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BAM and WNYC present

# RadioLoveFest

Produced by BAM and WNYC

February 7—11

## LIVE PERFORMANCES

**Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes & Anna Bass: *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host: All the Things We Couldn't Do on the Road***  
 Feb 7, 8pm; Feb 8, 7pm & 9:30pm, HT

**The Moth at BAM—*Reckless: Stories of Falling Hard and Fast***, Feb 9, 7:30pm, HT

***Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me*®, National Public Radio**, Feb 9, 7:30pm, OH

**Jon Favreau, Jon Lovett, and Tommy Vietor**, Feb 10, 7:30pm, HT

***Snap Judgment LIVE!***, Feb 10, 7:30pm, OH

***Bullseye Comedy Night***, Feb 11, 7:30pm, HT

## BAMCAFÉ LIVE

Curated by Terrance McKnight

**Braxton Cook**, Feb 10, 9:30pm, BC, free

**Gerardo Contino y Los Habaneros**, Feb 11, 9pm, BC, free

Season Sponsor:

**Bloomberg  
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Leadership support provided by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

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Additional support provided by Charles and Valerie Diker.

## VENUE KEY

BC=BAMcafé

BRC=BAM Rose Cinemas

HT=BAM Harvey Theater

OH=BAM Howard Gilman

Opera House

**IRA GLASS, MONICA BILL BARNES,  
ANNA BASS: THREE ACTS, TWO DANCERS,  
ONE RADIO HOST: ALL THE THINGS WE  
COULDN'T DO ON THE ROAD**

**Feb 7, 8pm; Feb 8, 7pm & 9:30pm**

**BAM Harvey Theater**

Performed by **Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes, and Anna Bass**

Directed and choreographed by **Monica Bill Barnes**

Lighting design by **Jane Cox**

Set and costume design by **Kelly Hanson**

Produced by **Robert Saenz de Viteri**

3acts2dancers1radiohost.com

**IRA GLASS** is the host and creator of the public radio program *This American Life*. The show is heard each week by over 2.2 million listeners on more than 500 public radio stations in the US, Australia, and Canada, with another 2.6 million downloading each podcast. This is Glass' professional dance show debut.

**MONICA BILL BARNES** founded MBB&CO in 1997. Since then her work has been performed in venues ranging from Upright Citizen's Brigade to Carnegie Hall, and has been presented in more than 75 cities throughout the US. Barnes began working with Ira Glass in 2012 when she created a solo for David Rakoff and performed as a part of *This American Life Live!* Performing *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* across the country has been one of her most rewarding endeavors of the past 20 years, and she is honored to bring it to BAM tonight. Upcoming projects include the world's only karaoke office party turned dance show (this is not fact checked, but we're pretty sure it's true), *Happy Hour*, on February 15 at 6:30pm. Join us for a drink and totally different experience.

**ANNA BASS** has worked with MBB&CO for 14 years. She has performed Barnes' work all over the country, on stages ranging from public fountains and city parks to New York City Center and Carnegie Hall. Bass performed in two of Glass' *This American Life Live!* events—catching boxes while dancing as a part of TAL's cinema event, and appearing as a roller-skating mouse alongside Mike Birbiglia in *The Radio Drama*

*Episode* at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House. Touring the world with Monica and Ira has been one of the greatest thrills of her life.

**JANE COX** (lighting design) has designed with MBB&CO for more than a decade, and her collaboration with the company is central to her creative life. Recent theater includes *Color Purple* and *Jitney* on Broadway, *Othello* at NYTW, *Hamlet* at the Barbican in London, the new play *Roe* currently playing at Arena Stage in DC, and *Amelie*, a new musical arriving on Broadway this spring. Other designs include *The Flick*, *The Ambassador*, *All the Way*, and *Machinal* (TONY and Drama Desk nominations). Cox has a long-standing relationship with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and is the director of the program in theater at the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton University.

**KELLY HANSON** (set/costume design) has worked with MBB&CO on every company show since she first met Barnes in 2001. She is also a production designer for *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, where she does approximately 220 live shows a year. She has been nominated for an Emmy and an Art Department Guild award. Hanson was born in Bryan, TX and earned her MFA in set design at University of California, San Diego. She lives in Queens with her husband and two amazing kiddos, who support her more than they know.

**ROBERT SAENZ DE VITERI** (creative producing director) began working in theater as an audio script assistant to Anna Deavere Smith while she developed *Let Me Down Easy*. He has created performances and toured productions throughout the world with the Obie Award-winning Nature Theater of Oklahoma. He originally joined MBB&CO to tour with *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* in 2013. Since then he has gone on to create and produce *Happy Hour* and *The Museum Workout* with the company. *Happy Hour* returns to NYC on February 15, and will run once a month, every month, hopefully for the next four years.

**TESS JAMES** (lighting director/stage manager) is a freelance lighting director, designer, and

associate designer. Throughout her career she has had the privilege of working with a wide range of amazing artists and companies including New York City Opera, BAM, New York City Center, Glimmerglass Opera, American Repertory Theatre, Dallas Opera, Center Stage in Baltimore, The Public Theater, SummerScape at Bard College, and Den Nye Opera in the Netherlands. Her Broadway associate credits include *The Color Purple*, *Noises Off*, *Violet*, and *The Real Thing*. She currently resides in Brooklyn.

**MONICA BILL BARNES & COMPANY** is a contemporary American dance company that brings dance where it does not belong. We create and produce each work entirely from its own rulebook—dancing to radio interviews on the biggest stages in the world, hosting a weekly show in a crowded office party, or leading a choreographed exercise routine in an art museum. The company consists of a team of collaborators—Monica Bill Barnes (artistic director/choreographer); Anna Bass (associate artistic director/performer); designers Kelly Hanson (sets/costumes) and Jane Cox (lighting); and Robbie Saenz de Viteri (creative producing director). Together, this team creates the most unlikely experiences for every kind of audience. [monicabillbarnes.com](http://monicabillbarnes.com)

*Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* is made possible with support from The Dianne and Daniel Vapnek Family Fund. It is also made possible with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Jody and John Arnhold. This work was developed during a Choreographic Fellowship at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, and was also supported through the Media Fellowship Initiative at MANCC.

#### MUSIC CREDITS

CC RIDER (Ma Rainey) performed by Elvis Presley. Courtesy of RCA/Sony Music.

I'LL NEVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN (Burt Bacharach, Hal David) performed by Dionne Warwick. (C) 1968 (Renewed) New Hidden Valley Music Company (ASCAP) and Casa David Music (ASCAP). All rights on behalf of New Hidden Valley Music Company. Administered by WP Music Corporation. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

LET IT BE ME (Gilbert Becaud, Manny Kurtz, Pierre Leroyer) performed by Nina Simone courtesy of RCA Records/Sony label group. Rights courtesy of Universal Music.  
DRINK TO ME (Ben Jonson) performed by Dean Martin. Courtesy of Capitol Records/Universal Music.

MAIS OUI MAMBO (Billy May, Conrad Gozzo) performed by Billy May. Appears courtesy of Universal Songs of Polygram International Inc.

FALLOUT 2A (Anthony Barilla) Rights courtesy of Anthony Barilla.

FILAMENTS (Podington Bear) Rights courtesy of Podington Bear.

DEEP BLUE DAY (Brian Peter George Eno, Roger Paul Eugene Eno, Daniel Roland Lanois) Rights courtesy of Opal Music PRS.

ART OF THE CANON (Thomas Louis Hardin) performed by Moondog. Courtesy of Roof Records.

GET UP (I FEEL LIKE BEING A SEX MACHINE) (James Brown, Bobby Byrd, Ronald R. Lenhoff) performed by James Brown. 100% interest. (C) 1970 (Renewed) Dynatone Publishing Company (BMI) All rights administered by Unichappell Music Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

WHAT'LL I DO (Irving Berlin) performed by Nat King Cole. Published by Irvin Berlin Music. Rights courtesy of Virgin Records.

ONE (Marvin Hamlisch, Lawrence Kleban) Rights courtesy of Sony/ATV Music Publishing.

Several stories in *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* were adapted from radio stories first heard on *This American Life*.

The poem *Last Days*, from Donald Hall's collection *Without*, is used with permission.

The national tour of *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* is exclusively co-represented by Steven Barclay Agency and Pomegranate Arts. The original production, *One Radio Host, Two Dancers*, presented at the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia in April 2013, was produced by Monica Bill Barnes & Company, Chad Herzog, and Dance Affiliates.

## THE MOTH AT BAM—RECKLESS: STORIES OF FALLING HARD AND FAST

Feb 9, 7:30pm

BAM Harvey Theater

Directed by **Meg Bowles** and **Maggie Cino**

Produced by **Anna Martin**

Director of production **Jennifer Birmingham**

Executive directors **Catherine Burns**,

**Sarah Haberman**, and **Sarah Austin Jenness**

Musician **Rachel Gawell**

Audio engineer **Noriko Okabe**

Photographer **Jason Falchok**

Videographer **Joe Del Senno**

Since its launch in 1997, *The Moth* has presented thousands of stories told live and

without notes. 2017 marks *The Moth's* 20th anniversary year! *Moth* shows are renowned for the great range of human experience they showcase. Through ongoing programs in more than 25 cities, *The Moth* has presented over 20,000 stories to standing-room-only crowds worldwide and it currently produces more than 500 live shows each year. Additionally, *The Moth* runs storytelling workshops for high school students and adults in underserved communities through their education and community programs. *The Moth* podcast is downloaded over 44 million times a year, and each week, the Peabody Award-winning *Moth Radio Hour* is heard on over 450 radio stations worldwide. *The Moth's* first book, *The Moth: 50 True Stories* (Hachette) was an international bestseller and its new book *All These Wonders: True Stories about Facing the Unknown from The Moth* (Crown) will be released on March 21.

#### HOST

**DAN KENNEDY** is host of *The Moth* podcast, a longtime host and performer at *Moth* live events, and has spent much of the last 15 years traveling the world performing and writing. His stories have appeared in *GQ* magazine, on the Peabody Award-winning *The Moth Radio Hour*, in *McSweeney's*, and in numerous print anthologies. He is the author of three books, *Losers Go First* (Random House/Crown 2003), *Rock On* (Algonquin 2008, a *Times of London* Book of the Year; series rights bought by HBO) and *American Spirit* (Houghton Mifflin/Little 2013, a *Publisher's Weekly* starred review). He has been a guest lecturer at Yale, and a guest author at *The Harvard Lampoon* in celebration of his work anthologized in *The Best of McSweeney's Humor*. He lives in downtown New York, where he is currently working on another screenplay.

#### STORYTELLERS

**SUZIE AFRIDI** was born and raised in Jericho, in the West Bank. When she was 14 her family moved to San Jose, CA. She attended San Jose State University then pretended to be a tax professional until her husband decided on a whim to move to Dubai, where she lived for three years doing random jobs (none of which

made her Pakistani in-laws proud). In 2007, she delivered a boy, and in 2008, their family of three moved to NYC. In 2013, she started doing stand-up because no one read her blog. Her long-term goal is to be able to entertain from bed. She is available for any kind of event—seriously, anything. @SuzieSaysSo

**NATASHA GUYNES** is the founder of HER Resiliency Center, dedicated to supporting and guiding vulnerable young women ages 18—25 to becoming self-sufficient, independent adults. Prior to founding HER, Guynes served on Capitol Hill in the offices of Senator Harry Reid, Senator Ben Nelson, Senator Brian Schatz, and the Senate Commission on Long-Term Care, and later worked for Media Matters for America. She received her degree in political science from Trinity-Washington University and served in Americorps after graduation; she is currently an MPA candidate at the University of Baltimore. A native of Louisiana, Guynes lives in Washington, DC with her partner Kevin and cats Fluff and Lovely.

**ASHOK RAMASUBRAMANIAN** was born in India and moved to the US in 1996. Although India has a rich tradition in oral folklore, Ramasubramanian discovered storytelling only by accident—a friend introduced him to the Front Parlor storytelling series in Troy, NY in 2011. Since then, he has been a regular at Front Parlor. He has also performed with StoryDistrict in DC and won a *Moth Storyslam* in Louisville, KY. He was also featured once in *The Moth Radio Hour*. Besides storytelling, his other passions include barefoot running, reading, traveling, and solving differential equations. He lives in upstate New York with his wife, Jennifer and kids Vinay and Avvai and teaches mechanical engineering at Union College in Schenectady, NY.

**BOOTS RILEY** is a co-founder of the critically acclaimed and overtly political hip-hop group The Coup, as well as the group's lead producer, arranger, and songwriter. Riley is an activist whose fervent dedication to social change is the overriding influence on every Coup album: his involvement in music was informed by earlier work in radical community organizing. Since

its last release in 2012, *The Coup* has toured Europe and the US extensively. In the summer of 2014, *The Coup's Shadowbox* premiered at San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Boots' latest projects include the screenplay *Sorry to Bother You*, published by McSweeney's and set to begin production later this year, as well as a book of lyrics and anecdotes *Tell Homeland Security—We Are The Bomb*, out now on Haymarket Books.

**KAHLIE TOWLE** grew up in rural Idaho, and has made her home in Portland, OR with her partner Karen, daughter Tegan, and dogs Letti and Reese. A true animal lover, Towle is a veterinary anesthetist by day and a storyteller by night. Finding her place in storytelling culture has been a dream come true: Towle has told stories for *Moth StorySLAMs* and *GrandSLAMs*, *BackfencePDX Russian Roulette* and *Main Stage, 7 Deadly Sins*, and *The Best of RISK!*. Next on her to-do list is getting her novel in progress onto *The New York Times* best-seller list.

#### MUSICIAN

**RACHEL GAWELL**, from rock bands to chamber music ensembles to experimental noise music, distinguishes herself by pairing a rigorous conservatory skill set with enthusiasm for expanding what is possible on the cello. Her main creative project is *Baba Sonya*, whose May 2016 release *The People Things Work Out For Sessions, The Album* enjoyed viral success on Spotify. Gawell has toured internationally and her playing is featured on many studio albums. Rachel studied at Peabody Conservatory and Rotterdams Conservatorium in The Netherlands, and specialized in improvisation and avant-garde music at the Henry Mancini Institute and Bowdoin's Gamper Festival of Contemporary Music. A Maryland native, Gawell now lives in Brooklyn. [rachelgawell.com](http://rachelgawell.com).

**WAIT WAIT... DON'T TELL ME!®**

**National Public Radio**

**Feb 9, 7:30pm**

**Howard Gilman Opera House**

*Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!*® is NPR's weekly hour-long quiz program hosted by Peter Sagal. Panelists for this edition include comics, pundits,

and pop culture pros Paula Poundstone, Mo Rocca, and Peter Grosz. Along with Sagal, they test listeners' knowledge by deducing what's real news and what's made up. *Airs Saturdays at 11am on WNYC 93.9 FM and WNYC AM 820 and Sundays at 4pm on WNYC 93.9 FM.* For more information visit [waitwait.npr.org](http://waitwait.npr.org).

**PETER SAGAL** (host), prior to becoming host of *Wait Wait* in 1998, had a varied career including stints as a playwright, screenwriter, stage director, actor, extra in a Michael Jackson video, travel writer, essayist, ghostwriter, and staff writer for a motorcycle magazine. He lives in the Chicago area with his family, and is working on a book titled *The Big Book of Vices*, about how people—other people, of course—misbehave. Since he now has his own website, he is finally a real boy.

**BILL KURTIS** (judge and scorekeeper), for many, was the face, the voice, and the hair of the news in Chicago. Along with his co-anchor, Walter Jacobson, Kurtis brought authority and integrity to CBS-affiliate WBBM. Since then, he's produced and hosted such shows as *Investigative Reports*, *American Justice*, and *Cold Case Files*, and was also the narrator of *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*. Essentially, if you hear Bill Kurtis saying your name, you've either committed a terrible crime, or you're Will Ferrell. Kurtis is also the founder of Tallgrass Beef Company, where, every night, he lulls his grass-fed cows to sleep by reading them a bedtime story.

**PETER GROSZ** began his comedic training at iO Chicago and wrote and performed in four revues on The Second City's ETC stage. Films include *The Weatherman*, *The Promotion*, *Stranger Than Fiction*, and *Slow Learners*. Television credits include *Key and Peele*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Inside Amy Schumer*, *Vinyl*, and a recurring role as lobbyist Sidney Purcell on *Veep*. He won two Emmy Awards writing for *The Colbert Report* and wrote for *Late Night With Seth Meyers*. He has been the co-star of a national commercial campaign for Sonic Drive-In since 2002.

**PAULA POUNDSTONE** is an Emmy-award winning stand-up comedian and NBC's *The Tonight Show* correspondent. She was the first woman to win a Cable Ace Award for Best Standup Comedy Special, and the first woman to perform stand-up at the White House Correspondents dinner. Poundstone has had numerous standup comedy specials and television appearances, covered the '92 election for Jay Leno, and just released her second comedy album, *I HEART JOKES: Paula Tells Them in Boston*.

**MO ROCCA** is a correspondent for *CBS Sunday Morning*, host of *The Henry Ford Innovation Nation* on CBS, and host and creator of *My Grandmother's Ravioli* on the Cooking Channel. He has appeared on most every cable network, including Telemundo, where he wowed audiences in a small but pivotal role in the hit telenovela *Amor Descarado*. He appeared on Broadway in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. His book *All the Presidents' Pets* blows the lid off the White House's deepest, darkest secrets.

### **JON FAVREAU, JON LOVETT, AND TOMMY VIETOR**

**Feb 10, 7:30pm**

**BAM Harvey Theater**

**JON LOVETT** is a straight shooter widely respected on all sides. He earned this reputation (which is seriously fantastic, ask people) as a speechwriter for Hillary Clinton and as a presidential speechwriter in the Obama White House. Lovett has written truly excellent speeches, really great, on a range of policy issues. He helped write the president's annual remarks to the White House Correspondents Dinner. Many people say Lovett is one of the funniest guys to do this. The jokes are just terrific. In the years since he's become a really big league writer in Hollywood. He had a hit sitcom on NBC called *1600 Penn* which was cancelled by some crooked, disgusting people. Totally rigged deal. Also Jon has a great brain. He went to Williams, OK? One of the top guys.

**JON FAVREAU** served as Barack Obama's head speechwriter from 2005—2013, a role that was far more senior and influential than Jon Lovett's. Since leaving the White House, Favreau has spoken about politics and speechwriting to audiences throughout the world, written for publications like *The Daily Beast* and *The Ringer*, and started a political podcast with three of his Obama friends in the ideologically diverse bellwether of Los Angeles. Favreau grew up outside of Boston and graduated from the College of the Holy Cross.

**TOMMY VIETOR**, before seeking fame and fortune through podcasting, spent nearly a decade working as a spokesman for President Barack Obama. Vietor served as President Obama's National Security Spokesman, where he was the media's primary contact on all foreign policy and national security issues, and as Assistant White House Press Secretary, where he handled foreign policy, education, and labor issues. In case you're still reading, he was also Obama's flak in Iowa during the caucuses and worked in his Senate office. Now he spends his days tweeting and getting interrupted by Jon Lovett. He grew up in Boston and graduated from Kenyon College.

### **SNAP JUDGMENT LIVE!**

**Feb 10, 7:30pm**

**Howard Gilman Opera House**

Dramatic tales, killer beats and the edgiest new talent in storytelling come together for a weekly radio hour and podcast driven by the creative force that is host Glynn Washington. It's a raw, musical brand of storytelling that dares listeners to see the world through the eyes of another—storytelling with a beat, with a mission to “rock the world.” Produced by *Snap Judgment* and WNYC Studios, and distributed nationwide by WNYC.

**GLYNN WASHINGTON** is the host and executive producer of *Snap Judgment*, heard on over 400 public radio stations nationwide (and downloaded over two million times each month.) Distributed by WNYC Studios, *Snap* delivers a raw, intimate, musical brand of storytelling, daring listeners to see the world through the

eyes of another. Before creating *Snap Judgment*, Washington worked as an educator, diplomat, community activist, actor, political strategist, fist-shaker, mountain-hollerer, and foot stomper. He composed music for the Kunst Stoff dance performances in San Francisco, rocked live spoken word poetry in Detroit, joined a band in Indonesia, wrote several screenplays, painted a daring series of self portraits, released a blues album, and thinks his stories are best served with cocktails.

**DON REED** is an award winning multi-hyphenate storyteller/comedian/playwright/producer born and raised in Oakland, CA. His stories often cover an arc from hilarity to tragedy and back again. His five acclaimed one-man shows have run off-broadway from NYC to San Francisco. He is best known for his appearances on HBO, Showtime, and *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, but best remembered for his autobiographical *Snap Judgment* story "I Miss Toni."

**KATIE LEAVITT**, while in elementary school, was spotted in a crowd of hundreds at a concert by her mother, who was looking for the only two raised hands clapping totally out of sync. She is thrilled to now be a part of storytelling with a beat. Leavitt spent several years on E!'s *The Soup*, recurring in sketches that required minimal clapping, and now splits her time between entertainment and the far lower-key industry of forensic social work.

**JEN KOBER**, originally from Louisiana, has bounded onto the national scene with her hard hitting power hour of stand-up and storytelling. She has appeared on HBO's *Treme* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and most recently appeared on *The Middle* (ABC) and Kevin Hart's sitcom *The Real Husbands of Hollywood*. Take home Kober's double CD which she will be selling in the lobby after tonight's show! JenKober.com

**JAMIE DEWOLF** is an internationally touring writer, performer, playwright, film director, and showman from Oakland, CA. He's a three-time Poetry Slam Grand Champion, an HBO *Def Jam* poet, and has been featured on A&E, Vice,

BBC, and NPR. He's the host and creator of the circus and variety show *Tourettes Without Regrets*, which *Huffington Post* called "the best underground performance show in America". DeWolf has written and directed the feature film *Smoked* and dozens of award winning shorts. To watch his films and his album *Vaudevillian* check out jamiedewolf.com.

**JAMES JUDD** is a stage performer and writer. He has regaled millions of public radio listeners with his comedic autobiographical monologues. From his one-man show *Killer Quack* to his performances at the Toronto Fringe festival to his new book *Now I Know*, he blazes a path of destruction while pursuing a wide range of professions. His escapades have landed him in a Chinese brothel, in a shark cage, and in a courtroom defending a client even he wanted locked up. JamesBJudd.com

**BELLS ATLAS** emerges from the vibrant cultural and musical backdrop of Oakland, CA. Blending heavy percussion, soulful vocal harmonies, and thoughtful arrangements, this dynamic group has arrived at a sound uniquely its own. Primarily comprising four core members with a musical chemistry that compliments and surprises, the sonic palette created by Bells Atlas is deep and exciting. It captures the spirit of eclectic influences (soul, West African and Brazilian rhythms, noise pop, psychedelia) and draws a wide audience with diverse tastes, setting the stage from a world of its own. Its musical intuitions explore cinematic sonic landscapes and relentless movement. You can find the group's album and *Hyperlust* EP on Bandcamp and iTunes.

## **BULLSEYE COMEDY NIGHT**

**Feb 11, 7:30pm**

**BAM Harvey Theater**

For one night only, *Bullseye* from NPR brings its discerning taste for culture to Brooklyn, with a curated lineup of comedians performing as part of RadioLoveFest 2017. Your host for the evening is Guy Branum, the host of *Bullseye*'s sister show *Pop Rocket*. Coming with him from the west coast is Solomon Giorgio, and we'll also have East Coast favorites Phoebe Robinson,

Maeve Higgins, and Hari Kondabolu. The *Bullseye Comedy Night* brings some of the most important, trenchant, and funny voices to the Harvey Theater stage.

**GUY BRANUM** is a writer and comedian who hosts *Bullseye's* sister show, the culture round table *Pop Rocket*. He's also the host of the upcoming TruTV series *Talk Show: The Game Show*. He's appeared on E!, MTV, G4, CurrentTV and lots of other channels you'd need to upgrade your cable to watch. He's written for *Punk'd* on MTV and *Fashion Police* on E!. That means he's watched the Grammys at Joan Rivers' house. Jealous? Branum also writes for the "Gay Voices" section of *The Huffington Post* and occasionally makes web videos where he dances around without his shirt on. But mostly, Branum is very, very beautiful and good at having sex.

**SOLOMON GEORGIO** emerged from the Seattle comedy scene with his own brand of indignant irreverence. He intertwines biting social commentary with stories of his life as an openly gay African immigrant. Georgio had his television debut in February 2015 as the featured comedian on *Conan*, and immediately followed it up with an appearance on *Last Call with Carson Daily*, Comedy Central's *This Is Not Happening*, and *The Meltdown* with Jonah & Kumail. He is also the host of several episodes of *Viceland's Flophouse*.

**MAEVE HIGGINS**, a TV star in her native Ireland, has performed all over the world, including in Edinburgh, Melbourne, and most recently Erbil. Now based in New York, she's made a name for herself there too. In a good way! She co-hosts Neil deGrasse Tyson's *StarTalk* on National Geographic and has appeared in Comedy Central's *Inside Amy Schumer*. Higgins hosts a live show every month with author Jon Ronson and is a frequent guest at the Eugene Mirman Comedy Festival. She is writing a book of funny essays for Penguin, due for publication in late 2017. She also makes great radio and is currently hosting a podcast about immigration called *Maeve In America* for First Look Media. Higgins says "yikes" a lot and her favorite food is peanut butter.

**HARI KONDABOLU** is a Brooklyn-based comic whom *The New York Times* called "one of the most exciting political comics in stand-up today." In 2014, he released his debut standup album *Waiting for 2042* on Kill Rock Stars. He was NYU's APA Institute's artist in residence (2014—15). He has done standup on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Conan*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *Live at Gotham*, and John Oliver's *New York Standup Show*. His Comedy Central Presents half-hour television special debuted in February 2011. He was also a writer and correspondent for the Chris Rock-produced *Totally Biased* on FX. In the UK, Kondabolu has appeared on BBC 3's Russell Howard's *Good News*, *Live at the Electric*, and Channel 4's *8 out of 10 Cats*, and performed at the 2011 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He has performed at festivals including the HBO Comedy Festival, SXSW, Aspen Ideas Festival, and Just for Laughs. When in NYC, he co-hosts the talk show *The Untitled Kondabolu Brothers Project* with his younger brother Ashok, and their podcast. He wrote the Nov 2011 cover story for *Spin* magazine about Das Racist, and is a former video blogger for World Compass. Kondabolu was born and raised in Queens, NY. He attended Bowdoin College and Wesleyan University, graduating from the former with a BA in comparative politics in 2004. A former immigrant rights organizer in Seattle, he also earned a masters in human rights from the London School of Economics in 2008.

**PHOEBE ROBINSON** is a stand-up comedian, writer, and actress whom *Vulture.com*, *Essence*, and *Esquire* have named one of the top comedians to watch. She has appeared on NBC's *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and *Last Call with Carson Daly*; Comedy Central's *Broad City*, *The Nightly Show* with Larry Wilmore, and *@midnight* with Chris Hardwick, as well as TBS' *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*. Robinson's writing has been featured in the *Village Voice* and on *Glamour.com*, *TheDailyBeast.com*, *VanityFair.com*, *Vulture.com*, and *NYTimes.com*. She was also a staff writer on MTV's hit talking head show, *Girl Code*, as well as a consultant on season three of *Broad City*. Most recently, she created and starred in Refinery29's web series



*Woke Bae* and, alongside Jessica Williams of *The Daily Show*, she is the creator and costar of the hit WNYC podcast *2 Dope Queens* as well as the creator and host of the new WNYC podcast *Sooo Many White Guys*. Robinson lives and performs stand-up in Brooklyn, and posts weekly musings about race, gender, and pop culture on her blog, *Blaria.com* (aka Black Daria). [blaria.com](http://blaria.com) | Twitter: @dopequeenpheebs

## BAMCAFÉ LIVE

**TERRANCE MCKNIGHT** (BAMcafé Live band curator) is the WQXR weekday evening host. Previously, he also hosted the former Saturday evening program, *All Ears with Terrance McKnight*, a show about musical discovery, which was honored with an ASCAP Deems Taylor Radio Broadcast Award in 2010. McKnight's musical experiences—from glee club soloist and accomplished pianist, to professor at Morehouse College, and finally as producer and host of several music programs for public radio—have consistently juxtaposed the European classical tradition alongside American classic traditions, such as jazz, gospel, African-American spirituals, and other musical genres. McKnight has hosted and produced several specials for WQXR including *I, Too, Sing America: Music in the Life of Langston Hughes*, *A Beautiful Symphony of Brotherhood: A Musical Journey in the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, *A Musical Biography of Pioneering Pianist Hazel Scott*, and *A Musical Biography of Florence Beatrice Price*. Other activities for McKnight include appearances as a panelist or speaker with Chamber Music America, the Mellon Foundation, American Opera Projects, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art's concert and lecture series, among others.

**Feb 10, 9:30pm**

### BAMcafé

**BRAXTON COOK** is one of this generation's brightest up-and-coming alto saxophonists and songwriters. He has performed alongside Wynton Marsalis, Jon Batiste, and has toured the world many times over with Grammy-nominated trumpeter Christian Scott while attending The Juilliard School. As a bandleader, he has already recorded and released two projects and is now

currently working on his debut album. His newest music features not only his abilities as a saxophonist and songwriter, but also his vocals. Braxton melds all of these elements into his music creating a unique genre, blending sound that could be described as Millennial Jazz— accessible to the avid jazz listener as well as to the R&B and soul music lover.

**Feb 11, 9pm**

### BAMcafé

#### GERARDO CONTINO Y LOS HABANEROS

The explosive Los Habaneros mix musical styles from their native Cuba with the sounds from New York City, now their home. They transcend traditional musical genres to create a real fusion. The band comprises a young generation of Havana-trained musicians, including director and singer Gerardo Contino, artistic director and pianist Axel Tosca Laugart, and percussionist Yusnier Sanchez Bustamante. The band's first album, *Somos Latinos* (2013), released to critical acclaim, was produced by Latin Grammy-nominated Luisito Quintero, and included Grammy-winning bassist John Benitez. Los Habaneros have toured in Peru, Canada, Qatar, and the US. They have played at the Kennedy Center for the Arts as official performers for TEDMED, American Folk Festival, BAM, BB King Blues Club, Subrosa, Greene Space, Sounds of Brazil, Le Poisson Rouge, Bronx Museum, American Museum of Natural History, Live at the Gantries, Roulette, Gonzalez y Gonzalez, Taj, and others. Their second album, *Los Habaneros*, will be released in Spring 2017.

**GERARDO CONTINO** (director), born in Havana, was lead singer of Cuban supergroup NG La Banda and joined the Max Weinberg Orchestra as lead Latin singer and Larry Harlow's Latin Legends Band. He has toured throughout the world, performing at salsa and jazz festivals, and has played with countless renowned artists. He received his education in Law at the University of Havana and his Master's in Law (LLM) at Cardozo School of Law in the prestigious Intellectual Property Program.

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