

*The Road North*

Contact: Rebecca Holderness  
917-865-1725

*The Road North* is an original musical entertainment that centers around six classic blues records, the artist that performs the songs and some events of happenstance and collision that surround their history. Why do we remember these particular songs? What makes them unique as music? What influential and eccentric characters met and touched these artists, heard their music, and perceived its worth? The stories of this musical road north will include biographical information on the artists and commentary and anecdotes from Moses Asch, Aletha Dickerson, Marion Distler, Harry Smith and Mayo Williams.

*The Road North* has been created by a company of 21 performing artists of diverse ages, background, expertise, and interest through research into the primary source materials, music, and performance that defines this American idea. Song, dance and spoken text alternate in the manner of a variety show. The performance setting hearkens to the simplicity of the Avant Garde Coffeehouse or the recording studio over the Wisconsin Chair Company factory where the music made the atmosphere.

Setting for the performance will include drops designed and painted by UWM art students under the guidance of Roaul G. Diehl, Milwaukee artist.

Installed along side the performances at UWM Kenilworth Square East studio 508 are images designed and painted by students at Hartford University School concerning their own individual journey of family and self to the gateway city of Milwaukee. (Supported by the Cultures and Communities Program at UWM.)

Musical numbers include renditions of:

*"West Coast Blues," Blind Blake*  
*"Big Road Blues," Sam Chatmon*  
*"Devil Got My Woman," Skip James*  
*"If I Had My Way," Reverend Gary Davis*  
*"Hey Hey Baby," Big Bill Broonzy*  
*"Let Your Line Shine on Me," Blind Willie Johnson*

Drafted: 9/23/09  
Revised: 9/30/09