

THE MARSH UNVEILS LINE-UP FOR SOLO ARTS HEAL SERIES

Programs added through February 3, 2021

Available to stream LIVE every Wednesday at 7:30pm

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (20 January 2021) – The Marsh brings people from all walks of life – from a writer battling the most aggressive form of brain cancer and a doctor diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, to a grad student’s race to write herself into a happier future, and a husband’s struggle with his wife’s terminal illness – to share their deeply personal journeys in the MarshStream **Solo Arts Heal** series. This Wednesday series, which features performance excerpts, talkbacks, and Q&A with Dr. Annie Brewster and Caroline Wright (**Jan. 20**), Hope Singen (**Jan. 27**), and Samuel A. Simon (**Feb. 3**), will be hosted by Gail Schickele. For more information, the public may visit www.themarsh.org/marshstream.

7:30pm, Wednesday, January 20

Hosted by Gail Schickele

Dr. Annie Brewster and **Caroline Wright** join Schickele for an exclusive **Health Story Collaborative** episode, focusing on how to handle the challenges of illness through storytelling. Brewster is an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and a practicing Internist at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. She is also a patient diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Since 2010, Brewster has been collecting and sharing patient stories. In 2013, she founded Health Story Collaborative, a non-profit organization committed to empowering patients and their loved ones, building community, strengthening patient-provider connections, and ultimately transforming healthcare through storytelling. On the other hand, Wright is a writer and mother of two sons, ages five and eight, who is living with glioblastoma, the most aggressive form of brain cancer. Wright was given a life expectancy of one year when she was diagnosed in 2017. One of Wright’s children’s books, *Lasting Love*, discusses the possibility of her death with the following

message: “whether or not mommy’s body survives, my love is permanent and will shape them forever.”

7:30pm, Wednesday, January 27

Hosted by Gail Schickele

Actress **Hope Singen** performs an excerpt of her work *SKIN*, which explores the creativity and courage it takes to heal. In this frank and funny work, two things threaten a grad student’s dissertation on Virginia Woolf: her hot new girlfriend and the echoes of her own dark past. As the grad student races to write herself into a happier future, her creative and sex life both get inventive. Singen is an NYC artist, activist, researcher, and the Founder, Artistic Director, and Host of the first-ever #HealMeToo Festival and podcast. After the performance, Singen joins Schickele for a post-performance Q&A.

7:30pm, Wednesday, February 3

Hosted by Gail Schickele

Last seen at the MarshStream International Solo Festival in October 2020, **Samuel A. Simon** returns to perform excerpts of his award-winning play, *The Actual Dance*. Told through the eyes and heart of a husband struggling with his wife’s losing battle to breast cancer, this work amplifies what “love” really means, providing a universal, life-affirming lesson of hope and faith. Simon was one of the original lawyers for Ralph Nader in 1970. Now a DC Public Affairs professional, he has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *Face The Nation*. Simon has trained in improv under Gary Austin, Jeffrey Sweet, and Carol Fox Prescott. After his performance, Simon will join Schickele for a post-performance Q&A.

ABOUT SOLO ARTS HEAL

A vision born from artists’ inspiring true stories that celebrate overcoming adversity; surviving emotional, mental, and physical challenges; and becoming health advocates, **Solo Arts Heal** provides educational outreach and the healing power of the Arts to its viewers. With topics ranging from quitting smoking to battling cancer, adoption/the search for one’s identity, sexual violence, and much more, the vulnerability of the participating artists leads listeners through their personal journeys of trauma and healing – a truly empowering experience for everyone involved.

ABOUT MARSHSTREAM

The program launched in April 2020 and has received overwhelmingly enthusiastic

response, garnering over 75,000 viewers in its first nine months. Notable MarshStream moments thus far include the debut of MarshStream International Solo Fest, The Marsh's first-ever digital festival, and the U.S. premiere of *The Invisible Line*, a new documentary about one of the world's most famous social experiments gone wrong.

MarshStream programming varies daily, with Monday Night MarshStream (short performances by a variety of artists), Wild Card Tuesdays (everything from book/writer discussions, sing-alongs, Tell It On Tuesday, to Sound Healing and Restorative Yoga), Wednesday Solo Arts Heal (offering stories of health, advocacy, and inspiration), Stephanie's MarshStream on Thursday nights (interview and performance excerpts, moderated by The Marsh Founder/Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman), BINGO! hosted by Josh Kornbluth, and weekend Solo Performance Spotlight featuring live full-length performances. MarshStream also offers performance development classes, a noon series that includes CJ's Fitness weekly singing lesson/fitness class, and a Zoomba Room. Content is typically offered at 7:30pm nightly, and mid-day throughout the week via Zoom and YouTube LIVE. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic MarshStream has hosted 451 LIVE streams, providing some 200 performers a platform to continue developing and producing art.

MarshStream viewers are asked to contribute whatever they can afford. Donations can be made by joining The Marsh's membership program and via a virtual "tip jar" with funds going to support The Marsh and its artists. For more information, the public may visit www.themarsh.org/marshstream. NOTE: Most performance streams from earlier MarshStream dates are also available on the website for viewing.

In addition to nightly program offerings on MarshStream, The Marsh has also launched **Marsh Youth Theater (MYT) MarshStream**, classes offered at 4:00pm daily taught by MYT instructors. From Creative Dramatics to Storytelling, Dancing, and more, class types, instructors, and age levels vary for each class. For weekly class schedules and additional information, please visit themarsh.org/mytmarshstream.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as "a breeding ground for new performance." It was launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, and pre-COVID hosted more than 600 performances of 175 shows across the company's two venues in San Francisco and Berkeley. A leading outlet for solo performers, The Marsh's specialty has been hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "solo performances that celebrate the power of storytelling at its simplest and purest." The *East Bay Times* named The Marsh one of Bay Area's best intimate theaters, calling it "one of the most thriving solo theaters in the nation. The live theatrical energy is simply irresistible."

For Calendar Editors

WHAT: The Marsh brings people from all walks of life – from a writer battling the most aggressive form of brain cancer and a doctor diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, to a grad student's race to write herself into a happier future, and a husband's

struggle with his wife's terminal illness – to share their deeply personal journeys in the MarshStream **Solo Arts Heal** series. This Wednesday series, which features performance excerpts, talkbacks, and Q&A with Dr. Annie Brewster and Caroline Wright (**Jan. 20**), Hope Singsen (**Jan. 27**), and Samuel A. Simon (**Feb. 3**), will be hosted by Gail Schickele.

DATES: Solo Arts Heal is available to stream LIVE! at 7:30pm every Wednesday:

January 20: **Dr. Annie Brewster, Caroline Wright**

January 27: **Hope Singsen**

February 3: **Samuel A. Simon**

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PRESS: Contact Sydney Albin, Carla Befera & Co.
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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://cbpr.co/press/marshstream>