

Performing Arts/Special Events Descriptions—Fall 2010

As of October 6, 2011

Thu–Sat, Oct 6–8 | 8 PM

WORLD PREMIERE

WEXNER CENTER RESIDENCY AWARD PROJECT

The Builders Association (TT)

HOUSE / DIVIDED

inspired by *The Grapes of Wrath*

Join us for the premiere performances of a multimedia theater production that has been evolving for over a year through an extended creative residency with the Wexner Center and Ohio State. *HOUSE / DIVIDED*, the latest project by The Builders Association that is co-commissioned by the Wexner Center, is an incisive and insightful examination of the impact of the current mortgage crisis juxtaposed with passages drawn from *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck's classic Depression-era novel of dispossessed Dust Bowl refugees heading west.

Onstage, the Builders interweave the Joads' struggles on their way west (from *The Grapes of Wrath*) with stories and images prompted by the foreclosures and evictions unfolding in our media-saturated era. The contemporary stories focus on the foreclosed houses themselves, using them as lenses through which we can view various former inhabitants, evictees, and squatters. The Builders then branch out to illuminate the global financial webs surrounding these American houses. Throughout *HOUSE / DIVIDED* the Builders employ their trademark blend of sophisticated digital media to create an assemblage of images and scenes that reveals how deeply the foreclosure crisis has affected and undermined our collective sense of American character and identity. At the same time, the Builders point toward fresh efforts to rebuild and transform our communities. The Builders also drew on the local situation in Ohio and Columbus specifically to inform the evolving shape of the piece and especially its set, built from abandoned properties in Columbus. The set is thus not a representation of a place, but an artifact: evidence.

Mon–Tue, Oct 10–11 / 7 PM

First Year Experience (MA) ★

Buckeye Book Community 2011–2012

***Outcast United* by Warren St. John**

Outcasts United is the story of a refugee soccer team, a remarkable woman coach, and a small southern town turned upside down by the process of refugee resettlement.

In the 1990s, Clarkston, Georgia, became a resettlement center for refugees from war zones in Liberia, Congo, Sudan, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The town also became home to Luma Mufleh, an American-educated Jordanian woman who

founded a youth soccer team to help keep Clarkston's boys off the streets. These boys named themselves the Fugees, short for refugees.

Outcasts United follows a pivotal season in the life of the Fugees, their families, and their charismatic coach as they struggle to build new lives in a fading town overwhelmed by change. Theirs is a story about resilience, the power of one person to make a difference, and the daunting challenge of creating community in a place where people seem to have little in common.

Fri–Sat, Oct 14–15 | 8 PM
Nuestros Talentos (PS)

As part of Hispanic Awareness Month, Ohio State's Multicultural Center is sponsoring this event that features a display of artwork as well as dance and theater performances.

Sat, Oct 15 | 9:30 AM
President Gee Welcome (MA) ★

For Parent and Family Weekend 2010, the Ohio Union Activities Board will present a conversation with the university President where people can ask questions of Dr. Gee.

Thu–Sat, Oct 20–22 | 8 PM
L'A./Rachid Ouramdane
***World Fair* (MS)**

Rachid Ouramdane, a superlative French choreographer and dancer of Algerian descent, has a special talent for giving voice to the lives of others while leaving audiences with a strong sense of his own particular artistic vision. This capacity is at the heart of *World Fair*, which revolves around Ouramdane's rigorous investigations of the body in our accelerated culture.

Sun, Oct 23 | 7 PM
Joel Harrison Septet
***Singularity* (PS)**

Adventurous New York–based jazz guitarist and composer Joel Harrison leads his seven-piece band in *Singularity*, a special program showcasing how the techniques of his favorite modernist composers (among them John Adams, Charles Ives, and Olivier Messiaen) underscore his own inventive writing. In these pieces, Harrison extends his dynamic improvisational flair with a lyrical new musical language, as accessible and expressive as it is advanced.

Wed, Nov 9 | 7 PM
The Interrupters (MA) ★

(Steve James, 2011)

From the creators of *Hoop Dreams*, *The Interrupters* chronicles the inspiring stories of three former gang members who try to protect their Chicago communities from the violence in which they once engaged. Working with the organization CeaseFire, these “violence interrupters” strive to intervene in people’s lives before violence materializes, escalates, and results in one more needless loss of life. (125 mins., video)

Join us after the screening for a panel discussion moderated by Jerry Sautners, CEO of the Africentro Personal Development Shop. The panelists are Tio Hardiman, creator of the Violence Interrupters program; Ameena Matthews, a violence interrupter, Zak Piper, coproducer of *The Interrupters*, and Dr. Deanna L. Wilkinson, an associate professor at Ohio State and founder of the Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board.

Sat, Nov 12 | 7 PM
Anniversary Party (WEX)

The Wexner Center Anniversary Party is an event to thank our major donors and corporate sponsors. The Anniversary Party will begin with cocktails and open galleries in the Wexner Center, and then guests will move to dancing in another part of the center. We will staff coat check and direct guests through the center. You may wear all black for the evening and should look sharp!

Thu–Sat, Nov 17–19 | 8 PM

Sun, Nov 20 | 2 PM

Pan Pan

The Rehearsal, Playing the Dane (MS)

Pan Pan, the leading contemporary theater ensemble from Dublin, Ireland, returns with a penetrating examination of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. In Pan Pan's purgatorial presentation of the Bard's immortal tragedy, you the audience are faced with a choice: who is going to be, or not be, Hamlet? Actors compete to play the title role, but as we enter the graveyard world of this icon of individualism, can anyone escape playing the “Great” Dane? Aren't we all acting the main part?

Fri, Nov 18 | 8 PM

Bassekou Kouyate and Ngoni ba (PS)

Malian maestro Bassekou Kouyate and his band Ngoni Ba mesmerize audiences with the driving sound of their four ngonis—a small, lute-like stringed instrument that's the forerunner of the banjo. Their music springs from deep roots in griot traditions but also taps into modern themes and shares the bluesy overtones of Ali Farka Toure and other famed musicians from Mali. Kouyate and his crew's

pulsing Afro-pop sound also has traces of jazz, bluegrass, and wah-wah-pedal-powered rock to propel its unique melding of the ancient and the future. Don't miss Kouyate and Ngoni ba's Columbus debut in our intimate Performance Space, the perfect venue to catch every note of their exultant sound.

Mon, Nov 21 | 7 PM
2011 Glimcher Lecture
Elizabeth Diller (MA) ★

Hear from architect Elizabeth Diller, a founding member of innovative and highly respected interdisciplinary design studio Diller Scofidio + Renfro, in the 2011 Glimcher Lecture. The studio's work spans the fields of architecture, urban planning, visual arts, and the performing arts. Recent projects include Manhattan's High Line park, the Lincoln Center expansion and renovation, and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston—all of which have received rave reviews. In this talk, Diller discusses a variety of the firm's most significant projects.

Fri, Dec 2 | 10 AM & 8 PM
School of Music
Musical Celebration (MA) ★

Join us again for this perennial favorite—a collection of seasonal songs to delight the whole family.