



SOMARTS
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**SOMArts Cultural Center Presents
THE NEWS**

*New monthly queer performance series debuts Tuesday, February 7,
7:30-9pm*

San Francisco, CA, Jan. 5, 2012 — SOMArts Cultural Center introduces *The News*, a monthly offering new and experimental performance works debuting on **Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, 7:30 to 9pm**. On the first Tuesday of each month *The News* will spotlight queer experiments, debut works, and works-in-progress by pre-selected solo artists, groups, or troupes. An informal session for critical feedback follows the performances.

The News creator, curator and host, Jenn Kolmel, commented “*The News* is dedicated to providing a consistent venue for exploration, collaboration and the development of new queer work.” *The News* will be at SOMArts on the first Tuesday of the month through June 2012.

SOMArts Executive Director Lex Leifheit commented, “*The News* and artist Jenn Kolmel come to SOMArts as part of our Studio Series, which emphasizes contemporary arts production by artists of all skill levels in San Francisco. SOMArts is a hub for creative cross-pollination and this is a forum where veteran performers and those new to queer performance can learn, share resources, and be inspired.”

On **Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, 7:30 to 9pm**, the first edition of *The News* features Rotimi Agbabiaka, DI Amanda Kallas II Dia Dear, La Chica Boom, Peter Max Lawrence, Marissa Majick, the Brontez Purnell Dance Company, Kolmel WithLove, and Shaunna Vella. House opens at 7:00pm and space is limited. Admission is \$5. Advance tickets may be purchased at thenewsperformance.eventbrite.com.

Calendar Listing

What: *The News*

Where: SOMArts Cultural Center (934 Brannan St., between 8th and 9th)

When: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2011, 7:30pm–9:00pm, house opens 7:00pm

What else: Admission is \$5. Advance tickets can be purchased at thenewsperformance.eventbrite.com/

More Information: <http://www.somarts.org/thenews>



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Rotimi Agbabiaka calls San Francisco home after previously living in Nigeria, Texas and Illinois. Since moving to San Francisco last summer he has performed with the SF Mime Troupe and presented his solo play, “Homeless,” at the SF Fringe Festival, for which he received Best Solo Performance Award. He now plays James Brown and other wacky characters at Beach Blanket Babylon.

DI Amanda Kallas || Dia Dear is an entirely informally trained performer; their origin story is an escape narrative. Dear is aided by keen observation skills and an extreme fear of vulnerability. They are cyborg identified.

La Chica Boom is a performance artist, ecdysiast, and community organizer who explores Chicana iconography, issues of race, gender and sexuality. Through the practice of ethnic drag, theater, neo-burlesque, and clowning, La Chica Boom provides a biting satire that points to contemporary and historical *escandalos*.

In addition to touring North America as a solo performer and with the Fluffgirl Vaudeville and Burlesque Roadshow, she is the founder and producer of Kaleidoscope, An Annual National People of Color Cabaret, the first national event dedicated to cabaret and neo-burlesque performers of color in the U.S.

Some of the venues where she has been featured include Yerba Buena Center for The Arts, Corio, One Eyed Jacks, MondoHomo, The Moisture Festival, Burlesque Hall of Fame, Tease-o-Rama, and The Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

Peter Max Lawrence was born in Topeka, adopted soon there after, and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. Over the course of his life, Lawrence has created a large and diverse body of work, exploring a wide variety of approaches, media and techniques. Lawrence’s visual art, performances and videos have been presented internationally in venues ranging from major museums to basement bathrooms.

Among his recent works of note are the critically acclaimed “QUEER in KANSAS,” “Warholics” and the experimental short “de Young,” which was created while working as an artist in residence at the museum and was later featured on KQED’s “Truly California.”

He has also directed music videos for Carletta Sue Kay, Krystle Warren and Troops. Currently he is the curator for *The One* and *Art Thieves* and is developing various collaborations with other musicians, artists and writers. He lives and works in San Francisco, California.



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Magic Meals (Marissa Majick) writes, “Take the time to relax. Eat a nutritious snack. Watch the sunset. Smell the roses. Think about what you want in life. What do you see?”

Brontez Purnell Dance Company is a new and experimental contemporary dance company based in Oakland, CA. Utilizing influence from modern, African, contemporary and new wave dance, Brontez Purnell Dance Company favors a DIY dance aesthetic.

Purnell explains, "I had been playing around in bands for a while and doing my dance major and collecting my ideas of what my "home theater" would look like, and then BPDC just came together. I used people I had been seeing at punk shows because I wanted this kind of community centered, yet person-to-person based, present and immediate experience with both my dancers and the audience."

Shaunna Vella is a choreographer, dancer, teacher, and performance artist who has been creating work in the Bay Area since 2003. Her work has been seen at ODC Theater, Dance Mission Theater, The Garage, Studio 210, and The Ashby Stage. As a dancer, she continues to dance for local companies such as Anne Bluethenthal, Deborah Slater Dance Theater, Liss Fain Dance, Paufve Dance, Agora Dance Project, Dance Ceres and Davalos Dance Company.

Vella has been teaching at St. Mary's College since 2004, and teaches at Ace Dance Academy in Walnut Creek. She served as a active artist for the Isadora Duncan Dance Awards Committee in 2007-2008. As well as being an artist and teacher, she works in the field of social justice and has worked for the Tides Foundation, The Family Violence Prevention Fund, and currently works at the Jewish Community Federation.

Kolmel WithLove (Jenn Kolmel) is the creator and the host of *The News*. Kolmel, curates, builds cameras and costumes, collaborates with other artists, makes films, and performs. Her films have screened in a variety of settings including: Frameline Film Festival, MIX Mexico, Seattle Center of Contemporary Art, RAID Projects and in the upcoming book and DVD "Strange Attractors."

Kolmel has performed in venues including Yerba Buena Center for The Arts, SOMArts Cultural Center, Highways Performance Space, The Velaslavasay Panorama Theatre, The Garage, various galleries, a few living rooms, two very nice leather bars, and a piano lounge.

About SOMArts Cultural Center

SOMArts (South of Market Arts, Resources, Technology, and Services) was founded in 1979 and operates the South of Market Cultural Center, one of four city-owned cultural facilities in San Francisco. SOMArts supports exhibitions, performances, classes and other collaborations that serve its mission: to promote and nurture art on the community level and foster an



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appreciation of and respect for all cultures.

For more information about upcoming events, space rentals and technical services, visit www.somarts.org or call 415-863-1414. SOMArts programs are supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Community Arts and Education Program, with funding from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund and The San Francisco Foundation.

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