



fantastic excavations of ordinary things

racoco productions inc.

www.racoco.org

Chris Becker, composer, lives and works in New York City composing, arranging, and recording music. He has composed music for dance, mixed-media installations, and film. His recent work includes composing music for Racoco Productions including 16 individual compositions for *If the Shoe Fits* (2005). Other works by Cohen scored by Becker include *Recidivistas* (2005), their ongoing multidisciplinary project *Thrown* (first premiered May 2006 at Harvard University) and *Cornell Box* (2007), an installation performance inspired by artist Joseph Cornell. Becker performs live on laptop computer with trumpeter Lewis “Flip” Barnes and guitarist Lynn Wright. The trio of Barnes, Becker and Wright has performed in collaboration with filmmakers, poets, and dancers as well as guest musicians including Tony Maimone, Paul Watson, Grant Curry, and Jeremiah Hosea. Becker recently performed on laptop with percussionists Max Lord and Tim Fenney in an evening of improvised Butoh dance. In 2006 Becker released his CD *Saints & Devils*, a suite of ten tracks inspired by Southern music (rural blues, gospel, Cajun) and iconography. Composed, recorded, and mixed by Becker, the CD includes performances by musicians from New York City and New Orleans and was mastered just two weeks before Hurricane Katrina hit the U.S. gulf coast. *Saints & Devils* has since been featured on WNYC’s *New Sounds* (with host John Schaeffer) and *Overnight Music* (hosted by Helga Davis). Becker has received grants from Meet The Composer, the American Music Center, and the Louisiana Division of the Arts. More info at www.myspace.com/beckermusic.

Rachel Cohen, choreographer, graduated from Harvard University with a degree in “Performance as Communication,” a self-designed major. She created the performance company Racoco Productions in 2003. She and Patty Rosenblatt have been joint artists-in-residence at the Sanskriti Foundation in New Delhi, India, and at the Santa Fe Arts Institute in New Mexico. Cohen was Harvard University’s 2006 Clifton Visiting Artist. In 2007 she created a site-specific work with visual artist Agata Olek for the annual Performance Festival and Conference in Bytom, Poland. Cohen was commissioned to create a solo for Christine Jowers/Moving Arts Projects in 2004. She choreographed the rock music video “Jetsetter” for Morningwood and Capitol Records in 2005. She has studied dance with Claire Mallardi, Mary Anthony, Bertram Ross, and Heather Cornell; mask and clown with Rafael Bianciotto, Ariane Anthony, and Jim Calder; Meisner technique with Wendy Ward; poekoelan, an Indonesian martial art, with Sam and Karen Duffy; and action theater with Ruth Zaporah and Cassie Terman. She has performed in films and on stage with Julie Atlas Muz, SHUA Group, Ariane Anthony + Company, Mary Anthony Dance Theater, Christopher Caines Dancers, Le Minh Tam, and Theodora Skipitares, among others, and on television on *The Montel Show* and *Anderson Cooper 360°*.

Patty Rosenblatt is a Boston-based sculptor, printmaker and installation artist. Her installations are microcosms of the natural world, accretions of earths and minerals. She exposes them to water and air in accelerated versions of geological processes, and draws attention to the changes they undergo and to our habitual assumptions about the flow of time. Rosenblatt and Cohen have been working together since 2006. In 2007 they were Artists in Residence at the Sanskriti Foundation in New Delhi, and at the Santa Fe Art Institute in New Mexico. Rosenblatt received a Joan Mitchell Foundation Scholarship in 2007 and an Artist Fellowship from the Somerville (MA) Arts Council in 2008. Rosenblatt studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. “Healing Touches,” a mural she created in collaboration with families who have lost children to cancer, is permanently installed at the Dana Farber Cancer Center. She has exhibited at diverse New England venues such as the Brickbottom Gallery, Cairn Croft Sculpture Garden, and the Fuller Craft Museum. Her work has been featured in “Big RED & Shiny: An Online Arts Journal for Boston,” *The Boston Globe*, *Ceramics Monthly*, and WBZ-TV4, Boston. Her statement: My works explore time. My installations are microcosms of the natural world, accretions of earths and minerals. I expose them to water and air in accelerated versions of geological processes, and draw attention to the changes they undergo. The paradoxical effect of these constructions is that they slow time and create spaces for reflection and contemplation. At the other end of the time continuum, my large sculptures freeze moments and give material form to spaces presumed empty, while the prints capture matter in various stages of transformation.

Racoco Productions held its first official season in 2003 with the self-produced *How Many Licks* at Williamsburg Art Nexus in Brooklyn. The company’s 2005 *If the Shoe Fits*, created with composer Chris Becker and visual artist Agata Oleksiak, was called “a refreshing alternative . . . lavish and fully realized,” with a “real possibility of major accomplishment to come,” by John Rockwell from *The New York Times*, who listed it among his dance highlights of that year. The company has been presented at New York City’s World Financial Center Arts and Events series, The Brick Theater in Brooklyn, “Entertaining Science at the Cornelia Street Café,” Dancenow Downtown, The Construction Company, Galapagos Art Space, The Surrealist Fashion Show at the WAH Center in Brooklyn, The Williamsburg Dance Festival, Chashama, The Slipper Room, The Ensemble Studio Theater, Mary Anthony Dance Theater, The Paragon Theater in Times Square, Rififi, Hunter College, Pier 66, and Rawspace; at the Kemp Playhouse in Virginia Beach as part of American Dance Guild presents; in London, England, at a benefit for The Rainbow Trust, and at the Hip Hip Cabaret at the Bethnal Green Working Men’s Club; at Mix-Art Myrys in Toulouse, France; at Harvard University; and at the Norte Maar Festival in Rouses Point, New York. Cinewomen NY’s Pioneer Screening Series presented the company’s short film *Flight of Fancy*, at New York’s Pioneer Theater.

Racoco Productions has received a Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation US Arts International grant, a Creative Connections grant from Meet the Composer, and a grant from the American Music Center. The company is a resident company at Galapagos Art Space in Brooklyn, New York.



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MUSICIANS

Lewis “Flip” Barnes, trumpeter, is influenced by Miles Davis, Kenny Dorham, Booker Little, and Thad Jones. Virginia born, NYC reared, and Howard University educated, Barnes plays trumpet with bassist William Parker’s Little Huey Orchestra, The Inside The Songs of Curtis Mayfield project (with Amiri Baraka), and Parker’s critically acclaimed quartet (which includes Rob Brown on saxophone and Hamid Drake on drums). He has also lent his trumpet vocal and electric bass stylings to Greg Tate’s collective Burnt Sugar, saxophonist Jemeel Moondoc, guitarist Jean-Paul Bourelly, The Holmes Brothers, singer Norah Jones, drummer William Hooker and numerous other musical projects. Barnes is a board member of Arts For Art producing the annual groundbreaking Vision Festival.

Helga Davis, vocalist and performance artist, mixes rock, jazz, soul, classical and funk to create her own unique brand of music that defies boundaries. In addition to her own shows, she has performed in New York City and abroad with artists including Women in Love with Greg Tate, Grisha Coleman’s Hotmouth, conductor Butch Morris, Carl Hancock Rux, and composer Craig Harris. Ms. Davis is currently appearing as Hilarion in Robert Wilson’s The Temptation of Saint Anthony with music by composer Bernice Johnson of Sweet Honey in the Rock. This summer, Ms. Davis sang with composer Craig Harris’ Nation of Imagination Band in several performances across New York City of his commissioned work TriHarLenium: A Sound Portrait of Harlem. Ms. Davis is WNYC’s weekend overnight host and recently received the ASCAP Deems Taylor Multimedia award for 24:33 – a 24 hour and 33 minute program of music by and archival interviews with John Cage broadcast to commemorate his 95th birthday.

Lynn Wright, a Brooklyn-based guitarist/composer, has collaborated with a wide range of artists in the experimental rock, ‘world’, and new music scenes, including gothic-soul songwriter James Hall, Latin indie rock band Cordero, composer Chris Becker, and the Berlin chamber-pop ensemble Bee and Flower. He currently works as a composer and producer of music for television and film; is a member of the electric Miles influenced, Afro-Colombian music collective Gachupín; delves into improvisation with the Barnes/Becker/Wright Trio and the Lepers of Melancholy; continues to explore the collision of trance, minimalism and the spirit of Sonny Sharrock with the instrumental trio Ballroom Dance Is Dead; and leads his own, song-oriented band ...And The Wiremen.

DANCERS

Joelle Arnusch lives and dances in Regina, Saskatchewan with choreographer/dancer Robert Regala. They recently spent a year teaching and performing in Taiwan. Joelle has been a member of Racoco Productions since 2003. She has also performed in New York City with Ariane Anthony and Company, Mary Anthony Dance Theater, and J. Mandel.

Katie Brack became a member of Racoco Productions in 2005. She has performed with numerous New York City dance companies including Molissa Fenley, Pam Tanowitz Dance, Sally Schuling Dance, and Anita Cheng Dance Company. For the past three years Ms. Brack has worked with Piper McKenzie Productions, a dance theater company based out of the Brick Theatre in Williamsburg. Other theater credits include Fluke, Strange News from Another Planet, Idiot’s Delight and several independent films. She received her BA in dance from Butler University and trained professionally on scholarship at the Merce Cunningham School.

Rebecca Ketchum attended Goucher College where she studied Dance, Arts Administration, and French. Since graduation she has taught many subjects in Chicago, Thailand, Maine, and the Bronx. She recently finished her Masters of Arts in Education at Harvard University and has been dancing, baking and working with Racoco Productions, Movementpants, The Red Cat, CAKED, and The Laundress ever since.

MODERATORS

Patrick Grant is a composer, performer and producer who creates music for concert, stage and visual media. He has created scores for theatrical visionaries Robert Wilson (including installations), The Living Theatre and Gerald Thomas. His score for the Margaret Jenkins Dance Co. in San Francisco was nominated for best dance score of 2003 by the Isadora Duncan Dance Awards. His music has been commissioned and presented by Deitch Projects, the Columbus Museum of Art, Roberts & Tilton Gallery in LA., the Fort Worth Modern Museum and the Louvre in Paris, France. His production company sTRANGEmUSIC, through its One-Two-Three-GO! performance series, has presented over 40 unique events (and counting) throughout the galleries and alternative spaces of NYC.

Richard Mazda, an English actor/writer, founded the Queen’s players, a non-union acting company, in January 2005. The inspiration is NYC’s wonderful pool of actors and a desire to present new work, which is normally difficult to achieve without financial backing. He also founded and runs Long Island City’s The Secret Theater.