

LaGuardia Performing Arts Center

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Marland Harrison...Technician

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&



PROUDLY PRESENT

E | C | S #11

Emerging Choreographer Series



MAINSTAGE THEATER

TUES, MARCH 27th @ 7.30PM

WED, MARCH 28th @ 7.30PM



NYC Cultural Affairs



U.S. Small Business Administration

LPAC programming is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council

LaGuardia Performing Arts Center - 31-10 Thomson Avenue, LIC, New York, 11101

WWW.LPAC.NYC

A NOTE FROM EVELYN LOWMARK (LPAC'S INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

Dear friends,

We are excited to celebrate 11 years of performances by the Emerging Choreographer Series.

LaGuardia Performing Arts Center's mission focuses on connections, "Building Bridges," as I call it. A bridge, just like the one outside our campus, that can lead you to endless destinations. As a believer that exploration and imagination lead to creative innovation, collectively, we celebrate art by supporting learners and artists in our communities. Here at LPAC, we look to transform the human experience. To inspire, entertain, and even change how you see the world. We do this through storytelling.

The partnership between LaGuardia Performing Arts Center and Mare Nostrum Element builds on our commitment to the arts and the fantastic artists who captivate us with their moves and transport us to a magical place through their performances.

I look forward to our new friendships and can't wait to see you at our next show.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Lowmark

ECS 2024 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



The ECS is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.



The ECS is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.



The American Tap Dance Foundation (Artistic Director Tony Waag) is a non-profit organization committed to establishing and legitimizing Tap Dance as a vital component of American Dance through creation, presentation, education and preservation.



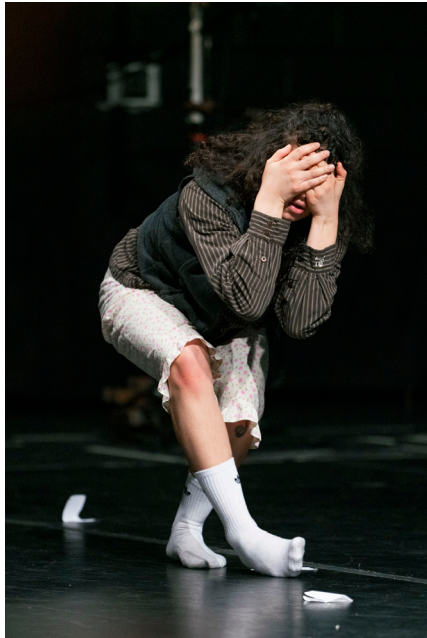
Flushing Town Hall, or Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts, is an organization and venue in Flushing, Queens, that aims to present multi-disciplinary global arts that engage and educate the global communities of Queens and New York City in order to foster mutual appreciation.



El Barrio's Artspace PS109 is a community-driven project which transformed an abandoned public school in East Harlem into an arts facility. The project boasts 89 units of affordable live/work units for artists and their families, as well as 10,000 square feet of complementary space to four non-profit arts organizations: HiArts, La Casa de Herencia, Shakespeare Forum and the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance. Exhibition and multi-purpose spaces are curated year-round, providing access and opportunities for exposure to emerging and prominent artists, and for social engagement to the community at large.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a multidisciplinary artist who examines arenas of queerness, identity, and connection. Where these modes often synergize and juxtapose, I create through mediums of installation, video, dance, drag, theater, and prop. Here and neither there, queerness is the main informant of my work. I enjoy finding the intersection of queerness and identity, and further, how they challenge notions of connection, safety, and gaze. For, I am curious about the non-fixed self, the ever molding amoeba of self expression, how we arrive at this expression, and the permission we grant ourselves to shift out of one into another. While these meanings evolve and fold onto themselves, I am here now, with you, now, with you, and so - I am here.



Photos Credit: Grant Hao-Wei Lin

E | C | S #11 Emerging Choreographer Series



Welcome to the 11th Emerging Choreography Series 2024! (ECS)

Through the years, ECS has been established as a one-of-a-kind mentoring program that has provided over 70 NYC choreographers with the tools and resources to create a new work.

This year we further our support for six ECS alumni by guiding them to self-produce 30-45 minute works in a split bill format at three separate venues. This includes funding, rehearsal space, feedback sessions, professional photography and videography and logistical support- all at no cost to the artists. No application fees, production costs, or rental expenses are involved; we believe in paying artists!

Our commitment to equity, inclusion, and diversity guides all aspects of our program. Fair pay is fundamental, ensuring compensation for every artist and staff member involved in ECS, including hourly pay for dancers.

Save the dates for upcoming performances in March featuring works by Grace Tong and Garrett Parker at Flushing Town Hall, and in April by Xianix Barrera and Laura Peralta at El Barrio's Performance Space.

Our pride and gratitude go to the ECS 2024 participants for contributing to the vibrant NYC dance community.

Enjoy the Show!

Nicola Iervasi (he/him) Artistic Executive Director
Kevin Albert (he/him) Associate Artistic Director, President
Mare Nostrum Elements

MNE - ECS 2023 Staff

- **Nicola Iervasi & Kevin Albert** - Program Directors
- **Rohan Bhargava** - Program Coordinator
- **Nate Rtishchev** - Operations Associate
- **Grant Hao-Wei Lin** - Marketing Coordinator, Photographer & Videographer
- **Jacqui Dugal** - Stage Manager
- **Jenna Purcell** - Grant Writer
- **Alexis C. Lubin** - Bookkeeping and finance services



Mare Nostrum Elements
39-48 64th Street,
2nd floor
Woodside, NY 11377

Email: contact@mnelements.org
Website: www.mnelements.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram,
YouTube, and Vimeo

MARE NOSTRUM ELEMENTS (MNE) is a Woodside-based Dance and Theater non-profit dedicated to developing collaborative, emotionally driven stage work blending dance, theater, music, and movement of many cultures.

Founded in 2001 by Italian performer Nicola Iervasi and American actor/director Kevin Albert, the company has created original multidisciplinary works (*Mediterranean Voices*, *Last Chance*), produced Off-Broadway shows (*The Crucible*, *Biography*), and presented work by emerging choreographers. In 2013 MNE co-produced the Italian International Dance Festival and the Italian Theater Festival *In Scena*, presenting 3 plays by Mario Fratti at the Secret Theater in Long Island City.

In 2002 Nicola and Kevin started gathering tools and knowledge from their training and performance careers and created *The Wave Within* method to provide working performers, students, and young adults with more comprehensive performance tools. *The Wave Within* workshops and intensives have been offered at schools and festivals throughout New York and Italy. In 2010 the method was adapted for children K-12 with the name *The Young Wave* and has been offered in public and private schools and dance and acting schools in New York, Vermont, and Italy.

Nicola Iervasi - Founder, Artistic/Executive Director
Kevin Albert - Co-Founder, Associate Artistic Director

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin Albert (President), Amy Harrison (Chair), Jules Ochoa (Treasurer), Chris Andersson (Secretary), Brinton Parson, Lee Bryant, Bill Hutton, Jane Jacobs, Kimberly Huie.

Mare Nostrum Elements proudly salutes and thanks all individuals, foundations and sponsors supporting the Emerging Choreographer Series 2023 and all other MNE activities during yet another difficult year. Thank you for your critical support during our Giving Tuesday and End of Year Campaigns.

Amy Harrison, Anita Lobel, Anonymous, Anonymous Foundation, Antonia Lanzi, Antonio Fini, Barbara Flood, Barbara Olcott, Beth & Robert Albert Jr., Bill Hutton, Brinton Parson, Caroline Cronson, Charles Winkelstein, Christopher Andersson, Chris Parker, Chuck McKinney, Corinne Samios, Daryl Roth Productions LTD, Denis Martorano, Doris and David May, Douglas Liebafsky and Wendy Gimble Charitable Fund, Edward Rivera, Ellen David, Ellis-Niemtzow Family Foundation, Erminia De Angelis, Evan Sacks, Fern Altman, Gabriel Miller, Gerald Dabbs, Giovanni Basile, Glenn English, Grant Hao-Wei Lin, Irene Neves, James Haag, Jamie Allen, Jane Bergere, Jane Jacobs, Jeffrey and Sandra Kallenberg, John Lawrence, Jon Bierman, Joseph and Licia Gimma Foundation, Joseph Baker, Joseph Taranto, Josie Leigh Ameden, Jules Ochoa, Kaity Sinanis, Katharine Johnson Rayner, Kathy Robbins, Kenneth J Stuart & Ellen M Stuart, Kevin Albert, Kim Piazza, Kimberly Huie, Laura Caparrotti, Lawrence & Marsha Brooks, Leslie Bryant, Macy's Inc, Miki Orihara, Michele Ateyeh, Nicola Iervasi, Raul Argudin, Robert C. Albert, Sacha Levy, Stefano Baldasseroni, Stephen C Salade, Susan Stroman, Sydney Weinberg, Thom Culcusi, Tom Teeple Charitable Fund, Virginia and Peter Carry, Wayne Kabak.

ABOUT "INSULATED ON RUPTURE"

Five emerge into a seemingly familiar world. Known and unknown blur. Some believe they can see beyond, while others cannot. Where both clarity and facade plague, a symbiosis emerges, the activator and the dreamer, where do we exist when we confront our perceiver? *INSULATED ON RUPTURE* is a theatrical, multidisciplinary evening length work that explores the notion of surveillance. For decades our world has shifted into an age of collection, information, and digitalization. As myself and my collaborators deepened into our process, we connected surveillance to the idea of perception, the experience of becoming seen. As perception exists in our technologies, our bank statements, our subway fares, the people we see, the places we go; it also exists in our bodies, our gender, our sexual identities, and our races. It facades itself into drawing a connecting, rather linear map of existence. And so, while *INSULATED ON RUPTURE* challenges themes of visibility, surveillance, technology, and linearity, we invite you to draw upon your personal relationship to perception and greater; surveillance. You will experience this work as five Queer female identifying performers journey through a theatrical world of visibility, fear, and connection.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

As you have experienced the power in amplifying Queer voices, we invite you to take a moment and check out our fundraising campaign. While we rely on your support to continue making, we also would like to acknowledge the mere power of your presence. Thank you for being here. Thank you for showing up. With your support, we will continue to amplify Queer voices through the creation of new work and continuing our annual festival - Queer noise. In the next year, we look to open up our world within the setting of a workshop based series, where Queer bodies can exist in a space of research, connection, and inquiry. I hope you will consider. Please scan the QR code below to read more!



"INSULATED ON RUPTURE" - BIOS

from Marymount in 2022, Lily was awarded the Gold Key in excellence for modern dance. She has also most recently been the creative/choreographic associate for 'Is It Thursday Yet?', an evening length show performed and created by Jenn Freeman and created and directed by Sonya Tayeh. Lily has been freelancing as a dancer and choreographer in New York City as well as sharing her art with kids around the United States.

Truth Colon (dancer/collaborator)

Truth Colon is an artist based in Brooklyn, New York. Her movement explores embodied sensations of emotional states, physical and psychological thresholds along with shared narratives of intersectional communities. She received her education from Las Vegas Academy of the Arts and her BFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. In 2021, Truth collaborated with NYC Street Artist Zbigniew Zolkowski to create an improv score to be shown at his Trocha Gallery Closing. Most recently she performed her work in progress solo and dance film, 'a delicate displacement', at Philips Action House through the art collective Textured Memos. Upon graduating Truth attended SpringBoard Danse Montreal and toured with the Liz Gerring Dance Company to the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. Since then, she has had the opportunity to work with choreographers Marla Phelan, Stefanie Batten Bland, Kelly Aston Todd, and Kayla Farrish, and has been featured dancing in campaigns for NOAH NYC and Wiederhoft. Truth is a volunteer at organizations La Plaza Community Garden, Arts on Site, and Groove with me.

Chelen Middlebrook (dancer/collaborator)

Chelen Middlebrook was born and raised in Northern Virginia. Throughout her childhood, she primarily trained in ballet at BalletNova Center for Dance in their pre-professional conservatory program. Chelen credits her training to BalletNova and other training programs such as The Dance Theatre of Harlem and Houston Ballet. She is a recent graduate of SUNY Purchase's

Conservatory of Dance. Throughout her training, she was featured in works choreographed by Arthur Michell, Robert Garland, Stanton Welch, Hannah Garner, Annie Rigney, Kayla Farrish, and Gregory Lau. Chelen is passionate about writing and choreography. She is open to dancing professionally in concert, commercial, or dance theater spaces.

Sloan Caldwell (dancer/collaborator)

I am blessed to have trained at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and London Contemporary Dance School as well as workshops throughout the US and Europe. Currently based in Amsterdam and New York City, recent performances include company work in Salt Lake City with Salt 2, immersive theater projects in London (James Cousins) and the Netherlands (Jort Faber), and a performance directed by Micaela Taylor in Berlin.

Philip Trevino (lighting designer)

Philip Treviño is a Queer Chicano from California who has worked in NYC for the past 20 years in Dance and Theater as Designer, Production Manager, Technical Director, and Stage Manager. Philip has been a grantee of New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) funding for FY2021 and FY2023 for his design work with Pioneers Go East Collective; which was a 2023 BAM Artist in Residence Company. He is a 2010 recipient of a New York Dance and Performance Award (BESSIE) for his lighting and scenic design for Pam Tanowitz's Be In The Gray With Me. He is also the scenic designer for Camille A. Brown and Company's Mr. Tol E. Rance, which won a 2014 BESSIE for Outstanding Production. He has served as a subcommittee member for the New York Dance and Performance Awards (The Bessies). He is a proud alumnus of San Francisco State University (2000). At Marymount Manhattan College, Philip served as Technical Director for the Dance Department from 2006-2022 and taught Stagecraft for Dance. He is the Director of Production for Arts and Culture at the 14th Street Y.

FINI DANCE/ECS CHOREOGRAPHIC LAB ITALY 2024

- CALL FOR AMERICAN CHOREOGRAPHERS! -

Nicola Iervasi and Kevin Albert will be teaching a two-week choreography residency in Villapiana (CS) Italy from July 15-27, 2024.

BENEFITS:

- explore a new concept/idea
- work in progress showing in Italy
- opportunity to work with local dancers
- possibility to show work during Fini Dance Award in New York City
- opportunity to be selected for ECS 2025 in NYC
- opportunity to join the ECS forward platform
- 50% off tuition for the intensive
- future application support and mentorship (writing proposal, video presentation, logistics)

For more information about the program and application process:

Mare Nostrum Elements | www.mnelements.org | Email: ecs@mnelements.org
FINI DANCE NY | www.finance.nyc | Email: info@finance.nyc



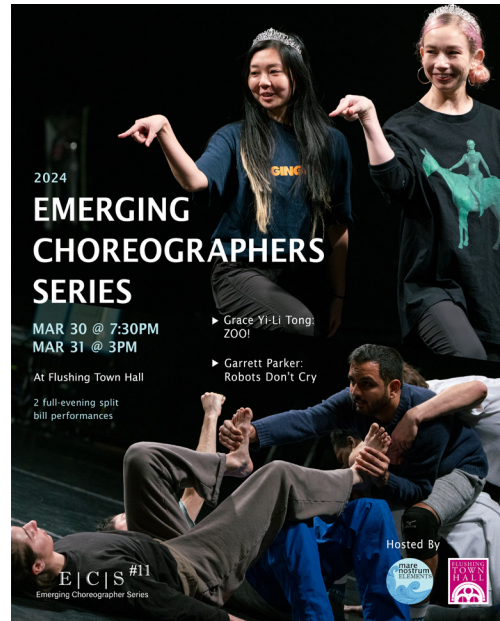
NEXT ECS 2024 PERFORMANCES

Grace Yi-Li Tong & Garrett Parker

at Flushing Town Hall

SAT, MAR 30TH AT 7:30PM

SUN, MAR 31ST AT 3PM



Xianix Barrera & Laura Peralta

at El Barrio's Art Space PS109

FRI, APR 26TH AT 7:30PM

SAT, APR 27TH AT 7:30PM

"INSULATED ON RUPTURE" - BIOS

VERBAL ANIMAL

VERBAL ANIMAL composes itself as a rotating cohort of Queer collaborators. Through the company's commitment to Queer amplification, VERBAL ANIMAL seeds itself into the research of primality through multidisciplinary activation. Since its founding, the company has been presented at 14th St Y, WAXworks, TADA! Theater, 3 Dollar Bill, Laguardia Performing Arts Center and Triskelion Arts. To connect and further support the Queer dance community of New York, VERBAL ANIMAL produces QUEER NOISE, a platform for emerging Queer choreographers to present experimental, multi-disciplinary, and process centered work. Additionally, VERBAL ANIMAL in collaboration with Lily Sheppard, active in choreographing and directing a fully sustainable fashion show in New York, titled Reworked Runway, in which sixteen dancers are paired with eight sustainable designers, looking to share the importance of clothing sustainability as it correlates directly to environmental preservation efforts. Follow us @verbalanimalco for opportunities, shows, and sharings!

Lavy (choreographer/sound design)

Lavy is a gender queer, New York City based, choreographic dance artist. Graduating with their BFA in dance from Marymount Manhattan College, their performance credits include works by Kyle Abraham, Andrea Miller, Jenn Freeman, and Nicole Von Arx. In 2021, Lavy founded VERBAL ANIMAL, a cohort of queer multidisciplinary collaborators. Lavy's work has been presented at the 14th St Y, WAXworks, TADA! Theater, 3 Dollar Bill, Laguardia Performing Arts Center and Triskelion Arts. In Fall 2023, Lavy was commissioned as an emerging choreographer by Mare Nostrum Elements to premiere a new work at LPAC. In addition, their work, with(in) limit, was presented at the 14th Street Y by the Pioneers Go East Collective, a show that features Radical LGBTQ and Feminist artists. This past spring, VERBAL ANIMAL premiered their first curated, all queer festival, Queer Noise, providing emerging queer choreographers with full production to present experimental, multi-disciplinary, and process centered work. Over the

past year, Lavy has received space residencies from MOTIVE Brooklyn and the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, as well as, being one of seven residents to be selected for the 2022 international choreographic residency at Art Omi. Most recently, Lavy received a commission from Mare Nostrum Elements as a returning choreographer to premiere a new evening length work at Laguardia Performing Arts Center in February of 2024. Additionally, Lavy is currently a Co-Producer for the NY show, Kiss My Face, while also performing as a dancer with NVA & Guests and the off Broadway production, Emergence.

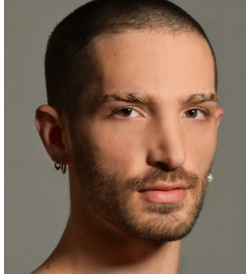
Ragin Smith (dancer/collaborator)

Ragin is a New York-based dance artist. Alongside her freelance projects, Ragin is a collaborator with Hivewild, Verbal Animal, Wet Hairy Women, Headlights Theater, MORISATO, and Alison Chase Performance Group. She received a BFA in dance at Marymount Manhattan College, where she performed works by Andrea Miller, Kyle Abraham, Loni Landon, Elizabeth Roxas-Dobrish and others. Since then, she has had the pleasure of performing works by Brendan Fernandes, Shaquelle Charles, Evan Ray Suzuki, Valeria Gonzalez, Morgan Bobrow-Williams, Ryan Bailey, Troy Ogilvie, and others. In her own work, Ragin enjoys creating surrealist worlds that aim to deconstruct linear narratives, amplify nuance, and visualize poetry. She has presented works at The Tank, Fabled Narcissism, ESTIA Day Fest, and as an artist in residence at the Jonah Bokaer Arts Foundation and the Cell Theatre. Ragin also partners with Haley Morgan Miller to direct and produce the Fabled Narcissism arts events.

Lily Sheppard (dancer/collaborator)

Lily Sheppard, originally from Howell, MI, has recently graduated from Marymount Manhattan College receiving a BFA in Dance. Lily has worked closely alongside and performed works by Peter Chu, Sonya Tayeh, johannes wieland, Micaela Taylor, Yin Yue, Jenn Freeman, Martha Graham and more. She has also attended training programs that include b12 festival in Berlin, Springboard Danse Montreal, GibneyPro and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Upon graduation

PERFORMERS/TEAM



Lavy (choreographer/
sound design)



Ragin Smith (dancer/
collaborator)



Lily Sheppard (dancer/
collaborator)



Truth Colon (dancer/
collaborator)



Chelen Middlebrook (dancer/
collaborator)



Sloan Caldwell (dancer/
collaborator)



Philip Trevino (lighting
designer)

KE'RON - "TRUTH FROM SHADOW"

Title: TRUTH FROM SHADOW

Choreography: Ke'ron J. Wilson

**Dancers/Collaborators: Gabby Gubitosi, Kabirah Lewis,
Henry Leef, and Noelle Nations**

Lighting Designer/Collaborator: Lucca Del Carlo

Sound Design Collaborator: X O'Neil

Dramaturgical Collaborator: Carlee Sachs-Krook



PERFORMERS/COLLABORATORS



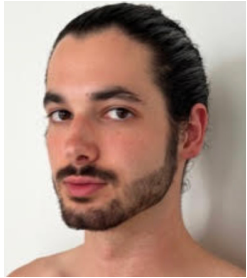
Ke'ron J. Wilson
(choreographer)



Gabby Gubitosi
(collaborator)



Kabirah Lewis
(collaborator)



Henry Leef
(collaborator)



Noelle Nations
(collaborator)



Lucca Del Carlo (lighting
designer/collaborator)



X O'Neil (sound design
collaborator)



Carlee Sachs-Krook
(dramaturgical collaborator)

LAVY - "INSULATED ON RUPTURE"

Title: INSULATED ON RUPTURE

Choreography: Lavy

Dancers/Collaborators: Lily Sheppard, Truth Colon, Ragin Smith, Chelen Middlebrook, and Sloan Caldwell

Costume Design: Lavy and Sloan Caldwell

Sound Design: Lavy

Tracks: Kangding Ray, Atrium Carceri, Jacques Offenbach, BFRND, Chelsea Russell, and Oliver Coates

**this work was made in collaboration with the dancers*



Photo Credit: Grant Hao-Wei Lin

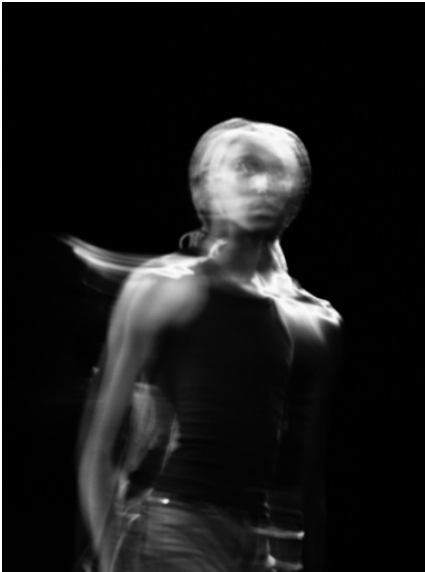
ARTIST STATEMENT

As a trans-femme mystic, I am choreographer, musician, photographer, poet, and advocate. My creative journey is deeply rooted in the spiritual and radical aspects of art-making within community, aiming to decentralize singular perspectives and foster collaboration. In this process, I prioritize care, compassion, relationships, and rigorous self and social reflection.

I alchemize my experiences to create transformative spaces that unite trans/femme and BIPOC individuals, celebrating our diverse power and the joy of community healing. Engaging in Emergent Strategy, I immerse myself in all facets of the creative process, from directing and choreography to costume and sound design. By exploring various artistic mediums, I unearth and craft memories intertwined with the world my team and I are building.

To enrich my artistic lineage, I draw inspiration from multi-hyphenate afro-queer artists like Shamel Pitts, Ms. Z Tye, and Terrell Villiers. Through leading meditations, interviews, and round-table discussions, I delve into affinity spaces and catharsis as tools for healing, activism, and liberation. This holistic, multidisciplinary approach nurtures authentic relationships with different dimensions of my work.

- Ke'ron J. Wilson



"my masc, my shadow" photos by Andrew Barton

"TRUTH FROM SHADOW" - BIOS

KE'RON J. WILSON

Ke'ron J. Wilson (she/they) is a community oriented movement artist, choreographer, model, actor, musician, poet, and healer currently based out of New York City, NY. Born in Lakeland Florida, Ke'ron began her dance training at Harrison School for the Arts and Florida Dance Theater. She went on to graduate from Sam Houston State University with a BFA in Dance (2019) where she performed work by Sidra Bell, Manuel Vignouelle, and Joshua Peugh. Her career began as a founding member of Elijah Alhadji Gibson's Social Movement Contemporary Dance Theater and as a recurring guest choreographer for Pilot Dance Project. Recently, Ke'ron has worked closely with Shamel Pitts as a TRIBE artist, most notably appearing in a global PRIDE campaign with Calvin Klein (2022) and as a part of his "BLACK series" (2023). Her choreography has been supported by WADE into Activism/NYU Tisch's PRIDE residency (2023) and MNE's Emerging Choreographer's Series (2022) - as their returning choreographer (2023) and as an alumni choreographer (2024). She has also appeared on the Tamron Hall Show with Sonya Renee Taylor and on the New York Fashion Week runway as a model for Bad Binch Tong Tong's SS24 collection.

GABBY GUBITOSI

Gabby Gubitosi (he/they) is a trans dance artist based in New York City. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA he graduated from Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts 6-12 and went on to graduate from Eugene Lang College at The New School in 2022 with a BA in Contemporary Dance and Politics. He has worked with many brilliant artists and choreographers including Nia Love, Rebecca Stenn, Mariana Valencia, David Thomson, Joanna Kotze, Marcel Dzama, and Vanessa Walters. Gabby has performed in multiple works by Ke'ron Wilson since 2023 including Body Composition (In the Key of Spirit), Liminal Woman, and my masc, his hands. He also co-choreographs with collaborator and dance artist Daniela Garcia-Arce. Gabby is

currently a Teaching Artist Apprentice at New York City Ballet's Education Department.

KABIRAH LEWIS

Kabirah began her professional dance training in middle school at Center for Modern Dance Education (CMDE) located in Hackensack, New Jersey where she trained mostly in ballet, and many different Modern Dance disciplines. For high school Kabirah attended Arts High School in Newark, New Jersey to major in dance. As a high schooler, Kabirah was also a student at Alvin Ailey's The Ailey School in Manhattan, attending school year, and summer courses in the Junior/Pre-Professional Division to further advance her training. After graduating Kabirah moved on to join the Certificate Program of the Professional Division at the Ailey School for one year of study. Throughout the course of Kabirah's training, and growing career she has been blessed to grace the stages of the Lincoln Center, The Apollo, New Jersey's Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC), Ailey Citigroup Theater, United Palace Theater, Newark Symphony Hall, and various other performance venues. She hopes to grace many more stages, and anticipates all the places her love for exploring her gift of dance takes her.

HENRY LEEF

Henry Leef is an emerging movement artist and performer in Brooklyn, NY. Originally from West Virginia, they began training at the Academy of Arts at January's in Modern, Contemporary, Dance-Theater, and Jazz. They continued their training at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where they received a BFA in Dance with a minor in mathematics and a heavy concentration in performance studies. There, they performed repertoire by Bill T. Jones Arnie Zane Co., and the Trisha Brown Dance Company choreographed and directed several performed works that explored the movement's relationship to text, media, lineage, and identity. Additionally, they have studied under dancers and choreographers Kayla Farrish, André Zachary, Laja Martin, Netta Yerushalmy, and Sebastian Arababanel.

“TRUTH FROM SHADOW” - BIOS

NOELLE NATIONS

Noëlle Nations (she/her) is a dance artist based out of New York City. She began her dance training in the Bay Area with award-winning dancer and choreographer Erin Yarbrough-Powell and traveled to work with choreographers Sean Curren and Gregory Dawson.

She is currently finishing her dual undergraduate degree at The New School in Contemporary Dance and Psychology and is set to graduate in May of 2024. During her time at The New School, she performed work with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Mariana Valencia, Joanna Kote, and Beth Gill.

Her mission as an artist and mental health professional is to merge trauma healing and movement in performance spaces and personal healing practices. She approaches art and personal mental recovery and maintenance from a body-based viewpoint. “Movement is the Medicine” is the sentiment she embodies in every aspect of her vocation, artistic expression, and life.

LUCCA DEL CARLO

Lucca Del Carlo (he/him) is a graphic designer and video artist from São Paulo, Brazil. He specializes in transmedia, mixing cinema techniques, concepts of architecture, visual arts, light & video design and technology. Integrating those into the direction and creation of scenography, immersive environments and visual live shows. In his view, all ways of visual communication have interlacing points, not only using technology but also using human emotions and its related censorial illusions. Del Carlo's specialty is mixing it in new ways to inspire and break common patterns in visual art expression.

Ig: @luccadc

X O'NEIL

X O'Neil (They/Them) is a composer, producer and musical artist based in Brooklyn, NY. Known under the moniker Jasper Jones, their music is a fusion of rock, folk, and pop, with their highly anticipated debut album set to release later this year.

X's recent endeavors include crafting original scores for independent short films, most notably 'Boy Parts,' a collaborative effort where they not only composed but also co-wrote the film, earning a nomination for the Cannes Short Film Corner 2023.

Beyond their creative pursuits, X is deeply committed to music education. They recently lent their expertise to a songwriting workshop alongside renowned artist Adrienne Lenker (Big Thief) at the School of Song.

In every facet of their career, X O'Neil embodies a passion for pushing boundaries and creating meaningful experiences through music.

CARLEE SACHS-KROOK

Carlee Sachs-Krook is an educator, researcher, writer, and dramaturg working in the field of dance. She holds a BFA in dance from Sam Houston State University and an MA in American Dance Studies from Florida State University. Drawing on her embodied experience as a mover and a groover in popular and concert dance contexts, she shimmies between research and praxis related to dance, dramaturgy, pedagogy, and social justice. Her written work has appeared in *Dance in US Popular Culture* (ed. Jen Atkins), *The Dancer-Citizen*, *Dance Informa Magazine*, and *The Tallahassee Democrat*. She has presented original research at the national Popular Culture Association conference and the Ringling Museum in Sarasota.

ABOUT “TRUTH FROM SHADOW”

Truth from Shadow is an evening-length work comprised of three pieces that chronicle Ke'ron's journey of self-actualization and empowerment [as a Black Trans Femme]. It explores the limitations, possibilities, and contradictions of nurturing intimacy, connection, and community. Grounding in theories related to shadow work, affinity spaces, and collaboration, the work extends the tradition of dance theater to create a multidisciplinary symphony that weaves together original soundscape, lighting design, poetry, and choreography.

The first piece, “my masc, my shadow,” reflects on Ke'ron's experiences of navigating intimacy in both physical and virtual queer spaces and critically examines the confusing nature of hook-ups in gay culture as a childhood sexual abuse survivor. The duet combines a suspenseful original score with moments of sensual partnering, revealing the limitations of connection when the underlying need to be seen and known is masquerading as an insatiable sexual desire.

“Liminal Woman” follows, tracing Ke'ron's experience of gender transition through a solo section and a trio. Movements fraught with fear give way to tender moments of intimacy where beautiful trans+ bodies flow and intertwine freely. The piece examines the feelings of isolation, belonging, and community brought about by moving towards a more authentic expression of self.

The work concludes with “Silver Moon,” which investigates personal and communal empowerment for femmes through the figure of the witch, a feminine archetype often vilified and ostracized. It asks: How can community serve as a source for individual and collective power, especially for those who are marginalized by social norms?

Truth from Shadow moves from the idea that the personal is political. It draws on Ke'ron's experiences to facilitate conversations around universal human needs for love, acceptance, belonging, and genuine self-expression. It does so against the sociopolitical backdrop of the US where Queer, Trans+, Black, and Femme people are increasingly marginalized and demonized. *Truth from Shadow* champions a story of queer resilience and invites audience members to consider their own journey to well-being as well as their community's.