

SISTER SPIT: THE NEXT GENERATION 2015

"literary celebration of outspoken and courageous feminists" -Independent Weekly

"the coolest (and cutest) line-up of talented, tattooed, pierced, and purple-pigtailed performance artists the Bay Area has to offer" -Boston Phoenix



ABOUT SISTER SPIT: Since it's maiden voyage in 1997, Sister Spit has been taking vanloads of cutting-edge, razor- sharp writers, poets and performance artists into the wilds of North America, bringing a radical vision of queerness, feminism and daily life into small towns and big cities, staging shows at Universities, coffee shops, art galleries and culture spaces. Always bringing a mixture of award-winners and best-sellers with up-and-comers, a Sister Spit show is like nothing else, an inspiring glimpse into other ways of living, thinking and being, infused with humor, darkness and camp.

This legendary, raucous, rowdy performance gang, is packed with multimedia, queer-centric brilliance, a must-see multimedia explosion of taste-makers, novelists, luminaries, playwrights, performance artists, poets and drag queens.

ABOUT CO-FOUNDING MEMBER MICHELLE TEA: Tea is the artistic Director of RADAR Productions. In 1994, she co-founded, with Sini Anderson, the legendary and long-running Sister Spit all-female open mics; from 1997 to 2000, Tea conducted several national tours by Sister Spit that calling attention to the City's emerging lesbian artists, who performed to sold-out houses across America. Tea has published four memoirs, including the award-winning *Valencia*, recently adapted into a feature length film shot by 21 independent filmmakers, the novel *Rose of No Man's Land*, and the poetry collection *The Beautiful*. She has edited anthologies on topics such female working-class experience (*Without a Net*), personal narrative (*Pills, Thrills, Chills and Heartache*), and young queer-female literature (*Baby, Remember My Name*). Her writing has been selected for the collections *Best Music Writing*, *Best American Non-Required Reading*, *The Outlaw Bible of American Essays*, *Best American Erotica*, *The Aunt Lute Anthology of US Women Writers*, and many others. Her first YA novel *Mermaid in Chelsea Creek* was published in 2013 by McSweeney's. She has been presented with a Goldie Award from the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, a Lambda Literary Award, and the prestigious Rona Jaffe Foundation award for exceptional female writers at the start of their careers. In 2006 both the *Guardian* and the *Weekly's* readers polls named her the Bay Area's Best Writer. Her work has been translated into Italian,

Slovenian, Austrian-German, Japanese, Swedish and Spanish (Peru); translations of her work into French and Polish are forthcoming. The San Francisco Arts Commission recently awarded Tea her fifth Individual Artist Commission and she also received an Artistic Innovation Award from Center for Cultural Innovation.

WHO IS ON TOUR FOR 2015:

Thomas Page McBee writes the column "Self-Made Man" for the Rumpus and the new series "The American Man" for Pacific Standard. His writings on gender have appeared in the New York Times and via TheAtlantic.com, VICE (where he was the "The Masculinity expert") BuzzFeed, and Salon. Thomas gives lectures on masculinity and media narratives across the country. He lives in New York City. His first book, *Man Alive: A True Story of Violence, Forgiveness and Becoming a Man*, is forthcoming from Sister Spit Books / City Lights. Says Roxane Gay, "Man Alive is a sweet, tender hurt of a memoir. Thomas Page McBee deftly recounts what has shaped him into the man he has become and how—from childhood trauma to a mugging in Oakland where he learned of his body's ability to save itself. This is a memoir about forgiveness and self-discovery, but mostly it's about love, so much love. McBee takes us in his capable hands and shows us what it takes to become a man who is gloriously, gloriously alive."

Miriam Klein Stahl is a visual artist whose work incorporates drawing and traditional printmaking as well as public and social practice installations. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and spaces around the country and is published in numerous books. Her most recent public installation projects include the 2011 Freedom Bus Project, where she worked as a Lead Artist on design for buses in the AC transit fleet to commemorate the Montgomery Bus Boycott budget. She is a co-founder/lead teacher of the Arts and Humanities Academy at Berkeley High School, and holds a position as an Arts Commissioner in the City of Berkeley. She lives in Berkeley, CA, with her partner Lena, their 7 yr-old daughter Hazel, and Lenny the dog. Her first book, *Rad American Women A-Z*, with writer Kate Schatz, is forthcoming on Lil Sister Spit / City Lights. Like all children's A-Z books, this one illustrates the alphabet—but instead of "A is for Apple" or Alligator, A is for Angela—as in Angela Davis, the iconic Black Panther.

Saeed Jones is the editor of BuzzFeed LGBT. He received his MFA in Creative Writing at Rutgers University – Newark. His chapbook *When the Only Light is Fire* is available from Sibling Rivalry Press. He is the recipient of fellowships from Queer / Arts / Mentors and Cave Canem and several Pushcart Prize nominations.

Tom Cho's collection of fictions, *Look Who's Morphing*, was published to acclaim in Australia and was shortlisted for various literary awards, including the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book. Studied in Australia, USA, Switzerland, UK, Canada and elsewhere, *Look Who's Morphing* was recently released for North America and Europe by Arsenal Pulp Press. Tom also has 70 publications of fiction pieces in literary journals and anthologies, and has received various arts grants and artist residencies. He is currently writing a novel about the meaning of life. Visit his website at tomcho.com

Hosted with performance by Virgie Tovar

Virgie Tovar is a hot fat Latina femme writer and activist. She is the editor of *Hot & Heavy: Fierce Fat Girls on Life, Love and Fashion* (Seal Press, November 2012). She holds a Master's degree in Human Sexuality with a focus on the intersections of body size, race and gender. After teaching "Female Sexuality" at the University of California at Berkeley, where she completed a Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2005, she went onto host "The Virgie Show" (CBS Radio) in San Francisco. She is certified as a sex educator and was voted Best Sex Writer by the Bay Area Guardian in 2008 for her first book, *Destination DD: Adventures of a Breast Fetishist with 40DDs*. Virgie and her work have been featured by MTV, the San Francisco Chronicle, Bust Magazine,

Jezebel, 7x7 Magazine, XOJane, Golden Gate Express and SF Weekly as well as on Women's Entertainment Television and The Ricki Lake Show. She lives in San Francisco and offers workshops, lectures and coaching worldwide. Virgie has toured North America with Sister Spit: The Next Generation. Find her online at www.virgietovar.com.