

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Team Sunshine Performance Corporation premieres
JapanAmerica Wonderwave
with opening entertainment by Christopher Sean Powell and Kate Watson-Wallace**

"...danced with earnestness and poignancy...."

-Broad Street Review

"...[a] clever use of the mundane everyday...the contrast between Hirano's languor and Camp's unconcerned urgency was fascinating."

-Thinking Dance

JapanAmerica Wonderwave is what Team Sunshine - comprised of Philly-based artists Alex Torra, Makoto Hirano, and Benjamin Camp - considers a "comedic dance-theatre elegy", an hour-long devised, ensemble work that serves as a funny and touching response to the events of March 11, 2011.

On that day, the country of **Japan** was hit with a 9.0 **earthquake**, causing a subsequent **tsunami** and triggering the second largest nuclear accident in history, killing nearly 19,000 people. The moment after news hit the United States was particularly significant to the company and, specifically, to the project's lead artist Makoto Hirano, **an American of Japanese descent**. For Hirano, that moment, which existed between post-disaster and pre-understanding, threw into focus questions of what is **consequential** and inconsequential in our daily, American lives and the difficulties of empathizing with something that feels so big and yet, as we move through the world, so small.

JapanAmerica Wonderwave captures two friends, one of Japanese heritage and one not, attempting to **understand and process tragedy** in our world today. Toying with theatrical presentation, the two performers create for an audience a **first-person comedic/funerary collage**, placing themselves inside and outside of tragic situations, delicately enacting images of natural disasters, heroically voyaging to a post-tsunami Japan, and **wildly dancing** to the music that they listen to in times of desperation. The piece employs a playlist of **American and Asian pop music** and an ever-shifting zoom-in/zoom-out visual design as the piece's performers grapple with the discomfiting sensation of **powerlessness in a time of distant crisis**.

Team Sunshine's *JapanAmerica Wonderwave* has been seen as a work-in-progress at the Asian Arts Initiative's mini-Festival "Home: Far and Near" and at the Commotion Festival, a project of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.

The evening will feature an "opening act" by musician Christopher Sean Powell and choreographer Kate Watson-Wallace. He will be providing preshow ambient music and performing a set of rhythms and electronics backed up by dancing by Watson-Wallace and another dancer for your entertainment pleasure.

PERFORMANCE DATES

Previews (with No Opening Act)

Friday, April 26, 2013 – 8pm

Saturday, April 27, 2013 – 8pm

PRESS and VIP Performance

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 – 7pm

Thursday, May 2, 2013 – 7pm (Opening Night)

Friday, May 3, 2013 – 7pm
Saturday, May 4, 2013 – 7pm
Sunday, May 5, 2013 – 3pm
Thursday, May 9, 2013 – 7pm
Friday, May 10, 2013 – 7pm
Saturday, May 11, 2013 – 7pm
Sunday, May 12, 2013 – 3pm (Closing)

TICKETS/TIMES:

Running time: Approximately **90 minutes**

Venue: **Christ Church Neighborhood House**, 20 N. American Street, Philadelphia

Tickets are available on a sliding scale, \$10-\$60, and on sale at www.teamsunshineperformance.com

Beer Sponsorship provided by **Old Forge Brewing Company** (www.oldforgebrewingcompany.com).

JapanAmerica Wonderwave Creative Team:

Lead Artist/Performer: Makoto Hirano

Creator/Performer: Benjamin Camp

Creator/Director: Alex Torra

Scenic/Lighting Designer: Oona Curley

Sound Designer: Mikhaal Sulaiman

This Production is made possible in part by New Stages for Dance. Leadership Support for the New Stages for Dance Initiative is provided by MetLife Foundation. New Stages for Dance is a program of Dance/USA Philadelphia. This production is also made possible by support provided by the Wyncote Foundation as recommended by Leonard C. Haas.

THE COMPANIES

Team Sunshine Performance Corporation is a Philadelphia based company of theatre and dance creators looking for something unique, passionate, dark, and hilarious from contemporary American live performance. Formed in 2008 by Benjamin Camp, Makoto Hirano, and Alex Torra, Team Sunshine has created events that range from live theatre and dance performances to apocalyptic audience interviews and art-trading gatherings. The company's pieces come from a deep desire to share with audiences an experience undeniably American, squarely placed in our culture and our time. Works include *Punchkapow* (2010), *Zombie Defense Consultations* (2011), *Terrarium* (2013), *Huddle Live* (biannually), and *JapanAmerica Wonderwave* (2013), with several in development.

anonymous bodies || art collective is an interdisciplinary performance company co-directed by Kate Watson-Wallace and Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, based in New York and Philadelphia. As a collective, the two co-directors create work independently and collaboratively, creating an array of art projects, that range from solo performances in gallery settings, to larger performance installations on-site. They are a project-based company that collaborates with a diverse group of dancers, visual artists, musicians, stylists, and DJs. They draw upon the traditions of visual art, post-modern dance, site-specific study, conceptual and performance art, audience participation and public spectacle. Known for their creative use of ordinary space, anonymous bodies "has a gift for making pockets of space feel infinite. Wild imagination ruled." (The New York Times)

Christopher Sean Powell (aka Pow Pow, aka Pay Pow, aka Powserati) is a self-taught rhythm scholar, producer, and beat-maker living in Philadelphia, PA. As a main contributor in the Philadelphia art and sound collective Need New Body, which fused improvisation with popular song structures, Powell began a career of international recording and performance, creating music at the nexus of art and entertainment. Since 1999, he has collaborated, recorded, and toured worldwide with a diverse spectrum of artists and musicians, including the Sun Ra Arkestra, Yoko Ono, and the Boredoms. Powell's work in the eclectic and high energy Philadelphia band Man Man (ANTI- Records) has helped focus his talent as a leader in the live performance context. Together with Griffin Rodriguez, Powell explores popular music based on jazz and non-Western rhythms as the Los Angeles production duo Icy Demons. His latest projects include *Adventuredrum*, a conceptually-based performance Powell composes for an ensemble of drummers, *Spaceship Aloha*, a solo project mixing Polynesian-infused beats in an electronic soundscape, *GRANT\$*, a hip hop duo with artist Tim Fite, and *Mash Up Body*, a collaboration with avant-garde choreographer Kate Watson-Wallace.