FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1 FEBRUARY 2019

The Power Plant presents an enchanting performance by 2018 MacArthur Fellow Okwui Okpokwasili’s Poor People’s TV Room SOLO

This program is curated by The Power Plant with support of TD The Ready Commitment and co-presented by TO Live, as part of Progress International Festival of Performance and Ideas, presented in partnership by SummerWorks and The Theatre Centre.

Okwui Okpokwasili is a performer, choreographer, and writer creating multidisciplinary performance pieces that centre the African and African American woman in divining vocabularies to explore the unruly interiority of the human condition. As the child of immigrants from Nigeria, born and raised in the Bronx, the reconstitution of memory and the slippery terrain of identity as a particular condition of the African diaspora features prominently in much of Okpokwasili’s work. Her productions are highly experimental in form, bringing together elements of dance, theatre, and the visual arts (with spare and distinctive sets designed by her husband and collaborator, Peter Born).

Poor People’s TV Room SOLO is a performance installation that considers duration and urgent complaint as critical aspects of an embodied protest practice. Text from the report commissioned by the British Colonial Government in 1930 to investigate the uprising of women in Nigeria, serves as the primary source material. This uprising, known as the Woman’s War of 1929 was also referred to as the Woman’s Egwu. Egwu, in Igbo, one of the Indigenous languages of Nigeria, means dance. The linguistic tie between performance and protest is an especially compelling and fruitful exploration of this work.

Two nights only!

**Date:**
Tuesday, 5 February 2019, 7:30 PM
including post-performance “talkback”
with Okwui Okpokwasili

Wednesday, 6 February 2019, 7:30 PM

**Venue:**
The Franco Boni Theatre
The Theatre Centre
1115 Queen St W, Toronto

**Tickets:** $25

To purchase tickets or passes, please visit [Progress Festival](https://www.progressfestival.ca)

 Supported by 

Co-Presented by 

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About The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery

The Power Plant is Canada’s leading public gallery devoted exclusively to contemporary visual art. It is a vital forum for the advanced artistic culture of our time that offers an exceptional facility and professional support to diverse living artists, while engaging equally diverse audiences in their work. The Power Plant pursues its activities through exhibitions, publications and public programming that incorporate other areas of culture when they intersect with visual art.

Director: Gaëtane Verna

ON VIEW NOW: Winter 2019 Exhibition Season
26 January - 12 May 2019

Omar Ba: Same Dream
Shuvinai Ashoona: Mapping Worlds
Alicia Henry: Witnessing

ADMISSION: ALL YEAR, ALL FREE
presented by BMO FINANCIAL GROUP

Providing as many people as possible with access to these programs and events remains the gallery’s top priority. The initiative leading these efforts is a renewed partnership with BMO Financial Group, whose support of the ALL YEAR, ALL FREE initiative is vital to expanding and diversifying audiences by eliminating the cost of admission to The Power Plant’s exhibition program.

For more information please visit: thepowerplant.org

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