Bricolage’s new immersive experience, SAINTS TOUR, features Art from the ground up

Bricolage Production Company presents, in association with Real/Time Interventions, SAINTS TOUR.
“There’s Something in the Dirt.”

PITTSBURGH, PA (April 2, 2015)— Bricolage Production Company, internationally recognized for their unconventional theatrical works such as, STRATA and OjO, is proud to partner with Pittsburgh’s newest theatre makers, Real/Time Interventions, to present their next truly unique theatre experience in Braddock, PA, home of the first and last operational steel mill in Pittsburgh. Conceived and written by playwright Molly Rice, SAINTS TOUR will open on May 20th and run through June 13th. This immersive theater piece is a site-specific play built intentionally for the neighborhood it occupies, taking the form of a bus and walking tour during which magical things happen. As the tour’s mysterious guide explains:

“During the Spring, at this particular latitude and longitude (40.403402/-79.868382), Saints emerge in disproportionate numbers performing acts of good, which often go unnoticed.”

Participants of SAINTS TOUR move through the nooks and crannies of Braddock, North Braddock, and Braddock Hills, led by the “Tour Guide” whose family has been rooted to the land for centuries. Traversing the landscape along the Monongahela River, up hills, over train tracks, and through sites of local lore, the Tour seeks signs and sightings of local "saints” in unexpected spaces. Participants encounter visual enchantments, sudden music, mysterious occurrences and other sub rosa traces of the "saints” that shape the narrative of this community. Weaving myth and realism with the unique
history of the city and her residents, the tour concludes with a shared meal in a secret setting.

For writer and conceiver Molly Rice, working with the artists of Braddock has been an experience like no other:

“In our research, we have found that Braddock holds a singular balance of devoted builders and change-makers and a unique array of world-class visual artists who are generous with their talents. We have worked in a deeply integrated, foundation-up way with these artists that I have never quite experienced before—to accomplish the work of unearthing and bringing the riches of this historic, complex neighborhood into the center of The Saints Tour frame.” – Molly Rice, Real/Time Interventions

The industrial landscape of this unique community inspired many visual artists to relocate to the area. Resident artists Zena Ruiz and Lindsay Sherloum and long-time Braddock artistic collective, New Guild Studios team up with an incredible array of celebrated Pittsburgh artists to highlight and enhance the landscape through which participants travel.

Charged with the creation of everything from the strange language of “Saint Signs” and “Saint totems”—mysteriously placed to highlight sites of local “emergences”, or elaborate sound installations revealing secrets beneath the earth, as well as artistic installations on railroad bridges, “living” projections in abandoned houses, and sacred relics of “Saints” past and present, these artists are transforming the everyday into the realm of preternatural magic.

SAINTS TOUR individual artists include: Nathan Barnes, Sanford Barnes, TaeAjah Cannon, Lenka Clayton, Vanessa German, New Guild Studios, David Pohl, Zena Ruiz, Lindsey Scherloum, James Simon, Kevin Sousa, Bria Walker

SAINTS TOUR partner organizations include: Braddock Youth Project, Braddock Carnegie Library, Gardweeno, Braddock Farms, Monongahela Cemetery and Unsmoke Systems

SAINTS TOUR is made possible by generous support from community partners, including The Heinz Endowments and The Sprout Fund.

SAINTS TOUR opens May 21 and runs Wednesdays-Sundays at 7:30PM through June 13. Tickets: $60. Free for residents of 15104 with reservation. For tickets: http://www.bricolagepgh.org/events/saints-tour-0

Get a Ticket/Give a Ticket: Bricolage Production Company acknowledges that ticket prices for immersive work can be expensive, posing a potential financial barrier between patrons and the work. In an attempt to remove those barriers, Bricolage is working to secure funding from additional sponsors who are interested in supporting their “art for all” efforts. Bricolage is encouraging their patrons to contribute to this philosophy as
well. Those patrons who opt in can add a donation to any ticket purchase at check out. Their contributions will help to ensure that our doors remain open to anyone with a desire to participate.

**The Accessibility of SAINTS TOUR:** Bricolage is committed to providing an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to every patron, endeavoring to have transparency with all programs that may present specific challenges for participation. “We want patrons to know that our mobile immersive pieces can be difficult for those with mobility issues. This particular piece requires audiences to move up and down stairs, and through uneven terrain. As a result, it may not be suitable for all patrons,” explains Jackie Baker, Bricolage’s General Manager. Bricolage encourages patrons to identify any specific accommodations that would help them better enjoy their SAINTS TOUR experience. For any concerns about the mobile nature of the piece to help assess if you choose to participate call Bricolage at 412-471-0999.

**CREATIVE TEAM:**

**BRICOLAGE**

**Bricolage Mission Statement:** Bricolage’s mission is to immerse artists and audiences in adventurous theatrical experiences that foster connections and alter perceptions.

**Bricolage Artistic Vision:** Bricolage envisions theater not as a passive experience, but as a vehicle for heightened involvement for artist and audience alike. Their approach encourages artists to take the creative risks necessary to create full-blooded, high-quality theatrical experiences that challenge audiences to engage in new ways, react, and express openly their opinions about their work – to have a stake in the creative discussion. The word Bricolage means, “making artful use of what is at hand.” What excites this company is the connection and interaction between seemingly disparate elements, and the potential for these components to resonate as one cohesive event. Bricolage uses the distinctive resources of the Pittsburgh region to create theatrical experiences that stimulate a heightened sense of involvement for the audience. “What’s at hand” is the city’s changing landscape, its plentiful human and material resources, and the salient political, cultural and ethical issues encountered and reacted to each day. By combining different artistic mediums, nourishing local talent, producing provocative work, and facilitating audience engagement, Bricolage seeks to revitalize live performance for a new era.

**REAL/TIME INTERVENTIONS**

**Real/Time Interventions Mission Statement:** Real/Time Interventions (RTI) is the creative partnership of playwright/experience designer Molly Rice, and director/producer Rusty Ring Thelin. Real/Time Interventions creates theatrical events and public experiences that depend upon the immediate nature of live and real-time art, especially events that only come to life when people come together. They seek to generate connection, curiosity and wonder with their work, and to help audiences re-see their surroundings and themselves in new and unexpected ways. RTI creates narrative
art in rich conversation with a broad range of collaborators, from theater artists to scientists to rock bands to social workers to our neighbors down the street. They seek to create small, vibrant "companies" with every new project, peopled by individuals from diverse walks of life and realms of experience who are bound by the creative impulse, driving each piece or their stake in the story being told together.

Molly Rice bio: Molly Rice (www.mollyrice.info) is a playwright, songwriter and “experience designer” whose work gravitates toward offbeat musicality, multi-genre/multimedia collaborations, and site-specificity. Her plays have been developed and produced by NYC theaters like the Public, Playwrights Horizons, Rattlestick, Women’s Project, NYTW, Clubbed Thumb and New Georges, and nationally by American Repertory Theater (ART), Trinity Rep, McCarter Theater, Salvage Vanguard, Kitchen Dog and Montana Rep. Her writing has been published by presses and journals like American Theater, Clarkson Potter, Heinemann Press, Kenyon Review, Austin Chronicle, Loose Change Magazine, Play: A Journal and Indie Theater Now, and she’s been commissioned by the NYU Graduate Acting Program, New Georges, Visible Theater, The Drilling Company and Montclair State University. Honors include the International Women’s Playwriting Festival, New York Innovative Theater Awards (nomination), and Brown’s Weston Prize For Graduate Playwriting. Recent projects include Futurity the Musical at ART (2012), co-written with the band The Lisps, and The Saints Tour, which began in 2009 and has been seen in Louisville, Lower Manhattan and NYC’s West Village, featuring local artists and community organizations. Molly currently teaches at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, Point Park University.

For more information on past Saints Tour productions visit http://bit.ly/18vhJqZ

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