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tbspMGMT and Abrons Arts Center Present

# AMERICAN REALNESS 2015

AMERICAN REALNESS IS DEAD! LONG LIVE AMERICAN REALNESS!

JANUARY 8-18, 2015

ABRONS ARTS CENTER, 466 GRAND STREET AT PITT STREET

F, J, M, Z TRAINS TO DELANCEY/ESSEX, B, D TRAINS TO GRAND ST

**American Realness** returns **January 8-18, 2015**, for its sixth consecutive season, kicking off the centennial anniversary of the historic Playhouse at the **Abrons Arts Center**. The 2015 program utilizes all three theater spaces at Abrons to construct a rich and rigorous program featuring three world premieres, four North American premieres, two New York premieres, two theatrical premieres, one avant-premiere and eight encore engagements for a total of **sixty-three performances of twenty-three productions over eleven days**. In addition, American Realness includes **one off-site engagement** presented by **Gibney Dance** at the Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center at 280 Broadway.

Featuring artists from across the US with a concentration of New York makers and a small selection of international artists, American Realness offers audiences local, national, and international perspectives on the complicated and wondrous world we inhabit. Through visceral, visual, and text-based explorations of perception, sensation and attention, artists expose issues and questions around identity, form, ritual, death, history, pop-culture, cooperation and the professionalization of art making in an American-focused, globally-minded context.

American Realness 2015 presents:

Three World Premieres:

- **Keith Hennessy**, *Bear/Skin*
- **Jack Ferver**, *Night Light Bright Light*
- **Miguel Gutierrez**, *Age & Beauty Part 2: Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&*

Four North American Premieres:

- **Florentina Holzinger & Vincent Riebeek**, *Kein Applaus für Scheisse*
- **Jeremy Wade**, *Death Asshole Rave Video*
- **Ivo Dimchev**, *Fest*
- **Neal Medlyn**, *Pop-Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition*
  - *The Lionel Richie Opera + Coming in the Air Tonight*
  - *Unpronounceable Symbol*
  - *...Her's a Queen*
  - *Brave New Girl*
  - *Wicked Clown Love*
  - *King*

Two New York Premieres:

- **Tere O'Connor**, *Sister*
- **Michelle Ellsworth**, *Preparation for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome*

Two Theatrical Premieres:

- **Luciana Achugar**, *OTRO TEATRO: The Pleasure Project*
- **Tere O'Connor**, *Undersweet*

One Avant-Premiere:

- **Simone Aughtlerlony, Antonija Livingstone, & Hahn Rowe**, *Supernatural*

Eight Encore Engagements:

- **Miguel Gutierrez**, *Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/*
- **Karen Sherman**, *One with Others*
- **Cynthia Hopkins**, *A Living Documentary*
- **The Ballez**, *Variations on Virtuosity, a Gala Performance with the Stars of The Ballez*
- **Liz Santoro & Pierre Godard**, *Relative Collider*
- **My Barbarian**, *The Mother and Other Plays*
- **Dynasty Handbag**, *Soggy Glasses, A Homo's Odyssey*

Additional events include:

- A **Movement Research** writing workshop with **Claudia La Rocco** titled **To Whom It May Concern**.

...more

- **Members of the House Reception:** Kick off the festival with a Champaign toast for “Members of the House” aka **American Realness 2015 Kickstarter backers**. Pledge at least \$25 to the AR2015 Kickstarter campaign to attend.
- **Kiki with the House of Realness:** American Realness joins forces with Zurich-based party **KUNT** and New York Party Impresario **Susanne Barscht** for a blow-out festival party with a Swiss focus. The event will feature performances from Swiss artists **Marie-Caroline Hominal, Daniel Hellmann, Emma Murray, Kiriakos Hadjiioannou,** and **Alexandra Bachzetsis** with additional performances from NYC nightlife.

Tickets on sale November 24, 2014!

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## PERFORMANCE

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### Miguel Gutierrez

#### **Age & Beauty Part I: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/**

Co-Presented by Gibney Dance

Thursday January 8, 6:00 pm & 8:30 pm

Friday, January 9, 5:30 pm & 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 10, 6:30 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

GIBNEY DANCE: AGNES VARIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

280 Broadway (Entrance at 53A Chambers) / tickets \$20 / GibneyDance.org

*Age & Beauty Part I: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/* is the first of a suite of queer pieces Gutierrez is creating over the course of three years that addresses the representation of the dancer, the physical and emotional labor of performance, tropes about the aging gay choreographer, the interaction of art making with administration, the idea of queer time and futurity, and mid-life anxieties about relevance, sustainability and artistic burnout. Part I is a duet for 43-year-old Gutierrez and 24-year-old performer/dancer Mickey Mahar and follows from a packed set of precise unison dances to an irreverent and celebratory corruption of orderliness, suggesting modes of communication and relations where hyper-emotional affect is not only the conceptual and choreographic core of the performance, but also the only hope for continuing in this fucked-up world.

*Age & Beauty Part I: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note or &:-/* was commissioned for the 2014 Whitney Biennial and was made possible with support and developmental residencies from the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, the *Jdomaines* program at Centre Chorégraphique National de Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon in Montpellier, France, and Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.

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### Keith Hennessy

#### **Bear/Skin** World Premiere

Thursday, January 8, 7:00 pm

Friday, January 9, 8:30 pm

Saturday, January 10, 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 11, 2:30 pm

Run Time: 65 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

Motivated by grand spectacle and ambitious prayer *Bear/Skin* appropriates Nijinsky's choreography for *Le Sacre du Printemps* (1913) to consider Modernism's dependence on appropriations of the indigenous, folk, exotic and oriental to ask questions about ritual and art today.

“There will be a bear dance that has nothing to do with gay bears and everything to do with *Rite of Spring*, teddy bears, the reconstruction of native/folk bear dances, action movies and virgin sacrifice, springtime in the northern hemisphere, the land I grew up on and where my parents are buried, and the land I now live on where my uncle and many others are buried. But it’s also about dancing and ritual and appropriation; the struggle between being both settler and indigenous, nomad-refugee and precarious freelancer. Don’t expect a lecture or much coherence. Come to heal and be healed or not.” - Keith Hennessy

*Bear/Skin* is produced by Circo Zero with support from the Zellerbach Family Foundation and San Francisco Grants for the Arts. Project Management by Alec White. Fiscal Sponsorship by CounterPULSE.

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**Karen Sherman**  
***One with Others***

Thursday, January 8, 8:30 pm  
Friday, January 9, 8:30 pm  
Saturday, January 10, 5:30 pm  
Sunday, January 11, 5:30 pm

Run Time: 65 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER UNDERGROUND THEATER  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / [AbronsArtsCenter.org](http://AbronsArtsCenter.org)

Dance, words, and scrap wood are the raw materials for *One with Others*, an examination of who we become due to the choices we make—or that others make for us. Crude, handmade wooden appendages—part prop, prosthetic, costume—stand alongside text and choreography to form a trio of jerry-rigged tools that dismantle affinities and art; who we are to each other; and what it means to be seen, handled, used and needed.

*One with Others* was made possible in part with a research and development residency and co-production support by Vermont Performance Lab with funding support from the New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and VPL's Creation Fund donors. The creation of *One with Others* was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with the New England Foundation for the Arts through the National Dance Project. Major support for NDP is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation. Additional support for *One with Others* comes from The Jerome Foundation, The Map Fund, InRez at Studio 206, the MN State Arts Board, and many generous individuals. *One with Others* is a sponsored project of Springboard for the Arts, a nonprofit arts service organization.

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**Ivo Dimchev**

***Fest*** North American Premiere

Thursday, January 8, 10:00 pm  
Friday, January 9, 10:00 pm  
Sunday, January 11, 10:30 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER PLAYHOUSE  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / [AbronsArtsCenter.org](http://AbronsArtsCenter.org)

*Fest* is set in the context of an imaginary festival in Copenhagen. The main characters are the performer Ivo Dimchev, a curator, a technician and a critic. What starts off as a realistic piece soon turns into a fantasy about sex and power.

“One day I just realized how bored I was with the conventionality of my everyday professional communications. So I thought that breaking this convention by creating a fictional story would be a good way to go. *Fest* tells the story of my going to a festival in Copenhagen to present my solo *Som Faves*. The performance explores and makes visible the subconscious connections between power and desire in any professional relations. *Fest* is absolute fiction and is not based on any real personal experience. Let's say it's inspired by some... But mostly it's inspired by my guilty love for Theatre in its more 'conventional' setting.” - Ivo Dimchev

*Fest* was produced by Humarts Foundation and Volksroom Brussels with co-production support from ImPulsTanz, Vienna; Kaaitheater, Brussels; Frascati, Amsterdam.

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**Cynthia Hopkins**  
***A Living Documentary***

Friday, January 9, 5:00 pm  
Saturday, January 10, 8:30 pm  
Tuesday, January 13, 5:00 pm  
Wednesday, January 14, 8:30 pm  
Saturday, January 17, 3:00 pm  
Sunday, January 18, 5:00 pm

Run Time: 90 min

ABRONS ARTS CENTER UNDERGROUND THEATER  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

*A Living Documentary* is a comedic, no-nonsense reflection on the trials and tribulations of earning a living as a professional theater artist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Intertwining elements of musical comedy, documentary, and fiction, Hopkins's newest work intersperses autobiographical storytelling with portrayals of semi-fictional comedic characters, all the while asking myriad questions about the realities of artistic life in New York City.

A veritable departure from past works, *A Living Documentary* presents a stripped-down, one-woman-show, in which Hopkins plays both herself and an eclectic cast of characters. Featuring a number of Hopkins's original compositions, both live and recorded music will accompany the work.

*A Living Documentary* was commissioned by New York Live Arts and made possible, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts (additional support was given by contributors to the Dance Theater Workshop Commissioning Fund at New York Live Arts.) *A Living Documentary* was developed, in part, through residencies at The Watermill Center (in partnership with New York Live Arts); Bunker in Slovenia (through the Suitcase Fund); Mount Tremper Arts; and Acadia Summer Arts Program. Some material for this work was developed through showings at the Catch performance series.

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**Florentina Holzinger & Vincent Riebeek**  
**Kein Applaus für Scheisse** North American Premiere

Friday, January 9, 5:30 pm  
Saturday, January 10, 10:30 pm  
Sunday, January 11, 9:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER EXPERIMENTAL THEATER  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

"They do it differently. They turn the rules upside down. They don't give a shit about conventional standards. Jesus, if only we could experience this freedom just for one day in our life." - Evelyne Coussens

In *Kein Applaus für Scheisse* Florentina Holzinger and Vincent Riebeek flirt with the 1970s performance art canon to explore the limits of possibilities for the stage. The resulting portrait depicts contemporary pop culture's rich tapestry: an intangible mixture of dance, trashy pop, theater, roller-skating, acrobatics and performance. A choreography that constantly risks losing its balance when one of the two performers flagrantly tries to hog the stage for the closing applause.

*Kein Applaus für Scheisse* was produced by CAMPO (Gent, BE), NONA (Mechelen, BE) with the support of SNDO (Amsterdam, NL). Executive Producer: CAMPO. Performances at American Realness are supported by Flanders House, ICK Amsterdam, and CAMPO.

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**Tere O'Connor**  
**Sister** New York Premiere

Friday, January 9, 7:00 pm  
Sunday, January 11, 4:00 pm

Run Time: 35 min

ABRONS ARTS CENTER PLAYHOUSE  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

*Sister* re-embraces an idea first developed by O'Connor in his work *Four Sister Dances* that premiered at The Kitchen in 1989. "I tried to escape the omnipresence of theme and variation in dance by immersing myself in what I call 'variation and variation.' I looked to sisters as a metaphor for duplication, sameness and difference. I was attempting to validate a different idea regarding 'development' in a dance, one that didn't offer an anchoring point." In *Sister*, hyper-intricate rhythmic systems provide the chatter between the performers as they are propelled into an increasingly mysterious cascade of events.

*Sister* was commissioned by the Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois and is the third work in Tere O'Connor's *BLEED* project. *BLEED* was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Boeing Company Charitable Trust; The MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the Campus Research Board and the Creative Research Board in the School of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University; and Big Tree Productions, Inc.

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## **The Ballez**

### ***Variations on Virtuosity, a Gala Performance with the Stars of The Ballez***

Saturday, January 10, 2:00 pm

Sunday, January 11, 9:00 pm

Run Time: 45 min

ABRONS ARTS CENTER UNDERGROUND THEATER

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

The Ballez celebrates the virtuosity of complexly gendered people by choosing the grandiose container of ballet for its presentation. The company celebrates a lineage of dykes and post-modern performance by telling queer/dyke histories inside the framework of classical ballet narratives. Following this tradition, the stars of The Ballez will present *Variations on Virtuosity*, a Gala Performance of solos and duets from The Ballez repertoire. Champagne to follow.

*Variations on Virtuosity* has received creative support from Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Danspace Project in collaboration with the Jerome Foundation, Mount Tremper Arts, Rockbridge Artist's Exchange, and the 259 Kickstarter supporters who produced *The Firebird, a Ballez*.

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## **Liz Santoro & Pierre Godard**

### ***Relative Collider***

Saturday, January 10, 4:00 pm

Sunday, January 11, 5:30 pm

Run Time: 45 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

*Relative Collider* is a machine offering the opportunity to see, to measure, to quantify, to exchange information between nervous systems; a collision of watching. It calls into question what is exchanged, created, and destroyed in the act of observing in order to understand the physical laws of attention. *Relative Collider* seeks a point of contact between movement and text, where they each have the sole purpose of their own performance in front of an audience. Atoms subjected to different force fields, recombined into molecules that precipitate or dissolve under the attention of the viewer.

*Relative Collider* is a co-production of The Chocolate Factory Theater, Abrons Arts Center, Théâtre de Vanves, L'Atelier de Paris – Carolyn Carlson, with the support of FUSED (French US Exchange in Dance), The Jerome Foundation, DRAC Ile-de-France, Point Éphémère, and ImPulsTanz Festival.

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## **Simone Aughtterlony, Antonija Livingstone & Hahn Rowe**

### ***Supernatural*** Avant-Premiere

Saturday, January 10, 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 11, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 90 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER PLAYHOUSE

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

Observing the *Supernatural* grants access to a shared kaleidoscopic body.

With axes, wood, violin, electronics and the bare body, Simone Aughtterlony, Antonija Livingstone and Hahn Rowe stage an inquiry into vibrant matters. Human and non-human actants camp together on a hot-pink terrain under an unblinking fluorescent sky. *Supernatural* suggests a wildness that signifies a plurality of agencies without ontological hierarchy. Queer lives encourage the dissolution of normative identity patterns. *Supernatural* actively chops up the topography of gender perceptions and welcomes the joyful techno-construction of multiple bodies and pleasures. Is this movement research or fun post-porn practice? Whatever it is, it brings the bodies and companion materials in conversation to know no difference between being excited, being exciting, and being excited with.

*Supernatural* is produced by Simone Aughtterlony / Verein für allgemeines Wohl with co-production support from Gessnerallee Zürich, HAU Hebbel am Ufer Berlin, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm Frankfurt, Theater Freiburg. Supported by the NATIONALES PERFORMANCE NETZ (NPN) Coproduction Fund

for Dance, which is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag, Stadt Zürich Kultur, Kanton Zürich Fachstelle Kultur, and Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

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### **Tere O'Connor**

***Undersweet*** Theatrical Premiere

Monday, January 12, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, January 13, 8:30 pm

Wednesday, January 14, 5:30 pm

Run Time: 35 min

ABRONS ARTS CENTER EXPERIMENTAL THEATER  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

In *Undersweet*, O'Connor works from the supposition that formalism might result from repressed sexual desire. The work is a choreographic meditation on how this paradox finds expression in dance, or possibly even generates it. *Undersweet* was created on and with Michael Ingle and Silas Riener. It premiered in an earlier iteration at the River to River Festival in June 2014.

*Undersweet* was commissioned by LMCC and presented as part of the River to River Festival 2014. It was developed during an LMCC artist residency as part of their Extended Life Dance Development Program, made possible in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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### **Michelle Ellsworth**

***Preparation for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome*** New York Premiere

Monday, January 12, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 13, 8:30 pm

Wednesday, January 14, 5:00 pm

Run Time: 50 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER UNDERGROUND THEATER  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

*Preparation for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome* attempts to prepare (both on a micro and macro level) for the end of men. Simultaneously committed to conservation and archival efforts, Ellsworth works in the tradition of folklorist Alan Lomax. Using web technology, replacement apparatus (including a male gaze simulator), choreography (including gratitude-inspired token gestures), and the latest data from the Whitehead Institute at MIT, this work both combats and fuels rumors about the implications of the Y Chromosome's reputed shrinkage.

*Preparation for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome* was commissioned by MCA Denver's Feminism + Co.

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### **Miguel Gutierrez**

***Age & Beauty Part 2: Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&***  
World Premiere

Monday, January 12, 8:00 pm

Tuesday, January 13, 10:00 pm

Wednesday, January 14, 10:00 pm

Friday, January 16, 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 17, 8:30 pm

Sunday, January 18, 3:00 pm

Run Time: 90 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER PLAYHOUSE  
466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

*Age & Beauty Part 2: Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&* is the second installment in a suite of queer pieces that addresses the representation of the dancer, the physical and emotional labor of performance, tropes about the aging gay choreographer, the interaction of art making with administration, "queer time," futurity, and mid-life anxieties about relevance, sustainability and artistic burnout. Part 2 deals with Gutierrez's long-term creative/work relationships and features performer/choreographer Michelle Boulé, arts manager Ben Pryor, and lighting designer Lenore

Doxsee. The piece uses retrospection and archive to demonstrate how relationships, money and flights of fancy are at the center of all art making.

*Age & Beauty Part 2: Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&* is made possible with support from the MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support provided by Maggie Allesse National Choreographic Center at Florida State University, Hollins University, Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, and Mount Tremper Arts.

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### **Jeremy Wade**

**Death Asshole Rave Video** North American Premiere

Co-presented by the Goethe-Institut New York

Monday, January 12, 10:00 pm

Tuesday, January 13, 5:00 pm

Wednesday, January 14, 8:30 pm

Saturday, January 17, 3:00 pm

Sunday, January 18, 1:30 pm

Run Time: 75 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / [AbronsArtsCenter.org](http://AbronsArtsCenter.org)

This body will be a corpse, the universe will eventually go cold, and maybe we are already dead. So, let's say yes to death; let's celebrate. Who said that death is a bad thing anyway? Let's let death have its say. Maybe the end is just the beginning? Maybe we have to die die die in order to fully wake up to the present circumstances of our reality?

Part lecture-performance and part concert, *Death Asshole Rave Video* is a machine made out of movement, sound and words that interrogate death and the agreements we make as a society. If all of the agreements we have made are either breaking or already broken, then what's next? The work experiments with vehicles for experiencing different deaths - death of theater, value, sense and attachment. It's time to die!

*Death Asshole Rave Video* is co-presented with the Goethe-Institut New York with additional support from the NATIONALE PERFORMANCE NETZ as part of the Gastspielförderung Tanz International from funds of the commission of the Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien and the culture and arts ministries of the federal states. Co-production support from Zodiak – Center for New Dance.

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### **Luciana Achugar**

**OTRO TEATRO: The Pleasure Project** Theatrical Premiere

Tuesday, January 13, 6:00 pm

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 pm

Saturday, January 17, 4:30 pm

Run Time: 80 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER PLAYHOUSE

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / [AbronsArtsCenter.org](http://AbronsArtsCenter.org)

*OTRO TEATRO: The Pleasure Project* is the culmination of a three-month-long procession of public space interventions made throughout NYC and Biel/Bienne, Switzerland, that seek to viscerally activate the passive spectator. Anti-spectacular yet super-natural, it is less a performance and more of a practice of moving performance closer to ritual. A ritual of growing ourselves a new and much-needed 'post-civilized' body; a collective body with audience and performers; a collective utopian body, a sensational body, a connected body, a decolonized body, an anarchic and animal body, that is full and filled with pleasure, with love and magic. *The Pleasure Project* is a performance as an intervention for a theater in ruins.

*The Pleasure Project* was originally presented as part of Arts East River Waterfront initiative, a project of Lower Manhattan's Cultural Council and commissioned by 'le Mouvement-Performing the City' Festival in Biel/Bienne, Switzerland. *OTRO TEATRO: The Pleasure Project* was developed in part through an LMCC artist residency in 2014 as part of their Extended Life Dance Development Program; and through the Hatchery Project, a collaborative residency initiative between the Chocolate Factory, Live Arts Brewery/Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Maggie Allesse National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, and Vermont Performance Lab made possible with major funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and additional support by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**Jack Ferver****Night Light Bright Light** World Premiere

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 pm

Friday, January 16, 10:00 pm

Sunday, January 18, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 50 minutes

**ABRONS ARTS CENTER PLAYHOUSE**

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

In *Night Light Bright Light*, Jack Ferver draws inspiration from, and parallels between, his own life and the life, art and death of Fred Herko.

"Fred Herko was a dancer, an actor, a choreographer, and he took a bath and got out and danced naked in front of his friend to Mozart, finally dancing out of a window to his death. I am a dancer, an actor, a choreographer, and I love taking baths and I have danced naked though have yet to jeté out a window. I have often talked about suicide with my childhood friend Reid Bartelme. Reid will join me in the work. Reid is a beautiful dancer. Reid will make sure I don't jump." - Jack Ferver

*Night Light Bright Light* was commissioned through New York Performance Artists Collective in partnership with Joshua Lubin-Levy and Department of Performance Studies (NYU). Residency support provided by Abrons Art Center's AIRspace Residency Program.

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**My Barbarian****The Mother and Other Plays**

Thursday, January 15, 8:30 pm

Saturday, January 17, 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 18, 5:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

**ABRONS ARTS CENTER EXPERIMENTAL THEATER**

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

My Barbarian, a collective consisting of Malik Gaines, Jade Gordon and Alexandro Segade, will perform *The Mother and Other Plays*. This live adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's *The Mother*, first performed in 1932, includes musical numbers and improvised content, and also maintains the Brechtian concept of the Lehrstück, or learning-play, by inviting audience members to participate in select scenes.

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**Neal Medlyn****Pop-Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition** North American Premiere**ABRONS ARTS CENTER UNDERGROUND THEATER**

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / AbronsArtsCenter.org

Over the course of eight years, Neal Medlyn constructed a series of performance pieces built around the music, lives, and personae of a series of pop stars: Lionel Richie, Phil Collins, Prince, Britney Spears, Miley Cyrus, Insane Clown Posse and Michael Jackson. Using and often re-imagining and re-purposing their songs, combined with intuitively related outside sources like fairy tales, literature and personal biography, Medlyn's *Pop-Star Series* creates a new world and mythology from the loud noises, contradictions and fevered intensity of pop culture. Seen only once in their entirety in Germany, this is a new, intimate version of all seven of the *Pop-Star Series* shows.

**The Lionel Richie Opera + Coming in the Air Tonight**

Thursday, January 15, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

*The Lionel Richie Opera* is built around a Lionel Richie greatest hits CD. The songs play in the order they appear on the CD to score a fairytale about a love triangle between the queen of the land of unicorns, a violent and sullen prince, and a musician, interwoven with personal biography and imagery from opera, Richie's life, and introducing the language of the *Pop-Star Series*.

*Coming in the Air Tonight* is built around Phil Collins, urban legends, blood and the color white, a fever dream of childhood friendships, matricide, show business, biography and religious iconography.



### ***Unpronounceable Symbol***

Thursday, January 15, 10:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

Using Prince songs and woven through with text from a variety of literary, musical, film, and court sources, *Unpronounceable Symbol* consists of two characters within the same person fighting and having sex and descending into hell before being reborn as the Messiah.

### ***...Her's a Queen***

Friday, January 16, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

A story of redemption told in reverse and a struggle between knowing and the perceived purity of ignorance, *...Her's a Queen* turns Britney Spears's music and biography, especially centering on the "Blackout" album period of her career, into a noise punk fairy tale going from a place of destruction and ending in a place of forgetful emptiness.

### ***Brave New Girl***

Friday, January 16, 10:00 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

The conflict between and within characters in the Series reaches a kind of apex as the multiple personas and music of Miley Cyrus and Hannah Montana, combined with imagery from the Dostoevsky novel "The Idiot," as well as the imagery and identities of the characters in each of the *Pop-Star Series* shows so far start to collapse in on themselves. *Brave New Girl* delves into teen bedroom culture, loneliness, heartbreak and personal biography.

### ***Wicked Clown Love***

Saturday, January 17, 7:00 pm

Run Time: 65 minutes

A descent into the wilderness using the lore and music and culture of Insane Clown Posse and the subculture of juggalos, combined with political, cultural, and class ideas of masculinity, the Series travels into the darkness of horror rap, sprayed soda, Moby Dick, and suicide.

### ***King***

Saturday, January 17, 10:00 pm

Run Time: 70 minutes

The ending, the attempted ending, the reach for a definitive version of the vast mythology of The Series as well as a grappling with the music, art, and impact of Michael Jackson, outmoded forms of show business, aging, loneliness. The final epic attempt to find some sort of meaning within the *Pop-Star Series*, all seven of these attempts at a new mythology.

King, a project of Creative Capital, which premiered at The Kitchen in 2013, has been made possible in part by the Cutting Edge Fund of the New York Foundation for the Arts.

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### ***Dynasty Handbag***

#### ***Soggy Glasses, A Homo's Odyssey***

Friday, January 16, 8:30 pm

Saturday, January 17, 10:00 pm

Sunday, January 18, 8:30 pm

Run Time: 60 minutes

ABRONS ARTS CENTER EXPERIMENTAL THEATER

466 Grand Street / tickets \$20 / [AbronsArtsCenter.org](http://AbronsArtsCenter.org)

*Soggy Glasses, A Homo's Odyssey*, is a feminist, comedic, fanny-packed, monomythic hero-journey. Using Homer's *Odyssey* as both dramaturgical framework and toilet paper, *Dynasty Handbag* recasts the masculine allegory of returning home in a feminist context, on a voyage through her extremities, heart, mind, bowels, and artist colon-y. Using voiceovers, video interaction, and a giant plush "hero" sandwich, *Dynasty Handbag* employs the female physical and spiritual body as the terrain for her journey home, in an ultimate Homeric search for her true nature, and she will most likely fail.

*Soggy Glasses, A Homo's Odyssey* was originally commissioned by Franklin Furnace for the BAM 2014 Next Wave Festival. *Soggy Glasses* was supported by residencies at Yaddo and The MacDowell Colony, and is made possible, in part, by a 2014 LMCC Process Space artist residency.

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## WORKSHOP & EVENTS

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### **A Movement Research workshop with Claudia La Rocco *To Whom It May Concern***

Thursday, January 8, 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Monday, January 19, 4:00 - 7:00 pm  
Friday, January 23, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

ABRONS ARTS CENTER ROOM 302  
466 Grand Street / \$80 / [MovementResearch.org](http://MovementResearch.org)

Criticism is art. It must aspire to reach the heights, depths, and strange in-betweens it grapples with in the art of others, and in the wider culture it seeks to interrogate. This workshop will function like a laboratory, open to all individuals interested in better understanding themselves and their world through words and art. *To Whom it May Concern* is offered through a partnership with Movement Research and will include the possibility of publication. Participants will have access to discounted tickets for festival performances.

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### **Members of the House Reception *Champaign Toast for American Realness Kickstarter Backers***

Thursday, January 8, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

ABRONS ARTS CENTER  
466 Grand Street / Make your pledge on Kickstarter before November 18, 2014 / [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)

Kick off American Realness 2015 with a Champagne toast to celebrate the start of a sixth season of the festival. Pledge \$25 or more by November 18 at midnight to attend the *Members of the House Reception*.

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### **Kiki with the House of Realness *Party with KUNT and Susanne Bartsch***

Saturday, January 10, 11:00 pm – 4:00 am

LOCATION AND TICKETS TBD

American Realness joins forces with Zurich-based party KUNT (organized by Marc Streit and Lukas Beyeler) and New York Party impresario Susanne Bartsch for a blow-out festival party with a Swiss focus. The event will feature performances from Swiss artists Marie-Caroline Hominal, Daniel Hellmann, Emma Murray, Kiriakos Hadjiioannou, and Alexandra Bachzetsis with additional performances from NYC nightlife favorites. More details coming soon!

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# CALENDAR

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## THURSDAY JANUARY 8

- 4:00 PM 302 Claudia La Rocco, *To Whom it May Concern*, Session I  
5:00 PM GAL Members of the House Reception  
6:00 PM GIB Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note* or &:-/  
7:00 PM EXP Keith Hennessy, *Bear/Skin*  
8:30 PM GIB Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note* or &:-/  
8:30 PM UDG Karen Sherman, *One with Others*  
10:00 PM PLY Ivo Dimchev, *Fest*

## FRIDAY JANUARY 9

- 5:00 PM UDG Cynthia Hopkins, *A Living Documentary*  
5:30 PM EXP Florentina Holzinger and Vincent Riebeek, *Kein Applaus für Scheisse*  
5:30 PM GIB Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note* or &:-/  
7:00 PM PLY Tere O'Connor, *Sister*  
7:30 PM GIB Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note* or &:-/  
8:30 PM EXP Keith Hennessy, *Bear/Skin*  
8:30 PM UDG Karen Sherman, *One with Others*  
10:00 PM PLY Ivo Dimchev, *Fest*

## SATURDAY JANUARY 10

- 2:00 PM UDG The Ballez, *Variations on Virtuosity, A Gala Performance with the Stars of The Ballez*  
4:00 PM EXP Liz Santoro and Pierre Godard, *Relative Collider*  
5:30 PM UDG Karen Sherman, *One with Others*  
6:30 PM GIB Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 1: Mid-Career Artist/Suicide Note* or &:-/  
7:00 PM EXP Keith Hennessy, *Bear/Skin*  
8:30 PM UDG Cynthia Hopkins, *A Living Documentary*  
8:30 PM PLY Simone Aughterlony, Antonija Livingstone and Hahn Rowe, *Supernatural*  
10:30 PM EXP Florentina Holzinger and Vincent Riebeek, *Kein Applaus für Scheisse*  
11:00 PM TBD Kiki with the House of Realness

## SUNDAY JANUARY 11

- 2:30 PM EXP Keith Hennessy, *Bear/Skin*  
4:00 PM PLY Tere O'Connor, *Sister*  
5:30 PM UDG Karen Sherman, *One with Others*  
5:30 PM EXP Liz Santoro and Pierre Godard, *Relative Collider*  
7:00 PM PLY Simone Aughterlony, Antonija Livingstone and Hahn Rowe, *Supernatural*  
9:00 PM EXP Florentina Holzinger and Vincent Riebeek, *Kein Applaus für Scheisse*  
9:00 PM UDG The Ballez, *Variations on Virtuosity, A Gala Performance with the Stars of The Ballez*  
10:30 PM PLY Ivo Dimchev, *Fest*

## MONDAY JANUARY 12

- 5:30 PM EXP Tere O'Connor, *Undersweet*  
6:30 PM UDG Michelle Ellsworth, *Preparation for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome*  
8:00 PM PLY Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 2: Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse* or &:@&  
10:00 PM EXP Jeremy Wade, *Death Asshole Rave Video*

## TUESDAY JANUARY 13

- 5:00 PM UDG Cynthia Hopkins, *A Living Documentary*  
5:00 PM EXP Jeremy Wade, *Death Asshole Rave Video*  
6:00 PM PLY luciana achugar, *OTRO TEATRO: The Pleasure Project*  
8:30 PM EXP Tere O'Connor, *Undersweet*  
8:30 PM UDG Michelle Ellsworth, *Preparation for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome*  
10:00 PM PLY Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 2: Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse* or &:@&

### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14

- 5:00 PM UDG Michelle Ellsworth, *Preparation for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome*  
5:30 PM EXP Tere O'Connor, *Undersweet*  
6:30 PM PLY Jack Ferver, *Night Light Bright Light*  
8:30 PM UDG Cynthia Hopkins, *A Living Documentary*  
8:30 PM EXP Jeremy Wade, *Death Asshole Rave Video*  
10:00 PM PLY Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 2:*  
*Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&*

### THURSDAY JANUARY 15

- 6:30 PM PLY luciana achugar, *OTRO TEATRO: The Pleasure Project*  
7:00 PM UDG Neal Medlyn, *Pop Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition: Lionel Richie Opera + Coming in the Air Tonight*  
8:30 PM EXP My Barbarian, *The Mother and Other Plays*  
10:00PM UDG Neal Medlyn, *Pop Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition: Unpronounceable Symbol*

### FRIDAY JANUARY 16

- 6:00 PM PLY Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 2:*  
*Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&*  
7:00 PM UDG Neal Medlyn, *Pop Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition: ...Her's A Queen*  
8:30 PM EXP Dynasty Handbag, *Soggy Glasses, A Homo's Odyssey*  
10:00 PM UDG Neal Medlyn, *Pop Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition: Brave New Girl*  
10:00 PM PLY Jack Ferver, *Night Light Bright Light*

### SATURDAY JANUARY 17

- 3:00 PM UDG Cynthia Hopkins, *A Living Documentary*  
3:00 PM EXP Jeremy Wade, *Death Asshole Rave Video*  
4:30 PM PLY luciana achugar, *OTRO TEATRO: The Pleasure Project*  
7:00 PM EXP My Barbarian, *The Mother and Other Plays*  
7:00 PM UDG Neal Medlyn, *Pop Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition: Wicked Clown Love*  
8:30 PM PLY Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 2:*  
*Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&*  
10:00 PM UDG Neal Medlyn, *Pop Star Series, The 2015 Emerald Edition: King*  
10:00 PM EXP Dynasty Handbag, *Soggy Glasses, A Homo's Odyssey*

### SUNDAY JANUARY 18

- 1:30 PM EXP Jeremy Wade, *Death Asshole Rave Video*  
3:00 PM PLY Miguel Gutierrez, *Age & Beauty Part 2:*  
*Asian Beauty @ the Werq Meeting or The Choreographer & Her Muse or &:@&*  
5:00 PM EXP My Barbarian, *The Mother and Other Plays*  
5:00 PM UDG Cynthia Hopkins, *A Living Documentary*  
7:00 PM PLY Jack Ferver, *Night Light Bright Light*  
8:30 PM EXP Dynasty Handbag, *Soggy Glasses, A Homo's Odyssey*

### MONDAY JANUARY 19

- 4:00 PM 320 Claudia La Rocco, *To Whom it May Concern, Session 2*

### FRIDAY JANUARY 23

- 4:00 PM 320 Claudia La Rocco, *To Whom it May Concern, Session 3*

### LEGEND

- 302 Abrons Arts Center Room 302  
GAL Abrons Arts Center Main Gallery  
GIB Gibney Dance at 280 Broadway  
EXP Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater  
UDG Abrons Arts Center Underground Theater  
PLY Abrons Arts Center Playhouse  
TBD To Be Determined

# CREDITS

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## AMERICAN REALNESS / tbspMGMT

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  
Natalie Robin, Associate Producer  
Will Cotton, Production Manager  
Bridín Clements, Producing Assistant  
Ian Douglas, Festival Photographer  
Marin Sander-Holzman / Marin Media Lab, Festival Media Producer

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## ABRONS ARTS CENTER

The Abrons Arts Center is the OBIE Award winning performing and visual arts program of Henry Street Settlement. The Abrons 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 Abrons offers over 250 performances, 12 gallery exhibitions, 20 residencies for performing and studio artists, and 100 different classes in dance, music, theater, and visual art. The Abrons also provides New York City public schools with teaching artists, introducing more than 3,000 students to the arts.

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.

Jay Wegman, Director  
Julio Badel, Engagement Manager for Visual Arts  
Kim Cox, Registrar  
Jonathan Durham, Director of Exhibitions and AIRspace  
Jon Harper, Technical Director  
Carl Johnson, House Manager  
Millie Kapp, Engagement Manager for Performance  
Rose Marie Ortiz, Operations Manager  
David Savoy, Patron and Artists Services  
Benjamin Schrier, Engagement Manager for Music  
Carolyn Sickles, Director of Engagement  
Moe Yousuf, Managing Director

Abrons Arts Center programs are made possible through the kind support of these good people: Louis and Ann Abrons Foundation, Inc., The ASCAP Foundation, Irving Caesar Fund, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Tita Cahn Trust, The Daniel J. & Edith A. Ehrlich Family Foundation, Jacques and Natasha Gelman Trust, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation, The Jerome Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, The Peg Santvoord Foundation, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, The Bulova Steston Fund, The Thanksgiving Fund, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Barker Welfare Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Department of Education, and many generous individuals.

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## FUNDING

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 two hundred and four Kickstarter backers and counting.

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