

RIVER TO RIVER



Thursday, June 25 at 4:00pm (Open Dress Rehearsal)
Friday, June 26 at 4:00pm
Saturday June 27, at 2:00 pm
Sunday, June 28 at 2:00pm
in the Arts Center at Governors Island

ABOUT LOVE OF A POET

"His artistic versatility is legendary in the downtown arts scene, and deservedly so. It's hard to think of another performer who has so successfully maneuvered through so many different artistic disciplines. He is, for me, among the most interesting artists alive."

- David Roman, Theatre Journal

Acclaimed performance artist John Kelly is recreating his Obie Award winning work, *Love of a Poet*, on Governors Island for the 2015 River To River Festival.

Music, movement, film and visual art combine in this performance installation built around Robert Schumann's 'Dichterliebe' of 1840, the iconic song cycle of the Romantic Period based on poems by Heinrich Heine. Kelly, singing in his signature countertenor voice, portrays a lovesick poet hiding from the world as natural elements and personal demons haunt him and flood his space. The work examines the tensions between the everyday world and the seemingly irrational and supernatural projections of creative genius.

The first version of *Love of a Poet* (created by Kelly in 1990) was presented as a site-specific work in the Battery Maritime Building. That building now serves as the point of embarkation for Governors Island, where the 2015 version of the work will be staged in The Arts Center. As a completely revised work made from an old shape, this production allows Kelly to reinterpret one of his benchmark creations for a new audience.

Visual artist Jarrod Beck has created a new installation that serves as the atmospheric setting for the performances. The project's original lighting designer, Stan Pressner, has reinterpreted his design for the new space. The production also includes English translations by theater critic and translator Michael Feingold, and the original black and white 16mm film sequences by filmmaker Anthony Chase.

Documentation of and ephemera from the original 1990 production of *Love of a Poet* is included in the exhibition "(Counter) Public Art, Intervention and Performance in Lower Manhattan 1978-1993" on the main level of the Arts Center at Governors Island.

These performances are dedicated to Huck Snyder and Fernando Torm-Toha.

ABOUT JOHN KELLY

John Kelly is a performance and visual artist. Subjects have included the Berlin Wall, the Troubadours, Mythology, and Expressionistic Film, and character studies based on Egon Schiele, Caravaggio, Antonin Artaud, Joni Mitchell, and Jean Cocteau. These works have been performed at The Kitchen, Lincoln Center, the Warhol Museum, the Whitney Museum, PS 122, BAM's Next Wave Festival, and London's Tate Modern. Awards include 2 Bessie Awards; 2 Obie Awards; 2 NEA American Masterpiece Awards. Fellowships include The American Academy in Rome; The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study; The Guggenheim Foundation; and a 2013 USA Artists Award Fellowship. He is currently working on Time No Line, a series of performance works based on his journals and workbooks.

Please visit johnkellyperformance.org for more information.

CREDIT

Concept, Direction, Performance: John Kelly

Music: Robert Schumann

Lyrics: Heinrich Heine

Music Direction, Piano: Christopher Cooley

Installation: Jarrod Beck

Film Sequences: Anthony Chase

Lighting Design: Stan Pressner

English Texts: Michael Feingold

Stage Manager: Philip Sandstrom

Consulting Producer: Craig Hensala

PROJECT SUPPORT

Love of a Poet is supported in part by Art Matters and Howard Gilman Foundation. John Kelly Performance is supported in part by the Good Works Foundation.

Love of a Poet was originally produced by Creative Time and Dance Theater Workshop in collaboration with John Kelly Performance for presentation in the Battery Maritime Building in lower Manhattan in 1990.

Yamaha S6 premium grand piano provided by Yamaha Artist Services, New York.

During River To River, you can enjoy a **25% discount** from the following Merchants Hospitality establishments by mentioning "River To River" between June 18-28, 2015: **The Black Hound, Clinton Hall, Industry Kitchen, Merchants River House, Pound & Pence, SouthWestNY, Watermark**

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Make sure you use the hashtag **#R2R15** so that we can follow along!

ABOUT RIVER TO RIVER

The annual River To River Festival is June 18-28 in Lower Manhattan and on Governors Island!

Over 11 days, River To River offers more than 60 **live events and happenings**, all of which are free to the public. As a festival goer, you can attend dance and music performances, **socialize** with festival artists and art lovers during our R2R Living Room events, and **learn** more about the creative processes of artists during our Open Studios events.

To learn more about River To River, visit RiverToRiverNYC.com.

SUPPORT LMCC

LMCC works in partnership with artists, individuals, local organizations, and civic, corporate, and cultural leaders to build vibrant communities that are at the forefront of arts and culture. Together, we foster artistic growth and long-term sustainability that invigorate our diverse neighborhoods downtown and reach communities throughout Manhattan and the wider NYC metro region.

JOIN OUR ROBUST NETWORK of individuals from across the business and cultural sectors who share a passion for both the arts and the growing community in Lower Manhattan. Find out more about ways to become a donor, a volunteer, or a sponsor, as well as how to support the artists working in our programs by attending a special event by visiting LMCC.net/support/

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Additional support has been provided by Ameriprise Financial, Con Edison, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, National Parks Service, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYC Department of Transportation, and Trinity Wall Street.

River To River is also supported, in part, by public funds from NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.