

THE MARSH BERKELEY PRESENTS UNIQUE DERIQUE'S
FOOL LA LA: GIFT!

Performed by: Unique Derique
Written by: Derique McGee & Calvin Kai Ku
Directed by: Calvin Kai Ku
Produced by: Derique McGee & Vicki Wong
December 26 – 30, 2024

BERKELEY, CA (14 November 2024) — The “Clown Prince of Fools” invites audience members (ages 3 and up) to dive into the imagination of **Unique Derique** as he returns to **The Marsh Berkeley** and online this holiday season with his classic slapstick humor, hambone hijinks, and silly shenanigans in the annual, fun-filled show, *Fool La La: Gift!*. The show promises five riotous, family-friendly performances in December. Following each performance, Unique Derique invites audiences to stay and enhance their circus experience with a hambone and juggling workshop for clowns of all ages. *Fool La La: Gift!* will run daily at 1:00 pm from **December 26–30, 2024**, with live performances at **The Marsh Berkeley**, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, and an online streaming option. For information or to order tickets (live show: \$20–\$35 for adult general admission on a sliding scale; \$50–\$100 for reserved seating; \$20 for children ages 3 and up; live stream: \$20 per computer/device), the public may visit themarsh.org. *NOTE: Strobe lights are used briefly during a portion of the performance.*

Fool La La: Gift! encourages kids from ages one to 150 to let their imaginations take flight in Unique Derique’s holiday show, whom *Broadway World* praised, saying he’s “warm and engaging, and his joy in performing is evident throughout.” He has also been lauded by *SF Gate*, who states “It’s a riot to watch Unique Derique’s skillful physical comedy.”

ABOUT UNIQUE DERIQUE

Unique Derique is a longtime San Francisco Bay Area favorite whose dual careers merge the performing arts and healing with the belief that the world can be a brighter place, one breath—and one laugh—at a time. Internationally acclaimed “Clown Prince” Unique Derique’s appearances have spanned the globe from South Africa to Scotland, Taipei, London, Paris, and Tokyo—and he has shared the stage with entertainers such as Bobby McFerrin, The

Temptations, Laura Nyro, Jim Nabors, Tuck and Patti, Lou Rawls, and Sammy Davis, Jr. His clowny past includes the famed Pickle Family Circus, Children’s Fairyland, Prescott Circus Theatre, and Bread and Roses Presents. Past television credits include PBS-KQED, Univision, and the Disney Channel. Derique’s *Fool La La* plays annually at The Marsh with a delightfully different twist each season. When not entertaining audiences as Unique Derique, Lance McGee is a Trauma-Informed Wellness Consultant and Mindfulness Coach providing support to school educators, administrators, staff, and students. He also leads workshops on trauma-informed care practices and mindfulness for non-profit organizations, health clinics, colleges, and educational systems.

ABOUT THE MARSH

The Marsh is known as “a breeding ground for new performance.” Launched in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director Stephanie Weisman, it annually hosts more than 500 performances 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 the 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.” In April 2020, The Marsh launched its digital platform MarshStream and hosted more than 700 live streams which provided 300 performers and its youth class participants a platform to continue discovering, developing, and producing art during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Today, The Marsh presents both in-person live performances and content on its MarshStream, continuing to expand its reach to audiences onsite and around the world. The Marsh believes in the power of people’s storytelling and has several classes for the public to create their own works as well as through its developing work performance series: Monday Night Marsh, Tell It on Tuesday, and Marsh Risings. The theater company also collaborates with over 25 San Francisco public schools providing a year-round youth program serving students at its theater and in the classrooms.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: The “Clown Prince of Fools” invites audience members (ages 3 and up) to dive into the imagination of **Unique Derique** as he returns to **The Marsh Berkeley** and online this holiday season with his classic slapstick humor, hambone hijinks, and silly shenanigans in the annual, fun-filled show, ***Fool La La: Gift!*** The show promises five riotous, family-friendly performances in December. Following each performance, Unique Derique invites audiences to stay and enhance their circus experience with a hambone and juggling workshop for clowns of all ages.

***Fool La La: Gift!* is:**

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WHEN: **December 26 – 30, 2024**

SHOWS: 1:00pm PT

WHERE: **The Marsh Berkeley, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley**
Parking: Allston Way Garage, 2061 Allston Way between Milvia & Shattuck.
BART station (closest): Downtown Berkeley BART

TICKETS: \$20-\$35 adult general admission sliding scale
\$50-\$100 reserved
\$20 children ages 3-years-old and up
Live Stream: \$20 per computer/device

INFO: For information or to order tickets visit themarsh.org or call **415-282-3055**
(Monday through Friday, 1:00pm-4:00pm).

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PRESS: Contact Paige D'Encarnacao, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing
paige@cb-pr.com | 415-570-2623

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here: <http://cbpr.co/press/foollala>