

CLOSE UPS | curated by ursula rucker



Ursula Rucker
& Jacqueline Constance

2021-22 SEASON: **scars & emblems**



ABOUT US

Intercultural Journeys boldly leverages the power of the performing arts to catalyze social change, challenge bias, and create spaces for dialogue and understanding by presenting culturally diverse voices that celebrate and affirm our shared humanity.

VISION

We imagine a world of more:
more welcome, more curiosity, more empathy, and more connection.

Where more voices tell our history and shape our future,
and we create an inclusive space to be still, to listen, to watch, to dance, and to learn together;
Where recognition and respect for one and all are the starting point, and not the finish line,
and love drives our journey forward.

STAFF

Carly Rapaport-Stein, Executive Director

Marla Burkholder, Artistic Director

Nia Benjamin, Program and Communications Manager

SUPPORT

If you'd like to support the work of Intercultural Journeys, please visit interculturaljourneys.org/donate, or contact Executive Director Carly Rapaport-Stein at carly@interculturaljourneys.org.

interculturaljourneys.org

connect with us:



INTERCULTURAL JOURNEYS

scars & emblems

2021 - 2022 SEASON

ABOUT THE SEASON: A NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

I inherited an antique cedar chest from my great aunt filled with items from the Great Depression — ordinary towels, pillow cases, blankets embroidered to create something precious in a time of scarcity. I could almost see the way the deep want of those years stitched itself onto her being.

As we have moved through all the extraordinary events of this past year I have often thought about the ways humans are marked by events, people, experiences. In moments of collective tragedy we may feel that etching more because we recognize the shaping happening in us by seeing it happen to the world around us. But every individual is constantly re-formed by the wounds and gifts of time and place, opportunity and culture.

In this season of Scars and Emblems, we open the door to those shape-shifting stories, welcoming artists to reflect on the common and uncommon ways they have been marked.

We are deeply honored that the incomparable Ursula Rucker — visionary, activist, Philadelphia legend and extraordinary artist — agreed to curate this season's *Close Ups* series. She brought her wisdom and artistic prowess to assembling and mentoring an exceptional group of artists to delve into their scars and emblems. Her unique voice infuses the series with a depth of exploration and a freedom of expression that feels revelatory.

And our first live performance in over 2 years, planned for spring 2022, couldn't be more timely. Ruth Naomi Floyd's prescient work *The Frances Suite* is an urgent, joyful, searing musical jewel that traverses the prophetic life of a largely unsung poetic voice from history to find markers for a just and vibrant future.

Thank you for stepping onto this new path with us. I hope you will find something in this season of stories that moves you deeply and perhaps leaves an indelible impression.

Marla

ABOUT THE CURATOR AND ARTIST:

Ursula Rucker

Poet, recording artist, songwriter, activist and revolutionary Ma'at Mama, Ursula Rucker is a certified veteran of the global music and poetry scene. A skilled writer and dynamic performer, Rucker's rich and textured voice is one of the world's great, living instruments. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Rucker has released five wide-ranging albums and built an equally impressive catalogue as a collaborator, working with everyone from The Roots to DJ King Britt side-project Firefly, 4Hero, Jazzanova, Louie Vega and Doodlbug of Digable Planets.

Today, Rucker enjoys an influential standing as a respected poet and vocalist. Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program features two portraits of Rucker — the 2013 building-sized commission by artist Jetsonorama titled "You Go Girl", and a new mural in Rucker's home neighborhood of Germantown unveiled in August 2021. Recent accomplishments include being a 2018 recipient of the prestigious fellowship award from The Pew Center for Arts & Change, and a 2020 sold-out release of *big/small poems for pockets*, a chapbook of haikus.



Special Thanks

We're so grateful to our friends at Bartram's Gardens and The Germantown Espresso Bar for the generous use of their beautiful spaces to film the Close Ups series.



BARTRAM'S GARDEN



GERMANTOWN
ESPRESSO BAR

Jacqueline Constance

Philly based singer/songwriter, Jacqueline Constance blends her R&B and Hip Hop command into a swirling emotional stew. With a warm, yet strident voice she creates daring and fiery stories in sound. Not one to wait for a musician to make her magic happen, Jacqueline also produces some of her own material. Armed with just a mic, her digital sampling, foot pedal and a small mixer, Jacqueline turns breaths, sighs and words into funky orchestral pastures for her lyrics to frolic through.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Jacqueline is inspired by jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald, which is apparent in her vocal nuances and soulful timbre. Her songs speak to those who are creating their own lane by adding lasting melodies to their own life story. Garnering the attention from acts such as Bj the Chicago Kid, Phonte and Zo from The Foreign Exchange, Questlove, Anderson Paak, St Beauty, King Britt and many others, she has created a pathway for herself unlike anything that has been seen or heard before.



CLOSE UPS | curated by
ursula rucker

**CLOSE UPS:
URSULA RUCKER & JACQUELINE CONSTANCE**

featuring

URSULA RUCKER

JACQUELINE CONSTANCE

Curation and Interview by

URSULA RUCKER

PRODUCTION

Director and Editor

NIA BENJAMIN

Videography

STEPHANIE MALSON

Sound

DANIELLE LEWIS

Audio Engineering

RICHARD WALLER

Lighting Design

ANTHONY MOLDEN

Production Support from

CARLY RAPAPORT-STEIN

MARLA BURKHOLDER

With thanks to our friends at Bartrams Gardens and Germantown Espresso for the generous use of their beautiful spaces to film the *Close Ups* series.

Intercultural Journeys Board of Directors

Alice L. George, Chair
Renee Garcia, Vice Chair
Lisa Miller, President
Katie Law, Treasurer

HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein
Majid Alsayegh*

**Founding Member*

Carole Haas Gravagno*
Dave Heck III
Keisha Hutchins Hirlinger
Ajinkya Joglekar
Bob Lowery
Miriam Fisher Schaefer
Sheldon Thompson*

Support for Intercultural Journeys

World Leader

The CHG Charitable Trust
Alice L. George
Independence Foundation
Joseph & Marie Field
National Endowment for the Arts
Philadelphia Cultural Fund
The Presser Foundation
Samuel S. Fels Fund
Shel & Karen Thompson
William Penn Foundation

Ambassador

HRH Princess Alia Al Hussein
Majid Alsayegh
Maryann Connolly
Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Creative Circle

Renee Garcia
Ajinkya Joglekar
Miriam Fisher Schaefer
Katie Law
The LIDA Foundation
Lisa Miller & Ron Sarachan
PNC Charitable Foundation, *through the matching gifts program*

Peacemaker

Peter Benoliel & Willo Carey
The Cannuscio Rader Family Foundation
Stephen Hackley
Dave Heck III
Fariha Kahn
Colleen Law

Artists Circle

Emily Alm
Betsy & Dan Crofts
John Bull & Susan Davidson
Elise Drake
Susan Frank
Gail K. Lopez-Henriquez
Barbara Rapaport & Peter Stein

Advocate

Adel Barakat
Georgienne Bednar
Jean Brody
Keisha Hutchins Hirlinger
Bruce & Jo Katsiff
Marlena Kleit
Nadine Kruger
Herbert Light
Roderick MacNeil
Joanne Phillips
Catherine Radbill
Carly Rapaport-Stein & Andrew Desiderio
Trudy Rubin
Michael Skloff
Richard and Carolyn Veith
Debra Weiner

Support for Intercultural Journeys

Friend

Brooke Anderson
Michelle Armour
Ines Arribas
Sherry Babbitt
Adrian Banner
Elliot Beck
Cynthia Becker
Gretchen Bell
Sherrimae Benjamin
Gary Benjamin
Elizabeth Bergman
Ginny Bird
Brenda Bonhomme
Guillermo Bonilla
Lauren Brody
Denise Brown
Owen Burkholder
Alice Capson
Kate Casano
Lydia Chen
Nicole Cox
Ilana Cravitz
Gokul Das
Allyson Dematteo
Ruth Desiderio
Myra Diaz
Kevin Donahue
Rachel Dunaief
David Eckenrode
Alice Eldredge
Eva Fernandez-Welch
Portia Frederick
Brendon Gawel
Isa Goldfarb
Kristen Golia
James Goodman
Mayumi Goto

Friend

Lynda Grace
Ben Greenberg
Lauren Haas-Sulzer
Kathy Halton
Melissa Hamilton
Patricia Handza
Rufus Harley
Nancy Heller
Elba Hevia y Vaca
Minnette Hostetler
Lynne Jacobs
Jill Jha
Shamaine Johnson-
Moore
Lisa Kaiser
Suvir Kaul
Marlena Kleit
Debora Kodish
Ann Krupnik
Leah Larocco
Elizabeth Lischner
Ania Loomba
Sarah Martinez-
Helfman
Bridgette Matison
Robbin McCarthy
Nicole McDonald
Marie-Laure McKee
Gail Mershon
Martie Mollenhauer
Diane Monroe
Kathryn Moore
Ameera Mehdi Nimjee
Chelsea Nowakowski
Kim Olthoff
Sherry Paris
Jon Picciano

Friend

Deborah Pines
Siri Rallabhandi
Bhavya Ram
Hannah Rapaport-Stein
Jeremy Rapaport-Stein
Genie Ravital
James Reagan
Patti Reid
Reese Revak
Micheline Rice-Maximin
Brenda Rich
Stephan Rotman
Allen Sabinson
Deborah Saldana
Rickie Sanders
Selma Schlee
Alison Schwartz
Arlene Schwartz
Palak Shahani
Daniel Siegel
Mary Joann Smith
Howard Spodek
Priya Srinivasan
Diane Stein
Suzanne Stewart
Deborah Storms
Alice Sukhina
Jeff Thompson
Anna Toretch
Jeffrey Toretsky
Nadeen Van Tuyle
Akunna Uka
Jane Wemhoener
Emily Wilcox
Ami Yares

We are deeply grateful for the many gifts that support Intercultural Journeys. This list is correct as of 9/30/2021, but please contact info@interculturaljourneys.org with any errors or corrections.