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Bricolage partners with PERSAD Center for a special edition of their storytelling series, WordPlay

Friday & Saturday • June 2 & 3 2017 • 8pm

PITTSBURGH, PA (May 4, 2017)—Bricolage Production Company has partnered with PERSAD CENTER, the nation’s second oldest licensed mental health counseling center specifically created to serve the LGBTQ community to present a special installment of their popular storytelling production, WordPlay. In honor of PRIDE month, Bricolage has engaged storytellers from the Pittsburgh LGBTQ communities to “share tales of love, loss, liberation, and laughter that seek to celebrate and honor living out loud.”

A modern twist on the ancient art of storytelling, WordPlay has been growing in popularity since its co-producer, award-winning humor columnist, and MOTH host Alan Olifson brought it to Pittsburgh from Los Angeles over 4 years ago. With its steadily growing audience and frequent media buzz, WordPlay has become a staple of Pittsburgh’s literary and theater scene. Similar to other storytelling-based productions such as The MOTH StorySLAM or This American Life, the show features true stories from people of all walks of life, but with a unique musical component: each WordPlay storyteller is accompanied by a curated soundtrack. Spun by a live DJ, this soundtrack can include anything from Brahms to Beyoncé.

Back for this installment is the DJ duo Tracksploitation along with a talented group of 5 local storytellers including Queer Pittsburgh author Nyri Bakkalian, Brian Broome, WYEP morning DJ Cindy Howes, and kelly e. parker. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased at BricolagePGH.org. WordPlay presents stories about real people in real situations. Due to the real nature of the stories, WordPlay is not always suitable for ages 17 & under and sensitive listeners. Please be advised when considering attendance.

The Breakdown

Happy Half-hour: 7:30pm-8:00pm
WordPlay’s free Happy Half-hour kicks off at 7:30pm with free drinks and amusements. Each installment features a different array of interactive pre-show games, from recording personal stories in Bricolage’s “mini-studio” to large-scale audience party games.
**Show:** 8:00pm- 9:30pm
With brazen honesty and creativity, local actors, comedy writers, and everyday people read their own personal stories while a DJ spins a real-time soundtrack.

**WordPlay is looking for new Storytellers**
Stories are accepted on a rolling basis and should be sent to submissions@wordplayshow.com. Performers are paid a $100 stipend for 1 rehearsal and 2 performances in Pittsburgh. Visit www.bricolagepgh.org/get-involved/#work-with-us for submission guidelines and more information.

**Accessibility**
The Friday, June 2nd performance of WordPlay feature ASL interpretation by Heather Gray. Large print programs are available for both shows. Bricolage’s space at 937 Liberty Avenue is designed for wheelchair access, featuring accessible, gender-neutral restrooms, and wheelchair seating. Companion seating is also available with advance notice. Bricolage is committed to providing an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all patrons. They encourage patrons to identify any specific accommodations that would make their experience more enjoyable in the comments section when purchasing tickets or by calling their offices at **412.471.0999**.

**Bricolage Mission and Vision Statement**
Bricolage envisions theater not as a passive experience, but as a vehicle for heightened involvement for artist and audience alike. 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.

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. "What’s at hand" is Pittsburgh’s changing landscape, its plentiful human and material resources, and the salient political, cultural, and ethical issues they encounter and react to each day.

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 our work – to have a stake in the creative discussion.

**PERSAD CENTER Mission**
PERSAD CENTER is a human service organization whose mission is to improve the well-being of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) people, and those affected by HIV/AIDS. Our expertise comes from decades of experience in serving LGBTQ people and addressing the well-being of the community.

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