



Free Showcase Performance

Lost & Clown'd, Quest's newest show in development, will showcase this Saturday, December 10 at 8:00 PM at the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts. The show features the considerable talents of Eric Beatty, Willy Conley, and Mark Jaster. The show is appropriate for all ages and it's free.

The showcase format provides a wonderful opportunity for both the audience and the artists. Audiences get to see this new show and these remarkable artists for free. The artists get to test out the show before its world premier in January at QuestFest. After the show, the audience and artists will participate in a discussion of *Lost & Clown'd*.

The Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts is located on the University of Maryland campus. Click on the link for directions:

<http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu/2006/c/visitors/directions>

QuestFest in Context

Over the next few *Callboards*, we are going to explore various aspects of [QuestFest](#), the two-week visual theatre festival slated for January 9 – 22 and produced by Quest in partnership with Towson University, Theatre Project, Creative Alliance, Baltimore Mayor's Office for Promotion and the Arts, and VSA arts Maryland.

QuestFest provides audiences with a valuable opportunity to see a kind of theatre that is rarely produced in this country. Our regional theatres present most theatre in the United States and almost all of that work is text based. With 11 different shows coming to QuestFest, audiences will be able to develop their critical eye. They will begin to ascertain differences and similarities among the different QuestFest productions.

For this year's QuestFest, the planning committee decided to focus on those companies that center their work on the use of the performer's body as an expressive tool. (Future QuestFests will broaden the visual theatre spectrum to include puppetry, mask work, digital media, and other genres.)

The most well known company performing this year at QuestFest is [Pilobolus Too](#). Pilobolus is considered one of the most innovative and influential dance companies in the world. Their unique counter-weight partnering approach brought a new vocabulary to dance. In fact, some have asked, "Is Pilobolus dance?" Good question. Those audience members who take advantage of the [FreQuest Flyer Card](#) (See three shows – get one free) will begin to see that

visual theatre blurs the lines between dance, theatre, mime, and gesture. QuestFest audiences will also see Pilobolus' influence on other work. [PUSH](#), a brilliant company from Rochester, New York, and Quest's [Rivers](#) both exhibit a Pilobolus influence. Outside of QuestFest, you can also see Pilobolus elements in almost any production by Cirque du Soleil.

QuestFest's multi-pronged approach also provides audiences and students with an excellent chance interact with festival artists and to gain a greater understanding of what visual theatre is. So far, six area schools are taking advantage of the opportunity for free QuestFest residencies and workshops. We are encouraging these schools to use QuestFest as an educational lab where their students participate in workshops and classes, attend several performances followed by Talk Backs, and observe panel discussions. The more one engages in the QuestFest process, the more one takes away from it. Take a look at the [QuestFest Events](#) to see the myriad of choices for engagement.

Our basic recommended mantra for QuestFest is: *Don't come just once, come often!*