

**D** **Y** **W** Your guide to weekend *fun!*  
**Did You Weekend?**

5/28, 30—VPL and MIFA partner to present a powerful re-imagining of *Le Sacre du Printemps* by French choreographer Thierry Thieû Niang

May 6, 2014 Admin Berkshires, Stage No comments

VPL and MIFA partner to present a powerful re-imagining of *Le Sacre du Printemps* by French choreographer Thierry Thieû Niang on May 28 and 30

Guilford, VT and Holyoke, MA – Vermont Performance Lab (VPL) and Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) team up in an exciting partnership that will bring French choreographer Thierry Thieû Niang to New England for a three-week residency. Working with adventurous local participants ages 60-100 in Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont, Niang will workshop a re-imagining of *Le Sacre du Printemps* by Igor Stravinsky and Vaslav Nijinsky. The workshop will culminate in public showings on Wednesday, May 28th at 7pm at The Serkin Center, Marlboro College in Marlboro, VT and on Friday, May 30th at 7pm at The Hub at Gateway City Arts in Holyoke, MA.



Since 2000, Niang has been working extensively in theater and opera with world-renowned institutions including the International Festival of Opera in Aix en Provence, La Scala in Milan, the Monnaie and Les Tanneurs in Brussels, the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and Le Théâtre de la Ville in Paris. Niang's choreography explores sociopolitical constructions and the various ways we live together through the relationships between individuals and groups, amateurs and professionals, and the narrative and abstract.



In Niang's re-imagining of *Le Sacre du Printemps*, participants will explore the history, music and significance of this 100 year-old work through a series of discussion and movement-based workshops. Niang's work with senior citizens inverts the youthful orientation of this iconic work to challenge assumptions and prejudices about vitality, sexuality and aging.

Following both performances there will be a post-performance reception with the artists.

This workshop and residency with Thierry Thieû Niang is funded in part by FUSED: French-US Exchange in Dance, a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, and FACE (French American Cultural Exchange), with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Florence Gould Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, a Small & Inspiring Grant from The Vermont Community Foundation and VPL's Creation Fund donors.

#### EVENT INFORMATION:

Vermont Performance Lab and Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts

present ***du Printemps***

by French choreographer Thierry Thieû Niang

featuring 25 local non-dancers ages 60-100

Wednesday, May 28 @7PM @ The Serkin Center, Marlboro College, Marlboro, VT

Friday, May 30 @7PM @ The Hub at Gateway City Arts, 92-114 Race Street, Holyoke, MA

Vermont Performance Lab (VPL) and Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) team up to bring French choreographer Thierry Thieû Niang to New England for a three-week workshop and residency. Working with 25 local participants ages 60-100 Niang stages a powerful re-imagining of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.

#### TICKETS:

For reservations to the show on Wednesday, May 28 @7PM, call VPL at 802-257-3361 or reserve online by visiting [www.vermontperformancelab.org/events](http://www.vermontperformancelab.org/events)

For reservations to the show on Friday, May 30 @7PM, call MIFA at 413-540-0200

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Thierry Thieû Niang is a dancer and choreographer who danced for choreographers such as Hela Fattoumi, Eric Lamoureux, Daniel Larrieu, Christine Gérard, Daniel Dobbels, and Odile Duboc. He began to choreograph after returning from a trip to Vietnam as part of his fellowship with the Villa Médicis in 1993. Since 2000 he has been working extensively in theater and opera with world-renowned institutions. He offers courses and choreographic workshops for children and senior citizens and works frequently in schools, at-risk communities, hospitals, and prisons, bringing in other collaborators including writers, musicians, and visual artists.

#### ABOUT VERMONT PERFORMANCE LAB (VPL):

Vermont Performance Lab is a Guilford-based non-profit arts organization dedicated to supporting artists in the creation and development of new work and bringing artistic experiences to rural Vermont communities. Since 2006 VPL has brought artists of regional, national and international stature to elementary classrooms in Marlboro and Guilford, to youth in Brattleboro and Bellows Falls through partnerships with Youth Services and the Windham County Regional Career Center Program and various community halls and theaters including the Broad Brook Grange, the Marlboro Town House, the Bellows Falls Opera House, Marlboro College and New England Youth Theater. Last year VPL's community and education programs served more than 1,500 students, families, young professionals and seniors in Windham County through workshops, informal performances and art-making experiences. [vermontperformancelab.org](http://vermontperformancelab.org)

#### ABOUT MASSACHUSETTS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS (MIFA):

MIFA's mission is to present the finest examples of contemporary practice in the performing, visual and literary arts for the purposes of educating, entertaining and enriching lives. MIFA serves the economic revitalization of Holyoke through the preservation and reopening of the historical landmark Victory Theatre. For more information visit [www.facebook.com/MIFAVictoryTheatre](http://www.facebook.com/MIFAVictoryTheatre)