



Media Contact: Mary Carbonara 415/845-9994
Marycarbonara@gmail.com

JPG Attached

Pictured: Michael Curran and Anastazia Louise
Photo Credit: Eric Gillet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BAD UNKL SISTA
ANNOUNCES
WORLD PREMIERE OF *FIRST BREATH – LAST BREATH*
APRIL 27 & 28 AT Z SPACE IN SAN FRANCISCO
*Production melds Butoh, dance, aerial installation, couture, film, set design
and music for a multi-sensory experience.***

Anastazia Louise, Artistic Director

Tickets: \$35; tickets and information: 800/838-3006 or www.brownpapertickets.com

MARCH 6, 2012, San Francisco – **Bad Unkl Sista** today announced the world premiere of *First Breath – Last Breath* for three performances: 8:00 p.m. on April 27 and 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on April 28 at Z Space in San Francisco. Melding Butoh, dance, aerial installations, couture costuming, elaborate sets that double as percussion instruments, film and music, *First Breath – Last Breath* is at once a spectacle and a meditation on life and death. Directed, choreographed and costumed by Artistic Director and Bad Unkl Sista founder, Anastazia Louise, *First Breath – Last Breath* is a performance event where structured design and spontaneous surprise share equal weight. For tickets and information, go to www.brownpapertickets.com or phone 800/838-3006.

For *First Breath – Last Breath* one must imagine a grand procession, a celebration of life paired with the ritual celebration of death—sometime lavish, sometimes somber. Utilizing the apocalyptic nuances of Butoh and the exhilaration of dance, *First Breath – Last Breath* travels between improvisational extremes while following a defined narrative structure.

“Each performance contains elements of surprise for the audience as well as the performers,” explains Anastazia, who trained with some of Butoh’s early innovators in the U.S. and now

teaches her own style of the form here in San Francisco. “There are moments choreographed into every performance where each dancer—at different times—is metaphorically pushed to the edge of a cliff and asked to jump off. The direction of the performance from there is an unknown for all.”

Known also for her unique fusion of performance with costuming and wearable art, Anastazia has created the extravagantly layered garments and headpieces worn by all of the performers in *First Breath – Last Breath*.

Composer and Music Director Goyo Aranaga has created the sound scape for *First Breath – Last Breath* by weaving together acoustic and electronic instrumentation, as well as inspiration from a wide array of classical and contemporary sources. The score will be performed live on stage by Goyo, along with electronic musician F’kir Eldercake, soprano Julia Hathaway, multi-instrumentalist Connor Jon O’Sullivan, violist Surly, and percussionist Daniel Yasmin.

The performers of *First Breath – Last Breath* are Bad Unkl Sista company members Anastazia, Michael Curran, Shannon Gray Collier, Kristen Greco, Monica Barriga, and Alvin Gaines-Molina.

ANTASTAZIA LOUISE FEATURED IN SF LYRIC OPERA’S *THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL PASSION*:

San Francisco Lyric Opera presents composer David Lang's *the little match girl passion* at ODC Theater in San Francisco, March 23-25, featuring Anastazia Louise. Anastazia was awarded San Francisco Lyric Opera's commission from a field of ten submissions to create costumes and to add choreography for the first time to this beautifully haunting music. Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and influenced by Bach's St. Matthew Passion, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *the little match girl passion* has become one of the most heralded compositions of the new century since its premiere at Carnegie Hall. For tickets and information, go to www.sflyricopera.org.

ABOUT ANASTAZIA LOUISE:

Director, choreographer, costumer and performer Anastazia Louise offers a personally developed style that combines over twenty years of performance experience distilled from a vast array of teachers and collaborators. Her Butoh-based physical theater approach focuses on creative, proactive human development within our present-day social context. Never predictable and always thrilling, she allows for each performance to reveal its own surprises.

Having grown up teaching alongside her mother in the dance studio adjoining their home in Peoria, IL, Anastazia never experienced a separation between dance and daily life. She joined Ritual Space Performance Art Collective in 1991, went on to work with Aura Fischbeck Dance in 1994, and then became a core member of the Carpetbag Brigade Physical Theater Company from 2000-2009—where she first began designing and hand-sewing company costumes.

Anastazia was introduced to Butoh through Diego Piñón (Butoh Ritual Mexicano) in 2002 and his teachings have been an ongoing major influence and inspiration for all her performance work ever since. Other major teachers include Hiroko Tamano, Katsura Kan and Vangelina.

Anastazia has participated in collaborative work with an array of internationally recognized artists including Flam Chen, Mizu Desierto, Human Nature Dance Company, Totter Todd, Soriah, Arizona Classical Theater, Nathan Montgomery (Syzygy Butoh), Richochet, The LA Stilt Circus, and VerbaBola. She created the 2007 installation, "Second Skin" for San Francisco's Exploratorium, about which Culture Flux Magazine wrote: "Combining Butoh, site specific performance, incredible couture costumes and passion, you are taken away from the common world and placed into an immersive experience." Anastazia has been a resident performer at Supperclub San Francisco since 2006.

ABOUT BAD UNKL SISTA:

Founded by Anastazia Louise in 2002, Bad Unkl Sista has produced large-scale performances for hundreds of local and regional promoters and festivals, including Tsunami on the Square, Sea of Dreams, Black Rock Arts Foundation, Steven Raspa Productions, The Crucible, Symbiosis, Spiderball, Raygun Rocketship, The Exploratorium, Lovefest, Yuri's Night at NASA, Lovesick, Maker Faire, Pandora's Trunk and Artpod. Among Bad Unkl Sista's most recent work is costuming, choreography and performance for the British trio The Tiger Lillies, in a film that will serve as the visual backdrop for their upcoming 2012 world tour.

Bad Unkl Sista announces the world premiere of *First Breath – Last Breath* for three performances: 8:00 p.m. on April 27 and 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on April 28 at Z Space in San Francisco. Melding Butoh, dance, aerial, zip lines, couture, set design, film and music, *First Breath – Last Breath* is at once a spectacle and a meditation on life and death. Directed, choreographed and costumed by Bad Unkl Sista Artistic Director Anastazia Louise. For tickets and information, go to www.brownpapertickets.com or phone 800/838-3006.

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:

March 23-25

the little match girl passion

www.odcdance.org

Presented by SF Lyric Opera and featuring Anastazia Louise as the Little Match Girl
ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, San Francisco
415/863-9834

Ongoing

Supperclub San Francisco

657 Harrison Street

(415) 348-0900

www.supperclub.com

Anastazia Louise and other Bad Unkl Sista company artists offer spotlight performances as well as intimate roaming and audience interaction throughout the evening.

CALENDAR LISTING
Music, Benefits

*“A beautiful dream that draws you in and lets you find other worlds inside of yourself,
if you’re able to let go.”*
– Culture Flux Magazine

WHO/WHAT: BAD UNKL SISTA
 Presents
 First Breath – Last Breath (World Premiere)
 Anastazia Louise, Artistic Director
 Goyo Aranaga, Music Director

WHEN: Friday, April 27 at 8:00 p.m.
 Saturday, April 28 at 2:00 p.m.
 Saturday, April 28 at 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: Z Space
 450 Florida Street
 San Francisco, CA 94110

TICKETS: \$35 General Admission
 www.brownpapertickets.com or 800/838-3006

MORE INFO: www.badunklsista.com

#

High-resolution images are available for download at www.badunklsista.com/press

Media Contact: Mary Carbonara
marycarbonara@gmail.com or 415/845-9994