



ART MUSIC DANCE THEATER SPACE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Contact:

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The Bushwick Starr and Alphabet Arts present:

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ***Puppets & Poets*** Festival

### Performances December 6-8, 2013, Friday-Sunday

*Evening cabaret for mature audiences, Fri-Sat at 8pm, Sun at 7pm. Tickets \$15 advance.*

*Free matinee for all ages, Sat-Sun at 3pm. Family-friendly performances and interactive fun!*

**BROOKLYN, NY-** Puppets & Poets is a festival that explores and celebrates poetry and puppetry, two of the world's oldest and most diversely practiced art forms. The third annual festival features poets, puppeteers, musicians, actors, dancers, and other artists from NYC, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Austin in an evening cabaret program for mature audiences and a family-friendly matinee program. Matinees are free, interactive, appropriate for all ages, and followed by poetry-writing and puppet-making workshops. Highlights of this year's festival include *The Folk Opera* by San Francisco poet/musician Annie Bacon and her band with puppetry by Alphabet Arts; a David Bowie-inspired rocket adventure called *Spacetansmananagasm* by Austin actor/puppeteer Zeb West; and *Blown Away by Poetry*, an interactive puppet musical by NYC's Urban Stages. Both the evening and matinee programs include exciting and eclectic performances blending puppetry, poetry, and other arts.

**Featured performers:** Annie Bacon, Danya Bergy, Daniel Broadhurst, Ren Carrillo, Jonah Eller-Isaacs, Rima Fand, Elizabeth Greenblatt, TS Hawkins, Modesto "Flako" Jimenez, Kirsten Kammermeyer, Lindsay MacNaughton, Takahiro Morooka, Jeremy Mulder, Liz Parker, raiyuki, Fernando Ruiz, Grace Rectra, Gwen Rooker, Rachel Sullivan, Charles Tyson, Jr., Amber West, Sam T. West, Zeb West, Kathryn Wilkening

**P&P production team:** Artistic Director: Dr. Amber West; Production Manager: Neelam Vaswani; Lead Puppeteers: Kirsten Kammermeyer, Ren Carrillo; Technical Consultant: Mark Sitko; Production Assistant: Carmen Torres; Teaching Artists: Chris Borchardt, Modesto "Flako" Jimenez

### Location:

The Bushwick Starr theater: 207 Starr Street, Brooklyn, NY [between Irving and Wycoff]

### Directions:

Via Subway take the L Train to Jefferson Street, exit at Starr Street, walk against traffic on Starr, and the theater is 3/4 of a block on the right.

For detailed driving directions visit: [www.thebushwickstarr.org/DIRECTIONS](http://www.thebushwickstarr.org/DIRECTIONS)

**Tickets to evening cabaret are \$15.00 at [www.thebushwickstarr.org](http://www.thebushwickstarr.org)**

#### **About Alphabet Arts:**

Alphabet Arts was founded by a group of artists on a front porch in Flatbush, Brooklyn in 2009. This nonprofit, volunteer-run artist collective brings together poets, puppeteers, actors, musicians, dancers and other artists to create innovative performances and programs for youth, family, and mature audiences. The collective brings quality arts programs to underserved communities in locations like block parties, public library branches, and Title 1 schools in order to educate and inspire young people to become creative thinkers and doers. Learn more at [alphabetarts.org](http://alphabetarts.org).

#### **More about *Puppets & Poets*:**

Alphabet Arts launched *Puppets & Poets (P&P)* in 2011 to create opportunities for diverse artists, youth, and audiences to collaboratively explore the relationship between puppetry and poetry, art forms practiced throughout the world and across the ages. Participants in our inaugural hands-on workshops created original "puppet poems" and performed to sold-out audiences at Brooklyn Arts Exchange and Creative Arts Studio. Thanks to this success, The Bushwick Starr invited Alphabet Arts to produce a larger festival in 2012. *P&P* creates opportunities for diverse professional artists to collaborate and innovate by supporting the development and presentation of new work that crosses boundaries between artistic disciplines. Through free programs and bilingual outreach efforts, P&P also provides diverse families with access to the arts. This year we have expanded P&P to include a donation of arts education programs to PS 123, a Title 1 elementary school in Bushwick. 100+ third graders will take a field trip to the Starr for two exclusive *P&P* performances, and fifth graders will receive a month of after school poetry and puppetry workshops. P&P 2013 is made possible in part by grant and in-kind support from the Greater NY Arts Development Fund of the NYC DCA, administered by the Brooklyn Arts Council; Citizens Committee of New York City; and The Bushwick Starr. The evening cabaret is also funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc. through public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

*"The work of Alphabet Arts is decidedly process based...[and] involves throwing oneself into the deep-end of one's art-making...What's most impressive [is their] true-blue dedication to arts education and arts activism... [I]t's comforting to see generosity injected back into art-making...[Alphabet Arts] truly understands the importance of a dialogue and exchange between artists and audiences."* –Lauren Nicole Nixon, *HerCircle*

#### **About The Bushwick Starr:**

The Bushwick Starr is an Obie Award winning non profit theater that presents an annual Season of new work in theater, dance, and puppetry. We are an organization defined by both our artists and our community, and since 2007, we have grown into a thriving theatrical venue, a vital neighborhood arts center, and a destination for exciting and engaging performance. The Bushwick Starr's mission is to help ambitious artists and ambitious audiences find each other. We provide a springboard for emerging professional artists to make career-defining leaps, and we are a sanctuary where established performance companies come to experiment and innovate. Our past seasons have included new work from cutting edge companies such as ***The Debate Society, Half Straddle, Witness Relocation, The Management, and Banana Bag & Bodice.***

*"A home for gutsy experimental work."* – 2012 Village Voice OBIE Award for Outstanding Work

*"Brooklyn's hottest incubator. One of New York's best-curated off-off venues."* – Time Out New York

*"...artistically ambitious while still maintaining a real commitment to community. For those of us who believe in the importance of small arts venues in the creative ecology of NYC, it is hopeful that places like Bushwick Starr exist and are flourishing."* – Andy Horowitz, Culturebot