

playbill

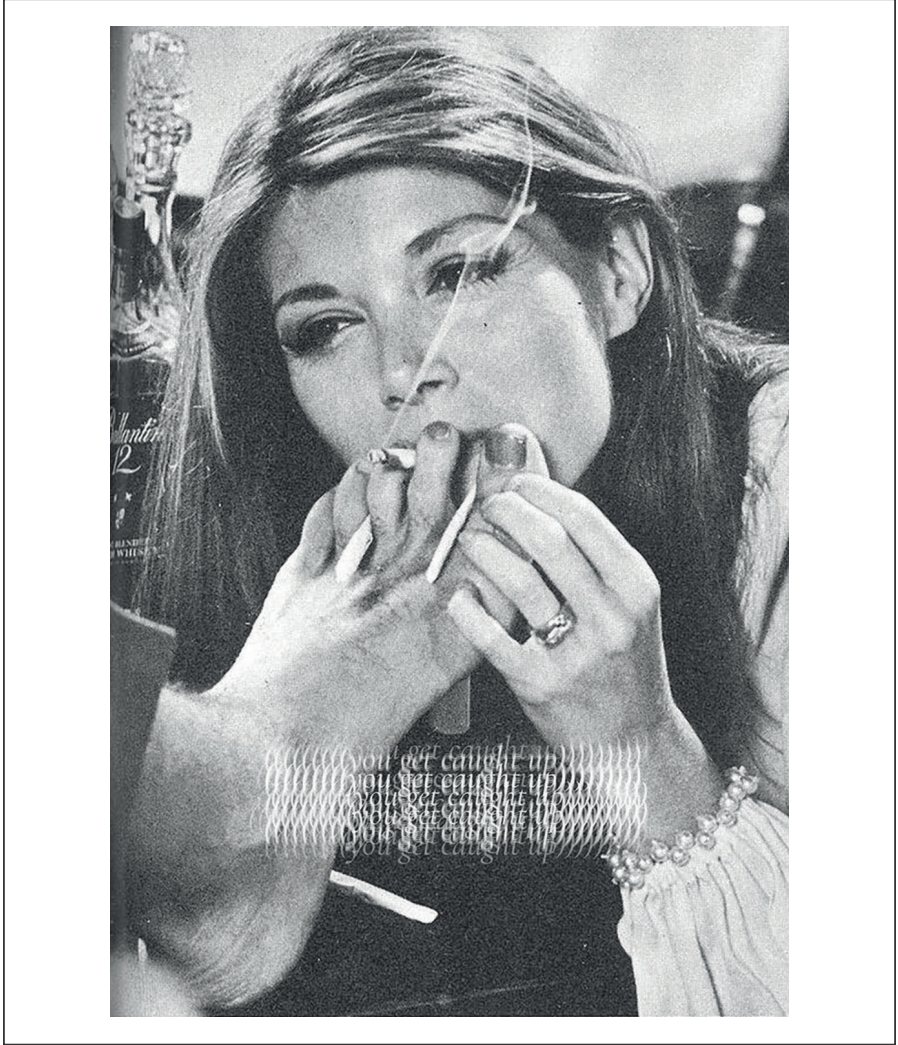
XIIII      ACT XIV      XV      XVI

On December 6th and 7th playbill will present its first double bill weekend, beginning with an act dedicated to poet, educator and photographer S\*an D. Henry-Smith. Within their practice, Henry-Smith explores Black/queer diasporic practices rooted in experimentalism, improvisation and trans-disciplinarity, often working collaboratively across outputs spanning sound, performance and publishing.

In continuing with this year's focus of 'song', Henry-Smith draws on a background of expanded poetry readings and performances engaging and supported by music—having performed similar compositions under their own name and with the solo project sunchoke, and as a bandmate in outfits including twill, PhantomSun, Depth Address and Black Boots—to present their forthcoming poetry collection PACES THE CAGE (The Song Cave, New York). Lifting off from their previous book Wild Peach, published with Futurepoem in 2020, Henry-Smith's latest collection expands an already-queered language to near breaking point, taking up an ongoing consideration of the permeable lines between poetry, performance and their relative

stakes in language, in process amplifying an ever-multiplying voice—be-lated, and yet to arrive. Through the complexities of personal experiences and the use of a poetically fragmented voice, the literal and metaphorical are here remixed in real time. While PACES THE CAGE is Henry-Smith's second book of poetry, it is the first time they will present a book from start to finish as a live performance. Given that PACES THE CAGE is also set to be published in literally a matter of days, ACT XIV stands in as an unofficial book launch of sorts, in Henry-Smith's new home town, no less.

Unfolding primarily as a vocal performance—in which reading, singing and humming will take centre stage—it will be accompanied by some sonic interventions—such as looping, guitar and mic'd percussion—and the recording of a film yet-to-be-made. In experimenting with the live format, the performance and its rehearsal will be documented via video shot in the style of the concert-film. Zooming in on the unanticipated flutter of a hand and other performance affectations often otherwise ignored, the film will focus attentively on Henry-Smith's movements,



resulting in both the documentation of a live act and a portrait of gesture. To shoot the film Henry-Smith will collaborate with Silvia Ulloa, playbill's in-house documentor, and artist and collaborator Dustin James.

While preparing their act, Henry-Smith has also been working with playbill on the selection of artists for our third Open Stage act, a dialogue through which we have had the pleasure of witnessing their commitment to collaboration, peer-to-peer exchange and education first-hand. This act will take place the following night, giving audiences the chance to celebrate their practice across a whole weekend—and to toast the first public outing of the achievement that is PACES THE CAGE.

PROGRAMME

8pm

Introduction to

S\*an D. Henry-Smith

8.10pm

PACES THE CAGE

2025

Reading-performance

Approx. 80 min

9.30pm—Drinks

IMAGE

Flyer designed by Perla Zufiga for her DJ session at Puticlú (December 2023, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

COLOPHON Torpedo Theater is a long-running, thirty-seat theatre in the heart of Amsterdam's city centre. Originally founded by *Het Parool*, a Dutch national newspaper, the theatre has been committed to the spoken, written and performed word from the beginning. playbill is an event-based project invested in the presentation of experimental language and text-based artistic works on the (small) stage. It is curated by Martha Jager and Isabelle Sully, designed by Maud Vervenne and documented by Silvia Ulloa. playbill: ACT XIV has been made possible thanks to Monty Mouw, Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst and Mondriaan Fonds. This playbill has been printed by MAIAMI Print Studio, Amsterdam.