Some of the nation’s top theater artists — Anna Deavere Smith (“Fires in the Mirror”), John Leguizamo (“Ghetto Klown”), Colman Domingo (“Wild With Happy”) — will be working on their next projects side-by-side with acclaimed newer writers like Annie Baker (“Circle Mirror Transformation,” “The Aliens”) and complete newcomers in Berkeley Repertory Theatre’s next Ground Floor research and development laboratory in June. Among other residencies and projects announced by Ground Floor director Madeleine Oldham are new plays and/or musicals by Dave Malloy (“Beowulf,” “Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812”), Julie Marie Myatt (“The Happy Ones”) and Lisa D’Amour (“Detroit”), working with site-specific artist Katie Pearl (as PearlDamour) on a piece about all the towns in America named Milton.

Some of the projects have excitingly international resonances, such as one being developed by Aditi Brennan Kapil, a Swedish-raised writer of Bulgarian and Indian descent, with Indian actor-songwriter Manu Narayan and Serbian pop-rock/folk composer Radovan Jovicevic. Others delve into fascinating aspects of Bay Area history, such as “FSM,” a new work by San Francisco Mime Troupe veterans playwright Joan Holden and songwriter Bruce Barthol with Daniel Savio and Stagebridge’s Marge Betley. Or playwright Dominic Orlando and composer composer Brian Carpenter’s “The Barbary Coast.”

It’s enough to make you want to be not one but a dozen flies on various walls. Besides which, there’s a new piece by The Kilbanes. I’ve been wanting to see this group’s next theatrical venture ever since their tantalizing “Weightless” rocked the S.F. Fringe a couple years ago.

http://blog.sfgate.com/artsandnot/2014/02/26/berkeley-rep-fills-up-its-next-ground-floor/