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Event Website: <http://www.zspace.org/murmuration>

Z Space presents:

MURMURATION

A series of solo performances at Z Below



SAN FRANCISCO, CA—January 24, 2017—Z Space is proud to present *Murmuration*, a new series of solo performances that provides a platform for a selection of diverse voices from the rich and varied Bay Area theatre community. Over the course of five weeks, **Kevin Rolston**, **Rotimi Agbabiaka**, **Cara Rose DeFabio**, **Jason Bayani**, **Evan Johnson**, and **Dazié Grego-Sykes** will perform at Z Below, Z Space's intimate black box theater.

Press photos: <http://zspace.phanfare.com/14419399> or listed under individual shows.

The Shows



Kevin Rolston in **Deal with the Dragon**

Developed with and directed by M. Graham Smith

February 8th, 10th, 12th & March 5th, 11th

Named one of six “brilliant and startling Bay Area theater” pieces of 2016 by KQED Art’s John Wilkins, *Deal with the Dragon* manages to be both a grown-up fairy tale laced with terror and a darkly camp comedy. A wittily subversive fairytale, coming-out story, and sordid confessional, Kevin Rolston’s brilliant solo show is a big, grown-up, sophisticated piece of work...a play that builds and builds in ambition and complexity until its surprising yet inevitable conclusion.

“We tend to think of theater as existing in the moment, but much of our experience of it is after the fact. And Kevin Rolston’s *Deal with the Dragon* gave me more after-the-fact pleasure than any other play this year. I just couldn’t stop thinking about all the ways this show burrowed into my mind.”

Kevin Rolston (writer/performer) is a San Francisco actor and playwright. His first play *Crystal Christian* (about the hypocrisy of loud-mouthed homophobes who get caught doing crystal meth with gay hookers) enjoyed a workshop production at Magic Theatre in 2008. His second play *This Many People* (about the lives of Bay Area LGBTQ senior citizens) premiered at Counterpulse as part of the 2010 Queer Arts Festival.

Deal with the Dragon, his first solo show, was chosen by **The List – the guide to what’s on in the UK** as one of the top twenty (out of 900) theater shows to see at the 2016 Edinburgh Fringe.

As an ensemble actor he was last seen as Charles Cooper in ACT’s staging of “8 – the marriage equality play”. Other acting credits include *A Steady Rain* at Marin Theatre Co, *The Crowd You’re In With* at Magic Theatre, *Blithe Spirit* at CalShakes, *Once In A Lifetime* at ACT, *Doubt* at Center Rep, *Opus* at TheatreWorks and many others.

**Rotimi Agbabiaka in
TYPE/CASTE**

Directed by Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe

February 9th, 11th, 12th, 28th & March 7th



In his hilarious new solo show, SF Mime Troupe and Word for Word veteran Rotimi Agbabiaka shape-shifts from character to character and uses monologue, song, dance, and drag to embody, explore, and expose the battles minority artists fight in the exclusive world of mainstream American theatre.

Based on Rotimi's real life experience as a professional actor, *Type/Caste* is a fast-paced and humorous journey into the peaks, pitfalls, and hallucinations of a young artist's quest for success in a gentrified and commercialized industry as he attempts to create outsider art in a profession that favors insiders and in spite of the soul suck of capitalism. In this moment of #oscarssowhite, *Type/Caste* is a personal look at the politics of (mis-) representation on the American stage.

Video Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/191244399>

Rotimi Agbabiaka (writer, performer) is an actor, singer, writer, director, and teaching artist. He most recently appeared in *Sojourners* (Disciple Ufot) and *runboyrun* (boy) at Magic Theatre, in *Hair* (*Hud*) with Bay Area Musicals, *Holiday High Jinx* (Dancing Dan) with Word for Word, *Choir Boy* (Junior) at Marin Theatre Company, *The Amen Corner* (David) with Alter Theater, *We Are*

Proud To Present ... (Another Black Man) at Just Theater, and *Raisin in The Sun* (Asagai) at Cal Shakes. He is a collective member of the San Francisco Mime Troupe, a former cast member at Beach Blanket Babylon, and his solo play, *Homeless*, won Best Solo Performance at the SF Fringe Festival. He has done drag at Club Something and Hard French and has presented his writing at the Radar Reading Series and Queer Autonomous Zone. He also teaches youth theatre with Each One Reach One, SF Shakespeare, and the SF Mime Troupe Youth Theatre Project, and writes articles for Theatre Bay Area magazine. He studied at Moscow Art Theatre and earned his MFA from Northern Illinois University. For more info, visit: <http://www.rotimionline.com/>.

Photo by Shot In The City Photography

jason bayani



**Jason Bayani in
Locus of Control**

February 16th, 18th, 19th & March 3rd, 8th

International touring author and spoken word artist, [Jason Bayani](#) explores the narrative of the fourth-wave Filipino immigrant through poetry, storytelling, and performance. Drawing upon nearly twenty years of work, Bayani pieces together the story of the latest and most robust wave of migrants to come from the Philippines, and contemplates what this identity has become in America and what it will be in the future.

Jason Bayani is a graduate of Saint Mary's MFA program in Creative Writing. He is a Kundiman fellow and a veteran of the National Poetry Slam scene whose work has been published in *Fourteen Hills*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *Mascara Review*, the National Poetry Slam anthology, *Rattapallax*, Write Bloody's classroom anthology— *Learn Then Burn*, and other publications. As a member of seven National Poetry Slam teams, he's been a National Poetry Slam finalist and

represented Oakland at the International World Poetry Slam. He is also one of the founding members of the Filipino American Spoken Word troupe, Proletariat Bronze, and has been an organizer for the Asian and Pacific Islander Poetry and Spoken Word Summit. His first book, *Amulet*, was published in 2013 through Write Bloody Press and has garnered acclaim in literary magazines such as *Zyzzyyva* and *Glint*. He is currently the program manager for Kearny Street Workshop, the oldest multi-disciplinary Asian Pacific American multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country.

www.jasonbayani.com



**Cara Rose DeFabio in
Virtual Girlfriend Beta
February 15th, 17th, 19th & March 2nd, 9th**

Come beta test *Virtual Girlfriend*, the new show where you—the audience—will find Cara Rose DeFabio a Tinder date! We'll swipe our way to heart of that burning question of the digital era: can you find true intimacy online? Bring your phones and your feelz for an IRL evening peering into our cyborg feminist future.

Cara Rose DeFabio is a transmedia artist living in her hometown of San Francisco, scouring the furthest reaches of the internet for stories about how technology is changing who we are. Blending autobiography and non-fiction storytelling with a love of digital culture, her work examines what is gained and what is lost as we hurdle towards the future. Her 2014 solo show, *After the Tone*, awarded 'Best of Fringe' at SF Fringe Festival, investigated digital afterlife and how we mourn while connected. Currently she spends her daylight hours crafting live journalism events for Gizmodo, and

translating emojis for those in need.

Recommended for audiences 18 and over.



**Evan Johnson in
DON'T FEEL: The Death of Dahmer**
February 22nd, 24th, 26th & March 4th, 12th

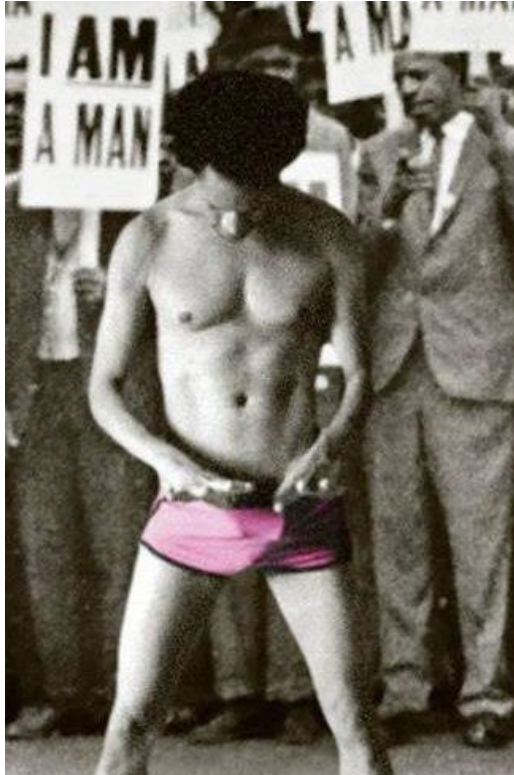
DON'T FEEL: The Death Of Dahmer takes place within Jeffrey Dahmer's final moments of brain activity. This unique setting makes for an experimental performance event that confronts the viewer with a multitude of questions. What happened to the soul of "born-again" Jeffrey Dahmer once his fellow inmate (nicknamed "Christ") struck him dead? What effect does Dahmer's story have on the collective queer psyche? Should we place Jeffrey Dahmer in the queer continuum? Is abnormal sexuality a choice? Who is to blame for compulsive behavior? During the fast-paced performance, Johnson contorts his body and manipulates his voice to play a plethora of characters both real and imagined, creating a disturbing world in which Dahmer, as a troubled queer man, wrestles with his mortality and the fate of his soul.

Video Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/9542689>

Press Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/46115770@N08/4352387786/>

Evan Johnson is the actor/creator of two solo works, *PANSY* (New Conservatory Theatre Center) and *Don't Feel: The Death of Dahmer* (Mama Calizo's Voice Factory). *Don't Feel* was featured in the Bay Guardian's year-end-review as one of the best theatre productions of 2010. *PANSY* has been shown in San Francisco (NCTC, SAFEHouse for the Arts), Blue Lake, CA (Dell'Arte International), Portland, OR (Post5 Theatre), and New York City (United Solo Festival at Theatre Row).

Photo by David Wilson



**Dazié Grego-Sykes in
I AM A MAN**

February 23rd, 25th, 26th & March 1st, 10th

San Francisco Bay Area performance artist, poet, and activist Dazié Rustin Grego returns to the stage to offer audiences *I AM A MAN*, an exploration of gender expectations and masculinity. This work is Grego's protest in response to the slaying of Jorge Steven Mercado, a Puerto Rican teenager whose killer solicited him for sex, believing him to be a female. When his killer discovered Mercado was in fact male, he was murdered, decapitated, dismembered, and burned.

This multidisciplinary solo work focuses on the ways in which gay men of color claim and hold their masculinity. This is a masterfully told story full of deep, thought-provoking characters with a richness and honesty that is rarely seen. In the spirit of the Pomo Afro Homo's, this work brings you deeply into the core of what is Black and Gay.

I AM A MAN takes a unique look at masculinity from a gay male perspective. "Historically, we have been conditioned to define gender and sexuality norms from the viewpoint of the heterosexual community," Grego explains, "but maleness exists regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. I

AM A MAN maintains a core identity based in manhood while bending the ideologies around what it actually means to be a man."

Dazié Rustin Grego-Sykes is a poet, performance artist, and activist. Dazié's performance work and style was developed in the streets of Oakland, California and in The Experimental Performance Institute at New College San Francisco where he received his BA in Queer Performance and Activism. He has developed and produced several solo plays including *3*, *Where Is Adam*, and *I AM A MAN*. Currently Dazié is studying to receive his MFA in Creative Inquiry at The California Institute of Integral Studies.

<http://www.daziegogo.com/>

About the Title

Starlings pay attention to a fixed number of their immediate neighbors in a flock—seven, to be exact. This more concentrated focus optimizes the balance between group cohesiveness and an individual bird's ability to manage uncertainty and change. With this awareness, thousands of birds can fly together in perfectly coordinated harmony.

The unique and beautiful pattern that emerges from these interactions is called a murmuration.

This phenomenon reminds us that connecting deeply with the individual experiences of those around us is essential to the success of the whole. At Z Space, we celebrate the beautiful pattern that is our community.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

WHAT:

Z Space presents Murmuration, a solo performance series

WHEN (LISTED BY INDIVIDUAL SHOW):

Kevin Rolston in *Deal with the Dragon*

Wed, Feb 8th - 7 PM

Fri, Feb 10th - 8 PM

Sun, Feb 12th - 6 PM

Sun, Mar 5th - 6 PM

Sat, Mar 11th - 8 PM

Rotimi Agbabiaka in *TYPE/CASTE*

Thur, Feb 9th - 7 PM

Sat, Feb 11th - 8 PM

Sun, Feb 12th - 2 PM

Tues, Feb 28th - 7 PM

Tues, Mar 7th - 7 PM

Cara Rose DeFabio in *Virtual Girlfriend Beta*

Wed, Feb 15th - 7 PM

Fri, Feb 17th - 8 PM

Sun, Feb 19th - 6 PM

Thurs, Mar 2nd - 7 PM

Thurs, Mar 9th - 7 PM

Jason Bayani in *Locus of Control*

Thurs, Feb 16th - 7 PM

Sat, Feb 18th - 8 PM

Sun, Feb 19th - 6 PM

Fri, Mar 3rd - 8 PM

Wed, Mar 8th - 7 PM

Evan Johnson in *DON'T FEEL: The Death of Dahmer*

Wed, Feb 22nd - 7 PM

Fri, Feb 24th - 8 PM

Sun, Feb 26th - 6 PM

Sat, Mar 4th - 8 PM

Sun, Mar 12th - 6 PM

Dazié Grego-Sykes in *I AM A MAN*

Thurs, Feb 23rd - 7 PM

Sat, Feb 25th - 8 PM

Sun, Feb 26th - 2 PM

Wed, Mar 1st - 7 PM

Fri, Mar 10th - 8 PM

WHERE:

Z Below, San Francisco, CA

TICKETS:

\$20, available at www.zspace.org, 866.811.4111

Packages Available:

\$35 for 2 shows

\$50 for 3 shows

\$60 for 4 shows

\$70 for 5 shows

\$80 for 6 shows

About Z Space

Z Space empowers artistic risk, collaboration, and camaraderie amongst artists, audience, and staff in the service of creating, developing, and presenting new work.

Operating two venues in San Francisco's historic Mission District, a mainstage and a black box theater, Z Space hosts new works from a variety of performance disciplines year-round. Keystone initiatives include New Work, a development program that supports artists and ensembles from conception to realization of unique works; Word for Word, a resident theatre company that transforms works of literature verbatim to the stage; and Youth Arts, an arts education program promoting literacy and engaging students' creativity.

We foster opportunities around the nation for these works and we engage diverse audiences through direct interactions with the process, the projects, and the artists.