

# UNA AYA OSATO: PRESS KIT

**theater • burlesque • stand-up • storytelling • hosting • workshops**

**“a tour-de-force”**  
– *The Montreal Gazette*

**Una Aya Osato is a one woman show:  
bringing laughter, politics, and deeper understanding  
to all she does.**

**Award-Winning Critically Renowned Artist Currently  
Booking Performances and Workshops.**

[WWW.UNAOSATO.COM](http://WWW.UNAOSATO.COM)  
[UNA.SHOWS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UNA.SHOWS@GMAIL.COM)

# offerings



- Bring **Una to perform** one of her award-winning shows
- Bring **Una to lead workshops** and create space for participants to be their fullest selves
- Bring **Una to host/MC an event** sharing all her joyous charisma and jokes
- Bring **Una to do burlesque** with her body positive and hilarious personas
- *Time length: Full length **shows** 1hr; **workshops** 30mins to 3hrs; **hosting/MC** 5mins to 2hrs; **burlesque pieces** 5mins; **group burlesque shows** 1.5hrs.*
- **Una's Original Award-Winning Shows:** *WITH YOU!, Recess, exHOTic other.*
- **Workshop Topics Una Can Cover:** body positivity, race, immigration, queerness, gender, social justice, intersectionality, organizing, women of color, LGBT's in sports, public education, playwriting, theater, dance, burlesque, comedy, and storytelling.
- **Burlesque:** Solo pieces or group shows, Una offers body positive fun empowering burlesque shows.
- **Hosting/MC:** Una is available for custom tailor programing based off of the needs of a school or organization.

# credentials

**Una has inspired tens of thousands of people with her work:** performer, writer and educator of the past three decades, performing around the world, from NYC to Las Vegas to South Africa.

**Una and her work have appeared in numerous Publications including:** The New York Times, MSNBC, The HuffingtonPost, The Village Voice, Essence Magazine, PBS.com (News Hour), The Montreal Gazette, Colorlines, Feministing, Racialicious, Grist.com, TRACE, NYTheater Now, Vitamin W, and her shows are the frequent Critic's Picks of TimeOut NY.

**Una has performed and led accompanying workshops at over 30 Colleges and Universities across the U.S.,** among them:

Yale, Princeton, Wesleyan, Oberlin, Brown, Cornell, Swarthmore, Middlebury, Vassar, Sarah Lawrence, Rutgers, Williams, Haverford, Brandeis, NYU, Skidmore, Mount Holyoke, the CUNY Graduate Center, Brooklyn College, California State: Monterey Bay, and Laney College. Along with many high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools in NYC and Canada.

She's appeared on **TV** including: network stations (CBS, ABC), PBS (Sesame Street), MTV (The Real World), MSNBC (profile piece on Una) and Huffington Post Live (interview with Una).

She's performed on too many **Stages** to name them all, but among them: The Paramount Theater (at MSG), The Joyce Theater, The Manhattan Center, St. Ann's Warehouse, The Juilliard Theater, Joe's Pub, La MaMa ETC, New York Live Arts, HERE Arts Center, The Kraine Theater, WOW Cafe Theater, The West End Theatre, The Brooklyn Bowl, S.O.B.'s, Le Poisson Rouge, 59E59 Theaters, Theatre Row, Teatro LATEA, The Chen Dance Center Theater, The Kumble Theater, The Highline Ballroom, The Bardavon Theater, The Slipper Room, and The Zipper Factory.

She's been invited to perform at dozens of **Festivals, Conferences, and Institutes** throughout the U.S., Canada, and South Africa, among them: Sundance Theater Lab, FRIGID NY Festival (Audience Choice & Most Tickets Sold), PanAsian Rep's NuWorks Lab, Downtown Urban Arts Festival, Winnipeg Fringe Festival (Best of the Fest), San Francisco Fringe Festival (Best Solo Show), Boulder Fringe Festival (Encore Performance), Grahamstown Fringe Festival (in South Africa), Miss Exotic World (Best Group Nominee Competitor at The Burlesque Hall of Fame, Las Vegas), Allied Media Conference (Performer,

Presenter, the Performance Track Co-coordinator), U.S. Mixed Race National Conference (Keynote Performer), New York Collective of Radical Educators National Conference (Keynote Performer & Host), TESOL Tennessee Conference (Keynote Performer), Public Science Project: Summer Institutes on Critical Participatory Action Research (Keynote Performer), and Jewish

Voice for Peace Artist Council Retreat.

Una's also **Taught** for some of the top youth artist organizations, including: The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Leadership Program, The CityKids Foundation, Urban Arts, The Public Science Project, Loco-Motion Dance and Theater School, Brooklyn Center for the Urban and Built Environments, IMPACT Repertory Theater, The Bardavon HipHop Theater Residency, Playback NYC, The New York Collective of Radical Educators, New Africa Theater Association, The Palestine Education Project, and The Oddfellows Playhouse.

Una's work has been published and is available for purchase online at:  
[www.indietheaternow.com/Playwright/una-aya-osato](http://www.indietheaternow.com/Playwright/una-aya-osato)





# shows

## CURRENT ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS:

- *With You!* (2015-present)
- *exHOTic other* (2013-present)
- *Recess* (2007-present)

## OTHER ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS:

- *LOL: The End* (2012-2013)
- *JapJAP* (2011-2013)
- *Keep It Movin'* (2004-2008)

## OTHER SELECT THEATER PRODUCTIONS:

- *Taylor Mac's: A 24-Decade History of Popular Music* (2016; written by Taylor Mac, performed at St. Ann's Warehouse)
- *Taliesin* (2013; written & directed by Ralph Lee with the Mettawee River Theatre Company)
- *The Lily's Revenge* (2009; written by Taylor Mac, performed at the HERE Arts Center; winner of the 2010 Obie Award)
- *99 Histories* (2001; written by Julia Cho, Sundance Theater Laboratory; directed by Leigh Silverman)
- *A Day of Absence* (2001; directed by Mark Wade at Wesleyan University, Main Theater)
- *Stage Door* (2000; lead role of Terry; directed by Jamie Winck, NYC)
- *Dirt* (1994; directed by Marty Pottinger at Dance Theater Workshop (NYLA), NYC)

## SELECT BURLESQUE PRODUCTIONS:

- *Preaching to the Choir* (2015-present)
- *Seriously Though* (2014-present)
- *Hot in Here* (2014-present)
- *DragWild* (2014-present)
- *Making Reality* (2014-present)
- *Bey v Ri: A Showgirl Showdown* (2013-present)
- *SolidSoul* (2013-present)
- *Raunch & Revolution* (2011-present)
- *Culture Classics* (2011-2012)
- *Grind High* (2011)

# awards

- Winner of "Audience Choice Award" (for *WITH YOU!*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2016, NYC)
- Winner of "Exceptional Storytelling" (for *WITH YOU!*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2016, NYC)
- Winner of "Encore Performance Award" (for *exHOTic other*, Boulder Fringe Festival, 2013, CO)
- Winner of "Audience Choice Award" (for *exHOTic other*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2013, NYC)
- Winner of "Most Tickets Sold Award" (for *exHOTic other*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2013, NYC)
- Winner of "SOLD OUT Award" (for *exHOTic other*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2013, NYC)
- Winner: "Audience Choice Award" (for *LOL: The End*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2012, NYC)
- Winner: "Sold Out Award" (for *LOL: The End*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2012, NYC)
- Winner: "Best of the Fest" (for *Recess*, Winnipeg Fringe Festival 2011, CA)
- Winner: "Audience Choice Award" (for *JapJAP*, FRIGID NY Festival 2011, NYC)
- Winner: "Best Female Solo Show" (for *Recess*, San Francisco Fringe Festival 2009, SF)
- Winner: "Volunteer Pick Award" (for *Recess*, FRIGID NY Festival 2009, NYC)
- Nominated: "Outstanding Solo Performance" (for *Recess*, New York Innovative Theater Awards 2009, NYC)
- Winner: Level One (for Theater, YoungArts formerly National Arts Talent Search Competition, 2000)
- Finalist: to become a Presidential Scholar (2000, USA)

# grants

- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grantee Recipient, 2015
- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grantee Recipient, 2011
- The Christopher Brodigan Award, for Public Service on the African Continent, 2006
- American Theater Wing Stevenson Award, 2000



Photograph: Nisha Sondhe

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UNA.SHOWS@GMAIL.COM



Photograph: Christache

**MSNBC: “Stripping for Change”**

[www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/stripping-for-change-386761283583](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/stripping-for-change-386761283583)

**HUFFPOST: “ASSEMBLAGE: Meet Queer Japanese Burlesque Performers Una Aya And Michi Ilona Osato”**

[www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/28/assemblage-una-mici-osato\\_n\\_7144040.html?23424](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/28/assemblage-una-mici-osato_n_7144040.html?23424)

“For this pair, burlesque is much more than a form of entertainment. It's a medium... to explore the nuances of their identities in the Western world while commenting on issues surrounding gentrification, the education system, the political nature of their bodies and natural and human-made disasters.”

**PBS: “How Performers of Color Are ‘Revolutionizing’ Burlesque”**

[www.pbs.org/newshour/art/shimmying-beat-history-performers-color-burlesque/](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/art/shimmying-beat-history-performers-color-burlesque/)

One of Una's *exHOTic* other pieces “Land of the Free”, was recently used as a central example in this NewsHour feature.

**GRIST: “Polar Bear-lesque: The Weirdest, Sexiest Way to Confront Climate Change”**

[www.grist.org/people/polar-bear-burlesque-the-weirdest-sexiest-way-to-confront-climate-change/](http://www.grist.org/people/polar-bear-burlesque-the-weirdest-sexiest-way-to-confront-climate-change/)

“...burlesque and clowning acts that [grapple] with questions about the Earth, destruction, and human rights.”

**FEMINISTING: “The Feministing Five: Una Aya Osato”**

[www.feministing.com/2013/02/23/the-feministing-five-una-aya-osato/](http://www.feministing.com/2013/02/23/the-feministing-five-una-aya-osato/)

“Osato looks at her own identity as a native New Yorker; as the daughter of a Jewish-American mother and Japanese immigrant father, who deals with Asian stereotypes on the one hand and is called a self-loathing Jew on the other. She examines love and loss. And she manages to do it while wearing pasties and underwear!”

Una's work has been **published and is available** for purchase online at:

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# ...publicity

"a tour-de-force"

– *The Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL)*

"Una Aya Osato, who gave a charming performance"

– *The New York Times (NYC)*

"★★★★★" (five out of five stars)

– *Toronto Eyeweekly (TORONTO)*

"This is possibly the best show I have ever seen. Ever."

– *Plank Magazine (VANCOUVER)*

"Osato gives a marathon performance... *With You* is a triumph of a solo piece."

– *Theater in the Now (NYC)*

"...funny, sad, inspirational and eye opening."

– *Colorlines (NYC)*

"... incredible concentration, discipline, and lightning agility from Ms. Osato as a performer ... allows the audience to witness a virtuoso performance..."

– *My Cultural Landscape Blog (SAN FRANCISCO)*

"... pure and compelling... undeniably powerful and very well put together piece of performance... Osato's freakily flexible dramaturgical hands - she powers through personas like an Olympic shapeshifter - it comes off with resonance and poignance..."

– *The Hour (MONTREAL)*

"Osato has the comedic physical talent of a Lucille Ball"

– *OffOffOnline.com (NYC)*

"This is by far, a highlight of all Fringe shows I've seen... She flawlessly transitions from role to role, depicting and contrasting each child with the truth, hope and integrity they possess... Inspiring audiences, *Recess* is a show you must put on the top of your list."

– *Mooney on Theater Blog (TORONTO)*

"Politically aware, touching and entertaining."

– *The Montreal Gazette (MONTREAL)*

"...a winning performance..."

– *NYTheatre.com (NYC)*

"a multi-faceted chameleon-like bravura performance."

– *The View (HAMILTON)*

"Osato gives a performance of immeasurable diversity... Crowds should be lining up to see this production."

– *Raise the Hammer (HAMILTON)*



Photograph:  
Piquette Imagery



# student & professor reviews of una's work...



"Una was friendly, sweet, professional, and great to work with. **We greatly enjoyed her funny and captivating burlesque, as well as her provocative commentary about race, art, politics, and the American prison system.** We also appreciated her skilled emceeing of the night's other performances."

—Nomin (Treasurer of QPOC student organization Llego, Undergraduate student, Rutgers University)

"Una was an absolute pleasure to work with and did an amazing job as headliner and emcee."

— Allie Kroeper (President of the QPOC student organization Llego, undergraduate student, Rutgers University)

"Una is such a dynamic performer. Her presence is contagious as it fills the room, reaching each person in the audience. Her performance style invites the audience into her world, her space, her imagination in a way that makes it feel like a dialogue rather than a monologue. **I would recommend the show to anyone looking for a refreshing, playful, embodied experience!!** I really enjoyed the casual, and perhaps silly nature of the performance because it captures audience members who might not typically think about theater and performance art as a kind of Friday night leisure. **Una's engagement with both the audience and her craft makes for such a unique experience. She is an artist in every sense of the word.**

— Savannah Turner (Undergraduate student, Wesleyan University)

# ...student & professor reviews of una's work

"I was blown away by Una's spectacular performance of *exHOTic other...* **The performance was a true enactment of what it means to say the personal is political. It was also hilariously entertaining** (I never would have thought to conceptualize gentrification of communities of color as a zombie apocalypse). Throughout the show, I found myself laughing, crying, and sometimes feeling deeply uncomfortable (in a good way!). Additionally, the workshop that Una led afterwards was incredibly inspiring, and empowered us as Asian American women to tell our stories and be honest about our relationships with our bodies. **I would highly recommend Una's performances and workshops to any student who wants to open up a conversation about social justice on their campus in a personal and performative way.** Una was incredibly affirming and inspiring, not only through her performance but also in person; I'm glad she was there to guide us as we unpacked so many topics."

— Rebecca John (Undergraduate student, Cornell)

"In my years as an educator, Una Osato's one woman show *RECESS* has been one of the most powerful experiences to ignite discussion... **Osato's ability to weave complex topics such as war, AIDS, police brutality and race into a relatable story with lovable children that any teacher can recognize is unparalleled.** *RECESS* is an emotional roller coaster that reflects the lives of children, and as viewers you are brought along on the journey of tears and laughter. The level of empathy for children that seeing *RECESS* can bring to the surface in under 2 hours often takes a semester to achieve. **I cannot recommend *RECESS* enough as a vital tool in preparing educators who understand and intervene in the crushing blows many of our children face daily in schools.**"

— Bree Picower (Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Montclair State University)

"***RECESS* is some of the best theatre I've ever seen...** The audience was made up of academics, graduate students, and community members across a wide range of disciplines. Osato's wholehearted, indefatigable, and outrageously talented performance not only brought the audience to and through laughter, tears, rage, triumph, and love, but also sparked engaged discussion about issues in education and schooling. ***RECESS* is cathartic for anyone who is or has been involved in education (whether as an educator, parent, or student).** More than just a spectator experience — *RECESS* invites audiences to engage with important, perplexing, and enraging educational issues that face all young people and educators today."

— Maddy Fox (Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Children and Youth Studies and Sociology, Brooklyn College)

"Una's performance offered so many things for my students: a deep and thoroughly researched understanding of the nuances of the public school experience, a virtuosic embodiment and compassionate portrayal of characters, and a tangible example of what art-for-social-change can be. She is also **as talented at facilitating as she is at acting**—many of my students have incorporated her games and exercises into their own Teaching Artist lexicon. **Any teacher hoping to inspire a conversation around thinking critically about the school system, and thinking creatively about how we socialize our children, should see Una's work—and then talk about it!"**

— Laurel S. Butler (Adjunct Professor of Performing Arts and Community Exchange at the University of San Francisco)





# ★ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ★

CONTACT: Una Aya Osato • [una.shows@gmail.com](mailto:una.shows@gmail.com) • [www.unaosato.com](http://www.unaosato.com)

**WITH YOU!:** a queer sports rom-com, about a college rugby team, brought to the stage via one woman's body.  
A hilarious show about figuring out which team to play for. (Keep It Movin' Productions)

AWARD-WINNING WRITER/PERFORMER UNA AYA OSATO IS CURRENTLY BOOKING PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS

## ***WITH YOU!***

Written and Performed by Una Aya Osato

Directed by Nelson T. Eusebio III

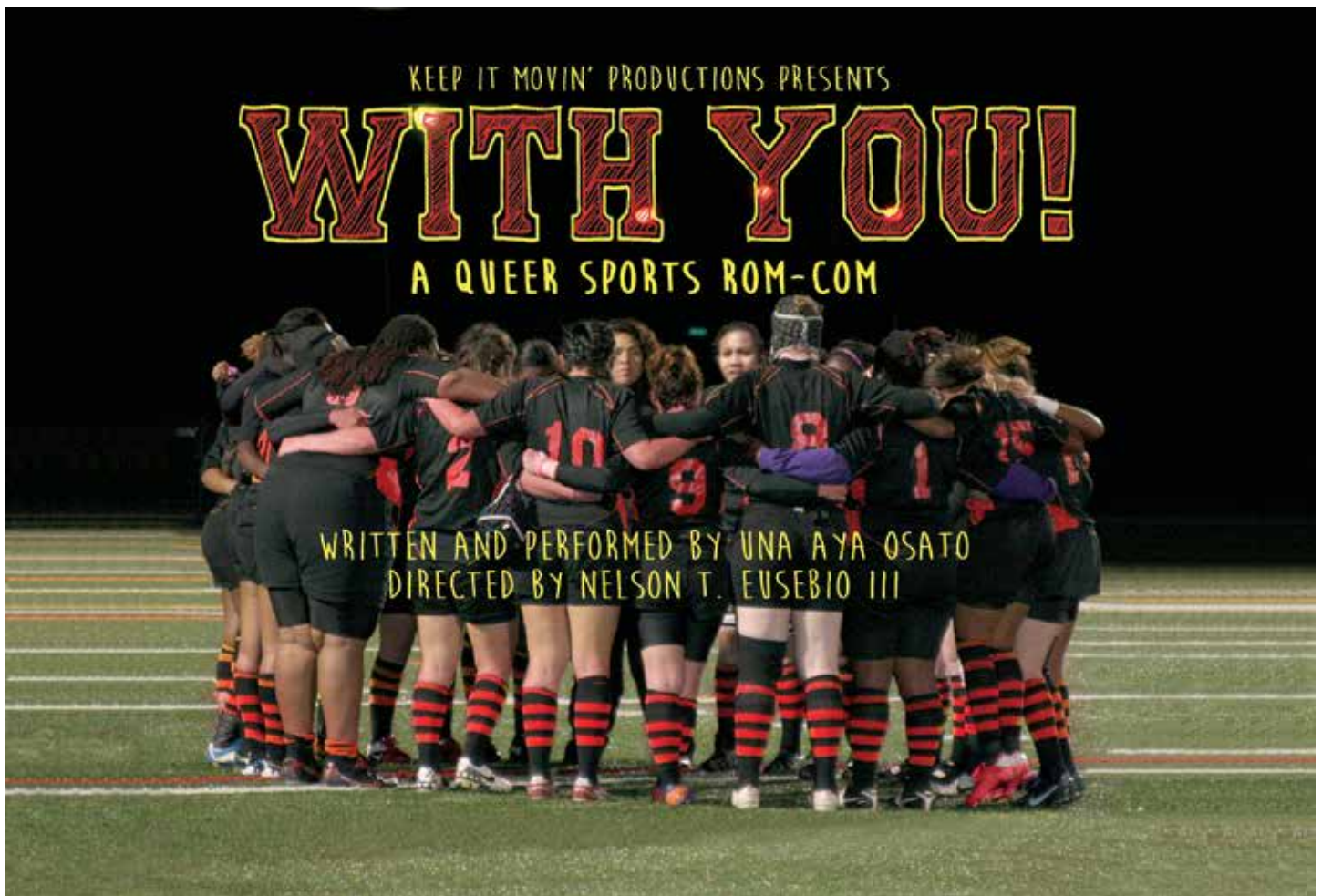
Run time: 60 minutes

**WITH YOU!** is a queer sports rom-com about a U.S. college rugby team's love for the game and each other, brought to the stage via one woman's body. A hilarious show about figuring out which team to play for, this quasi-autobiographical comedy is award-winning performer/playwright Una Aya Osato's newest show. Based on her experiences playing college rugby for Wesleyan University, Una brings together her love of rom-coms and sports films into a hard-hitting play, equally tough on the body and the heart.

**Una Aya Osato (writer; actor)** was born and raised in NYC, where she works as a performer, writer and educator. Una has been writing, performing, and producing her award-winning original work for over twelve years, performing nationally and internationally for tens of thousands of people in theaters, festivals, universities, conferences, community organizations, classrooms, and prisons.

**Nelson T. Eusebio III (director)** is a freelance director, producer and award-winning filmmaker. He is the former artistic director of Leviathan Lab, an Asian American creative studio. In 2008 he co-founded Creative Destruction, a NYC-based theatre collective. He has directed and developed work at theaters throughout the country, including the Public Theater/-NYSF, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Repertory, The Old Globe, Playmaker's Repertory, and Ma-Yi Theatre Company. He has a B.A. in Drama from UC Irvine and an M.F.A. in Directing from the Yale School of Drama.





## SYNOPSIS

The show begins with Una as a new college student--an activist, an idealist--joining the rugby team on the recommendation of a friend. After the first practice, rugby's physical demands leave her questioning her commitment to this new sport where everyone tackles without pads and you can only throw the ball backwards. Forever forward-thinking, though, Una's crush on a new teammate keeps her in the fold and before long she finds herself immersed in a community that doesn't care how well she can catch and throw. The team is about something more.

As she learns the game on and off the field, in and out of the classroom, she discovers that the rugby team is really a space for challenging social norms and empowering people to be their fullest selves. Inspired by teammates unafraid to push themselves to achieve physical, academic, and social feats, she discovers that what the team can accomplish together is bigger than any one individual...cliche!

Covering four years of school, from frosh-year classes to studying abroad, from novice player to almost captain, the show races along the unmanicured path to discovering one's passion and voice. A timely play that engages with the ongoing discussions around queer and feminist issues on college campuses, *WITH YOU!* explores the political landscape of identity/sexuality/gender/activism/love.

In the end, *WITH YOU!* simultaneously indulges the cliches of rom-coms and sports films and explodes them to other stratospheres.

# AWARDS FOR UNA AYA OSATO & *WITH YOU!*

- Winner of "Audience Choice Award" (for *WITH YOU!*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2016, NYC)
- Winner of "Exceptional Storytelling" (for *WITH YOU!*, FRIGID NY Festival, 2016, NYC)



Photograph: Illana Millner

## OFFERING...

### Una offers:

- Full theatrical performance of *WITH YOU!*
- Performance of excerpts from *WITH YOU!*
- Full or excerpted performance of *WITH YOU!* followed by Q&A
- Performance of *WITH YOU!* plus facilitation of (customize-able) workshop.

### Examples of workshops:

- "Sports!: Queering Athletic Spaces"
- "Political Performance: Sharing Stories That Matter to Us All"
- "A One Woman Show: The In's & Out's of Creating, Performing & Self-Producing Your Work"

***Additionally, having done educational workshop development for over 16 years, Una can tailor workshops to the needs and desires of a school / organization.***

A performance of *WITH YOU!* combined with a Q&A and/or workshop, generally lasts 1½ to 3 hours.

Una has been **writing, performing, and producing her award-winning original work for over twelve years**, touring nationally and internationally in theaters, festivals, universities, community organizations, classrooms, and prisons. Una is **also available to do workshops and trainings** in conjunction with the themes raised in the show and/or relating to her creative and producing process. **Una has taught in universities, high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools for the past 16 years**, working throughout the U.S. and South Africa. Her foundation in performance and popular education provides a framework that allows her to **create engaging and unique spaces for students to experience learning** where they often find new understandings of themselves and the world. Una's work as an educator is an extension of her artistic work, all of which **explores and addresses social justice issues through embodying knowledge, performance and storytelling.**



# PRESS FOR *WITH YOU!*

"She (Una) charmingly and empoweringly relates one woman's experience... If you've seen Una Osato perform, it may not surprise you that **she has enough energy to play an entire rugby team.** Her earnestness is quite inspiring. **She also offers a window into a sustainable world of cooperation.**"

— *NYTheater Now (NYC)*

"Osato gives a marathon performance... *With You!* is a triumph of a solo piece. The story is clearly special to Una Aya Osato, giving her full heart, soul, and body to the production. And by doing so, it becomes special to all who watch her."

— *Theater in the Now (NYC)*

"Osato is a fireball of electricity as she jumps out in her gym clothes and hypes up all theatergoers. **The audience literally feels like they are in the bleachers during the game** as she runs, jumps, rolls, and bounces back and forth from characterizations of herself and her teammates...**The audience can't help but high five with Osato and cheer her realization of her own power...Osato has the comedic physical talent of a Lucille Ball** as she pops from her awkward self to the various girls she is attracted to on the team."

— *OffOffOnline.com (NYC)*

## PHOTO & GRAPHIC CREDITS

### PHOTOS:

Performer: Una Aya Osato

Photographer: Azikiwe Mohammed, Anna Barsan, Ilana Millner

### POSTCARD IMAGES:

Graphic design: Giorgio Rossoovich



Photograph: Ilana Millner

# biography

Photograph: Karla Xeno

**Una Aya Osato (writer/performer)** was born and raised in the East Village of New York City, where she currently works as a **performer, writer, and educator who dynamically merges her art and politics**. Una began her performance career at the age of seven, dancing with the world renowned **José Limon Dance Company** which toured in the U.S. and Europe, and worked on television shows such as **Sesame Street, Ghost Writer, and Nickelodian PSA's**. She also appeared on network television as a repertory member of CityKids, before going on to graduate from LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts, where she was awarded the **level one prize** in theater by the U.S. Arts Recognition Talent Search (now known as **YoungArts**), and named a finalist for the Presidential Scholar in the Arts award. She was invited to participate in the **Sundance Theater Laboratory**, where she performed in Julia Cho's 99 Histories, and has since gone on to collaborate with **Obie award-winning playwrights, performers, and companies** such as **Taylor Mac** (2009, 2016) and the Mettawee River Theatre Company (2013).

Since graduating from **Wesleyan University** with a degree in American Studies, Una has been **writing, performing, and producing her award-winning original work**, six shows, touring for over **12 years both nationally and internationally** at theaters, festivals, universities, conferences, community organizations, and prisons.

**Una's love for fully embodying her politics in her art lead her to burlesque performance.** She goes by the names exHOTic other and Norms, and has performed in theaters and nightclubs from NYC's iconic Slipper Room to the bright lights of Vegas for the Miss Exotic World/Burlesque Hall of Fame competition. She is also a **co-founder of the super troupe brASS: Brown RadicalAss Burlesque**.

She facilitates workshops and trainings in correlation with the themes raised in her theater and burlesque shows, (such as "Full-bodied Storytelling: Loving Your Body & Finding Your Story"; "Political Performance: Sharing Stories That Matter to Us All"; and "A One Woman Show: The In's &

Out's of Creating, Performing & Self-Producing Your Work"). **She has taught for over 16 years at every level of educational institution throughout the U.S and South Africa.**

Una has **performed and led accompanying workshops at over 30 Colleges and Universities across the U.S.**, among them: Yale, Princeton, Wesleyan, Oberlin, Brown, Cornell, Swarthmore, Middlebury, Vassar, Sarah Lawrence, Rutgers, Williams, Haverford, Brandeis, NYU, Skidmore, Mount Holyoke, the CUNY Graduate Center, Brooklyn College, California State: Monterey Bay, and Laney College. Along with many high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools in NYC and Canada.

**Una's foundation in performance and popular education provides a framework that allows her to create uniquely engaging spaces for students to experience learning,** where they often find new understanding of themselves and the world. Una's work as an educator is an extension of her artistic work, all of which explores and addresses social justice issues through embodying knowledge, performance and storytelling.

Una and her sibling/collaborator sister selva were **featured in a Huffington Post** profile series:

[www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/28/assemblage-una-mici-osa-to\\_n\\_7144040.html?23424](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/28/assemblage-una-mici-osa-to_n_7144040.html?23424)

They were also **featured in the "MSNBC Originals" series:**  
[www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/stripping-for-change-386761283583](http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/stripping-for-change-386761283583)



Photograph: Nisha Sondhe

## contact information

**EMAIL:** [una.shows@gmail.com](mailto:una.shows@gmail.com)

**WEB SITE:** [www.unaosato.com](http://www.unaosato.com)

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**

[www.facebook.com/una.aya.osato](https://www.facebook.com/una.aya.osato)

**IG:** @UnaAyaOsato

**Twitter:** @ThisIsUna

**theater • burlesque • stand-up • storytelling • hosting • workshops**

# ***artist statement***

I tell stories with my whole body in meaningful, colorful ways. I make the movement irresistible by combining the many art forms I love – theater, burlesque, dance, stand-up, storytelling of every kind – to create, explore, and celebrate my wholeness along with my brokenness.

Art is how I survive, how I breathe, how I share love. It's how I communicate, how I connect with others, how I create opportunities for as many stories to be shared as possible – especially those we don't usually get to hear and value. My art cracks open space for marginalized bodies and experiences in a world that continually tries to erase us.

Whether writing and producing my own work, or performing in other artists' productions, I'm in constant awe of our ability to collectively imagine and create – a process I feel honored to be a part of, embodying characters whose stories the world would otherwise not witness.

Art is how I build community and counter the sense of isolation that capitalism breeds – within ourselves and between each other – through laughter, joy, and collective catharsis. In collaboration with other artists and countless communities, I create work that seeks to speak to people's truths, to *be* action, to move *others* to action... because art should be useful to all of us.

The movement for liberation of all peoples is a long haul, and it's art and culture that will give us the space we need to be seen and heard, to reflect and re-energize together, to create the world that we know can be real.

There isn't just one stage with only one center. There are stages everywhere – we create them, and there are as many centers as there are stories...



Photograph: Christache





## ***contact information***

**EMAIL:** [una.shows@gmail.com](mailto:una.shows@gmail.com)

**WEB SITE:** [www.unaosato.com](http://www.unaosato.com)

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**

[www.facebook.com/una.aya.osato](http://www.facebook.com/una.aya.osato)

IG: @ThisIsUna

Twitter: @ThisIsUna

WWW.UNAOSATO.COM  
UNA.SHOWS@GMAIL.COM