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CONCRETE WALLS PROJECTS & SON OF SEMELE ENSEMBLE PRESENT:

ZIGZAG: Diagonals Between Parallels

A gathering and panel discussion
about the corollary and crooked paths of LA's theater and art communities.

Friday, June 15 at the Son of Semele Theater, Silver Lake

Panel Discussion: immediately following (free)

Roadkill Confidential (ticket info below)

Concrete Walls Projects and the Son of Semele Ensemble host *Zigzag: Diagonals between parallels*, a panel discussion inviting residents in LA's thriving theater and art communities to discuss artist run spaces, recent collaborations in performance, art and theater including their parallel aesthetics and disconcerting obstacles.

The panel discussion will be co-moderated by artists / art community organizers Janice Gomez (Summercamp's ProjectProject) and Devon Tsuno (Concrete Walls Projects) in a discussion with writer and curator Carol Cheh (LA Weekly, Another Righteous Transfer), *Roadkill Confidential* director, Barbara Kallir (Son of Semele Ensemble) and *Roadkill Confidential* collaborating artist Travis Novak.

Panelist Carol Cheh of the LA Weekly recently wrote, "Some of the most progressive art made in L.A. today can't be seen in museums or blue chip galleries . . . spaces tend to operate on a shoestring budget, in funky locales . . . and they've become a significant factor in L.A.'s status as a new art capital."

In conjunction with the West Coast premiere of Shelia Callaghan's *Roadkill Confidential: A Noir-ish Meditation On Brutality*, this discussion will promptly follow the play in the "funky locale" that is the Son of Semele Theater in Silver Lake. Son of Semele Ensemble was profiled as one of the "hippest, hottest, most innovative theatre troupes in the U.S." by American Theatre, and featured on the magazine's cover. Over the past ten years the company's work has received 17 regional awards and award nominations.

Roadkill Confidential is inspired by the experience of social practice and tactical media artist Stephen Kurtz, co-founder of the Critical Art Ensemble (CAE), who ran afoul of Homeland Security in 2004. (He was ultimately exonerated.) Playwright Sheila Callaghan uses this as a starting place for her play that employs art, video, and live performance to create a biting satire about the connection between voyeurism, sadism, and paranoia in our media and fame obsessed society.

Author of more than 22 plays, among her numerous achievements, Callaghan is the recipient of the Princess Grace Award for emerging artists, The Whiting Award, and the Susan Smith Blackburn Award.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS:

Carol Cheh is a writer and curator. Among other publications, she writes for LA Weekly, Artillery, the Art21 blog, and her own blog, Another Righteous Transfer!, which focuses on LA's performance art scene. Earlier this year, she organized *Occupy Art21*, an Art21 guest blog stint in which ten LA artists and writers contributed writings on the Occupy movement. Her recent LA Weekly article, *25 Alternative LA Art Spaces to Check Out Now*, explored the city's vibrant and flourishing artist-run spaces.

Janice Gomez is an LA based artist, educator, community art organizer, and the 2010 Los Angeles Air Guitar Champion. Gomez holds a BA combining theater and fine art and an MFA in installation. Gomez is an instructor at Otis, and the Armory, and has organized educational projects most recently at LACMA, MOCA and LACE. Gomez's performances and installations have been exhibited at Machine Project, PØSt, and Kristi Engle Gallery. Gomez co-founded Summercamp's ProjectProject, an alternative artist run exhibition and residency space in the backyard and rooms of her home in El Sereno, Los Angeles. She hosts art exhibitions including performance, painting, music, drawing, video and sculpture by artists like Nancy Popp, Christine Nguyen, John Burtle, and Christian Tedeshi. Most recently, Gomez hosted *Hill House Mine* by visiting Brooklyn artist Liza Wade Green, a work written during Green's residency at Summercamp and later performed there. This freestyle theater and dance performance straddles the line between visual arts and theater and was specifically composed for the 1920's mid-century modern house that is Summercamp.

Barbara Kallir is a theatre director and lighting designer. She is a founding member of Rogue Machine Theatre, and a Resident Director and Literary Manager for Son of Semele Ensemble (SOSE) where in addition to *Roadkill Confidential*, she has directed Naomi Wallace's *Slaughter City*; Sarah Ruhl's *Melancholy Play* ("Critic's Pick" and LA Times "Recommended"); and *The Tower* by Matthew Maguire, (LA Weekly and LA Times: "Recommended", and nominated for 5 NAACP Theater Awards including Best Director.) Other Directing Credits include *Half of Plenty* by Lisa Dillman for Rogue Machine Theatre (LA Weekly: GO); Murray Mednick's *Charles' Story* for the Pacific Resident Theatre Co-Op; Alan Bennett's *Kafka's Dick* also at the PRT Co-Op; and *A Thurbur Carnival* at Pasadena Shakespeare Company (Pasadena Weekly: "Recommended.") She has designed lights for numerous plays and videos including her own production of *Slaughter City*. Kallir is a member of Directors Lab West and is a graduate of The American Film Institute.

Travis Novak is an LA based artist who appropriates animal taxidermy forms to repurpose them and create sculptures and installations. Travis created sculptures specifically for the Son of Semele play *Roadkill Confidential*. He has exhibited his work at the Beacon Arts Center, Bergamont Station, Concrete Walls, and most recently in a solo exhibition at Azusa Pacific University. Novak was the recipient of the Helen B. Dooley Art Fellowship and received his MFA from Claremont Graduate University recently in 2012.

Devon Tsuno is an abstract painter, educator and founder of LA based community art organization Concrete Walls Projects. Concrete Walls focuses on community building by facilitating curatorial, educational and collaborative projects at artist run spaces, non-profits and schools throughout Southern California. Tsuno has curated projects at PØST, Angels Gate Cultural Center, Cypress College and Phantom Galleries. He has shown his paintings at the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, the Torrance Art Museum, and Sam Lee Gallery and internationally in New Zealand, South Korea, Hong Kong and most recently in a solo exhibition in Tokyo, Japan. Tsuno is currently working on a project for the Hammer Museum, Venice Beach Biennale. He is an instructor at CSULB, Cypress College and the University of La Verne and recently published his first book project titled *Horticulture Los Angeles*.

ZIGZAG: Diagonals between parallels: a panel discussion about the corollary and crooked paths of LA's theater and art communities, will immediately follow the *Roadkill Confidential* performance on Friday, June 15 at 8PM. Tickets are available through the SOSE website at www.sonofsemele.org.

Performances of *Roadkill Confidential* begin June 8, playing Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 5 p.m, with a special performance Monday, June 25. Admission ranges from \$18-20. The box office opens one half hour prior to curtain. Son of Semele Theater is located in Silver Lake at 3301 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90004 (one mile west of Alvarado). For more information visit www.sonofsemele.org.

SON OF SEMELE 3301 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90004 (one mile west of Alvarado). For more information visit <http://www.sonofsemele.org/> and <http://www.concretewallsprojects.com/> or [Concrete Walls Projects on Facebook](#)
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