



THURSDAY NIGHT THINGS

STEPHANIE PRUITT

OZ Arts Nashville Presents Pruitt Poetry Series

By Janice Malone

NASHVILLE, TN — OZ Arts Nashville will present poet and social practice artist Stephanie Pruitt's em-bod-i-ment: Poetry Through the Five Senses, as part of the contemporary arts center's spotlight series, Thursday Night Things (TNT). OZ Arts presents the work of leading artists from around the world, offering an intimate context for performing and visual art programs that challenge and inspire a diverse range of curious audiences.

Oz Arts' TNT is a quarterly series of unexpected collaborations with Nashville-based artists from varying creative disciplines. OZ Arts' "blank slate" provides a platform onto which these artists can create, develop and present a one-time-only event that would traditionally not be seen in a visual art gallery or theatre. "Thursday Night Things is a regular series at OZ Arts that offers Nashville-based artists an opportunity to curate their own event," shares OZ Arts Nashville Artistic Director Lauren Snelling. The artists' and their projects are selected for their capacity to dream big with creative ideas that can 'hold' the Oz huge space, which is 10,000 square feet. (building was once the C.A.O. Cigar warehouse).

Each work is completely self-produced from scratch between OZ artistic director, Snelling and the participating artists over multiple months (sometimes up to a year) to ensure the best possible outcome. Creating an opportunity for Nashville-based artists to develop and present new works in the same space and within the same program as visiting artists has been part of Snelling's curatorial vision from the beginning. "I want OZ Arts to be a place where Nashville artists feel welcome and where they are energized and inspired to create new work. This should be a place where artists from different fields can see one another's work, experience it, discuss it and forge new collaborations as a result. Our goal is to help artists realize a project in their imagination. We hope that these endeavors lead to future shows elsewhere," says Snelling.

Thursday Night Things began as a monthly endeavor, but it didn't take long to realize that each presentation required more time and care in the development phase in order to really bring ideas to life. It was also shown that having additional time saves money for both the artist and the institution, as both entities are able to dedicate energy toward acquiring materials, find in-kind sponsors and have enough time to collaborate with other artists in a much more realistic time frame. "Our goal is for TNT events to take place quarterly. In Season 3, we begin with Stephanie Pruitt's "em-bod-i-ment: poetry through the five senses" (July 23rd). We continue with Bryce McCloud's "Together Heroic: The World's Largest Portrait Stamp Project" in December. And the season culminates with Tony Youngblood's "Modular Art Pods" in June, 2016. A fourth TNT artist may be named later in the season," adds Ms. Snelling.

Stephanie Pruitt's "em-bod-i-ment: POETRY THROUGH THE FIVE SENSES," is part of the TNT Spotlight series. Ms. Pruitt is collaborating with a wide range of luminaries to create multi-sensory tour of the inside of her poem Close Reading, which she wrote for this program. The em-bod-i-ment piece will fill OZ Arts' 10,000 square-foot warehouse venue with pure creativity. The event of-

fers a meditation upon the generative nature of art, and a uniquely rich exploration of how one creative expression often leads to a web of others. New original paintings will also be featured within this experiential installation including works by artists Carolyn Beehler, Erica Ciccarone, Vince Herrera, Joseph Love, Randy Purcell, Alice Shepherd and Betty Turner.

Pruitt's point of departure for Em-bodiment was a question: What would it be like to be immersed inside a poem? To create the work, she distributed her poem Close Reading to more than twenty artists, asking them to interpret it through their various disciplines. Literature moves from the two-dimensional page and becomes an interactive experience for the audience to smell, hear, see, touch and taste. Her collaborators include chef Josh Habiger (Pinewood Social); aromatherapist Whitney Simpson (Exploring Peace); landscape architect Mike Kahnle; alt-classical ensemble Chatterbird; BKON's iBeacon technology; recording artists Curtis Fields and Joy Styles; and more than 10 visual artists including Jamaal Sheats, Camilla Spadafino and James Threalkill.

Stephanie Pruitt is an award-winning, published poet and visual maker who has taught arts education and creative writing at Vanderbilt University, Sewanee Young Writers' Conference, and as a visiting artist in over a hundred k-12 and community settings. Over the past 15 years, while maintaining her creative practice, she has run an event planning company, art gallery, publishing firm, and social science research center. Pruitt is the recipient of an Academy of American Poets Prize and, Essence Magazine named her one of their 40 Favorite Poets. These days, the native Nashvillian has opted out of the old 9 to 5 model and lets her creativity lead her. She is combining her backgrounds in marketing and entrepreneurship & fine art in order to help other explorers and dreamers do the same.

The ARTrepreneur and TEDx speaker curates Poems & Pancakes and created a line of poetry vending machines. She leads Mind Your Creative Business workshops and coaching sessions for organizations, artists, and thought leaders incorporating creativity as a professional strategy. Pruitt is an active part of her local community as a Commissioner for the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, as well as serving on the board of directors for the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville. Stephanie has volunteered at Magdalene House and Thistle Farms for the past eleven years as a creative writing facilitator and former board member.

<http://stephaniepruitt.com/>

Oz's TNT series will continue throughout the rest of the year, on into the beginning of 2016.

September kicks off the fall season with a 3-night film series where visiting celebrity guest artists select their favorite film, we screen it and after the film we have a talk-back with the celebrity guest and Rob Milazzo, creator of the Modern School of Film. This is where audiences hear real backstage stories and find out the true personalities behind "personalities." Visiting celebrity guest artists and the films they choose for screening will be announced later.

For more information about Oz Arts Nashville visit: <http://www.ozartsnashville.org/>

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig

NASHVILLE, TN — One of Nashville's most popular summer productions will take place once again at Belmont University. The show is sure to be a musical for all ages! Students of Salama Urban Ministries will be bringing fun to the stage all three performances. The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig is based on the book of the same name by Eugene Trivizas. Music is by Bret Simmons, with the book and lyrics by David Howard. The humor-filled show is sure to be a crowd pleaser under the direction of Washington Dobbins. "It is sure to be an upbeat and lively production, but the story goes deeper, encompassing 3 themes: understanding, communication and forgiveness," said Salama Performing Arts Director and Choreographer Dr. Peter Fields. "We think everyone will not only enjoy the show, but be moved as well."

The dates and times for the performances are:

Friday, July 17 at 7 PM
Saturday, July 18 at 7 PM
Sunday, July 19 at 4 PM

Tickets are available

at Salama or at the door: \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth 15 and under. Belmont University's Troutt Theater is located at 2100 Belmont Blvd. in Nashville.

Salama is a faith-based youth development model designed for underserved youth in Nashville. The

year-round extended learning program aims to equip students for college and beyond through 3 components: performing arts, academics, and spiritual development. To learn more about the ministry of this organization, visit www.salamaserves.org

SAE Institute Nashville Presents 'Beat Camp'

NASHVILLE, TN — "Beat Camp," a weekend seminar for aspiring recording engineers, songwriters, music producers, and music business pros, will be presented at SAE Institute's Nashville campus on Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11. "Beat Camp" is a partnership between SAE Institute and iStandard Producers, an organization that creates networking and collaboration opportunities for professional music producers. "Beat Camp" sponsors include Native Instruments, Monster Energy Drink, and Ableton. "Attendance at 'Beat Camp' is a perfect first-step for aspiring music business professionals who want to turbocharge their careers," says SAE Nashville Campus Director Lynn Dorton. "The education and networking opportunities for participants will be incredible, and will allow anyone who's serious about working in today's music industry to make huge strides in their professional journeys."

"Beat Camp" will feature classroom discussions on producer branding, management, A&R meeting simulations, studio techniques, networking/brand building strategies, songwriter-producer synergy, sampling, and live mixing sessions. Each seminar will be led by top industry professionals with major credits and experience, including Symbolyc One aka S1, WLPWR aka Supahotbeats, Key Wane, The Fre\$hmen, M16 Beats, Mike Ewing, Ducko Mcfli & Syksense,



David Heartbreak, Shane Whalen, Jo'zzy, Bandplay, Able Demos, and more.

Nighttime activities include the iStandard Producer Showcase "Beat Camp" Edition, Celebrity Beat Cyphers, "Behind the Rhymes" interviews, iInfluence Awards, special DJ sets, and much more.

"To me, 'Beat Camp' is music business boot camp," says iStandard co-founder J. Hatch. "The pros who are participating in the seminars inject real life, first-hand experience into the discussion, and let attendees know that being a working music professional isn't just about beats and grooves - it's a business. By the time 'Beat Camp' is over, every attendee in the house will know exactly what he or she needs to do to take their career to the next level."

iStandard Beat Camp will be held at SAE Institute's Nashville campus, located at 7 Music Circle North in Nashville. The event will begin on Friday, July 10 and run through Saturday, July 11. For more information or to register, visit the Beat Camp Nashville website or contact SAE Institute Nashville at (615) 244-5848.

SAE Institute provides

aspiring creative media professionals with a foundation of practical theory and valuable hands-on training in their chosen areas of concentration. Under the guidance of our faculty, which is comprised of working industry professionals, students gain the essential experience they need for entry-level jobs in the entertainment business. Our students are supported in their job searches by SAE's international network of alumni, many of whom are leaders in the music, film, game arts, and live performance arenas. We offer programs in audio technology across our seven US campuses, along with a music business program at select locations, all fully accredited and focused on preparing students for employment when they graduate. Bachelor's Degree programs in Animation, Audio, Film, Game Art & Graphic Design are available at the two locations of Ex'pression College, which is owned and operated by SAE Institute Group, Inc. Learn more at USA.sae.edu. SAE Institute Group, Inc. is a part of Navitas LTD (Navitas.com).