



JUNE 6 - 18

SPARK FEST'24

FORT WORTH.TX



AMPHIBIAN STAGE

2024 SCHEDULE

JUNE 6	7PM	Light Up The Runway
JUNE 7	7PM	"We Are the Greatest Poems"
	8PM	Arkai Music
JUNE 8	8PM	Shafi Hossain
JUNE 9	2PM	This Is My Story
JUNE 12	8PM	Did You Eat? (밥 먹었니?)
JUNE 13	5:30PM	Acting Competition: Round 1
	8PM	barren
JUNE 14	5:30PM	Acting Competition: Round 2
	8PM	You are Cordially Invited To the End of the World!
JUNE 15	11AM	Did You Eat? (밥 먹었니?)
	3PM	barren
	8PM	Acting Competition Final Round
JUNE 16	2PM	You are Cordially Invited To the End of the World!
JUNE 17	7PM	Beginner's Dance Workshop
JUNE 18	7PM	Umami Playground

Events & Performances New Play Development Acting Competition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME TO SPARKFEST	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
EVENTS & PERFORMANCES	8
Visual Art at SparkFest	10
Light Up The Runway	12
"We Are the Greatest Poems"	14
Arkai Music	16
Shafi Hossain	18
This Is My Story	20
Beginner's Dance Workshop	22
Umami Playground	24
NEW PLAY DEVELOPMENT	26
Did You Eat? (밥 먹었니?)	28
barren	30
You Are Cordially Invited To the End of the World!	32
ACTING COMPETITION	34



Amphibian Stage Staff, 2023
Photo by Taylor Staniforth

WELCOME TO **SPARKFEST'24**

Welcome to the electrifying world of SparkFest 2024! This year, we're shining a spotlight on the incredible talent of Asian and Pacific Islander artists, gathering over 70 extraordinary artists from across the United States

The team at Amphibian Stage has been working overtime to bring a dynamic two weeks of entertainment right here to 120 South Main. This is your chance to immerse yourself in artistic experiences this city has never offered before. Whether you're catching a groundbreaking new play, soul-stirring music, the final moments of our Acting Competition, or engaging in thought-provoking conversation, there are so many opportunities to ignite your imagination and expand your horizons.

Join us as we celebrate the transformative power of art and embrace the beauty of AAPI artists. SparkFest is your passport to a universe of unforgettable experiences. Let's go!

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

How much are single tickets?

As of 2023, Amphibian Stage established a tiered ticketing model for all events. Ticket level will not impact your seat placement as all events are General Admission. SparkFest events range from \$15-40.

Can I buy a pass to all events?

SparkPass (\$80) will be on sale soon!

Where will the events take place?

All events will happen at Amphibian Stage.

Can I hangout at Amphibian Stage between performances?

Of course!

What is the parking situation?

Amphibian Stage owns a parking lot directly next to the building. All SparkFest ticket holders can park for free.

Will your bar be open?

Our bar (beer, wine, wine slushies, non-alcoholic beverages, and limited snacks) will be open for all events.

Will there be food available?

There will be catered food for certain events, and snacks available at all events.

What if I have more questions?

We'd love to help! Just reach out to us at info@amphibianstage.com or 817-923-3012 for more assistance.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Amphibian Stage honors the Indigenous People of this nation who, for generations, were the stewards of our lands.

We respectfully acknowledge that our theater resides on the ancestral home of the Comanche, Wichita and Kickapoo People.

THANK YOU TO OUR FESTIVAL SPONSORS!

ARTS FORT WORTH
together we make art happen

GRANT WINNER



AMON G. CARTER
FOUNDATION

THE **SHUBERT**
FOUNDATION INC.

Orchid Giving Circle
GRANT | 20
FINALIST | 23

SID W. RICHARDSON
FOUNDATION



The Pea Charitable Trust

NORTH TEXAS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES' SPONSOR!

NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

"North Texas Community Foundation works with local donors and leaders to respond to the needs of our region. Together, we can cultivate a more vibrant and resilient community where all North Texans can thrive."

EVENTS & PERFORM

LINE-UP

LIGHT UP THE RUNWAY

VISUAL ART AT SPARKFEST

"WE ARE THE GREATEST POEMS"

ARKAI MUSIC

SHAFI HOSSAIN

THIS IS MY STORY

UMAMI PLAYGROUND

BEGINNER'S DANCE WORKSHOP

PERFORMANCES



VISUAL ART

with Thu Nguyen and Philippa
Pham Hughes

ONGOING

**Arts &
Community**

FLOWER MURAL

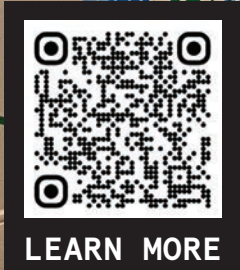
Find your way to Fort Worth to help paint and unveil our wildflower mural inside of Amphibian's theatre, designed by muralist Thu Anh Nguyen and painted by all of us!

THE GREATEST POEM

Stop by our lobby to watch Philippa Pham Hughes' short animated film "The Greatest Poem," inspired by poet Walt Whitman, who said, "The United States themselves are essentially the greatest poem."

FOUND POETRY

Meander through our lobby to see poet Thu Anh Nguyen's found poetry, woven together from responses by AAPI individuals across the country reflecting on what it means to be Asian and/or Pacific Islander in America.



LEARN MORE

LIGHT UP THE RUNWAY

THURSDAY JUNE 6 @ 7PM

Local DIY Fashion Show

Get ready to ignite the runway with the electrifying kickoff event of SparkFest 2024 – Light Up the Runway! Picture *Project Runway* meets *Chopped* with a splash of *RuPaul's Drag Race* flair. Watch as Fort Worth's finest come together, pairing creativity with panache, all vying for the coveted title of "Best Amateur Fashion Designers." Join us in the theater for an evening filled with laughter, celebration, and the crowning of a victorious designer.

COMPETITORS

Stephen Flores

Kierra Lechelle
Powers

Jasmine Woods

JUDGES

Meda Kessler

Joey Luong

Rima Shrestha



LEARN MORE

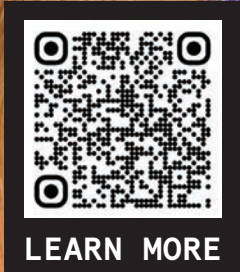
"WE ARE THE GREATEST POEMS"

FRIDAY JUNE 7 @ 7PM

**Lecture, Conversation,
& Inspiration**

In conversation with Social Sculptor, Cultural Strategist, and Curator Philippa Pham Hughes, join us for a discussion at Amphibian Stage about identity, community, country, and care through poetry!

"We Are The Greatest Poems" explores the complexity of being Asian American through poetry and film and attempts to find a unified whole that embraces all its disparate parts.



LEARN MORE

ARKAI MUSIC

FRIDAY JUNE 7 @ 8PM

**Electroacoustic
Music Duo**

Fresh off their European tour, Arkai Music comes to Fort Worth to perform their original style of classical-meets- electronic music. Experience the dynamic blend of traditional instruments and modern technology for a captivating musical journey like no other.



LEARN MORE

SHAFI HOSSAIN

SATURDAY JUNE 8 @ 8PM

**Stand-Up
Comedy**

Get ready to laugh till your sides ache with Shafi Hossain, the chemical engineer turned comedian sensation. Hailing from New York City, Shafi's uproarious wit and charm have earned him accolades like being named one of New York's Funniest Stand Up. With a TV appearance on Kevin Hart's LOL Network's show Road Comics and a massive social media following, Shafi promises an unforgettable night of laughter and entertainment.



LEARN MORE

THIS IS MY STORY

Led by Julia Estelle Cotton

SUNDAY JUNE 9 @ 2PM

**Community
Storytelling**

STORYTELLERS

Dixya Bhattarai

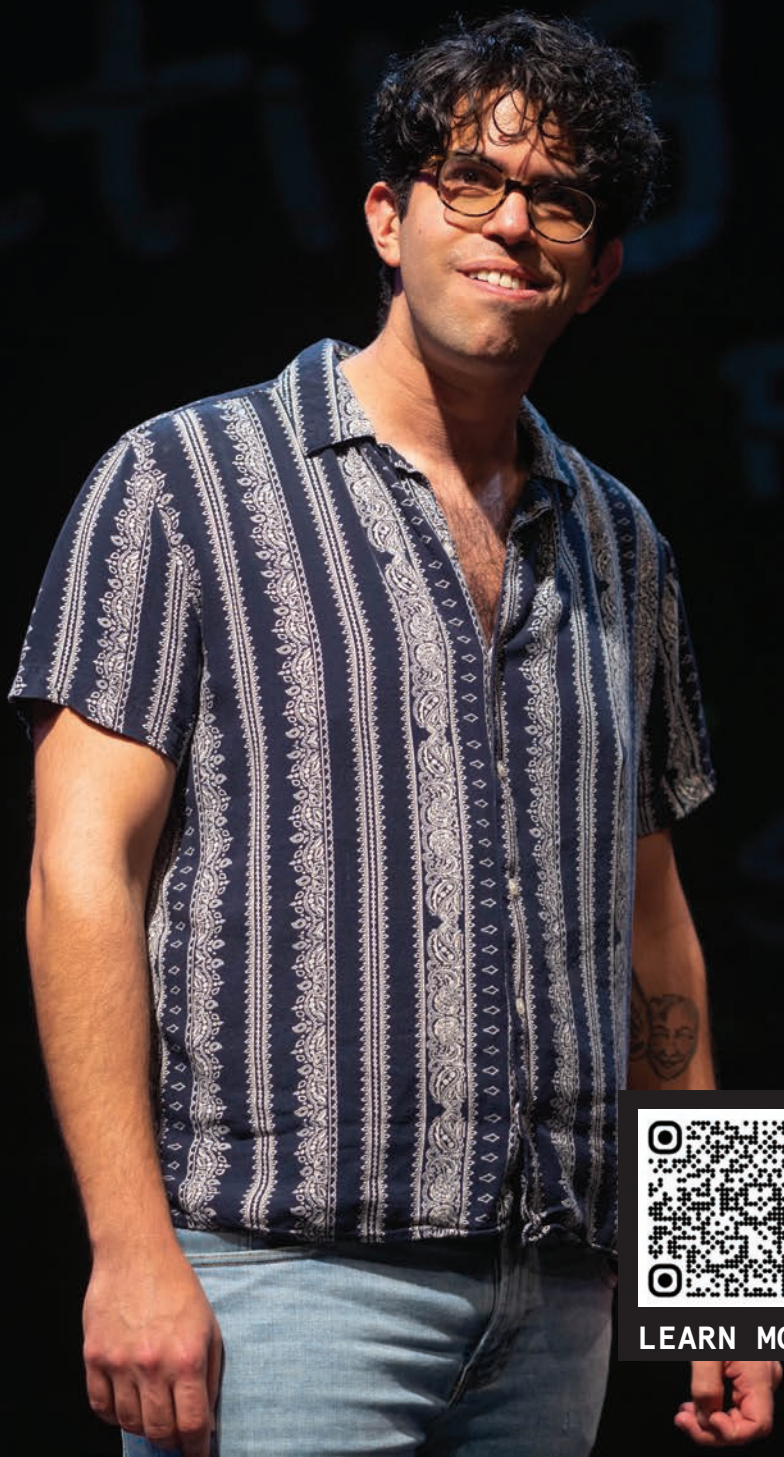
Meyling Ly Ortiz

Sharbani Mukherjee

Monica Phantharath

Rachmad Tjachyadi

Celebrate the rich tapestry of the AAPI community at SparkFest'24 with This Is My Story. Prepare to be moved as local AAPI community members take the stage, sharing their tales of resilience, identity, and belonging in an evening of authentic storytelling. Don't miss this powerful opportunity to connect, reflect, and embrace the diverse narratives that shape our world.



LEARN MORE

BEGINNER'S DANCE WORKSHOP

MONDAY JUNE 17 @ 7PM

**Taught by
Umami Playground**

Dive into the vibrant world of House dance at Umami Playground's beginner's workshop, a welcoming part of SparkFest'24 at Amphibian Stage. Led by Bea and Guangmin, trained by NYC house dance pioneers, this class introduces the foundational elements and rich history of the genre. Join us for an inclusive experience where all are welcome to discover the joy, connection, and creativity of House dance, regardless of skill level.



LEARN MORE

UMAMI PLAYGROUND

TUESDAY JUNE 18 @ 7PM

**Street-Style Dance
Performance
& Closing Party!**

SparkFest's closing act explodes with energy! Amphibian Stage welcomes Umami Playground, a dynamic dance collective known for their fusion of street styles like popping, breaking, and house, with contemporary flair. Get ready for a visually stunning finale that will leave you breathless!



LEARN MORE

NEW PLAY DEVELOP



LINE-UP

Did You Eat?(밥 먹었니?)

BY ZOË KIM

barren

BY ALEX LIN

You Are Cordially Invited
To the End of the World!

BY KEIKO GREEN

Y LOPMENT



DID YOU EAT? (밥 먹었니?)

by Zoë Kim

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 @ 8PM

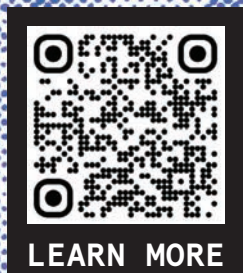
SATURDAY JUNE 15 @ 11AM

New Play

“Did You Eat? (밥 먹었니?) is an autobiographical solo show about how we learn to love, how we love, and how we love ourselves. It’s a love letter to my inner child and hopefully to yours, too.” - Zoë Kim

Writer and solo performer Zoë Kim leads the play, transforming into her various family members, unraveling a candid story about her family and her life. During 80 whirlwind minutes, audiences are guaranteed to laugh and cry in this funny, intimate, heart-breaking and introspective tale that will linger long after they’ve left the theatre.

Subject matter deals with: talk of child abuse, self-harm, and suicide.



LEARN MORE

barren

by Alex Lin

THURSDAY JUNE 13 @ 8PM

SATURDAY JUNE 15 @ 3PM

New Play

Yifei is barren. What crueler irony is there for a baby doctor who can't have a baby? One that tasks her with ensuring a safe, happy, and healthy delivery for her formerly estranged younger sister, Max. **barren** is the story of two sisters who confront two entirely different fates in finding, creating, and embracing family.

Subject matter deals with: child abuse, infertility, pregnancy, miscarriages, and substance abuse



LEARN MORE

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE END OF THE WORLD!

by **Keiko Green**

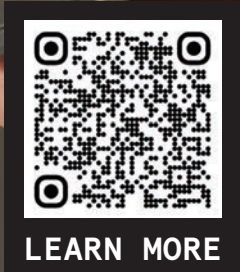
FRIDAY JUNE 14 @ 8PM

SUNDAY JUNE 16 @ 2PM

New Play

M has always had a complicated relationship with their parents. But when Greg gets a terminal diagnosis, their small family feels the pressure of time running out. Greg wants to expand his world, as he commits the rest of his life to fighting climate change, while his wife Viv wants nothing more than to keep Greg confined to their home. In this theatrical spectacle, M uses metatheatricality and the joy of dance and theatre to explore themes of grief, dying, and our connection to the Earth.

Subject matter deals with: mortality & climate grief





Acting Competition

JUNE 13-15

SparkFest is both the founder and home to an annual acting competition, created to empower and propel traditionally underrepresented artists to the spotlight. After receiving countless submissions from across the US, 10 finalists are selected. These artists then come together, make connections, and stretch their skills for a live audience as they vie for a \$5,000 cash prize.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

6/13

Round 1 • 5:30PM

All ten actors perform monologues for audience and judges.

FRIDAY

6/14

Round 2 • 5:30PM

All ten actors are given 30 minutes to prepare a scene, taking feedback from the judges in real time.

SATURDAY

6/15

Round 3 • 8PM

Five chosen finalists revisit their Round 1 Monologues, incorporating notes from the judges. Awards to follow.

FINALISTS

Brooke Ishibashi	Jordan Chantha Weir
Deychen Volino-Gyetsa	Marielle Young
Ishika Muchhal	Napoleon Tavale
James Aaron Oh	Tani Hala
Janessa Floyd	Lydia Jialu Li

JUDGES

Lily Tung Crystal (Theater Mu)
 Ralph B. Pena (Obie Award Winner)
 Spencer Gualdoni (Tara Rubin Casting)



AMPHIBIAN STAGE

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

ARTS FORT WORTH
together we make art happen

GRANT WINNER



Orchid Giving Circle
GRANT FINALIST | 2023

AMON G. CARTER
FOUNDATION

THE **SHUBERT**
FOUNDATION INC.

SID W. RICHARDSON
FOUNDATION



Texas
Commission
on the Arts
State Cultural District

The Pea Charitable Trust

120 S. Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76107
817.923.3012
amphibianstage.com

sparkfestfwtx.com