

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SINS INVALID

An Unshamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility

Knotting Stories over Time and Geography

Individual stories of disability, illness, oppression and triumph
Woven with art, sex and politics make for powerful theatre

Theater Artaud, October 8, 9**, & 10, 2010

Wheelchair accessible, **ASL interpreted and audio described

(San Francisco -- August 26, 2010) – **SINS INVALID: An Unshamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility**, San Francisco’s unique performance art and disability project, returns for its fifth annual show, this year for the first time at Theater Artaud. *Knotting Stories over Time and Geography* dramatically weaves together personal stories of disability, illness, oppression and triumph in the context of race, gender and sexual orientation. It runs October 8-10, 2010 at the 450 Florida Street theatre.

“Heart-stopping, jaw-dropping, funny, loud, beautiful, sad and smoking-hot...” according to one review, the performances are simultaneously provocative and profoundly moving. Audience members routinely report the show completely changed their views on disability. Each year **SINS INVALID** is met with tremendous acclaim and this ground breaking, erotic event is always performed before sold-out houses.

SINS INVALID director and co-founder Patricia Berne’s works to re-identify what is typically regarded as the “problem” of disability. “It’s not the disability that’s the problem,” Berne asserts, “but the social resistance to accepting it.” SINS INVALID’s performances redefine the “problem” by exploring disability and chronic illness in the context of race, sexual orientation and gender identity. It’s a powerful mix, and SINS INVALID goes even further by providing a radical solution: celebrate all bodies as beautiful and valuable. The result: an edgy, honest, intimate, deeply felt and unabashedly sexy program.

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Berne and co-founder Leroy F. Moore Jr., along with a group of local artists and two guest artists from outside the Bay Area, will mount this year's show using theatre, dance, music, spoken word, multi-media and poetry. Patty weaves voice-over narrative to accompany and intersect with individual performances. "It's not a cabaret, but an arc that connects the stories into a whole, a narrative about who we are," explains Berne, a wheelchair-using beauty of Haitian and Japanese parentage.

SINS INVALID co-founder, disabled African-American writer and spoken word poet **Leroy Moore**, will perform in the two hour show, which begins with an invocation by **Aurora Levins Morales** to those present and past to bring their stories of resistance forward, an invitation to tell and weave together personal stories about disability in the context of race, sex and gender identity.

Antoine Hunter, who is deaf, will perform a dance of resistance, followed by **Leroy Moore** and **Juba Kalamka's** performance art piece exploring black masculinity through the lens of disability. **Leah Lakshmi** and **Ellery Russian** offer up vignettes of "Crip Sex Moments." **Amal Kouttab**, **Pamela Greenberg**, **Tina D'Elia** and **Adriene Krug** perform a piece on OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) and "the cleavage issue."

Todd Herman and **Patricia Berne's** film on "reclaiming desire in the face of violence" will be screened. seely quest serves as MC and performs as Carrie Buck, a young woman who rose to historical significance as a public case of forcible sterilization within US eugenic programs. Spoken word artist **Maria R. Palacios** performs a seductive strip in her wheelchair; **Alex Cafarelli** offers a martial arts S&M piece using breath work related to asthma.

Nationally acclaimed activist, writer, performer and musician **Nomy Lamm** offers two pieces, one on Judaic magic, chants and ritual, and a provocative disruption of tradition.

The artists of SINS INVALID possess physical disabilities that can be readily observed, as well as disabilities that are not immediately apparent, such as deafness and environmental illness and injuries. In their work with SINS INVALID these artists embrace a shared mission to strip disabilities and sexuality of all taboos. For detailed bios, please visit <http://www.sinsinvalid.org/pressroom.php>.

The theatre is wheelchair accessible. The October 9 performance will be ASL interpreted and audio described.

Background

SINS INVALID was founded in 2006 by Patty Berne and Leroy Moore, both Bay Area activists with disabilities. Berne and Moore were frustrated with the dominant view that people with disabilities must be asexual or deviant. And, as Berne says, they wanted to address the "disconnect between what we know to be true about our beauty and what the world seems to believe – that we are 'less than', undesirable and pitiable."

Berne and Moore formed a partnership with The Dancing Tree, a non-profit alliance of visual and performing artists seeking to facilitate, develop, perform, document and publish the stories of underrepresented people around the world, and launched a revolutionary series.

Solidifying its national reputation as artists for social justice, SINS INVALID has been invited to perform at Britain's DaDa Fest this fall, and this past July performed in Raleigh, North Carolina at the National Youth Leadership Network. Year-round in San Francisco, SINS INVALID offers performance and educational workshops, community dialogues, and an Artist-in-Residence program for artists with disabilities who are also from Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Indeterminate gender communities and/or communities of color.

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Calendar Listing

WHAT: **SINS INVALID: An Unshamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility**, San Francisco's provocative performance art and disability project, returns for a fifth annual show titled *Knotting Stories over Time and Geography*

WHEN: October 8, 9**, 10, 2010

TIME: Friday and Saturday @ 8:00PM, Sunday @ 7:00pm

WHERE: Theater Artaud*, 450 Florida Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$15-\$25 sliding scale (no one turned away for lack of funds)

BOX OFFICE: brownpapertickets.com or at the door

PUBLIC INFORMATION: (510) 689-7198 or sinsinvalid.org

**wheelchair accessible*

***ASL interpreted & Audio Described*

Hi-res downloadable photos in the press room at www.sinsinvalid.org

Note: The show contains explicit content.

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