

Brooklyn Academy of Music

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The Sweet Science Suite:

A Scientific Soul Music Honoring of Muhammad Ali

Conceived and composed by Fred Ho
Green Monster Big Band
Choreography by Emmanuel Brown

BAM Harvey Theater

Oct 11 & 12 at 7:30pm

Approximate running time: 70 minutes; no intermission

Directed by **Youn Jung Kim**

Conducted by **Marie Incontrera**

Lighting design by **Ben Hagen**

Costume design by **Barbara Register**

Projection design by **Paul Lieber**

Performers: **Emmanuel Brown, Marquez Vargas,
Daniel Napolitano, Mathieu Williams**

BAM 2013 Next Wave Festival sponsor



*Diverse Voices at BAM sponsored by
Time Warner Inc.*

*Commission support for The Sweet Science
Suite provided by The Virginia B. Toulmin
Foundation*

*Originally developed at Guggenheim Works & Process in
November, 2011. A special thanks to Mary Sharp Cronson.*

The Sweet Science Suite

MOVEMENTS

1. Shake Up the World!
2. Float Like a Butterfly, Sting Like an Afro-Asian Bumblebee! (Inspired by “The Green Hornet Theme” by Billy May, EMI Hastings Music, Inc., BMI and the Rimsky-Korsakov classic, “Flight of the Bumblebee”)
3. No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger!
4. Rope-A-Dope (based upon “Revolutionary Ontology” and “Self-Love” by Salim Washington)
5. Worthy of Praises Most High (aka The Greatest)!

THE GREEN MONSTER BIG BAND

Marie Incontrera conductor

Jay Rodriguez 1st alto sax

Darius Jones 2nd alto sax

Bhinda Keidel 1st tenor sax

Don Braden 2nd tenor sax

Ben Barson baritone sax

Winston Byrd 1st trumpet

Kevin Bryan 2nd trumpet

Mark McGowan 3rd trumpet

Nabate Isles 4th trumpet

Bob Pilkington 1st trombone

Marty Wehner 2nd trombone

Richard Harper 3rd trombone

Earl McIntyre 4th bass trombone

David Taylor 5th bass trombone

Art Hirahara keyboards

Amanda Monaco guitar

Ken Filiano bass

Royal Hartigan drums, percussion

Youn Jung Kim vocals

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CREDITS

Stage managed by **Hae Jin Han**

Conducted by **Marie Incontrera**

Music performed by **the Green Monster Big Band**

Assistant stage manager **Lusie Cuskey**

Produced by **Big Red Media, Inc.** and **Spectrum Music**

NOTE FROM FRED HO

The Sweet Science Suite: A Scientific Soul Music Honoring of Muhammad Ali is a cosmogenic vision quest of martial arts, music, and incantation. It is the celebration of the spirit of Muhammad Ali—not a biography or life story, but that “sweet science” (the ability to hit and not be hit), from defiance of the status quo, to hero for humanity, to the trickster turning-the-tables of the underdog, to the determination to never give up in the face of powerful adversaries. During the darkest days of my war against cancer, the video footage of Muhammad Ali inspired me to deeper levels of perseverance and determination, at a time when I was considering suicide. I know I don’t have much longer left to live on this earth. While suffering many physical losses, I have found tremendous creative and philosophical gains, and have been made better in all of this ordeal, pain, torture, and adversity. This is my final magnum opus.



Fred Ho. Photo: Monica Sziladi

FRED HO (creator, composer) has been fighting stage 4c meta-static cancer, originally diagnosed August 4, 2006. He officially retired from a monumental career as a baritone saxophonist, composer, band leader, and producer in 2011, at which point he had made 25 recordings as a leader, published 10 books, received numerous distinguished awards and commissions, regenerated a new revolutionary movement (scientificsoulsessions.com), forged new opera and grand works (eg., Afro-Asian manga/martial arts opera), singularly created a new musical direction across multiple genres, and cemented a legacy as one of the greatest revolutionary innovators in music and politics. His recent works, some yet to be completed, include *Deadly She-Wolf Assassin at Armageddon!* (2013, La MaMa), *The Slanted Vagina Monologues*, and *The Voice of the Dragon Trilogy*. In his final time on earth, he is extremely gratified to provide a younger generation of artists, such as Youn Jung Kim and Emmanuel Brown, platforms to present their talents. He would like to thank all at BAM for being his friend and champion, especially Karen and Joe. And tremendous love to Joseph Yoon. You are all the greatest!

YOUN JUNG KIM (director, vocalist) is a multitalented New York-based theater artist and vocalist. She holds an MFA in theater from Sarah Lawrence College and a BA in theater and drama from University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a theater artist, she has created original works integrating mixed media. She has had the honor to work with Fred Ho since 2008 and had performed with Ho and his Celestial Green Monster Big Band at BAMcafé Live and at Ginny's Supper Club at the celebrated restaurant, Red Rooster Harlem. Her recent vocal work was seen by the public at *Mirror of the Soul: Portraits by Leah Poller* at Knox Gallery in Harlem. Kim has also performed at La MaMa and Pan Asian Repertory Theater. Stage manager credits in New York include *Deadly She-Wolf Assassin at Armageddon!* at La MaMa.



The Green Monster Big Band. Photo: Joseph Yoon

EMMANUEL BROWN (choreographer, martial artist), who makes his BAM debut, has had a love for performing and the arts from an early age. He began tumbling and performing in school plays at the age of six and a few years later began studying martial arts. The genre became something of an obsession for him; he began watching and imitating the fights that he saw in the movies, and creating his own. He eventually became a state, national, and world martial arts champion by the age of 18. He also pursued his love of performing, earning a BFA in acting from the University of Florida. His Broadway debut was as Electro in *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark* (Foxwoods Theater). Other credits include *Sucker Punch* (Studio Theatre), *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* (La Jolla Playhouse), and, on TV, ABC Primetime and *Rescue Me*. Choreography credits include *Deadly She-Wolf Assassin at Armageddon!* (La MaMa), *Lyrical Arts* (American Theatre of Actors), *Catwoman: The Diamond Exchange*, and *Under The Gun*. He has taught martial arts to celebrities such as Keri Russell and reggaeton sensation Don Omar and was the coach and choreographer of the Amerikick Dream Team (fourtime National Martial Arts Champions). Brown would like to thank God, family, and friends for their continued love and support.

MARIE INCONTRERA (conductor) is a composer, conductor, and martial artist living in Brooklyn. She received the Miriam Gideon Composition Award for women composers, and won the Remarkable Theater Brigade Art Song Competition and the 2011 Vocaleissance/American Composers Forum's "Essentially Choral" readings, and was a finalist in the 2010 Iron Composer competition. She was awarded a Meet the Composer Metlife Creative Connections

award, a Foundation for the Contemporary Arts Grant, a Puffin Grant, and a New York Women Composers Seed Money Grant. Commissions have come from the Young New Yorkers Chorus, Remarkable Theater Brigade, ANALOG arts, Brooklyn Art Song Society, ANIKAI Dance Theater, and the Atlanta Opera. Her work has been performed at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Kauffman Center, Symphony Space, the Meridian Arts Festival in Bucharest, Roulette, Galapagos Art Space, WOW Cafe Theatre, the highSCORE Festival in Italy, and others. Incontrera will conduct the Green Monster Big Band in a series of upcoming engagements; for some, she is also a guest composer and arranger. She currently studies composition and conducting with Fred Ho.

BEN HAGEN (lighting design) has designed for a reading of *The Normal Heart* at the Walter Kerr Theatre on Broadway directed by Joel Grey, *Al Pacino—One Night Only* in Sydney and London, *Absinthe* on the Las Vegas Strip, Robert Johnson Tribute Concert at the Apollo, and *The Marvelous Wonderettes* and *Man of La Mancha* for Merry Go Round Playhouse, among others. Hagen has also worked extensively with Lincoln Center Festival since 2007, including as lighting supervisor for the Royal Shakespeare Company's 2011 residency at the Park Avenue Armory, as well as the 2008 epic production of *Die Soldaten*. He was awarded the 2008 Most Promising Newcomer (Wally Russell Foundation) and was nominated for two New York Innovative Theatre awards for his work with Project Y Theatre Company. He holds a BA from the Richard Stockton College and an MFA from Rutgers University. benhagen.com

BARBARA REGISTER (costume design) is a collector of vintage textiles and accessories who has designed costumes and sets for various productions over the last three decades. She was costume designer for the Staten Island repertoire ensemble under the direction of Charles Thomas, *Gethsemane Park* directed by Rome Neil, *Endangered Species* written by Judy Shepard King, *Leave Your Nines at Home, In the Meantime*, and *El Haj Malik Shabazz*, among other stage productions. She is honored to be part of this production.

PAUL LIEBER's (projection designer) recent design credits include *Polanski, Polanski* (The Chain), and *The Rite of Spring* (Martha Graham Dance Company). Other credits include *American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose*, *The Realistic Joneses* (Yale Repertory Theatre), *The Seagull*, *Eurydice* (Yale School of Drama), and *The Rape of Lucretia* (Yale Opera). He is a recent graduate of the Yale School of Drama, where he received an MFA in projection design. He is also an actor, filmmaker, musician, and is the creator of *Make a Joyful Noise: on the life and music of Charles Ives*. paulieberprojections.com

HAE JIN HAN (stage manager), originally from South Korea, is a stage manager and a lighting designer. She holds an MFA in theater from Brooklyn College. She worked as production assistant for *Brigadoon* on Broadway, and as stage manager, translator, and assistant technical director for the Korean musical *Hero* at the David H. Koch Theater, Lincoln Center. She worked as a production manager at Brooklyn College; and is currently production manager at John Jay College. She worked with several dance companies including Nimbus Dance Works, Elisa Monte, and 5Rhythms Global. Lighting design credits include *Anna Christie*, *Flyin' West*, *Gi60*, *Violet Hour*, *The Light*, and *Reasons to Be Pretty*. She is thankful for the chance to work with the production team at BAM, and thanks her family, friends, and supporters.

LUSIE CUSKEY (assistant stage manager) is a stage manager, director, and teaching artist from Louisville, KY. She holds a BFA in performing arts at Western Kentucky University. Stage management credits include: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at the Public Theatre of Kentucky, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Revuesicals 2009*, and *Autumn Dance 2010*. She is excited for her first opportunity to be a part of the arts in New York City.



MARTIAL ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS

DANIEL NAPOLITANO (martial artist) is a world champion martial artist and stuntman. He started studying martial arts at age nine, and has traveled the world competing in tournaments on the World Karate Confederation and North American Sport Karate Association (NASKA) circuits, was featured on ESPN, and has performed on a professional level at venues such as Madison Square Garden since 2009. Napolitano has won nine New York State championships, five US championships, and two world titles. After uploading videos of himself onto YouTube in late 2012, he has become an internet sensation known as "DNap" through social media sites and was recently featured on NBC.

MATHIEU WILLIAMS (martial artist) was born in 1990 in Jamaica and moved to Brooklyn as a baby. He started learning karate at the age of 12, and when he began competing as a green belt his love of martial arts and competition grew. He earned a black belt in 2004 at the age of 14. He has competed more consistently in the adult divi-

sion where in the last three years he has finished in the top 10 for forms and fighting divisions in NASKA, for which he travels throughout the US, and won a grand championship at the Dixieland Nationals. He has been a martial arts instructor for the last four years, and has trained hundreds of students, including one world champion. He began studying the tricking side of martial arts in 2009.

MARQUEZ VARGAS (martial artist) is a first degree black belt in the style of kenpo karate. During his training, he learned XMA (extreme martial arts) which consists of aesthetically pleasing moves derived from a combination of martial arts to form fast, high-jumping, twisting, and difficult moves into a performance. As a member of the AmeriKick world competition team, he travels in the US and to Europe and Puerto Rico. He has also performed at Madison Square Garden with his team and will soon perform at Barclays Center.



FRED HO AND THE GREEN MONSTER BIG BAND

Composer and baritone saxophone virtuoso Fred Ho has assembled one of American music's most extraordinary large ensembles, the Green Monster Big Band. Featuring a stellar assembly of musician-improvisers, the ensemble's repertoire encompasses vanguard extended works by Ho and imaginative arrangements of rock and pop classics by Jimi Hendrix, Michael Jackson, Black Sabbath, and Iron Butterfly—adding a powerful freshness and revolutionary excitement to the big band tradition from Ellington to Sun Ra. And if this combination wasn't incredible enough, Ho has added to the big band repertoire his personal childhood television theme song favorites (including the Spider-Man theme and the Johnny Quest theme!)

THE GREEN MONSTER BIG BAND features the greatest and most creative musicians of our era, some with considerable fame as jazz and improvised music veterans, and others who

have emerged as the new vanguard. The band consists of highly individualized soloists, the most incredible trombone section in the world, and a special rhythm section that can groove as easily in complicated and convoluted odd meters as most can in common time. To top it off, they are revolutionary innovators with whom music historians and most jazz journalists have been unable to catch up. The Green Monster Big Band consists of Marie Incontrera (conductor), Jay Rodriguez (1st alto sax), Darius Jones (2nd alto sax), Bhinda Keidel (1st tenor sax), Don Braden (2nd tenor sax), Ben Barson (baritone sax), Winston Byrd (1st trumpet), Kevin Bryan (2nd trumpet), Mark McGowan (3rd trumpet), Nabate Isles (4th trumpet), Bob Pilkington (1st trombone), Marty Wehner (2nd trombone), Richard Harper (3rd trombone), Earl McIntyre (4th bass trombone), David Taylor (5th bass trombone), Art Hirahara (keyboards), Amanda Monaco (guitar), Ken Filiano (bass), Royal Hartigan (drums, percussion), and Youn Jung Kim (vocals).