

INTERSECTION IV: RE/GENERATIONS • APRIL 7-9, 2006

REPORTS / Performances

Friday

HartBeat Ensemble

In a lunchtime showcase during the Youth Convergence, the Hartford-based intergenerational ensemble HartBeat showed excerpts from their play *News to Me*, exploring the contradictions of the No Child Left Behind Act. In a style that combined Hip Hop theater and musical theater, the piece focused on young people, their teachers, and their families dealing with racism, sexism, and other challenges within the public education system.

On the Frontlines: Sex, War and Lies Project 2050

An original work by the youth of New WORLD Theater's Project 2050, exploring the ways youth experience themselves "on the front lines" of a number of contemporary struggles. What information do we get from the media and how reliable is it? From military recruitment of young people of color in public schools to homophobia and sexual violence, youth respond to the "war zones" they encounter at home and abroad.

Saturday

Indigenous Artists Showcase

Artists from three indigenous theater companies performed as a special event in the Native American Pow Wow taking place the same weekend at UMass, a collaboration between New WORLD Theater and the Dr. Josephine White Eagle Cultural Center. The performers included **FOMMA**, Fortaleza de la Mujer Maya, a Mayan theater company founded in 1994 as a center to help displaced Indian women and children in San Cristóbal, Mexico; **Kinding Sindaw**, a New York City-based troupe that performs indigenous music and dance from the Philippines, performing *Glimpses of Mindanao*; and **Muriel Miguel** of Spiderwoman Theater, presenting excerpts from a new theater piece, *Red Mother*.

Trying to Find My Way Back Home William O'Neal, Junebug Productions

The premiere performance of William O'Neal's solo play about Junebug Jabbo Jones the Younger. Junebug, a character originated by John O'Neal more than thirty years ago, is a folk hero, an African storyteller, a keeper of dreams, and an oral historian who brings to life vibrant

stories of struggle and celebration. Using storytelling, rap, song, and spoken word, Junebug Jabbo Jones the Younger challenges contemporary audiences to recognize the importance of our collective past struggles on our current conditions and experiences.

Sunday

Continuity and MOVEment: A Future Aesthetics Showcase

The closing performance of *Intersection* featured an eclectic mix of politically charged artists.

Baba Israel and Steve Ben Israel offered *Continuity: A Father and Son Journey from Theater to Hip Hop*. In two connected pieces, we witness the two men's movement from the family room to the stage, from the Beat poets to Beatboxing, from riffs to rhymes, from hipsters to Hip Hop, through counter culture and beyond.

Mango Tribe presented short pieces by members of the Asian/Pacific Islander/American ensemble: "Wedding" by marian yalini thambynayagam, "Everyday Suffering" by Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai, "Infestation" by members of Mango Tribe Chicago, "Rebel Lullaby" by Sarwat Rumi, and "Who's Got Us?" by Anida Esguerra. Mango Tribe weaves spoken word, music, video, theater, and movement together in telling the stories of struggle, survival, and the celebration of Asian/Pacific Islander/American women.

olive Dance Theatre with **Paula Larke** presented an excerpt from *Brotherly Love*, their latest work. An intergenerational piece that investigates the social and political turmoil in Philadelphia, 1975-85, focusing on the controversial MOVE group. The use of dance, music, video and spoken word invites us to relate to and respect the struggle for social justice that continues today.