

Performance: Ah Raza! The Making of an American Artist

Biographies

Gaelyn Aguilar (PhD) is a cultural anthropologist whose work falls under the broad heading of performative anthropology, a dialogic area of interest that looks to performance both as the way in which people experience the quotidian aspects of their cultural universe, and the method by which the ethnographer produces knowledge about those experiences. Gaelyn has carried out fieldwork in Ventura, California, the Río Grande Valley of South Texas, Florina, Greece, and the Republic of Macedonia, where she spent the 2000-2001 academic year as a Fulbright Fellow conducting research on dance and the cultural politics of national identity. Her latest projects include *Maravatío ReSounding* (a site-specific, multi-media remapping of Maravatío, México), and *Architecturalized Sound Events* (a documentation of works and performances by sound installation innovators Maryanne Amacher, Liz Phillips, and Miya Masaoka at Brooklyn's Issue Project Room). A recent recipient of a Theater for Development Fellowship to teach at the Guapamacátaro Art + Ecology Residency program in Michoacán, México, Gaelyn complements her identity with ongoing work as a live performing and studio-recording artist.

Gustavo Aguilar (DMA) percussionist, composer, and improviser, has been honing his craft as a music artisan for almost two decades. His commitment to combining pre-composed (notated) and present-composed (improvised) musical elements has earned him the reputation as an "intuitive, methodical mystic." His music has been called "beautiful, introspective and passionate," "thought-provoking and thoroughly fresh." A champion of contemporary creative new music, Gustavo has performed at major festivals throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific, and has worked closely with some of the most innovative creative artists of our time, including John Bergamo, Anthony Braxton, Nels Cline, Anthony Davis, Mark Dresser, Lisle Ellis, Vinny Golia, Charlie Haden, Earl Howard, Tim Hodgkinson, Kang Tae Hwan, Anne LeBaron, George Lewis, Mary Oliver, Park Jae Chun, J.D. Parran, and Wadada Leo Smith among others.

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