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Fall Brings Fresh Faces to the Invertigo Team



Photo by Ben Gibbs

Meet our New Board Member: Carla Sparks



Carla Sparks is the Founder and CEO of Savvy Sista, a lifestyle company that provides a unique list of services designed to empower, educate and entertain clients. Their offerings include fashion styling, personal shopping, savvy workshops, shopping events and trips targeted to working professionals.

Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, she was born in Vallejo, CA with an adventuresome spirit and zest for life which inspires the social butterfly to travel the globe and explore new things. Carla has resided in Los Angeles, CA for over three decades.

Mentoring inner-city youth is one of her greatest personal accomplishments; it's so rewarding to influence and shape a young person's life at such a crucial time of their development. She's grateful for organizations like Fulfillment Fund and "I Have A Dream" Foundation for allowing her to be a part of the solution.

Carla began her professional career in the Fashion Industry after graduating from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising; Associate's degree,

Fashion/Apparel Design. She has continuously expanded her professional training by receiving certifications in Radio Broadcast Media; UCLA Extension, Travel and Tourism; West Los Angeles College, Meeting and Event Planning; Cal State University Dominguez-Hills and maintains current Real Estate, Life-Only Insurance and Notary Public licenses issued by the State of California.

A sales and marketing veteran with decades of experience, Carla has worked for well established companies such as Nordstrom and Disney where she achieved a winning track record for consistently exceeding sales goals. Carla was most recently employed by the Automobile Club of Southern California, responsible for achieving the regional sales goals, maintaining excellent customer relationships and generating quality referrals for the travel department. She happily retired from Corporate America in 2017, and is currently Living Her Best Life!

Meet our New Development Manager: Traci Takahara



Traci Takahara is an expert in audience development, team building, solutions management and strategic problem-solving. She has over 13 years of experience in museum science education at Griffith Observatory. During her tenure at the Natural History Museum, she created a collaborative partnership with LACMA and local museums to increase student attendance by 64,000 in one year. Traci is a UCLA Regent's Scholar and has an MBA in organizational development and marketing from USC. One of her passions is increasing diversity in the arts by helping young people of color professionals start their careers. In her spare time, Traci gardens, cooks, swims and takes a lot of ballet classes.

Invert/ED-Hope Street: The Circle Continues



Hope Street Class with Invert/ED teacher Sadie Yarrington

Invert/ED is back up and running at Hope Street Family Center in DTLA for a fall workshop series. And we have a new teacher on board! Chris Smith is following in the footsteps of founding teacher Sadie Yarrington, and he began teaching the fall series on Monday November 4th. Chris was a repertoire dancer for Invertigo for seven years, and he's now bringing his vast dance and theater experience to the youth at Hope Street. Chris is well-versed in hip-hop, tango, salsa, merengue and of course modern. For nine years, Chris has taught musical theatre (song, dance and theatre) at [Isana Achernar Academy](#) in Compton. He teaches six classes a day and produces multiple musical theatre shows with the students per year -- the latest of which was Willy Wonka.

Chris will sprinkle some character work into Invertigo's storytelling through movement approach as an addition to Invert/ED. The retention rate at Hope Street is down due to ongoing development in DTLA which continues to push low-income families out of the city. We're excited to have Chris working with the Invert/ED-Hope Street youth to keep spirits high! And many thanks to Sadie for paving the way for Invert/ED programming in LA!

DTP Heads South!



Photo by Joelle Martinec - Ginger Sole Photography

[DTP](#) has a new pilot program up and running in Inglewood at Magic Circle Adult Health Day Care. Teaching artist Haylee Nichele and Community Programs Manager K. Bradford have been working closely to create an adaptive DTP curriculum to meet the specific needs of communities at Magic Circle. Inglewood residents attend Magic Circle daily to receive medical care and social services, including Tai Chi and now dance. Members of the community have Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Hypertension, Contracture's, Intellectual Disability and Parkinson's -- because of this we are offering Dancing Through Life as we both broaden and hone the DTP programming to serve this vulnerable circle of people.

We are especially excited about this new collaborative partnership as one of our very own DTP dancers from the Culver City YMCA class initiated the new DTP class at her facility. Faye Williams loves DTP so much that she wants to attend dance class weekly close to her home in Inglewood rather than trek across the city with PD. Faye's excitement to share the joy and connection of DTP with her Magic Circle fellows was palpable in our first programming meeting, and we're grateful to her leadership in forging an amazing new partner and opportunity for DTP/DTL.

Other Happenings in our Arts Community

Coming soon to City Garage! The world premiere of

Department of Dreams

by **Jeton Neziraj**

Translated by **Alexandra Channer**

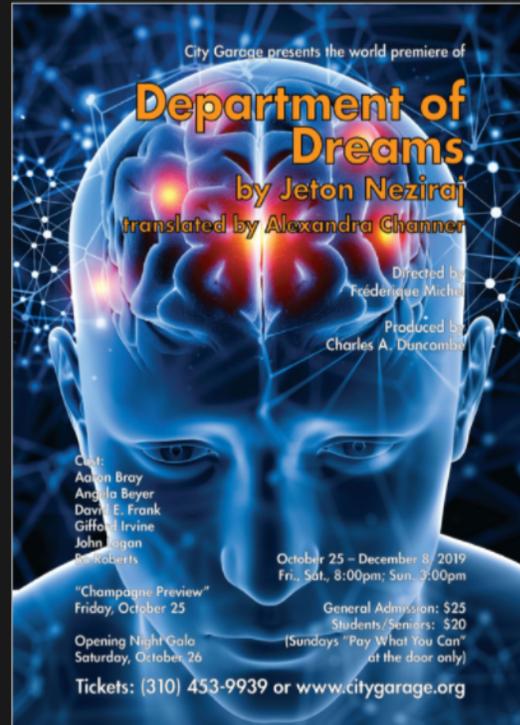
Special Events: Weekend of November 8–10, 2019

City Garage is thrilled to announce that playwright Jeton Neziraj will be traveling from Kosovo to join us for a weekend of special events around this world premiere!

Support City Garage and help us meet our goal of raising \$25,000 this fall by being part of this exciting weekend. Tickets for each performance are \$50 each, which includes the after-show event. For \$100 you may pick a performance of your choice and attend all of the after-show events. **Book now through our website www.citygarage.org.**

- **Friday, 11/8: Champagne Reception and Book Signing** Meet the author, mingle with cast and crew, and have your script signed (copies of "Department of Dreams" available at \$25).
- **Saturday, 11/9: Catered Reception** Join us for dinner after the show, along with the playwright and other special guests of honor.
- **Sunday, 11/10: Panel Discussion** Steven Leigh Morris, editor of Stage Raw, will moderate a discussion on "Theatre and Politics." How can—or should—theatre address the urgent political realities of its moment? The particular focus is on the rise of autocracies in Europe, the Balkans, and the west in general, and the role of the arts in contemporary politics. Q&A with the playwright and panelists to follow.

Panelists: Steven Leigh Morris, Moderator; Dr. Mietek Boduszynski, Asst. Professor of Politics at Pomona College; Dr. Susan Kresin, Dept. of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Languages and Cultures, UCLA; Viktorija Lejko-Lacan, Dept. of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Languages and Cultures, UCLA; Lauren Murphy Yeoman, Assistant Professor of Theatre, USC School of Dramatic Arts.



Limited Seating! Get your tickets now!



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