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FOR IMMEDIATE LISTING and RELEASE

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**PRIDE, NOT PREJUDICE**  
**RETURNS TO THE VINEYARD WITH**  
**5 PULSING EVENTS IN THE SPIRIT OF ORLANDO -**  
**COME VIEW, SHARE & DANCE**  
**IN AN INCLUSIVE CELEBRATION OF DIFFERENCE**

*"Dancing is not just getting up painlessly, like a leaf blown on the wind; dancing is when you tear your heart out and rise out of your body to hang suspended between the worlds." - RUMI*

The Yard presents **PRIDE, NOT PREJUDICE** for a third straight year, this season honoring the memory of the free spirit victims of the Pulse Club tragedy in Orlando, and expanding from **The Yard** in Chilmark to **Featherstone Center for the Arts** and the **A Gallery** in Oak Bluffs. This season, 4 outstanding women artists are featured in the celebration:

**Cherdonna Shinatra** is the ideal dance/drag bio-fem performance artist to create outlandish hilarity and waterfalls of mascara. **Tiffany Chandelle** leads a "Heels" dance workshop. In high-end rave mode, **DJ Rekha** (some may remember her last sold-out dance-tastic Yard DANCEHALL in 2014) is all beat and heat as she raises the temp/tempo on the dance floor with her highly acclaimed "basement bhangra" stylings, mixing the the pulsing rhythms of India and the Indian Diaspora via London and New York, where she is a DJ in high demand. And Oak Bluff's **A Gallery** presents a special PRIDE exhibit with international visual artist **Zunia Boucher-Myers**, a chronicler of lesbian culture and sexual fluidity in South Africa. An old friend, Marvelous **Marvin**, hosts a science/ and DJ dance party for families, at **Featherstone Center for the Arts**.

We invite the island community to assemble for those we've lost, as in the words of Rumi.

**EXHIBIT: EMBODIMENT**

**July 17 – August 17, 2016**

**A Gallery (8 Uncas Ave, Oak Bluffs)**

**Hours: 10:30AM – 6PM**

A Gallery presents EMBODIMENT, a digital installation by **Zunia Boucher-Myers**. For the past three years, Cape Town based artist Boucher-Myers has photographed dozens of lesbian subjects, traveling more than 4,000 km across South Africa to capture the diversity of this community in their home, work, and neighborhood environments. Encompassing many aspects of sexual fluidity, her project records private, generally unseen moments of an often invisible community — sometimes secretive and mostly concealed from mainstream view, despite broad Constitutional and statutory protections for the LGBTQ+ members of South African society. Myers' intention is to highlight the everyday, the “normal,” and by implication, the reality that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, harbors similar desires: a safe home, financial stability, freedom of expression, and especially love. This series illustrates how alike we all are and serves as a window into a period in history otherwise undocumented.

**HEELS WORKSHOP: Pump Performance!**

**With Tiffany Chandelle**

**Wednesday, July 20 from 8 – 9:30PM at The Yard**

**\$15**

Unleash your inner diva in Pump Performance, a dance class in heels that combines elements of Jazz and Hip Hop. Get ready for kicks, dips, and hair flips! All levels welcome.

**CHERDONNA SHINATRA (aka JODY KUEHNER), *Clock that Mug or Dusted***

**Friday, July 22 at 8PM at The Yard**

**Tickets:** \$25 (General); \$15 (Seniors, Students, Military); \$5 (Children under 12)

*Behind The Counter and Membership discounts apply.*

\*This piece contains partial nudity. Viewer discretion advised.

*"An uncategorizable spectacle... Cherdonna is a genius. Cherdonna for president."  
—The Stranger Editor*

*Clock that Mug or Dusted* is a conceptual and inspirational homage to feminist performance artists from Anna Halprin to Janine Antoni, focusing on the body as a canvas for social change, rebellion, and personal expansion. As **Jody Kuehner's** beloved drag/dance bio-fem icon, **Cherdonna Shinatra** uses birthday cake and drag make-up to produce a work of lasting visual art, in which she hyperbolizes the normal humiliations of human existence. *Clock that Mug or Dusted* draws on vintage feminist ideals and asks: **What is present day queer/drag feminism?**

*Commissioned and produced by Velocity Dance Center's Made in Seattle new dance development program, along with On the Boards residency support. This piece is also supported in part by The Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.*

**MARVELOUS MARVIN, *Brain Circus***

**Saturday, July 23 at 11AM at Featherstone Center for the Arts**

*Family Friendly: Pay What You Can*

**Marvelous Marvin's *Brain Circus*** begins with a rhyming overture about brain health and its links to exercise and reading. Then, we join the circus and experience our brains grow! Play begins. We learn circus skills: juggling props, balancing sticks, spinning plates, flip-and-flyers, hula hoops, rhythm sticks, and romper stompers. Dancing begins. Dancing never ends.

*Featherstone Center for the Arts is located at 30 Featherstone Lane (1/4 mile north from the round-about on your right — approximately "480 Barnes Road") in Oak Bluffs, MA.*

**DANCEHALL: DJ REKHA**

**A Public Dancing Allowed!!! Event**

**Saturday, July 23 from 7 – 10PM at The Yard**

\$10 General Admission (18+ only)

Named "**Ambassador of Bhangra**" by the New York Times, **DJ Rekha** brings the grand finale to this year's Pride, Not Prejudice in an 18+ DANCEHALL event at The Yard. Music will be thumping. Lights will be low.

**Dress:** "Fire Island Festive, Vineyard Fabulous."

**Drinks:** BYOB (Chilmark is a dry town).

Please note: **parking at The Yard is limited!** We recommend carpooling, public transportation, or Island taxi services.

**ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES**

**Zunia Boucher-Myers** is a series photographer and has amassed a portfolio documenting a variety of subjects: from the EMBODIMENT project recording everyday moments in the lives of the diverse community of lesbians living in South Africa; to issues of social (in)justice, such as homelessness; to a series of self portraits called *What Lies, beneath* exploring the less attractive, darker undertones of her own personality. Her current focus is on a group of teens on the verge of early adulthood—*Changeling*— snapshots of fleeting moments of transition, inspired by her son's passage to manhood. Boucher-Myers is also a writer and has been monthly contributor to Cape Town based fringe publications, *Land n Sand* and *Alice Magazine*, as

well as web-based zines *Going Nowhere Queerly* and the *Cape Town Lesbians* online poetry and literature site. She is an ardent blogger with two ongoing, prolific blogs: *JustNotLikeTheOthers*, featuring her essays, short stories, and social commentary and *BeeHolder* for her photography. EMBODIMENT has been featured in various forms in several of the above noted publications, and selected photographic works have been exhibited at Bello Studio, Old Biscuit Mill, Woodstock, Cape Town in 2014. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1968, Boucher-Myers studied Photography at Tswana University of Technology and Fine Art at Technikon Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (1986–87). She thereafter studied Psychology at the University of South Africa (1991–96) and, after a long sabbatical with academia, is currently pursuing online photography courses with the International School of Photography, based in Australia.

**Tiffany Chandelle** has a BFA in Dance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. After graduation, she went on to pursue a professional career in dance in New York City. She is honored to have worked with the Sesame Workshop and to have performed in the off-broadway production of *Dreamgirls*, directed by Ben Harney. After a long stint of stage work in NY, she then moved to Los Angeles to further her performance career in commercial dance and acting. While in LA, she landed a lead acting role in a Norms Restaurant commercial and danced for several commercials and music videos. Recently, Tiffany has been teaching and choreographing for Rise Vineyard Performing Arts and participating in community outreach at the Chilmark Community Center, YMCA, Built on Stilts, and Tisbury school.

2015 Stranger Genius Award winner, **Jody Kuehner** is a Seattle-based dance artist and director, often performing as drag queen Cherdonna Shinatra. Cherdonna takes what you recognize about dance, what you believe about drag, what intrigues you about improvisation, and what delights you about entertainment and effortlessly tosses it all in a mason jar, shakes it up, and opens the lid. She lives for the light and is aggressively sweet, existing between dimensions and always seeking (even while struggling) what is beautiful and shiny. Kuehner's choreography has been presented across the Pacific Northwest at venues and festivals including On the Boards, Velocity Dance Center, Bumbershoot, CityArtsFest, Northwest Film Forum, Century Ballroom, Risk/Reward and Methow Arts, among many others. Her work has been presented at Joyce SoHo in NYC, New Grounds Festival in Tampa FL, and the Meanings and Makings of Queer Dance conference in Ann Arbor, MI. She frequently works with Seattle artists Dayna Hanson, Pat Graney, and Mark Haim, including roles as Assistant Director for Hanson's *Improvement Club*, *Gloria's Cause*, and *The Clay Duke* and as a performer in Graney's *House of Mind* and Haim's *This Land is Your Land*. These projects enjoyed tours throughout the U.S. and in Paris, France. Kuehner also assisted Graney's KTF Prison Project. She was a member of d9 Dance Collective from 2003-2009, performing works by Nugent & Matteson, Keith Johnson, Daniel Cheron, KT Niehoff, and Amy O'Neal, among others. From 2008-2013 she produced five evening-length productions, as part of the *The Cherdonna and Lou Show*. As Cherdonna, Kuehner performs regularly with drag-queen superstar BenDeLaCreme (RuPaul's Drag Race) and the award-winning

international sensations Kitten LaRue and Lou Henry Hoover. She performs with PaulaNow Productions and will be choreographing PaulaNow's latest extravaganza, Wham Bam Glitter Glam, a live music cabaret celebrating the glam rock era. Kuehner/Cherdonna was the recipient of a 2014 Velocity Dance Center Made In Seattle Award. Through Made in Seattle, Velocity presented seven sold out performances of the evening-length Cherdonna: Worth My Salt (Oct 2014). Cherdonna has performed in the PNW Dance Platform, A.W.A.R.D. Show!, Northwest New Works Festival, Risk/Reward Festival, and Seattle International Dance Festival. Kuehner was Velocity's 2014 Artist in Residence, holds a residency with KT Neihoff's 10 Degrees, and has been granted residency support from On The Boards for her upcoming project. Kuehner teaches Professional Contemporary Dance at Velocity, is Resident Choreographer for the LGBTQ youth choir Diverse Harmony, and has developed the Drag You workshop, which she teaches nationally for movers of all backgrounds and abilities.

**Marvin Novogrodski** (aka: **Marvelous Marvin**) has been teaching and performing for children for over 30 years. A long time member of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Education Roster, Marvin blends science, circus arts, dance, and theater to create unique, fun, and educational shows and teaching residencies. His shows mix magic tricks, circus arts, great visuals, and a unique rhyming text which seamlessly blend science and math education with entertainment. In his teaching residencies Marvin provides students with simple exercises that allows creativity to unfold, empowering participants to make choices and put together unique, athletic, educational, and fun works of dance and theater. His shows and workshops include: *The Magic Of Science*, which demystifies the scientific process; *How the Body Works*, which boasts a dancing chorus of skeletons and an oversized doll house that unfolds; *Bugging Out*, which unearths a magical world of bugs; and *Mathblast*, making math fun. Show/Workshop combinations include: *Brain Circus*, which explores the connection between brain growth and exercise, and *Science Dance*. Marvin is the recipient of three artist project grants from the RI State Council on the Arts. He gives credit for his development as an artist to his work with Everett Company (Providence, RI), where he spent 27 years creating, improvising, dancing, and touring.

Producer, curator, and educator **DJ Rekha** pioneered the merging of Bhangra and Bollywood sounds with contemporary electronic dance music. New York City based, Rekha is the founder of Basement Bhangra™, Bollywood Disco and co-founder of Mutiny Club nights. She was the sound designer for the TONY award-winning Broadway show *Bridge and Tunnel* and the associate producer for the NPR radio documentary *A Feet in Two Worlds*. She received a Drama Desk Award nomination for her work on the play *Rafta Rafta*. Rekha has done remixes for artists that range from Meredith Monk to Priyanka Chopra. Her debut album, *DJ Rekha presents Basement Bhangra*, was released on E1 Music. She has received numerous community awards and was inducted into the New York City Peoples' Hall of Fame in 2009. She has curated events for Celebrate Brooklyn and Central Park Summerstage and has

performed at the White House and internationally. Rekha was a Grand Marshall of the 9th Annual NYC Dance Parade in 2015. She has taught courses on music history, business, and pop culture at New York University.

### **Driving Directions:**

#### *Driving to The Yard from Vineyard Haven*

Head south on Water Street toward Beach Road. Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> right onto Beach Road. Continue onto State Road. Turn right onto Middle Road. Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left into The Yard.

#### *Driving to The Yard from Edgartown*

Head southwest on Water Street toward Davis Lane. Take your 2<sup>nd</sup> right onto Cooke Street. Turn left onto Edgartown West Tisbury Road. Turn left onto State Road. Continue onto South Road. Make a left onto Middle Road. Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left into The Yard.

#### *Bus*

There is a public bus service on Martha's Vineyard that connects to all of the towns on the island. There is a bus stop just a short walk from The Yard in front of the Community Center, which runs every hour. Fare is \$1 per town, each way.

### **SEED. GROW. REAP. REPEAT: THE NATURE OF THE ARTIST.**

**Mission:** The Yard supports artists in both their creative processes and social instrumentality through paid research residency, public performance, and long-term educational and community engagement across all ages and diverse cultural populations of Martha's Vineyard, and in broad application to New England and the nation.

In so doing: The Yard promotes creation, education, and community building through artistic practice—with a special emphasis on contemporary dance and related collaborative forms—in the defining rural/island environment of Martha's Vineyard.

The Yard acts, on behalf of its core commitments, as an active collaborator, co-commissioner, and touring partner with other leading institutions across a regional/national/international context to raise up a “culture of cultures” ecology that reflects—and benefits—the demographic life and times of the island of Martha's Vineyard and the country.

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David R. White  
*Artistic Director & Executive Producer*

Alison Manning  
*Executive Director & Co-Producer*

Jesse Keller  
*Director of Island Programs and Education & Co-Producer*

**What Makes The Yard Possible:**

***Our many individual members and donors, and:***

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CrossFit Martha's Vineyard  
Dr. Marianne Goldberg's Pathways  
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Newman Assistance Fund  
Permanent Endowment for Martha's Vineyard  
Sica/McMahon Foundation  
Tower Family Fund, Inc.  
Vineyard Bottled Waters  
The Woolner/Nanon Family



*The 2016 YARD ARTS season is lovingly dedicated to Marianne Goldberg, the artistic guiding light and patron of the Pathways Project Institute. Our artists honor, through their creations, her all-embracing spirit that still dances on that ever-tilting horizon line between sea and sky. OceA proudly endures.*

**TheYard**