

Date: July 24, 2009  
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEW BOOKING

Subject: Touring Performance Group To Appear at DIVA

The "Tragic Magic" performance group is touring the Pacific Northwest and will visit DIVA for an evening performance at 8:00 PM on August 11th. The program will consist of three different solo artists Heather Acs, Glenn Marla, and Silas Howard, performing excerpts of new works and works in progress, traversing through a multi-media world of string theory, body breakups, Hollywood and loopholes in the American dream. Admission: \$10.00.

Program Pieces:

Heather Acs' piece "What the brain forgets and the heart denies, the body remembers..." explores illness, death, grieving and loss refracted through working class Appalachian and Mexican cultural imagery, creating a nonlinear world layered with movement, gesture, storytelling, soundscape, video, and installation.

In this multi-media solo performance piece, time and testimonies loop, break apart, burrow, reemerge, and cross over. Breathtaking, glass breaking, gifts are bestowed. Sparrows descend, tortillas and tears sizzle on the comal, a river flows with dirt and glitter. Lesley Gore croons cotton candy lyrics laced with razor blades while dust gathers in an empty house. Stitch it all together with string theory and skeleton keys, stuff into a mason jar, shake until your heart might break, check your pulse, make a wish, and see what rises to the surface.

Glenn Marla's Tragic Magic piece asks, "What has your mother's fear of death done for you lately? Are you afraid to leave the house without make up? Do you obsessively hoard Sweet'N Low packets? Did you want to fuck your therapist at age 14 because she loved you more than you could ever love yourself?"

Performance Artist Glenn Marla is thrilled to premiere Tragic Magic, one tranny's dark, hilarious exploration of how we interact with our bodies and our past. Glenn's new work in progress combines text, dance, face masturbation, personal affirmations, body break ups, and a bathtub striptease, continuing his tradition of visual and theatrical daring.

Howard's Thank you for Being Urgent is a textured tale of a transman coming up in the queer punk world of San Francisco and spilling into the crappy and exalted glitter of Hollywood. He searches for true tales of fierce outsiders and re-imagines the mainstream, never loosening his grip on the underground.

Our hero begs sanity from mystery man Mr. Hollywood through playful and plaintive letters, ruminating on desire, shame, and the infinite loopholes in the American Dream. Traversing serendipitous heights and punishing ironies, Thank you for Being Urgent chronicles burlesque dancers with dementia, tranny jazzmen and film executives, using archival photos, monologue and charm.

#### Performer Backgrounds:

##### HEATHER M. ACS

Heather M. Acs is a multi-media theatre performance artist, activist, educator and high-femme troublemaker. Her gritty, glittery work has been featured at the Culture Project, HERE Arts Center, the Kitchen, the Public Theater, Theater for the New City, and the New York City International Fringe Festival. She performs and facilitates workshops at community spaces, colleges and conferences from coast to coast. Heather has worked with Nao Bustamante, Karen Finley, Claude Michelle-Wampler, J. Ed Araiza of the SITI Company, and Steven Soderbergh. Heather is also a dedicated teaching artist. She uses theatre as a tool for social change with low-income youth in cities across the country and has studied with Cornerstone Theatre Company, Sojourn Theatre, and Augusto Boal.

##### GLENN MARLA

The Portland (Maine) Phoenix calls Glenn Marla's work, "performance art that pushes the envelope without pushing the audience away," Time Out New York Calls Glenn a "downtown prophet," and The New York Times calls Glenn "an obese transvestite in tights." Glenn Marla is a firm believer that if you don't fit in anywhere you can fit in everywhere; this mindset has stretched his own concept of performance and the minds of his audiences and brought him places he never thought he'd go.

In 2008 Glenn was featured in Justin Bond's in Lustre: A Mid Winters Trans Fest at P.S. 122 and Abrons Arts Center. His Lustre dance theatre piece is part of Drag Show Video Vierte, documenting the past 50 years of drag in New York City and is archived at Lincoln Centers Performing Arts Library. Glenn's 2007 year-long performance project "New York City's Hottest Fat Go-Go Boy" explored fat, gender and sex, and he danced all over the city bi-weekly becoming a regular in New York nightlife. Marla's early original work was featured in festivals at the Culture Project, Theater for the New City, HERE Arts Center, and traveled to NYC public schools.

##### SILAS HOWARD

Silas Howard, (writer, director, and musician), co-directed his first feature, *By Hook Or By Crook*, with Harry Dodge. The indie classic was a 2002 Sundance Film Festival premiere and five-time Best Feature winner. Silas Howard's next film, *Exactly Like You*, (co-written with Nina Landey), is based on the life of Billy Tipton. Howard's short documentary, *What I Love About*

Dying also premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

For eight years, Howard toured with his band Tribe 8, the notorious queer punk band (a band boycotted by republicans and women at Michigan womyn's music festival). The band has been featured in Rolling Stone, The Village Voice, and The Los Angeles Times. You can check out Howard's music videos, short musical and documentaries which have aired on MTV and LOGO networks and at Disneyland, Anaheim (weird, yet true). Howard's writing is also featured in the anthologies, "Without a Net: Growing Up WorkingClass" and "Live Through This," as well as the artists' journal, "LTTR." Currently Silas is working on a novel set in San Francisco's mid-90's homocore scene.

Web Links:

Silas Howard <<http://silashoward.com/bio.html>>

Glenn Marla <<http://www.glenmarla.com/>>