



PAINTED BRIDE
ART CENTER



"The Clothesline Muse is a fully realized work that I found deeply gratifying. The line, in the end, connected and closed, forming a perfect circle."

- Lisa Berderson, ThinkingDance

The Clothesline Muse

Featuring **Nnenna Freelon**



The Clothesline Muse will transport you 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 live dance, live 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.



Nnenna Freelon's soundscape is both rhythmic and beautiful as she portrays Grandma Blu. She reminds us of outdoor labor and work song, while lovingly preparing clothing for its next destination. In this way, she creates a soft conflict of intent and purpose which reinterprets the mundane into an extraordinary event.

Kariamuwelsh's choreographed movements mimic hand washing, drying, folding, and ironing. Borrowed from their original significance as domestic work, these motions of washing, pressing, and wringing become powerful and significant conveyors of history.

Maya Freelon Asante's still and moving projections reflect the history and future of the clothesline. Her colorful and delicate tissue paper art hangs on the clothesline itself, endlessly drying as laundry in the sun.



RECENT PERFORMANCES

August 7 & 8, 2015

National Black Theatre Festival
Winston Salem, NC

December 12, 2015

National Performance Network (NPN)
Annual Meeting
Portland, OR

2016 PERFORMANCES

February 20, 2016

Haas Center for the Arts
Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA

March 15, 2016

Edna Boykin Cultural Center
Wilson, NC

March 18, 2016

Cary Arts Center
Cary, NC

Collaborators



NNENNA FREELON

Six-time GRAMMY® Award-nominee Nnenna Freelon has earned a well-deserved reputation as a captivating performer, most recently in 2007 on *In Performance At The White House* to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. At the 43rd annual GRAMMY Awards, she inspired an enthusiastic standing ovation from 20,000 music industry insiders and celebrities. Prior to that

appearance, Freelon's performances for the legendary Julie Andrews at the Society of Singers' "Ella Awards," Variety's The Children's Charity, Jerry Lewis' Labor Day Muscular Dystrophy Telethon and at famous jazz festivals around the globe have all been rousing successes.

On her Grammy-nominated release, *Blueprint Of A Lady: Sketches of Billie Holiday* (2005), Freelon paid tribute to quintessential jazz vocalist Billie Holiday. As inventive as ever, Freelon turned these Holiday-associated songs and fulfilled Billie Holiday's message to all artists: "No two people on earth are alike, and it's got to be that way with music or it isn't music." Freelon is a winner of both the Billie Holiday Award from the prestigious Academie du Jazz and the Eubie Blake Award from the Cultural Crossroads Center in New York City.

KARIAMU WELSH

Kariamum Welsh is a choreographer and professor in the dance department in the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University in Philadelphia. She received her Doctor's of Arts from New York University and her MA.H. from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

She is the author of two published books by Africa World Press; *Zimbabwe Dance: Rhythmic Forces*, *Ancestral Voices and An Aesthetic Analysis* and *Umfundalai: An African Dance Technique*. She is the editor of *The African Aesthetic: Keeper of Traditions and African Dance: An Artistic, Historical and Philosophical Inquiry*. She co-edited *African Culture: Rhythms of Unity*. Dr. Welsh is the artistic director of *Kariamum & Co.: Traditions*.



Kariamum is the recipient of numerous fellowships, grants and awards including a National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowship, the Creative Public Service Award of NY, a 1997 Pew Fellowship, a 1997 Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a 1998 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grant and a Senior Fulbright Scholar. Kariamum has received many honors and awards including *The Dance Scholar Award* given by the dance department and the office of Multicultural Affairs at Salisbury State University in Salisbury Maryland on February 2, 2009. Norfolk State University and the 26th Annual Black College Dance Exchange gave her the *Award of Excellence* on April 2007. The International Association of Blacks in Dance gave her a *Pioneer* award in 2010.



MAYA FREELON ASANTE

Maya Freelon Asante is an award-winning artist whose artwork was described by poet Maya Angelou as "visualizing the truth about the vulnerability and power of the human being," and her unique tissue paper work was also praised by the International Review of African American Art as a "vibrant, beating assemblage of color." 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*. Maya Freelon Asante has exhibited her work nationally and internationally including Paris, Ghana, and US Embassies in Madagascar, Italy, Jamaica, and Swaziland. She has been a professor of art at Towson University and Morgan State University. Asante has attended numerous residencies including Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Korobitey Institute and Brandywine Workshop. She earned a BA from Lafayette College and an MFA from the School of Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



Front Photos Chris Charles;
Back Photos Steve Whittsitt

View the Official Trailer at bit.ly/PMGYoutube
Technical Riders available from www.pmgartsmgt.com