



For Immediate Release

Kill Date: February 28, 2015

Radial Theater Project  
announces



5 weekends. 9 productions. 32 performances.

Radial Theater Project will present **Locally Grown**, a festival of original performance by local artists, January 30 - February 28, 2015 at Seattle's New City Theater.

#### **the performance schedule**

The festival will run for five weekends in New City Theater's intimate performance space in Seattle's Central District. The productions and performance schedule will be announced in December, and tickets will go on sale in early January.

#### **who's performing**

The roster includes both established and early-career performers:

**José Amador**

**Amontaine Aurore / Ten Auras Productions**

**Ricky Coates / theater simple**

**Jennifer Jasper**

**Yana Kesala / Radiant Moxie**

**Mike Mathieu and Ryan Sanders / Rock Paper Theater**

**K. Brian Neel**

**Sara Porkalob**

#### **why we're creating this festival**

Seattle is home to many adventurous performing artists who tour their work nationally and internationally. Presenting their work in their own backyard is an ongoing challenge due to high rent, marketing costs and competition for venues. **Locally Grown** will bring many artists together under a single roof, where local audiences can see their favorites and be introduced to new artists in an intimate setting.

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### more information

<http://radialtheater.org>

Production photos will be available in December.

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### about the artists

**José Amador** is a local playwright/director/actor who has been actively involved in the Seattle Theater scene for the last two decades. As a playwright, he has written two solo plays, *A Walk in the Dark* and *El Hijo Prodigio*, along with numerous full-length, short- plays and sketches featured at or by 14/48, Disgruntled Bit Players, *Death/Sex*, *Greetings from Styx*, among others. As a director, his most recent productions include 14/48, *Duels* at Northwest New Works, *Black Like Us* at Annex Theatre and *Katrina: I Too Am Worthy* at the Langston Hughes Arts Center. He was most recently seen in Sound Theater's *Five by Beckett* at ACT, and playing Sancho Panza in eSe Teatro's *Don Quixote and Sancho Panza: Homeless in Seattle*.

**Amontaine Aurore** is a Seattle-based literary and theatrical artist, and a graduate from Antioch University. In 2006 Amontaine began to write and perform in solo plays, including *Waiting for Billie Holiday* and *My Name is Trazar*. In 2008, her solo play, *Queen Rita's Blues Alley*, was presented at the 59E59 Theater in New York and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. In 2013, her solo play, *Free Desiree*, was chosen for the New York Fringe Festival, where it was named by Indie Theater Now as one of the most exciting, original and innovative new scripts in the festival. Amontaine's solo work-in-progress, *Love Letters Beyond the Veil*, is an exploration of life after death, and will premiere at the Orcas Center on Orcas Island in June, 2015. Amontaine's literary and performance work has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Puffin Foundation, the Seattle Arts Commission, and the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture. Amontaine has also lived and/or studied in Los Angeles, New York, Italy, Egypt and Bali. She has been a writer-in-residence at the Hedgebrook Writer's Retreat for Women on Whidbey Island. She is a member of the Sandbox Artists' Collective, and is the founder of Ten Auras Productions.  
[www.tenauras.com](http://www.tenauras.com)

Beginning in May, at the Orlando Fringe Festival, **Ricky Coates** has been a dead man touring Fringe festivals from Florida to Canada to the Rockies. A graduate of University of Arizona, Ricky has been a simpleton since he played Kilroy in *CAMINO REAL*, and has toured with the company to Canada, Australia, and Orlando (site of the East Coast debut of *The Death Of Brian*, for which he received the Tech Award from the Orlando Fringe). **theater simple** has a solid international rep for creating original theatrical experiences, built from the

imagination up. An award-winning, internationally acclaimed company, theater simple was founded in 1990 with the aim of stripping the theatrical experience down to: the imagination of the actor and audience, the playwright's words and the director's vision. Much of theater simple's work has landed on "BEST OF" lists around the world, and our incursions into theatrically-based interdisciplinary public art events has created a partnership with the Make A Wish Foundation. In theater, on the web, around the world, and out of the box - we make theater. Simple. [www.theatersimple.org](http://www.theatersimple.org)

**Jennifer Jasper** is a hilarious storyteller, performer, writer and director who's been a part of the Northwest theater scene for more than two decades. She's known for her consummate storytelling, her pristine timing and her intuitive director's eye. As a performer and writer Jennifer possesses an uncanny capacity for creating memorable characters that are colorful, often outlandish and always emotionally authentic. In 2014, Jennifer's play *et•y•mol•o•gy* was one of the six winners of the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival in New York City. She will be returning to NYC in 2016 for a showcase of her work Off Broadway. Also in 2014 she performed a new one-woman show titled *It Will Kill Them!* at Seattle's Gay City Arts. She is a 2015 recipient of Willapa Bay's AiR. In 2012 and 2013 she had three successful runs of her one-woman show *I Can Hear You...but I'm Not Listening*, in Seattle, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, NM and Hollywood, CA. She produces, hosts and curates a monthly cabaret entitled *Family Affair-Cabaret served up family style* at The Jewel Box Theater in Seattle. [www.jenniferjasperperforms.com](http://www.jenniferjasperperforms.com)

Since 2007, the delightful **Yana Kesala** has been charming international theatergoers with her expressive face and intelligent interpretations. Playing Lady Macbeth with the Stanford Shakespeare Society at the Edinburgh Fringe launched her love of theater on the edge and cheeky production opportunities. Inspired by touring to the Edmonton, Canada and Adelaide, Australia Fringes with theater simple's production of *The Snow Queen*, Yana began writing and producing her own solo shows under her new theater company Radiant Moxie. Radiant Moxie is on a mission to inspire hope by paring down stories based on the real-life experiences of everyday women and embracing the radiance of facing difficulty with spirit and courage. By relishing that solo work leaves nowhere for the performer to hide, Yana encourages the audience to move beyond witnessing the scene and toward becoming her scene partner. Yana's previous solo works are: *The Ukrainian Dentist's Daughter*, based on her mother's true story of immigration, anticipation, and love; *I Think My Heart Needs Glasses*, her own personal story of love, grief, and the search for peace; and *12 Tongues*, a one-woman show written by twelve different people exploring the variety of voices an individual has in a single year.

**Mike Mathieu** has appeared in productions at Annex Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theater, and other local companies. He spent almost a decade writing, directing and performing in shows at Bellingham's iDiOM Theater, where for two years he served as Artistic Director. He also toured the continent (and won a Genius Award) as one half of comedy duo The Cody Rivers Show. Through his own production company, Rock Paper Theater, Mathieu creates and releases music and videos and, last year, staged a production of Ben Eisner's *The Raft* (in collaboration with Mr. Ryan Sanders). His most recent Seattle performance was a comedic solo documentary called *One-Man Wimbledon*, at the Pocket Theater. **Ryan Sanders** is a Seattle stage and film actor whose past credits include Unbalancing Act's *Recent Tragic Events*, Book-It's *Border Songs*, BASH Theatre and Radial Theater Project's

*Beating Up Bachman*, Rock Paper Theater's *The Raft* and many shows with the sketch comedy troupe, Ubiquitous They.

**K. Brian Neel** has been amazing audiences around the globe for over twenty years. He has created and toured six award winning solo plays including the science fiction paradox-romp THE 42ND FLOOR, the noir film live on stage DOUBLE CLIMAX, the sprawling fantasy epic PRYK, and the bittersweet ukulele operetta VAUD RATS. His dynamic, highly physical performance style has been called “Riveting” (National Public Radio), “Virtuoso” (Seattle Post-Intelligencer), “dynamic, engrossing, funny, heartbreaking, poignant, unique” (Charleston City Paper), and “astonishingly great” (Calgary Straight, Vancouver, Canada). Brian creates “Memorable, pure, live theater” (The Advertiser, Adelaide, Australia). A professional performer, writer, award-winning director, and educator based in Seattle, Brian was in the physical improvisation ensemble Kings' Elephant Theater and was Artistic Foreman of the internationally renowned Seattle Mime Theater. His eclectic resume includes performing musicals at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, directing Verdi's *Luisa Miller* for Puget Sound Opera, clowning and conducting symphonies on tour with Magic Circle Mime, performing at the Hong Kong International Children's Festival, writing interactive theatrical components to Carnegie Hall shows for Seattle Symphony, doing performance art at the Ontological-Hysteric Theater in New York City, more clowning in Teatro ZinZanni, and playing an alien in Scotto Moore's web series *The Coffee Table*. He took time off to build a house. [www.kbrianneel.com](http://www.kbrianneel.com)

**Sara Porkalob** is a Seattle based artist activist specializing in new works production, site specific theater and generative performance art. She attended Cornish College of the Arts' Original Works program and is a director, performer and teacher. A 3rd wave feminist, she is particularly passionate about creating work for women, by women and about women. Her biggest inspirations are her two mothers, her dysfunctional family and the strangers she meets on the streets. Recent acting credits include: Blue in *Pork Filled Players Fast Company*, Sheila in ArtsWest's *HAIR* and Edith in Seattle Public Theater's *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*. Recent directing credits include: *The Last Five Years* at Cornish College, *Deadliest Instruments* at the Triple Door and *Peach Tree Parables*, a site specific promenade piece. She is a member of the Sandbox Artist Collective.

In March she will be playing Lady Macbeth and Benvolio in Seattle Shakespeare's Educational Tour of *Macbeth* and *Romeo & Juliet*. Sara will be debuting her second original solo show at Theater Off Jackson's SPF at the end of March. To find more information or if you're interested in collaboration, please visit [www.saraporkalob.com](http://www.saraporkalob.com).

#### **about the festival organizers**

Festival organizers include David Gassner (Producing Director, Radial Theater Project; former Artistic Director, Theater Schmeater), Keira McDonald (founder and former producer of the Seattle Solo Performance Festival), K. Brian Neel (solo performer, actor and director), and Blair Feehan (Annual Fund Manager, Seattle Repertory Theatre).

#### **about Radial Theater Project**

**Radial Theater Project** is a Seattle-based production company dedicated to creating new theatrical works in partnership with local theater artists. Past world premiere productions include *Karaoke Suicide is Painless* (2011 Seattle Solo Performance Festival), *99 Layoffs* (ACT Theatre's Central Heating Lab), *Beating Up Bachman* (co-produced with BASH Theatre

at West of Lenin), *AISLE 9* (2013 Seattle Fringe Festival), and *PROFILE* (2014 Seattle Fringe Festival). [www.radialtheater.org](http://www.radialtheater.org)