

Wednesday, July 4, 2018

"AFTER THE WALL"

Company: NY Artists Unlimited

Location: New York, NY

Compensation: None now, but potential for residencies and co-productions, both locally and internationally.

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CHOREOGRAPHERS-DANCERS-ACTORS NEEDED! I am Artistic Director of NY Artists Unlimited, founded in 1982, a multicultural nonprofit devoted to taking professional theatre to underserved audiences. The focus is on original works, most of which I write and direct, that evoke dignity of the individual and sanctity of the human spirit. For the past five years or more, I have been focused on creating "After the Wall," about walls -- both metaphorical and physical -- around the world and throughout time. (Timely, huh?!) It is a multicultural, multimedia, multidisciplinary play aimed at "starting the conversation." The design places the audience in the middle, surrounded by multimedia projections of walls and their results, plus live action, dance, and some clowning. When complete, this marathon is expected to be 7-8 hours in length, but it can be presented in two parts, or in smaller segments of interest to different communities. There are many ways to approach it: for educational purposes, for panel discussions with human rights organizations, followed by first-person accounts by survivors of atrocities, and tools of outreach geared to a specific community. Each presentation is followed by a discussion or workshop. A 2-hour version was presented at Howl! Happening in February to a sold-out crowd. The \$10 admission was donated 100% to support needy East Village artists. Jane Friedman who runs the joint is the former manager of Patti Smith and a great fan of my work. At this point, I need a choreographer-collaborator (perhaps more than one for the different forms of ethnic dance or one who is experienced in Contemporary Dance) and 8-10 dancers. It is vital to find artists who feel passionately about what we are trying to do with this material, which is to "start the conversation." The bad news is we have no money at this point in time for the next step. The good news is I have been awarded a great number of free hours of rehearsal space in a huge midtown facility throughout July and August. The other good news is that I have been making major inroads in getting this developed and produced internationally. I have just returned from a trip to Portugal, where there is great interest in this piece for residencies and co-productions. There has also been a request for proposal from a giant circus tent theatre outside Brussels. And after a meeting with NY Theatre Workshop, I have begun connecting with Linda, James, and Aaron about this project. I am currently at the GrecPro Festival, which I have been invited to for the third time, July 4-8, where this project will be pitched to programmers from around the world, as well as in Barcelona. I will follow that up with private meetings over the two days before I return on July 11. Of course, this will be right up against auditions/ rehearsals starting on July 16, which is why I'm reaching out to you immediately to see if you are available and interested. I am forwarding a proposal we are using for fundraising, as well as for residencies and co-productions. I have a cast of actors here and in Europe, but I now need the dance components to complete the work. Here is a link to the work-in-progress performance at Howl. Keep in mind that the physical theatre scenes (The Old South and Brazil) herein should be melded with actual dance. For industry and audience reactions, please visit: www.afterthewall.org/mediacenter You will find a scene list in the proposal and if you are intrigued, I could send a list of the scenes I envision in dance. There are many. I sincerely hope we can "start our conversation." For further info: www.afterthewall.org www.nyartists.org xxoo Melba NY Artists Unlimited 917-566-5030 (& on WhatsApp)

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