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Pictured: (L-R) Heather Stockton and Garth Grimball of Wax poet(s); Photo by Yvonne Portra

WAX POET(S) ANNOUNCES WORLD PREMIERE OF

SWIVEL:HINGE:RETURN

A new work in two parts exploring What does your resistance dance look like?
How is a radical body a body in a state of change?

March 1-3 at CounterPulse in San Francisco

<http://counterpulse.org/event/swivelhingereturn/> or 415-626-2060

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - December 19, 2017 -- Wax Poet(s), the Oakland based arts and performance collective, today announces the world premiere of ***Swivel:Hinge:Return***, choreographed by Artistic Director Heather Stockton and featuring original live music by Shanna Sordahl and the techno duo, KYN. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, March 1-3 at 8 pm CounterPulse in San Francisco.

Swivel:Hinge:Return investigates the impact on the body of the 24-hour news cycle, “breaking developments” and the constant barrage of alerts, tweets, likes and calls to action from smart phones, social media and the mainstream media. How does the body weather this deluge that at best galvanizes unified action and at worst feeds the cycle of “couch protests” or passive resistance in this social media era? How is a body most effective at performing resistance in this time? Is it physical presence, calling elected officials, sharing stories and commentary on virtual channels, or some combination? Through what extensions of the body elicit the most responses? And is garnering an audience tantamount to a private conversation between two people of differing viewpoints?

“Myriad classifications of the body exist and each can be radicalized,” Stockton explains. “A body of people showing up in solidarity, a body of work being exalted or destroyed; a political body versus a social body; the body politic; a body becoming a political landscape on which ideological lines are drawn.” She adds, “For this work we’re asking ‘what does your resistance dance look like? Where in your body do you harbor anxiety? And where compassion? When do you feel activated to action?’”

In *Swivel:Hinge:Return* Stockton addresses these multiple realities with a two part work: one a duet danced by a female and a male dancer -- Stockton and Garth Grimball -- each representing one half of the same person who alternately navigates apathy and hyper-responsiveness; and part two a six dancer ensemble performance of constant motion, weaving, yielding, negotiating, subtracting, adding, creating a steadfast rhythm that builds in tempo and intensity until a moment of critical mass is reached.

The live musical score for part one by Shanna Sordahl reinforces the movement dichotomy of the dancers by exploring the limits of acoustic and electronic interplay. The techno duo KYN provides the sound for the second half of the evening serving as both internal monologue and Greek chorus, reinforcing the high level of media saturation in our resistance discourse. KYN will abstract the noises of phone alerts, weighted with simple updates and validation, to warning, conflict, action and terror.

The Wax Poet(s) dancers are Stockton, Grimball, Stephanie Hewett, Kim Ip, Jenna Jones, Kevin Lopez, Aiano Nakagawa and Tiffany Tonel.

ABOUT WAX POET(S)

Wax Poet(s) **Artistic Director Heather Stockton** is a dance, video and sound artist who created Wax Poet(s) with hopes of cultivating an interdisciplinary community. Originally from Riverside, CA, Stockton’s choreography has been presented at Noh Space (SF), The Garage (SF), On the Boards theater (SEA), Velocity Dance Center (SEA), Littlefield Concert Hall (OAK), Temescal Arts Center (OAK) and Landis Performing Arts Center (RIV) as well as the dance films *Everything You're Feeling is Okay*, *UnderCutThumb&Throat*, *Self Broadcasting*,

Blustery and *For a Time Feeler*. In addition to dance films, her video work has been featured on Slate Magazine and Jezebel. Her work was selected for performance at the American College Dance Festival GALA in 2007 and 2013. She received her MFA in Dance from Mills College and currently is a teaching artist at Luna Dance Institute. Stockton has danced in works by Amy O'Neal/Tiny Rage, Katie Faulkner, Sheldon Smith, Shinichi Iova-Koga, Merce Cunningham (staged by Holley Farmer), Laara Garcia (Psuedopod Interactive), Wade Madsen, Mark Haines, Yoshi Wright, Kristin Carpenter Torok and Nataly Morales.

Wax Poet(s) **Executive Director Garth Grimball** is a native of North Carolina where he received his BA in Anthropology and Dance at UNC Asheville. He danced with Asheville Ballet for five seasons performing new and repertory works. He received his MFA in choreography and performance from Mills College where he was the recipient of the Liatis Foundation Dance Scholarship award and performed in works by Merce Cunningham, Mel Wong, Sonya Delwaide, Sheldon Smith, Katie Faulkner and Molissa Fenley. His choreography has been featured in ODC's 2016 and 2017 Pilot Program and the 2015 SpectorDance Choreographer's Showcase. In addition to Wax Poet(s) he performs with Dana Lawton Dances, Brontez Purnell Dance Company and Oakland Ballet.

ABOUT SHANNA SORDAHL (Composer)

Composer Shanna Sordahl's multifaceted background allows multiple streams of influence to seep into each of her projects. The fusion of acoustic instruments and sounds with an electronic music approach infuses and shapes her work. She has an MFA in Electronic Music and Recording Media from Mills College, where she focused on digital and analog synthesis, installation work, cello improvisation and audio engineering. She also holds a BA in music from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario where her concentration included both electroacoustic music and religious studies. She has studied composition with Laetitia Sonami, Chris Brown, James Fei, and Matt Rogalsky and cello with Joan Jeanrenaud. Shanna's work has been presented at the 2013 International SuperCollider Convention, and she has performed and worked with a variety of composers and artists including Trimpin, Wrekmeister Harmonies, and Alvin Lucier. As an audio and live-sound engineer, she has worked with many Bay Area musicians and in addition to solo endeavors, she plays with and is a founding member of the groups Talk More, ZE BIB! and Very Understanding. www.shannasordahl.net

ABOUT KYN (Composers)

Inspired by Berlin techno and the environments from which those sounds emanate, KYN is an electronic duo that explores experimental dance music with a dark, minimal and atmospheric aesthetic. With influences from films like *Blade Runner*, *Alien* and *Ex Machina* to the sounds of Northern Electronics, Stephan Bodzin, Ital Tek and Andy Stott, KYN weaves an odyssey of electronic sound through live performance. Using music as catharsis from the often dark world we live in, KYN invites deep contemplation allowing space for escape and movement while finding comfort in what some find frightening. www.kynsound.com

Wax Poet(s) is supported by Zellerbach Family Foundation Community Arts Grant, Dancers' Group CA\$H Grant, CounterPulse Co-Production, CIIS Public Programs and generous individuals.

Company Website: www.wax-poets.com

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Wax Poet(s) @CounterPulse
March 1-3, 2018

*"Every dance a marvelous madcap plunge into collaboration."
- Choreographer Molissa Fenley*

*"What a wonderfully simple but powerful way to let dance speak the story of the individuals." --
Choreographer Sheldon Smith*

CALENDAR LISTING
Dance Theater, Music, Performance

WHAT: **Wax Poet(s) presents**
Swivel:Hinge:Return (World Premiere)
Choreographed by Heather Stockton
Music Composed and Performed Live by Shanna Sordahl and KYN
Danced by Heather Stockton, Garth Grimboll, Stephanie Hewett,
Kim Ip, Jenna Jones, Kevin Lopez, Aiano Nakagawa, and Tiffany Tonel

WHEN: Thursday, March 1 at 8pm
Friday, March 2 at 8pm
Saturday, March 3 at 8pm

WHERE: Counterpulse
80 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

BOX OFFICE: <http://counterpulse.org/event/swivelhingereturn/> or 415-626-2060

TICKETS: \$20 - \$25

FOR MORE INFO: www.wax-poets.com

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