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**VISUAL ARTIST MICHAEL COOPER TRANSFORMS
WHEELER AUDITORIUM WITH THE PREMIERE OF HIS ONE-MAN SHOW
MASKED MARVELS & WONDERTALES SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BERKELEY, January 27, 2014—An eye-popping visual artist and virtuoso mime, **Michael Cooper** tells original stories of courage and wonder by combining his handcrafted masks and stilt dancing with a physical repertoire that ranges from the madcap to the sublime. The result is a humorous, one-man moving sculpture, which Cooper premieres at [Cal Performances](#) on Sunday, February 9 at 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium. In *Masked Marvels & Wondertales*, he transforms himself into a baby, a sneezing nose, a bubble-blowing fish, and a galloping horse right before the audience's eyes. Occasionally bringing volunteers onstage to assist in the telling of his story, Cooper "keeps the audience on their toes by introducing new elements and surprises" (*Fairfield County Weekly*).

Michael Cooper has been storytelling in front of audiences for more than 30 years. Originally from Maine, Cooper graduated from Goddard College with a degree in Peace Studies. He then went on to complete six years of training with two of the most notable mime teachers of the 20th century, Etienne Decroux of Paris, France, and Tony Montanaro of Paris, Maine. Since then, he has been presenting his art at venues such as the Hong Kong International Children's Festival, the Dublin Theater Festival, and Brooklyn Academy of Music. Cooper crafts all of his masks by hand, spending more than 300 hours on each piece. Beginning with a hunk of wet clay, he molds each piece to form and covers it with brown paper bags that have been dipped in Elmer's Glue. Once the outer shell is dry, he carves out an opening for his head and paints each piece to resemble the characters of his stories.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for Michael Cooper: *Masked Marvels & Wondertales* on Sunday, February 9 at 3:00 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium are \$20.00 and are subject to change. Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students and children 16 and under. Tickets are available through the

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Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at <http://www.calperformances.org>, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their major support of the 2013—2014 Season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, February 9 at 3:00 p.m.

Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley

For Families

Masked Marvels & Wondertales

Michael Cooper, visual artist

Program: An eye-popping visual artist and virtuoso mime, Michael Cooper tells original stories of courage and wonder by combining his handcrafted masks and stilt dancing with a physical repertoire that ranges from the madcap to the sublime.

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