
PRESS RELEASE

i = u Festival celebrates improvisation in music and the arts

Yinka Shonibare's East London arts space Guest Projects hosts first musical residency this September bringing together some of London's most talented young artists

London, 13th August 2013: Yinka Shonibare's Guest Projects art space hosts the first *i = u festival* (pronounced as 'I equals you'), offering a ten-day free programme showcasing a variety of London's talented improvisers, composers and performers. The festival promotes audience and performer interaction through innovative improvisatory approaches to classical, popular and experimental music, with collaboration with dance, art, theatre and film. The festival runs from 12th-21st September 2013.

i = u features some of London's most progressive, young and up-and-coming musicians, like genre-bending cellist Ayanna Witter-Johnson (19th), violist Max Baillie in collaboration with experimental sound musician Leafcutter John of Polar Bear (14th), and the 12 ensemble, a new un-conducted ensemble of 12 string players (21st).

The programme combines vanguard experimental technology, like the motion-capture laptops used to generate music by the Oxford Laptop Orchestra (21st), with innovative approaches to traditional and classical music. American pianist Bobby Mitchell leads a series of programmes that aim to 'kickstart the classical', re-imagining our relationship to classical works, from Brahms and Schumann to Chopin, through improvisatory approaches (12th).

Educational workshops feature classical improvisation guru David Dolan of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (17th Sept) as well as the Quest Ensemble, building a two-day collaborative composition of rehearsals with a performance-specific ensemble (16th & 18th). Featured London-based composers include American clarinetist Jonathan Russell and Brian Mark (13th), Noam Faingold and his Burning City Orchestra (19th), and the Whiggly Ensemble (experimental composer-performers Federico Rueben, Justin Christensen, Steve Potter and Eugene Feygelson, 13th). Musical explorations of multi-medium forms include performances by guitarist/photographer Michael Dylan Ferrara (20th) and collaborations with tap dancer Junior Laniyan (14th) and actor Oliver Senton from the award winning 'Showstoppers: The Improvised Musical' (20th).

FOR MORE INFORMATION go to iequalsufestival.com. All performances will take place at Guest Projects, 1 Andrews Road, E8 4QL, and are free to the public, but must be booked online at iequalsufestival.com.
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