

**PRESS RELEASE
OHIO UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
TANTRUM THEATER**

**TANTRUM
THEATER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE TANTRUM THEATER SUMMER FESTIVAL BRINGS WORLD-CLASS ARTISTS
TO ATHENS**

AUGUST 16 – 24 | FORUM THEATER & E. E. BAKER THEATER

ATHENS, OH (July 15, 2019)— Tantrum Theater will present its first annual **Tantrum Theater Summer Festival**—a theater-focused, multi-disciplinary event over two weekends, featuring world-renowned artists at venues located on the Ohio University campus. **Opening on Friday, August 16**, the performances will capture your imagination, challenge you to think outside the known and leave you seeing the world in an entirely new way.

In its first weekend, Friday, August 16 and Saturday, August 17 at 8:00 p.m., the festival will spotlight Bill Bowers in “Beyond Words” at the E. E. Baker Theater, Kantner Hall and the Affrilachian Poets in “Black Bone: 25 Years of the Affrilachian Poets” at the Forum Theater, RTV Building.

“**Beyond Words**” creates the scene for a cherishable memoir filled with music, monologues and mime in this exploratory investigation of the silence surrounding gender in our culture today. Portraying the evolution from a boy to a man, Bowers draws his characters from real life and moves beyond simple anecdotes to create an inclusive montage that celebrates humanity.

“**Black Bone: 25 Years of the Affrilachian Poets**,” represents and celebrates an enclave of writers of color in the Appalachian region. Founder Frank X Walker, who first coined the term “Affrilachia,” established the group in 1991 and has been active ever since to give way to an inclusive community.

“Audiences will walk away from this reading with a more insightful understanding that Appalachia is not a homogenous area of unlettered, unwashed masses,” says poet and playwright, Bianca Spriggs. “So often unfairly depicted by mainstream media and culture, [our region] is vibrant and complex, encompassing urban areas as much as rural, and houses a kaleidoscope of voices that represent the entire stretch of the thirteen states.”

The following weekend, **Friday, August 23 and Saturday, August 24 at 9:00 p.m.**, Berlin-based theater troupe, Gob Squad will take the stage in the streets, onstage, and on-screen in its unpredictable mixed media performance, “Super Night Shot,” at the E. E. Baker Theater, Kantner Hall.

“**Super Night Shot**” is a unique multimedia performance event. The actual filming begins just one hour before audiences arrive at the theater. That is when Gob Squad has a

night out on the town with cameras rolling constantly. During this time, four performers document what happens to them and the movie showcases their journeys from each perspective. The streets become the film set. The local community becomes extras, actors, and helpers. Things like cigarette butts and trash cans are the props, while the graffiti and public art throughout the town become the backdrop. This is the movie of a lifetime, unique and quintessential to the space in which it takes place.

Tickets go on sale Monday, July 15 at 11:00 a.m. and are available via phone at 740-593-1780, online at tantrumtheater.org and ohio.edu/event-tickets, and in-person at the Templeton-Blackburn Alumni Memorial Auditorium Box Office at 47 East Union Street, Athens, Ohio 45701. Business hours are Monday – Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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ABOUT TANTRUM THEATER

Founded in the Fall of 2015 by Ohio University's College of Fine Arts, Tantrum Theater serves Athens and Southeast Ohio as a destination for professional theater and a training conservatory for student apprentices from the university. The theater company presents a summer theater festival and two professional productions each year and is distinguished by its aim to provide a platform for new voices in the canon of American theater with an emphasis on the Greater Appalachian Region. Through its educational programming and partnership-building with Ohio University, regional communities, and national organizations, Tantrum Theater believes in the transformative power of theater to celebrate and share stories that disrupt social norms through culturally diverse and innovative work. For more information, visit TantrumTheater.org.

Follow us on Twitter [@TantrumTheater](https://twitter.com/TantrumTheater), and like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TantrumTheater).

ATTACHED, PLEASE FIND THE CORRESPONDING PHOTO; xxx.jpeg [PHOTO CAPTION: [Berlin-based theater troupe GOB SQUAD. Photo courtesy of Garrett Davis/Capture Imaging.]

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