



Liz Magic Laser
ABSOLUTE EVENT

Paula Cooper Gallery, 197 10th Avenue, New York City, November 14 – 30, 2013

Featuring actors and former congressional staffers Daniel Abse and Gary Lee Mahmoud

Performances on November 14 and 16, 2013, 7pm. A six-channel video will be produced and screened as a live feed during performances and will remain installed through November 30. Run time is approximately 30 minutes.

Absolute Event combines dialogue from Edmond Rostand's 1897 play *Cyrano de Bergerac* with current American political rhetoric and interviews conducted by Laser with political and public relations strategists. During the performances select audience members will register moment-to-moment approval ratings using Audience Response System keypads. This data will be reflected in graphs that appear in the video.

CREDITS

Script written by Liz Magic Laser in collaboration with Sofia Pontén, based on *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmund Rostand
Set Design in collaboration with Andrea Huelse
Script Advisor: Political Strategist Mustafa Tameez
Technical Director: Irwin Seow
Director of Photography: Laura Cooper
Audio Engineer: Tristan Shepherd
Costume Stylist: Felicia Garcia-Rivera
Research Assistant: Rachel Zaretsky
Production Managers: Lucia Hinojosa and Brian Mcelroy
Special Thanks: Paula Cooper, Anthony Allen, Lucas Cooper, Jake Ewert, Kristoffer Haynes, Alexis Johnson, Margaret Kross, Steven Probert, David Guinan, Sanya Kantarovsky, Ken Laser, Hanna Novak, Wendy Osserman, Romy Scheroder, Esther Kim Varet, Joseph Varet, Plum TV and The School of Visual Arts MFA Photo, Video and Related Media Department.

Produced with support from Paula Cooper Gallery

BIOGRAPHIES

LIZ MAGIC LASER (Artist) Lives and works in Brooklyn. She earned a BA from Wesleyan University (2003) and an MFA from Columbia University (2008). She attended the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture (2008) and the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program (2009). Her work has been exhibited internationally, most recently at the Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, Germany (2013); Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden (2012); The Moscow Museum of Modern Art (2012); The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2012); Performa 11 Biennial, New York (2011) and MoMA PS 1, New York (2010). She was the 2013 Armory Show Commissioned Artist. Laser is the recipient of grants from Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation Grant (2013), the Southern Exposure Off-Site Graue Award (2013), New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (2012), the Times Square Alliance (2010) and the Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance Art (2010).

DANIEL ABSE (Actor: *Political Strategist*) Worked on Capitol Hill for then Representative Ron Wyden (D-OR). Film credits include "Advantageous" (dir. Jennifer Phang), "Men at War" (dir. Rakesh Baruah); "Bay at Nice" (dir. Oliver Franks). He contributed to "Showing Up", a documentary about the auditioning process, produced and directed by James Morrison (of Fox Network's "24"). Has appeared on New York and regional stages. Television credits include various episodes of "Mysteries at the Museum" (Travel Channel). Credits also include numerous voiceovers. Daniel studied acting under George DiCenzo and has additional training in acting and directing from Yale Drama School. He previously taught Acting, Directing and Filmmaking the New York City Department of Education. Thanks to Liz, Gary, the Paula Cooper Gallery, and the amazing crew! danielabse.com.

GARY LEE MAHMOUD (Actor: *Politician*) Worked on Capitol Hill for six years before moving to New York in 2007 to pursue his passion as a full-time actor. He recently had a supporting role in the "Bourne Legacy" and played the recurring character "Mr. Chandler" in the Nickelodeon series "Alien Dawn". Over the past four years, he has emceed Showtime's Nurse Jackie "Rx Games," hosted the Onion News Network's mock debate show "In The Know," appeared as the featured dancing businessman in the Saturday Night Live music video "Boombbox," and had the privilege of performing in a staged reading of the screenplay "Mona's Dream" with Oscar nominee Shoreh Aghdashloo. His biggest claim to fame however might be his self-produced million view web sensation "Panhandler Party". When not in a play, in front of a camera, or simply making a public spectacle of himself, Gary can be found playing with his improv comedy friends.