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Contact: Nina J. Berger, 617-971-9340, ninajberger@hotmail.com  
Jeremy Alliger, 617-669-4422, alligerarts@gmail.com

**COMING UP FOR AIR  
AN AUTOJAZZOGRAPHY**

Conceived and performed by STAN STRICKLAND  
Written and directed by JON LIPSKY

September 27 - October 14, 2006  
Boston Center for the Arts

**Boston, MA — Stan Strickland**, one of Boston's most versatile and well-known jazz musicians will be premiering his one-man theatrical show **Coming Up for Air – an AutoJAZZography** at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont Street, Boston, September 27 – October 14, 2006. Playing sax, flute, keyboards and an assortment of percussion, Strickland riffs about his life and art -- taking the audience on a dramatic musical odyssey of soulful discovery.

**PLEASE NOTE: PRESS OPENING: Thursday, September 28 at 7pm.**

**Coming Up for Air**, produced by Alliger Arts, is part of the BCA's 2006-2007 Cultural Partners Series.

Based on a true-life near death experience when Strickland almost drowned off the coast of Hawaii and literally had his life and career flash before his eyes. In the course of the play, he explores many instruments, musical forms and dance movements searching for the sources of his music. **Coming Up For Air** is written and directed by Boston-based playwright **Jon Lipsky**.

Lipsky and Strickland have been collaborating on the play off and on for over three years, exploring the interface between music and narrative. "In most plays," said Lipsky, "the music supports and underscores the story, but in this play the story supports and underscores the music. Stan is an amazing performer to work with. He brings the danger and excitement of jazz to everything he says and does. It can be dramatic just watching him breathe."

A final workshop production of **Coming Up for Air** was presented at **The Yard** on Martha's Vineyard in August. Traditionally a home for dancers and choreographers, The Yard broke new ground presenting Strickland. "Stan's movement, which includes hula, Jive, old blues shuffle, and New Zealand Maori dancing, is an integral part of this piece," says Lipsky. "Stan feels his music through his body and his body helps him find his music."

**Ticket Prices for BCA performances:**

\$25, \$20 for students/seniors and groups of 10 or more. Contact BostonTheatreScene.com Box Office at 617-933-8600, e-mail [boxoffice@bostontheatrescene.com](mailto:boxoffice@bostontheatrescene.com) or visit [www.bostontheatrescene.com](http://www.bostontheatrescene.com).

**Performance Times:** Opening Night: Thursday, Sep. 28 at 8pm; Wednesday, September 27, October 4 & 11 at 8pm, Thursdays & Fridays at 8pm; Sundays at 7pm; Saturday, Sep. 30 at 6pm & 8pm; Saturday Oct. 7 & 14 at 3pm & 8pm.

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The Boston Center for the Arts is an urban, cultural village, incubating and showcasing the performing and visual arts and artists of our time. Occupying a city block in the historic South End, the BCA is a resource to Greater Boston, providing a creative "home" for artists, a welcoming arts destination for audiences, and an arts connection for youth and community

## STAN STRICKLAND

Singer, saxophonist, flutist, actor Stan Strickland has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Scandinavia, the Caribbean, New Zealand and the former Soviet Union. In addition to numerous radio and television appearances, Stan has performed in many clubs and concert halls, including Jordan and Symphony Halls in Boston, Carnegie Recital Hall and Town Hall in New York, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. His work has been featured on recordings by Bob Moses, Marty Erlich, Webster Lewis and Brute Force. Stan has performed with jazz greats Yusef Lateef, Pharoah Sanders, Herbie Mann, Danilo Perez, Shirley Scott and Marlana Shaw. ***Love & Beauty***, Stan's new jazz vocal CD, featuring new arrangements of great jazz classics as well as original material, was released by Hawkline Records in 2005. ([www.stanstrickland.net](http://www.stanstrickland.net))

Stan has opened for Jazz greats Miles Davis and Sonny Rollins, and for Barenaked Ladies. He toured South Africa with The Village People, and was a featured soloist with Take Six and the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall.

His acting experience includes the leading roles in the Boston Art Group's production of *Harlem Renaissance*, Northeastern University's production of *Crossing John*, and Dr. Sax in a production of Jon Lipsky's play about Jack Kerouac, *Maggie's Riff*, produced by the Vineyard Playhouse.

Stan has performed and collaborated with over a dozen choreographers including Alvin Ailey, Jose Limon, and Bill T. Jones.

Stan is profiled/featured, (along with Blair Underwood and Lamar Burton), in a new film documentary that was filmed this past spring, entitled *Black Man Up*.

Stan performed at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival for the premiere of Academy Award winning documentary *Born into Brothels* and at three exclusive fashion/fragrance events for fashion icon Donna Karan

Stan has a M.A. degree from Lesley College in Expressive Arts Therapy where he is an adjunct professor. He also teaches at Berklee College of Music, Tufts University and Longy School of Music.

Stan is Co-Executive Director of Express Yourself, a multidisciplinary team of professional artists, working in partnership with adolescents in public mental health residential facilities to produce multimedia performances that celebrate the restorative powers of serious art making.

## **JON LIPSKY**

Noted author, playwright and director Jon Lipsky is Professor of acting and play writing at Boston University's College of Fine Arts.

His plays have been performed at the American Repertory Theater, the Berkshire Theater Festival, La Mama ETC, The Missouri Repertory, Theatre Emory and other regional theaters. He has served as playwright-in-residence at both Boston's TheaterWorks and Lowell's Merrimack Repertory Theatre and Associate Artistic Director of the Vineyard Playhouse.

He is the author of *Call of the Wild*, *The Survivor: A Cambodian Odyssey*, *Maggie's Riff*, *Living in Exile*, *Dreaming with an AIDS Patient*, *They All Want to Play Hamlet*, *Beginner's Luck*, and *Molly Maguire*. He lives in West Tisbury on Martha's Vineyard with his wife, Kanta, and sons, Adam and Jonah.

## **JEREMY ALLIGER**

*Executive Producer* of Alliger Arts, Jeremy Alliger was the founder and for 20 years the Artistic and Executive Director of Dance Umbrella. He is the Producer/Creator of "*Cool Heat Urban Beat*", an international Jazz Tap/Hip Hop percussive touring show. He has produced over 15 unique festival gatherings and touring productions, including the first-ever *Aerial Dance Festival*, numerous Jazz Tap and Hip Hop festivals and tours, the unprecedented *International Festival of Wheelchair Dance*, and most recently the performance events of the *Faith Quilts Project*.

For his artistic leadership and his commitment to challenge perceptions, push boundaries, and promote cultural understanding Jeremy received the prestigious Massachusetts *Commonwealth Award*, the National Disability Rights *Eagle Award*, and the Emerson College *Alumni Achievement Award*.

Jeremy has been a featured speaker at the Kennedy Center, served as a Panel Chair at the National Endowment for the Arts, and is currently the Co-Chair of the Boston Cultural Council. He has served as a panelist and artistic advisor for many organizations including the MacArthur and Guggenheim Foundations.

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