the ensemble is technically and creatively challenging. Now there is this cinematic element that is giving us a new perspective to the performance and opening up a new set of demands. Putting on my cinematographer hat was a fun switch in pace with this group." Ian produces documentations of live performances as well as short films. His recent collaborations include a short experimental film with Wobbly Dance, a video installation for Mizu Desierto's *American ME*, and a film about the home of designer Alan Maskin. His latest notable show documentations feature artists Ahamefule Oluo, Samantha Boshnack's B'shnorkestra, and Holcombe Waller.

Alan Maskin (principal/owner, Olson

Kundig) is an owner of Olson Kundig and a frequent collaborator with the Degenerate Art Ensemble. For over two decades he has focused on the design of museums, exhibits and installations. He is currently designing an 80,000sf park inspired by an Aesop's fable that will be located on the rooftop of a building in Dongdaegu, Korea. He also co-directed and curated the firm's experimental work space, [storefront].

Leo Mayberry (live video design/film direction) has been working with video for over 15 years, in forms from edited documentary to live performance. At events such as Seattle's Decibel Festival, he performs improvised sets to accompany experimental and ambient music. Working with multi-media performance groups such as Manifold Motion, Splinter Group, and Degenerate Art Ensemble, he expanded into a designer's role. His aim is to integrate video into performance in ways that expand beyond traditional roles, weaving moving image into the fabric of the story.

Kevin Scott (creative director, Olson Kundig) Kevin Scott leads Olson Kundig's creative production studio, an interdisciplinary studio focusing on concept development and image fabrication for art, architecture, advertising, and print.

Bruce Tom (photographer) is best known for his long-term documentation of the Degenerate Art Ensemble. In recent years, his imagery has become inextricably entwined with Degenerate Art Ensemble's conception, planning, rehearsal and presentation; it has come to play a central

role in how the group sees and understands itself. In addition to DAE, Bruce splits the remainder of his time capturing local art events, theater, the music scene and unique aspects of Seattle culture.

Neal Wilkinson (scenic designer) is a New York based designer and technical leader. He has worked as designer for the Builders Association for the past several years as well as being production manager for Richard Maxwell and the New York City Players with whom he toured extensively. Neal also writes, directs and designs his on works in New York.

Jessica Trundy (lighting designer) Jessica is delighted to be a working with DAE as part of the *Predator Songstress* design team. Her work has previously been seen at On the Boards, Seattle Children's Theatre, Dance Theatre Workshop, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Book-it Repertory Theatre, Washington Ensemble Theatre, and Seattle Repertory Theatre, among others. She holds a M.F.A. from the University of Washington, was a Founder of Washington Ensemble Theatre, and works in Seattle as a theatrical and architectural lighting designer.

SPECIAL THANKS

Degenerate Art Ensemble would like to express our deepest gratitude to Lane Czaplinski, Mark Meuter, Sarah Wilke and the entire staff of On The Boards, to Path With Art, to Alan Maskin and Olson Kundig Architects, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco), Walter Harley, Mark Lewin, Shelli Park, John White, the Kohl family and all of our incredible supporters.

Also a big warm thank you to men and women performers who braved the cold and put their trust in us for the creation of the video portions for this work.