

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

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STANFORD LIVELY ARTS, THE AURORA FORUM, AND THE STANFORD INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVITY & THE ARTS PRESENT NEW “ART + INVENTION SPEAKER SERIES”

Stanford, CA, November 6, 2009—As part of this season’s campus-wide “Art+Invention” programming initiative, Stanford Lively Arts, the Aurora Forum, and the Stanford Institute for Creativity & the Arts (SiCa) will present a new “**Art + Invention Speaker Series**” hosted by Aurora Forum founding director **Mark Gonnerman**. This collaboration engages iconic artists in thought-provoking conversations about creativity, innovation, and discovery across the disciplines. All programs are free and open to the public on a first come, first-served basis.

“The Aurora Forum is delighted to go forward under the auspices of Stanford Lively Arts to further our shared mission of bringing the work of thought leaders in the arts and sciences to on- and off-campus publics,” says Gonnerman. “Stanford is an incubator of innovation in all fields, and we are especially excited to present public conversations with artists who contribute to and illuminate various cultures, expand awareness through new technologies, and probe philosophical questions that are at the heart of humanistic inquiry. This will be fun!”

The 2009–10 series launches with **An Evening with Ralph Lemon and Peggy Phelan on Thursday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Pigott Theater**. Lemon, a choreographer and cross-disciplinary performer, is the fall artist-in-residence at the Stanford Institute for Diversity in the Arts (IDA). Stanford Drama Department chair Peggy Phelan joins this conversation, which will introduce Lemon’s rich portfolio and focus on his *Geography Trilogy*, the fruit of a 9-year investigation through travel that followed the artist’s decision to disband his dance company and search for a new relationship to his work. Presented in collaboration with IDA, SiCa, and Stanford’s Dance Division, Department of Drama.

In the second conversation, presented with the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, the series will explore art produced by the creative husband and wife couple **Steve Reich and Beryl Korot on Thursday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Pigott Theater**. From his early taped speech pieces *It’s Gonna Rain* (1965) and *Come Out* (1966) to his and video artist Beryl Korot’s digital video opera *Three Tales*

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(2002), composer Steve Reich's path has embraced not only aspects of Western classical music, but the structures, harmonies, and rhythms of non-Western and American vernacular music, particularly jazz. Recent collaborations include *The Cave* (1990-93), a music theater video piece exploring the Biblical story of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac and *Three Tales*, which presents three parables of technology run amok: the crash of the German airship Hindenburg, the testing of atomic bombs on Bikini Atoll, and a preview of a catastrophe to come in the birth of artificial intelligence and cloning. While on campus, Reich will also appear with S_ Percussion in a performance featuring the U.S. premiere of his *Mallet Quartet* (commissioned by Lively Arts) on Saturday, January 9 at Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

In anticipation of the West Coast premiere of the radio play *RFK: The Journey to Justice*, the series welcomes the L.A. Theatre Works cast on **Tuesday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Pigott Theater**. L.A. Theatre Works' new radio docudrama, co-commissioned by Lively Arts, charts Robert F. Kennedy's personal and political journey at the cusp of the Civil Rights Movement. Kennedy, who was assassinated in June 1968, just months after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had a complex and evolving relationship with King and the Movement, gradually moving from mutual suspicion to shared aspirations and strategic alliances. From wiretapping to voting rights, race relations, and wartime politics, the themes underlying RFK's tenure as Attorney General (in the Johnson administration) and later as U.S. Senator and presidential candidate still resonate more than forty years later. *RFK: The Journey to Justice* to justice premieres on Wednesday, January 27 at Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

Ann Carlson and Mary Ellen Strom join the series on **Thursday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Cubberley Auditorium**. Dancer and choreographer Ann Carlson and video artist Mary Ellen Strom have brought together social, political, historical and formal concerns. These collaborations are notable for their community engagement, experimental form, technological experimentation, and cultural activism.

The series will culminate with **Laurie Anderson** on **Tuesday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Pigott Theater**. Recognized worldwide as a leader in the use of technology in the arts, Anderson is known widely for her multimedia presentations, casting herself in roles as varied as visual artist, composer, poet, photographer, filmmaker, electronics whiz, vocalist, and instrumentalist. In her new work, *Delusion* (co-commissioned by Stanford Lively Arts), which will debut at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games and be presented by Lively Arts on Wednesday, May 5 at Memorial Auditorium, Anderson will explore sound and stories in a series of short plays. Using her inventions in vocal processing, signature violin pieces and lush sonic landscapes Anderson creates and inhabits imaginary worlds that become mental movies. Conceived as a ninety-minute technodrama, the new work will combine technology, mystery and contemporary short stories in a unique new art form.

Seating and parking for these events are limited, so audience members are encouraged to arrive early.

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VENUE INFORMATION

Pigott Theater, 551 Serra Mall, is located in Memorial Hall on Stanford's Campus. The entrance to Pigott Theater is located up a short flight of stairs facing the Graduate School of Business. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times.

Cubberley Auditorium is located in the Stanford University School of Education at 485 Lasuen Mall. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times. Parking is available behind Tresidder Student Union, in the lots between Lagunita Drive and Mayfield Avenue. A searchable map of the campus can be found at <http://ucomm.stanford.edu/map/>.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS AND THE AURORA FORUM

Stanford Lively Arts curates experiences that engage artists' and audiences' imagination, creativity, and sense of adventure. Founded in 1969 at Stanford University, we produce and present music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multi-media events. We place a special focus on innovation and risk-taking, and through commissions and premieres are an incubator and destination for new work. Stanford Lively Arts plays a leading and collaborative role in the university's thriving vision of a sustained culture of creativity—one in which the arts integrate with the academic disciplines, flourish as a vital part of campus and community life, and inspire new perspectives on our lives and culture. <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu/>.

The Aurora Forum at Stanford University is an ongoing public conversation series featuring artists and other socially engaged thinkers who turn vision into action for positive social change. The Forum serves as a bridge between the university and a public eager for high quality ideas and information. Programs are free and open to everyone. The Aurora Forum is presented by Stanford Lively Arts and cosponsored by the Office of the President and Provost and Stanford's Office of Public Affairs. Visit <http://auroraforum.stanford.edu/>.

ABOUT THE STANFORD INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVITY & THE ARTS (SICA)

The Stanford Institute for Creativity & the Arts (SiCa), established in 2006, serves as the core programmatic hub for the Stanford Arts Initiative, leading the development of new undergraduate arts programs, hosting artists in residence, awarding grants for multidisciplinary arts research and teaching, incubating collaborative performances and exhibitions with campus partners and other institutions, and providing centralized communication for Stanford arts events and programs. For more information, please visit <http://arts.stanford.edu>

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