

## KUNST-STOFF Dance Company 15th-Year Retrospective Anniversary Season

### Dates:

November 8, 9 & 10 2013  
8 & 9 @ 8:00pm, 10 @ 7:00pm

### Ticketing:

Program #1 November 8th \$45  
Program #2 November 9 & 10 \$25

### Location:

ODC Theater 3153 17th Street San Francisco, CA 94110  
Presented by KUNST-STOFF

For the 15th-year "retrospective" performance season at ODC Theater, Yannis Adoniou and co-founder Tomi Paasonen will present three performances with two different programs - re-creations of old works and repertory-inspired new works that reflect their years of art-making history.

**Program #1** November 8th, will include three pieces - *Solo for Yannis* (SF 2008), *98-13* (works from 1998-2013), and the American premiere of *Those Golden Years* (Berlin 2012).

*Solo for Yannis* is a work developed in dialog with Alonzo King. In it the artists ask: "When have you felt the most alive and what did that feel like?", "What do you want to accomplish before you die?", "What is the purpose and meaning of life?", "When the body dies, what happens?". Big questions for a small solo centered on the essence of pure performance presence, the evening as a whole is sourced from a rich palette of movement, intention, and human expressivity.

*98-13* is composed of material from works created by Adoniou for KUNST-STOFF from the period of 1998-2013.

*Those Golden Years* is a piece performed by Adoniou and directed by Paasonen in which he reconstructs a dream he had the night before his mother died. It premiered in 2012 at Dock11 in Berlin Germany.

**Program #2** November 9-10 will feature two world premiers -*Giga Hz* by Tomi Paasonen and *Back to 1999* by Yannis Adoniou.

In *Giga Hz*, Tomi Paasonen will revisit material of his piece *Mega Hz*, created for the opening season of KUNST-STOFF in 1998. This piece was a time capsule that was formed when the city was waking from the aftermath of the AIDS epidemic; the millennium fever was fueling people's imaginations for the future and the ".com boom" gold rush shook its wave of gentrification through the artists communities of San Francisco. The internet was heralded as the new tool of true democracy, bringing a new dawn for the next stage of mankind evolution. Fifteen years later, what are the sociological repercussions of this technology today? What are the environmental realities behind the façade of a high-tech society? How does the constant fragmented information flow affect our thinking and our bodies?

Yannis Adoniou's world premiere, *Back to 1999*, is a retrospective dance/theater piece that deals with actions and re-actions within time and space. Reflecting upon events that have shaped us in a world that is always changing around us, *Back to 1999* questions what we hold onto and what we let go. The work acts as a platform in which unleashed personalities deal with situations that reflect comedy, tragedy, nostalgia and camp sensibility.

**Works to be performed by:** Katie Gaydos, Lindsey Renee Derry, Calvin Hilpert, Daiane Lopes Da Silva, Leyya Tawil, Ivo Serra and Yannis Adoniou.

Original music score created by David Jude Thomas and Jethrow DeHart

[www.kunst-stoff.org](http://www.kunst-stoff.org)

### Video Links:

Solo for Yannis: <http://vimeo.com/69576439#>

Those Golden Years: <http://vimeo.com/66231432>

**About:**

K U N S T S T O F F = synthetic, plastic, artificial, or unnatural  
K U N S T = art, S T O F F = things

KUNST-STOFF, is a Goldie award winning, contemporary dance company that has been creating eclectic movement-focused art experiences for the past 15 years.

KUNST-STOFF is known for its unusual and highly visual theatrical dance works, which merge different art forms, often creating unexpected collisions and provocative beauty. While versed in the realm of established dance techniques, the company's work steps outside the "known" with a distinctive movement style that extends the body beyond codified limits. KUNST-STOFF has had the honor of appearing on the stages of some of the most dedicated dance presenters in the U.S.A. including ODC Theater, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the San Francisco International Arts Festival. The Company's touring schedule has included, MANCCY Tallahassee FL, the BERLIN TANZTAGE Festival, the Dimitria International Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece, The Southern Theater in Minneapolis, Velocity Dance Center in Seattle, Dock 11 in Berlin, and the 5th Athens International Dance Festival among others.

**Yannis Adoniou, Artistic Director, Choreographer & Dancer**

Yannis Adoniou, renowned Greek artist was born in Athens, where he received his first formal dance education. Since 1998 he has been leading the critically acclaimed arts organization, KUNST-STOFF, co-founded with Tomi Paasonen. In 2010 Adoniou founded KUNST-STOFF arts, a studio/art space located in downtown San Francisco, designed to host performing and visual artists from around the globe. Adoniou works in dance, film, opera and takes active roles as a curator, producer, and educator.

Beyond his formal training at The State School of Dance and John Neumeier's Hamburg Ballet School, Adoniou's passion for dance began at an early age at family gatherings and social events. These early memories still drive his curiosity for art-making today. His work challenges and reconsiders the established knowledge and social behavior that we have been taught and speaks to finding one's personal truth.

Adoniou has frequently been in collaboration with nationally known composers, and visual and media artists. His production, "Rebetiko-ρεμπετικο", on the music of Minos Matsas sung by Catherine Clambaneva, received critical acclaim and toured in the USA and Europe.

Adoniou was a principal dancer with Alonzo King's LINES Ballet from 1993-1998 and a regular guest artist across the USA and Europe. In addition to his work with KUNST-STOFF Dance Company, Adoniou has created works for companies and Universities such as Seattle Opera, Sacramento Ballet, Bonn Ballet, Opera Santa Barbara, the Modern Department at the University of Utah, West Bay Opera, West Edge Opera, and Lines Ballet/Dominican University, among others.

Adoniou's works has been commissioned and presented by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, ODC Theater, CounterPULSE, Dock11 Berlin, Burning Man, Herbst Dance Festival in Heidelberg, Germany, Dance Forum Monaco, Dimitria International Dance Festival in Thessalonica, Greece, the Athens International Festival, and Ballet Frankfurt, among others.

He earned the first place award at Sacramento Ballet's capital choreographic competition for his creation, "Gomidias Songs", based on the music of Gomidas Vardabet, and has received support and acknowledgement for his work as a dancer and choreographer from the Isadora Duncan Awards, Irvine Foundation, Dance/USA, 2005 Goldie Awards, San Francisco Arts Commission, MANCC national center for choreography, and the Gerbode Foundation, among others.

**Tomi Paasonen, Director and Choreographer**

Tomi Paasonen is a Berlin-based director, choreographer and visual artist born in Helsinki, Finland. After dancing with the Hamburg Ballet, Alonzo King's Lines Ballet and The Joffrey Ballet, he co-founded KUNST-STOFF, a San Francisco based inter-disciplinary physical theatre and arts-event production company. In 2000 he moved to Berlin, where he launched PAA (Public Artistic Affairs). He currently works internationally sharing his time between these entities and works as artistic planner and curator for ITAK, an organization overseeing the contemporary dance infrastructure in all of the eastern part of Finland.

His eclectic dance-, opera- and media works have a strong aesthetic language that often is rooted in documentary layers, provided by the theme-specific casts he chooses for his productions. His practice of working both with professional dancers, performers, singers, actors and laymen, such as disabled performers, prisoners, sexual minorities and people from all walks of life, has led him to develop an expansive array of theme-specific improvisation and device methods. His stage works often break the

spacial separation of audience and stage. Currently his work is increasingly dealing with interactive structures, giving the spectator more power to intervene and shape the event and breaking structures into unpredictability.

Tomi has been awarded with the critic's awards in San Francisco by Allan Ulrich, "Theatre Event of the Year 2000" in Finland for his piece *Olotila - State of Being* and "Pro Dance Award" in Finland for innovations in the field of dance. KUNST-STOFF has been awarded with the Bay Guardian Goldie Award - Company of the Year in San Francisco and his piece "W" was nominated for the Isadora Duncan Award for best piece of 2004 in San Francisco. Critics Choice "Collaboration of the Year 2007" by Arnd Wesemann / Ballett/Tanz for the piece "Interface". His piece "Monogram" won 2nd price at the International Solo Dance Festival in Stuttgart in 2009. His work has been performed in throughout Europe, in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Brazil, Hong Kong and Tokyo.

### **Jethro DeHart, Composer and Musician**

Jethro DeHart has been know to cameo as musical director off and on for KUNST-STOFF for the past 10 years, composing, mixing/engineering, designing sound, and on occasion, performing live with them in various pieces, such as *Yia Yia* and *Cross Currents*. Mr. DeHart has also been spotted from time to time, fronting the San Francisco alternative band "Habitforming" on the center microphone while dangerously wielding an electric guitar at the same time. Jethro has spent much of the last seven tenths of is his life in the deep end of the music dept.: writing, rehearsing, recording, engineering, wiring, twisting knobs and performing live using any available instrument in his path to harness the forces. To date, there are 3 full length releases, "Habitat" , "Involved" and "Slow Motion Drifting" which is a 14 song compilation of instrumentals created for various dance/theater performances over the past 10 years.

### **David Jude Thomas, Composer**

David Jude Thomas is artistically compelled by obsessive compulsions derived from personal, historical, cultural and socially relevant events to express himself in multiple medias from his private studio in San Francisco, California. Music, illustration, painting, photography, film and video are just a few of the disciplines he pulls from. David Jude has worked with KUNST-STOFF as a sound and video designer, performer & graphic designer. As a video artist he has worked with the band Bauhaus among others. He's involved with several documentary/Narrative projects, one of them, for musician and songwriter David J. In 2006, as visiting video artist at California Institute of the Arts, he created a visual interpretation of movement and dance for multi-screen projections for the CalArts Dance Ensemble's 29th Season. He has written, produced, shot, edited and composed numerous short films and video pieces such as "Requiem 1 & 2", "Cry me a River", "Jarman", "Thursday's Child", "Girl Eats Apple" and the feature lenght film "Metalface". Mr. Thomas has Exhibited his visual art in numerous exhibitions, such as SPARK, KQED Benefit, events by Effection and CalArtSF Elements 1 and Klubstitute events.