

Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom! A contemporary jazz adventure



NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — Allison Miller, “a drummer of fierce clarity and bold imagination” (*London Guardian*), who was here last summer with Toshi Reagon, returns with her smoking hot band — which includes Jenny Scheinman, Myra Melford, Todd Sickafoose, Ben Goldberg, and Kirk Knuffke — for a night of propulsive rhythm and melody. Get lost in the beat with **Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom!** on **Saturday, May 7, at 8pm**, in MASS MoCA's Club B10.

Miller is a New York City-based drummer, singer, composer, and leader of acclaimed jazz band Boom Tic Boom! Named a “Rising Star Drummer” and a “Top 20 Jazz Drummer” by jazz magazine *Downbeat*, she and her band have received wide acclaim for maintaining deep roots in the jazz tradition while simultaneously engaging with a diverse range of musical influences, including folk, rock, blues, and country. This eclectic mix of influences produces modern jazz peppered with melodic ballads, spunky lyrics, and Miller's signature rhythmic force. The joyful, engaging, and deeply imaginative sound is prone to improvisation and underscored by Miller's charismatic and playful stage presence. At MASS MoCA she is joined by violinist Scheinman, pianist Melford, bassist Sickafoose, clarinetist Goldberg, and cornetist Knuffke. A strong believer in the power of collaboration, Miller's close connections with her bandmates harness the power of all group members' skills and ideas, resulting in dynamic, passionate, and mesmerizing music that is filled with surprises at every turn.

Through music, Miller strives to break down the gender barriers that still exist in the “boys clubs” of jazz and percussion. After being told “You don't play like a girl” countless times, she triumphantly tells *The Huffington Post*, “This is what girls play like. People hear with their eyes: They see a ‘girl’ and are surprised when they hear the power and prowess that they associate with ‘boys.’ By getting onstage and throwing down while looking the way I do, I am breaking stereotypes.”

Growing up near Washington, DC, Miller was inspired at age 11 by the legendary Miles Davis to play the drums and pursue a career as a jazz musician. In 1996, she moved to New York City to study with Michael Carvin and Lenny White and to begin her career as a drummer, composer, producer, and teacher. She has played on NPR Music's *Tiny Desk*, and Boom Tic Boom!'s self-titled debut was named among the “Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2010” by the *Los Angeles Times*. The band's 2013 release, *No Morphine, No Lilies*, made *Downbeat* and *Jazz Journalists Association's* “Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2013” lists. Her latest album, *Otis Was a Polar Bear*, will be released by Royal Potato Family on April 8, 2016. She has collaborated with artists including Bill Frisell, Steve Bernstein, Toshi Reagon, Brandi Carlile,

Natalie Merchant, and Ani DiFranco. When not performing, Miller teaches drumming and holds master classes both in the U.S. and internationally.

Let rhythm and melody take the lead when Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom! performs in MASS MoCA's Club B10 on **Saturday, May 7, at 8pm**. Dinner will be available from Lickety Split before and during the show. A full bar serves Berkshire Brewing Company beers and Berkshire Mountain Distillery spirits. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$16 in advance, \$22 day of, and \$28 preferred. Tickets for all events are available through the MASS MoCA box office located on Marshall Street in North Adams, open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays through June 24, 2016. Beginning June 25, the box office is open 10am to 6pm every day, with extended evening hours to 7pm on Thursdays through Saturdays. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 x1 during box office hours or purchased online at massmoca.org. All events are held rain or shine.

Images

High-resolution images of MASS MoCA's spring 2016 events are available through this link: bit.ly/1NL6mgv

Sponsorship

This performance is supported by The Porches Inn at MASS MoCA.

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. Hundreds of works of visual and performing art have been created on its 19th-century factory campus during fabrication and rehearsal residencies, making MASS MoCA among the most productive sites in the country for the creation and presentation of new art. More platform than box, MASS MoCA strives to bring to its audiences art experiences that are fresh, engaging, and transformative.

MASS MoCA's galleries are open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays through June 24, 2016. Beginning June 25, MASS MoCA's galleries are open 10am to 6pm every day, with extended evening hours to 7pm on Thursdays through Saturdays. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is seasonal and reopens April 30, 2016. Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.