



SLEEPING WEAZEL

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SLEEPING WEAZEL PRESENTS *BADASS* A WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL, MARCH 5–14, 2015



(Photo: David Marshall)

Boston, Mass., February 2, 2015 – Multimedia theatre company Sleeping Weazel presents *Badass*, a festival of new works by critically acclaimed theatre artists Magdalena Gómez (Springfield), Robbie McCauley (Boston), and Kate Snodgrass (Boston). *Badass* runs March 5–14, 2015 (Thursday through

Saturdays only) at 8:00 pm at Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

Badass celebrates Women's History Month with extraordinary new works by three renowned women theatre artists. This evening combines theatre, performance, and poetry in an unexpected marriage of the social and the existential that will have audiences falling out of their seats in laughter and tears. In Kate Snodgrass' play, *The Tempest (or Bark's Dream)*, two characters plumb the contradictions of the human heart via stunning language and big white lies. Robbie McCauley's *Jazz 'n Class*, a jazz-inspired poetic meditation on race and social class, folds history and personal narrative into mesmerizing verbal jazz. Perhaps most overtly worthy of the term "badass," Magdalena Gómez's performance poetry tears the house down as she seduces, challenges, and slays the audience through fierce humor and dizzying linguistic force.

Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$10 for students, seniors, and groups and are available at the door or online at www.sleepingweazel.com/upcoming-events.

AT A GLANCE:

Sleeping Weazel presents:

Badass

a Women's History Month Festival of new works featuring:

The Tempest (or Bark's Dream):

a storm in one act

written by Kate Snodgrass

performed by Steven Barkhimer

directed by Melia Bensussen

Shameless to the Bone!

written and performed by

Magdalena Gómez

Jazz 'n Class:

a performance meditation

written and performed by

Robbie McCauley

Dates

March 5th-7th, 2015

March 12th-14th, 2015
All shows begin at 8:00 pm
Boston Playwrights' Theatre
949 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA

Tickets

\$25 at the door or online:
www.sleepingweazel.com/upcoming-events

Info

www.sleepingweazel.com

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ABOUT SLEEPING WEAZEL

Sleeping Weazel explores and engages novel approaches to developing, presenting, and exhibiting new art—multimedia theatre, interdisciplinary installations, performance events, music, poetry, and video/audio. Hailed by *HowlRound* as “the most serious show in town,” Sleeping Weazel develops work that crosses and confounds the boundaries of “mainstream” and “avant-garde” as well as boundaries between art forms.

Based in Boston and fanning out virtually across the globe, our projects include individual and collaborative productions in the theatre, on DVD, CD, and Vimeo, at readings, audio-theatre concerts, and performance events. We’ve produced works that have been hailed “as one of the more fearless performances in recent memory” (*The Boston Globe*) and “some of the most interesting experimental theatre in New England” (*EDGE Boston*). www.sleepingweazel.com

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kate Snodgrass is the Artistic Director of both the Elliot Norton Award-winning Boston Theater Marathon and Boston Playwrights' Theatre, the “Home of New Plays in Boston.” The author of the Actors' Theatre of Louisville's Heideman Award-winning play *Haiku*, her plays have been translated and performed all over the world. Among other awards, her work has been recognized with two IRNE Awards for “Best New Play” and a nomination for the American Theatre Critics Association's Steinberg Award for Best New Play. She directs the MFA Program in Playwriting at Boston University and is a member of AEA, AFTRA,

and the Dramatists' Guild. In addition to BU, her numerous teaching credits include Boston and Wellesley Colleges, Harvard, Brandeis, Lesley and Suffolk Universities, and M.I.T. Kate is a former National Chair of Playwriting at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival where she received the KCACTF's inaugural Milan Stitt Award as an Outstanding Teacher of Playwriting. Kate is a Playwriting Fellow at the Huntington Theatre Company. Acknowledged by Boston's StageSource in 2001 as a "Theatre Hero," Kate received the Boston theatre critics' Elliot Norton Award for Sustained Excellence in 2012.

Magdalena Gómez, activist poet, playwright, and performer, has received awards from the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture; the Massachusetts Cultural Council; Arts International, and an NEA Master Artist Award from Pregones Theater, among others. *Dancing in My Cockroach Killers*, the staging with music of her poems and monologues, was performed in 2013 to the critical acclaim of Off-Broadway audiences and received rave reviews at the Los Angeles Theater Center in 2014. She is the Co-founder and Artistic Director of Teatro V!da, the first Latin@ theater in Springfield, Massachusetts, and founder of the *Ferocious Women's Group* bringing to public view the voices of women and girls through writing and performance. Ms. Gómez is also a New England Public Radio commentator, a national speaker and columnist. She is the co-editor of *Bullying: Replies, Rebuttals, Confessions and Catharsis*, the first multicultural, intergenerational and multi-genre anthology on bullying. Her book, *Shameless Woman*, was published by Red Sugarcane Press, NYC, in 2013. Her role in the Nuyorican Literary movement was recently cited in the book, *In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam*, by scholar Urayoán Noel. Her archives are housed at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut, Storrs.

Robbie McCauley is a recipient of the IRNE (Independent Reviewers of New England) Award for Solo Performance for *Sugar* at ArtsEmerson, and selected as a 2012 Ford Fellow USA, has been an active presence in American avant-garde theatre for several decades. Also an OBIE and Bessie Award (Outstanding Achievement in Performance) recipient for her play, *Sally's Rape*, she is widely anthologized including *Extreme Exposure*, *Moon Marked and Touched by Sun*, and *Performance and Cultural Politics*, edited respectively by Jo Bonney, Sydne Mahone, and Elin Diamond. An early cast member of Ntozake Shange's *for colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf*, Robbie went on to write and perform in cities across the country and abroad. Striving to facilitate dialogues between whites and blacks, she created the Primary Sources series in Mississippi, Boston and Los Angeles produced by The Arts Company. In 1998, her "Buffalo Project" was highlighted as one of "The 51 (or So) Greatest Avant-Garde Moments" by the *Village Voice* -- a roster that included work by artists such as Igor Stravinsky, Pablo Picasso, and John Cage.

Robbie McCauley is Professor Emerita from Emerson College, and the 2014 Monan Professor in Theatre Arts at Boston College.

Melia Bensussen (director, *The Tempest*), a recipient of an OBIE Award for Outstanding Direction, lives in Boston where she has directed at the Huntington Theatre, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, and Actors Shakespeare Project. Around the country she has directed at Baltimore Centerstage, Hartford Stage Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, the New York Shakespeare Festival, Primary Stages, the Long Wharf, Actors Theatre of Louisville, People's Light and Theatre (Barrymore for Best Direction), San Jose Rep, and many others. Most recent work includes *Awake and Sing!*, at the Huntington, and *The Cherry Orchard* for Actors Shakespeare Project (Norton nominee for Best Production and Best Direction). Her direction of new works has taken her to New York Stage and Film, Sundance, Midwest Playlabs, and the O'Neill Theatre Festival, where she most recently directed a workshop of *The War Department*, a new musical, by Jim and Ruth Bauer. Her play, *The Bluebeard Project*, co-authored with playwright Masha Obolensky, was part of the Huntington New Works this past summer. Raised in Mexico City, Melia is fluent in Spanish and has translated and adapted a variety of works, including her edition of the Langston Hughes translation of Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding*, published by Theatre Communications Group. A graduate of Brown University, she is the Chair of Performing Arts at Emerson College in Boston.

Steven Barkhimer (actor, *The Tempest*) is a Boston-based writer, director, actor, musician and instructor. He is a resident acting company member of the Actors Shakespeare Project. Recent appearances include *Phedre*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *Middletown* (Actors Shakespeare Project), *Distracted* (Underground Railway Theatre), *Absurd Person Singular* (The Nora Theatre), *Lumberjacks in Love* (Stoneham Theatre), for which he also provided musical direction, *Superior Donuts* (Lyric Stage), and *The Norman Conquests* (Gloucester Stage). He is the author of *Windowmen*, which had its premiere at the Boston Playwrights Theatre last fall, earning the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding New Script. Steve has acted in over 75 professional productions in the Boston area since 1999.