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**The 15th Anniversary First Person Arts Festival Presented by
PNC Arts Alive Announces Its Full Schedule**

Featuring Award-Winning Poet and Playwright Ntozake Shange, Internationally Best-Selling Memoirist Jennifer Teege, Political Satirist and Puppeteer Paul Zaloom, the first-ever All Star Slam, Emerging Works in Performance, and more.

The 15th Anniversary First Person Arts Festival

Presented through the PNC Arts Alive Initiative

November 7-19, 2016

Multiple venues across Philadelphia, PA

Tickets at: firstpersonarts.org and 267-402-2055

FPA Member tix on sale 9/9/16 | General Public tix on sale 9/16/16.

Grand Slam

This season's StorySlam winners go head-to-head for the title of "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia," free FPA Slam admission for life, a \$250 cash prize, and bragging rights. Contestants try to win over celebrity judges with their most outrageous, gutsy, and heartfelt personal tales. Hosted by **Comedian Chip Chantry**. *Underground Arts; Mon., Nov. 7; Doors at 7PM, Show at 8PM; \$17 before Oct. 28, \$22 starting on Oct. 28, \$15 for FPA members. Tickets at grandslam.firstpersonarts.org. Special thanks to Harmelin Media.*

Poll Party

Don't watch this year's election alone! It's much too dangerous. On this historically nail-biting day, watch the numbers come in live from the First Person Arts Festival! During commercial breaks, burlesque troupe **Agitated** provides sexy comedic relief, and live music from **The Hopefuls** will help you celebrate, or provide comfort while you plan your move to Canada. Join us, and our cases of beer from **Yards Brewery**. *Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Tues., Nov. 8; Doors at 7:30PM, Show at 8PM; \$5-10 sliding scale suggested donation. Tickets at election.firstpersonarts.org.*

Sincerely, Philadelphia: A Letter to Our New President

Will we elect our first female president, or the first president to star on reality TV? In this open-letter style performance addressed to our new Commander in Chief, Philadelphians come together through storytelling to discover the common ground we'll need to move forward under new leadership. Join us as artists share personal accounts in response to some of the biggest issues of the past four years such as #BlackLivesMatter, the European refugee crisis, Pope Francis' visit, the state of our schools, and more. Voice how current events have impacted your life, and share your dreams for the future at onsite recording stations. Because whether you vote red or blue, we're all part of the red, white, and blue. *Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Wed., Nov. 9; Doors at 7:30PM, Show at 8PM; \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at sincerelyphiladelphia.firstpersonarts.org. Part of the First Person Arts and WHY? Commonsense Project, which has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. Part of the Festival Encore! Series presented by PECO.*

My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me | Philadelphia Premiere

Thirty-eight years after **Jennifer Teege** was given up for adoption, she walks into a library, picks up a book, and astonishingly recognizes her biological mother's photograph on its cover. After flipping through the pages, Teege, a black German woman, unearths a chilling family secret: her grandfather was Amon Goeth, a sadistic Nazi concentration camp commandant famously portrayed in the movie *Schindler's List*. Hear Teege's shocking true story as she reads from her internationally best selling memoir: *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me*. Join the provocative conversation as panelists respond to issues of how heritage and legacy impacts our lives today. Panelists **Jacob Winterstein, Katrina Browne, and Shawn Theodore** discuss true family stories related to the holocaust and slave trade. A book signing concludes the event. *National Museum of American Jewish History; Thurs., Nov. 10; Doors at 7 PM, Show at 7PM; \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA, NMAJH, and AAMP members. Tickets at grandfather.firstpersonarts.org. Presented in partnership with First Person Arts, The National Museum of American Jewish History, and The African American Museum in Philadelphia.*

***Will Work For* | Philadelphia Premiere**

When **Dacyl Acevedo** was first laid off, she thought she was finally going to live her ideal artist life while supported by unemployment. Instead, she found herself in a minefield of uncertainty, bureaucracy, eviction notices, and daytime TV. Through storytelling, clowning, and physical theater, journey with Dacyl as she holds tight to her dream of employment, and her determination to survive the economic crash.

Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Thurs., Nov. 10; Doors at 7:30PM, Show at 8PM; \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at willworkfor.firstpersonarts.org. Part of the RAW Emerging Artist Series.

i found god in myself: A Conversation with Ntozake Shange

Award-winning playwright, poet, author, and self-proclaimed black feminist **Ntozake Shange** presents a performance reading from her collection of original poetry, including the groundbreaking Tony and Obie Award-winning choreopoem, ***for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf***, which celebrates its 40th anniversary. Join the conversation with Ntozake Shange and special guests during a post-show discussion about the creation and influence of her prolific work. Musical accompaniment by Craig S. Harris. Moderated by Souleo, Curator of *i found god in myself: the 40th anniversary celebration of “for colored girls”* on view at the African American Museum in Philadelphia Oct. 1, 2016-Jan. 2, 2017. *African American Museum in Philadelphia; Fri., Nov. 11; Doors at 7PM, Show at 8PM; \$17 before Oct. 28, \$20 starting on Oct. 28, \$15 for FPA and AAMP members. Tickets at ifoundgod.firstpersonarts.org.*

***Dave Hill Doesn't Live Here Anymore* | MATURE | Philadelphia Premiere**

In celebration of the release of his second collection of essays, *Dave Hill Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, **Dave** delivers a night of stand-up and storytelling on such topics as life, death, physical fitness, Mexican prison, that one time a homeless man drenched him from head to toe in urine, and much, much more. Dave says you should bring the whole family, which really means you probably shouldn't. *Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Fri., Nov. 11; Doors at 8:30PM, Show at 9PM; \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at davehill.firstpersonarts.org. Part of the Festival Encore! Series presented by PECO.*

A Letter to My Father / A Letter to My Son

Males of color share deeply personal letters addressed to their sons, fathers, father figures, and mentees in this moving storytelling event. High profile artists share the stage with community storytellers to shatter misconceptions and give voice to the powerful bond that exists between fathers and sons of color. *World Cafe Live; Sat., Nov. 12; Doors at 6:30PM, Show at 7:30PM; FREE. Register at letters.firstpersonarts.org. Part of the BEyond Expectations: Engaging Males of Color Series, a Co-Presentation with The City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services. Part of the First Person Arts and WHY? Commonsense Project, which has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. Part of the Festival Encore! Series presented by PECO.*

***Hi, Are You Single?* | MATURE | Philadelphia Premiere**

Looking for a good time? Call Ryan. He's horny, gay, and has cerebral palsy. Who says people with disabilities don't have healthy sex drives? **Ryan J. Haddad** will charm your pants off in this irresistible one-man show about navigating gay bars and Grindr in search of love. Uninvited insecurities and judgments conspire to pull Ryan away from romantic bliss. But Ryan knows the man of his dreams is out there, and like all of us, he must first travel through humor and hurt before finding his match. Prepare to be smitten.

Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Sat., Nov. 12; Doors at 7:30PM, Show at 8PM, \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at single.firstpersonarts.org. Special thanks to Philadelphia Gay News and Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. Part of the RAW Emerging Artist Series.

***Women of Leisure and Panic* | Philadelphia Premiere**

Is it possible to be financially stable, creatively productive, physically fit, *and* romantically satisfied? In her frantic and funny pursuit of balance, **Charlotte Bydwell** navigates the complexities of contemporary womanhood through dance and theater. Whip out your personal planners and mark the date! This show is not to be missed.

Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Mon., Nov. 14; Doors at 7:30PM, Show at 8PM, \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at leisure.firstpersonarts.org. Part of the RAW Emerging Artist Series.

***Uninvited Girl: An Immigrant Story* | World Premiere**

A wardrobe malfunction, an arrest, and an impossible romance: for one immigrant, the hardest journey begins *after* she arrives in her new country. In this one-woman show by author and award-winning storyteller **Nimisha Ladva**, get ready to experience what happens when the rules of "where you're from" and "where you want to be," compete and collapse in humorous, humbling, and dangerous ways. Directed by Ed Sobel. *Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Tues., Nov. 15; Doors at 7:30PM, Show at 8PM, \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at uninvited.firstpersonarts.org. Special thanks to Leeway Foundation. Part of the RAW Emerging Artist Series.*

***White Like Me: A Honky Dory Puppet Show* | MATURE | Philadelphia Premiere**

Puppeteer and political satirist **Paul Zaloom** (*Beakman's World*) leads a cast of action figures, toy cars, busted dolls, and other weird junk to tell the story of the "archetypical" White Man and his universe. White Man leaves his planet Caucazoid, travels through space, "civilizes" the earth (populated by aliens), becomes a philanthropist and savior, and finally, freaks out about his approaching minority status. Can White Man adapt to a new world, or will he face extinction? *Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Wed., Nov. 16 and Thurs., Nov. 17; Doors at 7:30PM, Shows at 8PM, \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at whitelikeme.firstpersonarts.org. White Like Me is a Creation Fund Commission of the National Performance Network.*

Sex for Sale: True Stories from the World's Oldest Profession | World Premiere

“How’d you get into this line of work? Are you working your way through school? Are you doing this for drug money?” Step into the City of Brotherly Loves’ sex industry for one night only. Hear the harrowing, heartbreaking, and sometimes humorous true stories about what it’s really like to be a sex worker from the real women who live it. No teasing. No foreplay. No fiction. *Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Fri., Nov. 18; Doors at 7:30PM, Show at 8PM, \$12 before Oct. 28, \$15 starting on Oct. 28, \$10 for FPA members. Tickets at sexforsale.firstpersonarts.org. Part of the RAW Emerging Artist Series.*

All Star Slam

Ever since our StorySlams began, the FPA Grand Slam has been the biggest win a Philly storyteller could boast. But that was then. Now, in honor of First Person Arts’ 15th Anniversary, winners of FPA’s past season finale Grand Slams return to the spotlight. Competing against their fellow hall-of-famers, these supreme raconteurs must win over celebrity judges with serious style and skill. The stakes are higher, the cash prize is larger, and the trophy is the exact same size. Hosted by **Chris Lundy**. Featuring **Ryan Barlow, Sean Carney, Steve Clark, Jackie DeBellis, Amanda Feifer O’Brien, Nimisha Ladva, Diane Ivey, Ky Mettler, Olga Pérez, and Marjorie Winther**. *Christ Church Neighborhood House Theater; Sat., Nov. 19; Doors at 7PM, Show at 8PM, \$17 before Oct. 28, \$22 starting on Oct. 28, \$15 for FPA members. Tickets at allstar.firstpersonarts.org.*

FESTIVAL DETAILS

The 15th Anniversary First Person Arts Festival presented by PNC Arts Alive takes place in multiple venues across Philadelphia including **African American Museum of Philadelphia** (701 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19106), **Christ Church Neighborhood House** (20 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA 19106), **National Museum of American Jewish History** (101 S. Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, PA 19107), **Underground Arts** (1200 Callowhill St., Philadelphia, PA 19107), and **World Cafe Live** (3025 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19104).

Tickets are available at firstpersonarts.org or by calling 267-402-2055. First Person Arts member tickets go on sale **September 9** and FPA members receive a 30% discount on all events. General public tickets go on sale **September 16**. Non-member purchases made before Oct. 28 receive 20% off.

The First Person Arts Festival is presented through the PNC Arts Alive Initiative. Major support has been provided by The City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), Red Tettemer O'Connell + Partners, and PECO. Commonsplace, a project by WHYY and First Person Arts, has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

Special thanks to our program sponsors and partners: The African American Museum in Philadelphia, Temple University Institute on Disabilities, WHYY, National Museum of American Jewish History, L'Etage, and Leeway Foundation.

Additional support has been provided by The Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Philadelphia Council on the Arts, and The City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy. Thanks to our media sponsors Metro, Philadelphia Media Network, and Philadelphia Gay News. FPA recognizes its official transportation sponsor, Amtrak, official bookseller, Head House Books, and official coffee sponsor, Passero's Coffee Roasters.

About First Person Arts

First Person Arts (FPA) is Philadelphia's premiere storytelling organization and the producers of the Annual First Person Arts Festival, Applied Storytelling community engagement programs, and Philadelphia's first StorySlams. From such artistic luminaries as novelist Toni Morrison, activist Angela Davis, Grammy Award-winning recording artist Bilal, and Janeane Garofalo, to everyday people at twice-monthly StorySlams, FPA presents a diverse array of storytellers in order to transform the drama of real life into memoir and documentary art. www.firstpersonarts.org

About PNC Arts Alive

PNC Arts Alive is a multi-year grant initiative of the PNC Foundation that challenges visual and performing arts organizations to put forth their best, most original thinking in expanding audience participation and engagement. To date, this award-winning program has provided \$10.5 million in grants to enterprising cultural organizations in three regions served by PNC. For more information visit www.pncartsalive.com.

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