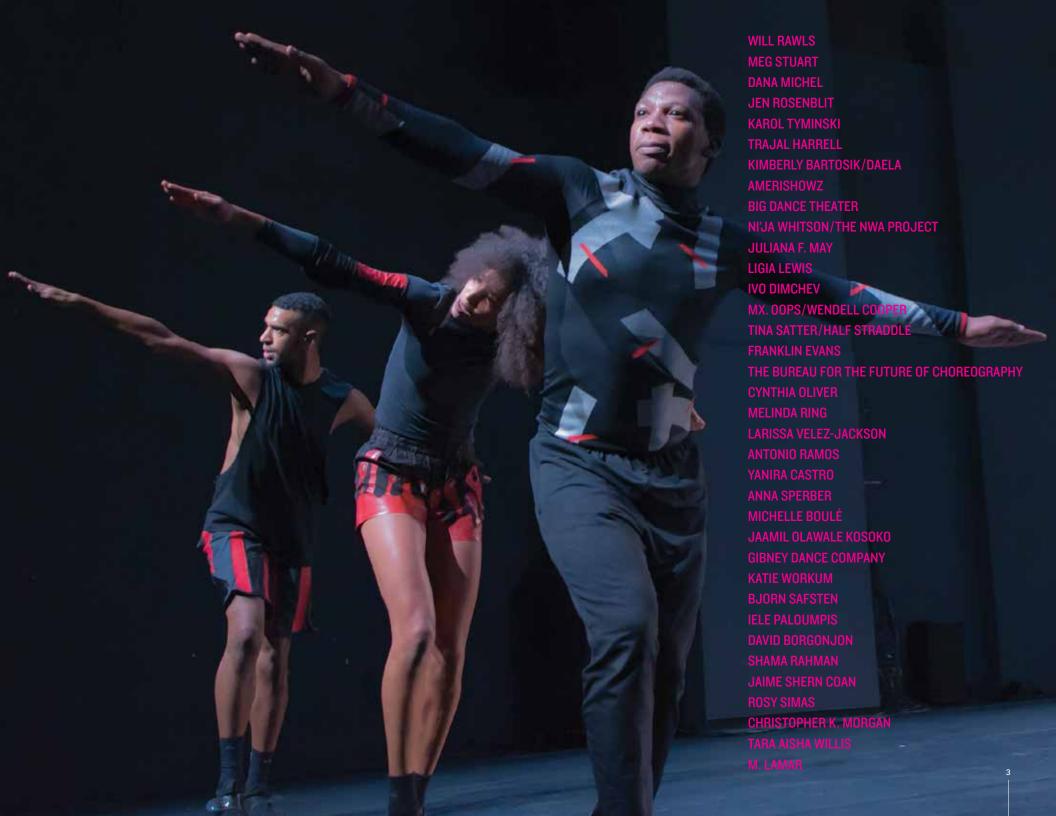
AMERICAN REALISA

JANUARY 5-12, 2017







It is the eighth year for this little engine that could! I am so grateful to Abrons Arts Center for their ongoing partnership and to Gibney Dance for joining forces to support the cause. I am additionally grateful to all the participating artists and speakers who have crafted their work, the staff and crew that prepare the spaces, and you for buying tickets, donating your support, volunteering and bearing witness to the palpable vulnerability, ecstatic joy, beautiful, brutal honesty, and cunning artistry that awaits. This festival is realized through our shared participation and I am gifted with the privilege and responsibility to shape it. There is much to be discovered and unpacked. I hope you will dive in with me!

American Realness 2017 features five world premieres from AmeriSHOWZ, Ni'Ja Whitson/The NWA Project, Mx. Oops/Wendell Cooper, Ivo Dimchev and Big Dance Theater; four US premieres from Meg Stuart, Dana Michel, Ligia Lewis and Karol Tyminski; and six encore engagements from Will Rawls, Jen Rosenblit, Kimberly Bartosik/daela, Juliana F. May, Tina Satter/ Half Straddle and Trajal Harrell. The festival additionally features instillations at Abrons Arts Center by Franklin Evans and The Bureau for the Future of Choreography, and work-in-process showings from Cynthia Oliver, Big Dance Theater and Gibney Dance's *Dance in Process* Resident Artists and Guests including Gibney Dance Company.

I am thrilled for this year's discourse program, curated by Ali Rosa-Salas. Presenting performance lectures, workshops, and artist talks, the series emphasizes the urgency of criticality in artistic practice, viewership and scholarship as they concern race, aesthetic politics, and cultural equity. Panelists and presenters include David Borgonjon, Shama Rahman, Jaime Sheran Coan, Rosy Simas, Christopher K. Morgan, Tara Aisha Willis, M. Lamar, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko and more. Rosa-Salas has additionally curated READING for 2017, which presents a series of commissioned essays on AmericanRealness.com/reading. Check them out during and following the festival.

Also, don't miss the festival's Thursday, January 5th Opening Night Toast from 5–7pm at Abrons Arts Center as well as book release parties for Trajal Harrell on Saturday, January 7th and Ivo Dimchev on Monday, January 9th.

American Realness is a space for artists wrestling through urgent sociopolitical concerns with rigorous criticality at the forefront of choreographic and performative practice. Sometimes things get messy, but at the end of the day, this program is committed to artistic exploration, social revelation, discursive evolution, and supporting artists work and practice, both in process and as product, in the most thoughtful and holistic way possible with the limited resources at hand. Thank you for your participation and engagement with this project.

There is so much amazing work to see! Buy a \$100 Festival Pass and see six productions at Abrons Arts Center. Buy two and see as much as you can!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

7358

Thomas Benjamin Snapp Pryor Founder, Curator & Producer American Realness



GETA FESTIVAL PASS

6 SHOWS/\$100

Festival passes are available to performances at Abrons Arts Center. For \$100 you get a single ticket to six productions of your choice from the thirteen presented at Abrons. See one per day between Thursday, January 5 and Tuesday, January 10. It's a crash course in contemporary performance. Don't miss out!

Visit AmericanRealness.com for more details.



MEG STUART An evening

An evening of solo works

US PREMIERE

Co-Presented with Goethe-Institut and The Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Thursday, January 5, 8:30 pm Friday, January 6, 10:00 pm Saturday, January 7, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Playhouse 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

"How to translate sensations and inner monologues into movement? Is it possible to track the hesitation before speaking, the movements not chosen, the spaces we travel to when we are daydreaming, the memories and projections that cloud our awareness of the present?"

MEG STUART

In her solo works, Meg Stuart ventures into the monologue of movement, exploring everyday gestures, physical conditions and emotional states through improvisation. An evening of solo works presents a selection of Stuart's body of solo works including XXX for Arlene and Colleagues (1995) and Signs of Affection (2010), as well as excerpts from evening-length performances. The evening offers an intimate and telling exposure to an American ex-pat, critically acclaimed overseas and rarely seen in the US.

An evening of solo works is produced by Damaged Goods (Brussels). Meg Stuart & Damaged Goods are supported by the Flemish Government and the Flemish Community Commission. Performances of An evening of solo works for American Realness 2017 are presented in collaboration with, and generously supported by the Goethe-Institut and the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.





Federal Foreign Office

DANA MICHEL

Mercurial George

US PREMIERE

Thursday, January 5, 10:00 pm Friday, January 6, 8:30 pm Monday, January 9, 4:00 pm Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 55 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Experimental Theater 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

Where does identity come from? How do you find it for yourself and how is it placed on you? How can one's identity register or fail to cohere in relationship to objects, feelings and affectation?

In Mercurial George, Dana Michel is "wading through the hairy rubble of a preliminary anthropological dig" asking "What is the smell of a plethora of someones that you have been avoiding your whole life? What do you do with the body?" Through fragmented gestures, loose and loaded signifiers, sounds and songs, this solo work provides the "ground to test skins" of Michel's identity; "ideas that may or may not have been imposed."

Mercurial George was co-produced by Festival TransAmeriques, Tanz Im August, CDC Atelier de Paris-Carolyn Carlson, ImPulsTanz, and Chapter with residency support from Usine C, Dancemakers, ImPulsTanz, Actoral/La Friche Belle de Mai, WOOP, CDC Atelier de Paris-Carolyn Carlson, M.A.I.





Conseil des arts et des lettres du Qué Québec IIII



Canada Council Conseil for the Arts du Cana





JEN ROSENBLIT

Clap Hands

Friday, January 6, 5:30 pm Saturday, January 7, 8:30 pm Monday, January 9, 10:00 pm Tuesday, January 10, 1:00 pm



Clap Hands is a mating call, an over-crowded solo, looking to hail, disguise, displace, reveal and track the disappearance of the body. A large stack of fuchsia felt installs the space. Meaning hovers and a still-life emerges.

Clap Hands is concerned with the politics of coming together as we maintain autonomy. Something is lost or forgotten, but we continue with the burden of carrying on. How can we consolidate a skeleton of logic through our individual labors? Can we locate intimacy in non-human forms?

Clapping hands is a phenomenon we do together, to celebrate, mark or culminate. *Clap Hands* is something we have to sit alone with, to recall being together.

Clap Hands is a commission of New York Live Arts, The Invisible Dog Art Center, and Atlanta Contemporary and made possible, in part, through a residency at the Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas; a residency at Tanzhaus Zürich; with support from the exhibition Greater New York at MoMA PS1; with funding from the Jerome Foundation; with support from Women & Performance: a journal of feminist theory; through The Movement Research Artist-in-Residence Program, funded, in part, by the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Davis Dauray Family Fund, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and was developed as part of Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Workspace program.

KAROL TYWINSKI This is a musical

Friday, January 6, 5:30 pm Saturday, January 7, 8:30 pm Tuesday, January 10, 4:00 pm

Run Time: 45 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Underground Theater 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

This is a musical, presents a laboring body in the production of a visceral, discordant and deeply queer electronic fantasy. Karol Tyminski's body is the instrument for the sample. The electronic music he wields comes into being through a brutal choreography. This musical is a layered archive of the body's desire, which Tyminski together with musician Michal Laszkiewicz build towards a trance like space of madness and pleasure.

This is a musical was supported by Open Latitudes, Instytut Sztuk Performatywnych. Tanzfabrik Berlin, and Center in Motion Choreographers Workspace. Performances of *This is a musical* for American Realness 2017 are supported by Trust for Mutual Understanding.



TRUST FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING



TRAJAL HARRELL

Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church (S)

Friday, January 6, 7:00 pm Saturday, January 7, 10:00 pm Tuesday, January 10, 5:30 pm

Run Time: 55 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Playhouse 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at The Judson Church is Trajal Harrell's epic series of works presenting a new critical position on postmodern dance aesthetics emanating from the Judson Church period. "What would have happened in 1963 if someone from the voguing ball scene in Harlem had come downtown to perform alongside the early postmoderns at Judson Church?" is the central question of the series. From 2009 to today Harrell has developed seven works as imaginary meetings between the aesthetics of Judson and those of the parallel historical tradition, Voguing. Rather than illustrating a historical fiction, these works transplant this proposition into a contemporary context, here and now. With this body of work Trajal Harrell re-writes the minimalism and neutrality of postmodern dance with a new set of signs.

A solo for Harrell, (S)/Small is the first work in the series.

Twenty Looks or Paris Burning at the Judson Church (S) was co-produced by Workspace Brussels/Working Title Festival, Danspace Project, The New Museum, Crossing the Line Festival 2009. Additional support provided by the 2009–2010 Danspace Project Commissioning Initiative with support from the Jerome Foundation, The Alfred Meyer Foundation, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and The Map Fund/Rockfeller Foundation. Residency support for Twenty Looks or Paris Burning at the Judson Church (S) has been provided by Workspace Brussels and Tanzhaus Düsseldorf.



Étroits sont les Vaisseaux

Curated by Craig Peterson

Friday, January 6, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm Saturday, January 7, 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Run Time: 30 minutes

Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center 280 Broadway (53A Chambers) / Tickets \$15

Étroits sont les Vaisseaux, a duet for Joanna Kotze and Lance Gries, is titled after Anselm Kiefer's 82-foot long, wave-like sculpture of concrete and exposed rebar. Bartosik's work collapses an oceanic tidal cycle from hours and minutes into minutes and seconds, creating a narrow timeframe where the performers navigate waves of sound, light, vibrating presence. Like the tide, Étroits' beginning and ending are cyclical, its shifts from trembling to tenderness are imperceptible yet transformational, leaving unsettling remnants in its wake. Created in collaboration with designer Roderick Murray.

Étroits sont les Vaisseaux was created with commissioning support from Gibney Dance with funds provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation and was supported in part by the Center for Performance Research's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Artist in Residence program.

AmeriSHOWZ

Circle of Champions 2017

WORLD PREMIERE

Co-presented with Mount Tremper Arts Curated with Craig Peterson and Mathew Pokoik

Friday, January 6, 8:00 pm Saturday, January 7, 8:00 pm Sunday, January 8, 8:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center 280 Broadway (53A Chambers) / Tickets \$20

Founded in 2010, AmeriSHOWZ is one of the world's largest direct performance-selling businesses, offering performances, professional development, show creation and workshop opportunities in more than 70 countries and territories worldwide.

This life-changing event will transcend beyond the weekend, creating massive momentum in your business for months to come. In addition to an exhibit hall and networking lunches, this year will also feature breakout session Master Classes in: How to Meet People and Power Inviting. Plus, there will be an *AmeriSHOWZ* "tweet-up" and lots of other surprises.

We've pulled out all the stops to ensure you receive the most relevant, powerful, and intense training yet. It's exactly what you need to build in today's economy.

AmeriSHOWZ is commissioned by Gibney Dance and Mount Tremper Arts.

BIG DANCE THEATER

Cage Shuffle

WORLD PREMIERE

Saturday, January 7, 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm Sunday, January 8, 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Run Time: 50 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Studio G05 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20



In Cage Shuffle Paul Lazar speaks a series of one-minute stories by John Cage from his 1963 score Indeterminacy while simultaneously performing choreography by Annie-B Parson. The stories are spoken in a random order with no predetermined relationship to the dancing. Chance serves up its startling blend of inevitable and uncanny connections between text and movement. With live tape and digital collage scored and performed by composer Lea Bertucci.

"...Read all ninety stories in order or select a smaller number, using chance procedures or not."

Indeterminacy performance instructions by John Cage

Cage Shuffle is a production of Big Dance Theater and made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Additionally, the production received funding from the Starry Night Fund; the W Trust; the McGue Millhiser Family Trust; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation New York Theater Program; and was also funded, in part, by the Big Dance Theater Creation Circle, lead individual contributors committed to the development and support of the company's newest works.



WORLD PREMIERE

Saturday, January 7, 5:30 pm Sunday, January 8, 8:30 pm Monday, January 9, 4:00 pm

Run Time: 70 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Underground Theater 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

A Meditation on Tongues is a live interdisciplinary adaptation of Marlon T. Riggs' iconic film Tongues Untied (1989). Both abstract performance ritual and live historic document, this layered work (re)images Black and Queer masculinities. It struts and snaps as it frames new questions about loss at the height of the AIDS pandemic, while challenging constructions of Black love of/as revolution.

A Meditation on Tongues was made possible, in part, through the Brooklyn Arts Exchange and Movement Research Artist-in-Residence programs with additional support from The Jerome Foundation and Mertz Gilmore Foundation.

JULIANA F. MAY ADULT DOCUMENTARY

Saturday, January 7, 5:30 pm Sunday, January 8, 8:30 pm Monday, January 9, 1:00 pm Tuesday, January 10, 10:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Experimental Theater 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20



In ADULT DOCUMENTARY five performers share their real and imagined histories. Through a repetitive and distorted coo-coo clock choreography of fragmented text, sound, gesture and movement, the piece works audiences through a full sensory experience that addresses the relationship between form and trauma or the trauma of form. How does the so-called "aboutness" and shape of a word or gesture disrupt its meaning, and how does the form i.e., repetition, space and time rupture or repair these seemingly hermetic relationships. ADULT DOCUMENTARY delves deep into sensation and psychology offering a uniquely felt choreographic experience.

ADULT DOCUMENTARY was commissioned by The Chocolate Factory Theater and received support from The MAP Fund, supported by the Dorris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Gibney Dance's Dance in Process Residency, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and the Jerome Foundation.



minor matter

US PREMIERE

Co-Presented by LUMBERYARD
Contemporary Performing Arts (formerely ADI)

Sunday, January 8, 5:30 pm Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm Tuesday, January 10, 4:00 pm

Run Time: 65 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Experimental Theater 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

With minor matter, choreographer Ligia Lewis articulates a sensitive argument for minoritarian politics. Can we institute a practice of togetherness in the minor? Can the black box be host to a black experience that goes beyond identity politics? Three performers work towards a regime of time and space that builds on minor aesthetics through a dynamic interplay of the theater's parts. Between light and shadow, reference and imagination, affect and embodiment, the work opens up a vital celebratory space where engrained symbols are twisted by the intimate poetics of the performative moment. In a time of anti-blackness, minor matter inhabits the black box saturated with the fugitivity of black expression.

minor matter is the second part in Ligia Lewis' ongoing triptych BLUE, RED, WHITE. Whereas sadness and the color blue stood in the foreground of Sorrow Swag (part one/BLUE), in this new work Lewis turns to the color red, materializing thoughts between love and rage.

minor matter is a production by Ligia Lewis in coproduction with HAU Hebbel am Ufer. Funded by the Governing Mayor of Berlin – Senate Chancellery – Cultural Affairs and Fonds Darstellende Künste e.V. Performances of minor matter for American Realness 2017 are made possible with support the Berlin Senate Chancellery – Cultural Affairs and LUMBERYARD, Contemporary Performing Arts (formerly ADI).





Der Regierende Bürgermeister von Berlir Senatskanzle

IVO DIMCHEV Songs and Book

WORLD PREMIERE

Sunday, January 8, 5:30 pm Monday, January 9, 10:00 pm* Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Underground Theater 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

Bulgarian performer Ivo Dimchev is known for breaking taboos in his provocative and boldly physical pieces. While his work blends performance art, dance, theater, and visual art, Dimchev's enormous musicality and his remarkable vocal gift are at the center of each of his productions. For this new concert evening Dimchev performs songs from his body of work as well as new songs composed for the event. He will additionally share excerpts from his recently published *Ivo Dimchev Stage Works 2002–2016*. The evening presents Dimchev's prodigious talent in a stirring concert that leaps between the feral and the virtuosic.

*Book reception to follow Monday, January 9th performance.

MX.OOPS/WENDELL COOPER

Carrying Capacity

WORLD PREMIERE

Sunday, January 8, 7:00 pm Monday, January 9, 5:30 pm Tuesday, January 10, 8:30 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Playhouse 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20

Beyond identity there is the plasma of oneness; a dream space, both physical and energetic, that can hold the fullness of we. Carrying Capacity is a speculative journey mixing sacred and profane. It asks — what is the connection between our capacity to love ourselves as simultaneously sexual, spiritual, and social beings with our collective future on this dusty rock? Mx. Oops/ Wendell Cooper performs a multimedia ritualusing sound meditation, urban dance, video projection, and rap, within an installation by sculptor Jasmine Murrell; featuring guest choreography and performance by Slim Ninja. The soul is invoked, gender is rendered ephemeral, and together we contemplate, in celebration, the sometimes unfortunate profundity of embodiment. For a preparatory guided meditation, visit mxoops.com.

TINA SATTER/HALF STRADDLE

Ghost Rings

Sunday, January 8, 10:00 pm Monday, January 9, 2:30 pm & 8:30 pm Tuesday, January 10, 2:30 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Abrons Arts Center, Playhouse 466 Grand Street / Tickets \$20



In *Ghost Rings* a narrative of friendship and family-making unfurls through a pop song cycle that burrows and soars with a mix of deadpan magical realism and a thoroughly feminist worldview. Playwright and performer Tina Satter, songwriters and performers Chris Giarmo and Erin Markey and performer Kristen Sieh form a family band of yesteryear as they offer a tender and harrowingly funny, visual and sonic experience that traverses unexpected layers of romance.

"This is the sky for you."

Ghost Rings was commissioned by New York Live Arts for its 50 & Change Commission series with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional support provided by the Doris Duke Impact Artist Award and Foundation for Contemporary Arts. Ghost Rings was created through residencies at the Performing Garage, the Orchard Project, and Pataphysics Playwriting Workshop.



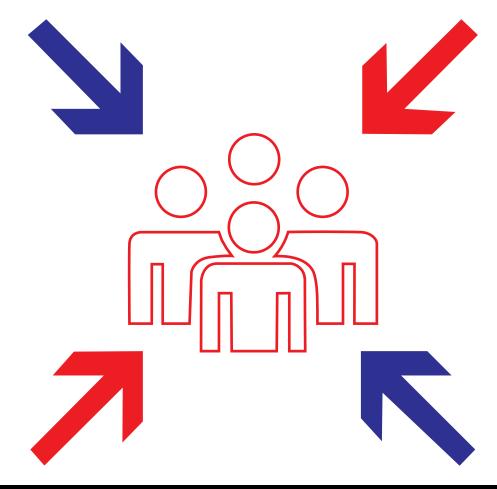
FRANKLIN EVANS

XLtime

Thursday January 5 – Sunday, January 22, 2017 Abrons Arts Center, Main Gallery 466 Grand Street / Free



Franklin Evans creates painting installations with the artist's studio as his subject. Evans collaborated with Trajal Harrell on the scenic design for *Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church (S)*. American Realness 2017 presents the digital publication release of Trajal Harrell's *Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at The Judson Church (XL)/ The Publication*, co-edited in collaboration with Thibault Lac and Tom Engles. The release is accompanied by an installation, entitled *XLtime*, created by visual artist Franklin Evans made in collaboration with *(XL)*.



THE BUREAU FOR THE FUTURE OF CHOREOGRAPHY US in the US

Thursday, January 5 - Sunday, January 22, 2017

Abrons Arts Center, Upper Gallery 466 Grand Street / Free

The Bureau for the Future of Choreography proposes a score for political action. The score engages American Realness Festival visitors in several choreographic structures inherent to democratic process.



BIG DANCE THEATER

17c

Curated by Craig Peterson

Wednesday, January 11, 8:00 pm Thursday, January 12, 8:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center 280 Broadway (53A Chambers) / Free / RSVP GibneyDance.org

17c is the newest Big Dance Theater ensemble work, built around the problematic 17th century diaries of Samuel Pepys. Pepys danced, sang, strummed, shopped, strove, bullied and groped – and he recorded all of it in his diary, completely unfiltered. Using all the data to be found – the copiously prolific diaries themselves, Margaret Cavendish's 17th century radical feminist play The Convent of Pleasure, three centuries of marginalia, and the ongoing annotations of the web-based devotees at www.pepysdiary.com –17c dismantles an unchallenged historical figure and embodies the women's voices omitted from Pepys' intimate portrait of his life. Big Dance Theater continues its formal fascination with building systems of dance that challenge theater, while allowing the structure of the work itself to bring contemporary meaning to the making and un-making of our subjective past.

17c is produced by Big Dance Theater and co-commissioned by Carolina Performing Arts/UNC Chapel Hill, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Philadelphia FringeArts, the Old Vic/London, The Yard (Chilmark, MA), Diane and Adam E. Max, Virginia and Timothy Millhiser, the Starry Night Fund, and the Heimbinder Family Foundation. 17c is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts. 17c is also funded, in part, by the Big Dance Theater Creation Circle, individual contributors committed to the development and support of the company's newest works.

CYNTHIA OLIVER Virago-Man <u>Dem</u>

Curated by Craig Peterson

Saturday, January 7, 6:00 pm

Run Time: 45 minutes

Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center 280 Broadway (53A Chambers) / Free / RSVP GibneyDance.org

Virago-Man Dem navigates black masculinities through movement, and spoken language and visual design. Troubling the term "Virago's" reference to characteristically male behaviors and female cultural transgressions, Virago-Man Dem is a nuanced study in the multiplicities of masculinity within cultures of Caribbean and African American communities. The work is based on the lives of its performers, Duane Cyrus, Jonathan Gonzalez, Shamar Watt, and Niall Noel Jones, and moves from their specific experiences to broader cultural trajectories.





DISCOURSE

The American Realness 2017 DISCOURSE series is curated by Ali Rosa-Salas. Across five writing commissions for READING and four public conversations, Rosa-Salas offers festival audiences ruminations, critiques and public dialogues across a range of issues and ideas presented in the performance program and facing the world at large. Taking the shape of performance lectures, workshops, and artist talks, DISCOURSE emphasizes the urgency of critical artistic practice, viewership and scholarship as they concern race, aesthetic politics, cultural equity, and more. Life is more real than ever these days, and the work is palpable. Let's talk it out.

READING

READING offers commissioned essays from Katie Brewer Ball, Maya Harakawa, Danielle Jackson, Ikechukwu Casmir Onyewuenyi, and Kieran Swann. The pieces situate the festival performance program within an interdisciplinary dialogue and consider the political, conceptual, and aesthetic strategies brought to bare in the work of the festival artis. Check AmericanRealness.com/reading for posted essays throughout and following the festival.

ALI ROSA-SALAS

Ali Rosa-Salas is an independent curator from Brooklyn, NY. She has curated exhibitions and produced public programs for AFROPUNK, Barnard Center for Research on Women, Danspace Project, Knockdown Center, MoCADA, TOP RANK Magazine, and Weeksville Heritage Center. Ali is currently an MA candidate at the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University and the Artist Services Manager at BAX | Brooklyn Arts Exchange.

ARTIST/ADMIN 5: MARKETING

Moderated by David Borgonjon and Shama Rahman

Friday, January 6, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center, Studio H 280 Broadway / Free / RSVP AmericanRealness.com



Culture is as mediated as ever. Social media has amplified the documentation and reception of cultural production, while also providing more and more granular ways of quantifying the success of a work. What are ways that artists and administrators think about marketing as a cultural practice? How can differing versions of work be presented to different audiences (or, say, markets) and to what extent does this liberate or hamper artistry? This session is co-facilitated with J. Soto and Alex Rodabaugh.



AESTHETICS LIVE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF WHITENESS JUST LIKE WE DO

Moderated by Jaime Shearn Coan, with Emily Berry, Moira Brennan, Cori Olinghouse, Craig Peterson, Jesse Phillips-Fein, and EmmaGrace Skove-Epes

Saturday, January 7, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

22 Boerum Place / Free / RSVP AmericanRealness.com

For this event, white dance artists, presenters, funders, and writers will reflect on how their practices are informed by and operate within white aesthetic supremacy, and how they have worked to visibilize and challenge the normalization of whiteness in their dance communities and within their particular positions in the field. With the intention of shifting the labor often placed on artists of color in discussions of racial equity to white artists, the remarks of the opening white-identified speakers will serve as starting points for the consequent conversation. This event will feature presentations/ conversations on three topics: 1. How white aesthetic supremacy structures the evaluation and reception of contemporary concert dance and experimental performance. 2. Identifying white aesthetics and cultural appropriation in dance-making practices. 3. Equity vs. Inclusion in presenting, funding and casting dance.

NATIVE AMERICAN REALNESS

Rosy Simas and Christopher K. Morgan in conversation with Sara Nash

Saturday, January 7, 3:45 pm – 5:15 pm 22 Boerum Place / Free / RSVP AmericanRealness@gmail.com



Following recent protest of the originally released American Realness 2017 performance program, and the festivals historic curatorial blindness towards Native American artists, this conversation welcomes Native Contemporary Choreographers Rosy Simas (Seneca) and Christopher K. Morgan (Native Hawaiian) to discuss the state of Native American performance work across the US and the epidemic of institutional negligence, insensitivity and attempted erasure of and towards Native American / Indigenous / First Nations' values, histories and contributions to contemporary artistic practice. This conversation seeks to investigate how our dominant culture's historical insensitivity aids in forms of cultural appropriation, Redface, and racism in artistic practice, spectatorship and presenting. Does Redface sell? Is curating Native artists seen as risky, unsellable, or uninteresting, or does this speak to institutional and societal ignorance? In dialogue with Sara Nash (NEFA), Simas and Morgan will share action strategies artists, administrators, and audiences can take in order resist our complicity in settler colonial cultural practices. This conversation will additionally include presentations on the work of contemporary practicing Native artists.

Invited Indigenous guests: Elder/Healer Janice Bad Moccasin (Dakota/Lakota), educator Ramona Kitto Statley (Dakota), Andre Bouchard (of Kootenai and Ojibwe descent), choreographer and activist Emily Johnson (Yup'ik), director of Dancing Earth Rulan Tangen, co-director of Safos Dance Yvonne Montoya, and many others.

SHIFT/SHAPE

Tara Aisha Willis with Ligia Lewis, Dana Michel and Ni'Ja Whitson

Monday, January 9, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Abrons Arts Center, Underground Theater 466 Grand Street / Free / RSVP AmericanRealness.com



A conversation bringing together performance-makers Ligia Lewis, Dana Michel and Ni'Ja Whitson, who contend with the symbolic, corporeal and affective terms of blackness, each from distinct approaches to practice and performance. Bodies navigating through (and as) the emotional and historical landscapes of racial politics; shape-shifters activating and fragmenting recognizable identity signifiers and the stage's familiar conventions. How do black bodily experiences arrive in the intimacy (and alienation) of the present moment in performance? Moderated by Tara Aisha Willis.

THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE NEGRO

M. Lamar and Jaamil Olawale Kosoko in Conversation

Tuesday, January 10, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Abrons Arts Center, Underground Theater 466 Grand Street / Free / RSVP AmericanRealness.com

"I came to theory because I was hurting – the pain within me was so intense that I could not go on living. I came to theory desperate, wanting to comprehend-to grasp what was happening around and within me. Most importantly, I wanted to make the hurt go away. I saw in theory then a location for healing."

Teaching to Transgress: Education as a Practice of Freedom by bell hooks

Structured as a conversation collapsing strategies of performance as life practice, theory, and public discourse, *The Incomprehensible Negro* reveals the internal life worlds and creative practices of two artists whose creative work have been deeply inspired by the black radical tradition. Over the course of a 75 minute performance-discussion, artists M. Lamar and Jaamil Olawale Kosoko expand upon how Black theory, scholarship, literature and music have influenced them as performance makers and thinkers. Both artists will perform and share excerpts from their work as part of the conversation.

*The Incomprehensible Negro is a concept coined by M. Lamar.





OPENING NIGHT STATES OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

PASS THE CHAMPAGNE

Become a Member of the House

Thursday, January 5, 5:00 pm –7:00 pm Abrons Arts Center, Culpeper Gallery / 466 Grand Street / Free

Kick off American Realness 2017 with a champagne toast to celebrate the start of the eighth season of the festival! Starting at 5pm American Realness donors aka Members of the House are welcome to toast the season launch in the Culpeper Gallery at Abrons Arts Center. At 6pm the event welcomes all festival-goers to the revelry. Become a member of the House of Realness by making a contribution at americanrealness.com/donate. Membership perks include American Realness merch, reserved seats to festival performances and behind the scenes VIP access!

BOOK BELEASES

TRAJAL HARRELI

Twenty Looks...(XL)/The Publication

Friday, January 6, 11:00 pm – 1:00 am Abrons Arts Center, Main Gallery / 466 Grand Street / Free

American Realness 2017 presents the digital publication release of Trajal Harrell's *Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at The Judson Church (XL)/The Publication. (XL),* co-edited in collaboration with Thibault Lac and Tom Engels, is the final work in Harrell's epic *Twenty Looks...* series, all of which has been seen at American Realness between 2010 and 2017. The release is accompanied by an installation, entitled *XLtime* created by visual artist Franklin Evans made in collaboration with *(XL).*

IVO DIMCHEV

Stage Works 2002 – 2016

Monday, January 9, 11:00 pm-1:00 am Abrons Arts Center, Underground Theater / 466 Grand Street / Free

American Realness 2017 hosts a publication release in celebration of Ivo Dimchev's recently published *Stage Works 2002–2016*. Over 400 pages document, with text and image, all of Dimchev's stage works including *FEST* and *The P Project*, seen by New York audiences at Abrons Arts Center in collaboration with American Realness and Queer New York International.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 5				SUNDAY, JANUARY 8			
5:00 pm	Members of the House Opening Night Toast	AAC CUL	10:00 am	In the Works, Dance in Process,	GD 890		
6:00 pm	The Bureau for the Furure of Choreography, US in the US Opening	AAC GAL	4:00 pm	Resident Artists & Guests Big Dance Theater, Cage Shuffle	AAC G05		
6:00 pm	Franklin Evans, XLtime Opening	AAC GAL	5:30 pm	Ligia Lewis, minor matter	AAC EXP		
7:00 pm	Will Rawls, The Planet-Eaters: Seconds	AAC UDG	5:30 pm	Ivo Dimchev, Songs and Book	AAC UDG		
	Meg Stuart, An evening of solo works	AAC ODG AAC PLY	7:00 pm	Big Dance Theater, Cage Shuffle	AAC ODG AAC G05		
8:30 pm	Dana Michel, Mercurial George	AAC EXP		Mx. Oops/Wendell Cooper, Carrying Capacity	AAC GUS		
10:00 pm	Dalla Michel, Merculial George	AAC EAF	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	AmeriSHOWZ, Circle of Champions 2017	GD 280 H		
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6					AAC EXP		
	David Borgonjon and Shama Rahman with J. Soto	GD 280 H	8:30 pm	Juliana F. May, <i>ADULT DOCUMENTARY</i> Ni'Ja Whitson/The NWA Project,	AAC UDG		
11:00 am	and Alex Rodabaugh, Artist/Admin 5: Marketing	GD 280 F	8:30 pm	A Meditation on Tongues	AAC UDG		
5:00 pm	Kimberly Bartosik/daela, Étroits sont les Vaisseaux	GD 280 A	10:00 pm	Tina Satter/Half Straddle, Ghost Rings	AAC PLY		
5:30 pm	Jen Rosenblit, <i>Clap Hands</i>	AAC EXP					
5:30 pm	Karol Tyminski, <i>This is a musical</i>	AAC UDG	MONDA	Y, JANUARY 9			
7:00 pm	Kimberly Bartosik/daela, Étroits sont les Vaisseaux	GD 280 A	11:00 am	Tara Aisha Willis, Dana Michel, Ligia Lewis and	AAC UDG		
7:00 pm	Trajal Harrell, Twenty Looks(S)	AAC PLY		Ni'Ja Whitson, shift/shape			
8:00 pm	AmeriSHOWZ, Circle of Champions 2017	GD 280 H	1:00 pm	Juliana F. May, ADULT DOCUMENTARY	AAC EXP		
8:30 pm	Dana Michel, Mercurial George	AAC EXP	2:30 pm	Tina Satter/Half Straddle, Ghost Rings	AAC PLY		
8:30 pm	Will Rawls, The Planet-Eaters: Seconds	AAC UDG	4:00 pm	Dana Michel, Mercurial George	AAC EXP		
10:00 pm	Meg Stuart, An evening of solo works	AAC PLY	4:00 pm	Ni'Ja Whitson/The NWA Project, A Meditation on Tongues	AAC UDG		
11:00 pm	Trajal Harrell, Twenty Looks(XL)/The Publication Digital Publication Release Party	AAC GAL	5:30 pm	Mx. Oops/Wendell Cooper, Carrying Capacity	AAC PLY		
			7:00 pm	Ligia Lewis, minor matter	AAC EXP		
SATURD	AY, JANUARY 7		7:00 pm	Will Rawls, The Planet-Eaters: Seconds	AAC UDG		
	Jaime Shearn Coanwith Emily Berry, Moira Brennan, Cori Olinghouse, Craig Peterson, Jesse Philips-Fein and EmmaGrace Skove-Epes, <i>Aesthetics live within</i>	22 BP	8:30pm	Tina Satter/Half Straddle, Ghost Rings	AAC PLY		
			10:00 pm	Jen Rosenblit, Clap Hands	AAC EXP		
			10:00 pm	Ivo Dimchev, Songs and Book	AAC UDG		
	the structure of whiteness just like we do		11:00 pm	Ivo Dimchev, Stage Works 2002-2016	AAC UDG		
3:45 pm	Rosy Simas and Christopher K. Morgan with Sara Nash, <i>Native American Realness</i>	22 BP		Book Release Party			
4:00 pm	Big Dance Theater, Cage Shuffle	AAC G05	THEODA	V JANUARY IO			
5:00 pm	Kimberly Bartosik/daela, Étroits sont les Vaisseaux	GD 280 A		Y, JANUARY 10			
5:30 pm	Juliana F. May, ADULT DOCUMENTARY	AAC EXP	11:00 am	M. Lamar and Jaamil Olawale Kosoko in Conversation, <i>The Incomprehensible Negro</i>	AAC UDG		
5:30 pm	Ni'Ja Whitson/The NWA Project, A Meditation on Tongues	AAC UDG	1:00 pm	Jen Rosenblit, Clap Hands	AAC EXP		
6:00 pm	Cynthia Oliver, <i>Virago-Man Dem</i>	GD 280 C	2:30 pm	Tina Satter/Half Straddle, Ghost Rings	AAC PLY		
7:00 pm	Big Dance Theater, Cage Shuffle	AAC G05	4:00 pm	Ligia Lewis, minor matter	AAC EXP		
7:00 pm	Kimberly Bartosik/daela, Étroits sont les Vaisseaux	GD 280 A	4:00 pm	Karol Tyminski, <i>This is a musical</i>	AAC UDG		
	Meg Stuart, An evening of solo works	AAC PLY	5:30 pm	Trajal Harrell, Twenty Looks(S)	AAC PLY		
8:00 pm	AmeriSHOWZ, Circle of Champions 2017	GD 280 H	7:00 pm	Dana Michel, Mercurial George	AAC EXP		
8:30 pm	Jen Rosenblit, Clap Hands	AAC EXP	7:00 pm	Ivo Dimchev, Songs and Book	AAC UDG		
8:30 pm	Karol Tyminski, <i>This is a musical</i>	AAC UDG	8:30 pm	Mx. Oops/Wendell Cooper, Carrying Capacity	AAC PLY		
		AAC PLY	10:00 pm	Juliana F. May, ADULT DOCUMENTARY	AAC EXP		
10.00 pm	Trajar Harron, Twonty Econo(0)	77.01 []		Will Rawls, The Planet-Eaters: Seconds	AAC UDG		

See next page for additional events and venue legend...

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY II

8:00 pm Big Dance Theater, 17c GD 280 H

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00 pm Big Dance Theater, 17c GD 280 H

LEGEND

AAC UDG	Abrono	A Mta	Contor	I Inda	SEGRALINA	Thootor
AAC UDG	ADIONS	Arts	Center	Ona	eraround	Trieater

AAC PLY Abrons Arts Center Playhouse

AAC EXP Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater

AAC GAL Abrons Arts Center Main Gallery
AAC CUL Abrons Arts Center, Culpeper Gallery

AAC G05 Abrons Arts Center, Studio G05

GD 280 A Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center at 280 Broadway, Studio A GD 280 C Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center at 280 Broadway, Studio C GD 280 H Gibney Dance: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center at 280 Broadway, Studio H

GD 890 Gibney Dance Choreographic Center at 890 Broadway

22 BP 22 Boerum Place, Brooklyn, New York

PHOTO CREDITS

PERFORMANCE

Jen Rosenblit, Maria Baranova; Will Rawls, Brian Rogers; Meg Stuart, Giannina Urmeneta Ottiker; Dana Michel, Sammy Rawal; Jen Rosenblit, Maria Baranova; Karol Tyminski, Marta Ankiersztejn; Trajal Harrell, Miana Jun; Kimberly Bartosik/daela, Ryutaro Mishima; AmeriSHOWZ, Paula Court; Big Dance Theater, Michael Almereyda; Ni'Ja Whitson/The NWA Project, courtesy of the artist; Juliana F. May, Alex Escalante; Ligia Lewis, Dorothea Tuch; Ivo Dimchev, courtesy of the artist; Mx. Oops/Wendell Cooper, Stan Pierson, bodypaint by Charly Joaquin Dominguez, Tina Satter/Half Straddle, Maria Baranova

INSTALLATION

Franklin Evans, courtesy of Franklin Evans, The Bureau for the Future of Choreography: *US in the US*, image BFC, Franklin Evans: *XLtime*, courtesy of Franklin Evans

PROCESS

Cynthia Oliver, Chris Cameron, courtesy of MANCC; Cynthia Oliver, Chris Cameron, courtesy of MANCC; Big Dance Theater, Jeff Larson; In the Works, Yackez (Larissa and Jon Velez-Jackson), Maria Baranova

DISCOURSE

Will Rawls, Darial Sneed; Artist/Admin 5: Marketing, courtesy of David Borgonjon; Aesthetics live within the structure of whiteness just like we do, courtesy of Lakela Brown; Native American Realness, Rosy Simas, Tim Rummelhoff, Christopher K. Morgan, Brianne Bland; shift/shape, Camille McOuat; The Incomprehensible Negro, Scott Shaw

PARIY

Image by Michael Hart

CALENDAR

Meg Stuart, Giannina Urmeneta

BACK INSIDE COVER

Mx. Oops/Wendel Cooper, Stan Pierson, bodypaint by Charly Joaquin Dominguez

design: tbsp in collaboration with Sondra Graff/rpm:projects

AMERICAN REALNESS tbsp MGMT

Created by Thomas Benjamin Snapp Pryor (tbspMGMT) in partnership with the Abrons Arts Center in January 2010, American Realness is a festival of contemporary dance and performance. An internationally recognized platform for the discovery of new works from subversive artists, tearing at the boundaries of their forms, American Realness commands attention for the proliferation of choreographic and performative practices transcending the traditions and rewriting the definitions of American dance and performance. In 2014 the festival expanded its scope to include the work of international artists, engaging in a global dialogue on the practice and presentation of contemporary dance and performance.

tbspMGMT is an experiment in new models of management, curation, and presentation for new dance and contemporary performance. tbspMGMT builds support to produce and diffuse artists' projects through a network of national and international residency centers, contemporary art centers, festivals, universities, foundations, and municipalities. Through the maintenance of ongoing dialogues between artists and institutions, tbspMGMT works to identify and strengthen these networks through partnerships around new research and artistic production.

Thomas Benjamin Snapp Pryor, Founder, Curator, & Producer Sarah Lurie, Production Manager Ali Rosa-Salas, Associate Curator Aaron Minerbrook, Assistant Production Manager Bek Berger, Associate Producer Debbie Huang, Ticket Services Manager Marin Sander-Holzman / Marin Media Lab, Festival Media Producer lan Douglas, Festival Photographer Sasha Kleinplatz, Artist Liaison Gabrielle Weinstein, Experimental Production Stage Manager Olivia Edery, Experimental Lighting Supervisor Amanda Barrafato, Experimental Sound Supervisor Courteney Leggett, Playhouse Production Stage Manager Travis Seminara, Playhouse Lighting Supervisor Joseph Wolfslau, Playhouse & Festival Sound Supervisor Katie Hesketh, Underground Production Stage Manager Elizabeth Stewart, Underground Lighting Supervisor Heather Motz, Underground Sound Supervisor Catherine Bloom, Wenchi Chou, Anya Kopischke, Hana Mastrogiacomo, Bjorn Lee Varella, Administrative Interns Fatima Anaza, Marie-Sol Kim, Madision Lane, Cassidy Pearsall,

Fatima Anaza, Marie-Sol Kim, Madision Lane, Cassidy Pearsall, Juliette Romens, Lily Whiteman, Production Interns

American Realness is made possible in part with support from the Abrons Arts Center, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Mertz Gilmore Foundation, rpm:projects, and the generous support of many individuals.





The Abrons Arts Center is the OBIE Award-winning performing and visual arts program of Henry Street Settlement. The Center supports the presentation of innovative, multi-disciplinary work; cultivates artists in all stages of their practice through educational programs, commissions, and residencies; and serves as an intersection of cultural engagement for local, national, and international audiences and arts-workers.

Each year the Center offers over 250 performances; 14 gallery exhibitions; 25 residencies for performing and studio artists, playwrights, and curators; and 100 different classes in dance, music, theater, and visual art. The Center also provides New York City public schools with teaching artists, introducing more than 3,000 students to the arts annually.

Henry Street Settlement, founded in 1893, serves 50,000 New Yorkers each year with social service, arts and health care programs from 17 program sites on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Hang out with us.

Craig Peterson, Artistic Director Kim Cox, Registrar Nichi Douglas, Engagement Manager for Performance Chantara Ellis, Engagement Manager for Visual Arts Jon Harper, Technical Director Carl Johnson, House Manager Maedhbh McCullagh, Managing Director Kenny Olquin, Assistant Technical Director Jason Ortiz, Assistant House Manager Rose Marie Ortiz. Operations Manager Mekala Pavlin, Administrative & Marketing Assistant David Savoy, Audience & Performing Artists Services Benjamin Schrier, Engagement Manager for Music Carolyn Sickles, Director of Engagement Christopher Watkins, Visual Arts Coordinator Emma Zurer, Engagement Program Assistant Jaimie Maitlin, Julia Pagan, Front Desk Receptionists Donna Riley, Andrew Riley, Branden Langley, Ariela Richards, **Box Office Associates**

FOUNDATIONS: Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation, Alphawood Foundation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Fund, Barker Welfare Foundation, Consulate General of the Netherlands, Daniel J. and Edith A. Ehrlich Foundation, Exploring the Arts, Howard Gilman Foundation, Hyde & Watson Foundation, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust, Jerome Foundation, Joan Mitchell Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Quebec Government Office, Spingold Foundation, The Bulova Stetson Fund, The Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Peg Santvoord Foundation; CORPORATIONS: ConEdison, Deutsche Bank; INDIVIDUAL: Tita Cahn Trust; GOVERNMENT; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs CASA, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Education, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs



Gibney Dance is a groundbreaking organization whose mission is to bring the possibility of movement and self-expression where it otherwise would not exist. Gibney Dance works through three interrelated fields of activity: Center, two beautiful spaces at 890 and 280 Broadway comprising a vibrant performing arts complex; Company, the acclaimed resident dance ensemble led by choreographer Gina Gibney; and Community Action, a highly respected and impactful social action program.

GIBNEY DANCE FOR AMERICAN REALNESS Gina Gibney, Artistic Director & CEO Ben Pryor, Director of Performance and Residency Programs Margaret Tudor, Producer Nora Alami, Programs Manager Stacy Bauerlein, Director of Development & Strategic Marketing Gina Marie Borden, Development Associate Niya Nicholson, Development Assistant Julia Vickers, Marketing Manager Katy Chappellie, Marketing Assistant Beth Leonard, Senior Accounts Manager Ashley Peters, Accounts Manager Asami Morita, Technical Director Caitlin Thurgood, Technical Supervisor Audrey Stanley, Box Office Manager Meredith Clemons, Sara Pereira da Silva, House Managers Shirley Dai, Yuntong Man, Amanda Stambrosky, Samantha Trombly, Eva Vargas, Production Apprentice Crew Scott Shaw, Resident Photographer Dana Katz, Resident Filmmaker Chris Schimpf, Sacks & Company, Press Representative Elvse Desmond, Operations & Facilities Manager

Gibney Dance presenting programs are made possible with generous lead support from the Howard Gilman Foundation.



