

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE KEPLER STORY

APRIL 1–3, 8–10, 2016

FISKE PLANETARIUM, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER

A unique opportunity for families and individuals to experience the interconnected nature of the universe and Earth's environment in an engulfing visual, stage, and musical presentation that includes a rare new score by award-winning cellist and composer Zoë Keating.

“ [The Kepler Story] explores the twining of empirical and spiritual urges at the dawn of the scientific revolution.” — The New York Times

Highlighting 17th Century astronomer Johannes Kepler's vision of the universe as an interconnected whole, *The Kepler Story*, an historical theater piece, casts light on issues endemic to modern science and the nature of controversial discoveries that change the way reality is perceived. *The Kepler Story* draws analogies between Kepler's life and present day. Emphasizing the wisdom that the universe is a dynamic system of interrelating parts, it reminds audiences they have the capacity to make changes to our world in these uncertain times of climate distress and economic challenges.

Johannes Kepler, 17th Century mathematician, visionary and astronomer best known for his discovery of the three laws of planetary motion, which finally removed Earth as the center of the Universe and later influenced Isaac Newton's theory of universal gravitation, was a key figure in the 17th century Scientific Revolution. A contemporary of Galileo, Kepler collaborated with him on telescopic optics, and publicly endorsed Galileo to bolster the credibility of his controversial observations. Kepler's life took a dramatic turn when his mother was arrested for witchcraft and it fell upon him to legally defend her. This ordeal, as well as Galileo's father's book on harmony, which he read on the way to her trial, led Kepler to experience one of his greatest epiphanies — that the Universe itself is harmonious.

San Francisco's world-renown Motion Institute presents six upcoming performances of *The Kepler Story* at the Fiske Planetarium at the University of Colorado in Boulder on April 1–3 and 8–10, 2016. *The Kepler Story* is a new form of theater that combines live performance with full-dome visuals to create an exciting, provocative and visceral experience. Using new projection technology that engulfs the viewer, and paired with haunting sound from the evocative score by world famous avant cellist Zoë Keating and an original script written and performed by multi-award-winning performance artist Nina Wise, the work transports audiences into a riveting, mind-bending experience of the life and groundbreaking discoveries of Johannes Kepler. Directed by Molly Noble, the piece also includes sound design by Emmy Award winner Christopher Hedge.

Fiske Planetarium, University of Colorado, Boulder, is one of the few venues in the world developing programs for full-dome theaters and DigitalSky-equipped domes in particular, which make use of state-of-the-art, real-time technology to create immersive graphics tailored to individual performances. Originally developed in collaboration with California Academy of Sciences, *The Kepler Story* premiered in San Francisco at the world renowned Morrison Planetarium in October 2013 and played to sold-out audiences. The piece is being further developed with support from the Fiske Planetarium team.

The Kepler Story is produced by Motion Institute, a Bay Area nonprofit theater production company that offers audiences a singular view of current issues presented in ways that are contemporary, innovative and embedded in the narratives of their own lives.

For more information, please contact Nina Wise at (415) 459-3766 or nina@motioninstitute.com or visit www.thekeplerstory.org.

What: Motion Institute in collaboration with the Fiske Planetarium is producing *The Kepler Story*, an immersive performance work designed for planetarium domes about 17th Century mystic and astronomer Johannes Kepler.

When: Fridays-Sundays, April 1, 2, 3 and April 8, 9, 10 at 8pm

Who: Written and performed by Nina Wise, directed by Molly Noble, soundtrack by Zoë Keating, visuals by California Academy of Science Morrison Planetarium and Fiske Planetarium

Where: Fiske Planetarium and the University of Colorado, Boulder

Tickets: \$34 general, \$29 student/senior <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2484064> 800-838-3006

Info: Fiske Box Office 303-492-5002

WHO WE ARE / KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

Nina Wise, Artistic Director of Motion, Playwright and Performer

Since earning her degree in Religious Studies and the Aesthetics of Movement, Nina Wise has devoted her career to developing theater that addresses the complex relationship between body, intellect, and spirit. Her original works, performed in prestigious venues in the US, South America, Europe and Asia have won awards for playwriting, innovative design, and new theater including four NEA fellowships and seven Bay Area Theater Critics' Circle Awards. She is the author of *A Big New Free Happy Unusual Life* and her stories and articles have been published in numerous anthologies and journals.

Ryan Wyatt, Visualization Design

Ryan Wyatt, Director of Morrison Planetarium at California Academy of Sciences, has written and directed the Academy's three full-dome features, *Fragile Planet* (2008), *Life: A Cosmic Story* (2010), and *Earthquake: Evidence of a Restless Planet* (2012). During his tenure at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, he produced shows about cosmic collisions, the search for extraterrestrial life, and other space-related subjects for the museum's Hayden Planetarium. His hand-drawn full-dome short, *Dome Sketch*, received the experimentation award at the 2005 DomeFest. Under Wyatt's passionate leadership, the new immersive theater at the Academy's Morrison Planetarium is inspiring millions of visitors to ponder their place in the Universe. Wyatt opened planetariums at the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix and the Lodestar Astronomy Center in Albuquerque.

Zoë Keating, Composer

Zoë Keating is a one-woman orchestra. She uses a cello and a foot-controlled laptop to record layer upon layer of cello, creating intricate, haunting and compelling music. Keating is known for both her use of technology — which she uses to sample her cello onstage — and for her DIY ethic, which has resulted in the sale of over 40,000 copies of her self-released albums and a devoted social media following. Keating's grassroots, label-less approach has garnered her much public attention and press. She has been profiled on NPR's *All Things Considered* and awarded a performing arts grant from the Creative Capital Foundation. She is also a governor of the San Francisco chapter of the Recording Academy, sits on the board of CASH Music and was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. Her latest album, *Into the Trees* spent 49 weeks on the Billboard classical charts, reaching #7.

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