

# Interact Center

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*Creating art that challenges perceptions of disability*

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**INTERACT THEATER TO PRESENT  
*HOT JAZZ AT DA FUNKY BUTT*  
FEATURING ONE OF NEW ORLEANS' HOTTEST JAZZ ENSEMBLES – RUE FIYA,  
WITH IVORY DOUBLETTE, REGINALD HANEY AND  
THE INTERACT ENSEMBLE OF ACTORS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES**

At The Lab Theater  
Previews April 28 and 29: Opening April 30  
Playing through May 21

**Also announcing:**  
***Saturday Night Speakeasies at The Lab***  
Immediately following Saturday evening performances  
May 7, 14 and 21

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) Interact Theater will present *Hot Jazz at da Funky Butt*, an original music theater piece recounting the legendary early days of jazz, set in New Orleans in the early 1900s, a city shrouded in myth and a bit of voodoo mystery. The historic Funky Butt Dance Hall was home to some of the earliest sounds of this groundbreaking new art form, and gave rise to a movement that wailed the voice of some of America's most oppressed – and most gifted – artists. A feast for the eyes, ears and soul, the production features one of New Orleans' best jazz ensembles, **Rue Fiya** and Twin Cities' actors, **Ivory Doublette** and **Reginald Haney** along with the Interact ensemble of performers with and without disabilities. Written by Interact Artistic Director **Jeanne Calvit** and **Dario Tangleon**, with music and lyrics by Ivey award recipient **Aaron Gabriel** and directed by Jeanne Calvit, *Hot Jazz at da Funky Butt* will run April 28 – May 21 at The Lab Theater. A special opening night performance and party with the artists and Rue Fiya on April 30 will benefit Interact Theater.

The music will heat up for *Saturday Night Speakeasies* at The Lab on Saturdays May 7, 14 and 21. Immediately following the 7:30 pm performances, audiences are invited to stay for these special events to dance, jam and party with the band.

*Hot Jazz at da Funky Butt* recreates the myth behind the rise and fall of “King” Buddy Bolden, the man credited as the first musician to embody the sound of jazz, that would ultimately help destroy Jim Crow.

When an impending storm mysteriously pushes a small touring jazz band into the Louisiana State Insane Asylum, waiting inmates are there to share their stories of Bolden's New Orleans, including benevolent societies, marching bands, church life and dance halls of the early 1900s. In January, Interact staff artists Dario Tangelson, Aaron Gabriel and Collette Illarde spent time in New Orleans in workshops with jazz ensemble Rue Fiya. "Being in that incredible city", said Tangelson, "and experiencing the music, food and actual places where Buddy Bolden played and lived helped us infuse the legendary story with a sense of realism as well."

Audiences will be further transported to *The Big Easy* through the amazing music of Rue Fiya. Composed of exceptional musicians, trombonist **Jeremy "Mojo" Phipps**, drummer **Eugene Harding**, pianist **Anthony J. Duplessis, Jr.** and vocalist, **Zena "Zfemi" Moses**, Rue Fiya truly represents the essence of New Orleans' music...GUMBO! Fusing together almost every genre of sound, from Soul, Funk, Jazz, Blues, R&B, Alternative, Rock, Hip-Hop even Reggae. Minneapolis woodwinds musician, **Dave Strong** will also join the production.

Interact Theater also welcomes guest artists Ivory Dublette (*All Shook Up*, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, *Autistic License*, Illusion Theater, *High School Musical*, Children's Theatre Company) and Reginald Haney (*Suessical*, *Midsummer Nights Dream*, Hope Summer Repertory, *Parade*, *Big River*, *Snowy Day*, *Jerry Springer the Opera*). The production also includes **Tom Sandelands (Sound)**, **Marcus Dilliard (Lights)**, **Mikelle Walker (Set & Costumes)**, and **Vanessa Davis (Stage Manager)**.

Interact also thrilled to introduce *Dis/Cover the Arts* with this production. \$5 tickets plus a \$2.50 transportation subsidy (for people using services such as Metro Mobility) are available to the Disability Community and their companions. Tickets can be reserved by calling (612) 333-7977 and mentioning "Dis/Cover Tickets". Offer available to people with disabilities plus one companion per person, based on availability.

Photo: Rue Fiya and 2010 Ivey Award recipient for Best Original Musical Score, Aaron Gabriel, rehearsing in New Orleans.

### **About Interact**

Since 1996, Interact has offered the community a broad-reaching vision of radical inclusion, a philosophy in which every voice and every ability come together in a continually enriching stream of human potential and creative achievement. It is the only place of its kind in the nation: a professional-level visual arts studio and theater that supports the creative growth of artists with disabilities. Spanning cultures and generations, the 125+ artists that make up Interact range in age from 22 to 94, and bring a wide diversity of cultural backgrounds, aesthetic perspectives and life experiences to their work. The 2008 Ivey Award recipient for innovation, and 2010 Ivey winner for best original musical score, Interact Theater has produced over two dozen original, company-created plays at home in Minneapolis, and has toured throughout the U.S. and Scandinavia, as well as to Canada, England and Australia. Interact Gallery has exhibited over 5000 original artworks, and their Studio artists create unique work that is affordable, and highly collectable in the contemporary arts environment.

For more information on Interact, visit [www.interactcenter.com](http://www.interactcenter.com) or call 612.339.5145

INTERACT THEATER PRESENTS  
***HOT JAZZ AT DA FUNKY BUTT***

Created by Jeanne Calvit  
Written by Jeanne Calvit and Dario Tangelson  
Directed by Jeanne Calvit  
Music and lyrics by Aaron Gabriel  
Featuring New Orleans' hottest jazz ensemble - RUE FIYA

Previews: April 28 and 29, 2011 7:30 p.m.  
Opening Night performance and party benefiting Interact Theater: April 30, 2011 6:00 p.m. performance with party immediately following  
Closing: May 21, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Lab Theater  
701 1<sup>st</sup> Street North  
Minneapolis, MN

TICKETS: Standard Tickets: \$18-\$22, Seniors/Students  
Age 16 and under/ Groups 10+ \$15  
Preview tickets \$15  
Opening Night Party Benefit Tickets: \$75 includes: 6:00pm performance followed immediately by a post-show Party with the artists and Rue Fiya  
Dis/Cover Accessibility Tickets: \$5  
Pay As Able/Industry Night Monday, May 16  
*Saturday Night Speakeasy* \$10, or free with show ticket

**Tickets may be purchased online at [www.thelabtheater.org](http://www.thelabtheater.org)  
The Lab Box Office: 612.333.7977**

**PERFORMANCE CALENDAR**

Thurs, April 28	7:30pm preview
Fri, April 29	7:30pm preview
Sat, April 30	6:00 pm opening, with post-show party to benefit Interact immediately following performance
Wed, May 4	11am – brown bag your lunch and post-show discussion
Thurs, May 5	7:30pm with post-show discussion
Fri, May 6	7:30pm with post show discussion
Sat, May 7	3:00pm and 7:30pm, <i>Saturday Night Speakeasy</i> immediately following
Wed, May 11	11am – brown bag your lunch and post show discussion, ASL/AD
Thurs, May 12	7:30pm with post show discussion
Fri, May 13	7:30pm with post show discussion
Sat, May 14	3:00pm & 7:30pm ASL/AD, <i>Saturday Night Speakeasy</i> immediately following

Mon, May 16	7:30pm Pay As Able/Industry Night
Wed, May 18	7:30pm with post show discussion
Thu, May 19	7:30pm with post show discussion, ASL/AD
Fri, May 20	7:30pm with post show discussion
Sat, May 21	3:00m & 7:30pm closing, <i>Saturday Night Speakeasy</i> immediately following

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