



**EMBARGOED UNTIL  
4/24/18 - 7:00PM EST**

web: <https://www.cincyfringe.com>

tel: 513.300.5569

press contact: **Chris Wesselman**

email: [cincyfringe@knowtheatre.com](mailto:cincyfringe@knowtheatre.com)

**15th Annual Cincinnati Fringe Festival  
May 29 - June 10**

## **PRIMARY LINEUP DETAILS**

Productions by indie artists, musicians, and performance groups from near and far create this core component of Cincy Fringe programming, which features a **gobsmacking variety of genres, styles, subject matters, and skill sets**, ensuring that anyone and everyone — including families — can find their perfect cup of tea.

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

#### 2018

**2,9166** - average number of shows per day to see every Primary Lineup production

**3** - minimum number of performances from the Primary Lineup you can see each day

**35** - total Primary Lineup productions

**201** - total number of Primary Lineup performances

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**2** - Fringe Next productions

**17** - productions from Local artists/groups (including Fringe Next)

**18** - productions from Out-of-Town artists/groups

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**17** - Groups returning to Cincy Fringe

**18** - Groups new to Cincy Fringe

**3** - Musicals

**4** - Dance/Physical Theatre productions

**5** - Interdisciplinary productions

**9** - Solo Performances

**14** - Plays

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**1** - production with Magic

**2** - productions with Puppetry

**4** - Family Friendly productions

**5** - productions with Political Themes

**6** - productions with Mental Health Themes

**11** - productions involving Music

**13** - Comedies

**>20** - other unique themes, skill sets, genres, and styles (like Horror, Spirituality, Spoken Word, Literary Adaptation, and Vocal Gymnastics)



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### HISTORICAL

*(all numbers are "since 2004")*

>**150** - days of Fringe

>**400** - number of productions featured

>**2,000** - performances

>**110,000** - entries into shows

>**\$500,000** - amount paid out to independent artists and groups

## **WHERE DID THEY COME FROM and HOW DID THEY GET HERE?**

From August to December of 2017, **109 artists/groups** submitted their productions for consideration to our Primary Lineup.

From December 2017 to January 2018, **41 Local theatre professionals, journalists, and educators** — along with some historical Fringe folk — reviewed applications and provided their assessments on which productions they thought would lend **unique stories, voices, and representations** to the Lineup.

**Jurors:** Alice Flanders, Alyssa Michaud, Andrew Hungerford, Andrew Ian Adams, Betsy Shank, Burgess Byrd, Buz Davis, Cal Harris, Chris Wesselman, Dan Winters, Darnell Pierre Benjamin, Daryl Harris, Dave Levy, Dylan Shelton, Eric Vosmeier, Ernajisa Curry, Heather Britt, Jason Bruffy, Josh Steele, Julie Engebrecht, Justin McCombs, Kim Popa, Lissa Gapultos, Liz Bortrager, D. Lynn Meyers, Maggie Rader, Mia Vera, Mike Sherman, Miranda McGee, Patrick Phillips, Piper Davis, Rebecca Bromels, Regina Pugh, Richard Hess, Rick Pender, Robert Macke, Sarah Beth Hall, Shannon Lutz, Tamara Winters, Ted Weil, and Torie Wiggins

By February 2018 the final 35 productions were selected and the journey to this press release truly began. (It's been so long!)

## **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES**

For 2018, Cincy Fringe is granting **additional performances to productions in venues under 60 seats**, giving audience members more opportunities to see productions that would otherwise have a fewer number of total tickets available.



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## VENUES

Primary Lineup productions are occurring in **12 unique spaces across OTR:**

**Know Theatre** (Venue Code: KNOW)

1120 Jackson St 45202

**Art Academy Room 103** (Venue Code: A103)

**Art Academy Room 204** (Venue Code: A204)

**Art Academy Room 404** (Venue Code: A404)

**Art Academy Room 664** (Venue Code: A664)

1212 Jackson St 45202

**First Lutheran Church Lounge** (Venue Code: FLL)

**First Lutheran Church Basement** (Venue Code: FLB)

1208 Race St 45202

**Memorial Hall Studio** (Venue Code: MHS)

1225 Elm St 45202

**OTR Community Church** (Venue Code: OCC)

1310 Race St 45202

**The Mini Microcinema** (Venue Code: MMC)

1329 Main St 45202

**MOTR Pub Basement** (Venue Code: MOTR)

1345 Main St 45202

**Gabriel's Corner** (Venue Code: GC)

1425 Sycamore St 45202

Additionally, four other venues will be in use **for Special Events** during Fringe:

**The ARTing Lot** (Venue Code: LOT)

12th and Jackson Streets 45202

**Wash Park Art** (Venue Code: WPA)

1215 Elm St 45202

**Union Hall** (Venue Code: UNH)

1314 Republic Street 45202

**The Woodward Theatre** (Venue Code: WDW)

1404 Main St 45202



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## **AWARDS and ENCORES**

Primary Lineup productions vie for one of our **6 Pick of the Fringe Awards**:

**The David C Herriman Audience Pick**  
**The Fringe Next Audience Pick**  
**The Linda Bowen Full Frontal Pick**  
**The Critics' Pick**  
**The Artists' Pick**  
**The Dr. Robert J Thierauf Producer's Pick**

Each Award-winning production is granted an additional **Encore performance** on the final day of Fringe (**6/10**) at one of the following time slots:

**12:00p, 1:15p, 2:30p, 4:45p, 6:00pm, 7:15p**

Should any production be unavailable for an Encore slot, a replacement production will be selected from the Primary Lineup based on additional voting element to be announced during Fringe, thereby **guaranteeing a total of 6 final performances** on 6/10.

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## **PRODUCTION DETAILS and MARKETING MATERIALS**

On the remaining pages of this document, please find details about each of the 35 Primary Lineup productions. To locate marketing materials, please visit:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1DztOiiyEqg5DFK9l3cwFfRsFO7oUSf>

**NOTE:** Press may contact productions directly via the email addresses provide in the information below, but for any additional general questions or inquiry please contact **Fringe Producer Chris Wesselman** at [cincyfringe@knowtheatre.com](mailto:cincyfringe@knowtheatre.com).

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## Local Productions



**Show Title:** *All We Have Borne*

**Group Name:** Victoria Hawley

**From:** Cincinnati, OH

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Play (Drama, Women's Themes, Abuse)

**Rating:** R (Violence, Adult Language, References to Sexual Violence/Abuse)

**10-word Description:** We're livin' and dyin' here. Get used to it.

**Story for the Press:** The fear of being helpless has been with me for as long as I can remember. In wake of the #MeToo movement, and of all my own personal fears and experiences, this story wouldn't let me go. I hope it leaves you thinking and willing to engage with change.

**Full Description:** A young woman finds herself trapped in a dark room. Another woman calls this darkness home. An unpredictable man threatens to end them both if they don't escape.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Victoria Hawley is a theatre artist living in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Originally from Western Kentucky, Ms. Hawley discovered her love of storytelling through "directing" her brothers around an old puppet theater given to them by their parents. What started as a curiosity has since grown into a way of life. Ms. Hawley graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 2015, and was a member of the 2016-2017 Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati Professional Acting Apprentice Company. When she's not acting, she's writing plays, and when she's not writing plays, she's making pies from scratch with Mark.

**Primary Contact Name:** Victoria Hawley

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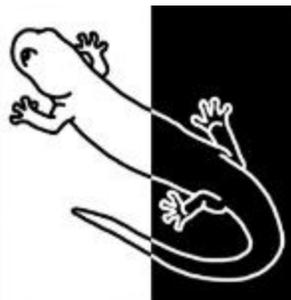
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**Show Title:** *The Amphibian*

**Group Name:** The Burying Beetles

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Comedy, Political Themes, Satire)

**Rating:** R (Simulated Sex Acts, Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** Man with a gun wants to be loved. Get talking.

**Full Description:** A rebel leader is captured by an enemy officer who's ignorant of the country he's invaded. Flattering him into believing he's a brilliant commander with God on his side, the rebel spins half-truths into lies and very nearly saves his country – until the people he's trying to save start falling out of helicopters.

**Artist/Company Biography:** The Burying Beetles first swarmed together in 2011 to wage theatrical warfare against Neoliberal oligarchic imperialism. Hammering with their tiny theater-fists against Empire in all its stupidity, this fluctuating mob of academics and theater geeks has erupted into six of the last seven Fringes to rip open the soft orange underbelly of the corporate state, spit satire-venom into the gaping wounds and devour the beast from within. Let our absurdo-Brechtian lies mixed-metaphorically metastatize into a new Truth: the people will rule.

**Primary Contact Name:** John Ray

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**Show Title:** *Annalise* (Fringe Next participant)

**Group Name:** Take Two

**From:** Cincinnati, OH

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Play (Drama, Mental Health Themes, Storytelling)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** Two teens learn to deal with their mental disorders. Together.

**Story for the Press:** The inspiration for this show comes from playwright Vicky Alcorn's experience with her own mental disorder. In today's modern society, media can romanticize the idea of mental illness. With her show, she hopes to give a more accurate portrayal of what having these disorders can actually be like.

**Full Description:** *Annalise*, now an adult and a best-selling author, looks back on her teenage days through an interview about how her childhood has impacted her writing as an adult, as well as through staged flashbacks. *Annalise* was diagnosed with an anxiety disorder when she was young, and can't remember a time when she was... well, "normal". In order to help distance herself from her disorder, *Annalise* pretends it's a whole different person. His name is Alex. Her whole world gets thrown for a loop when one day she meets Danny. Depressed and friendless, Danny also copes with his disorder in the same way *Annalise* does, and her name is Debbie. Together, Danny and *Annalise* learn to trust not only each other, but themselves. For the first time in their lives, they finally don't feel like they're alone.

**Artist/Company Biography:** The performing group, Take Two, features returning playwright Vicky Alcorn. Her assisting production team, Miranda Mason (Costume Designer) and Sarah Lembright (Stage Manager), are first-time Fringers who are beyond ecstatic to be participating in Fringe their senior year. The rest of the team consists of the cast, who are a mixture of returning performers and first-timers to Fringe. Take Two as a whole consists of Highlands High School students. Some were friends beforehand, while others had barely had a conversation, but through the magic of Fringe, they have been brought together to perform *Annalise*.

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**Show Title:** *Bad Poetry Night*

**Group Name:** A to Z Productions

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Comedy, Satire)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** Kids in the Hall take on an amateur open mic.

**Full Description:** The Kids in the Hall meets the American Idol open auditions in this kooky, hilarious, cringey take on the world's most pretentious poetic evening. From Alexx Rouse (Fringe hit *Buster Bumpers* and *Other Metaphors*) and Zach Robinson (*Serials 8 Favorite All's Faire*) comes the story of a ridiculous cast of horrible poets searching for the beauty in how ugly an open mic can be

**Artist/Company Biography:** A to Z Productions is pumped to make their company debut at Fringe 2018! While the company is new, Alexx Rouse and Zach Robinson are no strangers to the stage and the writer's desk. Alexx's writing credits at the Know include *Serials* (*Rolling Stone*, *Roxy Balboa*, *All's Faire*) and her sold out solo show *Busted Bumpers and Other Metaphors* at 2017 Fringe. Zach has performed in several local improv groups (*Family Bunker*, *Veracity*), past Fringe shows (*Furlesque 2016*, *Heard 2015*) and is currently a touring member of *MadCap* puppets. The two of them can't wait to make all sorts of weird funny craziness for you.

**Primary Contact Name:** Alexx Rouse

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**Show Title:** *Billy: the Haunting of William Howard Taft*

**Group Name:** Autumn Kaleidoscope

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Dramedy, Historical, Regional Interest)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** President Taft is about to have a rough night!

**Story for the Press:** Cincinnati's favorite son and 27th president of the United States comes to life in Autumn Kaleidoscope's *Billy: the Haunting of William Howard Taft*. Autumn Kaleidoscope, the same company that produced *Furlesque* and *My Darling Dilophosaurus*, shows audiences there is more to this president than just getting stuck in a bathtub.

**Full Description:** Inspired by historical events, *Billy: the Haunting of William Howard Taft* follows the President-elect on one of the wildest nights of his life. As Taft falls victim to deception, manipulation and trickery he quickly learns a valuable lesson: never trust a possum. *Billy: the Haunting of William Howard Taft* is directed by Audrey A. MacNeil and featuring Sean P. Mette as William Howard Taft.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Autumn Kaleidoscope is thrilled to make its third appearance at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival with the world premiere of *Billy: the Haunting of William Howard Taft*. This production brings the Cincinnati born president to the big stage. *Billy: the Haunting of William Howard Taft* is directed by Northern Kentucky University and National Theatre Institute alum, Audrey A. MacNeil. The play is written by and features Autumn Kaleidoscope's Executive Artistic Director, Sean P. Mette, as William Howard Taft. Autumn Kaleidoscope's previous productions, *Furlesque* and *My Darling Dilophosaurus*, also premiered at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival.

**Primary Contact Name:** Sean P. Mette

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**Show Title:** *The Blackface Project*

**Group Name:** Norman-Reaves Productions

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Play (African-American Themes, Drama, Multi-Cultural Themes)

**Rating:** R (Simulated Sex Acts, Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** In 24 hours, the Great White Way will go black.

**Story for the Press:** Since meeting at Northern Kentucky University, J. Farley Norman and Isaiah Reaves have brought original pieces to the stage, resulting in numerous readings, workshops, and fully staged collaborations. The duo's latest creation, *The Blackface Project*, is loosely based on the true story of controversial Broadway icon Bert Williams.

**Full Description:** The year is 1910. It's opening night. Bert Williams is the first black man on Broadway. But at what cost?

**Artist/Company Biography:** Norman-Reaves Productions is honored to make our Cincy Fringe debut! Founded by local actor-playwright Isaiah Reaves and director-designer J. Farley Norman, the company's inaugural production of an original drama 'The Color of the Leaves' has been staged at Northern Kentucky University and as part of Know Theater's Serials: Thunderdome as of 2018. Our team is dedicated to bringing bold theatrical experiences and dynamic young talent to the stage.

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**Show Title:** *Damage*

**Group Name:** Pedamentum Dance Theatre

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Dance/Physical Theatre (Dance, Mental Health Themes, Storytelling)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** Five true stories told through dance, poetry, and a lamp.

**Story for the Press:** “Does accepting that violence happens mean you have given up your right to say no? Does it mean the next time someone holds you down, you don't even bother pushing back?” Creation of “Damage” began with words like this, shared with me by brave survivors of domestic violence.

**Full Description:** “We are shining a light on the stories no one wants to hear. We are dancing the stories we are still too afraid to speak. We are sculpting something beautiful out of the word-shrapnel you left in us.” Experience five true stories told through dance, poetry, and light. Created by damaged people—for damaged people.

**Artist/Company Biography:** In 2015, artist Mandie Reiber set out into Over-the-Rhine and began interviewing strangers about their greatest challenges. Since then, hundreds of stories have been collected from local citizens of every ethnicity, age, and occupation. Founded by Mandie Reiber, Pedamentum uses a unique collaborative process to transform these true stories into artistic experiences, including songs, poems, and choreography. Our mission is to develop arts experiences that provide honest perspectives on relevant social issues; to use art as a language and a vehicle for social change; and to create hybrid performance work that blends various art forms harmoniously through collaboration and exploration.

**Primary Contact Name:** Mandie Reiber

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**Show Title:** *ExTrashVaganza!*

**Group Name:** Theatre Mobile

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Interdisciplinary (Comedy, Music, Puppetry)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** A strange-sational puppet musical comedy delight.

**Story for the Press:** Paul Strickland and Erika Kate MacDonald, the winners of the past two Critics' Picks of the Fringe (2016 and 2017), have teamed up to make a strange-sational musical found-object puppet comedy for adults!

**Full Description:** "You threw it away. Now pick it up and make something of yourself."

Paul Strickland ("Balls of Yarns" - Critics' Pick of the Fringe Winner 2017) and Erika Kate MacDonald ("Ice Candle" - Critics' Pick of the Fringe Winner 2016) team up in this STRANGE-SATIONAL PUPPET MUSICAL COMEDY DELIGHT for adults!

Come help Erika and Paul make a beautiful future out of the discarded past."

**Artist/Company Biography:** Theatre Mobile makes theatre. That moves around. Founded by Paul Strickland and Erika Kate MacDonald, Theatre Mobile aspires to scratch that itch for alternative, bare-bones, creativity-forward theatre in Cincinnati.

**Primary Contact Name:** Paul Strickland

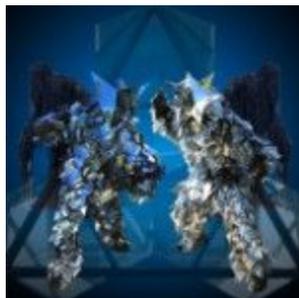
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**Show Title:** *Forealism Tribe Origins*

**Group Name:** Forealism Tribe

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Interdisciplinary (Dance, Music, Projection Mapping)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** Inter-Dimensional Being's Earth & Spacetime Journey

**Story for the Press:** "The Forealism Tribe's first appearance was on Jackson Street in 2012. Jackson Street, OTR is the Tribe's birth place. The Tribe was officially apart of the Cincy Fringe Festival in 2013 as roaming performers. This year they are creating a totally new and unique production for the Cincy Fringe Festival."

**Full Description:** The Forealism Tribe is a group of inter-dimensional artists and explorers who use their Light Ship to view, learn and participate in human culture and media. But their mission is sometimes hindered by Them & They, negative beings who attempt to steal the Light Core power source from the Tribe. Come experience this Inter-Dimensional Spacetime Projection Mapping Exploration."

**Artist/Company Biography:** The Forealism Tribe is a hybrid musical act and performance art duo that hails from Another Dimension. Consisting of the members Star Power, Soul Force, Beast Mode, and Black Ram, this multitalented inter-dimensional group of artists produce unique costumes, music, dance, DJ sets, visual art, installations, video and performances combining them to create an energetic otherworldly experience for audiences. Their unique visual style and performances offer audiences something they have never seen before. They often perform in Cincinnati, Ohio and Miami, Florida and have also performed in multiple festivals and events nationally and internationally.

**Primary Contact Name:** Star Power

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**Show Title:** *The Gospel of Barabbas*

**Group Name:** Hugo West Theatricals

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Comedy, Satire)

**Rating:** R (Simulated Drug Use, Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** Mysterious bible badguy gets high with satanically possessed pig.

**Story for the Press:** In the Bible, Barabbas was a robber and murderer, yet was spared by the Judeans instead of Jesus, and mentioned in more gospel verses (38) than Judas Iscariot (32). The Big Lebowski meets Stoppard's ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN in an absurdist antiquity adventure against the backdrop of the life of Jesus.

**Full Description:** Who smokes a lot of weed, drives a Chevy Astro and was pardoned by the Jews instead of Jesus? It's Barabbas! The Big Lebowski meets ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD in an absurd adventure through biblical Israel, alongside Trudy of Nazareth, and their buddy Manuel, the satanically-possessed pig. Warning: offensive for all audiences.

**Artist/Company Biography:** "Hugo West Theatricals is the lunatic hobbyhorse of Cincinnati-based writing and producing team Mike Hall and Joshua Steele. Mistakenly called "smart playwright[s] who know how to surprise an audience in unexpected ways," their often sold-out productions have been dubbed "smart and funny, amiable and high energy" and "riotously funny but infectiously endearing." Founded in 2012, HWT has produced award-winning stagings of original, adapted and existing works: DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS; THE CEASE AND DESIST MUSICAL; A KLINGON CHRISTMAS CAROL; HOT DAMN! IT'S THE LOVELAND FROG!; ZOMBIE-LOGUE; CESSNA; THE LETTERS OF VINCENT VAN GOGH: A LIVE PERFORMANCE; and SUMATRAN RHINO."

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**Show Title:** *Lost Generation*

**Group Name:** Society's Tongue Productions

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Musical (Political Themes, Spoken Word, Millennials)

**Rating:** R (Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** An exploration of the stereotypes and realities of millennial life.

**Story for the Press:** (1) This is not fiction! These are the artists' real life stories; (2) The production team is a 3 generation Black (grandmother/mother/daughter) local literary legacy; (3) Multi-genre musical powerhouse of a production featuring 2017 Best Soul/Funk CEA winners TRIIIBE (formerly BLVCK Seeds), MYCincinnati Orchestra & MUSE women's choir; (4) Dope af.

**Full Description:** No generation has been as publicly reviled, praised, misunderstood and analyzed as Millennials. *Lost Generation* explores the real life stories of a collective of millennial poets, lyricists, dancers and musicians. It is a frank, melodic exploration into issues of mental health, fluidity in sexuality, spirituality, bullying, homelessness, acceptance and personal transcendence.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Never has an artist been more open and honest on the stage than Siri Imani. She weaves together song and poetry to tell powerful stories of love and liberation, state and personal violence, social, environmental, racial and sexual justice, personal empowerment. She openly, poetically reflects on her life as a lesbian, black, inner city youth and former college athlete. She is a boundary-breaking soul sister who sharpened her art as a tool for popular education, community organizing and personal transcendence. She is a warrior woman writer not afraid to tell her personal truths and making biting social commentary on the world we live in.

**Primary Contact Name:** Siri Imani Huey

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**Show Title:** *The New Adventures of Calliope Jones and Captain Cool*

**Group Name:** Lucky Ducks Productions

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Family Friendly (Comedy, Puppetry, Action)

**Rating:** Family Friendly (All Ages)

**10-word Description:** Superhero roommate, super-villain boss, super conflicted Calliope Jones.

**Story for the Press:** Captain Cool was born in NYC, when Chance Kilgour donned a superhero costume to fight evil. Years later, when retelling tales of superhero days, Ellyn Broderick said, “this should be a Fringe show.” So, with a few new villains, a thicker plot and new pants, Captain Cool is back again.

**Full Description:** The New Adventures of Calliope Jones and Captain Cool: Calliope Jones is an aspiring writer and library assistant at the Cincinnati Downtown library. Callie’s roommate, Captain Cool, happens to be a superhero whose superhero hijinks get her into a lot of trouble at work. Enter: pun-tastic super villains, a mutant dandelion and a mega super villain who could delete them all, but which superhero will save the day?

**Artist/Company Biography:** Lucky Ducks Productions originated in Cincinnati, OH after friends and fellow improvisers Ellyn Broderick and Chance Kilgour decided they wanted to tell stories and share them with whomever would listen. Both members of OTRi’s ComedySportz Cincinnati and Improv Cincinnati’s Hot Mic, Ellyn and Chance have (separately) worked with The Children’s Theatre of Cincinnati and Madcap Puppets, and they have both worked as teaching artists in the Greater Cincinnati Area. Lucky Ducks is proud to present a show for superheroes of all ages!

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**Show Title:** *of Monster Descent*

**Group Name:** Queen City Flash

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Mental Health Themes, Storytelling, Suspense)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** A supernatural solo show about inherited traits, claws and all.

**Full Description:** Writer/Director team Trey Tatum and Bridget Leak (“Slut Shaming” 2014 Artist Pick of the Fringe, The Disappearance of Nicole Jacobs) present a story about a family on the brink of collapse and the woodland beast that stalks just beyond their fence line. Set in a decaying Gulf Coast oasis, a young boy confronts family legacy and the untamed beyond in this otherworldly, lightning-lit, monster survival tale.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Trey and Bridget make theater all around the city. Recently: Slut Shaming (Xavier University), The Disappearance of Nicole Jacobs (CincyFringe) & Ken Ham's Journey to the Center of the Earth. With their theater company, Queen City Flash, they also create Guerilla-style theater with college students centered around Social-Justice themes, and last year they spearheaded a project that paired local theater artists with mothers from the Price Hill neighborhood to explore how we use theater to craft personal survival stories and build community. More at: [QueenCityFlash.com](http://QueenCityFlash.com)

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**Show Title:** *One More Bad Thing*

**Group Name:** Homegrown Theater

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Dramedy, Music)

**Rating:** R (Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** Two sisters plan to start over and be good. Eventually.

**Story for the Press:** Actor/musician Erin Ward's first time writing music for the stage and Ben Dudley's first foray into the realm of near-musical. Erin Ward and Dylan Shelton of the improv troupe Aunt Bill are both featured, along with Simon Powell and Homegrown Theatre founder Leah Strasser. Jared Doren directs.

**Full Description:** As children, sisters Jenny and Kate were best friends and a popular singing duo. And then everything went bad. For sixteen years. Facing the consequences of their vastly different but equally dysfunctional lives, they make a pact to find out what "good" is and starting being it. After they get one more bad thing out of their system.

**Artist/Company Biography:** "Homegrown Theater has been producing new and original plays for the Cincinnati Fringe Festival since 2012 and for the Know Theatre's Serials! since 2014. We like exploring old things in new ways. And new things in old ways. And normal things in weird ways. And funny things in sad ways. You get the idea. Homegrown Theater is for the backyard dreamer, free of pesticides and preservatives, fresh from our imaginations to yours."

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**Show Title:** *Re-Grooving*

**Group Name:** Yarroway Productions

**From:** Cincinnati, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Dance/Physical Theatre (Dance, Music, Film)

**Rating:** Family Friendly (All Ages)

**10-word Description:** A dancer breaks through the film of her restrictive identity.

**Story for the Press:** Re-Grooving entwines film with live performance in a surprising dance to translate the journey of one who must slay her identity and resurrect. Visual artist Patty Chal collaborates with sister-in-law dancer Katie Chal and her partner Rob Keenan of local band Dawg Yawp in this tale of growth and transformation.

**Full Description:** "Film and live performance unite to explore the concept of breaking free from the confines of our own self-built identity. When the ideas and expectations we unconsciously construct about ourselves hinder us from evolving to new levels of being, we must shed the forms that we have outgrown like a snake shedding its skin. Re-Grooving highlights this struggle, and ascends with the dancer's triumphant liberation."

**Artist/Company Biography:** Yarroway Productions is composed of a trio of local artists: a dancer, a painter and a musician. Katie Chal, formerly of Nashville Ballet, now works as a freelance dance artist and movement coach, creating transformative dance experiences in Cincinnati. Patricia Chal studied painting at NKU and DAAP, but her most rigorous schooling has been from her two young children. She now teaches an art class for adults that aims to reignite the inner child. Rob Keenan studied music at Berklee College of Music and now plays guitar and synthesizers for beloved local duo Dawg Yawp.

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**Show Title:** *Vox Box*

**Group Name:** Performance Gallery

**From:** Cincinnati, OH

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Interdisciplinary (Avant Voice, Vocal Gymnastics, Eargasm)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** A sumptuous sound sensation; like Jabberwocky meeting a blender.

**Story for the Press:** While Vox Box is sure to be unique, it does harken back to "fricative", our popular 2008 offering. We would welcome more discussion on why we are exploring a sound-based piece again and how the two pieces are different but will surely appeal to "fricative" fans.

**Full Description:** Immerse yourself in this auditory, primal, percussive playground where words lose their meaning but not their power. Vox Box deconstructs text and turns language on its head while delving into the unexpected range of human sound. You might laugh. You might cry. Your ears and your soul will thank you.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Performance Gallery is a Cincinnati-based collaborative of artists existing to produce and promote challenging works of theatre that is known to be outlandish, sometimes achieves profoundness and strives to be unpredictable. Founded in 2002, they have produced a varying amount of works per year in a variety of spaces, including original plays, revamped classics and fourteen widely different, original offerings at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival. They have also shown up at Atlanta Fringe, Indianapolis Fringe and could be standing behind you right now.

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**Show Title:** *The Whitest Baby in All of Africa* (Fringe Next participant)

**Group Name:** Welage & Kerns Productions

**From:** Cincinnati, OH

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Play (Comedy, Multicultural Themes, Satire)

**Rating:** PG-13 (13+)

**10-word Description:** White couples, baby troubles, swaddles, squabbles and the improbable.

**Story for the Press:** This piece was initially created to fulfill a senior project requirement at The School for Creative and Performing Arts. From there, this artistic work transitioned from a Capstone, into a work of art that was created for an audience to experience.

**Full Description:** *The Whitest Baby in All of Africa* follows the whitest couple in all of America, Angela and Elliot Osborne, who want to expand their family. They look into international adoption from the Congo, and embark on a journey that is like none other. *The Whitest Baby in All of Africa* explores the possibilities of having privilege, as well as the ugly truth.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Between Welage & Kerns Productions, they have over 20 years of performing experience. Just recently they have taken the opposite side of the table, exploring their artistic possibilities in the realms of directing and producing. Sam Kerns serves as the visionary and director, while Kealy Welage serves as producer of Welage & Kerns Productions. At only 18 years of age, they both see their future in the field and will continue their higher education in the arts. Welage & Kerns is dedicated to putting high school artists on and off stage, showcasing the soon to be leaders of the industry.

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## Out-of-Town Productions



**Show Title:** *Aphrodite's Refugees*

**Group Name:** MonTra Performance

**From:** Boulder, CO

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Interdisciplinary (Dramedy, Storytelling, Visual Art)

**Rating:** PG-13 (Violence)

**10-word Description:** A teenage refugee's survival story brought to life, with paint.

**Story for the Press:** Aphrodite's Refugees was created from interviews with four Cypriot refugees who describe being children forced from home. Their fate? A mere card game played by the forgotten Greek Gods. This multimedia performance utilizes animation, storytelling and live painting. \*\*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Doctors Without Borders.

**Full Description:** "Animation, storytelling & live art come together to paint a picture that is one part true, one part possible - The fate of four teenage refugees is merely a high-stakes card game played by the forgotten Greek gods. \*\*\*\* A portion of proceeds will be donated to Doctors Without Borders\*\*\*\*"

**Artist/Company Biography:** "MonTra Performance is:

Performance + Creation + Line Blurring + Bridge Building + Art + Performance + Theatre + Installation + Creation + Examination + Deconstruction + Moving + Creation + Larger-Than-Life + Performance + Visual + Emotional + Unfamiliar + Bizarre + Glamorous + Gritty + Performance Art

\*For your enjoyment and satisfaction (of course) "

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**Show Title:** *bloom*

**Group Name:** allendance

**From:** Philadelphia, PA

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Dance/Physical Theatre (Dance, Drama, Physical Theatre)

**Rating:** Family Friendly (All Ages)

**10-word Description:** bloom drenches the ground and air with raw contact.

**Story for the Press:** bloom was first created without author David Ohle's knowledge. Once finished, Allen embarked on long pursuit to get in touch with Mr. Ohle, and share the news! This led to a performance in his hometown of Lawrence, Kansas in 2017.

**Full Description:** Inspired by the kinetic-driven, "movement as plot" writings of David Ohle's 1972 cult-classic, *Motorman*, bloom is a rapid unfolding of three dancers, colliding softly and recklessly with one another, in an unadorned space. Composed by three-time grammy award winner Bob Lanzetti with Ross Pederson. The work cradles and rocks the viewers, inviting them in with each blind-faith fall, cling and catch.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Lora Allen is the director of allendance and The Iron Factory, an artist studio and residency space in Philadelphia PA. She works collaboratively with Project Trans(m)it: a collaborative, long-term research and performance project delving into the tech-riddled space. Through her independent work and collaborations her work, master classes, and lectures have been experienced throughout the US and abroad. Her research on long distance collaboration was published through *Research in Dance Education Journal* in 2017. She has worked with Grammy Award winner Bob Lanzetti and was recently awarded top five shows to see in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival by Phindie.com.

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**Show Title:** *The Bureau*

**Group Name:** Sh\*t Talkers Anonymous

**From:** Chicago, IL.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Musical (Comedy, Musical, Women's Themes)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** It's been a rough day for the New World Order.

**Story for the Press:** Maya and I are largely workshoping and rehearsing this show via FaceTime, because we are college buddies living and searching for theatre work in different cities. (Millennials, am I right?)

**Full Description:** The year is 2030, and a not-so-competent New World Older has seized control of the globe. Two low-level bureaucrats arrive in town to conduct a reeducation workshop – but their PowerPoint dies. Speaking off script for the first time and facing a gruesome punishment, the two must find meaning in the midst of a delightfully absurd corporate hellscape – before it's too late.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Sh\*t Talkers Anonymous consists of Tatum Hunter and Maya Farhat. Hunter is a writer, actor and improviser based in Chicago. Hunter spent the '16-17 theatre season at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. She is currently training in The Second City's Conservatory program. Farhat is an actor and singer based in Cincinnati. She spent the '16-17 theatre season at Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati and has since appeared on stage at Ensemble and Know Theatre of Cincinnati.

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**Show Title:** *Curie Me Away!*

**Group Name:** Matheatre

**From:** Minneapolis, MN

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Musical (Dramedy, Women's Themes, Science)

**Rating:** Family Friendly (All ages)

**10-word Description:** The radical life story of Madame Marie Curie

**Story for the Press:** Many people know that Marie Curie died of radiation poisoning--killed by the very elements she discovered. THAT IS NOT WHAT THIS PLAY IS ABOUT.

**Full Description:** The radical story of Madame Marie Curie--a persistent woman who changed our understanding of the universe. From childhood in Russian occupied Poland--where education of women was a crime--to rocking the world as the first woman to win the Nobel Prize, core chemistry concepts become lyrical metaphor in a radioactive musical of discovery. By creators of "Tesla Ex Machina" and "Calculus: The Musical!"

**Artist/Company Biography:** Matheatre tours nationwide to high schools, colleges, museums, theatres and anywhere that science and art can collide! Since bringing the original "Calculus: The Musical!" to the 2007 Cincy Fringe, leading to a long, fruitful relationship with Know Theatre (who produced their own national tour of this bygone Fringe blockbuster for eight years), the company continues to expand their repertoire of imaginative works that offer creative access points to science and math. Founded by Sadie Bowman (CFHHANU) and Marc Gutman in 2006, the company is now rounded out by the talents of Ricky "Tesla" Coates. [www.matheatre.com](http://www.matheatre.com).

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**Show Title:** *Delivery*

**Group Name:** The Functional Shoes

**From:** New York, NY.

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Comedy, Music, Women's Themes)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** Three women fail to get the message across.

**Story for the Press:** The 2017 Producer's Pick winners The Functional Shoes (Romeo + Juliet + Anybodys) are back at the Cincinnati Fringe with their new play *Delivery*. *Delivery* was partially inspired by an actual customer service email sent to the playwright. Also: both the playwright and one of the co-composers are originally from Ohio.

**Full Description:** "Plastic animals come to life. Teenagers get left out of history books. And we're gonna find that yellow Frisbee if it kills us. From the minds behind 2017's Producer's Pick comes a glimpse into three different worlds and the loose threads that bind them. There's no time. Stop making sense. Join the party."

**Artist/Company Biography:** "The Functional Shoes are a pop-up theatre company based in New York City. We make plays. We make music. We put them together in strange ways. We tell stories about outsiders. We use practical means to create expansive worlds. Some of our favorite tools include: magical realism, kazoos, sidewalk chalk, clowning, animal masks, and roller-skates.

The Functional Shoes are actors + writers/musicians/directors/dancers.

Our work has been seen in NYC at The HIVE, Manhattan Rep, and The Tank. Last year, we brought our production *Romeo + Juliet + Anybodys* to Cincinnati. The Shoes are thrilled to be back at the Fringe!"

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**Show Title:** *Doppelbanger*

**Group Name:** Nick Jonczak

**From:** Philadelphia, PA

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance, Dance/Physical Theatre (LGBTQ Themes, Storytelling, Spirituality)

**Rating:** R (Violence, Simulated Sex Acts, Adult Language)

**10-word Description:**

**Story for the Press:** When audience members arrive, they each select a Tarot card to hold throughout the show. During the performance I'll select certain audience members and interpret their card for them in front of everyone. The performance blends these readings and autobiographical stories I tell.

**Full Description:** Part cabaret, part gallery-style Tarot reading, *Doppelbanger* is an original solo performance embodying gay obsession, identity, trauma, and joy. In it, Jonczak conjures look-alike ex-lovers through storytelling and movement/dance on a quest to learn: Do I want to be with him, or do I want to be him?

**Artist/Company Biography:** Nick is a freelance producer, director, creator, and teacher of devised performance. He has worked in executive administration for Arena Stage, trained FBI agents, managed massive outdoor performance events for INVISIBLE RIVER and created sprawling immersive adventures through New Paradise Laboratories and Impossible Theater Company, which he founded. He is a graduate of the Pig Iron School for Advanced Performance Training and produced, directed, and trained as an acrobat with Almanac Dance Circus Theatre ([www.thealmanac.us](http://www.thealmanac.us)).

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**Show Title:** *Eddie Poe*

**Group Name:** The Coldharts

**From:** Brooklyn, NY

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Comedy, Horror, Music)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** A manic riff about the adolescence of Edgar Allan Poe.

**Story for the Press:** "Eddie Poe" is the brand new sequel to "Edgar Allan", a show which received 'Full Frontal Pick of the Fringe' at the 2015 Cincinnati Fringe, critic's pick for 'Best Show' at the 2016 Orlando Fringe, and an Off-Broadway run at the Soho Playhouse in 2017.

**Full Description:** Sixteen-year-old Edgar Allan has one goal: to gain mastery over all his subjects at the University of Virginia. He has only one obstacle: Eddie Poe. The creators of "Edgar Allan" present an entirely new manic riff inspired by the adolescence and short stories of Edgar Allan Poe. "No one can create a sense of atmosphere like The Coldharts" - Orlando Sentinel

**Artist/Company Biography:** The Coldharts are Katie Hartman and Nick Ryan, two theatre artists based in Brooklyn, New York. They create devised music-theatre inspired by the American Gothic. Their work has been seen in theaters, warehouses and living rooms across North America.

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**Show Title:** *Fadeaway Girl*

**Group Name:** Rachel Petrie

**From:** St. Paul, MN

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Dramedy, Mental Health Themes, Storytelling)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** An autobiographical story of one woman's experience with mental illness

**Story for the Press:** *Fadeaway Girl* is the true story of playwright/performer Rachel Petrie's experience coming to terms with a bipolar diagnosis. From her very first manic episode in 2004 to present day, Rachel shares her personal stories of derailment, discovery, reinvention, and joy.

**Full Description:** *Fadeaway Girl* is the autobiographical story of how one woman comes to terms with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder not once, but twice. Through a narrative that is both personal and universal, Rachel sheds light on the still ever present stigma attached to mental illness. At times humorous, at times poignant, *Fadeaway Girl* is an amalgam of emotions, life experiences, and lessons learned. It's a story of loss, determination, perseverance, and triumph.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Rachel Petrie is a performer, writer, and director who has been working in the Minneapolis/St. Paul theater scene since 2006. She has collaborated with many performance groups including: Four Humors (Member '10-'13); NTC; Bedlam Theatre; Mixed Precipitation; Live Action Set; Dangerous Productions; Mainly Me; Yellow Tree Theater; TRP; The Haunted Basement; Erin Sheppard; Ben San Del; and Raw Sugar. She has toured several original theatrical productions, both nationally and internationally, earning a Critic's Pick Award ('12) and a Producer's Pick Award ('10), both from the Cincinnati Fringe Festival. *Fadeaway Girl* is Rachel's first original solo production.

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**Show Title:** *The Last Drag*

**Group Name:** Jen Spillane

**From:** Kansas City, KS

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Music, Storytelling, Women's Themes)

**Rating:** R (Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** a rap cabaret in one act

**Story for the Press:** Ten years after leaving Cincinnati and the Fringe, former “bald intern” and Artistic Risk Taker (Cincinnati Enquirer) Jen Spillane returns with a new solo performance.

Conceived in 2007 on her nightly drives to Available Light Theatre, *The Last Drag* is coming full circle with its world premiere at the Fringe.

**Full Description:** Past and present collide out of time as a performer recounts her early life as an outsider, and the lengths she went to for success. Part storytelling, part cabaret, this is her nightly bid for absolution.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Jen Spillane is a writer, performer, and designer; this is her fifth solo performance. She is proud to debut *The Last Drag* at her old home, the Cincy Fringe, where she previously served as Assistant Producer (04-05), premiered her solo show *VIRTUE: did she fall or was she pushed?* (06) and performed in the CinEx production *lusthaus* [1914] (07). She has been privileged to work around the country with such companies as the Dallas Children’s Theater, Kitchen Dog Theater, WaterTower Theatre, the former *Infernal Bridegroom* Productions, and here in Ohio with the Know Theatre and Available Light Theatre.

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**Show Title:** *The Mountains Did Quake, The Hillsides Did Tremble*

**Group Name:** Animal Engine

**From:** New York, NY

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Physical Theatre, Political Themes, Literary Adaptation)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** In an authoritarian society where individuality is oppressed in favor of obedience to an all-powerful dictator, the ancient epic of Gilgamesh is told as an act of underground rebellion. From the award-winning creators of “Petunia and Chicken” and “Darlings.”

**Artist/Company Biography:** "Animal Engine makes old stories new, turning classic literature on its head with their deceptively minimalist, physically expressive style. Founded in New York City in 2011, they create and perform original works and teach their unique approach across the United States and internationally. Past productions include the 4 time award-winning Willa Cather inspired love story “Petunia and Chicken” and the critically acclaimed Peter Pan retelling “Darlings.” The company is led by 2 artistic directors; partners Carrie Brown and Karim Muasher."

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**Show Title:** *Musical Chairs*

**Group Name:** Gideon Productions

**From:** Long island City

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Play (Drama, LGBTQ Themes, Political Themes)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** The struggles of a 3-person marriage in a collapsing nation.

**Story for the Press:** The same creative team's 2017 Cincy show, *God Of Obsidian*, won the Linda Bowen Full Frontal Award. It may also be of interest that writer Mac Rogers, director Jordana Williams, and star Rebecca Comtois were also the writer, director, and second-lead in the 2017 podcast thriller *STEAL THE STARS*, which was downloaded over a million times.

**Full Description:** A three-person relationship wouldn't be most people's cup of tea, but for Jess, Owen, and Ruth, it seems to work. So they decide to make it official: Ruth moves in. They figure out how to make it legal. It's only then that the three spouses learn that marriage – especially in a scarily changing world – isn't any easier for three than for two.

**Artist/Company Biography:** GIDEON PRODUCTIONS crafts gripping plays that explore what's strange about being human and what's human about being strange, using familiar genres and cultural touchstones as a springboard to something wholly unexpected. Our productions include *God of Obsidian* (winner of the Cincy Fringe Full Frontal Pick Award), *Ligature Marks* (a CityBeat Critic's Pick), and *The Honeycomb Trilogy* (a 3-time New York Times Critic's Pick).

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**Show Title:** *Please Shuffle The Cards*

**Group Name:** Erik Tait

**From:** Columbus, OH.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Circus, Comedy, Magic)

**Rating:** PG-13 (13+)

**10-word Description:** Sleight of hand artist explores the border between skill and magic.

**Story for the Press:** The magic featured in *Please Shuffle the Cards* is accessible to a lay audience, but often makes magicians sit up and take notice. A magic show this highly technical in nature is unusual to see outside of a convention, and more unusual in that it's funny.

**Full Description:** The show begins with the audience being invited to shuffle the deck of cards that Erik will perform with. A camera is turned on so that the miracles on the table can be seen by everyone in the theater. *Please Shuffle The Cards* explores magic's relationship with skill and discovering how close one can come to telling people the secrets we are sworn to keep.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Erik Tait is an award winning sleight of hand artist, and the only magician in the world with an actual college degree in comedy. Based in Columbus OH, Erik has performed at such venues as Second City, XM Radio, and the world famous Magic Castle. Audiences have hailed him as acerbic, hilarious, and refreshingly honest about his dishonesty. When not performing in various comedy clubs and corporate venues he is a photographer, tortoise enthusiast, and writer/performer for the sketch comedy show *Monday Night Live*.

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**Show Title:** *She Buried the Pistol*

**Group Name:** Lydia Blaisdell

**From:** Brooklyn, NY.

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Mental Health Themes, Storytelling, Women's Themes)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** An excavation and exorcism of my great grandmother's legacy.

**Story for the Press:** The piece is based on my great-grandmother's actual medical records from Stockton State Asylum, which I coaxed from a reluctant archivist in California through months of emails and phone calls. The original records are on two sheets of microfiche. They are shockingly sad. I have the only copy.

**Full Description:** In 1931, my great-grandmother, Cora, was declared insane and placed in an asylum against her will. She remained there for over 30 years. How do I honor her legacy? What histories do we inherit? *She Buried the Pistol* offers an intimate exploration of madness, gender, and family history.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Lydia Blaisdell is a member playwright of Youngblood at Ensemble Studio Theater. *Bear Eats Bear*, her immersive audio piece, has toured to Toronto, Brooklyn, Charlotte, Minneapolis, and Austin. Her piece, *The Last Great American Bear Hunt*, was a finalist for the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference (2016). Her historical sex-doll play, *The Silent Woman*, made Honorable Mention on the 2016 Kilroy's List of best new plays. She has been a writer in residence at Ucross, Yaddo, and the Marble House Project. Lydia lives in Brooklyn. She holds an MFA from the Michener Center and a BA from Columbia.

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**Show Title:** *Show Up*

**Group Name:** Peter Michael Marino

**From:** New York, NY

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Comedy, Improv, Mental Health Themes)

**Rating:** PG-13 (13+)

**10-word Description:** An improvised solo comedy based on your crazy life.

**Story for the Press:** While "Show Up" is an improvised solo comedy about the life experiences of the audience, it is also peppered with Pete's own struggles and triumphs with social anxiety and depression. The message of the show is "doing is easier than thinking." As a result of the show, Pete has become a mental health advocate and has written pieces for mental health sites The Mighty and Stigma Fighters.

**Full Description:** In "Show Up," internationally acclaimed solo performer Peter Michael Marino uses his decades of solo expertise to turn the clichés of the genre on their clichéd heads. Using an arsenal of Post-it Notes, Pete transforms the audience's experiences into a comedic life-story that's different each time. You control the content, set, and sound for this socially-anxious show about you. And there's a party!

**Artist/Company Biography:** Peter Michael Marino is a NYC-based performer/writer/producer whose work has been seen on five continents. His critically acclaimed solo show "Desperately Seeking the Exit" recounted the making and unmaking of his West End Blondie musical flop "Desperately Seeking Susan" and played for over two years in the US, UK, and Australia. He is the creator of NYC's SOLOCOM, which has launched over 500 new solo comedies. Pete has been performing and producing at the Edinburgh Fringe and many other Fringe festivals since 2012. [www.petermmarino.com](http://www.petermmarino.com)

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**Show Title:** *Take Flight: An Adventure in Cirque*

**Group Name:** Imaginez

**From:** Chicago, IL

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Dance/Physical Theatre (Circus, Comedy, Physical Theatre)

**Rating:** Family Friendly (All Ages)

**10-word Description:** Aerial-silk/clown show about embarking on new journeys: life.

**Story for the Press:** "\*\* Strong LGBTQ ensemble with a story of resiliency.

\* The five year journey of *Take Flight*: Devising, revising and polishing to where it is now. The original devisers started writing and creating from a time when all of us were going through our own massive new chapters in our lives: a divorce, a gender transition, and the sudden throes of homelessness. None of these specific challenges in our lives were fodder for our creative process, but we all needed some poetic expression and laughter at the time and this piece was a manifestation of that leaping point."

**Full Description:** This aerial silk clown show poetically explores the crippling fear and exhilarating joy of flying into new chapters in life. Clutching a ticket to his dreams, Bumbles' plane freezes in time... With his heart (Kiki) and mind (Fink) at odds, Bumbles must cling to the familiar or leap into the unknown. A 'Living Pixar' tale of courage, resiliency and friendship perfect for all ages.

**Artist/Company Biography:** "Imaginez (pronounced ih-MA-jin-AY) is an ensemble of circus theatre professionals devising dynamic new works using clown, mime, physical comedy, aerial acrobatics, fire performance and physical theater to create dangerously beautiful spectacle with story. Speaking the universal language of movement, Imaginez has toured the American Midwest and into Canada believing that powerful theatre can transport audiences into that wonderful realm of "What if". Our collective training comes from around the world including the Moscow Art Theatre, Dell'Arte International School for Physical Theatre, Actor's Gymnasium Circus School, and the Discovery Movement Theatre trained by famed Marcel Marceau."

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**Show Title:** *There Ain't No More!*

**Group Name:** Breaker/Fixer Productions

**From:** Fayetteville, AR

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Dramedy, Music)

**Rating:** PG-13 (Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** An award winning tour-de-folk operetta.

**Story for the Press:** "There Ain't No More!" is the product of five years of research, down-home poetry, square dances, music-mentorship, and folklore in the mountains of the Arkansas Ozarks. Breaker/Fixer is a nationally touring company that creates performances at the intersection of folklore and theatre.

**Full Description:** "In his final concert an old folksinger confronts his troubled past, his legacy, and death itself with five instruments, square-dance calling, and dirty jokes in this haunting, heartfelt hootenanny. Based on legends of American Folk music. The Washington Post called it "Powerful" and "worth seeking out". Winner "Best Show" 2017 Orlando Fringe, "Excellence in Writing" Portfringe, 2017 "Outstanding National Act" 2017 St. Louis Fringe."

**Artist/Company Biography:** Breaker/Fixer Productions is a collaboration between writer, performer, and "Ozark renaissance folklorist" Willi Carlisle and theatre artist Joseph Fletcher. We create original performances at the intersection of theatre and folklore that encourage audiences to take part in their own history and discover the history of others. Our work stems from engagement with communities and often incorporates traditional art forms such as music, puppets, masks, and dance. Their first show "There Ain't No More!" is the product of five years of research, down-home poetry, square dances, music-mentorship, and folklore in the mountains of the Arkansas Ozarks.

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**Show Title:** *Thrive IRL*

**Group Name:** Nameless Numberhead

**From:** Charleston, SC

**New or Returning Participant:** New

**Category (Tags):** Interdisciplinary (Comedy, Music, Satire)

**Rating:** PG-13

**10-word Description:** A post-apocalyptic vaudeville show about YOU

**Story for the Press:** The internet dominates everything we do in our personal, professional, and even private lives. Social media has bolstered our obsession with 'voyeurism of the mundane'. Data and information are now currency. It's a terrifyingly amazing time to be alive! 'Thrive IRL' is a brand new show from comedy team Nameless Numberhead which is presented as an instructional coping mechanism for living life while co-existing with the internet. #feedthealgorithm.

**Full Description:** NAMELESS NUMBERHEAD is a post-apocalyptic vaudeville sketch comedy duo from Charleston, SC. Running all lighting and sound elements from the stage with foot switches and pedals, their show is a character driven satire about you and the weird routines and habits you exhibit everyday. Self identified as surveillance chic, Nameless Numberhead exposes our obsession with voyeurism of the mundane (social media and the algorithm).

**Artist/Company Biography:** Nameless Numberhead is Maari Suorsa and Henry Riggs. Their work has been featured on FunnyorDie, TedX, and most recently at SF Sketchfest. The two have performed at various festivals, comedy theatre's, and colleges all over the country including: SF Sketchfest, NY Sketchfest, The iO Theatre (Chicago), The PIT (NYC), Dad's Garage (Atlanta), Piccolo Fringe Festival, Sacramento Comedy Festival, Dallas Comedy Festival, and more. Charm City Comedy Project called Nameless Numberhead "one of the most compelling sketch shows we've ever hosted".

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**Show Title:** *Walt Fit*

**Group Name:** Jimmy Grzelak

**From:** Philadelphia, PA

**New or Returning Participant:** Returning

**Category (Tags):** Solo Performance (Music, Political Themes, Fitness)

**Rating:** R (Adult Language)

**10-word Description:** A live workout video for your abs and existential dread

**Story for the Press:** This show springs from a true-life journalistic discovery: one of America's most famous poets (Walt Whitman) secretly wrote a health-and-beauty guide. It was lost to time until a grad student stumbled on it in 2015. Jimmy Grzelak is making a Richard-Simmons style workout for this bizarre book.

**Full Description:** Walt Fit is a self-care-healthcare exercise system for everybody. In 1858, famously lofty poet Walt Whitman released an inspirational self-help health-and-beauty book. It was soon after lost to time. Until now. Reanimate this zombie path to total wellness-- attend this seated transformational dance party led by Jimmy Grzelak, "winningly offbeat imagination" (Washington Post) and 2017 Citybeat Critic's Pick.

**Artist/Company Biography:** Jimmy moves around a lot. This is his fourth full-length touring solo piece. In 2013-2014, Jimmy traveled Eurasia by train with the support of a Florence Chandler fellowship for "imagination, moral sensitivity and resourcefulness." Critics have called him a "wunderkind of weird... a force of nature" (Washington City Paper), "a gifted and charming storyteller" (Cincinnati City Beat) and "balls" (mobtreal.com).

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