

The Clothesline Muse

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As part of their 2014/2015 theatre series, TeCo is partnering with Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts to present *The Clothesline Muse*, a multi-disciplinary theater project exploring the clothesline as a metaphor for women's work, a community lifeline, and its ties to our environment. Six-time Grammy-nominated vocalist Nnenna Freelon lends her talents to this new devised theater work. *The Clothesline Muse* will transport audiences and students to a different world, where the onerous yet honorable task of washing clothes by hand is transformed into beautiful imagery, dance, and song.

This multi-disciplinary theater performance combines the talents and knowledge of three incredible artists to create an evening of dance, music, spoken word, video, and interactive art. Much like the internet, the clothesline connects us to one another, allowing us to share stories and connect our collective histories. This is an important history lesson that turned the very wheels of our country. It includes the first US labor strike – of Atlanta washerwomen in 1881 and encompasses the deep compassion of laundress Osceola McCarty. *The Clothesline Muse* reverberates from the multitude of women who pulled their families up from poverty using only their clotheslines.

Kariamuwelsh is a choreographer and professor in the dance department of Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University. She received her Doctor's of Arts from New York University and her MA.H. from the University of New York at Buffalo. She is a published author by Africa World Press, Trenton, NJ: *Zimbabwe Dance: Rhythmic Forces*, *Ancestral Voices* and *An Aesthetic Analysis* and *Umfundalai: An African Dance Technique*. Nnenna Freelon a Six-time GRAMMY Award-nominee Nnenna Freelon has earned a reputation as a captivating vocalist, most recently in 2007 on *In Performance At The White House* to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. Maya Asante is an award-winning artist whose artwork was described by Maya Angelou as "visualizing the truth about the vulnerability and power of the human being." Her unique tissue paper work was also praised by the *International Review of African American Art*. She was selected by *Modern Luxury Magazine* as Best of the City 2013 and by the *Huffington Post's* "Black Artists: 30 Contemporary Art Makers Under 40 You Should Know".

The Clothesline Muse is a national theater project from PMG Arts Foundation in North Carolina, funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Visit www.tecotheater.org/season.php or call (214) 948-0716 x305 for tickets.