



CENTERSTAGE<sup>SM</sup>

## Artists from Abroad in American Communities



[www.centerstageUS.org](http://www.centerstageUS.org)

An initiative of the U.S. Department of State's  
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Produced by the New England Foundation for the Arts



# Center Stage uses the power of the performing arts to transcend boundaries and cultivate mutual understanding.

Letter from the Director .....	1
Center Stage: Transcending Boundaries .....	2
Artists .....	6
Presenters .....	23
Advisors .....	25
Partners .....	(back cover)



Cover photo credits: (small photos, left to right) Khumariyaan by Bilal Farooq; Fleur d'Orange by Alice Dufour-Feronce; Tri Minh's Quartet by EH Wallop; courtesy of Asia Society; Rihab Fusion by Pamela Keller; (large photo) Arabesque by Nguyen Minh Duc - Duc Den Thu

**Dear Friends,**

**We at NEFA are delighted to share this overview to date of Center Stage, a groundbreaking cultural engagement initiative of the U.S. Department of State.**

*Center Stage is an integral extension of NEFA's mission — connecting artists and communities locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, and leveraging the power of the arts to transcend boundaries and cultivate mutual understanding.*

*Center Stage showcases compelling voices, touring contemporary performing artists from abroad whose explorations of the new, and revitalizations of the traditional, are true reflections of the societies in which they live. In just two seasons, Center Stage has brought ensembles from Haiti, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, and Vietnam — making it possible for American presenters to host artists from these countries on stages and in communities across the United States.*

*The work of this unique public-private partnership would not be possible without the vision and essential support provided by our funders, and we extend deepest gratitude to our partners at the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, Asian Cultural Council, and U.S. embassies abroad.*


*Read on for more about the artists, presenters, and communities that have been part of the program so far, and mark your calendar for Center Stage Season 3. Ensembles from Algeria and Tanzania will be announced in summer 2015, for touring June-December 2016.*

*We hope you'll join us!*

*With best regards,*



Cathy Edwards  
Executive Director  
New England Foundation for the Arts



**Center Stage is among the most ambitious programs to bring contemporary foreign artists into direct contact with people across a wide range of American communities, and to share these experiences globally.**

## **Artists as Ambassadors**

Center Stage artists share the beauty and sophistication of their cultures, displaying the profound and challenging imagination of their nations as well as the ways in which art forms of any country develop in dialogue with global culture.

During their month-long tours to the United States, **visiting artists describe Center Stage as a rare opportunity to move beyond ordinary interactions, stereotypes, and the difficulties of the political moment.** They affirm that the combination of openness and appreciation help them and their audiences take important steps towards mutual respect and understanding.

## **Reinvigorating Cultural Diplomacy**

Center Stage demonstrates that the arts can create goodwill at the grassroots level, reinvigorating American cultural diplomacy. Through performances, workshops, artist-to-artist exchanges, and community-level interactions, the program takes participants beyond the headlines and common misperceptions to engage artists, audiences, and community members alike as citizen diplomats.

## **Connecting Artists & Communities**

In its first two seasons, Center Stage has toured to 70 communities in 32 states and Washington, DC reaching across the U.S. into places like Bellows Falls, Vermont; Bloomington, Indiana; Gainesville, Florida; Overland Park, Kansas; Helena, Montana; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Seattle, Washington.

"Art can be — and should be —  
**a transformational force** across the globe."

—John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State

Choosing the right mix of artists for Center Stage requires skilled curation and a deep knowledge of the U.S. performing arts marketplace. Once the State Department has identified the nations for initial consideration, Center Stage staff work in concert to activate networks of international artists and presenters. A call for nominations of contemporary musicians, dancers, and theater artists from those countries is issued, and we invite recommendations of groups who might be effective cultural ambassadors from U.S. embassy personnel, regional arts organizations, state arts agencies, and professional colleagues in the U.S. and abroad.

To complete the selection process, curatorial trips to each country make it possible to meet artists in person, seed trust, and establish people to people relationships. Center Stage staff and advisors are hosted by U.S. embassies who play an important role in introducing the program to their artists and communities through meetings, performances, and social events, and through well-crafted media outreach. Each trip includes representatives from American performing arts organizations, who become ambassadors of the program both abroad and upon their return to the U.S.

## **A Dynamic Partnership**

Center Stage was developed by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) in Boston, and Lisa Booth Management Inc. (LBMI) in New York. NEFA and LBMI are natural collaborators for ECA, based on a shared professional expertise and deep commitment to international cultural engagement.

NEFA's programs center on creating opportunities for artists to make and tour work in communities in New England, across the U.S., and around the world. Its track record with both public and private funders and its ability to leverage presenter networks have been instrumental in developing Center Stage. LBMI brings rich experience in managing international performing arts projects, an ideal partner for NEFA in the planning and execution of the complex logistics associated with managing ensembles on overlapping, cross-continental tours.

**“I wish Center Stage had started long ago. We hope to see other similar initiatives that bring people together culturally.”** –Mohammed Guedira, U.S. Embassy, Rabat

## **Small Towns, Big Impact**

**Center Stage is designed to build on, leverage, and bring attention to existing resources in the presenting community**— theaters, schools, festivals, and venues—and to create economies of scale so that even small communities can afford access to international artists.

Center Stage manages the logistics and costs of visas, airfare, travel, and insurance for each tour, and provides content and collateral to enrich and contextualize engagements. Presenters gain access to international performing arts and opportunities to introduce their audiences to cultural worlds outside American borders.

**For artists and audiences alike, Center Stage is filled with discovery and human connection.** Artists stay in each community over a number of days, which provides opportunities to engage with Americans in every-day settings like coffee shops, malls, farms, and festivals. Center Stage can also link visiting artists and émigré communities, engaging new and diverse audiences for many presenters.

.....

The University of Iowa has so far presented Center Stage artist ensembles from Haiti and Morocco as **“part of a strain of programming that focuses on cultural diplomacy and interactions with... artists from countries that are predominantly Muslim.”**

One of the Arab world's most visible rock n roll bands, Casablanca's Hoba Hoba Spirit spent five days on campus in September 2014 as part of Center Stage. **“The chance to work with Moroccan artists brought new ideas to the discussions with students,”** reflected programming director Jacob Yarrow.

.....

## Center Stage 2016

Center Stage 2016 will continue to bring important new voices into the global cultural dialogue, with opportunities for artists, presenters, communities, and supporters to foster mutual understanding through meaningful exchange. Ensembles from Algeria and Tanzania will be announced in the summer of 2015 for touring June-December of 2016.

### In the first two seasons, Center Stage has...

- Visited **70** communities in **32** states and Washington, DC
- Hosted **101** artists in **17** ensembles from 5 countries: Haiti, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, and Vietnam
- Booked **164** performances — indoors and out, ticketed & free
- Planned **538** educational, community, and artist-to-artist activities
- Traveled **62,000+** cumulative tour miles
- Connected with **85,000+** U.S. audience members, participants, and students
- Engaged **200,000+** U.S. and global users of web-based content and social media channels
- Placed **1,000,000+** media impressions (online and print): interviews, features, photo essays and reviews. International outlets include: *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *MTV Iggy*, *The Huffington Post*, *Rolling Stone Indonesia*, *Voice of America*, *The New York Times*, *Dawn* (Pakistan), *The Wall Street Journal*, NPR, WFMU, Hit Radio (Morocco), and the BBC.



HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

# Arabesque

**Realism merges with symbolic movement** when seven dancers conjure agrarian cycles and rural rituals in Arabesque's *The Mist*.

"The more we can bring people of different backgrounds and ethnicities together to meet and develop friendships and appreciation of each other's arts and culture, the easier it is to build a peaceful community that welcomes different perspectives and participation by the broader community."

—Bob Davis, Alabama Asian Cultures Foundation

## OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014

U.S. Debut...3 states & D.C....7 performances...27 residency activities

**NGUYEN TÂN LOC** Artistic Director & Choreographer

**DO THI HAI ANH** Dancer

**MAI MINH ANH KHOA** Dancer

**NGÔ THUY TO NHU** Dancer

**NGUYEN HUU THUAN** Dancer

**PHAM MAI THAO** Dancer & Musician

**TRAN VAN THINH** Dancer

**VU NGOC KHAI** Dancer

**PHAM TRINH BAO TÂN** Lighting Designer/Production Manager





Photo by Sophie Lam

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

## Arieb Azhar



**Sharp eloquence, humanist politics, and mystic poeries** are given a global voice by Arieb Azhar and his band from Islamabad, Pakistan.

“Arieb added a significant, high-profile international element to our program that was artistically excellent..... Even NYC audiences can sometimes need to have their eyes opened to new things, ideas and perspectives. **Arieb definitely widened people’s perceptions** of Pakistan and Pakistani culture.”

—Andrew Horwitz, Curator, River to River Festival

### **JUNE-JULY 2012**

U.S. Debut...7 states & D.C....9 performances...41 residency activities

**ARIEB AZHAR** Vocals, Guitar

**KASHIF ALI** Tabla

**MUHAMMAD AKMAL QADRI** Flute

**ZEESHAN MANSOOR** Guitar

# CENTERSTAGE™

Photo by Sancho Maulien



PÉTION-VILLE, HAITI

## BÉLO



Haiti's groove innovator, BÉLO interweaves the **Afro-Caribbean depths of tradition and today's culture with a progressive voice** for social and political transformation.

"BÉLO was an outstanding advocate, educator, and ambassador for his country and **helped shape a new perspective** for supporting and understanding the needs for building a successful future for Haiti." —Debra J'Anthony, Executive Director, Academy of Music

### **OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2012**

4 states & D.C....20 performances...37 residency activities

**BÉLO** Lead Vocalist and Acoustic Guitar  
**RODYOUME "UME" DIEUJUSTE** Electric Guitar  
**JUNIOR DORCELUS** Electric Guitar  
**EMMANUEL JEAN-BAPTIST** Drums  
**WESNER ST. LOUIS** Percussion  
**JOSUE JUDE NAZAIRE** Bass



Photo by UNCW/James Moncrief

PÉTION-VILLE, HAITI

## Compagnie de Danse Jean-René Delsoin



This company of **high-powered** dancers and drummers, led by choreographer Jean-René Delsoin, cultivate a nuanced, sophisticated view of Haitian culture.

“Each work focused on a personal theme and reflected its country’s roots, incorporating moments of **raw, rugged beauty and times of silent, refined artistry**. For those in attendance, it was a one-of-a-kind experience.” —Laura Vernaci of KC Metropolis

### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2012

U.S. Debut...5 states & D.C....12 performances...46 residency activities

**JEAN-RENÉ DELSOIN** Artistic Director

**JENIFER JESSIE CASTIL** Dancer

**HUGUES H.T. DUPITON** Dancer

**MAKERSON FRANÇOIS** Dancer

**JUDNER ROCK** Dancer

**TÉOPHILO TATTEGRAIN** Dancer

**FRITZNER DAUPHIN** Percussionist

**GÉRALD DAUPHIN** Percussionist

**RODRIGUE JEAN-BAPTISTE** Percussionist

**ROBERT HENDERSON** Lighting Designer & Technical Director



CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

## Fleur d'Orange

In *Identity/Identité*, a new full length dance made for Center Stage, Benali explores her personal past and African roots, the limits and freedoms of Morocco's history and current practices, the multivalent layers of culture and religion, and the lives of her elders.

**"A bold and liberating act."** —*The Washington Post*

**SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014**

4 states & D.C....7 performances...23 residency activities

**HIND BENALI** Dancer, Choreographer

**MOHCINE IMRHARN** Mandolin, Keyboard, Vocals

**SOUFIANE KARIM** Dancer, co-choreographer



Photo by Abigail Maulion

YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

## Jogja Hip Hop Foundation

If there were still any doubt that hip-hop is a **truly global culture**, look no further than Indonesia's Jogja Hip Hop Foundation (JHF).

"Today we met the reality of the Bronx, what hip hop is supposed to be: **the empowerment of community**...and we got a lot of inspiration because of it." —Muhammad Marzuki, a.k.a. Kill the DJ

### **NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2012**

3 states & D.C....8 performances...47 residency activities

**MUH MARZUKI** (Kill the DJ) Director and Rapper  
**YANU PRIHAMINANTO** (Ki Ageng Gantas) Rapper and Producer  
**BALANCE PERDANA PUTRA** (Balance) Rapper and Producer  
**HERI WIYOSO** (M2MX) Rapper  
**VANDA VERENA KARTIKASARI** (Vanda) DJ  
**CHANDRA BERNHARD SUANDI** Filmmaker  
**AULIA ANINDITA** Manager



CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

## Hoba Hoba Spirit

**Unfettered and irreverent**, Hoba Hoba Spirit creates its drive from the bold clack of *qarqaba* (double castanets) and rhythmic swagger of North Africa. With **high-energy delivery, heavy guitars, and droll plays on words**, Hoba Hoba Spirit is Morroc'n Roll — one hook-laden, thought-provoking party.

“Hoba Hoba Spirit set world music expectations on their ear and provided some of the **most exhilarating, forward-thinking sounds** of Bumbershoot 2014.” —*The SunBreak*

### **AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2014**

5 states & D.C....8 performances...21 residency activities

**REDA ALLALI** Lead Guitar, Vocals  
**OTHMANE HMIMAR** Percussion, Vocals  
**ADIL HANINE** Drums  
**SAAD BOUIDI** Bass  
**ABDESSAMAD BOURHIM** Guitar  
**ANOUAR ZEHOJANI** Guitar, Vocals  
**HAMZA CHIOUA** Audio Engineer



Courtesy Giki

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

# Khumariyaan



Khumariyaan's rolling pulse and richly layered sound builds to **frenzied intensity, reawakening** a live music scene in Peshawar. The lute-like *rubab* intertwines with the *zerbaghali* and Pushtoon sitar to create an addictive and accessible pleasure that's ushering in a new era for an eclipsed music.

"The music darted forward — **nimble, vital and determined.**"  
—*The New York Times*

## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014

U.S. Debut...7 states & D.C....8 performances...35 residency activities

**FARHAN BOGRA** Rubab, Pushtoon Sitar

**AAMER SHAFIQ** Rhythm Guitar

**SHIRAZ KHAN** Zerbaghali

**SPARLAY RAWAIL** Lead guitar, Ghungro percussion



PADANG, INDONESIA

## Nan Jombang

Hailing from the island of Sumatra, away from Indonesia's dominant cultures, this family of artists offers a **compelling mix** of Minangkabau performing arts traditions, spiritual practice, and contemporary movement making.

“Martial arts, body drumming and chanting are age-old traditions; using simple means and an eye for sharp visual impact, [choreographer] Ery Mefri has woven them into fascinating theater.....An **extraordinary dance group.**”

—*The Washington Post*

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2012

U.S. Debut...3 states & D.C....12 performances...22 residency activities

**ERY MEFRI** Artistic Director

**ANGGA MEFRI**, Performer

**RIO MEFRI** Performer

**GBY MEFRI** Performer

**INTAN MEFRI** Performer

**RIRIN MEFRI** Performer

**RICCO FADHILLAH** Technical Director





Photo by Mohammed Omer

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

noori



Led by charismatic brothers Ali Hamza and Ali Noor, with powerhouse drummer and producer Louis “Gumby” Pinto, noori’s **complex thematic and musical explorations** result in a great rock and roll show with a distinctive South Asian kick.

“These are very trying times world over. And here we were, Pakistanis performing in front of Mexican-Americans, South Asians, Chinese-Americans, Irish-Americans, and more. When you hit that positive interaction with the audience, it’s not about where I come from, or where you come from; it’s about what we share, **it’s about what we share in a fundamentally human way.**” —Ali Hamza, noori

#### **JUNE-JULY 2012**

U.S. Debut...4 states & D.C....7 performances...30 residency activities

**ALI NOOR** Vocals and Guitar

**ALI HAMZA** Vocals and Bass

**LOUIS JOHN PINTO** Percussion

**FARAZ ANWER** Guitar

**RAKAE REHMAN JAMIL** Sitar

**ZEESHAN PARWEZ** Keyboards, Synths and Loops

**MOHAMMAD OMER** Tour Manager



YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

## Papermoon Puppet Theatre

In a country renowned for its puppetry traditions, Papermoon Puppet Theatre is a **young, contemporary standout**. Their production *Mwathirika*, chronicles the history of loss, and the lost history of a nation in 1965 — Indonesia's Year of Living Dangerously.

**“Brilliant, engaging and enthusiastic** artists in residence at our campus/community for four days — what a treat! Loved the performance, loved the teaching, loved the company.” —Kathryn Maguet, Executive Director of Weis Center, Bucknell University

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2012

U.S. Debut...4 states & D.C....8 performances...51 residency activities

**MARIA TRI SULISTYANI** Artistic Director, Director, Puppeteer

**IWAN EFFENDI** Artistic Director, Artistic Designer, Puppet Engineer, Puppeteer

**OCTO CORNELIUS** Artistic Engineer, Puppeteer

**ANTON FAJRI** Puppet and Set Builder, Puppeteer

**BENI SANJAYA** Puppet and Set Builder, Puppeteer

**YENNU ARIENDRA** Music & Sound Designer

**BANJAR TRI ANDARU** Lighting Designer

**AMANDA MITA** Puppeteer



Photo by Robert Henderson

LAHORE, PAKISTAN

## Poor Rich Boy



At the vanguard of Pakistan's underground indie-art rock phenomenon, Poor Rich Boy, conjures the strangeness of everyday life with **striking vocals, atmospheric sounds**, and English-language lyrics.

"I'm looking to provide an **accessible narrative to our country**. I think we can help provide Americans the opportunity to access what it's like to be a Pakistani." —Shehzad Noor, Poor Rich Boy

### **JUNE 2014**

U.S. Debut...3 states & D.C....5 performances...15 residency activities

**SHEHZAD 'SHEZY' NOOR** Singer, Songwriter  
**ZAIN AHSAN** Rhythm and Lead guitars, Producer  
**DANISH 'DANNY' KHAWAJA** Lead Guitar  
**ZAIN MOULVI A/K/A MOLLY** Bass Guitar  
**RAAVAIL 'BUDDY' SATTAR** Drums, Percussion  
**UMER 'DUCK' KHAN** Singer, Songwriter



AGADIR, MOROCCO

## Ribab Fusion



**A feverishly funky sign of a new era**, Ribab Fusion celebrates Morocco's Amazigh (Berber) culture as it flies from '70s-style funk to Afropop dance vibes, sometimes gritty, and sometimes soothing.

"Even the most ardent aficionados of Afropop may not realize what's hit them when the **sheer exuberance** of Ribab Fusion... washes over them like a **musical tidal wave.**"

—*The Gainesville Sun*

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014

U.S. Debut...5 states & D.C....9 performances...19 residency activities

**FOULANE BOUHSSINE** Band leader, Ribab, Violin, Vocals

**OUARSSAS AHMED** Outar, Guitar

**JAMAL BOUMADKAR** Bass Guitar

**MOHAMED BOUNIT** Traditional Percussion

**REDOUANE MARIS** Keyboards

**YOUNESS TEFTAL** Drums

**MEHDI NASSOULI** Gimbri (Hajhuj), Percussion, Vocals

**BRAHIM EL MAZNEB** Producer



PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

## Ti-Coca & Wanga-Nègès

Masters of Haiti's *twoubadou* (troubadour) tradition, Ti-Coca and his band Wanga-Nègès weave through Haiti's African, Caribbean, and Latin acoustic sounds with the **high-energy determination** and lightness of the group's namesake, the hummingbird.

"Our community got to enjoy a spirited and joyful performance in a style that was **new and different than anything they had experienced before.**" —Neal Copperman, Co-Producer, *¡Globalquerque!*

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2012

4 states & D.C....17 performances...35 residency activities

**DAVID METTELUS** (Ti-Coca) Lead Vocalist and Tcha-Tchas

**BELONY BENIS** Accordion & Backing Vocals

**RICHARD HECTOR** Banjo & Backing Vocals

**WILFRID BOLANE** Manoumba & Backing Vocals

**MATHIEU CHERTOUTE** Conga & Backing Vocals



HANOI, VIETNAM

## Tri Minh's Quartet

**“Rivetingly fresh,”** (Ear Shot Jazz Festival), Tri Minh's Quartet binds electronica, acoustic instruments, and traditional motifs in a program of collaborative and improvised works. *Sounds From Hanoi* opens a window onto one of the world's unsung contemporary music scenes.

“While U.S. and Vietnamese relations are changing, the music of Vietnam is also changing.... At the hub of this scene is contemporary sound artist Tri Minh. **You can pick out the influences from Aphex Twin to John Cage easily** — yet the music as a whole is something entirely different and uniquely Vietnamese.” —*World Music Times*

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014

U.S. Debut...5 states & D.C....7 performances...18 residency activities

**TRÍ MINH** Piano, Electronics  
**PHẠM TRÀ MY** đàn tranh (16 string zither)  
**ĐÚ'C MINH** Mouth Harp  
**HÀ ĐÌNH HUY** Drums, Percussion



Photo by Stacey Boggs

KARACHI, PAKISTAN

## Very Live



**Danish Ali**, a doe-eyed MD turned punster, and improv comedy frontrunner and viral sensation **Ali Gul Pir** will tell you: in Pakistan there's no lack of material for a comic. The comedic trailblazers insist on pushing boundaries in a place where stand-up was virtually unknown.

**"Their depth of enthusiasm for cross-cultural exchange allowed for very real** — and often hilarious — moments exploring preconceived notions and debunking myths about Pakistan and the United States." —Stephanie Pacheco, Outreach & Arts Education Manager at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College

### NOVEMBER 2012

U.S. Debut...4 states & D.C....7 performances...19 residency activities

**DANISH ALI** Comedian

**ALI GUL PIR** Comedian



LAHORE, PAKISTAN

## Zeb and Haniya



Cousins, lifelong friends, and longtime musical collaborators, Zeb and Haniya bring a **global sensibility to earthy originals** and sounds from the Eastern edge of Central Asia, continuing an **unsung tradition of strong female artists** making an impact on Pakistani popular music.

“This program is a very positive approach. Perceptions only change... [when] people meet people. **One person can shatter former perceptions.**” —Zeb Bangash

### SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2012

6 states & D.C....13 performances...52 residency activities

**ZEB BANGASH** Vocals

**HANIYA ASLAM** Acoustic Guitar, Ukelele, Vocals

**HAMZA JAFRI** Guitar

**MUHAMMAD AHSAN PAPPU** Flutes

**AMIR AZHAR** Bass

**KAMI PAUL** Drums



For each ensemble, Center Stage crafts month long tours, comprised of performances, artist exchanges, and community activities unique to each location.

**CENTER STAGE PRESENTERS HAVE INCLUDED:**

- Academy of Music – Northampton, MA
- Akron International Friendship – Akron, OH
- Alabama Asian Cultures Foundation – Birmingham, AL
- American Dance Festival – Durham, NC
- AMP Concerts/¡Globalquerque! – Albuquerque, NM
- Ann Arbor Summer Festival – Ann Arbor, MI
- Arts Brookfield – New York, NY
- Asia Society – New York, NY
- Asia Society Texas Center – Houston, TX
- Baryshnikov Arts Center – New York, NY
- Bay Chamber Concerts – Rockport, ME
- Boothbay Opera House – Boothbay Harbor, ME
- Bossa Bistro/Multiflora Productions – Washington, DC
- Bucknell University, Weis Center for the Performing Arts – Lewisburg, PA
- Bumbershoot Festival – Seattle, WA
- Central College – Pella, IA
- Coker College – Hartsville, SC
- College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University – St. Joseph, MN
- Colorado Mountain College – Breckenridge, CO
- Connecticut College, On Stage – New London, CT
- Dance Place – Washington, DC
- Dancing in the Streets & Casita Maria Center for the Arts and Education – The Bronx, NY
- Dartmouth College, Hopkins Center for the Arts – Hanover, NH
- Duke University, Duke Performances – Durham, NC
- Earshot Jazz Festival – Seattle, WA

- Everett: Company, Stage, and School – Providence, RI
- Fall for Dance, City Center, New York, NY
- FirstWorks – Providence, RI
- Flynn Center for the Performing Arts – Burlington, VT
- Friar's Club – New York, NY
- Great Plains Regional Puppet Festival – West Liberty, IA
- Grinnell College – Grinnell, IA
- Helena Presents/Myrna Loy Center for the Performing and Media Arts – Helena, MT
- Hibernian Hall – Roxbury, MA
- Huntington Arts Council – Huntington, NY
- Inner-City Muslim Action Network – Chicago, IL
- International Festival of Arts & Ideas – New Haven, CT
- Irving Arts Center – Irving, TX
- Johnson County Community College – Overland Park, KS

.....

**“To have seven people come into our studio with all different sounds, and a different set of ideas and experiences was shocking — and great.”**

**— Oliver Hill, *Plume Giant*, which teamed up with *Poor Rich Boy* on tour to co-write songs and perform together.**

.....

- Joshua Tree Music Festival – Joshua Tree, CA
- Juniata College, Halbritter Center for the Performing Arts – Huntingdon, PA
- Kelly – Strayhorn Theater – Pittsburgh, PA
- The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts – Washington, DC
- Lafayette College, Williams Center for the Arts – Easton, PA
- (Le) Poisson Rouge/Ariz, Inc. – New York, NY

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts  
– New York City, NY  
Madison World Music Festival  
– Madison, WI  
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts  
– North Adams, MA  
Monkeyhouse Dance – Somerville, MA  
Old Town School of Folk Music  
– Chicago, IL  
Portland Performing Arts Festival/One  
Longfellow Square – Portland, ME  
Portland Ovation – Portland, ME  
REDCAT – Los Angeles, CA  
The Raymond F. Kravis Center  
for the Performing Arts  
– West Palm Beach, FL  
Richmond Folk Festival – Richmond, VA  
River to River Festival (Lower  
Manhattan Cultural Council)  
– New York, NY  
Rockingham Arts and Museum Project  
– Bellows Falls, VT  
Rockwood Music Hall – New York, NY  
Roots Cultural Center – Providence, RI  
Samford University, Leslie Stephen  
Wright Fine Arts Center  
– Birmingham, AL  
Sandywoods Center for the Arts  
– Tiverton, RI  
Scottsdale Center for the  
Performing Arts – Scottsdale, AZ  
Silvermine Arts Center  
– New Canaan, CT  
Small Town Concert Series – Chester, CT  
Smith's Olde Bar – Atlanta, GA  
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center  
– Miami, FL  
University of Akron – Akron, OH  
University of California, Mondavi  
Center  
for the Performing Arts – Davis, CA  
University of California, Santa  
Barbara Arts and Lectures  
– Santa Barbara, CA  
University of Dayton – Dayton, OH  
University of Denver, Lamont School  
of Music – Denver, CO  
University of Florida Performing Arts  
– Gainesville, FL  
University of Houston/Rajput Media  
– Houston, TX  
University of Iowa, Hancher Auditorium  
– Iowa City, IA  
University of Nebraska, Lied Center for  
the Performing Arts – Lincoln, NE

University of North Carolina  
– Wilmington, NC  
University of San Diego, ArtPower!  
– San Diego, CA  
Upright Citizens Brigade – New York, NY  
Virginia Tech Center for the Arts  
– Blacksburg, VA  
Washington University, Edison Theater  
– St. Louis, MO  
Wellesley College – Wellesley, MA  
Wesleyan University, Center for the Arts  
– Middletown, CT  
WobeeFest – Austin, TX  
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
– San Francisco, CA

Artist exchanges are  
integrated into all tours; they  
provide opportunities to make  
connections with U.S. artists  
and industry professionals.

## **ARTIST EXCHANGES**

Alonzo King LINES Ballet  
Arooj Aftab  
Bombino  
Chief 69  
Converse Rubber Tracks Studio  
Eugene Friesen String Institute  
Fire & The Knife  
Manifold Studios and the Miraverse  
Merge Records  
Mike Watt  
Montrose Recording  
Plume Giant  
Red Baraat  
Robert Moses' Kin  
SoundPure Studios  
The Boston Boys  
ValveTone Recording  
YepRoc Records  
Van-Anh Vanessa Vo  
Words, Beats, and Life  
Bora Yoon  
Youth Speaks  
Zerobridge

# Thank You!

Center Stage would not be possible without the generous support, expertise, and talent from people across the country and around the globe. Our amazing extended network includes:

## ADVISORS:

### ALICIA ADAMS

Vice President Dance &  
International Programming  
The Kennedy Center  
Washington, D.C.

### BILL BRAGIN

Executive Artistic Director  
New York University  
Abu Dhabi Arts Center  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

### ROBERT BROWNING

Independent Producer and  
Former Executive &  
Artistic Director  
World Music Institute  
New York, NY

### RACHEL COOPER

Director, Cultural  
Programming  
& Performing Arts  
Asia Society  
New York, NY

### ASAD JAFRI

Global Arts Producer

### LILY KHARRAZI

Program Manager  
Living Cultures Grants Program  
Alliance for California  
Traditional Arts  
San Francisco, CA

## TOUR STAFF:

### ROBERT W. HENDERSON, JR.

Production Coordinator

### ALEXIS ORTIZ, In-House

Company Manager

### STACEY BOGGS

### CYNTHIA KARAHA

### PAT KIRBY

### SUZANNE LA

### MARIO LAMOTHE

### PHUNG PHAM

### SARAH SIDMAN

### THERESA TEAGUE

### DENISE WILCKE

U.S. EMBASSY STAFF IN HAITI,  
INDONESIA, MOROCCO,  
PAKISTAN, AND VIETNAM

Publicity by **ROCK PAPER  
SCISSORS, INC.**



CENTERSTAGE<sup>SM</sup>



CenterStagePage



@CenterStageUS



CenterStageUS



**The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)** of the U.S.

Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly and peaceful relations. We accomplish this mission through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges that engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and rising leaders in the United States and more than 160 countries. The Bureau supports a variety of arts-based exchange programs that support U.S. foreign policy, foster America's artistic excellence, and demonstrate America's respect and appreciation for other cultures and traditions. [www.eca.state.gov](http://www.eca.state.gov)



Based in Boston, the **New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)** provides leadership and resources that benefit artists, the public, arts funders, and policymakers throughout New England, nationally and internationally. Established in 1976 as one of six regional arts organizations designed to cultivate the arts regionally and strengthen the national arts infrastructure, NEFA works in partnership with, and is supported by, the National Endowment for the Arts and the six state arts agencies of New England. NEFA is the U.S. Department of State's primary partner for Center Stage.

**Contact:** Adrienne Petrillo, Program Manager, Presenting & Touring  
[apetrillo@nefa.org](mailto:apetrillo@nefa.org) Tel +1 617.951.0010 [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org)



LISA BOOTH  
MANAGEMENT, INC.

Based in New York City, **Lisa Booth Management, Inc. (LBMI)** brings contemporary performing arts projects before the widest possible public. A producer, manager and curator, LBMI projects have taken place in more than 400 cities in 51 countries on six continents since 1983. As general manager for Center Stage, LBMI is primarily responsible for tour scheduling, residency planning, promotion, artist care, travel and visa arrangements, production and backline needs assessment and coordination, on-tour staffing and 24/7 oversight.

**Contact:** Lisa Booth (President) and Deirdre Valente (Vice President)  
[artslbmi@msn.com](mailto:artslbmi@msn.com) Tel +1 212.921.2114

With Support From:



ROBERT  
STERLING  
CLARK  
FOUNDATION



asian cultural council



DORIS DUKE  
FOUNDATION FOR ISLAMIC ART