

## BLUE OYSTER PERFORMANCE SERIES PRESS RELEASE

The Blue Oyster Performance Series is a biannual event that coincides with the Dunedin Fringe Festival. This year, over ten performers, installation artists and theatre practitioners from across New Zealand make up the programme, which will run throughout the ten days of the Fringe Festival.

The Blue Oyster Performance Series aims to introduce Dunedin audiences to some of the most experimental and innovative performance art occurring around the country. In past years the series has won Fringe Festival awards including Most Original Concept (Colleen Altagracia 2011) and Best Visual Arts (2010).

Before the Fringe Festival starts, the Performance Series will begin with two exhibitions. Monique Jansen and Frances Hansen present their *Alongside Project* which will begin on Tuesday evening (6 March) at 5.30pm to coincide with our exhibition preview for Barbara Smith and Becky Richards. Jansen and Hansen will scour the shops in the immediate proximity of the Blue Oyster, collecting materials to add to an urban bricolage they will create over three days. Following this Emma Chalmers will install her mesmerising kinetic sculpture, *Grip and Release: Hold us Tight like a Child*.

This year our series features Audrey Baldwin (Christchurch) who will perform twice. Her first performance will be a public version of the popular drinking game *I Have Never*, with Baldwin at the epicentre of proceedings. The second performance, *Canker*, without giving too much away, involves a human-sized toffee dodecahedron prison and a singular tongue.

Dunedin artist and performer Holly Aitchison also tests her, and our, limits of endurance as she transforms a private and painful memorial ritual into a very public scene for *The Line*. In *The Untold Project* on Wednesday 21 March at 3.30pm fellow Dunedin performers Alex Lovell-Smith and Damian Smith reach deep into their boyhood pasts to rake up tales of heroes, villains, dastardly plots and unbelievable escapes.

On a more sedate note, Clare Fleming will occupy the gallery space for four days starting on Tuesday 20 March, from 11am until 2pm each day. Fleming will be present to sew 'connection devices' into jackets brought in by visitors. These devices will then be able to attract others who have taken part in Fleming's performance. At 3.30pm Hana Aoake will begin to fall, again and again, scraping her knee and bruising herself. At 5.30pm the same day, Oscar Enberg will be performing *Further Reductions on Retail Jokes*. Sitting comfortably, Enberg will regale the audience with tales of interior decoration and the necessity of accessorising.

Free Theatre from Christchurch present *Hereafter* written by Werner Fritsch - a writer described by *Der Spiegel* as 'Germany's boldest poet'. Part murder mystery, part underworld soul search, the play will take place in the haunting surroundings of the Temple Gallery (Tickets \$25 / \$18).

Unless otherwise stated all events take place at the Blue Oyster Art Project Space, 24b Moray Place and are free of charge. Please see attached schedule for full performance details, also available on the Blue Oyster website [www.blueoyster.org.nz](http://www.blueoyster.org.nz) for enquiries contact [director@blueoyster.org.nz](mailto:director@blueoyster.org.nz) or call 03 479 0197.