# **FORTY YEARS**



Santa Monica 2019

## 2019 MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOS ANGELES-BASED ARTS MOVEMENT, KNOWN AS EZTV

Throughout these decades, EZTV has advocated for and been early exemplars for a number of artistic communities and traditions, ranging from its early days in West Hollywood, on through its transition years in Hollywood (including 5 years housed inside LACE) and since 2000, as an organization-in-residence at the 18th Street Arts Center in Santa Monica. Always a champion for the under-represented and disenfranchised, EZTV curated as well as produced, and offered low-cost services to those locked-out of the traditional institutions of either the Fine Art world or Hollywood.

Projects for which EZTV's current artists have been principal collaborators have won a number of awards, including the Emmy and Cine Golden Eagle, and have premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and the Museum of Modern Art. It has received tributes by the American Film Institute, SIGGRAPH, UCLA, and for its 35th anniversary, was honored with a 3-month long retrospective of screenings, panel discussions and exhibitions at USC's ONE Archives & Museum (which now houses much of its early work as part of their permanent collection).

During this 40th Anniversary year, EZTV's rich and diverse history was the subject of a 4 part research series of seminars and screenings in the Kandinsky Library, at the Centre Pompidou in Paris.

# OUR PRESENTERS THIS EVENING IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

### KATE CRASH is our MC this evening

Kate Crash creates theatrical-multimedia-experiences with her combination of indie pop and conceptual art. She tight rope walks between the worlds of high concept and mass media.

In 2005, Crash first began her journey with EZTV when she and Michael J. Masucci collaborated on an outrageous music video. Since then, she has been part of Kate Johnson and Masucci's own art projects; has created films with EZTV including the documentary L.A. Woman; and has stated many times that Johnson and Masucci have served as her greatest art mentors.

She continues the modern DIY EZTV lineage of non-gender conformist/ freeform feminism as she writes, performs, and produces all of her music and writes, directs, and edits the videos.

Crash's art and films have been shown at the Armory Center for the Arts, Barnsdall Art Gallery, 18th Street Art Center, the Getty's Pacific Standard Time, and Highways Performance Space. She has been featured in pieces by the renowned performance artist Barbara T Smith, as well as Kate Johnson; Michael J. Masucci, and SIGGRAPH. In August of 2017 Echo Park Film Center held a retrospective of her video art. Her music can often be found in films and television shows from all over the world.

On October 6, 2019 she will premiere here one-woman, multimedia, music experience at Highways Performance Space and Gallery.

katecrash.com

#### **NINA ROTA**

Nina Rota is a writer and sometimes makes short films. Her essays can be found in Witness Magazine and Entropy among others. Her award-winning short films have appeared in Getty Museum's Pacific Standard Time project, Anthology Film Archives, and the Pompidou Centre—all with the help of EZTV. She is currently working on a book of essays titled *Walls Crumble Before Me*...

#### S. PEARL SHARP

S. Pearl Sharp is a filmmaker, playwright, actor, storyteller and former commentator and essayist for NPR. S. Pearl has over fifty years experience in the arts, with a body of work that focuses on cultural arts, wellness and Black history. Back in the day of cumbersome <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" tapes, S. Pearl frequented a production site on Melrose Ave where a whizzing red-head copied tapes as fast as she moved. A decade later their paths crossed again when EZTV showed films in a sort of public space. The women, and Michael, developed a friendship and a comfortable style of working together. Kate edited S. Pearl's award-winning documentary *The Healing Passage: Voices From The Water* (2004), which aired on The Documentary Channel, and S. Pearl performed in Kate Johnson's 2011 original production of *Core* for the Getty's Pacific Standard Time.

#### SHANE PARTON

Inspired by the human condition, Shane Parton finds his creative function in the world through an investigation of inner workings. Across mediums including video, photography, music, costume design, and performance, Parton provokes responses like "surprising," "fun," "macabre," and "visceral," while speaking in a language of nature and technology, often with himself at the beautiful, messy intersection.

EZTV has been a contributor to Parton's artistic journey since 2016 as a teacher, a collaborator, and a friend. He would like to congratulate EZTV on the big 4-0, and holds endless gratitude for helping

#### ROBERT LOWDEN

Robert Lowden was born in 1960 in Buffalo New York. His Mom was a housewife/accountant and his father Charles was a political advance man/speechwriter for Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign.

Robert, along with being a musician, became deeply interested in fine art and participated in art shows at Hallwalls in Buffalo.

Robert went on the road with quite a few bands in the 80's opening up for Black Flag, The Bad Brains and Ministry and eventually ended up in Los Angeles in 1987 to join up with his cousins Jeff and Bill Burr to make horror movies. After a few years of this he came across EZTV through his cousins and was offered a show of his digital art that he had been cranking out at the now defunct Raging Fingers service bureau in Hollywood.

The show lead to illustration work for the Time Warner audio book of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* which was his first cool illustration gig. EZTV let him have some office space at their Melrose location where he designed the poster for Spike Lee's *Girl Six*.

Through contacts at EZTV, Robert gained an interview at the then brand new DreamWorks Animation studio. He was given a two picture contract to work as a background painter and special effects artist on *The Prince of Egypt* and *Eldorado*. He also worked on *Spirit*, *Ants* and *Shreck* (uncredited).

After working at Dreamworks for eight years he went to Disney to work on *The Tigger Movie*.

Robert has been working on his own animations and as a freelancer for these last past years. He has been getting jobs making horses and dogs talk and putting false limbs on UFC fighters. He also has contributed 52 stories to the Los Angeles Independent Media Center (Indymedia) as a photojournalist/writer.

He has a studio in Downtown Los Angeles (skid row adjacent) where he has been painting portraits of the homeless and work that reanimates "Jim Crow" imagery and puts modern democratic ideas into their mouths. He has shown his paintings at Avenue 50 Gallery and EZTV over the years. Robert also tutors kids at Skid Row's School On Wheels. http://rlowden.com

#### MIKE M MOLLETT

Born & raised in Los Angeles, Mike has considered himself an L.ALien. Writing poetry while earning his BS degree in Biology. His 50ish years of mostly underground iconoclastic LA ART/LIFE is featured on-line in KCET's "Artbound", & more recently ART/NOW LA with a focus on his 2019 solo show.

An early experimenter with xerography (70's-80's), & with his 64 VW Bus Question(s) of The Week project, he became a pivotal player in the International Mail-Art Network. Mollett initiated/co-organized DADAFEST L.A. (1980) in more than a half dozen venues, & was a core member with TARGET LA (anti-nuclear arts festival), '82; co-produced ZTZU (w/catalogues), "the ugliest gallery in Los Angeles"—LA Weekly. Mollett performed for BOSS @ EZTV-84-85, & is included in EZTV's Street Poets Video & Best of Boss. He was the original co-host, reader, set-designer & performer on the LOOSELEAF REPORT (late 80's into the 90's). Also among the important 80's music & art performance video shows, Mollett regularly performed on NEW WAVE THEATRE.

He is the founder/leader and a member of the L.A. MUDPEOPLE (1988-present). Concurrently, & on the flip-side, he was co-founder & continuing member of performance poetry troupes the LOST TRIBE & the CARMA BUMS. They've toured the Southwest, West Coast & Canada, etc. Viggo Mortensen has credited the poetic troupes as seminal inspiration.

For the last eight years MM has focused on hand-made "green" sculpture using mostly linear materials—"Time-Twists", "Weaved Archaeologies", "balls-worlds-spheres", with four solo shows since 2010, including one at HIGHWAYS, and numerous group shows. He can be seen irregularly at Library Girl, Beyond Baroque, & the Broome Room. Check out After the Break-in, a collaborative novella w/Michael Bruner. mikemollett.com instagram.com/mollettmike

#### MICHAEL KEARNS

Michael Kearns was virtually a has-been at thirty.

He became the victim of his own making by participating in one of the Twentieth Century's most notorious hoaxes: Kearns was hired by Warner Books in 1974 to play the role of Grant Tracy Saxon, a fictitious character depicted in the book, *The Happy Hustler*. The promotional blitz, encompassing a guest stint as John-Boy's college "Big Brother" on The Waltons, spanned two years and resulted in Kearns' title as "the first openly gay actor in Hollywood."

The phone did not ring off the hook.

Determined to regain the equilibrium of his artistic sensibility, Kearns made the calls and eventually found his footing as an artist with vision, intention, and momentum that has not waned.

When he arrived at EZTV's doorstep, metaphorically speaking, he wanted to act on film, something that mainstream Hollywood was not offering in spite of his proven abilities. But EZTV heard his needs and he appeared in several of their early, significant pieces: *Dorothy and Alan on Norma Place* and he played Verlaine in *Rimbaud in L.A.* He also partnered with EZTV on numerous projects that illuminated HIV/AIDS, often the taping of theatrical productions for archival purposes.

It was a marriage made in videotaped heaven, helping to kickstart, and ultimately document, a career that proved to be boundless. Among the significant events that took place at EZTV was the formation of Artists Confronting AIDS one Saturday morning in 1983 when, along with partner James Carroll Pickett, he gathered a dozen or so individuals who were intent upon looking at the artistic responsibilities and unlimited terrain that the disease presented. Artists Confronting AIDS maintained its heat, and its heart, for the next decade. In terms of visibility and monies raised, nothing outdid the annual STAGE benefits (Southland Theatre Artists Goodwill Event, also cofounded by Pickett and Kearns) that raised millions of dollars during its 33 year run.

Kearns has worked in film and television, and he's written an autobiography, a dozen or so solo performance pieces, several books related to the theatre, and most recently, several full-length plays. His focus remains on the theatre where his passions and visions take flight; he is presently Artistic Director of QueerWise, an Artistic Associate of the Skylight Theatre and Artist in Residence at Housing Works.

In June, he celebrated thirty years of consistent work he's accomplished at Highways Performance Space which is a virtual library of LGBTQ material and pieces related to HIV/AIDS, beginning with *intimacies*, the groundbreaking piece that gave Kearns entry to an international career that includes performance as well as the production of his plays.

#### BARBARA T. SMITH

One of the pioneers of Performance Art, Barbara T. Smith began her groundbreaking work in the late 60's. Since then she has performed throughout the U.S., Europe and Asia. She received her B.A. from Pomona College and her MFA from U.C. Irvine in 1971 and has taught and lectured at colleges and universities throughout the US and abroad.

Smith's work reflects the concerns of women and the environment. Her ceremonial/shamanic performances investigate female erotic power as a healing force, and food as a uniquely female means for nurturance, as metaphor and material for art. Her work has become an art/life quest on the cusp between manifest life and the invisible realm.

A recipient of three NEA Grants, she also has been given a Vesta award from the Women's Building in 1983 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for art in 1999. Smith has participated in the founding of several alternative spaces in L. A. and has produced and curated many multi-artist performance events. She was in the LA artist show at the Pompidou in Paris, the WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution show at MOCA, and at PS1 in New York. More recently she has appeared in several museum shows as part of Pacific Standard Time initiated by the Getty. She is represented by the Box gallery in Los Angeles and the Andrew Kreps Gallery in New York.

#### **JOAN COLLINS**

Joan Collins has been an Artist/Producer working with site-specific projection for 30 years. She created her first Feature CG sequence in 1984 for an OmniMax film called THE MAGIC EGG.

Collins is a long-time active member of ACM SIGGRAPH and has served on the LA chapter's executive board since 1981. She is currently the Los Angeles ACM SIGGRAPH Co-Chair Emeritus. She created CG light displays for the 1984 OLYMPIC Closing Ceremonies, and Steve Wosniak's US FESTIVAL, specializing in large-scale projection techniques. She worked with Ron Hays to coordinate during his FACE OF A THOUSAND NATIONS, where he famously flew in a UFO over the audience of 500,000 at the US FESTIVAL. Joan also worked with Ron Hays to create images projected on the entire front of the Hollywood Bowl in 1987 for HOLLYWOOD'S SALUTE TO MGM. Ron again worked with Joan to produce the Opening Sequence for the SIGGRAPH 1987 SHOW. They used six-inch-slides projected, covering the entire ceiling of the Anaheim Arena.

Joan was the Founder and Co-Producer of ON THE THRESHOLD which integrated 17 acts of dancers with real-time digital manipulation of CG, and lasers on multi-screens with giant video and film projectors. It was with the help and support of Ron Hays, EZTV, and LA ACM SIGGRAPH's participation, that historically made this one night, become the turning point for Hollywood's multi-media events.

EDUCATION: UCLA, 1980-1983. She was in the first group through the CG Department, and was a T.A. for John Whitney, Sr. She helped on the first Visual Music Alliance awards in 1981 and started LA ACM SIGGRAPH.

**PASCALINE MORINCOME & SIBYLLE DE LAURENS** working in collaboration with the Kandinsky Library, Centre Pompidou, Paris (via video)

Based in Paris, Sibylle de Laurens and Pascaline Morincome are independent researchers, scholars and curators, investigating innovative and more personal approaches to working with historical cultural archives. For over a year and a half they have been researching EZTV, often in collaboration with writer Gaspard Nectoux, and in the first half of 2019 presented 4 live events about EZTV, in the Kandinsky Library at the Centre Pompidou. These included 2 events in which Michael J. Masucci & Kate Johnson appeared in person, including on June 21, when Masucci & Johnson, accompanied by numerous materials from throughout EZTV's 40 years, gave a 2 hour presentation. Following that, the Kandinsky Library exhibited 4 vitrines of EZTV ephemera, curated by de Laurens and Morincome, throughout the month of July.

#### MICHAEL J. MASUCCI

Michael J. Masucci is a founding member of EZTV and served as its Co-Artistic Director since 1986, becoming Director in 1993. His early work was included in the Getty Museum's Pacific Standard Time and is in the permanent collections of USC, the ICA (London), the Victoria & Albert Museum, UCLA and in private collections.

His writings have appeared in the SIGGRAPH Journal, Computer Graphics Magazine, the Independent Film & Video Monthly, and in several books, including the seminal *CyberArts-Exploring Art & Technology* (edited by Linda Jacobsen) as well as writing the foreword to *Going Digital: The Practice and Vision of Digital Artists* by Joseph Nalven and JD Jarvis.

His work has been profiled and/or presented in a variety of media, including on PBS, the BBC, BRAVO and the Discovery Channel, as well as in a variety of print media, including the Los Angeles Times, Variety, ArtWeek and the Hollywood Reporter.

Masucci has a J.D. from California School of Law, where he won four Cali Awards, a certificate in Independent Film Production from UCLA, a certificate in Modern Music Production from Berklee College of Music, a certificate in Graphic Design from CalArts, a certificate from Cornell in Conflict Resolution and a Graduate Certificate in Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution from Cal State Northridge. In addition to several other certificates, from places like Vanderbilt and Georgia Tech, he also has a certificate in Entrepreneurship from Wharton, but he feels he must not have learned very much there.

An award-winning video artist, director and producer, he has received the Cine Golden Eagle Award as well as several Telly Awards, a special award from the City of West Hollywood for "bringing the cutting edge of art to West Hollywood", and a Commendation from the City of Santa Monica for his former role as Chair of its Public Art Committee.

### **SPECIAL GUEST MALCOLM MCDOWELL (via video)**

Malcolm is an English actor, known for his boisterous and often villainous roles. In a career spanning over 50 years, McDowell has played varied film roles across different genres as a character actor. He is perhaps best known for the controversial roles of Alex DeLarge in Stanley Kubrick's A Clockwork Orange (1971), and Mick Travis in Lindsay Anderson's trilogy of if.... (1968), O Lucky Man! (1973) and Britannia Hospital (1982). In 2008 he worked with EZTV, along with Director Mike Kaplan, to finish a documentary of his performance about acclaimed director Lindsay Anderson. The film went onto premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, major festivals around the world, and

the American Cinematheque. It has also been packaged with re-releases of Anderson & Kubrick films.

# KATE JOHNSON Robert Lowden on bass, Michael J. Masucci on guitar, and special guest Robert Gelman on percussion.

Kate Johnson a video artist and Emmy® Award winning filmmaker, has been part of EZTV since 1993 when she was dared by Masucci that if she could handle the madhouse she was welcome aboard. She loves a good dare, and she never left. Informed by her work in college on archaeological digs, Johnson's work often explores the intersections between memory and presence, perception and reality, and the momentary nature of existence.

Her work has been seen on PBS stations throughout the country, as well as at The Film Society at Lincoln Center, the Doc Channel, The American Film Institute, Los Angeles Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival, American Cinematheque, Dance Camera Istanbul, and the ICA in London, Esplanade Theatres in Singapore, as well as at galleries, theaters and festivals locally and internationally.

She is interested in the live moment designing site-specific pieces that are informed by immersion and transformation, magic realism, and themes around technology and its confluence with our humanity. When asked what her medium is she often answers: time. Her projections have been exhibited at Bergamot Station, The Getty Center, Japan America Cultural Center, Metro Stations, Tongva Park, including commissions for events at MOCA, LACMA, and The Ford Amphitheater. In 2017, she was honored to create a piece that was projected onto LA's iconic City Hall for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Center Theatre Group.

She currently serves as an Assistant Professor at Otis College of Art &; Design and is an artist in residence at the 18th Street Arts Center.

# There will be a champagne toast in the gallery at the end of this performance

### **IN MEMORIAM**

A list of those who are many of the dear souls that we miss and could not be here tonight:

John Dorr Dr. Timothy Leary

Zina Bethune Mark Gash

Laura Harlan James "Dillinger" Baker

Wallace Potts Mark Shepard

Lee Reherman Harlan Ellison

Mike Hodel Tim Taylor

Robert Altman Victor Davis

Benedict Falvo Doran Kidd

Eve Baker Tomata du Plenty

Savannah Sue Bentley Mary Christmas

Earl Miller Jaime Walters

Ron Hays Mark Addy

Jay Thompson Jack Larson

James Bridges Jack Capese

Bob Kane Phoebe Wray

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Nina Rota Kate Crash Leo Garcia

Jan Williamson

Highways Is Co-Presenter For This Evening's Event

EZTV is an Organization in Residence at the 18th Street Arts Center

Anu Vikram Patrick Kennelly

Jon Bing

Anais Montoya Shannon Daut Nathan Birnbaum Victor Acevedo

And all the performers who generously

contributed to the celebration

www.eztvmuseum.com