

JustUs

MOTUS THEATER

arts & ideas 



PERFORMING ARTS SERIES
MOTUS THEATER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 • 7:30PM

PHILIP LYNCH THEATRE

JustUs Monologues: Stories from the Frontlines of the Criminal Legal System with Music from The ReMINDers

JustUs was developed by Motus Theater in 2019 and premiered as a keynote at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference in front of 1,600 stakeholders. Since then, the JustUs monologues have been featured in several national and global conferences and have been read and embraced by religious, social justice, civic, and law enforcement leaders across the state. The powerful monologues explore themes such as racial profiling, inequality in the bond/bail system, human rights abuses in prisons, criminalizing substance abusers, and the systemic racism and poverty that pushes people into illicit economies.

Motus Theater's mission is to create original theater to facilitate dialogue on critical issues of our time, using the power of art to build alliances across diverse segments of our community and country. JustUs monologues were developed in collaboration with Motus Theater's artistic director, Kirsten Wilson, as part of an 18-24 week workshop.

#JoinTheCommunity

luartsandideas.org

MOTUS THEATER

**Moving Stories
that Move Us Forward**

About Motus Theater

The mission of Motus Theater is to create original theater to facilitate dialogue on critical issues of our time. We aim to use the power of art to build alliances across diverse segments of our community and country. Motus works directly with leaders living on the frontlines of violence to develop artfully crafted personal narratives about their experiences. Motus is currently touring two projects: 1. UndocuAmerica (2012) aims to interrupt the dehumanizing portrayals of immigrants by elevating the stories

of people who are undocumented, and encouraging thoughtful engagement on the challenges facing the undocumented community and the assets immigrants bring to our country 2. JustUs (2019) supports community leaders who are impacted by carceral systems to share artfully crafted autobiographical monologues that expose the devastating impact of the criminal legal system and inspire action toward a vision of true justice. Since premiering at the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice Conference in 2019 in front of 1600 people, Motus' JustUs monologues have served as keynotes for ten national and international conferences and have been read by law enforcement, district attorneys, DOC staff, legislators, and other Colorado state and community leaders. More information at motustheater.org.

Motus Theater's Monologists & Artist Bios



JUAQUIN MOBLEY

JustUs Project Strategist, Host & Monologist

Juaquin Mobley is the Vice President of Community Works and co-owner of Community Ties and The Community Barber Shop based out of Colorado Springs. Juaquin helps those who were recently incarcerated or at risk of becoming incarcerated manifest their limitless potential. Juaquin was once incarcerated for the better half

of a decade and knows all too well how a "helping hand," as opposed to a "hand out," can motivate one to succeed. A proud father of three beautiful girls, he refuses to let the next generation fall into the same traps as him and his peers.



DERECK BELL

Motus JustUs Project Monologist

Dereck Bell (aka N.I.F.F) is the lead artist in the hip-hop band, N.I.F.F, based out of Colorado Springs. He is the founder and owner of a marketing, promotions, and photography company called Still Maccin Entertainment Group LLC. In 2018, Bell was the Artist Auditions winner in Denver and the March Madness winner in

Colorado Springs. In 2017, he was awarded the Best Collaboration award. He describes his work as "unfiltered and intellectual" in which struggle is infused with culture. Bell is a proud father and partner.



COLETTE PAYNE

Motus JustUs Project Monologist

Colette Payne is an organizer, leader, student, mother, and grandmother. As the Director at Women's Justice Institute she helps engage women directly impacted by the criminal legal system, creating agents of change with solutions to end incarceration of women and girls. In 2015, Colette joined the delegation to assess

women's prisons in Illinois as the first formerly incarcerated woman in this role in the United States. Colette is living proof that change is possible.



THE REMINDERS

Motus JustUs Musical Collaborators

A rare and remarkable musical duo with undeniable magical chemistry, **The Reminders** transcend the bounds of expectation to uplift and entertain. They seamlessly blend razor sharp rhythms and raw, soulful vocals with reggae-tinged hip-hop beats to highlight their relevant and inspiring messages. The couple shares a partnership in

both music and life as Samir and Aja have been married for over a decade.

The Reminders have been recognized and applauded for their work internationally through concerts, tours, music awards, TV and radio appearances. They have shared the stage with artists such as Snoop Dogg, Nas, Big Boi and Ms. Lauryn Hill.

KIRSTEN WILSON

Motus Founder & Artistic Director

Kirsten is an award-winning narrative artist, master teacher in the field of autobiographical monologue work and editor of the Motus Monologues and Shoebox Stories podcasts. She collaborates with individuals living on the frontlines of violence to create compelling narratives aimed at opening hearts and minds. She has been collaborating with leaders who are undocumented since 2013, and began collaborating with people who were formerly incarcerated in 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

English Studies Biannual Student Creative Writing Showcase Thursday, April 27 – 2pm
JG 206

Fall 2023 Arts&Ideas Events

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

BARBARA NISSMAN

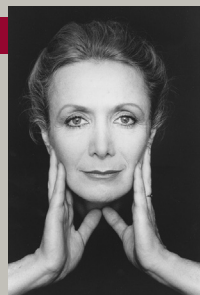
Sunday, September 24, 2023 - 2 pm

St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall

“extremely endowed with an unprecedented technique and a great ability of interpretation.”

- Eugene Ormandy

Hailed as “one of the last pianists in the grand Romantic tradition of Liszt, Rachmaninoff, and Rubinstein,” Barbara Nissman continues the grand bravura tradition of romantic pianism. Her recordings of Prokofiev, Bartók and Ginastera are considered “definitive,” and she has been praised for her series of recordings of nineteenth-century composers, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Schumann, Brahms, and Rachmaninoff. Join Nissman for an unforgettable afternoon spent with her favorite composer “friends”- Beethoven, Liszt, Chopin, and Prokofiev.



PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

PETE ELLMAN BIG BAND

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 - 7:30 pm

St. Charles Borromeo Convocation Hall

The Pete Ellman Big Band has been entertaining Chicagoland audiences since 2009 performing at locations such as Mullen’s in Lisle and Fitzgerald’s in Oak Park. Committed to developing the next generation of jazz musicians, Pete and his band are often guest clinicians throughout the area. Join us as we celebrate big band jazz at Lewis with Pete Ellman and his band.



Arts&Ideas Lewis programming is made possible by generous support from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Arts Midwest, and the Illinois Humanities.

Visit luartsandideas.org for details to these & all of the great Arts&Ideas events.