

## Jazz Beat Blues Poetry Ensemble

"New England's  
premier Jazz Blues  
performance poetry  
ensemble."

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### **Jazz Beat Blues Poetry Ensemble**

The show draws on the influences and style of the jazz beat generation. As one critic said, "It is the fusion of jazz, poetry, and fun." The show also has elements of samba, French cabaret, and Spanish guitar in a refreshingly unique performance that expands the notion of the spoken word. Visual montages skillfully weave together the themes of jazz, blues, and poetry. The Jazz Beat Ensemble addresses themes as diverse as racism, Palestine, politics, and voodoo love with a fresh lively style that is by turns poignant and at times humorous.

The ensemble features a line up of first-rate jazz and blues musicians lending their talents to the performance poetry & lyrics of T. Namaya and the music of Bill Shontz. On the congas, cymbals, and tablas is Stephan Brandstatter who is acclaimed for his flawless rhythm and melodic explorations. Bill Shontz, the award-winning musician with ten CDs to his credit and master of the wind instruments, plays saxophone, wind synthesizer, and flutes. Jumpin' Jersey Adair is a bass player with credits for performance in concert halls and jazz clubs around the US.

This show has been enthusiastically received by audiences and it can make for an exciting addition to your performance schedule. Stephen Stearns Director of New England Youth Theatre in Brattleboro, Vt. said, "You created a wonderful atmosphere at NEYT; good show I loved the mix of poetry and music. Way Cool!"

The dancer Rupa Cousins said, "The piece PALESTINE moved me to tears."

"Your guys rock...no, you guys Jazz!" said another reviewer.

"It is rare to find an ensemble where many artistic levels of expression are touched, and with such intelligence. Just an evening of breezy jazz and ethnic rhythms would have been cool enough, but then there was the unexpected word art - it was a night of thoughtful cabaret." said the School for International Training.