



SPOTLIGHT VALUES

A look at what makes you shine

Launch Event, September 1, 2010

Beatrice Theatre at the SVA Theatre, New York City



FRED JOHNSON

An acclaimed jazz musician and performer, *Fred Johnson* is a graduate of the National Academy of the Performing Arts and has recorded and toured worldwide with jazz legends Chick Corea, Richard Elliot, George Benson, David Sanborn, B.B. King and the great Miles Davis. Fred is currently the Director of Education and Outreach at the Center for Creative Resources in New York. He is also a sound healer and sculptor whose presentations on the healing power of music have caught the attention of internationally recognized holistic health practitioners all over the globe. Mentored by masters of the African oral and percussion legacy, Fred has been hailed as one of the true guardians of an oral tradition transplanted and nurtured to create a fusion of cultural heritage that is uniquely American and inherently African.

www.frejon.org



VISHAL BHALLA & RITI SUNSHINE BHALLA

Vishal Bhalla and **Riti Sunshine Bhalla** were born and brought up in the United States. They have both been trained in western as well as Hindustani classical music. In 2008, Vishal was a semifinalist on the popular singing reality TV show on Zee TV, Sa Re Ga Ma Pa. Riti has been hosting TV celebrations of the Independence Day of India and the Republic Day of India since 2006 and has been joined on air by several public officials including Senators, Congressmen, and even the former President of India. Vishal and Riti were both the first two Indian Americans to sing at the NYS Democratic Convention in 2006 in the presence of President Bill Clinton.



EDGAR ZENDEJAS

Fueled by a passion for dance that began in his native country, Mexican born Edgar Zendejas has performed as a member with such notable companies as: Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Giordano Jazz Dance. In the early nineties, Edgar was engaged by Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal where he found himself evolving as both artist and choreographer. His choreographic works have been commissioned throughout Mexico and the United States, most notably from Jacob's Pillow, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet (New York), DanceWorks Chicago, Luna Negra Dance Theater (Chicago) and Ballet de Monterrey (Mexico).

Coloured by his Mexican heritage, Edgar's choreography explores the qualities of the human soul with humour and delicacy. His vision of a better world through choreography was realised in January 2006 when he co-founded the dance company *ezdanza* along with Julien Gagnon and Neelanthi Vadivel.
ezdanza.com



JULIEN GAGNON

Julien began dancing at the unusually late age of 21, at the Conservatoire de danse de Montreal. He received a bursary that allowed him to study at the prestigious National Ballet School of Canada. During his dancing career Julien has had the opportunity to perform with Ballet Ouest, The National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal and The Banff Center for the Arts Dance Festival. Drawn by the wisdom of eastern spirituality, Julien also became a certified yoga instructor. His previous studies allowed him to enrich the athletic rigor of the yoga discipline with the specific principles of dance. Paralleling his career as a yoga instructor Julien works as an administrator for *ezdanza*, a company that he co-founded in 2006.



IN THE LIGHTHOUSE

In the Lighthouse was formed during a thunderstorm in the summer of 2008 in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. With Alexis Zielke's vocals and auto-harp mastery and Charles Orphanides playing guitar and keys, the pair began searching for cohorts to bring their bluesy, psychedelic folk-rock to its full potential. Before long, the bull-headed, I'm happiest when I'm miserable, Bret Jergensen brought his stunningly musical drumming into the mix and a sound began. Bass player Buster Black and guitarist Hartwell Littlejohn were soon recruited to bring some of their southern roots into the music and vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Amy Decker completed the early lineup with touches of tambourine, melodica, and glockenspiel.

In the Lighthouse played their first show at Zebulon in Brooklyn in the summer of 2009, has since continued playing out in Brooklyn, and recently recorded a three-song EP which highlights the diversity of the band's sound, ranging from soulful old blues to psychedelic pop. The magic of In the Lighthouse is its ability to both comfort and surprise the listener, the music is both familiar and haunting.

www.myspace.com/inthelighthouseny



Luisa Maggioni

Luisa is thrilled to part of the Spotlight Values event. Her powerful and expressive voice belies her 14 years. She has appeared in school productions of "Once Upon a Mattress" and "Willy Wonka". More recently, she was one of five finalists in "Minuto de Fama", a local version of American Idol. Luisa is also fluent in Italian and Spanish.