

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 20, 2013

FORCE/COLLISION TO PARTICIPATE IN FINAL INSTALLMENT OF ARENA STAGE'S 2012/13 KOGOD CRADLE SERIES

***** Mixed discipline local performance company will present and discuss
new dance/theater project *Trust me* by Falk Richter June 13-16, 2013 *****

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces that **force/collision**, a Washington, D.C.-based interdisciplinary performance ensemble, will participate in this year's **Kogod Cradle Series**, which supports the exploration and development of new and emerging work. The company will present the U.S. premiere of ***Trust me***, a devised dance/theater project created in collaboration with German playwright **Falk Richter**. *Trust me* explores the body and psyche in Western culture through dance, theater, video and music and **runs June 13-16, 2013 in the Arlene and Robert Kogod Cradle**.

"It is exciting to continue the Kogod Cradle Series and further our mission of cradling new work and emerging artists," shares **Arena Stage Artistic Director Molly Smith**. "It's not your average theater space—a project like this from **force/collision** bridges mediums and presents challenges to the audience that will not only help the artists grow, but also the audience and indeed the entire field grow."

Trust me dialogues German and American culture by exploring the lateral effects of cross-continental influences and by examining the shaky foundations and mechanisms of human bonds against the background of current crises. Relationships build up and break down in ever shorter timescales, they become a resource in an increasingly intense competition. The project will also explore the divide between information and sensationalism in modern society and the individual by incorporating notions of media and pop-culture identities.

"One of our areas of inquiry with the project is the value of international collaborations in ensemble driven work," says **force/collision Founding Director John Moletress**. "How can we challenge ourselves to look introspectively into our own process by having dialogues with our colleagues overseas? As **force/collision** experiments with a cross-cultural collaboration, Arena Stage provides an exciting opportunity to host our work under the Kogod Cradle Series. We look forward to sharing our process with Arena's audiences."

Trust me is based on three of Richter's plays that originally premiered in Berlin—*Trust*, *Rausch* and *Protect me*. **Force/collision** has collaborated with Richter to combine these works and also add additional text to create *Trust me*.

"I am excited about **force/collision's** *Trust me*, which gives my work a new and original twist and places it into an American context," adds **Richter**. "I congratulate **force/collision** on this opportunity to present *Trust me* as part of the Kogod Cradle Series at Arena Stage."

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Performances of *Trust me* will be followed by an open rehearsal, giving audience members the opportunity to see the process in action, along with a brief post-show discussion about the performance, development and work of force/collision.

The 8pm performance of *Trust me* on Sunday, June 16 will also be livestreamed on HowlRound TV at howlround.tv. HowlRound TV is a global, peer-produced and open source livestreaming and video project stewarded by HowlRound: A Center for the Theater Commons.

Moletress will be blogging about the development and rehearsal process for *Trust Me* at whereisthetrust.wordpress.com/.

"I'm thrilled to feature force/collision in our final installation of the Kogod Cradle Series for this season," comments **Arena Stage Director of Artistic Programming David Snider**. "Their inclusion in the series gives them a great chance to learn from the audience's participation in the process as they continue to develop this new piece. This is a great opportunity for us to again feature a local company, one that's asking big questions about collaboration, with an international focus to their work. Very exciting."

TICKETS: Tickets for the Kogod Cradle Series are \$10. Tickets may be purchased online at tickets.arenastage.org/single/psDetail.aspx?psn=17320 or by phone at 202-488-3300.

For more information on the Kogod Cradle Series visit arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute/the-cradle-series/index.shtml.

force/collision is an interdisciplinary contingent of artists/collaborators whose mission is the creation of new performance works. Based in Washington, D.C., force/collision was created by theater director John Moletress for the purpose of bringing together artists of mixed disciplines in order to spark dialogue and create space for the presentation of new work. force-collision.org

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater is a national center dedicated to the production, presentation, development and study of American theater. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Director Edgar Dobie, Arena Stage is the largest company in the country dedicated to American plays and playwrights. Arena Stage produces huge plays of all that is passionate, exuberant, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays through the American Voices New Play Institute. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org

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