

# FALL SEASON

Sep 19

Tanya Tagaq  
*Nanook of the North*

Sep 27

Roscoe Mitchell  
*Trios*

Oct 16-17

George Lewis,  
Catherine Sullivan,  
Sean Griffin  
*Afterword, an Opera*

Oct 22-25

Niv Sheinfeld/Oren  
Laor and Same  
Planet Different World

Oct 27-28

Annie Dorsen  
*Spokaoke*

Nov 6-8

Guillermo Calderón  
*Escuela (School)*

Nov 12-14

Gisèle Vienne,  
Dennis Cooper, and  
Puppentheater Halle  
*The Ventriloquists  
Convention*

Dec 19-20

Tatsu Aoki/  
Tsukasa Taiko  
*Taiko Legacy 12  
Reduction*

Museum of  
Contemporary Art  
Chicago

Welcome to one of the highlights of the annual Chicago Humanities Festival and the MCA Stage 2015/16 season. This year, the Festival chose Citizens as its theme, and soon after, we were buzzing with conversations about what it means to truly belong, to a neighborhood, city, nation, or the world.

Artist Annie Dorsen and, next week, Chilean playwright and director Guillermo Calderón are engaging one of the fiercely debated topics of the moment, citizenry, in very different historical and cultural contexts.

Dorsen picks up the microphone! Mixing the popular appeal of karaoke with some of the great political speeches from history, her project *Spokaoke* mines the connection among disparate political moments—and creates a new understanding of the power of oratory, the politics of performance, and the performance of politics.

Calderón sets his play *Escuela* in the living room of an ordinary Chilean home in the 1980s, in order to dissect the resistance training left-wing university students underwent in response to the regime's ruthless and unyielding police tactics. Both *Escuela* and *Spokaoke* offer new ways of understanding contemporary citizenship in all its messiness and glory. Gather with us and join the conversation.

Peter Taub, Director of Performance Programs, MCA Chicago

Alison Cuddy, Associate Artistic Director, Chicago Humanities Festival

The Chicago Humanities Festival celebrates the ideas that shape and define us.

We connect the brilliant minds of our time—artists and scholars, poets and policy makers—with passionate audiences. For more than twenty-five years, the Festival has been central to Chicago's cultural fabric, bringing together the city's vibrant educational and cultural communities, and sharing ideas and knowledge with an audience of more than forty-thousand children, students, and inquiring minds of all ages.

Join us for the Chicago Humanities Festival: Citizens, with over 130 concerts, performances, discussions, lectures, and more across Chicago.

To purchase tickets and see the schedule visit [chicagohumanities.org](http://chicagohumanities.org) or call 312-494-9509.

Download the Chicago Humanities Festival App, available for iPhone, iPod touch, and Android devices. Join the conversation with #CHF2015.



Chicago Humanities Festival programs are year-round!

We bring today's most prominent and engaging authors, artists, policymakers, and journalists to Chicago throughout the year. See what you missed at [youtube.com/chicagohumanities](http://youtube.com/chicagohumanities).

**CHICAGO  
HUMANITIES  
FESTIVAL**

**citizens**

Oct 27–28, 2015

# Annie Dorsen *Spokaoke*

Copresented with the Chicago Humanities Festival

Oct 27, 2015 at MCA's Edlis Neeson Theater

Oct 28, 2015 at Haymarket Pub & Brewery, 737 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL, 60661

Creator	Annie Dorsen	
Sound Design	Vladimir Kudryatsev and Uli Ertl	
Assistance	Lola Harney	
Management	Alexandra Rosenberg	
SPEECH LIST SAMPLING	Mao Tse-Tung, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" February 2, 1957; China	Michael Moore, 2003 Oscar Acceptance Speech March 23, 2003; USA
Prophet Muhammad, "The Last Sermon" 632 AC, 9th Day of Dhul al Hijjah 10 A.H.; Mecca	John F. Kennedy, "Ich Bin Ein Berliner" June 26, 1963; USA	Osama Bin Laden, Speech of October 24, 2004 October 24, 2004; Saudi Arabia
Patrick Henry, "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!" March 23, 1775; USA	Salvador Allende, "Last Words to the Nation" September 11, 1973; Chile	Sarah Palin, "Resignation Speech" July 3, 2009; USA
Susan B. Anthony, "On Women's Right to Vote" 1873; USA	Margaret Thatcher, "Free Society Speech" October 10, 1975; UK	
Charlie Chaplin, from <i>The Great Dictator</i> 1940, 3:54 min; UK/ USA	Harvey Milk, "You've Got to Give Them Hope" March 10, 1978; USA	
Mahatma Gandhi, "Quit India Speech" August 8, 1942; India		Thabo Mbeki, "I Am An African" May 8, 1996; South Africa
Fidel Castro, "History Will Absolve Me" September 16, 1953; Cuba		

ENJOY ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS AT THE MCA  
AS PART OF THE CHICAGO HUMANITIES FESTIVAL.

Tue, Oct 27, 7:30 pm  
TALK  
Sanford Biggers with  
Romi Crawford

Artist Sanford Biggers's work, currently on view in the MCA's exhibition *The Freedom Principle: Experiments in Art and Music, 1965 to Now*, broadens and complicates our understandings of history and media. He discusses his efforts to create civic engagement through art in this talk with Romi Crawford, associate professor in visual and critical studies and liberal arts at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Sat, Oct 31, 6 pm  
TALK  
Claudia Rankine

Poet Claudia Rankine's book *Citizen: An American Lyric* is an indictment of our times. Using a poetic frame, she uncovers an insidious racism embedded in the everyday—from Main Street, USA to the lecture halls of the ivory tower. Hip-hop historian Jeff Chang, jazz musician David Boykin, sound artist Christine Hume, scholar Lauren Berlant, poet Roger Reeves, and other guests join Rankine for a performance that reflects on race in America today.

Fri–Sat, Nov 6–7, 7:30 pm/Sun, Nov 8, 3 and 7:30 pm  
MCA STAGE  
Guillermo Calderón  
*Escuela (School)*

Chilean writer and director Guillermo Calderón sets his latest play in 1980s Chile, during the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, in order to dissect the conditions that drove ordinary citizens to take up arms. A group of masked left-wing youth undergoes paramilitary training in response to the ruthless tactics of Chilean police forces. Calderón finds humor amid the terror, as the youth clumsily complete their resistance training in their collective eagerness to make a better world.



## FROM THE ARTIST

If traditional karaoke offers an occasion to assert shared ownership of the pop music corpus, and simultaneously announce one's identity through the choice of material to perform, can *Spokaoke* establish a shared corpus of spoken texts? The project gives an opportunity to play with the legacy of spoken artifacts, treating snippets and snatches of public address like a Top 40 radio playlist of collective discourse.

When we hear these speeches in relation to each other, new connections between them are revealed. These distinct moments of sociohistorical urgency collide at each performance in unpredictable and unexpected ways. Each speech proposes a utopia—whether it is a nationalist unity of ethnic purity, a lost paradise of aristocratic virtue, a future of economic justice, an end to war, or the glory of victory. The act of performance resurrects these old political ghosts—both traumas and triumphs reanimated by the living enactor.

—Annie Dorsen

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Annie Dorsen works in theater, film, and dance. Over the last five years she has developed a number of projects that she calls "algorithmic theater," in which she uses digital tools to shape the script and experience of live theater. She is active in the United States and Europe. Her most recent algorithmic music-theater piece, *Yesterday Tomorrow*, premiered at the Holland Festival in Amsterdam in June 2015, and previous works have been presented in Norway, Austria, Germany, France, and the United States. She is the cocreator of the 2008 Broadway musical *Passing Strange*, which she also directed, and in 2009, she created two music-theater pieces: *Ask Your Mama*, composed by Laura Karpman and sung by Jessye Norman and The Roots and *ETHEL's Truckstop. A Piece of Work*, an algorithmic performance based on *Hamlet*, premiered at On the Boards (Seattle) and was presented at Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival (NYC), Parc de la Villette (Paris), De Keuze Festival (Rotterdam), and others. *Hello Hi There* premiered at the Steirischer Herbst Festival GmbH (Graz, Austria), and was presented at numerous theaters and festivals throughout Europe and the United States and as an installation at Biforms Gallery in New York. She has collaborated frequently with choreographers, most notably with Anne Juren on *Magical*. She received a 2008 Obie Award and was one of five artists to receive an Alpert Award in the Arts in 2014.

The MCA's newest affinity group, **Enact**, gives longtime performance fans and newcomers alike the opportunity to meet artists, discuss groundbreaking directions with leading curators, and choose key performers to sponsor.

Join Enact, a group of MCA Circle Donors dedicated to supporting and learning more about the renowned programs on the MCA Stage. Membership in Enact enhances your MCA experience by offering you backstage access to artists and insider information about our programs and the current state of the field.

Each year, Enact members choose—through discussion and voting—one performance to sponsor, thereby increasing the impact MCA Stage programming has on the community.

#### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF ENACT MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

- Members-only programming throughout the MCA Stage season
- Pre- and post-performance discussions with artists
- Behind-the-scenes access to select rehearsals
- An annual preview of the upcoming season
- Recognition as the Enact Sponsor of a select program
- All benefits of Circle Donors

Enact dues: \$1,000 annually  
Circle Donor contribution: From \$1,500 annually

For more information, contact us at [enact@mcachicago.org](mailto:enact@mcachicago.org).

#### FOUNDING MEMBERS OF ENACT:

Dr. Bruce and Sally Bauer  
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and Christopher M. Kelly  
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Ellen Stone Belic  
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\* Enact Chair  
\*\*Enact Cochair

## THANK YOU

Lead support for the 2015-16 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman.

Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Franke. Additional generous support is provided by Caryn and King Harris, and Lois and Steve Eisen and the Eisen Family Foundation.

The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.



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The MCA is a proud partner of the National Performance Network

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Anonymous

Museum of Contemporary Art  
Chicago

220 East Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611

As of October 2015

As an internationally renowned institution devoted to contemporary culture, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago presents the most thought-provoking visual art and performing arts of our time. MCA Stage is a vibrant series presenting theater, dance, and music by leading artists from the US and around the world in MCA's three-hundred-seat Edlis Neeson Theater.

MCA Stage's groundbreaking performances are an integral part of MCA Chicago's artist-activated, audience-engaged programming. Along with the museum's exhibitions and educational initiatives, they encourage a broad and diverse community to experience and discuss the work and ideas of living artists.

#### **PARKING**

Validate your ticket at the coat check for \$12 parking in the MCA garage (220 East Chicago Avenue) or the Bernardin garage (747 North Wabash). Discounted parking is limited to six hours on the date of performance.

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

To inquire about a lost item, call the museum at 312-280-2660. Unclaimed articles are held for thirty days.

#### **SEATING**

Please switch off all noise-making devices while you are in the theater.

Patrons are seated at the management's discretion. Food and open beverage containers are not allowed in the seating area.

#### **REPRODUCTION**

Unauthorized recording and reproduction of a performance is prohibited.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

312-280-2660

#### **BOX OFFICE**

312-397-4010

#### **VOLUNTEER FOR PERFORMANCES**

312-397-4072

[mcastage@mcachicago.org](mailto:mcastage@mcachicago.org)

#### **MUSEUM HOURS**

Tuesday: 10 am–8 pm

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 am–5 pm

Closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

Anne Kaplan, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Madeleine Grynsztejn, Pritzker Director

Teresa Samala de Guzman, Deputy Director

Michael Darling, James W. Alsdorf Chief Curator

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John Rich, Manager  
Isabel Dieppa, Coordinator

Richard Norwood, Theater Production Manager

Amanda L. Block, Intern  
Udita Upadhyaya, Intern

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Program notes compiled by Yolanda Cesta Cursach

**MCA  
CHIC  
AGO**