

Sept 28, 30 & Oct 1  
Elstad Auditorium

*A translation of*  
**Romeo & Juliet,**  
Act 1, sc 5

**DIRECTED BY**

Lorraine Ressegger-Slone

**DEvised BY**

Navid Azeez,  
Kala Granger, Tosin Olufolabi &  
Lorraine Ressegger-Slone

**PERFORMED BY**

Navid Azeez, Jordana Fraider,  
Natasha Gallop, Kala Granger, Aaron Loggins, Elaine Yuko Qualter &  
Carol Spring

**STAGE MANAGER**

Trent Harper



## The Brief Story of Sense-Able & Party On

Sense-Able was born from dog & pony dc's realization—somewhat embarrassingly—that as an audience-focused and boundary-pushing as we are, we were still operating from a pretty rigid "center of normalcy" when it came to our theatre-making practices. In 2014-15 as we were working more intimately with artists who are Deaf, producing in art museums and other non-theatre venues, and incorporating more interactive technology, we came to understand that we weren't fully utilizing all the theatrical design elements or manipulating them for tactile or interactive use as much as we could. With Sense-Able we're chipping away at the idea of "normal" in how we make and experience theatre. In challenging our aesthetic frames, we're searching for new inroads to create more inclusive audience-integrated theatre.

In 2015, we decided our first area of focus would be the elimination of sight and sound in our performance generation process—as if we were making short pieces for DeafBlind community. This was inspired by a Scene4magazine article "My Dream Play" by DeafBlind poet John Lee Clark. As a mixed hearing and Deaf, and exclusively sighted, company, we recognize that it is the dominant culture (hearing, sighted, non-disabled, etc.) that needs to be doing the learning and awareness. We ended up joining forces with the DeafBlind Theatre Project, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, which gave us a theatrical focus—"Shakespeare without Sight or Sound." Party On, is our second "Shakespeare without" performance.

*What are our assumptions and biases about how theatre should be made and experienced?*

*How can we work to overcome them?*

*What art-forward techniques can we develop to make change in ourselves, audiences, and, eventually, the field?*

## The People of dog & pony dc

**ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR** Rachel Grossman

**RINGLEADERS** (Audience Integration) Ivaria Stack

**CONSPIRATORS** Colin K. Bills | James Caverly | Natasha Gallop | Tyrone Giordano | Kerry McGee | Tosin Olufolabi | Elaine Yuko Qualter | Jon Reynolds | Lorraine Ressegger-Slone

**ENSEMBLE ASSOCIATE** Kala Granger

**ENSEMBLE INTERN** Trent Harper

**GRAPHIC ARTIST** Sydney Koffler

The artists and staff of dog & pony dc are supported by a generous and talented community of ASL/English Interpreters. They complete our ensembles time and again, consistently going above and beyond. We are indebted to them. ILLY

Party On is part of dog & pony dc's Sense-Able initiative and is linked with dog & pony dc's participation in the DeafBlind Theatre Project. This performance is supported in part by a grant for Shakespeare without Sight or Sound from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

dog & pony dc is supported in part by generous gifts from the Weissberg Foundation, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and the Bills Charitable Trust, as well as a community of dedicated individuals who give every year to our annual fund. Thank you for making our work possible.

### Special thanks for their support of Party On and Sense-Able:

Jill Bradbury, Ethan Sinnott, Jacob Fisher, John Lee Clark, Jelica Nuccio, Oscar Serna, Woolly Mammoth Theater Company, Gallaudet University Theatre & Dance and English Departments, Celebrate Petworth, Roberta Gasbarre



## The Purpose of dog & pony dc

dog & pony dc is a D.C.-based theatre company, a national leader in audience engagement.

Our **MISSION** is to inspire self-discovery, forge new relationships, and champion social change.

We **VALUE** audience, innovation, leaps of faith, playfulness, and generosity.

Our long-term **VISION**: we seek to upend the way non-profit theatre is made and consumed, repositioning it in service to its audience and community.

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement:

The representation and inclusion of people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and experiences in our ensemble, board, and audience leads to the creation of a more beautiful, joyful, and just world. The ensemble and board's commitment to this enhances our work, and therefore the D.C. community and dog & pony dc's growing global audience.

