

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FuseBOX Restaurant and Robert Karimi aka "The People's Cook"
presents
"HOLDING COURT: a gathering of culture and taste"

Date(s): Saturdays June 21st through August 30

Time: 4:00-5:30

Where: FuseBOX Restaurant 2311 A Magnolia Street off West Grand Avenue Oakland, CA 94608

COVER: \$10 includes Happy Hour Skewer of the Day and Tastings from Low Rider Kitchen Cart.

Contact: Ellen Sebastian Chang 510-915-3188 or gmellen@fuseboxoakland.com

MORE INFORMATION:

FuseBOX Restaurant is hosting the "Low Rider Bicycle Kitchen Cart: CounterRevolutionaria" by Robert Karimi aka The People's Cook - commissioned by the San Jose Museum of Art; fabricated with @fernando lau & @mynor lau. As part of a food based performance series to make healthy messaging delicious through various art forms, cross-cultural cooking, encouraging cultural connections, and relating stories shared over a meal. Through dinners, performances, and socially engaged projects, Karimi aspires to involve his audiences in cultural food traditions that allow us to reflect upon how our choices affect the way we feel physically and spiritually.

FuseBOX Restaurant will create a series of Happy Hour Events while hosting the "Low Rider Bicycle Kitchen Cart: CounterRevolutionaria" for the summer before it travels to its next USA location. The series is called "HOLDING COURT: a gathering of culture and taste" and will feature a wide range of artist/activist/writers all sharing their cultures, a tasting of food and conversation with Happy Hour Guest all around the Low Rider Cart.

The series begins on June 21, 2014 with magician David Hirata and ends on August 30, 2014 with a performance created by Robert Karimi and Ellen Sebastian Chang.

Confirmed Holding Court Artist:

June 21st Magician David Hirata excerpts from new work on Food and Magic "The Philosopher's Stew"

June 28th Chef Sunhui Chang and Theater Director/General Manager Ellen Sebastian Chang "Can't We All Just Get Along"

July 12th Choreographer/Dancer Malia Connor "Mixed Heritage"

July 19th Writer Poet Marvin K White "In Your Face Baked Goods"

July 26th Playwright/Solo Performer Anne Galjour "Red Beans and Rice"

August Dates include Comedian Marga Gomez: Food Activist/Cook Saqib Keval of The People's Kitchen; Robert Karimi returned from the World Cup other surprise guests and musicians will join the Saturday Events.



SJMA premiered Karimi's performance from Counter Revolutionaria and the Bicicleta Mobile Kitchen on opening night of the exhibition Around the Table: food, creativity, community on November 8, 2013. Karimi performed as Mero Cocinero from his mobile kitchen at MACLA (Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana) in San José on February 14, 2014.

ARTIST BIOS: (Photos Upon Request)

David Hirata has been doing magic for over 30 years. His work has been described as “lyrical” (SF Arts Monthly) and “an extraordinary delight” (SF Bay Times) and he’s been hailed as “a master of deceit” (KRON 4 TV). He is currently at work on a new theatrical piece, “The Philosopher’s Stew”.

Malia Connor is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Malia Movement Company. “I have a multiCultural background and my parents were diligent on making sure that I was well read, in terms of my personal reality. Once I became a Mother, I decided to write a love poem to my daughter ..an ode to the cultural diversity running through her veins”.

Anne Galjour one-woman plays have been praised for their originality of the writing as well as excellence of performance. Originally from Cajun French speaking Southeastern Louisiana. YOU CAN’T GET THERE FROM HERE was commissioned by the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College and the Flynn Performing Arts Center in Burlington VT. Additional solo performance credits include ALLIGATOR TALES – Hurricane and Mauvais Temps which premiered at Berkeley Repertory Theatre and went on to Manhattan Theatre Club, Seattle Repertory Theatre and Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Marvin K White Marvin K. White, author of four collections of poetry (www.redbonepress.com); *Our Name Be Witness*, *Status* and the two Lambda Literary Award-nominated collections of poetry *last rights* and *nothin’ ugly fly*. He is an ex-member of the critically acclaimed PomoAfroHomos as well as a community arts organizer. He learned how to not only cook but how to feed people from his grandmother.

Sunhui Chang Executive Chef and Owner of FuseBOX Restaurant “My culinary interest began when I was 11: Instead of watching Saturday morning cartoons, I watched PBS cooking

shows on the weekend, Julia Childs, The Frugal Gourmet, and my favorite, Great Chefs, Great Cities. Then at 13, my culinary career began when my mom opened her award winning Korean restaurant, Chung's Restaurant, in Guam. I've been in the food industry ever since. At one point, I was a bagel maker, a butcher, a fishmonger, a cook and eventual chef at another Korean restaurant. Then I started my own catering company, KDR Catering, in 1997. I am currently the Culinary Advisor of Robert Farid Karimi's "Diabetes of Democracy: The Revolution Starts in the Kitchen" project. Chef Chang was named Hot Chef 2012 by Diablo Magazine.

Ellen Sebastian Chang Owner and General Manager of FuseBOX Restaurant in West Oakland. She is also a director, writer and a creative consultant for the Zellerbach Family Fund's Performing Arts Assistance Program. Ms. Sebastian Chang was the cofounder and artistic director of LIFE ON THE WATER, a national and internationally known presenting and producing organization at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center from 1986 through 1995. In 2013 she was the Consulting Producer for HBO's "Whoopi Goldberg Presents Moms Mabley".

Robert Karimi is an interdisciplinary playwright/transmedia humorist. His interactive performances feed audiences a mixed bowl of humor, pop culture and personal history across the Americas—in theatres, grocery stores, backyards and off-Broadway. He is the creator of the critically acclaimed works: *Self (the Remix)*, *Farid Mercury* and the episodic theatrical cooking experience: *The Cooking Show con Karimi & Comrades*. Karimi also creates, develops and directs ensemble-based interdisciplinary performances. A National Poetry Slam Champion, Def Poetry Jam poet and a UCLA graduate, Karimi was the first performance artist to be invited to be a resident at the Kohler Factory Visual Arts Residency. He is now the artistic director of ThePeoplesCook, an organization that nourishes audiences through virtually live delicious artistic and culinary experiences.

Marga Gomez won both the SF Bay Guardian's and SF Weekly's Reader's Choice "2012 Best Comedian" award. Her television credits include LOGO's "One Night Stand Up. Marga is also the creator of nine solo plays which have been produced nationally, and Off Broadway. Her latest show "Not Getting Any Younger," received the SF Chronicle's highest rating in 2011.

Saqib Keval is a community cook and organizer who created the People's Kitchen in order to imagine and support new food systems focused on social justice movement building, and creating holistic, accessible community spaces. He spent his childhood learning how to cook from his family and learned the importance of cooking with love from his grandmother's hands. He draws both from his culinary training in the French canon and the diasporic foods of his people.