

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2016

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INGRI FIKSDAL, INGVIL LANGGÅRD, AND SIGNE BECKER: COSMIC BODY

February 4–7, 2016



MCA Stage presents **Ingri Fiksdal's** new performance **Cosmic Body**. This interactive event channels artist-writers Brion Gysin and William S. Burroughs's *Dreamachine* with pulsating lights that produce complex patterns, shapes, and symbols that surround the audience with color. Part performance and part music event, *Cosmic Body* is Fiksdal's latest collaboration with electronica/EDM artist **Ingvild Langgård** (Phaedra) and visual artist **Signe Becker**. The collaborators challenge traditional ideas of audience engagement with an experience full of choreographed lights, illusions, sounds, and bodies. *Cosmic Body* takes place February 4, 6, and 7 in the MCA's Edlis Neeson Theater.

Fiksdal is naturally inquisitive, constructing *Cosmic Body* as a collective event that also creates a joyously hypnotic individual experience. Her expansion of choreography, as patterns of social units, flows out of a neo-religious idea about ritual. Similarly, William S. Burroughs often described the Dreamachine in his novels as a weapon “of unearthly brilliance and color” against mind control. The prototype device was constructed by Brion Gysin, who was rejected years earlier from the surrealists by André Breton. Gysin lived with Burroughs in the Beat Hotel in Paris, along with Allen Ginsberg and other counterculture pioneers.

In *Cosmic Body*, Fiksdal invites audience members to be seated or stand close to the performers—to have a visual and culturally complex experience. The performances are designed for a small audience, and capacity is limited.

Ingri Fiksdal is a choreographer and performer and the current Research Fellow at the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. Her work has toured to brut-Wien (Austria), Kapnagel (Denmark), In Between Time (UK), ANTI festival (Finland), the Armory Show (New York), Harare International Festival of the Arts (Zimbabwe), and Homo Novus festival (Lithuania). Her collaborative creative process engages human phenomena experienced when facing almost-human creatures (*HOOD*, 2014) or the paradox of a concert experience without musicians, instruments, or sound (*BAND*, 2013).

Ingvild Langgård (Phaedra) studied at the Academy of Fine Art Oslo and is a composer and performer of music for stage and film. She has an electronica/EDM music following as Phaedra, and her core projects employ sound art, analogue film, and video installation. As a curator, she cofounded the artist-run gallery Rekord. Her artwork is shown in Kunstnerforbundet and the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art (Oslo), Lydgalleriet (Bergen), Chashama Gallery, Pulse Art Fair, and the Armory Show (New York), as well as other museums and galleries. Her albums, *Blackwinged Night* (2015) and *The Sea* (2011) have been critically lauded.

Signe Becker studied at the Norwegian Theatre Academy (NTA) and the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. As scenographer with Verk Produksjoner, she received two Norwegian Hedda Award nominations for Performing Arts and Performance of the Year awards for *Det eviga leendet* (2011) and *Stalker* (2013). She represented Norway in 2015 at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space with her installation work.

TICKET INFORMATION

Cosmic Body takes place February 4 at 7:30 pm, February 6 at 7:30 and 10 pm, and February 7 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$30 and available at the MCA Box Office at 312.397.4010 or www.mcachicago.org.

RELATED PROGRAM

MCA Talk

Saturday, February 6, 12:30 – 2 pm, taking place at the Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Randolph St.)

Ingri Fiksdal talks about her latest investigations and engages in conversation with choreographer Ginger Krebs and media artist Vlatka Horvat about contemporary art and performance. Organized in partnership with IN>TIME Festival.

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Image: Ingri Fiksdal, *Cosmic Body*. Photo: Antero Hein.

Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Franke.

Cosmic Body is supported by Ginger Farley and Bob Shapiro, and Arts Council Norway and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lead support for the 2015-2016 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman. Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Franke. Additional generous support is provided by Caryn and King Harris, and Lois and Steve Eisen and the Eisen Family Foundation. The MCA is a proud member of the Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District. Season support is provided by Alphawood Foundation. MCA Stage is a proud partner of the National Performance Network.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies, including the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Museum capital improvements are supported by a Public Museum Capital Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.

The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue, one block east of Michigan Avenue. The museum and sculpture garden are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and Tuesday from 10 am to 8 pm. The museum is closed on Monday. Tuesdays are Community Free Days with free admission for Illinois residents. Suggested general admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Children 12 years of age and under, MCA members, and members of the military are admitted free. Information about MCA exhibitions, programs, and special events is available on the MCA website at mcachicago.org or by phone at 312.280.2660.