

## **Ses #1: Guest Artist Workshop, Melissa Blanco-Borelli**

Melissa Blanco-Borelli received her B.A. from Brown University and her M.A. from USC. She completed her PhD at the University of California, Riverside in 2006, where her dissertation was entitled, "A Case of Hip-nosis: An Epistemology of the (Cuban) Mulata Body and Her Revolutionary Hips." Her work amalgamates critical race theory with dance theory, history, and cultural studies to make a case for embodied knowledge as an alternative to logocentrism, and to deconstruct the moniker of "tragic" from the trope of the "tragic mulata."

## **Ses #4, #6, #8: Guest Lectures, Brenda Dixon Gottschild**

In this unit, we will enjoy a series of lectures by dance theorist Brenda Dixon Gottschild on Ses #4, #6, and #8. These lectures will take place in a different room during the usual classtime. In addition, we will attend a performative lecture by Professor Gottschild. Food reception to follow performance!

## **Ses #10: Visiting Artist, Rafael Sanchez from Design Studio for Social Intervention**

DS4SI is dedicated to changing how social change is imagined, developed and deployed here in the United States. We are creating a design studio for the progressive arm of the nonprofit sector in order to support the sector's ability to create new forms of effective social intervention and the exploration of new ways to be interventionists.

We believe that creating a space for design and intentionally supporting the development of a sector-specific design practice is imperative in order for the sector to break out of its box of exhausted forms. In so doing, we will liberate our vision, invigorate our spirit and be able to take the greatest possible advantage of this moment.

## **Ses #14: Visiting Artists, Kit Yan and Melissa Li**

Kit Yan wants people to realize that being queer is more than OK; in fact, it's hot. He uses humor and realism to accomplish this mission and leaves the audience begging for more.

Originally from Waipahu, Hawaii, Kit is a transgendered boi posing as a model queer minority to change the world through poetry. He has been slamming in the Boston slam scene since he was 18 and has won numerous slams all over Massachusetts. Kit was featured with nationally recognized poets like Jason Carney, Iyeoka Okoawo, Reggie Gibson and Michael Brown. Before the age of 21, he landed a spot in the Lizard Lounge national slam team, competed in the Individual World Poetry Slam, and won the world's largest slam.

Kit fires up the audience by screaming in their faces about his personal experiences on identity, gender, politics, and cultural struggles, all the while retaining the status of being

an all around nice guy. Kit has slammed and performed at colleges and schools including Harvard, Wellesley College, Babson College, UMaine, Colby, Tufts University, Olin College, and Northeastern University. Kit released his first CD, but is now working on revamping it to include his newly testosteroneed voice.

Melissa Li is a fierce Asian-American lesbian singer-songwriter, who has performed in the Boston area for over 8 years. Her music is a mixture of folk rock and pop, with a hint of soul and a whole lot of queer, and heavily influenced by Ani DiFranco, Jonatha Brooke, Kris Delmhorst, Deb Talan, Melissa Ferrick, and a slew of other pop/rock/folk divas. Through deeply personal acoustic songs, often punctuated with a vocal style reminiscent of hip hop, Melissa rants about love, loss, and social injustices.

Melissa started performing in high school talent shows, developing songwriting skills and teaching herself the guitar at the age of 15. She performed wherever she could, starting from small coffeeshouses, community groups and even in underground train stations. Since then, she's carved a name for herself as one of the most talented and popular Asian-American performers in Boston. She has performed at the Brattle Theater, Somerville Theater, and Boston Pride main stage to an audience of hundreds. She has also performed in most colleges and universities across New England.

### **Visiting Artist Workshop, Ana Castillo**

MLK Visiting Professor Ana Castillo is a novelist, poet, essayist and painter who has used every means necessary—the clack of typewriters, the flap of mimeograph machines, the thwip of copiers, the tick of e-mail and her personal blog—to tell the tales that had to be told.

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