

## BFS MIDDLE SCHOOL DAY OF ARTS & ACTIVISM, WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 2017

### PANEL (9:10-10:00)/BREAKOUT SESSIONS (10:05-10:40)

[Jeff Rothberg](#) is a true New York City artist, born in Manhattan and raised out in Brooklyn. Jeff is a graduate of Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, NY) where he received his BFA in Communication Design. He's best known for his digital and fine art work. Some of Jeff's mediums consist of digital / graphic design, painting, drawing, clothing, photography, silk screen, lino print, stained glass, ceramics and videography. Jeff has worked with clients such as Universal Music Group, Bad Boy Records, MMG, MTV, VH1, BK / NJ Nets, DECON / Mass Appeal, Surf School Recordings, Lenny Williams, Puff Daddy, Rick Ross, French Montana, Dead Prez, producer Harry Fraud, director Marcus A. Clarke, Lil' Cease, Styles P, G-Dep, Sean Price and Shabaam Sahdeeq. Some of Jeff's notable works include creating and art directing the album cover art for French Montana's hit singles "Shot Caller," "Shot Caller Remix" and "Everything's A Go." His most recent highly successful pieces, "BATTLE IN BROOKLYN," "I SIT WITH KAEPERNICK" and "ALL FUN AND GAMES" have continued to catapult his name toward being one of the more creative and smart-assed artists in the world. He is also a BFS alum. (Breakout: Meetinghouse)

[The Rude Mechanical Orchestra](#) is a New York City radical marching band and dance troupe. Through our music and performance, we strive to support people and communities working for social justice. We play protests, demonstrations, direct actions, picket lines, marches, benefits and events for good causes. We function as a democratic collective through consensus-based decision-making. We exist in order to serve the efforts of progressive and radical groups and causes, including: feminism and women's rights, immigrant rights, queer rights, labor, the environment, peace, community self-determination, and racial, social, and economic justice. Through our music, we strive to bring joy and inspiration to these communities and to bring new people into radical causes. Internally, we work towards being a safe, welcoming place for all genders and gender identities, ages, races, backgrounds, sexual orientations, disabilities and musical skill levels. Through our musical selections, we pay tribute to the world's cultures and the revolutionary role music has played throughout history. (Sarah Blust will represent RMO on the panel, and she will be joined by other members for the breakout session and workshop.) (Breakout: 515--Jazz Room)

**Raymond Nat Turner** is a NYC poet privileged to have read at the Harriet Tubman Centennial Symposium. Turner is a Steering Committee Member of the New York Chapter of the National Writers Union (NWU). He's also Artistic Director of the stalwart JazzPoetry Ensemble [UpSurge](#) NYC and has appeared at numerous festivals and venues including the Monterey Jazz Festival and Panafest in Ghana West Africa. He currently is Poet-in-Residence at Black Agenda Report, and a frequent contributor to Dissident Voice, Struggle and aaduna. Turner has opened for such people as James Baldwin, People's Advocate Cynthia McKinney, progressive sportswriter Dave Zirin and CA Congresswoman Barbara Lee following her lone vote against attacking Afghanistan. (Breakout: 505)

**Karen Sztajnberg** is a Brazilian filmmaker, video-artist, social advocate and educator. Her directorial work has screened across a vast continuum from a feminist film festival in Croatia (Vox Feminae '15) to the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, CA, including art galleries in Madrid, Berlin, Florence, and Istanbul. As a screenwriter, Karen has won the Sloan Foundation prize '03 and had one produced feature (*Casa Grande*), which opened the Latin Beat series at the Lincoln Center Film Society in 2014, and two shorts (*Chipped* and *Pears*). Her documentary credits, include *En Route to Baghdad*-Independent Lens, PBS, and *Laura*-Best Documentary at the Hampton Film Festival, distributed by HBO Latin America, and other works which have been broadcast by MTV, Disney Channel, BBC Int'l, and Rai2. She came to the USA with a Fulbright scholarship, then was recognized with a National Film Board of Canada Fellowship, Columbia University's Merit Awards, participation at the Sundance Labs, Berlinale's Talent Campus, and Jihlava's Inspiration Forum. While at pursuing her Film M.F.A. degree at Columbia University, Karen taught Latin American Cinema, Film Theory, and Film and Feminism, which really helped prepare her for her social activism involvement with the Panasonic Kid Witness program and the [Childhood Rescue Project](#), both of which have proved a great source of personal fulfillment. (Breakout: 401)

**Reg Flowers** is the founder and Artistic Director of [Falconworks Theater Company](#), named Best Community last year by the Village Voice. He develops community, site-specific theater for participants of all ages. He is a community activist and organizer specializing in popular theater techniques that build capacities for civic engagement and social change. He has also been a theater professional and teaching artist linking art, education and activism for much of his professional career. He is the founder of Falconworks Artist Group a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) based in Brooklyn. In 2005 He received the BAX10 Award for Arts Education. Reg designed and taught Theater of the Oppressed for Civic Engagement at Pace University in a service learning curriculum that links students with social justice organizations in New York City. As part of the New York City Worker Cooperative Development Initiative, Reg has also led in the development of youth focused worker cooperatives through The Center for Family Life and Good Shepherd Services in New York City, including IKALUK Grassroots Marketing Services, a youth-led worker cooperative and Sunset Scholars an inter-generational Tutoring Cooperative. Reg currently lead organizer for the producer of the 2017 Pedagogy and theater of the Oppressed Conference in Detroit this spring. (Breakout: 510)

**Jesse Phillips-Fein** grew up dancing in Brooklyn, NY. She trained in modern and post-modern dance at Brooklyn Arts Exchange/BAX from 1988-1997. From 1999-present, she studied African Diasporic forms under the mentorship of Nia Love, Dr. Yvonne Daniel and Baba Richard Gonzalez, and traveled to Ayiti/Haiti with Peniel Guerrier in 2010 and Cuba with Danys La More Perez in 2012. Jesse holds a Diploma in Dance Studies from the Laban Centre in London, England (2000), a B.A. in Dance & Cultural Anthropology from Smith College (2001), a M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from New York University (2015), and was a participant in EMERGENYC for artist/activists at the Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics (2012). Her choreography has been performed in New York, New Jersey, Colorado & Maine, and her writing on dance has been published in Sage Encyclopedia of Activism, the Journal of Dance Education, Slingshot, and two forthcoming anthologies on pedagogy and race. (Breakout: 525)

**Tanya Selvaratnam** is a writer, actor, activist, and Emmy-nominated and Webby-winning producer. She is the author of *THE BIG LIE*, Senior Producer for Art Not War, and Co-Founder of [Humanity for Progress](http://Humanity for Progress), a Facebook-based social media campaign. In 2016, she created and managed a collective of more than 100 artists around the country that generated digital content to get out the vote. [www.tanyaturnsup.com](http://www.tanyaturnsup.com) (Breakout: 520)

## 11:00-11:50 WORKSHOPS

### **JEFF ROTHBERG: ART PROJECT: (Room 540)**

Make a collage using whatever materials that are available. It can be word and/or visually driven. Pick a subject / cause you're passionate about and use the materials to express yourself. Let loose and don't over think it. (40 minute collage and 10 minute critique / discussion)

### **RMO: Make Some Noise! (Room 308)**

Play some music and make up chants with members of RMO. Bring instruments, if you have them!

### **RAYMOND NAT TURNER: Just Write! (Room 505)**

A Mini-Poetry Workshop

### **KAREN SZTAJNBERG: TELLING STORIES (Room 401)**

What I want to do in my workshop is to make students aware of how camera positioning, angle and movement alter our perception.

### **REG FLOWERS: Flash Forum workshop (Room 510)**

We will use a technique for rapidly staging plays, both written and company devised. The workshop will build on the foundation of Theater of the Oppressed developed by Brazilian theater artist, activist and political figure Augusto Boal.

### **JESSE PHILLIPS FEIN: Dancing the Revolution! (Room 535, Large Dance Studio)**

In this workshop, we will explore dancing as a revolutionary act through the Haitian warrior dance Nago. Participants will learn the history, basic rhythm and movements of Nago, and then work collaboratively to create their own choreography.

### **TANYA SELVARATNAM: Viral Activist Short Films ((Room 520)**

I will give students a task to make their own films and share with them pointers about how to make a more successful shareable film. During the workshop, I will present a few of my favorite viral activist short films and offer pointers about how to make a more shareable piece of content. I also want to learn what students think are the elements of an effective short film.

### **Protest Posters & Buttons (Kevin & Ed) Room 414**

Make a poster or button to bring/wear to the next protest!

### **Visiting the US IB Art Show, (Marna, Maria, & Nurit) Meet in the lobby.**

The 11th & 12th grade IB students have created some incredible art that addresses issues of social justice.

### **Feminist Flashmob--singing (Janet) Room 407**

### **Paper Cranes for Peace (Samantha & Jeremy) Room 404**

Paper crane making and other origami designs. Kids can write a message for peace in their pieces.

### **Poster for New Sanctuary (Kim & Matt) Room 306**

We will make a big bilingual poster and gather signatures in support of New Sanctuary Movement. We hope to present the poster to an elected official or give it to an organization (Brooklyn Defense Committee, Judson Memorial Church)