

## Violet Juno's New Performance *Fabric of the Universe*

Violet Juno's new full-length show, *Fabric of the Universe*, is a carefully crafted love letter to performance. It focuses on the beautiful and unexpected transformations that happen when art meets the unknown on the stage. It is also a meta-performance or a performance about performance. At the heart of it, this performance brings to life a set of relationships—between the audience and the performer, words and vision, the stage and the real world, and praxis and the history of performance. But more is in the mix and more is at stake than merely identifying parts of the equation. Juno shows how the magic of art reveals itself and changes lives at these intersections of performance, creative process and everyday life. *Fabric of the Universe* celebrates the shape-shifting constellation of connections that make up the world of performance.

For the staging of *Fabric of the Universe*, Juno makes full use of her training as a sculptor. The performance features unique props including a wearable toy theatre and a free-standing toy theatre that wheels around the stage and doubles as a shadow puppet theatre. Juno takes her long-standing interest in sound to new levels in this performance. She created a costume imbedded with 20 chimes that transforms her body into a musical instrument and uses a custom-made instrument inspired by the gorgeously haunting sounds of the vintage cigar box guitar born in the South.

This performance is a great match for Performance Studies programming because it uses visuals, text, sound, and movement in innovative ways while directly addressing issues of performance theory and practice. To deepen the experience, this piece is also staged so that up to eight student performers can join Juno on stage. This performance is presented by the Performance Studies Division of the 2014 National Communications Association Conference.



### Book now for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 tours!

*"Mesmerizing and revelatory! Violet Juno's new performance is image-saturated and mind-expanding. Weeks after seeing her perform, her moving stories still haunted my thoughts, and her indelibly vivid images wove themselves into my dreams."*

- Rica Anderson, Programs Administrator,  
Cal Performances, University of California,  
Berkeley, CA

*"The stories she tells blend seamlessly with the images she creates live, building an art form that transcends the art gallery and even the live theater, into a new meta-theatrical dreamland."*

- Ryan C. McQ, Theater Major,  
St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA

## Violet Juno's Current Performance (*I am still here*) *Language Has Left the Building*



Counting languages learned and lost in her family discourse, English is Violet Juno's sixth language. So perhaps it comes as no surprise that this performance investigates the intriguing dynamic between language and language(less)ness.

Recounting stories from the classroom, the ICU ward and Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Juno explores how words express and shape who we are and what we think we know. At the heart of this performance are the intertwined relationships between sound and language, between language and body language, and the various ways we are rendered speechless. Juno takes an interdisciplinary approach to explore this rich territory and how we can recover and redefine our relationship to language by interweaving spoken word, movement, unusual props, and a unique form of cognitive mapping.

This performance will be retired soon. Book now to make sure you don't miss out on this special piece. As an added bonus, this piece is staged so that up to eight student performers can join Juno on stage. This performance has been presented at the Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA; Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Berkeley, CA; California State Summer Arts Festival, Cal State Fresno, Fresno, CA; Kleinau Theatre at Southern Illinois University, Hopkins Black Box Theatre at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, Stillwell Theatre at Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA and the National Communications Association Conference in San Francisco, CA.

Two articles on this performance will be included in an upcoming special issue of the performance journal *Liminalities* ([www.liminalities.net](http://www.liminalities.net)) that will be dedicated to Violet Juno's performance work.

### Book now for 2015-2016 tours!

*"Generous, magical, laugh-out-loud funny, and, above all, life affirming."*

- David Terry, Assistant Professor of Performance Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

*"Juno's performance captivates the audience with provocative sights and sounds. The work is clever, creative, and meaningful."*

- Tracy Shaffer, Associate Professor of Performance Studies, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

*"Juno treats her own experience as material for uncanny representations of what we do as creatures bringing our languages with us from culture to culture, exposing ourselves to the possibility of seeing our lives and our communicative power in new ways."*

- Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, Associate Professor of Speech Communication, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL



## **Violet Juno's Visiting Artist Engagement Offerings**

### **Individual or Small Group Consultations**

Consultations are usually 30 minutes on campus or longer sessions during meals. I often ask students to come to the meeting with a "burning question" about their research, creative practice or performance work. This question provides the basis for our exploratory discussion, and I often make cognitive maps to track and make visible the ground we cover. I give these notes and information about resources to the student to continue their investigation. Students are welcome to audio record our session.

*"Through her work and her teaching, Violet Juno has taught me to use art to look for strange and beautiful answers to the many questions I have about myself and the world."*

- Joe Hassert, Tenure Track Instructor, College of Southern Nevada, NV

### **Class Visits or Workshops**

I read the assigned material for the classes I visit, so I may fully participate in the discussion. I provide feedback to student work in progress or give a short presentation on how my work relates to the class topics. I also can lead workshops during or outside class time that introduce students to techniques that I use. These include how to create a performative response to text, performance or other class material, use props in innovative ways, and physical theatre version of the Greek Chorus I developed as a way for several performers to support a solo performer.

*"Juno is real and riveting. Her workshops encourage you to think with your whole body."*

- Nicole Defenbaugh, Assistant Professor, Performance Studies, Bloomsburg University, PA

### **Site-Specific Performance Project – *The Reversicon***

Students are invited to participate in my ongoing project *The Reversicon*. This project began when I was a visiting artist at the Headlands Center for the Arts in 2006 as a way to performatively explore the unusual environment where the center is located. The project has since expanded to 50 locations in 12 regional areas. As part of this project, I have worked with 21 collaborators -- 14 are Performance Studies students at LSU and SIU. Students choose a local site that is meaningful to them, and we create site-specific performance for two hours documenting the process through photography. Performances involve duets, small groups and the whole group. Everyone has an opportunity to perform, document, witness, and reflect. Afterwards, participants are invited to meet for an hour to look at the documentation, reflect on the experience, and create a short slideshow to share with their performance community.

*"The Reversicon experience opened new pathways in my thought process as an artist; these channels continue to invite me, educate me, and push in new creative directions."*

- Nico Wood, Doctoral Student, Performance Studies, Southern Illinois University, IL

### **Performing on Stage with Students**

The performance "Romancing Variable X" is staged with three sections where 2-8 students can perform on stage with me. This allows the students and me to enjoy performing together while sharing in the learning that happens on stage. These sections are short, involve no text, and focus on simple actions. These sections use a technique I call "Physical Theatre Greek Chorus" wherein two or more performers support a solo performer by performing actions that visually amplify the solo performer and also provide added layers of meaning or subtext. The process is low-stress for the students. We meet for an hour before the dress rehearsal to walk through the actions and then run the dress rehearsal together. That's it! During the performance, the students sit in the front row so that they can see the whole show and easily take the stage.

*"Working with Violet allowed me to witness her energy and commitment on a level that pure audienceing does not assume. Being on stage with Violet meant feeling the physical presence of her immense performance energy, and working with Violet in this capacity meant watching her process, learning from her staging techniques in rehearsal, and embodying the theoretical essence of her script."*

- Meggie Mapes, Doctoral Candidate, Performance Studies, Southern Illinois University, IL



## Violet Juno Biography

Shape-shifting and genre-bending, Violet Juno is an interdisciplinary artist who weaves together storytelling, sound, movement, wearable and kinetic sculpture, drawing, and mapping into live works of art.

Since 1990, Violet Juno has performed and exhibited at over 70 theaters and art spaces in 36 cities in the United States, Canada and Scotland. Highlights include screening the video “People of Color Speak Out” at MOMA, singing a duet with the renowned poet Jerome Rothenberg at Poet’s House in NYC, touring upstate New York migrant camps with Border Art Workshop, and representing the United States for an international performance series at Banff Center for the Arts in Canada.

Juno’s unique form of stage performance is multi-layered and often incorporates kinetic and fragrant props, soundscapes, flamboyant costumes, live video projection, and a three-dimensional form of cognitive mapping. Juno seeks to create a multi-sensory experience so that the artwork is not just what is happening on stage but also what audience members conjure in their minds of what they witness. Thus, a part of the artwork is what the audience takes with them when they leave.

In addition to contemporary stage and gallery spaces such as PS122 and PS1 in New York and LACE in Los Angeles, Juno has also performed at unusual site-specific environments such a dry creek bed in St. Louis, a farm hayloft in upstate New York, and a theater carved out of an underground train yard in Glasgow, Scotland. Beyond her solo work, Juno also creates sound performance with Ron Coulter as part of the duo REDVIXA.

As a multidisciplinary artist, Juno is a passionate Teaching Artist who has taught students aged 3 to 73. Juno believes everyone deserves access to the arts, and it shows in the range of contexts in which she has taught for the past 25 years: universities, public schools, city programs, arts organizations, migrant camps, libraries, a tribal reservation school, homeless shelters, and a safe house for orphans without citizenship papers.

An expert educator in performance art and arts integration, Juno has guest lectured at 19 universities since 1990. From 1995-1998, Juno founded and directed the 4D Institute for Live Art where she worked with community members to explore and share their stories through performance art. From 2005-2012, Juno had an on-going relationship with the Performance Studies PhD program of Southern Illinois University as a visiting artist sharing strategies for developing layered, authentic performance work.

More information at [www.violetjuno.com](http://www.violetjuno.com).



## VIOLET JUNO

www.violetjuno.com violet@violetjuno.com

### Education

1990	BFA	Sculpture (Valedictorian, School of Fine Arts)	Washington University, St. Louis, MO
1993	MFA	Visual Arts (Performance Art Focus)	University of California, San Diego, CA
2004		Certificate of Completion, Project Zero Institute	Harvard University, Boston, MA

### Selected Performance and Exhibition Venues

*Presented 27 performance pieces as well as visual and media art at 70 venues in 36 cities since 1990 in the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom.*

American Festival, Appalshop, Whitesburg, KY	Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Berkeley, CA
Arches Theater, Glasgow, UK	Kenan Center, Lockport, NY
Arts Company, Boston, MA	Kleinau Theatre, Carbondale, IL
Athenaeum, La Jolla, CA	Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA
Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada	Marsh Theatre, Berkeley, CA
Centro Cultural de la Raza, San Diego, CA	Milkbar, Oakland, CA
Center of Contemporary Art, Lexington, KY	Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA
Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow, UK	Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Chabot Space and Science Center, Oakland, CA	Performance Space 122, New York, NY
Counterpulse, San Francisco, CA	Poets House, New York, NY
Intl. Festival of Performance Art, Cleveland, OH	PS1, New York, NY
Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA	Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT
Diverse Works, Houston, TX	Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
El Campo Ruse Theatre, San Diego, CA	Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, NY
Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo, NY	Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL
Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA	Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
Highways, Los Angeles, CA	Stillwell Theatre, Kennesaw, GA
HopKins Black Box Theatre, Baton Rouge, CA	Sushi Performance & Visual Art, San Diego, CA
Intersection Gallery, San Diego, CA	Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
International Society for Improved Music, Denver, CO	

### Art Residencies

*Participated in residencies involving performance, teaching, and community engagement.*

Appalshop, Whitesburg, KY	Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA
Banff Center for the Arts, Alberta, Canada	Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
Dance Theater Workshop, New York, NY	Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA
Diverse Works, Houston, TX	Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL
Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA	Ucross Foundation for the Arts, Clearmont, WY

### Grants and Awards

*Received grants and awards to pursue artistic research, create artwork, travel and present performance work.*

Ethan A. H. Shepley Award, St. Louis, MO	New York Council of the Arts, New York, NY
Helen Fabish Sculpture Award, St. Louis, MO	Russell Foundation Grant, San Diego, CA
Janis Risque Sculpture Competition, St. Louis, MO	Roger Conant Hatch Poetry Competition, St. Louis, MO
Just Buffalo Literary Center Grant, Buffalo, NY	

### Publication and Media Coverage

*Juno's writing is included in Artful Teaching published by Teacher's Press in 2011. Interviews and reviews are listed below. Liminalities Performance Journal will publish an upcoming special issue about Juno's performance work.*

Art in America Magazine	WGBH PBS Station, Boston, MA	San Diego Union-Tribune
High Performance Magazine	MA Channel 7, Billings, MT	The Billings Gazette
Romance Languages Annual	KSDS Radio, San Diego, CA	San Francisco Bay Guardian

### **Visiting Artist and Lecturer at Universities & Professional Organizations 1993-2014**

California College of the Arts, Oakland, CA  
California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA  
California State University, San Marcos, CA  
Cal State Summer Arts Institute, Fresno, CA  
Grossmont-Cuyamaca College, San Diego, CA  
Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA  
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, CA  
Mills College, Oakland, CA  
MiraCosta College, San Diego, CA  
National Communications Assoc., San Francisco, CA  
San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA  
San Diego State University, San Diego, CA  
San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA  
Senior Stages, San Diego, CA  
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL  
The Advertising Arts College, San Diego, CA  
The Meeting Planners Association, San Diego, CA  
The Writer's Voice, Billings, MT and Scottsdale, AZ  
The Writing Center, San Diego, CA  
University of California, Berkeley, CA  
University of California, Irvine, CA  
University of California, Riverside, CA  
University of California, San Diego, CA  
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA  
Villanova University, Villanova, PA  
Washington University, St. Louis, MO  
Young Presidents Organization, San Diego, CA

### **Coordinator for Arts Organizations 1998-2014**

2009-2014 Public Art Program Coordinator, Alameda County Arts Commission, Oakland, CA  
2008-2009 Schools Program Coordinator, Creative Education Institute, Oakland, CA  
2002-2008 Art IS Education Program Coordinator, Alameda County Office of Education, Hayward, CA  
2002 Interim Education Director, Mexican Museum, San Francisco, CA  
1999-2002 Education Director, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA  
1998-1999 Program Manager, Leap...Imagination in Learning, San Francisco, CA  
1998 Co-Director, Zero 2 One Mentoring Program, San Diego, CA  
1995-1998 Founder and Director, 4D Institute for Live Art, San Diego, CA

### **Teaching Artist for Arts Organizations and Schools 1988-2014**

Albany Library, Albany, CA  
Athenaeum Arts and Music Library, La Jolla, CA  
Barona Reservation Indian School, Barona, CA  
Benvenue Children's House, Berkeley, CA  
Border Art Workshop at migrant schools in Lockport  
& Brockport, NY, San Diego & Los Angeles, CA  
Brookside Elementary, San Diego, CA  
Children's Museum, San Diego, CA  
Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA  
Downtown College Prep High School, San Jose, CA  
Ecole Bilingue de Berkeley, Berkeley, CA  
Gateways Summer Program, Miramar, CA  
Jefferson Elementary School, Berkeley, CA  
Jewish Cultural Arts Center, St. Louis, MO  
Le Conte Elementary, Berkeley, CA  
Lincoln Acres Elementary School, National City, CA  
Lindo Park Elementary School, Lakeside, CA  
Marin Elementary School, Albany, CA  
Oxford Elementary School, Berkeley, CA  
Paden Elementary, Alameda, CA  
School of the Madeleine, Berkeley, CA  
The Athenian, Danville, CA  
The Writing Center, San Diego, CA

### **Trainer for Certification Programs, K-12 Faculty & Arts Organizations 2000-2014**

Alameda County Office of Education, Hayward, CA  
Alameda Unified School District, Alameda, CA  
Arts Education Initiative, Oakland, CA  
Berkeley Unified School District, Berkeley, CA  
Cal Performances, Berkeley, CA  
California Alliance for Arts Education, Sacramento, CA  
California Department of Education, Sacramento, CA  
California Educational Theatre Assoc., Sacramento, CA  
California Kindergarten Association, Santa Clara, CA  
Castro Valley Unified School District, Castro Valley, CA  
Charter School of San Diego, San Diego, CA  
Expressive Arts Institute, San Diego, CA  
Grossmont HS Unified School District, Grossmont, CA  
Mills College, Oakland, CA  
Mountain House School District, Byron, CA  
Museum of Children's Art, Oakland, CA  
Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA  
Oakland Unified School District, Oakland, CA  
Opera Piccola, Oakland, CA  
Piedmont Unified School District, Piedmont, CA  
Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA  
Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission,  
Sacramento, CA  
SF Arts Providers Alliance, San Francisco, CA  
Teachers for Social Justice, San Francisco, CA  
University of California, Berkeley, CA

### **Board and Panel Service 1998-2006**

- 2006 Public Art Review Panel, Alameda County Arts Commission, Oakland, CA
- 2003 New Works Review Panel, Craft & Cultural Affairs Dept., City of Oakland, Oakland, CA
- 1998-2000 Board of Directors, National Performance Network, New Orleans, LA
- 1998 Advisory Board, Sushi Performance & Visual Art, San Diego, CA

### **Community Service and Volunteer Work 2000-2014**

*Provided pro bono performances, services and community engagement events for community organizations.*

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| Art is On Salon, Berkeley, CA                | Marsh Theater, Berkeley, CA                        |
| BAR Corporation, Carbondale, IL              | Milkbar Art Salon, Oakland, CA                     |
| Children's Hospital, Oakland, CA             | Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA                 |
| California Arts Council, Asilomar, CA        | National Performance Network, San Francisco, CA    |
| Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA | Piedmont Gardens Senior Home, Oakland, CA          |
| Highways Performance Space, Los Angeles, CA  | Salvation Army Homeless Shelter, Oakland, CA       |
| Kaiser Hospital Pediatric Ward, Oakland, CA  | Triple Threat Art Collaborative, San Francisco, CA |

### **Professional Development 1999-2015**

*Participation in workshops and conferences to engage in research, further collaborations, and learn new skills.*

- 2015 International Open Embodiment s Conference, Tucson, AZ (3 day conference)
- 2014 National Communications Association Conference, Chicago, IL (3 day conference)  
[Dis]Embodied Poetics Conference, Naropa University, Boulder, CO. (3 day conference)  
Integrated Learning Conference, Alameda County Office of Education, Oakland, CA (3 day conference)  
Feldenkreis-based Site-Specific Performance, Counterpulse, San Francisco, CA (1/2 day workshop)
- 2013 National Communications Association Conference, Washington, D.C. (3 day conference)  
Integrated Learning Conference, Alameda County Office of Education, Oakland, CA (3 day conference)  
Feldenkreis-based Site-Specific Performance, Milkbar Theatre, Oakland, CA (1/2 day workshop)
- 2012 Integrated Learning Conference, Alameda County Office of Education, Oakland, CA (3 day conference)  
Feldenkreis-based Site-Specific Performance, Milkbar Theatre, Oakland, CA (2 day workshop)
- 2011 Interdisciplinary Performance Workshop, Triple Threat, San Francisco (1/2 day workshop)  
Restorative Justice Workshop, Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, Oakland, CA (1 day workshop)  
Integrated Learning Conference, Alameda County Office of Education, Oakland, CA (3 day conference)  
Interdisciplinary Performance Workshops, Art Workouts, San Francisco, CA (5 two-hour workshops)
- 2010 International Society of Improvised Music, Santa Cruz, CA (3 day conference)  
Movement Score Workshop, 7<sup>th</sup> Street Studios, Berkeley, CA (1/2 day workshop)  
Aerial InterPlay Storytelling Workshop, Wing It! Performance Ensemble, Berkeley, CA (1/2 day workshop)
- 2009 Aerial Dance: Flying by the Seat of Your Pants, Sonya Smith, San Francisco, CA (1/2 day workshop)  
International Society of Improvised Music, Denver, CO (3 day conference)
- 2006 Arts Integration Conference, Ford Foundation, Washington, D.C. (3 day conference)  
Project Zero Summer Institute, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Boston, MA  
(5 day training, 42 hours, Certificate of Completion)  
Teaching for Understanding Online Course, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Boston, MA  
(13 week course, 42 hours, Certificate of Completion)
- 2005 Online Arts Advocacy Training, Ford Foundation, New York, NY (2 day training)
- 2004 Arts Advocacy Speakers Training, Ford Foundation, Oakland, CA (1 day training)
- 2001 Physically Integrated Dance Workshop, AXIS Dance Company (1/2 day workshop)
- 1999 American Sign Language I, Berkeley City College, Berkeley, CA (12 week course, 72 hours, 4 units)  
Improvisational Interdisciplinary Performance Workshop, Body Tales, Fairfax, CA (1 day workshop)