

LAY OF THE LAND

written & performed by
TIM MILLER

Hi Everybody,

I am really excited to be part of PS 122's 30th anniversary season! Seems like just a few minutes ago that I was a teenager arriving in NYC to seek my fortune and shortly after co-founded PS 122 in 1980! I did my very first performances in this building in 1980. There is an 80's skinny queer boy performance artist lurking about somewhere!

Thanks for coming to this hot-off-the griddle new performance LAY OF THE LAND. This performance has been fueled and challenged by the events in Florida, California, Arkansas and Arizona Nov 4, 2008 when our fellow citizens voted to take our rights away, most outrageously in California with the narrow passage of Prop 8 that stopped marriage equality after only a few months. Last Fall's vote in Maine taking away equality for gay folks there was a real blow as was the pro Marriage Equality Judges in Iowa getting removed for their important marriage equality decision. It is very hard to understand how a tiny majority of Californians voted to amend the state Constitution to take rights away from a minority and to attack 18,000 California LGBT families. We are in such a time of change and possibility. I started a run thru rehearsal of this performance not long ago and by the time I finished New Hampshire and Iowa passed marriage equality! Yippee. The "lay of the land" of this piece is changing every day even as the Federal trial of Prop 8 resulted in Judge Walker's fantastic decision overturning Prop 8 but now making it's way thru the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. It is going to be really charged doing this new show here in NYC about Prop 8 as the Federal 9th Circuit Court takes up Prop 8 in televised hearings on Dec 6 during the middle of my run here at PS 122!

Though it is very disheartening to have so many states that want to permanently enshrine bigotry in their Constitutions by denying gay folks civil marriage rights, on the bright side, it is SO exciting as the civil marriage revolution happens in the District of Columbia Iowa, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Canada, Spain, Argentina, Holland, South Africa and Belgium. Having been working on these marriage equality issues for years in my performances, it's very gratifying to have it be filling the media, courts, State Legislatures and national dialog. It's all scary but thrilling as we get to that "tipping point" of social change! Let's all keep pushing! At this challenging time in our national life, let's remember to maintain our commitment to advancing civil rights for all our diverse communities.

These performances of LAY OF THE LAND are dedicated to Alistair McCartney, my partner in life and love. Huge thanks to Vallejo Gantner and everyone at PS 122 for making this performance and workshop residency possible. I am excited to be doing a performance workshop intensive while I am in NYC and we will be presenting a performance out of our work Sunday Dec 12 here at PS 122 at 5:30. Come by! Or if the workshop hasn't started yet, join in! Info below.

I'll be out right after the performance to say hello and sign copies of my books BODY BLOWS and 1001 BEDS, which won the 2007 Lambda Literary Award for best book in Drama-Theatre. I have a couple of signed copies of Alistair's novel THE END OF THE WORLD BOOK! Come hang out! Buy me a drink!

INTENSIVE PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP WITH TIM MILLER
Dec 4-12 at PS 122 culminating in a performance Dec 12 at PS 122

THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR PEOPLE TO GATHER TOGETHER AND EXPLORE CREATING ORIGINAL PERFORMANCES

I will be leading a week long intensive performance workshop here at PS 122 Dec 4-12. This will be a great opportunity to work on performance making with a great bunch of people. My goal is to share a variety of strategies to create original performances from the tremendous energies and stories that are present in our lives. Using our own memories and myths as a jumping off point, we will see where a deep sense of personal history creates performance that jumps out from our bodies onto the stage or the page. We will work intensively for a week and the workshop will culminate in an ensemble-generated public performance Dec 12 at 5:30 here at PS 122!

Talk to me after the show or email me.

MillerTale@aol.com

TIM MILLER BIOGRAPHY

TIM MILLER is an internationally acclaimed performance artist. Miller's creative work as a writer and performer strives to find an artistic, spiritual and political exploration of his identity as a gay man. Hailed for its humor and passion, Miller's has tackled this challenge in such pieces as SEX/LOVE/STORIES (1991), MY QUEER BODY (1992), NAKED BREATH (1994), FRUIT COCKTAIL (1996), SHIRTS & SKIN (1997), GLORY BOX (1999) Us (2003), 1001 BEDS (2006) and LAY OF THE LAND (2009). Miller's performances have been presented all over North America, Australia, and Europe in such prestigious venues as Yale Repertory Theatre, the Institute of Contemporary Art (London), the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He is the author of the books SHIRTS & SKIN, BODY BLOWS and 1001 BEDS, which won the 2007 Lambda Literary Award for best book in Drama-Theatre. His solo theater works have been published in the play collections O Solo Homo and Sharing the Delirium. Miller has taught performance at UCLA, NYU, the School of Theology at Claremont and at universities all over the US. He is a co-founder of two of the most influential performance spaces in the United States: Performance Space 122 on Manhattan's Lower East Side and Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica, CA. Miller has received numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1990, Miller was awarded a NEA Solo Performer Fellowship, which was overturned under political pressure from the Bush White House because of the gay themes of Miller's work. These artists, the so-called "NEA 4", successfully sued the federal government with the help of the ACLU for violation of their First Amendment rights and won a settlement where the government paid them the amount of the defunded grants and all court costs. . Though the Supreme Court of the United States decided in 1998 to overturn part of Miller's case and determined that "standards of decency" are constitutional criterion for federal funding of the arts, Miller vows "to continue fighting for freedom of expression for fierce diverse voices." After a nine-year stint in New York City, Miller returned home to Los Angeles, California where he was born and raised. He currently lives there with his husband Alistair in Venice Beach.

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Performance Space 122 is New York's ultimate destination for cutting-edge theatre, dance, music, live art and multi-media.

PS122 is dedicated to supporting and presenting artists who explore innovative form and provocative content and who rigorously challenge the boundaries contemporary performance; PS122 is committed to a steadfast search for pioneering artists from a diversity of cultures, nations and beliefs.

For thirty years, Performance Space 122 has been a hub for contemporary performance and an active member of the East Village, as well as the wider cultural community in N.Y.C. and across the globe.

In just the past 4 years, under the curatorial vision of Artistic Director Vallejo Gantner, PS122 has opened the curtain on more than 2,100 performances, welcomed more than 100,000 visitors, and supported the work of more than 1,800 artists, performers, choreographers, playwrights, directors and designers.

Performance Space 122 passionately advocates for U.S. artists in New York and across globe.

Our organization and the artists we present are reclaiming their relevance to wider social discourse by engaging artists, audiences and other community leaders in cultural, economic, and environmental debates about what it means to live in contemporary society. Please join us.

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