

For Immediate Release  
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Media Contact: Joanne Barrett  
617-547-2265  
jbpr@comcast.net

## THE THEATER OFFENSIVE CELEBRATES 15TH ANNUAL OUT ON THE EDGE FESTIVAL OF QUEER THEATER

October 14 – November 11 2006  
at Boston Center For The Arts  
Music, Comedy, Theater, Dance, Political Puppetry and Kids Show

BOSTON – Recognized as a month-long smorgasbord of queer theater, The Theater Offensive's (T-Off) OUT ON THE EDGE Festival of Queer Theater will celebrate its 15th year October 14 through November 11 2006 at the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Appropriately this year's festival will feature true stars of a variety of genres including the Boston-based multi-talented writer, director and choreographer Thomas Defrantz and the World Premiere of Queer Theory: A Musical Travesty! (October 19 – 22), the versatile Latina comedienne, playwright, and performer Marga Gomez in Los Big Names (October 26 – 29), the innovative choreographer and company David Parker & The Bang Group in Nut/Cracked. (November 3 – 11), Bread and Puppets' original and talented political satirist Paul Zaloom in The Mother Of All Enemies (November 8 – 11) and in special kids' performances of Beakman In Person! (November 1, 4 & 5). Free staged readings by local playwrights Letta Neely and Darius Williams are also set for October 14 and 15. The Theater Offensive will host special events, panels, receptions, workshops and community events during the festival. For more information go to [www.thetheateroffensive.org](http://www.thetheateroffensive.org) for updates. For tickets contact the BostonTheatreScene.com box office at 617.933.8600 or order online at [www.bostontheatrescene.com](http://www.bostontheatrescene.com).

### PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE (chronological order)

#### PLAYS AT WORK - Staged Readings

The Theater Offensive's Plays At Work develops and premieres theatrical work by new regional artists in staged reading and workshop formats. Plays At Work features free public education workshops with featured artists, community dialogue about the evolving shows, and interaction between artists and patrons. During this year's OOTE festival, T-Off will present readings of local playwrights Letta Neely (Shackles and Sugar) and Darius Williams (Chocolate Cocoa On A Winter's Night) on October 14 at 4pm and 8pm and October 15 at 12pm and 3pm. Rehearsal Hall A in the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. General admission: \$10 suggested donation. Tickets are available on day of show at the box office only. No advance reservations available.

## MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES

Queer Theory: A Musical Travesty! (October 19 – 22)

Written and directed by Thomas Defrantz. Co-Produced with SLIPPAGE.

Starring Thomas Bardwell, Margaret Ann Brady, Albert Chan, and Renita Martin

Witty play meets hilarious musical revue! Five characters travel the distance from the highest ivory towers of academia to the dive drag bar downtown. Queer Theory! pokes fun at how academics cannibalize our 'queer body' to the point where we've been deconstructed beyond all recognition. Can queer theory bridge the gaps between gay, lesbian, tranny, bi, same-gender-loving, S&M-ers, and their assorted queer brethren? Can we all just get along? Performances are Thursday October 19 at 7:30pm (press night), Friday October 20 at 8pm, Saturday October 21 at 8pm and Sunday October 22 at 3pm. General admission tickets are \$25. Rehearsal Hall A in the Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Los Big Names (October 26 – 29),

Starring Marga Gomez, Directed by David Schweizer

Wet your pants laughing with this award-winning "Sweet and Saucy" stand up comic and co-founder of Culture Clash! Los Big Names is a tour-de-force tribute to Marga's famous showbiz parents, their flamboyant friends and the colorful world of New York's Latino nightclub circuit of the '50s and '60s. "Coast to coast raves! A jolt of theatrical electricity! Hilarious!"—The New York Times. Performances are Thursday October 26 at 7:30pm (press night), Friday October 27 at 8pm, Saturday October 28 at 4pm and 8pm, and Sunday October 29 at 3pm. Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets \$34 - \$39.

Beakman in Person! (November 1, 4 & 5)

Starring Paul Zaloom

Cult-hero Paul Zaloom IS the oddball, madcap scientist from CBS's hit TV series, "Beakman's World." In this kids show (ages 7-12), he amazes audiences with an interactive, science-comedy whirlwind of death-defying and belief-suspending demonstrations of intriguing scientific principles! Come see why the LA Times says, "The irreverent Beakman can satisfy nearly anyone's curiosity! Energetic, sarcastic, engaging, and funny!" Performances are Tuesday November 1 at 11am (student and press performance), Saturday November 4 and November 5 at 3pm. Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets are \$12-\$15.

Nut/cracked (November 3 – 11)

Starring David Parker and The Bang Group

Co-produced with Pearl Productions

Not your niece's Nutcracker! Her favorite Christmas show is torn limb from limb in this campy new vaudevillian ballet that mixes American swing, jazz and hints of Tchaikovsky with the traditional orchestral suite. Nothing is sacred--Nut/Cracked twists and melds tap dancing, singing and even thumb sucking into a percussive ode to American eclecticism! "The classical is pushed...but retains a sense of beauty even in the ridiculous!" —The New Yorker. Performances are Friday November 3 at 8pm, Saturday November 4 at 8pm (Press night), Tuesday November 7 at 7:30pm, Friday November 10 at 9:30pm and Saturday November 11 at 2pm. Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets are \$34 - \$39.

The Mother of All Enemies (November 8 – 11)  
Starring Paul Zaloom, Directed by Randee Trabitz

Bread and Puppet's renowned wickedly funny puppeteer and star of the CBS hit TV series, "Beakman's World" gives new meaning to the term "shadow government"! The Mother of All Enemies is a hotly politicized burlesque queering of traditional Middle Eastern shadow puppetry. The protagonist, a gay Arab immigrant artist, must outfox hordes of pursuing adversaries to find true love! Can he escape Homeland Security, al-Qaeda, Minutemen vigilantes AND The Buttfart Genie? Paul juxtaposes this craziness against the uproarious, true story of the US Marines' attempts to recruit him to be their Arabic translator. Performances are Wednesday November 8 at 7:30pm (press night), Thursday November 9 at 7:30pm, Friday November 10 at 7pm and Saturday November 11 at 8pm. Roberts Studio in the Calderwood Pavilion in the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont Street, Boston. Tickets are \$34 -\$39.

This year's OUT ON THE EDGE festival is made possible by The Theater Offensive's beloved community of supporters including: Astraea Lesbian Foundation For Justice, Boston Cultural Council, The Boston Foundation, Boston Women's Fund, The Cloud Foundation, Common Stream Foundation, The Funding Exchange's Out Fund, Massachusetts Cultural Council (a state agency which also receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts); Haymarket People's Fund, LEF Foundation, National Foundation for Jewish Culture, National Performance Network, Starbucks foundation, Theater Communication Group, and individual donors.

The Theater Offensive is a member of the National Performance Network comprised of arts organizations located throughout the United States. The National Performance Network is made possible with major funding from The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency) and individual donors.

The Theater Offensive is a resident theatre company of the Boston Center for the Arts.

#### The Theater Offensive

Founded in 1989 by Artistic Director Abe Rybeck, The Theater Offensive has driven its ambitious programming to the cutting edge of queer culture and politics. Grounded in the commitment to build an activist-based artistic forum, the groundbreaking programming has become a vital arena for the unique voice of queer cultures, and has led to lasting coalitions between the varied communities within the queer umbrella. We accomplish this work through meaningful ongoing relationships with a range of arts and organizing initiatives locally and throughout the country, and by using any and all cultural tools to make a difference in the minds, hearts, and libidos of the queer and straight communities. Nationally recognized community programs include A Street Theater Named Desire, True Colors Out Youth Theater, and the Out on The Edge Festival of Queer Theater.

Since 1992, the Out on The Edge Festival has "hooked in" the Boston community with leading queer thinkers and artists from around the world. Brian Freeman, Peggy Shaw, Luis Alfaro, Lea DeLaria, Carmelita Tropicana, Marga Gomez, Holly Hughes, Pomo Afro Homos, Split Britches, Quentin Crisp, Tim Miller, The 5 Lesbian Brothers, Bloolips, Mike Albo, Hanifah Walidah, Daniel Alexander Jones, Pamela Sneed, Kate Bornstein, Craig Hickman and 4 Big Girls are among the national and international performers who have worked with us on past festivals.

### About the Boston Center for the Arts

Boston Center for the Arts is an urban cultural village, incubating and showcasing the performing and visual arts and artists of our time. Occupying a city block in Boston's historic South End, the BCA provides a creative home for artists, a welcoming destination for audiences, and an arts connection for youth and community. For more information, visit [www.bcaonline.org](http://www.bcaonline.org) <<http://www.bcaonline.org>> .

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Joanne Barrett

JBPR

22 1/2 Suffolk Street

Cambridge, MA 02139

work 617 547-2265/ cell 617 834-6021

[jbpr@comcast.net](mailto:jbpr@comcast.net)