9:00-9:30 Registration and Coffee

9:30-9:45 Welcoming Dance
UNCA Dance Troupe (Kathy Meyers)

9:45-10:00 Welcome and Introduction
UNC-Asheville Provost Jane Fernandes

10:00-10:30 Theater: Just Home in the Mountains
A play about homelessness in Asheville

10:30-11:00 Anonymous was a Woman
Readings from Behind the Veil

11:00-11:45 Coffee and Meet the Artists Under the Mural
Beehive Collective
Ben Betsalel
Connie Bostick
Cory Bradley
Jim Buonaccorsi
Todd Drake
Heinz Kossler
Sean “Jinx” Pace
Benjamin Porter
Skip Rohde
Donn Young

11:45-12:30 Animation: Mel Chin’s “9/11, 9/11.”
This film brings together the events of September 11, 1973 (the overthrow of Salvador Allende) and the events of Sept 11, 2001

12:30-1:15 Lunch

1:00-2:00 How Do Artists Do Art? Four Concurrent Workshops and Funded Dollar Bills
Luzene Hill, Human Rites . . . the body and blood
Donn Young, Does Art Make a Difference?
Aaron Davidman, Story Telling and Social Justice
DeWayne Barton, The Power of Poetry and Community
Funded Dollar Bill (Drop In)

2:00-3:00 Teatro de Asheville

2:45-3:15 Break

3:15-3:30 Poetry by DeWayne Barton

3:30-3:45 Cantaria

3:45-4:30 We Are Here and We Are Human
A panel on human rights and photography

4:30-5:00 Creating Art and Wrapping Up
Dinner Break

7:30 Aaron Davidman, A Jerusalem Between Us
Lipinsky Auditorium

SPONSORS:
Amnesty International, UNC-Asheville
Center for Global Initiatives, UNC-Chapel Hill
Human Rights Center, Duke University
Department of Political Science, Elon University
Luzene Hill explores this vulnerable human experience through book form, drawings, and sculpture. Her installations are fragile and fleeting, reflecting her view of the tentative nature of human existence. Hill's work is often informed by her Cherokee heritage and serves as a metaphor for a broad Native American and female experience. Political, but quietly so, Hill's work confronts life: its ambiguity, paradox, uncertainty and passion! DeWayne Barton is a native of Asheville, N.C. He is a veteran and has been involved in community improvement and youth development for over 15 years. Barton is the visual and performance artist, he is involved in environmental justice issues—both through his art and his community involvement. Currently, he is serving on the Boards for Clean Water for North Carolina, FLOOD Gallery Fine Art Center, and the Canary Coalition. DeWayne is the co-founder of Asheville Green Opportunities, a job training program designed to prepare Asheville area youth and adults for “green-collar” careers through meaningful community and environmental service.

The Beehive is an all-volunteer, art-activist collective dedicated to cross-pollinating the grassroots by creating collaborative, anti-copyright images for use as educational and organizing tools. We work anonymously as word-to-image translators of complex global stories, gathered through conversations with affected communities. Our latest project allies us with Appalachian grassroots organizers fighting Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining. Coal companies are turning mountains into moonscapes to fuel an ever-growing global demand for electricity.

UNCA Dance Company, under the direction of Kathy Meyers, explores the respect for individual choices within communities and the influence of our actions upon others. Also, how we collaborate, compete, accommodate, avoid, or compromise within our relationships. The performance is inspired by both the workshop, Creating a Culture of Peace, and the Mediation Center’s model for conflict resolution. Aaron Davidman. Two years ago Ari Roth, the artistic director of Theatre J in Washington D.C., commissioned me to write a performance piece looking into some of the challenging issues facing the American Jewish community. Defensiveness is the mode of the day among our mainstream American Jewish institutions. We’re worried about the rise of anti-Semitism. We’re worried about how the Israeli-Arab conflict continues to color the impressions that the international community has, in general, about Jews worldwide. I’ve talked to many people here the States, in Israel, Palestine, and Europe to try to find salient ideas that address some troubling and confusing questions. I’ve tried to dig below the surface of the conflict that fills our newspapers. You’ll get to know of some of these people and what they think in my play. I don’t know that they answer these questions, but hopefully they shed some light on the current crisis. They have certainly enlightened me.

Donn Young is the executive director of 40 Days and 40 Nights, a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit committed to increasing awareness of the human condition through the collaborative work of researchers, practitioners, and artists. Young has been a professional photographer for the past 35 years, and his work has appeared in ten books and many national publications.

Mel Chin is known for the broad range of approaches in his art, including works that require multi-disciplinary, collaborative teamwork and works that conjon cross-cultural aesthetics with complex ideas. Chin is one of 16 artists included in the PBS Series Art of the 21st Century aired in the Fall of 2001. His proposal for a New World Trade Center was part of the American representation at the 2002 Venice Biennale of Architecture. These projects and others are consistent with a conceptual philosophy, which emphasizes the practice of art to include sculpting and bridging the natural and social ecology. He is currently engaged in the Funded Dollar Bill/Operation Paydirt Project.

Teatro Latino de Asheville was founded in 2004 with the goal of uniting diverse communities throughout Western North Carolina through exploration and presentation of theater arts in Spanish. The company is sponsored by UNC Asheville’s Foreign Languages Department and the student group HOLA (Hermanos Orgullosos en Las Americas). Our current production, “Contamos todos”, is an original, multilingual piece based on true stories showing many of the challenges that immigrants face in their adopted country. In addition, the show tackles a number of stereotypes that Latin@s face – both from outside of and within the group – while also presenting some of the more humorous moments that arise from societal and language differences.

Just Home in the Mountains is a collaborative project of Homeward Bound www.hbofa.org, theater artists from Community Performance, Inc. www.comperf.com, and the people of Asheville. Students from UNCA's "Performing Self & Other" class, and members from the Asheville community will present excerpts from an original play premiering in February 2010 inspired by real-life community stories. Community Performance is a model of theater-making for, by, and with the community. The presentation will also include interactive exercises to illuminate the principles and process embedded in this particular genre. For more information on how to get involved, please contact bbinfo@hbofa.org or (828) 768-2456.

Cantaria is a voluntary, not-for-profit community chorus, organized to provide the opportunity for gay and gay-supportive men to sing together.

Skip Rohde was an officer in the U.S. Navy for over 22 years. After retiring in 1999, he went back to school and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, graduating in 2003. Rohde is currently on sabatical from his studio. He is working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Baghdad on Iraqi reconstruction projects. He will return to Asheville in early 2010 and resume working as an artist.

Heinz Kossler grew up in Witten, Germany where after high school he apprenticed under Peter Lechner in architectural ceramics. In 1981 he moved from Germany to Asheville. Heinz is a self taught artist and has been creating work since 1985. His work has been shown in museums and galleries and is part of many collections. He is working as an architectural ceramist and tile setter to support his "Propaganda Art Machine Project". His studio is in the river district.

Benjamin M. Betsalel is a full-time artist currently based in Asheville, North Carolina. Betsalel has a studio/gallery in the River Arts District of Asheville (Betsalel Studio + Wedge Gallery). During the past three years, he has been spending several months at a time in Africa and Europe, absorbing different cultures and experiences, and discovering other sides of himself. He then returns to his studio to work on his large canvases.

Sean “Jinx” Pace’s work focuses on the problems of nature and culture. His work comments heavily on issues like public education, societal preoccupations with technological achievement and the failure of progress to create progress.

Cory Bradley was born and raised in the southern most Carolina, Mr. Bradley began constructing works or art at a young age. After moving to Minnesota, he then migrated to Florida where he received his B.F.A. in illustration from Ringling School of Art of Design. Upon graduation Bradley moved to Brooklyn, NYC where he currently resides and creates new works today. Cory’s Strange Fruit painting is based on Billie Holiday’s song by the same name: “Southern trees bear strange fruit, Blood on the leaves and blood at the root, Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze, Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.”

Connie Bostic is one of Asheville’s Contemporary Art pioneers. Bostic’s work deals heavily in the Human Rights arena. Her work is not gentle in its political overtones. Bostic’s Post Katrina Exhibition and the accompanying text chronicles the agonizing period of time survivors endured while waiting for help. Her work promises to remind you of not only past humanitarian failings but also the justice-seeking necessary to avoid future tragedies.

Todd Drake creates art that is shaped by community. Currently an artist in residence at UNC Chapel Hill’s Center for Global Initiatives, he began working with the center as a 2004-2005 Rockefeller fellow. While a fellow Drake co-created with Dr. Hannah Gill the book “Gong to Carolina del Norte, Narrating Mexican Migrant Experiences.” He has also worked collaboratively with undocumented immigrants to create a picture book “Give Me Eyes: Crossing borders to the heart.” He is currently collaborating with Muslim Americans to create a series of self-portraits for the Esse Quam Videri Project supported by the Center for Global Initiatives. Drake has an MFA in painting from UNCG, teaches studio art, and speaks on Activism in Contemporary Art.

Benjamin Porter is a documentary photographer based in Asheville, NC who has extensive experience photographing in Latin America. His images have been published in the NY Times, Newsweek, Forbes, and Japanese Vogue and many other publications. He has photographed in Bolivia over the last 30 years, and that body of work is being prepared for publication as a monograph. His most recent one person exhibition occurred in Havana, Cuba at the Casa Museo Simon Bolivar. The former director and founder of the photography program at McDowell Technical Community College, Porter now devotes his energies to his own freelance and fine art photography, both locally and internationally.

Jim Buonaccorsi is an art professor at the University of Georgia.


This global event aligns two movements - Playback Theatre, with its hundreds of companies worldwide, and groups focused on promoting Human Rights. The performance will remind us all that it is possible when people choose to give their attention to our common humanity.