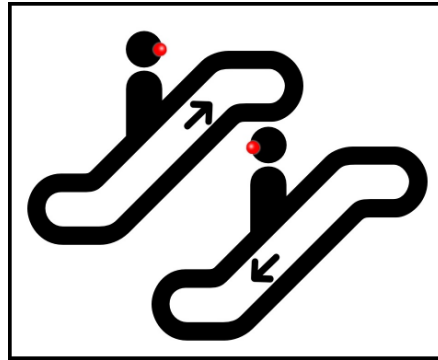


# FLASHPOINT

A CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECT

The Mead Theatre Lab at Flashpoint presents  
dog and pony dc's *Separated at Birth*



August 11-29, 2010  
Don't miss your connection!

Washington, DC - dog & pony dc's upcoming production *Separated at Birth* is an entirely new, devised seven-person clown show set in a location that bears a striking resemblance to Washington's Metro.

**Separated tells the story of personal connections missed and made in a bustling city's subway station.** Pairs and trios of clowns explore archetypes of commuters instantly recognizable to Washingtonians familiar with the daily drudge of public transportation, from the Intern to the Tourist. The performance will move audiences' hearts, minds and, on occasion, their bodies.

**dog & pony dc re-imagines traditional performance genres and narratives across time and cultures.** In *Separated*, dog and pony dissects the well-established American art of clowning and presents it in a novel light. The resulting production causes audiences to reexamine universal themes about urban life and loneliness. dog and pony dc conspirator Wyckham Avery elaborates, "Clowns exploit the extraordinariness of mundane moments through their honesty and simplicity. Clowning gets at something basic about life and examines it without pathos, deeper thought or psychology. In this case, clowns look at that brief respite from personal isolation when spontaneous connections occur."

*Separated* is an entirely devised piece conceived and developed by the dog and pony dc team. "We start with an idea, or the *kernel* as we call it," Avery explains. "For *Separated*, the kernel is the intense feelings of loneliness people experience while living in a city crammed full of people. We long to connect with others, and yet take conscious, active steps to continually close ourselves off."

Over its 14 month gestation process, *Separated* evolved from a duo-show to a seven-clown performance. This past winter, the company hosted intimate clowning workshops to develop a group vocabulary and generate character archetypes for the show. Next, each clown was matched with a director. These pairs refined each clown's personality and how he or she interacts with the urban environment.

*Separated* is the ideal show for Washingtonians in August. "A light, joyous performance to break through the humidity," dog and pony dc conspirator Rachel Grossman chuckles. The company is thrilled to be producing a show that appeals to a wide range of audiences. *Separated* juggles with issues of an adult world, but one younger community members can relate to as well and is presented in a youth-friendly format. Children 10 years of age and older are welcome with their families.

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*Separated at Birth*, devised by Wyckham Avery and Lorraine Ressegger, runs August 11 – 20 and is part of the Mead Theatre Lab at Flashpoint program. All performances will be held at Flashpoint (916 G Street NW, Washington, DC). General Admission is \$15 (\$10 students and seniors; \$25 Generous Admission, "a rate that shows you support the art--and then some"). Tickets are available at [dogandponydc.com](http://dogandponydc.com) or by emailing [info@dogandponydc.com](mailto:info@dogandponydc.com). Press performances are August 13 at 8pm and August 14 at 8pm.

### ***Separated at Birth***

Devised by Wyckham Avery and Lorraine Ressegger

*Clown Directors:* Colin Hovde, Nicole Jost and Jessica Lefkow  
*Performers:* Micael Bogar, Rachel Grossman, Monique Holt, Brenden McDougal, Wendy Nogales, Jon Reynolds and Lenore Sack  
*Production Design:* HannaH J. Crowell and Andrew Cissna  
*Costume Design:* Ivania Stack

*Performance Location:* Mead Theatre Lab at Flashpoint (916 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20001)  
*Performance Schedule:* August 11 - 29, 2010  
Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 3pm, and Monday, August 23 at 8pm  
*Press Performances:* Friday, August 13 at 8pm and Saturday, August 14 at 8pm; RSVP to [emma@culturaldc.org](mailto:emma@culturaldc.org)

*Tickets:* General Admission: \$15; Students and Seniors: \$10; Generous Admission (*a rate that shows you support the art--and then some*): \$25. Available at [dogandponydc.com](http://dogandponydc.com) or [flashpointdc.org](http://flashpointdc.org).

*More information:* [dogandponydc.com](http://dogandponydc.com)

### **ABOUT dog & pony dc**

dog & pony dc is a developing ensemble of artists that takes what we know – traditional forms and classic texts and narratives – and shakes up, reorganizes, and turns them upside down to create innovative performances that are contemporary and visceral. dog & pony dc just closed the raucous *Courage*, a "NASCAR punk political theatre mosh pit" re-imagining of Brecht's *Mother Courage and her Children*, which ran for 4-weeks at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop. The company debuted in 2008 with their production of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* performed by 7 actors alternatively portraying 28 characters who drew the scenery in chalk on the stage floor and converted blackboards. Their sophomore production of *PUNCH-that's the way we do it!* filled the Mead Theatre Lab at Flashpoint with stage blood and the mantra, "Eat. Fuck. Kill." with a live-action version of the Punch and Judy puppet show. In summer of 2009, they titillated packed-houses with the satirical vaudeville *Bare Breasted Women Sword Fighting*.

### **ABOUT The Mead Theatre Lab Program**

Cultural Development Corporation's Mead Theatre Lab program is an intensive mentorship program for performing artists and independent theatre companies. Inaugurated in January 2006 with *'Capers*, the program provides theatre space, technical production support and production mentoring. A panel of noted DC theatre professionals selects the projects and provides guidance to the chosen producers. The result is an eclectic group of innovative, edgy productions and an environment in which emerging performing artists can grow. The Mead Theatre Lab Program is generously sponsored by The Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts, the Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, the Mary & Daniel Loughran Foundation, Jaylee Mead, The Weissberg Foundation and Jon & NoraLee Sedmak. Additional support is provided by The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, The Kresge Foundation, the MARPAT Foundation, the Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Prince Charitable Trusts, and many

other sponsors. Hotel Helix is Flashpoint's 2009-2010 Hotel Partner. Barefoot Wine is Flashpoint's 2009-2010 Wine Partner.

### **ABOUT Flashpoint**

Flashpoint, a Cultural Development Corporation project, is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary arts space dedicated to nurturing emerging artists and cultural organizations in order to build their professional capacity. Flashpoint provides services and training for cultural organizations to help strengthen their management capacity and offers exhibit and performance spaces that enable arts groups to focus on their artistic goals and expand their visibility. Flashpoint includes a contemporary art gallery, the 75-seat Mead Theatre Lab, the Coors Dance Studio and shared office space for arts organizations.

Mead Theatre Lab at Flashpoint • 916 G Street, NW • Washington, DC 20001

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