FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing the Brazen Cast & Crew of BUS

Witness the Burgh’s top directors, playwrights, and performers race against time to create compelling original plays in only 24 hours.

Saturday • March 11, 2017 • August Wilson Center

PITTSBURGH, PA (February 16, 2016)— A fusion of beat-the-clock theater and VIP Gala, Bricolage’s BUS has become known for featuring artists from theaters all across the city (such as Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, City Theater, PICT, and Arcade Comedy Theater). This rare mix of playwrights, directors, and performers creates a unique snapshot of the best of Pittsburgh’s robust theater community.

Now hosting the event for its 12th year, Bricolage is thrilled to announce this year’s brave BUS cast and crew. From nationally recognized playwrights and award-winning performers to fresh-faced stars on the rise, this year’s line-up is packed with an incredible array of local artists.

Why do celebrated artists volunteer their time and talent to such a creatively risky and mentally nerve-racking experience? BUS veteran, Parag S. Gohel, explains:

“What’s exciting to me about B.U.S. is that it embodies the idea that ‘if you leap, the net will appear’: it compels artists to take huge risks and make gut-decisions not only because of the wildly fast pace that strips artists of time for fear, hesitation, or self-editing, but also because the spirit of the whole thing is a celebration of ideas, creativity, and talent.”

Playwrights: Gab Cody, Kim El, Gayle Pazerski, Dave Harris, Sloan MacRae, & Mark Clayton Southers

Directors: Hallie Donnor, Linda Haston, Patrick Jordan, Ricardo Vila-Roger, Brad Stephenson, & Sam Turich

McCune, Missy Moreno, Delilah Picart, Sundiata Rice, Quinn Patrick Shannon, Christine Starkey, Genna Styles, Kelly Trumbull, Michael Angelo Turner & Shakara Wright

Crew: Wendy Vandergrift (Assistant Production Manager), Alicia DiGiorgi, Cory Goddard & Phill Madore (Stage Managers), Ryan Looke (Assistant Stage Manager), Antonio Colaruotolo & Jenna K Ferree (Lighting Designers), David Gotwald, Brendan Kepple (Sound Designers)

HOW DOES IT ALL WORK?
Bricolage will collaborate with over 40 local theater artists, asking them to risk their creative necks to develop six 10-minute plays in just 24 hours. First, the scene is set as six playwrights take off in all different directions from downtown Pittsburgh at 5:30pm on Friday March 10th for a 90-minute PAT bus ride meant to inspire their coming creations. At 7:00pm that evening, the VIP audience’s journey begins as they join all 40 artists for the Actor Exhibition, performed live in Bricolage’s intimate black-box theatre. This rare look behind the scenes gives patrons a chance to see the creative process in action, as 24 brave performers share secret details of their lives and perform absurd requests from the producers. Finally, the playwrights, in NFL draft style, select the actors they will write for and head home to begin an arduous night of writing. 10 short hours later, the plays are due and rehearsals begin. Saturday March 11th at 6:30pm, after rehearsals and tech are complete, the party gets started and the audience is welcomed into the August Wilson Center for a VIP Gala filled with food, drink, and festivities. At 8pm the lights go dim and 24 hours of blood, sweat, and tears are set into motion with an epic performance of 6 brand-new original plays. The night ends with a post-show toast to celebrate the chaos.

BUS SCHEDULE:
Friday, March 10 @ Bricolage’s space
7-10pm: VIP Reception + Live Actor Exhibition

Saturday, March 11 @ The August Wilson Center
6:30-8pm: VIP Gala & Silent Auction +
8-11pm: Performance & Post-show Toast

BUS FARES:
$45: Mini BUS • Saturday
Arrive at 7:30pm for pre-show mingling and a drink. Watch the performance, bid in the silent auction, and enjoy the post-show toast.

$75: Party BUS • Saturday
Attend our exclusive VIP Gala with unlimited food & drinks, first look at the silent auction, and priority level seating for the performance.

$150: Double Decker BUS • Friday + Saturday
Come Friday for tapas & drinks and watch us kick off the 24 hour process with a Live Actor Exhibition. Come Saturday as a VIP, enjoy unlimited food & drink, first look at the silent auction, and watch the performance in the best seats in the house.

BOX OFFICE:
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust: 412-456-6666 or trustarts.org/production/51968
ACCESSIBILITY:
BUS will feature Audio Description, Assisted Listening, ASL Interpretation, and large print programs for the main performance on Saturday March 11th. Both Bricolage’s space at 937 Liberty Ave and The August Wilson Center’s space at 980 Liberty Ave, are wheelchair accessible. 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.

SUPPORT:

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.

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