

THE MAC WELLMAN HOMECOMING FESTIVAL



PRESENTED BY PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL
WITH CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY & NEOMFA
MARCH 23-25, 2017 • CLEVELAND, OHIO



ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Mac Wellman Homecoming Festival celebrates a groundbreaking playwright from Cleveland, Ohio—a major figure in American letters and an essential presence in the literary heritage of our region. The festival runs March 23 - 25, 2017 at Cleveland State University and secondary locations. All events at the primary venue are free and open to the public.

The Festival is presented by Playwrights Local in partnership with Cleveland State University Department of English, the NEOMFA Creative Writing Program, and the Michael Schwartz Library.

The Festival features performances by Playwrights Local, Theater Ninjas, convergence-continuum, CSU Department of Theatre and Dance, Baldwin Wallace University Department of Theatre and Dance, and The Manhattan Project – Cleveland Lab, and contributions by many others.

The Festival was curated by David Todd, Artistic Director of Playwrights Local in Cleveland.

ABOUT MAC WELLMAN

Born in Cleveland in 1945, Mac Wellman is Distinguished Professor of Play Writing at Brooklyn College, and a widely recognized playwright, novelist, and poet. His honors include NEA, Guggenheim, and Rockefeller fellowships; multiple Obies; commissions from McKnight and Sundance; and residencies at Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony.

Wellman's recent plays include *The Offending Gesture* (2016), *Muazzez* (2014), and *Horrocks (and Toutatis Too)* (2013). His most-frequently produced plays include *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*, *The Hyacinth Macaw*, *A Murder of Crows*, and *Sincerity Forever*. Anthologies include *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* (2008) and *Cellophane* (2001).

Wellman's novels include *Linda Perdido* (2011) and *Q's Q* (2006). His books of poetry include *Split the Stick* (2012) and *Miniature* (2002).

Wellman has taught playwriting at Yale, Princeton, NYU, RISD, Brown, and TheatreWorks (Singapore). He is a co-founder of The Flea Theater and an acknowledged mentor to numerous younger playwrights.

PRAISE FOR MAC

AS A PLAYWRIGHT

“An avatar of alternatives to the well-made play.”

— *American Theatre*, 2016

“James Joyce reborn as a rap artist.”

— *The New York Times*, 1994

“Wellman creates a unique, language-driven mise-en-scene that pulverizes the syntax of traditional theatre...His theatre becomes a spur to reimagining American culture.”

— *American Theatre*, 1999

AS A TEACHER

“Mac Wellman is a teacher who changed my life. He is one of the smartest and most generous writers I have ever known; maybe one of the smartest and most generous ever.”

— Annie Baker, 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

“He extends the limits of what's possible on stage.”

— Sarah Ruhl

“He explodes all the boundaries because he is so passionate about changing what a play is in American theater.”

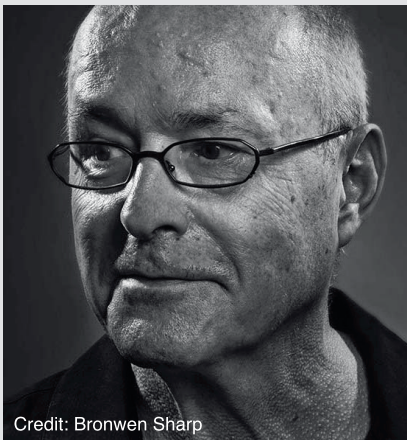
— Sibyl Kempson



Credit: *American Theatre*



Credit: Timothy Keating



Credit: Bronwen Sharp

Cleveland (1986)

Written by Mac Wellman

Directed by Allan Byrne

Presented by Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance

In the heady days before her prom, young Joan finds it hard to concentrate on anything but the upcoming dance, even as the front porch falls off her house and her mother struggles to unclog the kitchen sink. But soon, their relatively normal lives begin unraveling into alien territory, as Joan makes some startling discoveries about her family and the world.

Joan.....Kate Huskey
Mother.....Maryalice Beck
A Trotskyite Plumber.....Keith Kornajcik
Susan.....Dominique Coppella
Griselda.....Madelyn Voltz
Kate.....Lainne Davis
Bertha.....Chloe Milnarcik
Marta.....Angelique Williams
Panda Hands.....Daniel Weddell
Narrator/Strange Man with a Wand.....Craig Webb
Mister Barfly.....Roger Govea

DRINKO HALL AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 pm

The Department of Theatre and Dance at Cleveland State University is dedicated to producing educated citizens who have identified the areas of theatre and/or dance as their primary academic and vocational focus.

<https://www.csuohio.edu/class/theatre-dance/theatre-dance>

The Sandalwood Box (1996)

Written by Mac Wellman

Directed by Les Hunter

Presented by Baldwin Wallace University Department of Theatre
and Dance

Student Marsha Gates has lost her voice to the great Unseen, but on her way to speech therapy, she becomes entangled with Professor Claudia Marshall, a mysterious collector of catastrophes.

Marsha Gates.....Brooke Turner

Professor Claudia Mitchell.....Gabriela Larkins

Marsha's Voiceover.....Alexa Querin

Bus Driver.....Shaun Dillon

Chorus of Voices:

Doctor Gladys Stone.....Julia Miller

Oswaldo.....Shaun Dillon

An "Other" from the House of the Unseen....Lauren Tidmore

Assistant Director.....Libby Tofig

Stage Manager.....Jessica Boyce

Composer/Sound Designer.....Sean Ellis Hussey

Scenic Designer/Props Master.....Rose Musto

Costume Designer.....Emily Pizarra

Assistant Stage Manager.....Emma Bergman

Dance Choreographer.....Lauren Tidmore

DRINKO HALL AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Friday, March 24 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 25 at 3:00 pm

The Department of Theatre and Dance at Baldwin Wallace University is designed to provide students with a broad introduction to the major in addition to focusing on an area of specialization. Courses are supplemented through an ambitious production program, allowing students to put classroom experiences into real-world practice.

<http://bw.edu/academics/undergraduate/theatre-acting-directing/>

Bitter Bierce (2003)

Written by Mac Wellman

Directed by Christopher Johnston

Presented by Playwrights Local

Journalist. War Veteran. Cynic. Author. Ambrose Bierce invites audiences into the depths of his eventful life, lacing his tale with his sarcastic definitions from “The Devil’s Dictionary.” Rich with history, humor, and tragedy, Bierce tells us the tumultuous story of his life and times, from his experiences in the Civil War and his newspaper career to his travels and amusing run-ins with famous public figures.

Ambrose Bierce.....Brian Pedaci

Stage Manager.....Stephanie Kugli

Costume Designer.....Inda Blatch-Geib

Sound Designer.....Beau Reinker

DRINKO HALL AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Friday, March 24 at 8:15 pm

Saturday, March 25 at 3:45 pm

Playwrights Local is a theater company based in Cleveland. Billed as a playwrights’ center, the organization’s goal is to provide a home base for novice and experienced dramatic writers in Northeast Ohio. They offer classes and workshops, produce original plays, provide professional development opportunities, and engage the community through site-specific projects.

<http://playwrightslocal.org/>

The Good, the Bad, and Mac: Local Playwrights Do Mac Wellman's Writing Prompt

Hosted by Peter J Roth

Presented by The Manhattan Project - Cleveland Lab

Staged readings of ten-minute plays by local writers in response to one of Mac Wellman's most liberating and effective challenges: *Write a Bad Play. In an hour. It must be the worst possible play you can write.*

Parodying Fiction by Nakanaela Bell
featuring Julia Fisher, Lincoln Weiss, and Tim Collingwood

The Best Play You'll Ever See, Probably by Kevin Latimer
featuring Jack Schmitt, Evan Zuzik, and Jason Bogdany

Better Than a Day Spent on Fire by Angelo Maneage
featuring Craig A. Webb and Peter J Roth

Draft for My Absolutely Stupendous One-Woman, as Narrated By Moi and Performed by Three Dudes or Whatever by Amanda VanAllen
featuring herself, Kris Leiter, Daniel Dang, and Steven Lampere

DRINKO LOBBY AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Friday, March 24 at 9:30 pm

The Manhattan Project - Cleveland Lab is a low-stakes, nonthreatening place for actors and playwrights to meet and work together. The Manhattan Project introduces Cleveland actors and playwrights to each other by organizing a monthly production of brand-new 10-minute plays.
<https://www.facebook.com/TheManhattanProjectClevelandLab/>

Sincerity Forever (1990)

Written by Mac Wellman

Directed by Jeremy Paul

Presented by Theater Ninjas

Two profane aliens have landed in the Southern town of Hillsbottom. Is God watching? Does he care? Is God a He? Mac Wellman addresses these and other questions in this Obie Award–winning play that skewers the social malignancy of ignorance.

CAST

Kim Woodworth

Christina Dennis

Christopher Hisey

Michael Prosen

Bryan Ritchey

Chennelle Harris

Ryan Lucas

Ryan Edlinger

Michael Frye

Colin Omilanowski

DRINKO HALL AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Saturday, March 25 at 1:00 pm

Theater Ninjas: We're a nomadic company who seeks out new and exciting spaces to perform. Working in non-traditional venues gives us an opportunity to reimagine how and why we tell stories, and helps us to create deep, fascinating worlds for the audience to explore. We're always experimenting; always rethinking what theater can be: as entertainment, as art and as out-of-the-ordinary experiences.

<http://theaterninjas.com/>

Harm's Way (1978)

Written by Mac Wellman

Directed by Clyde Simon

Presented by convergence-continuum

Harm's Way takes place in a mythical American West where every action is more than it seems. These are the fantastical adventures of Santouche, a very angry person, as he attempts to make sense of his understanding of law and order in a world of other angry persons. The action does not unfold in any specific time or place. However, all the characters drink from the same poisoned well, which is recognizably American and western. The time might be anytime in the last seventy years, or even not impossibly in the next.

Santouch.....	Brian Westerley
Isle of Mercy.....	Hillary Wheelock
By Way of Being Hidden.....	Carrie Williams
Fisheye / William McKinley.....	Michael Regnier
Crow's-Foote / Kid.....	Rob Branch
Mother / Crow's Foote Helper / 2nd Child.....	Monica Zach
Wizard / 1st Child.....	Gideon Lorete
Chorus.....	Wesley Allen, Joseph Milan, Beau Reinker
Stage Manager.....	Lucy Bredeson-Smith
Set Designer.....	Clyde Simon
Lighting Designer.....	Austin Hopson
Costume Designer.....	Sade Wolfkitten

THE LIMINUS

Saturday, March 25 at 8:00 pm

Tickets: Available online at <http://www.convergence-continuum.org/>

convergence-continuum: What if theatre weren't a mirror reflecting the familiar, but an opening into unknown territory? What if there were no fourth wall? What if, instead of going to the theatre to watch a play, you crossed the threshold into the world of the play to experience it? Theatre that expands the imagination and extends the conventional boundaries of language, structure, space, and performance that challenges the conventional notions of what theatre is. What sort of theatre would this be? We are convergence-continuum.

<http://www.convergence-continuum.org/>

DAMNABLE ARTIFACTS: PRODUCTION MEMORABILIA FROM THE PLAYS OF MAC WELLMAN

Curated by David Todd

Presented with The Michael Schwartz Library

An exhibit featuring set models, posters, programs, scripts, props, photos, postcards, T-shirts, and vintage reviews from productions spanning the career of Mac Wellman. All items are original artifacts from the collections of lighting/set designer Kyle Chepulis and graphic designer David Prittie (both of the Flea Theater, NYC), director Katherine Owens (Undermain Theatre, Dallas), and director/performer Clyde Simon (convergence-continuum theater, Cleveland).

Michael Schwartz Library, CSU

Thursday, March 23 from 7:30 am - 10:00 pm

Friday, March 24 from 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday, March 25 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

MAC WELLMAN'S BREAKTHROUGHS AS A PLAYWRIGHT, TEACHER, AND MENTOR

A panel discussion moderated by Mike Geither, Associate Professor of Playwriting, Cleveland State University.

Featuring Rob Handel (Associate Professor of Dramatic Writing, Carnegie Mellon University), Les Hunter (Assistant Professor of English, Baldwin Wallace University), and Clyde Simon (Artistic Director, convergence-continuum).

Room 311, Music & Communication Building, CSU

Saturday, March 25 at 11:30 am

PLAYWRIGHT Q&A

A craft talk with playwright Mac Wellman hosted by David Todd, Artistic Director of Playwrights Local.

Drinko Lobby, CSU

Saturday, March 25 at 5:00 pm

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Drinko Hall & Lobby and Room 311
Music & Communicatio Building
2001 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115

The Michael Schwartz Library
Ground Floor Exhibit Space
2121 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115

CSU Visitor Parking
<https://www.csuohio.edu/parking/general-information>
-visitor-parking-information

Accessibility
All facilities at CSU are ADA compliant.

CONVERGENCE-CONTINUUM

The Liminis
2438 Scranton Road
Cleveland, OH 44113

Street parking on Scranton and surrounding roads.

THE TREMONT TAP HOUSE

2572 Scranton Road
Cleveland, OH 44113

(Within short walking distance of The Liminus.)

Street parking on Scranton and surrounding roads.

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ONGOING

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MICHAEL SCHWARTZ LIBRARY, CSU

Damnable Artifacts: Production Memorabilia from the Plays of Mac Wellman

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THURSDAY, MARCH 23

DRINKO HALL & LOBBY, CSU

7:30 pm **Cleveland**

8:45 pm Meet & Greet Reception

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FRIDAY MARCH 24

DRINKO HALL & LOBBY, CSU

7:30 pm **The Sandalwood Box**

8:15 pm **Bitter Bierce**

9:30 pm Reception & Late Show:
The Good, the Bad, and Mac: Local Playwrights Do Mac Wellman's Writing Prompt

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SATURDAY, MARCH 25

MUSIC BUILDING ROOM 311, CSU

11:30 am Panel Discussion:
Mac Wellman's Breakthroughs as a Playwright, Teacher, and Mentor

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DRINKO HALL & LOBBY, CSU

- 1:00 pm **Sincerity Forever**
- 2:15 pm Break & Refreshments
- 3:00 pm **The Sandalwood Box**
- 3:45 pm **Bitter Bierce**
- 5:00 pm Playwright Q&A

THE LIMINUS

- 8:00 pm **Harm's Way**

THE TREMONT TAP HOUSE

- 9:30 pm Festival Wrap Party

ADMISSION

All events at the primary venue of Cleveland State University are free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required.

Groups are welcome at Cleveland State University. Arrivals can be arranged by contacting playwrightslocal@gmail.com or (216) 302-8856.

Tickets for the performance of *Harm's Way* at 8:00 pm on March 25 can be purchased at the convergence-continuum website: <http://www.convergence-continuum.org/>.

The wrap party at The Tremont Tap House is free and open to the public with cash bar.

Programs at Cleveland State University and convergence-continuum are recommended for adults and teens.

SUPPORT FOR THE FESTIVAL

Funding for this event is provided, in part, by a Project Support II grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

ABOUT PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL

Playwrights Local is dedicated to supporting the dramatists of Northeast Ohio. As a playwrights' development and production center, we foster diverse talents and present locally written works.

We strive to increase the impact of original theater on the community and to raise the profile of area playwrights both within Greater Cleveland and beyond.

Artistic Director.....David Todd
Managing Director.....Thomas W. Hayes
Director in Residence.....Dale Heinen
Teaching Artist.....Arwen Mitchell
Engagement Coordinator.....Mike Geither
Artistic Associate.....Jaclyn C. Cifranic

SPECIAL THANKS

For major support on logistics, venues, campus communications, and other matters: Dr. Jeff Karem and the CSU Department of English. For major help with web hosting, book purchases, exhibit planning, and photos: Barbara Loomis, Amanda Goodsett, the Digital Production Unit, and CSU's Michael Schwartz Library. For exhibit artifacts, graphics, and packaging: Kyle Chepulis, David Prittie, Katherine Owens, Clyde Simon, and Luke Leonard. For planning, hosting, and other venue details: Michael Solema and the CSU Department of Music. For travel arrangements and funding: Steven Reese and Colleen Clayton of Youngstown State University and the NEOMFA. For making this festival's programming possible: all of the contributing companies, theater artists, and playwrights listed in this program. For tireless reaching and support for emerging playwrights (and for showing up): Mac Wellman.

*Cover image from **A Murder of Crows** at convergence-continuum, 2006.*

SUPPORT FOR PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL

\$5000 +

The AHS Foundation
The City of Cleveland Cable Television Minority Arts &
Education Fund of the Cleveland Foundation
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture
The George Gund Foundation
The Ohio Arts Council
Stephen and Rita Todd

\$1000+

The Cyrus Eaton Foundation
Mike Geither and Jaime Bouvier
Thomas Hayes
David Todd

\$100+

Mark and Patricia Averbach
Richard Bongorno
Genevieve Costanzo
Carol Dolan
Nivi Engineer
Les Hunter
Michael Laurenty
Arwen Mitchell
Faye Sholiton
Patrick Walker

\$500+

The Arch and Bruce Brown
Foundation
Laura Cleveland
Eileen O'Leary

\$25 to \$100

David and Roberta Bongorno
Cathleen Carey
Adrienne Gosselin
Susan Hayes
Johnny Mango World Cafe & Bar
Christina Mcvay
Krystyna Orłowski
Pandora Robertson
Edward J. Walsh
Elizabeth Wilkes

THE AHS FOUNDATION



The Cyrus Eaton Foundation

**THE GEORGE GUND
FOUNDATION**



PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 PLAY LAB & SPRING WORKSHOPS

Free staged readings and workshops presented at the conclusion of our new play incubator program. Playwrights include Simone Barros, Logan Cutler Smith, and Mary Wilkinson & Deb Dyer.

April 12 & 15, 2017
Creative Space at Waterloo Arts

THINGS AS THEY ARE

A collage of scenes, movement, and compositions, this new play-with-music explores the enigmatic life and titanic imagination of poet Wallace Stevens.

Written by David Todd
Original score by Ben Chasny
Directed by Anjanette Hall

May 12 - 28, 2017
Reinberger Auditorium Loft



North Collinwood's Summer Arts Bash!

As in 2016, Playwrights Local will present performing arts programming for the annual Waterloo Arts Fest.

See you on Waterloo Road for art of all kinds, music, vendors, food trucks, and hands-on art-making!

June 24, 2017
Waterloo Arts District

PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL FORTHCOMING IN 2017-2018

September 2017: 3rd Annual Cleveland Playwrights Festival

March 2018: Play Lab & Spring Workshops

*Plus productions of new plays by Cleveland-area writers, our
2018 Open Call for Submissions, and much more!*