

PRESS RELEASE



The Flynn Presents the 3rd Annual **snap** First Person Arts Festival, Featuring Dael Orlandersmith, Gina Stevensen, and Five New England Storytellers January 23-25 in Flynn Space

BURLINGTON, VT- The Flynn is excited to announce the 3rd annual **snap** First Person Arts Festival, sponsored by **Vermont Humanities**, taking place in **Flynn Space** from **January 23-25**. *snap* celebrates the power of storytelling and solo performance with a weekend-long festival that includes a headline performance by acclaimed playwright and performer **Dael Orlandersmith** on Friday, January 23, **snap** Stories featuring five visiting artists on Saturday, January 24, a two-day Storytelling Masterclass with Susanne Schmidt on Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25, A one night only premiere of a new work by Gina Stevenesen and an open-mic *snap* Story Slam on Sunday, January 25.

"**snap** creates a rare kind of exchange — one where personal stories are met with collective listening," said Jay Wahl, Executive Director of the Flynn. "By inviting audiences into dialogue with artists, the festival deepens understanding, strengthens community, and affirms storytelling as a powerful tool for connection."

snap First Person Arts Festival begins on **Friday, January 23** with headliner **Dael Orlandersmith**. She performs her celebrated autobiographical solo work **Forever**, an exploration of the family we are born into and the family we choose. Inspired by her pilgrimage to Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, *Forever* traces the legacy a daughter inherits from her mother. Tickets for this Flynn Space performance are \$22.50. Get tickets at flynnvt.org.

For **snap** Stories, visiting artists **Amanda Card, Aster Drew, Catherine Ashley, Nancy Ma, and Reynaldo Piniella** were selected from an open call that received over 50 submissions from across New England and New York. They premiere their original first-person works on **Saturday, January 24** in Flynn Space. Tickets for this event are free; registration is required. Tickets for the *snap* Story Slam on **Sunday, January 25** are also free with registration required. Find out more at flynnvt.org.

Gina Stevensen, a Burlington, Vermont-based artist and creator of the new solo show **Caterpillar Soup**, returns to the festival on **Sunday, January 25** with the one-night-only premiere of this Flynn-commissioned work developed as part of *snap* 2025. In *Caterpillar*

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Soup, Stevensen blends humor, tenderness, and raw honesty in a story about identity, queerness, and transformation.

The festival also includes a **two-day Storytelling Masterclass** with teaching artist **Susanne Schmidt** on **January 24 and 25**. The workshop provides instruction, individualized feedback, and an opportunity for participants to perform in the **Sunday evening Story Slam**. Registration is available at flynnvt.org.

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About Dael Orlandersmith



Dael Orlandersmith is an acclaimed playwright known for works such as *Stoop Stories*, *Yellowman* and *Until the Flood*. She was a Pulitzer Prize finalist and Drama Desk Award nominee, and won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for *The Gimmick*. Her honors include a New York Foundation for the Arts grant, the Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, Doris Duke grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Orlandersmith's play *Forever* premiered at the Mark Taper Forum and was subsequently performed at venues including Long Wharf, New York Theatre Workshop and Portland Center Stage.

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Until the Flood debuted at St. Louis Repertory and has since been staged at numerous theaters, including the Arcola Theatre in London. She's worked on commissions for Rattlestick Theatre and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, including *Watching the Watcher* and *Antonio's Song/I Was Dreaming of a Son*, and collaborated with David Cale and Robert Falls on *You Don't Know the Lonely One*.

About the Flynn

The Flynn has been at the center of Vermont's cultural landscape for 90 years. Each year, 200,000 people attend performances on the Main Stage and in Flynn Space, with 8,000 students participating in the Flynn Student Matinee Series. Thousands more discover their creative selves in classes and camps. The Flynn also supports artists through residencies, commissions, and performance development, and is recognized internationally for its artistic, educational, and community impact. The Flynn partnered with In Situ in 2021 with the mission to expand the Flynn beyond its 4-walled theater. Since joining, the Flynn has produced a handful of collaborative projects with artists from all over the world.

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