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OZ Arts Nashville to Host Three In-person, Socially Distanced Performances and Events in May and June

Thrilling New Works Include Short Films Based on Original Poetry, an Outdoor Cosmic Country Musical, and an Evening of Solo Contemporary Dance

Nashville, TN – April 15, 2021 – Contemporary arts center [OZ Arts Nashville](#) today announced it will host three captivating shows in-person in May and June 2021. Presentations include visually stunning short film screenings by [Defy Film Festival](#) and [Kindling Arts Festival](#) from May 7-8; the quirky, roadkill musical *Sloppy Bonnie*, which is presented in association with Vanderbilt University Theatre, from May 20-29; and a trio of solo dance pieces from local performer Becca Hoback from June 24-26. All three events are socially distanced and available to limited audiences.

Local independent arts incubator Kindling Arts Festival and Defy Film Festival have teamed up for a unique cross-genre collaboration pairing 12 local poets with 13 local filmmakers to create visually stunning poetic adaptations. The premiere event will be hosted by OZ Arts in its expansive creative warehouse on May 7-8, where the dozen new short films will be screened for the first time. Powered by an all-star list of diverse Nashville-based poets and filmmakers, this hour-long collection of films based on individual poems explores a year that sparked a new appreciation for nature, a renewed surge for racial justice, a changing relationship between the individual self and the broader community, and universal feelings of love, loss, grief, and hope. The list of participating artists includes poets Ciona Rouse, Meg Wade, Dan Hoy and Alora Young, working with filmmakers Drew Maynard, Sophia Gordon, Angell Foster and John Warren, among others. Tickets to the screenings are \$15, and indoor capacity will be very limited.

Later in May, OZ Arts will transform its parking lot into a honky-tonk theatre experience for cosmic country musical *Sloppy Bonnie*, premiering on May 20 at 8pm and running through May 29. The show follows a rambunctious bride-to-be named Bonnie (aka “Sloppy Bonnie” when she’s drunk) who has the best of intentions when she sets off on what she hopes will be an inspirational road trip to be with her fiancé, who has ghosted her ever since he left for a revival retreat in the mountains. But along the way, her cookie-cutter femininity causes havoc, turning her into an accidental serial killer. Irresistible and deliciously cheeky songs and story come together in this collaboration by playwright Krista Knight

(Vanderbilt Writer in Residence), composer Barry Brinegar, and prominent Nashville director Leah Lowe. The cast includes Nashville newcomer Amanda Disney in the titular role, and Curtis Reed and James Rudolph II portraying more than a dozen roles. Tickets for this unhinged, delightful evening under the stars range from \$20-\$30, with limited capacity for the outdoor performances.

In June, OZ Arts presents an evening of solo works from popular local dancer and artist Becca Hoback. This new trio of solo dances, which explores the relationship between the body, womanhood, and the world, runs from June 24-26. A local favorite for her memorable performances in New Dialect productions, Hoback shines in the world premiere of *Offering*, created with her long-time collaborator and Batsheva member Ben Green; another world premiere created specifically for Becca entitled *Is this Good?* by celebrated choreographer Ana Maria Lucaci; and the US Premiere of *A Girl*, the solo version of internationally acclaimed choreographer Roy Assaf's wildly popular *Girls*, which was seen on the OZ Arts stage in 2019. Tickets for the program start at \$20, with limited indoor capacity.

“Following the recent success of our first live, socially distanced performances in March, we’re excited to continue welcoming guests safely back to OZ,” said Mark Murphy, OZ Arts Executive and Artistic Director. “Each of these wildly different performances allows Nashville audiences a chance to experience the breadth of local talent while exploring alternative formats for live events. OZ Arts is honored be supporting artists across mediums, and this trio of events spanning multimedia, literary arts, theatre and dance offers something for everyone.”

Tickets for all three events are on sale now at [ozartsnashville.org](https://www.ozartsnashville.org). Health and safety protocols will be enforced, including mandatory masks when audiences are not seated, limited capacities and social distancing. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available throughout the building, and there will be continuous cleaning and disinfection of common areas.

These presentations are made possible with generous support from donors and grants, including funding from the Tennessee Arts Commission and Vanderbilt University’s Strong Grant. To learn more about upcoming performances, please visit <https://www.ozartsnashville.org/>.

About OZ Arts Nashville

Founded in 2013 by the Ozgener family, OZ Arts Nashville has quickly established itself as one of the Southeast's most influential and respected producers and presenters focused on the creation and presentation of significant performing and visual art works by diverse cultural visionaries who are making vital contributions to the evolution of contemporary culture. Through performances, exhibitions, and community events, OZ Arts focuses on producing and presenting the work of local and visiting artists who reflect our diverse society, utilize new artistic forms and technology in creative ways, and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with audiences, students and cultural and civic leaders. OZ Arts' unique creative warehouse has developed a reputation as a major national and regional laboratory for experimentation and a home for contemporary dance and performance. More than 50,000 audience members have been introduced to adventurous artists from around the world since the organization opened, and hundreds of local and regional artists have used OZ's 10,000 square-foot warehouse theater to develop new works. For more information, please visit [ozartsnashville.org](https://www.ozartsnashville.org).

About Defy Film Festival and Kindling Arts

Established in 2016, **Defy Film Festival** is dedicated to bringing bold and extraordinary cinematic work from around the world to East Nashville. The festival celebrates unconventional films made by filmmakers who want to defy traditions and expectations. The festival is driven by the desire to bring unknown talent from around the world to Nashville audiences that are looking for a unique cinematic experience. Defy puts *the work* and *the artist* above all else. All great art is a disruption. Learn more at defyfilmfestival.com.

Kindling Arts is Nashville's radically unique independent arts incubator. Founded in 2018, Kindling exists to embrace exciting original and experimental artistic experiences developed outside existing institutions. With an emphasis on innovative process, the Kindling Arts Festival is a multi-day annual event that showcases interdisciplinary collaborations in surprising spaces. Now in its fourth year, the Festival empowers diverse local performers with the space and supporting resources required to take daring creative risks and explore challenging ideas. Kindling has launched more than 25 unique artistic experiences since 2018, featuring the work of over 150 Nashville-based dance, theatre, avant-garde, music, circus, and visual artists. For more information, visit kindlingarts.com.

About the Creative Team of Sloppy Bonnie

Leah Lowe (Director) is a native Tennessean who began her directing career in the Twin Cities and has made theatre in Los Angeles, Miami, Connecticut, Ohio, and Nashville, where she currently teaches at Vanderbilt University. She earned her PhD from Florida State University, her MFA in Directing from the University of Minnesota, and her BA from Oberlin College. Her artistic interests include acting, directing, and devised performance. Her scholarly work has been published in *Theatre Topics*, *Theatre Journal*, and *Theatre Symposium*.

Krista Knight (Playwright, Vanderbilt Writer in Residence) has had work produced or developed at NYTW, The Vineyard Theatre, New Georges, Bay Area Playwrights Foundation, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Playwrights Center of MN, Cradle Theatre, Joe's Pub at the Public Theater, Ars Nova Ant Fest, Fingerlakes Musical Theatre Festival, Inkwell, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and Dutch Kills, among others. She has written 16 full-length plays, 5 full-length musicals, 17 plays and musicals for young audiences, and sold a screenplay. Commissions include a teen dance-a-thon to the death musical with Broadway composer Dave Malloy, the script for a ride at Tokyo Disneyland, The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, Case Western Reserve University School of Biomedical Engineering, and The Assembly. Her many prestigious awards include Page 73 Playwriting Fellow (2007), MacDowell Fellow (2008), Shank Playwriting Fellow at the Vineyard Theatre (2011-2012), and Juilliard School Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program Fellow (2016-2018).

About Becca Hoback

Becca Hoback is a dance artist based in Nashville, Tennessee. Becca began her solo project in 2018 to create, commission, and perform solo dance work that is evocative, theatrical, innovative, and experiential. She developed a community outreach initiative called "Body View" to promote physical expression and inspire artistic engagement. She is a founding member of New Dialect, and is featured in the company as a performer, outreach workshop team leader, community and company class teacher, and choreographic assistant to artistic director Banning Bouldin. She is an adjunct dance instructor at Harpeth Hall and a guest instructor for the Metro Parks Dance Division. Becca trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Learn more at beccahoback.com.