

WHAT JUST HAPPENED
NINA WISE PERFORMANCE FEATURES GUEST ARTIST ANNA HALPRIN

Motion Institute presents *What Just Happened*, a performance by Nina Wise with guest appearance by post-modern dance legend Anna Halprin, at Open Secret in San Rafael on Saturday, April 5th at 8pm. Both pioneers in the fields of dance and performance art, Wise and Halprin come together in a special cross-generational event that showcases the continuum of the art form and their personal innovations within it. *What Just Happened* blends narrative, movement, dance, and spontaneity to explore all that makes the human experience beautiful, tragic, and everything in between.

Every performance of *What Just Happened* is unique—as Wise, in her signature style, builds an improvised performance based on the personal and political events that have transpired over the previous 24 hours. And in a rare theater appearance, renowned dancer Anna Halprin joins Wise to perform *The Courtesan and the Crone*, one of her most famous and historical pieces. Rarely staged in the Bay Area, this performance offers local residents an incredible opportunity to witness a live piece by the 93-year old Halprin, who continues to transfix audiences with her artistic mastery.

Wise's autobiographical performances, known for their warmth and compassion, weave irony, physicality and insight into complex, spontaneous narratives. Her work, which has been compared to a cross between Lily Tomlin, the Dalai Lama and Jules Feiffer, is at once full of humor and poignancy. Audiences repeatedly report that they have never seen anything quite like Wise before and that they are at one instant laughing so hard they are falling off their seats and the next moment moved to tears.

Wise has performed *What Just Happened* to sold out crowds at The Marsh in San Francisco and The Marsh in Berkeley, Highways in Los Angeles and at the Solo Festival in Ashland, at Esalen Institute, Spirit Rock Meditation Center, at a number of conferences around the country. As described by Chloe Veltman in the *SF Weekly*:

“Wise moves and speaks like a veteran jazz musician; there's structure and poise to her every riff. . . . Simply being in the same room as this consummate improviser for a couple of hours is to watch the unknown unfold before your eyes. Yet to reduce Wise's work to a mere curiosity, like a sideshow at a traveling fair, is to do it a great disservice. For I was . . . deeply moved and entertained by Wise's eccentric take [on her life as she] distilled something of the complexity of living in today's world . . . into something bizarre, beautiful, and brave.”

Wise will be joined by a Motion Theater Artists Annabelle Berrios, Davida Taurek, Ishiah Benben, Marianna Seger and Rob Pavey, who will weave in spontaneous performances based on their past 24 hours. *What Just Happened* is produced by Motion Institute, a Bay Area nonprofit theater production company that offers audiences a singular view of current issues presented in ways that are contemporary, innovative and embedded in the narratives of their own lives.

Limited Seating! Tickets \$25, available here: www.wjh-opensecret.brownpapertickets.com
Open Secret is located at 923 C St., San Rafael, CA (415) 457-4191

Nina Wise (415) 459-3766 / nina@motioninstitute.com
Jennifer Downey, Motion Institute Program Manager (510) 435-1465 info@motioninstitute.com
www.motioninstitute.com / www.ninawise.com

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