

MOSS
ARTS
CENTER

24/
25



jaha koo
cuckoo

Friday, January 31, 2025, 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 1, 2025, 4 and 7:30 PM

Cube

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Gianni Schicchi

MARCH 14 | 7:30PM

MARCH 16 | 2:30PM

Jefferson Center, Roanoke, VA

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OPERAROANOKE.ORG



jaha koo

cuckoo

Jaha Koo, concept, direction, text, music, and video

Hana, Duri, Seri, and Jaha Koo, performance

Idella Craddock, Cuckoo hacking

Eunkyung Jeong, scenography and digital support

Dries Douibi, dramaturgical advice

Korneel Coessens, Jan Berkmans, Bart Huybrechts,

and Wim Clapdorp, technique

Kunstenwerkplaats Pianofabriek, production

CAMPO, executive producer

Bâtard Festival, co-production

Support

CAMPO, STUK, BUDA, DAS, SFAC, and Noorderzon/Grand Theatre

With the support of
the Flemish Community



Flanders
State of the Art

*Please note, these performances contain references to
suicide, mature language, explicit content, and strobe lights.
Recommended for ages 13 and up.*



program notes

In his performance, *Cuckoo*, South-Korean artist Jaha Koo gives a touching insight into the tragedy of a lonely life in a thoroughly technologized society.

One day when his electric rice cooker informed him that his meal was ready, Koo experienced a deep sense of isolation. *Golibmuwon* (고립무원) is an untranslatable Korean word expressing the feeling of helpless isolation that characterizes the lives of many young people in Korea today.

Twenty years ago there was a major economic crisis in South Korea, comparable to the financial crash in the United States and Southern Europe in 2008. This crisis had a huge impact on the young generation, to which Koo belongs. He witnessed many endemic problems, including youth unemployment and socioeconomic inequality. Rising suicide rates, isolation, acute social withdrawal, and a fixation on personal appearance are but a few of the symptoms.

In bittersweet and humorous dialogues, Koo and his clever rice cookers take you on a journey through the last 20 years of Korean history, combining personal experience with political events and reflections on happiness, economic crises and death.

Cuckoo forms the second part of Koo's *Hamartia Trilogy*. Together with *Lolling & Rolling* and *The History of Korean Western Theatre*, the trilogy consists of three intelligent documentary theatre performances, each telling a story about *hamartia*, Greek for "tragic error." The common thread here is the far-reaching imperialism of the past and present, and its sometimes unexpected personal impact. Each time, Koo interweaves his personal stories with historical, political and sociological facts — often themes that involve a clash of Eastern and Western culture: from the clipping of tongues to make it in the West, to the heavy personal toll of Western interference in the macroeconomic sphere.



biography

jaha koo

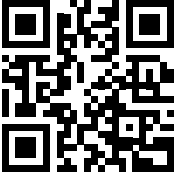
Jaha Koo (he/him) is a South Korean theatre/performance maker, music composer, and videographer. Koo's artistic practice oscillates between multimedia and performance, encompassing his own music, video, text, and robotic objects.

His *Hamartia Trilogy* includes *Lolling and Rolling* (2015), *Cuckoo* (2017), and *The History of Korean Western Theatre* (2020). The trilogy represents a long-term exploration of the political landscape, colonial history, and cultural identity of East Asia. Thematically, it focuses on structural issues in Korean society and how the inescapable past tragically affects our lives today. His newest creation, *Haribo Kimchi*, premiered in June 2024.

Koo majored in theatre studies (B.F.A., 2011) at Korea National University of Arts and earned a master's degree (2016) at DAS Theatre in Amsterdam.

This is Koo's first performance at the Moss Arts Center.

tell us what you think!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to A.I.M by Kyle Abraham on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

bit.ly/cuckoo-feedback

Please note, survey responses are anonymous. If you would like a response to your feedback, please email mossartscenter@vt.edu.

engagement events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

LEARNING LUNCH SERIES

Jaha Koo joined students from the APIDA + Center in a community-building Q&A conversation.

UNIVERSITY CLASS VISIT: HYBRID FORMS

English students examined the use of dramaturgy, cinematography, and technology in *Cuckoo* with Koo.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

MEET THE MAKERS Q&A

Virginia Tech arts leadership program students spoke with Marijke Vandersmissen, head of international relations at CAMPO arts center, about the role arts administrators play in the development and promotion of new works.

UNIVERSITY CLASS VISIT: GOVERNMENT AND POLICY OF ASIA

Political science students explored the social and economic policies of North Korea and the 1997 financial crisis through the lens of *Cuckoo* with Koo as their guide.

UNIVERSITY CLASS VISIT: MUSIC VIDEO

Cinema students from the School of Performing Arts delved into Koo's use of multimedia in his artistic practice and how these elements enhance the audience experience.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

POST-PERFORMANCE Q&AS

Hear from creator Koo in these open post-performance discussions.

Special thanks to the APIDA + Center, the Virginia Tech arts leadership program, Logan Dandridge, Nina Ha, Amanda Nelson, Sophia Terazawa, and Chengqui Wu

go deeper

In an interview with *Festival TransAmériques*, Jaha Koo speaks about his approach to storytelling for audiences unfamiliar with South Korean history and society:

“Since I address issues in South Korean society which most spectators that I encounter internationally know very little about, I have to include many historical and political elements in my shows. I try to enable an exchange with the audience around this information, a space where knowledge is not transmitted via a learning process but through an artistic experience instead.”

What role does theatre-making play in cross-cultural dialogue, and how does the influence of cultural colonialism effect that dialogue?

MOSS ARTS CENTER

Through Sun.
March 30, 2025



Shaunté Gates *This Is Not a Test*

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

Washington, D.C.-based artist Shaunté Gates' solo exhibition features a survey of mixed-media paintings and densely layered works that combine photography, painting, collage, and found materials, resulting in surreal, dreamlike compositions that merge portraiture, landscape, and architecture.

Charisse Pearlina Weston *I saw the room but darkly dreamed it ...*

*Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and
Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery*

New York-based artist Charisse Pearlina Weston's solo exhibition engages with themes of surveillance and tactics of Black refusal by transforming materials associated with observation and control through repetition and reuse.

Free Related Event ***Beyond the Frame Gallery Tours***

Thurs., Feb. 13 and March 13, 12 PM
Moss Arts Center Grand Lobby

Charisse Pearlina Weston; pyrolytic envelop I (into the bright and distributed subject side), 2024; text etched on slumped and folded Mirropane surveillance glass and concrete; 51 1/2 x 22 x 14 1/2 inches; © Charisse Pearlina Weston; courtesy of the artist and Dr. Charles Boyd



CALL FOR ARTISTS



THURSDAY, JUNE 5-SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

18TH NEW RIVER ART

JURIED BIENNIAL EXHIBITION

ENTRY DEADLINE: Saturday, March 1, 2025

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PK-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

Each year, wildly enthusiastic students — from PK through 12th grade — fill our theatre for free matinee performances by artists from all over the world. They explore our visual arts galleries during school tours and create and learn during hands-on workshops with artists. For many students, visiting the Moss Arts Center is the first time they've ever been to a performing arts facility or gallery. Why do kids need access to the arts? Engaging in artistic activities offers a wide range of skills that they will use throughout their lives.


Learn more at bit.ly/moss-k12.

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Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.





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Virginia Tech Giving Day is from noon on Feb. 19 through noon on Feb. 20.



This is the perfect time to show your support for the Moss Arts Center.

Regardless of age, background, ability, and circumstance, the arts are impactful. Everyone can find their place in the arts and that is especially true at the Moss Arts Center. Here, everyone is welcome to explore, discover, and find what stirs their soul and brings them joy.

There are endless reasons to support the arts. What's yours?

All Giving Day donations to the Moss Arts Center will be recognized in the 2025-2026 season Moss Arts Center performance programs.



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The Moss Arts Center extends its appreciation to those donors who have established endowments in support of the arts.

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24/25 season

check out the great
performances coming
this spring.



thurs., feb. 6, and
fri., feb. 7, 7:30 pm

beowulf:
the epic in performance
benjamin bagby,
voice and medieval harp

fri., feb. 14, 7:30 pm
lakecia benjamin

tues., feb. 18, 7:30 pm
**czech national
symphony orchestra**
maxim lando, piano

sat., feb. 22, 7 and 9 pm
native comedy jam

thurs., feb. 27, 7:30 pm
kodo
one earth tour 2025:
warabe

thurs., march 6, 7:30 pm
the dante quartet
brian thorsett, tenor

tues., march 18, 7:30 pm
broadway in blacksburg
the book of mormon

sat., march 22, 7:30 pm
a.i.m by kyle abraham

tues., march 25, 7:30 pm
an evening with
charles yu

fri., march 28, 7:30 pm
circa
opus

wed., april 2, 7:30 pm
les arts florissants
ivaldi's four seasons
at 300
théotime langlois de swarte, violin

thurs., april 24, and
fri., april 25, 7:30 pm
george emilio sanchez
in the court of the conqueror

sat., may 10, 7:30 pm
chucho valdés and irakere 50



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MOSS
ARTS
CENTER

**chucho
valdés and
irakere 50**

sat., may 10, 7:30 pm

 VIRGINIA
TECH.

Grammy winner and world-famous pianist Chucho Valdés closes the season with a tribute to 50 years of Irakere, featuring a new iteration of the band that revolutionized Afro-Latin jazz.



SPECIAL EVENTS

CONTRA DANCE AT THE Y

Contra Dance is a traditional American dance in which couples dance in two long facing lines or in groups of four. No partner required!

Lesson starts at 7pm, Dance starts at 7:30pm. \$10 each (\$8 students).

Y COMMUNITY GALLERY

We are proud to announce that the YMCA at Virginia Tech is opening a brand-new community art gallery in The Y Center at 1000 N. Main St., Blacksburg. We are extremely grateful to eARTh (by Diane Relf) for sponsorship of this new space and for the generous support of Shelter Alternatives and Bell Electric.

Y BOOK FAIR

Among the many volumes of books that will be available in our annual Book Fair there will be a collection of books of local origin, authors and interest. We'll have literally thousands of books, comics, graphic novels, vinyl



YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING AT THE Y

WHAT

Textiles (gently used household items to include books, clothing, housewares, blankets, toys, etc.)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Please deliver to Thrift Shop dock during business hours.*

Electronics (working & non-working TV's (from Mont. County residents only)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Please deliver to Thrift Shop dock during business hours.*

Batteries (Rechargeable batteries only)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Bring inside to Recycling Station.
Each item will need to be individually bagged. Bags and tape will be provided.*

CFL's, Ink Jet cartridges, rechargeable batteries

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Bring inside to Recycling Table. Each item will need to be individually bagged. Bags and tape will be provided.*

We love to hear from you! Feel free to send us an email at ymca@vtymca.org and we will be in contact with you soon.

Y CENTER

Thrift Shop, Pottery Studio,
Event Room, and Conference Room
1000 North Main Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-552-2633

MAIN OFFICE

Lancaster House
403 Washington Street SW
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-961-9622
ymca@vtymca.org