Alverno Presents Announces 2014-2015 Season:
55 Seasons of Making Magic

At Alverno Presents, we make magic. It begins with great artists in live performance. But that’s only the beginning. The magic happens when artist, place and audience find each other in one never-to-be-duplicated moment. This season, we make magic in big outdoor amphitheaters and intimate chapels. We make magic with artists from across the ocean and around the block. But most importantly, we make magic with you. Show up. Make some magic.

Alverno Presents Season 55 gathers 10 powerful performances you won’t see anywhere else. We begin on July 27 with our fourth collaboration with the Lynden Sculpture Garden presenting the work of the internationally acclaimed Trisha Brown Dance Company. Next, the ninth edition of Global Union returns to Humboldt Park on September 13.

And we’re only getting started!

**Uncovered:** After our great successes with Beautiful Dreamer: The Foster Project in 2013 and Unlooped Vs. Marvin Gaye in 2014, we are presenting two concerts where a smart, passionate and uber-connected Milwaukee curator assembles an A-Team of Milwaukee’s best musicians to explore the music of an important American songwriter. We are calling the shows Uncovered, because the assembled artists don’t “cover” original performances, but “uncover” a song’s intrinsic beauty through creative re-interpretation. This season, Betty Strigens (Testa Rosa) leads us through the works of rock icon Patti Smith, Jordan Lee (Radio Milwaukee DJ) takes on the great producer, conductor, arranger and composer Quincy Jones.
Post-Rock: Our past work with our Altos commission of a new score for Earth at the Milwaukee Film Festival, Nick Sanborn: Lend Me Your Voice, and Jon Mueller’s Death Blues (no time like the present) inspired us into a deeper examination of Post-Rock. It starts with drums and electric guitars, the DNA of rock and roll. But in the hands of a select group of musicians, it becomes more intricate and ambitious, taking in the improvisation of jazz, the structures of classical music, the technology of electronica, and channeling all of that into rock’s pounding, visceral heartbeat. This season marks the return of Jon Mueller with the third part of his ongoing Death Blues project, Joe Westerlund’s phantasmagoric Grandma Sparrow & His Piddletractor Orchestra, and the Ukrainian punk-pop of DhakaBrakha.

Chapel: Alverno Presents first performance in Alverno College’s beautiful Chapel of Mary Immaculate. Chapels inspire fellowship and contemplation. They are a place to share the inner journey. Solo guitarist William Tyler charts a musical path towards the sublime.

Dance: Alverno Presents continues as Southeastern Wisconsin’s leading presenter of contemporary dance. Much thought is given to presenting each performance in the venue that will highlight each company’s particular gifts. This season, we will be presenting the Trisha Brown Dance Company at Lynden Sculpture Garden, Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak at UW-Milwaukee’s Mitchell Hall Studio, and Compagnie Marie Chouinard at Alverno’s Pitman Theatre.

Online orders are available at http://alvernopresents.alverno.edu. Please contact Alverno Presents Operations Coordinator Marielle Allschwang at (414) 382-6044 or marielle.allschwang@alverno.edu for ticket information.

Links to artists’ videos and websites are available at http://alvernopresents.alverno.edu. All artist jpegs will be located at http://alvernopresents.alverno.edu/media.

Trisha Brown Dance Company
The Early Works/Conversations With Sculptures
Sunday, July 27, 2014
12:30 pm and 3:30 pm
Lynden Sculpture Garden
Single Ticket Price $35

Only a few times in a generation does an artist make something so genuinely new that it forever changes the rules of the game. From the late 1960s on, Trisha Brown smashed the molds to forge a new language for dance — spherical, snaking, elusive, more subtle than any before it. The dance world’s shift into postmodernism was accompanied by a similar revolution in visual art. The Lynden Sculpture Garden is one of the outstanding collections of sculpture from this transformative period. Alverno Presents and Lynden present this once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the Trisha Brown Dance Company perform these great early works next to masterpieces of epic minimalist sculpture.
Global Union
Saturday, September 13, 2014
noon to 6:00 PM
Humboldt Park FREE!

Doesn’t seem possible, but it’s true — this is Global Union’s 9th Anniversary! Nine years as MKE’s go-to big-beautiful-dance-party-slash-farewell-to summer. Nine years in one of the city’s best parks. Nine years FREE! Global Union 2014 features bands from Argentina, China, Appalachia, Trinidad and Sierra Leone. Throw in the great international food and crafts, Milwaukee’s stellar community organizations, your family, your friends, and YOU, and there’s no better way to say “bring it on, autumn — we’re ready for you.”

La Yegros | 12:30 pm
Mariana “La Yegros” is a force a nature. From the rainforests of Brazil, she uses electronica to bring the tradition of Cumbia into the 21st Century.

Wu-Force | 2:00 pm
Abigail Washburn’s avant-Chinese-Appalachian-Indie-Folk-Rock project, featuring Abigail on banjo and vocals, Kai Welch on piano, guitar, trumpet, looping station & vocals, and Wu Fei on guzheng (Chinese zither) and vocals.

Calypso Rose w/Kobo Town | 3:30 pm
The uncontested diva of calypso, the incomparable Calypso Rose is joined by Kobo Town, renowned for its fusion of calypso, roots reggae, and acoustic instrumentation with innovative production techniques, social commentary and indie rock attitude.

Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars | 5:00 pm
Originally from Freetown, Sierra Leone’s capital, the band formed in exile and spent three years “touring” throughout the refugee camps of Guinea. This was all filmed by two American film makers who released the movie Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars alongside their first album Living Like a Refugee in 2006, both to critical success. A wild mix of Sierra Leone highlife, maringa, palm wine styles, baskeda and gumbe make music that is uplifting, highly danceable, and crazy fun.

Smith Uncovered
Curated by Betty Strigens
A re-interpretation of the songs of Patti Smith
Saturday, October 18, 2014 | 8:00 pm
Alverno College Pitman Theatre
Single Ticket Price $25

Patti Smith. Punk rock pioneer. Trailblazer who redefined the role of female rock stars. Poet who unleashed her lyrical talent over powerful guitars. Betty Strigens (Testa Rosa) leads some of Milwaukee’s finest, including Die Kreuzen, Dry House Ruins, Faythe Levine and Nona Invie, Hello Death, Karl Paloucek, Mark Waldoch, and Nineteen Thirteen through the music of one of the great figures of Rock.
Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak
The Delicate Hour
Friday, October 24 and
Saturday, October 25, 2014
both shows at 8:00 pm
Mitchell Hall,
Peck School of the Arts, UWM
Single Ticket Price $30

We expect dance to begin with, well, dancing. *The Delicate Hour* does the opposite. Molly and her marvellous dancers begin stock-still. They face us. They invite us into the work with a gaze both vulnerable and courageous. They sway slowly and almost imperceptibly side-to-side. It is surprising and uncommonly intense. And just as you wonder how they can possibly proceed from so elevated a place, beautiful arcs of movement flow from this startling beginning. UWM's Mitchell Hall is the right space to see dance this intimate.

Jon Mueller
Death Blues: Ensemble
Saturday, January 31, 2015
8:00 pm
Alverno's Pitman Theatre
Single Ticket Price $25

Jon Mueller is “an audacious leader of new music.” (Grayson Currin, Pitchfork). A founding member of Pele, Collection of Colonies of Bees and Volcano Choir, Jon Mueller’s ongoing Death Blues project premiered at Alverno Presents in November 2012. “It makes such sense that a drummer, as a sort of ascetic, would offer up a meditation on the measure of time. And what it means to end.” (Mary-Louise Schumacher, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel). The latest iteration of *Death Blues* has Jon collaborating with composer William Ryan Fritch for *Ensemble*, a record and book project released on Mueller’s Rhythplex imprint. In January, they will present a live performance of these pieces, with Fred Lonberg-Holm on cello, Jaime Fennelly on harmonium, Jim Warchol on hammered acoustic guitar, Marielle Allschwang on vocals, and Nathaniel Heuer on upright bass.

Compagnie Marie Chouinard
Gymnopédies & Henri Michaux: Mouvements
Saturday, February 14, 2015
8:00 pm
Alverno’s Pitman Theatre
Single Ticket Price $35

Sensational dancers, fascinating stage designs, exquisite costumes and rousing music are the trademarks of celebrated Canadian choreographer Marie Chouinard. For the Company’s return to the Pitman, they present their two latest works. *Gymnopédies* immerses the dancers in the playful, magic worlds of the danced duet, providing a look into a dreamscape of perfect moments of togetherness. Next, Chouinard masterfully translates the drawings from the book
Mouvements by the Belgian poet/artist Henri Michaux into a dance score. The dancers move in front of oversized projections of the hallucinatory drawings, which appear to be dancing all by themselves, bringing Michaux’ fantasies to life.

Joe Westerlund
Grandma Sparrow & His Piddletractor Orchestra
Saturday, March 7, 2015
8:00 pm
Alverno College’s Pitman Theatre
Single Ticket Price $25

Who is Grandma Sparrow? Imagine the Beach Boys meeting up with Charles Ives and taking a walk through Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood. Grandma Sparrow & his Piddletractor Orchestra is a wild ride with the strange, multi-layered harmonies of the Beatles circa Magical Mystery Tour, the symphonic sweep of Van Dyke Parks, and the oddball instrumentation of Brian Wilson at his most wigged-out. Grandma Sparrow is the performance alter ego of Joe Westerlund — composer, vocalist and percussionist, and core component of Megafaun, Califone, Gayngs and Mount Moriah. Joe introduced Grandma Sparrow to Alverno Presents as part of Nick Sanborn: Lend Me Your Voice in November 2013. We haven’t heard anything quite like it, and we couldn’t resist bringing Joe back for the full Grandma Sparrow experience, this time with an eight-piece band, strings, horns, and children’s choir.

William Tyler
Saturday, March 21, 2015 | 8:00 pm
Alverno’s Chapel of Mary Immaculate
Single Ticket Price $20

Alverno Presents’ audiences met Nashville guitarist and composer William Tyler as part of last season’s Nick Sanborn: Lend Me Your Voice. William spent years woodshedding and touring with groups like Lambchop and Silver Jews before breaking away to focus on his own version of instrumental guitar music. Behold the Spirit, William’s first album under his own name, was celebrated by Pitchfork as “the most vital, energized album by an American solo guitarist in a decade or more. It accepts John Fahey’s legacy while escaping its shadow. Moreover, it’s simply a joy to hear.” “You don’t get perfection with William (I suspect he’d be OK with that assessment); you get brambles and wandering, the wide and deep and arcane path to transcendence.” (MC Taylor)

Jones Uncovered
Curated by Jordan Lee
A re-interpretation of the music of Quincy Jones
Saturday, April 11, 2015 | 8:00 pm
Alverno College Pitman Theatre
Single Ticket Price $25

Turntabllist and DJ Jordan “Madhatter” Lee discovered Quincy Jones through Hip Hop — the Pharcyde’s Passing Me By sampling Quincy’s Summer In The City. Notorious B.I.G.’s
Unbelievable sampling Quincy’s Kitty With The Bent Frame. Tupac Shakur’s Guess Who’s Back sampling Quincy’s theme to Ironsides. This led Jordan deeper into Jones’ legacy. As producer, conductor, arranger and composer, Quincy Jones shaped the work of Michael Jackson, Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Duke Ellington and Miles Davis, to name just a few. He has been nominated for a record 79 Grammys — and won 27. Jordan Lee heads a musical juggernaut, including Dave Wake, Klassik, and members of the Rusty Ps and De La Buena, into the past sixty years of American music and the man who was at its center.

DhakaBrakha
Thursday, April 23, 2015
8:00 pm
Alverno’s Pitman Theatre
Single Ticket Price $20

Founded by former underground theater performers, DhakaBrakha possesses an incredible stage presence that transcends its eclectic repertoire and instrumentation — which includes spacious vocals, accordion, bass drum, mouth harp and cello. The group mixes everything from traditional Ukrainian songs to punk-pop in cool yet beguiling textures, often with the close harmonies usually associated with Balkan music. “Kiev band DhakaBrakha made their US debut to a sold-out crowd that screamed for more and practically wouldn’t let them leave the stage. Word is out: this four-piece punk-folk-circus-rock band makes Gogol Bordello look like slow, lazy slugs.” (New York Music Daily)

Ticket Prices & Discounts

Single and subscription tickets are available now. Single tickets range from $20 to $35. Season subscriptions are on sale now for a discounted rate when purchasing tickets to three (or more) events. Season subscribers receive priority seating. Tickets are available through the Alverno Presents Box Office at 414.382.6044.

Summer box office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon- 2:00 p.m. The Box Office will be open for regular hours starting Tuesday, September 2nd: Monday-Friday from noon to 6 p.m., and on the day of the performance from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

15% You-Pick-Four or More Discount
Take 15% off your total price when you purchase tickets to four or more shows from Alverno Presents’ 2014/2015 season.

NEW! 20% We-Pick-Three Discount
Each show is great. Mix them up, and they’re crazy-great. We put together three packages of three crazy-great shows each at the super-crazy-great discount of 20% off:
Trisha Brown Dance Company  |  Jon Mueller  |  DhakaBrakha
Regular $80 — Your price $64.
Molly Shanahan  |  Grandma Sparrow  |  Jones Uncovered
Regular $80 — Your price $64.
Smith Uncovered | Compagnie Marie Chouinard | William Tyler
Regular $80 — Your price $64.

Alverno College Faculty and Staff Discount
10% off single tickets for Alverno College Faculty & Staff.*

NEW! Under Age 25 for $15
Young audiences who want to see crazy-great live performance but think tickets are just out of reach now have the chance to see any show they want. This season, for the first time, Alverno Presents offers patrons ages 25 and under the opportunity to purchase tickets to any event for just $15.*

NEW! Alverno Students get in FREE
Alverno Students (with current ID) may attend any Alverno Presents show for Free.*

*For each of these free and single ticket discounts, there is a limit of two tickets per patron for each show. Quantities of available single discount and free tickets will be limited on a show-by-show basis. Valid ID required at time of purchase.

Ready to buy tickets?
Order online | alvernopresents.alverno.edu
Order on the phone | 414-382-6044
Want more paper? Call us. Or email us at boxoffice@alverno.edu. We’ll send you a paper order form if that’s your preference.

Season 55 Venues

Chapel of Mary Immaculate
Founders Hall (Second Floor)
Alverno College
3401 South 39th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Humboldt Park
3000 South Howell Avenue (& East Oklahoma Avenue)
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Lynden Sculpture Garden
2145 West Brown Deer Road
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Mitchell Hall Studio, Room 254 (Second Floor)
Peck School of the Arts
University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee
3203 North Downer Avenue (& East Kenilworth Boulevard)
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Pitman Theatre
Alverno College
3431 South 39th Street (& West Morgan Avenue)
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Season Sponsors include: National Endowment for the Arts, Transfer Pizzeria, National Performance Network (NPN), New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), Pepsi, BMO Harris Bank, The Helen Bader Foundation, Wisconsin Arts Board, Milwaukee Arts Board, Arts Midwest, 800 CEO Read, Meyer & Norma Ragir Foundation, Direct Supply, Bob and Pam Klein, Milwaukee County Parks, Blue Moon, Collectivo Coffee, Greater Milwaukee Foundation/Joseph Pabst

Media Sponsors: WMSE, WUWM, 88.9 Radio Milwaukee, Milwaukee Record, Clear Channel Outdoor, Thirsty Boy

Alverno Presents, the performing arts series of Alverno College, is celebrating its 55th year. The series has innovated beyond our history as the longest running, continuous arts presenter in the city, to our niche of presenting contemporary dance, world music and jazz and an array of performance events. Alverno Presents shares the school’s mission by ensuring broad access to and participation in learning, experiencing and developing the arts for the learning community of Alverno, and our community as a whole. For more information on Alverno Presents, special projects, media reviews and more, visit alvernopresents.alverno.edu, contact Alverno Presents Managing Director at 414-382-6151, or e-mail rory.trainor@alverno.edu.