

Rex Nettleford Arts Conference 2021

The Arts - Decolonizing the Spirit

Programme

Day 1 - Weds 6th October 2021

9am – Commencement: Dr Amina Blackwood Meeks (Orator, EMCVPA)

Breathe: Lucia Ellis (Garifuna community, Belize)

– Welcome

9:15 am – 10:15 am - Performance 1A

35th miner by Theatre in the Backyard and University of Cape Town

35th Miner is a performance exploring the South African story of the Marikana massacre. On 16 August 2012, the South African Police Service (SAPS) opened fire on a crowd of striking mineworkers at Marikana, in the North West region of South Africa. 34 miners died AND..."35th Miner" explores the voices of the young people left behind to live with the burden of August 16. In a decolonising spirit 35th Miner explores aspects of Black lives in post-apartheid South Africa. Through the eyes of a young Xhosa girl who lost her father during the Marikana massacre, the dance theatre work embodies a decolonial aestheSis (Mignolo and Vazquez, 2013) of mourning, dreaming, healing and searching for answers as present structures in Black spiritual existence in democratic South Africa. 35th Miner is staged in the backyard of a township dwelling rather than a traditional theatre setting where many Black communities do not have access and where stories of pain can remain as artefacts, detached from their lived socio-cultural and socio-political geographies.

Ms. Lisa Wilson, Mr. Mhlanguli George & Mr. Maxwell Xolani Rani

Theatre in the Backyard & University of Cape Town, South Africa,

Chair: Ms. Kerry-Ann Henry

10:15am – 11:15 am - Reasonings 1A

Dismantling Inequalities

As the world becomes more interconnected, experiences become more of a collective and shared experience. Global declarations, a pandemic, and a fight for race and identity representation have signaled various journeys and learnings that must be shared and explored to present global understandings and perspectives. How do we dismantle the evident inequalities in our world? Can we? Who will?

Chair: Dr. Keino Senior, Dean, School of Arts Management and Humanities, EMCVPA

Presentations:

Remapping (wi)self: "Narrative Autoethnography", Self-inquiry to foster "we-search"

Mr. Webster McDonald, University of Kansas

Black Womxn Osunality in Popular Visual Culture

Ms. Sasha-Kay Hinds, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts

What the arts reveal: an exploration of co-existing contemporaries

Dr. Sameera Iyengar, Freelance creative producer, India

11:15 am – 11:25 am – Feature: Virtual Gallery and Showcase

Festival of the Word - Part 1

11am – 4 pm – Durational Performance

Room for A Hug © Ms. Neila Ebanks

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's new reality is that a simple hug can be a dangerous thing. Still, we need human contact for psychological, emotional, physical and even spiritual reasons.

This improvisational work sets up 'safe' hugging stations across the EMCVPA campus, by areas where persons come to for comfort and support as well as where persons have to come into contact with each other because of business. At each station, the designated performers will give and receive hugs through a specially-made plastic screen [frequently sanitised]. The performance culminates on The Deck at EMCVPA.

Disclaimer: Primary engagement will be within the team. The performance will not be interactive with persons outside of the team because the safety elements [performer comfort, sanitisation] cannot be as easily controlled.

PRESENTERS:

Faculty and Students, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

Neila-Ann Ebanks [Prop Maker/ Conceptualiser]; School of Dance, EMCVPA

Stefan Clarke [Sculptor]; School of Visual Arts, EMCVPA

Students of the School of Dance, EMCVPA

Kai Wiggan [Year 4, Team Lead]

Le'Bron McLean [Year 2]

Kimberley Barnes [Year 2, Deaf Dancer]

Navesha Vickers [Year 1]

Giselle Bain [Year 4, Team Lead]

Yanique Brown [Year 4]

Taneilla Francis [Year 3]

Cristophe Phillips [Year 3, Deaf Dancer]

Sherene Davis [Year 4, Team Lead]

Kai Cole [Year 3]

Damany Hughes [Year 2, Deaf Dancer]

Zariya Richards [Year 1]

11:30 am – 1pm Reasoning 1B

Decolonising Education

The theme underscores the journey of and learning from/through the arts that signal the role of and/or place of the arts in current dialogue on social, cultural, and political discourse.

In many ways the life-altering impacts of the Coronavirus lays bare a number of key challenges and opportunities of our age within education sectors globally, not the least of which is the enterprise of decolonising. How will decolonising education serve to catapult the next generation into a future worth enjoying? What are the potential gains from decolonizing education? Why is this crucial at this time in history?

Chair: Michael Layne

Presentations:

Decolonizing Education in Jamaica: The Practice of Freedom

Ms. Latoya Briscoe, Independent researcher and writer, Jamaica

Decolonising Education and Indigenous Representation in Jamaica

Dr. Lesley-Gail Atkinson Swaby, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

Adopting Universal Design for Learning principles for arts education in online environments.

Mrs. Susan Lee Quee, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

Decolonising the Spirit of Cloth, A triangulation of Identity: Jamaica and the Caribbean, Redressing History to Frame a National Forwarding

Mrs. Miriam Smith, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

All that We Lost: Recovering Ancestral Art Practices.

Ms. Tessa Alexander, Department of Creative and Festival Arts, UWI, St. Augustine

1pm – 2pm - Feature: Virtual Gallery and Showcase

Short Film: "I am Merikin"

Theater meets Film meets Documentary. A reflective look at the story, spirituality and contribution of the "Merikin" Maroon community of Trinidad and Tobago within the current context of social justice movements happening across the Diaspora in the midst of a global pandemic.

The piece is a Catapult Grant Awardee as well as a selected film at the 2021 Film and Folklore Festival based in Trinidad and Tobago.

Abeo Jackson, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

2pm – 3:00 pm – Reasoning 1C

Psychic Disarray and Reparation

They owe us! Or do they? Many have expressed varying opinions regarding reparations, but the fact remains that to date nations are still dealing with the effects of the enslavement of several generations of Africans, taken against their will to the Caribbean. This is not debatable. The effects are far reaching and though this history cannot be erased, acknowledgment can commence the healing in the present. The emotional and psychological turmoil that has not been dealt with, due to the atrocities of slavery, provides us with many questions regarding the way we see ourselves. How do we move forward? Who will take responsibility? What is our role in the ongoing debate?

Chair: Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks, Orator, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

Presentations

"Separating Eurocentric influences from African performance Art forms in Jamaica: A survey of cultural revival possibilities of Nigeria and Jamaica interactions".

Dr. Emmanuel Nwachuku, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

Bogle's Redemption : White Art for a Black Public

Mr. Jesse Golding, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

A No Evri Kin Tiit A Laaf/A Nuh Every Kin Teet' A Laugh: Comedy as Subversion in Jamaican Theatre

Mr. Brian Johnson, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm – Lecture Demonstration 1A

FLIP IT: Towards the use of digital technology in the development and animation of "eStageplays"

This demonstration will establish the path for an audiovisual "eStageplay" book, consequently invoking an avid interest in the consumption of Caribbean plays. It will feature an amalgamation of authentic Caribbean accents/voices. Further, it highlights the commencement of a new era of publication of dramatic arts pieces. Moreover, participants will recognize an opportunity for visual and performing artists to showcase their talent and find future employment. This presentation therefore, introduces a channel to unleash the shackles that suffocate the dramatic arts in the Caribbean.

Christopher Roger Williams, C.R. Williams Performing Arts Academy, Grenada.

Chair: Dorraine Reid, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

4: 30 pm – **Breathe**

Erwin Tolin Alexander (Maroon community, Suriname);

Ade Ola Pascall (Spiritual Baptist/Orisha community T&T);

Dr. John Hunte (Spiritual Baptist community Barbados)

4:40 – 6pm – Reasoning 1D

The Creative Ecology for Sustainable Development

2021 was declared the International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, while discourse in some spheres have shifted to “creative ecology”. In the face of artistic expression and development, social, cultural, health, and political accord, discord, and dissonance, what does sustainable development look like?

Chair: [Owen Blakka Ellis](#), Senior Lecturer, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

Presentations

Creative Climate Communication: Metaphor, Imagination, Transformation, and Sustainability

Ms. Caitlyn Kamminga, University of Trinidad and Tobago, the Academy for the Performing Arts, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Struggling Artist Marries Support. What Are The Resources That Aid The Sustainability Of The “Creative Entrepreneur”?

Ms. Renee Kitson, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

“We Don’t Tell Our Stories Anymore...”

Ms. Laura Lee Jones, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

‘Contesting Global Fashion Commodification: A Case of Jamaica

Mr. Robert Hall, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica

6PM Conference Opening -

The RNAC 2021 Opening Ceremony presents the Second Edward Seaga Distinguished Lecture

“SUSTAINING HUMANITY, SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT: THE SOCIO-POLITICAL RELEVANCE OF THE ARTS”

Presenters:

Dr. Maria Smith, Authour, Scholar, UNESCO Consultant

Professor Clinton Hutton, , Professor Caribbean Political Philosophy, Culture & Aesthetics

Discussants:

Mr. Andre Adman, Actg Dean School of Music, EMCVPA

Tajay Baugh, Fourth Year Student, School of Music, EMCVPA

Producer:

Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks, College Orator, EMCVPA