

LAPD 's mission is to create performance work that connects lived experience to the social forces that shape the lives and communities of people living in poverty.

....the Los Angeles Poverty Department, (is) a truly unique part of the Southern California theater scene. James Taylor, Theater Talk, KCRW-FM, May 2005.

Dear Friends of LAPD, LAPD's just back from THE NETHERLANDS.



Henriette snaps Anzella, Marion, Melina and Pheonix, while Kareem studies his lines, on the set of Agents & Assets in Utrecht. Kareem said, "I'm thankful for the tour. It's like a vacation after 3 years on skid row."

13 LAPD'er's presented AGENTS & ASSETS at The Treaty of Utrecht Festival of Art and Culture. LAPD's theater work is gaining attention in Europe due to the social challenges there now: pressures to dismantle the social safety net, demands of war on terror, war on drugs, All-American exports all. Theater artists there, where work has been pretty aestheticized for many years --are now discovering engaged theater as a means of understanding and reacting to current pressures.

* Future Agents & And Assets performances are in the works for Belgium.

* And a new project is being planned for 2007-8 with three theaters in Belgium and The Netherlands.

Right now the Global War on Terror is stealing some of the War on Drugs' thunder, but this play (AGENTS & ASSETS)--staged by the innovative troupe known as the Los Angeles Poverty Department-- makes it clear that these two conflicts are closely related. James Taylor, Theater Talk, KCRW-FM, May 2005.

Meanwhile IMMEDIATELY coming up:

JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2005: FRIED POETRY directed by RON ALLEN. Ron Allen is the soul of experimental arts in DETROIT. RON ALLEN poet and playwright is also a Buddhist monk and has also worked extensively in arts in recovery programs in Detroit. LAPD and Ron worked together during LAPD's 2002 Agents & Assets residency in Detroit. LAPD's new performance "FRIED POETRY" will be presented a BEYOND BAROQUE in Venice on FEB 24 and at SRO Housing's James Woods Community Center in skid Row on Saturday Feb 25.

MAY-JUNE Phase 1 of LAPD's multiyear **collaboration with Amsterdam based hip-ho theater group, Made in da Shade,** will culminate in performances in The Netherlands at end of June. Additional work and performances will take place i Los Angeles and Amsterdam in 2007 and 2008.

JULY-SEPTEMBER: Utopia -Distopia: LAPD will research and articulate alternative visions for the future of downtown Los Angeles. Research: LAPD will interview long time residents and loft dwelling newcomers to downtown. LAPD will monitor city council and make performative reports back to communities of city council's doings. Project will happen with involvement of artists , activists, teachers enrolled in LAPD's summer arts workshop " C / X: change is about exchange."

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER: "Agents & Assets" in residence at Philadelphia's Art Sanctuary with production traveling to Baltimore and other NE corridor cities.

CONCRETE LAPD:

OUT NOW: HALO Group's documentary film, "The Real Deal" on the history of LAPD

Fall 2006: AGENTS & ASSETS- the book. Beyond Baroque will publish book of panel and community discussions and interviews from Agents & Assets, LAPD's project on drug policy. Voices will include: Alfred McCoy, Robert Parry, Dawood Muhammad, Regina Schwartz, Sandra Alvarez, Dan Forbes, Ed Orlett, Dave Fratello, Martin Jelsema, Deborah Smalls, Susan Burton, Peter Sellars, Donna Warren and many others.

Fall 2006: AGENTS & ASSETS- the dvd: The performance and interviews of cast and excerpts from panel and community discussions.

LAPD CAN STRETCH A DOLLAR AS FAR AS ANY GROUP ON THE PLANET. LAPD is a non-profit theater and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed b law. YOUR SUPPORT IS ENORMOUSLY APPRECIATED.

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