

UNFIX NYC
2024

DISTURBANCE

Creating an awareness of ecology through arts

MAY 18, 2022

5:15pm-10:30pm

Grace & St. Paul's Church



This is the 8th Season of UNFIX NYC!!!

UNFIX NYC is a collaboration between RenGyoSoh (NY based Butoh Theatre Group) and the UNFIX festival (Scotland). It is an interdisciplinary festival including live performance, dance, film, music, installation, workshop, and debate that aims to unravel the knots in how we're living. RenGyoSoh has been holding the NYC version of the UNFIX festival since 2016 at Grace & St. Paul's Church.

UNFIX NYC aims to raise ecological awareness through arts and to address Ecological crisis and renewal through our Bodies, Minds & Souls. What is 'ecology'? Ecology is the study of all living beings on this planet and their relationships with each other and with the physical environment. In this festival, we broaden the definition of ecology to include how we can live embedded within ecological systems in a way that supports those systems, ourselves and each other. The world is not a 'fix'ed place. The world is continuously changing as we are changing; we are all living, dynamic beings. We believe in the power of active, engaged care; in the power of art; and in what art can do for all living beings, for the land we live in and for future generations.

The theme this year is "Disturbance." Disruptions to our social and ecological systems can have profound effects, from the catastrophic to the regenerative. The evening's events will open the questions: How have disturbances affected our lives and our relationships with our communities and the natural environment? Can we be sensitive to disturbance and also resilient in response?

Through this festival, UNFIX NYC reflects on the society we live in, and creates not only awareness but builds a community to share, to connect, and to inspire each other.

This year, we have 16 pieces created by many fantastic artists!

Tikkun Olam

Roxane Revon

Roxane Revon is a multi-disciplinary artist who conducts experiments with bio materials to create active interconnected systems that challenge our views on the concept of nature, time and memories. Through drawings, prints, mycelium sculptures and multimedia installations, she invites the public to join her in reconsidering the supposedly static and lifeless environment, revealing its profound vitality as an integral component of the larger web of life. Her creative journey unfolds through the creation of evolutionary installations aimed at sparking dialogues between entrenched cultural concepts and the intricate interplay of living beings. She aims to blur the boundaries between the human-made and the natural, fostering an understanding that these realms are not separate but deeply entwined.

www.roxanerevon.com

@roxane_revon

GALLERY

VOIYCES **Brandon Perfomo**

Brandon Perdomo is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist from Great Kills, Staten Island, NY; fascinated with self-reflection and alterity, which serves as the engines for his work in visual and performance work, as well as socially-engaged intervention. Perdomo's work in public & oral history interviewing as a social practice provokes a reexamination & reclamation of narrative power, as well as interrogation of systems of assimilation. Studio Birdhaus is the creative studio of Brandon Perdomo.

Horseshoe Queen

Stacey Anne Pea (xi/dry)

Stacey is a wandering grassroots artist that feels whole and well when expressing her own experience and intent, as well as her loyalty to the intent of the planet itself, through intentional visual art. She enjoys a relaxing, playful and fun approach, making Polly Pocket worlds that encourage sensory engagement between the Art and its audience. She wants her Art to feel fearlessly vulnerable as to hold space for viewers as she sees that we've all been through a lot. Her Art ethos is steeped in resourcefulness because she finds this to be a key to surviving late stage capitalism. That resourcefulness is expressed through her materials, found objects and old things that she can love and let go of, recontextualizing or deconstructing them to a degree of decadence without taking away from their former beauty.

Ig: @staceypea_fineart

**STOP BOTHERING ME!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
BACK OFF!**

Zhenya Sklar, madeline at neighbors, Irena Romendik, and Yuri Osagawara

Zhenya Plenchkina Sklar was born in Odessa Ukraine. Zhenya is a performance and installation artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. Zhenya received her BFA from Pratt Institute, and her MPS from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU New York. Zhenya has been working at the Consortium Public High School for the past 10 years. Zhenya's work has been exhibited at the Ortega y Gasset Project, A.I.R. Gallery and Bushwick Open Studios. As vydavy (in collaboration with Misha Sklar) Zhenya's work has been exhibited at the Moscow Biennial and Architectural Venice Biennial as well as has been awarded a Public Art Commission through The Queens Museum of Art.

Misha Sklar is multi-disciplinary artist and architect was born in Kiev, Ukraine. He is one of the founding members of vydavy syndikat a performance art group that started in 1994 in New York. He is also a member of sound art / noise collective Madeline At Neighbors.

Irena Romendik is a Brooklyn based multidisciplinary artist. She moved to the US from Kiev, Ukraine where she studied Painting at Shevchenko School. She holds degrees from Pratt and Tisch School of the Arts. She holds degrees from Shevchenko Art School in Kiev, Pratt Institute, and Tisch School of the Arts, NYU. Irena participated in multiple shows, made costumes for dancers, and performed herself, but that has not been the focus of her artistic career. Irena values the process of artistic creation over production. Her multidimensional interests have produced projects that cross disciplines, and sometimes are difficult to categorize.

Yuri Ogasawara came to the U.S. received MA in Art Administration

in State University of NY. She dances Classical Ballet, Oriental / Middle Eastern Dance and Latin Partner Dancing. Currently studying Butoh and Contact Improvisation. She has been the original member of Dancing Rubies under Andrea Beeman's Dancing Ensemble and performed in various shows such as Table of Silence by Buglisi Dance Theatre, LEIMAY SOAK, World Dance Passport by Lotus Music & Dance, Global Water Dance, Butoh Dance Festival - UNFIX by RengyoSoh and Vangelina Theater. She worked as a guest teacher for Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company for Bridge for Dance and currently dancing under Margaret Yuen's Red Silk Dancers. She also creates her own dance project corroborating with various artists presenting at arts events and festivals.

Madeline at Neighbors (Misha Sklar, Sergiy Ruskiy) found themselves in the Catskills in 2018. Started as an acoustic dialogue project, they quickly transformed into a DIY art group, focused on improvising and capturing spontaneous sounds of surroundings and constructing new urban and rural soundscapes.

ACT 1

BRINK

Judith Barnes & Irena Romendik
Vertical Player Repertory

***Les Berceaux & The Lighthouse:
Movement 1-A Mental Health Crisis***

Lucada Mélange

Let's try that again

Rebecca Lloyd-Jones

Ring Cycle

Miles Butler

Wild Butterfly

Alanna Rosa

BRINK

Judith Barnes & Irena Romendik

Vertical Player Repertory

ARTISTS

Co-Director/ Mezzo Soprano	Judith Barnes
Co-Director/ Video & Costume Design	Irena Romendik

Judith Barnes was born in London and raised in Rome, Italy and Brooklyn, New York. She is an opera singer, sculptor, and theater maker. Her roots are in the visual arts, and she pursues a parallel vocation as an opera singer, director, and producer. In recent years, she has returned to a visual arts practice put on hold while concentrating on opera. As she develops a body of sculptural work, she continues to perform as a mezzo soprano, to work as an opera stage director, and teach opera privately and at various institutions around the city. She is the founding artistic director of the Brooklyn-based indie opera company Vertical Player Repertory since 1998. She studied voice at the Jacobs School of Music at I.U. Bloomington, at OperaWorks L.A. She was a LEIMAY Fellow from 2016-2018. Judith is currently enrolled in a certificate program at the Mind Body Music School, an Alexander Technique-based training for performers.

Irena Romendik arrived from Ukraine two decades ago and currently resides in Brooklyn, New York. She holds degrees from the Shevchenko Art School in Kyiv, Pratt Institute, and Tisch School of the Arts, NYU. Irena has participated in the creation of multiple shows, designed and built costumes for dancers, and has performed herself, but that has not been the focus of her artistic career. Irena values the process of artistic creation over the product. Her multidimensional interests have produced projects that cross disciplines, and are sometimes difficult to categorize. To learn more about her work please visit <http://www.aquarelle.us>

Les Berceaux & The Lighthouse: ***Movement 1-A Mental Health Crisis*** **Lucada Mélange**

ARTISTS

Adaptation Authors	Dianna Cortez, Donna Ahmadi, Derek J. Weagle
Director & Voice Artist Composer	Dianna Cortez
Assistant Director	Shan Y Chuang
Stage Manager	Jamie Burgess
Choreography, Costume, Puppetry Design	Donna Ahmadi
Music Composition, Music Director, Conductor & Sound Technician	Derek J. Weagle
Videographers	Dianna Cortez, Donna Ahmadi, Derek J. Weagle
Editor	Dianna Cortez
Assistant Editor	Donna Ahmadi
Sound & Movement Dancers	Donna Ahmadi Gabriel Etheridge Gwyneth Maya Encila
Mezzo Soprano	Dianna Cortez
Percussion	Derek J. Weagle
Cellists	Anthime Miller Jennifer Shaw

Les Berceaux ("The Cradles") & The Lighthouse is an Experimental Opera addressing ecosystem disturbances created by pandemics and war. Lucada Mélange will share the 1st of 5 Movements still in development. Movement I: A Mental Health Crisis begins in a New York City apartment at the height of the Covid 19 pandemic with a full-term pregnant mother trapped in isolation having a mental health crisis. She sings "Les Berceaux" to comfort the infant in her womb. The infant in the womb interacts with the mother's inner ecosystem and Mother Nature's outer ecosystem. Simultaneously, the mother's water breaks with her nervous breakdown, and her essential systems dissociate and deconstruct, escaping to the forest for refuge. The water becomes a portal linking waterfalls to rivers to streams of thought and carrying her systems into Mother Nature's forest. The Forest becomes a healing womb cradling the mother, her independent body systems, and the infant.

Donna Ahmadi and Dianna Cortez founded Lucada Mélange, an interdisciplinary company that promotes socio-environmental healing through Butoh, Opera, and Composition. Interdisciplinary works include: "Plastic not Fantastic" (created by Donna Ahmadi, Dianna Cortez, and Jody Gazenbeek-Person) won Best Original Comedy at UNFIX NYC 2023, "Chroma" (created by Donna Ahmadi, Dianna Cortez, and composer/vocalist Derek J. Weagle) was performed at the Ice on Fire Festival in Montpelier, VT in 2024, and an Arthouse film version is currently under production. "Les Berceaux & The Lighthouse" has been developing with film sharing in Yokko's Butoh Course Performance Parties through RenGyoSoh. This is the 1st live sharing of "Les Berceaux & The Lighthouse: Movement 1-A Mental Health Crisis."

Dianna Cortez (She/Her) (Interdisciplinary Performance Artist: Vocal Artist, Actor, Director, Filmmaker, Author, Educator). Dianna has coached actors On and Off-Broadway in Liverpool and teaches voice, speech, and dialects at Circle in the Square Theatre School, Syracuse, Molloy/Cap21, and The Linklater Center. Some Interdisciplinary Artworks include—"Hymn to Life" by James Schuyler (poet) and David Skeist (composer/conductor), "Dans L'ombre: In the Shadows" (Opera), "A Fireside Celtic Christmas," "Mi Amor, and The Queen Bee", "A Riverside Tree," "Chroma," "Bugnik Advice," and two Award winning Arthouse Films "My Chamber" Awarded Best Original Editing, "Plastic not Fantastic," Awarded Best Physical Comedy. 2006-2010, she served as the Artistic Director of City Attic Theatre (C.A.T.). <https://diannacortezvoice.netlify.app>

Donna Ahmadi (she/her) (Interdisciplinary Artist & Choreographer/ Director, Dancer, Filmmaker, Author) Donna Ahmadi lives in the northern Bronx with a man, a small child, and two felines. Donna earned her BFA in Dance from SUNY, Purchase College in 2000 and an associate degree in Occupational Therapy from the Swedish

Institute of Massage Therapy in 2002. She has performed for Steve Koplowitz, Alison Chase (Pilobolus and Apogee Arts), Andrew Marcus Performance, Brett Howard Company, Tarin Chaplin, Dianne Sichel, Michael Utoff, Red Hawk Indian Arts Council, Thunderbird American Indian Dancers and Third Rail Projects. Donna founded Mantis Dance Theater in 2003 while teaching as a site-specific and environmental dance company at the Northern Rivers Conservatory in Australia. Her work has recently explored adoption, entomology, and the human body. As a practicing massage therapist for over 10 years, she has developed a compassion for the health of her family and clientele.

Derek J. Weagle (they/them)(Interdisciplinary Artist, Composer, & Vocalist): They are a National and International Award-winning Composer, including the American Prize in Composition, The International Horn Society, and the International Composition Competition Harelbeke. Their work is known for disrupting social and academic barriers around classical music and preserving music-making with a practice rooted in Syncretism. Derek is a member of Bloom Sound Collective and creates sound healing for Official Ritual in NYC.

www.derekjweagle.com

Let's Try That Again

Rebecca Lloyd-Jones

ARTISTS

Choreography	Rebecca Lloyd-Jones
Performers	Marianna Allen McCall McClellan Rebecca Lloyd-Jones
Music	Francois Couperin
Music Performance	Alexandre Tharaud

Rebecca Lloyd-Jones is a dancer and a choreographer based in NY. Her work explores the fluidity and multiplicity of the self, and complexity and contradiction of human relations. Her choreographic works have been shown at International theater festival in Santa Cruz Bolivia, Dixon Place, La Mama Experimental Theater, Gibney, Movement Research at Judson Church, Wild Project, Triskelion Arts, Here Arts Center, Performance Mix Festival, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, Green Space and many others. She has worked with artists and companies such as Kilowatt Dance Theater, Mariane-la Boan's Boan Action, Leah Stein Dance Company, Yelena Gluzman's science project, VOID Theater Company, Merian Soto, Abigail Levine, PISO Proyecto and many others, and has performed in various cities in United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, Greece, Puerto Rico and Bolivia. Her choreographic works have received funds and awards by Bronx Council of the Arts, Dancing in the Streets, Papatian, and US Embassy. Her dance films have been shown at Boink Dance Film Festival and Rough Cut Film Festival. She received her BFA in dance from Temple University. For more info, www.rebeccalloydjones.com

McCall McClellan (she/her) grew up in the sagebrush of Vernal, Utah. She graduated with a BA in Dance and Minor in Media Arts from Brigham Young University (BYU) in 2021. After graduation, McCall performed with Wasatch Contemporary Dance Company(Provo, UT) and

Oquirrh West Project (SLC, UT). McCall spent two years as an Adjunct Contemporary Dance Professor at BYU She recently relocated to NYC and collaborates in NYC and SLC as a freelance dancer, choreographer, editor, photographer, and cinematographer. In her spare time she enjoys riding a scooter around Fort Tryon Park and throwing a frisbee with her partner Caleb.

Marianna Allen is an emerging dance artist based in New York. She has performed in works choreographed by Chuck Wilt, Dawn Marie Bazemore, John Heginbotham, and Abby Zbikowski, OcampoWang Dance, DanceKerr & Dancers, John Evans and Ani Javian, Julia Ramirez, Chantal Taluba, and Friends Who Dance Collective. Marianna's choreographic work has been showcased through Mason Gross School of the Arts and Dance New Jersey. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Mason Gross School of the Arts with a BFA in Dance and minors in Gender & Media Studies and Women's & Gender Studies, where she studied several dance styles including ballet, Horton, postmodern, contemporary, tap, jazz, Gaga, West African, Somatics, Yoga, Pilates, improvisation, and choreography. She has attended intensives at David Dorfman Dance, Koresh Dance Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet.

Ring Cycle **Miles Butler**

ARTISTS

Creator & Performer Miles Butler

Miles Butler is an actor, puppeteer, and physical theatre artist from D.C. He has been working with RenGyoSoh since 2017. NYC Credits: Into the Woods (EPIC), Caveman Play (Third Space), by wing, fin, hoof, or foot (The Ume Group), Naked Hamlet (Torn Out Theater), Alexander Who's Not Going To Move (Two Beans, National Tour), enter a garden (Motor Company) and others. DC: Studio Theatre, Kennedy Center, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Wolf Trap, Ford's Theater, Folger Theater and others. Former company member of Synetic Theater and the Flea Theatre. He is a teaching artist with EPIC Players, a neuro-inclusive theatre company. In his free time, he enjoys finishing puzzles and rubbing his dog's belly. BFA in Theatre (Brooklyn College).

Wild Butterfly

Alana Rosa

ARTISTS

Alana Rosa
Melania Maldonado
Antonio Oliveria

Alana Rosa is an artist from Brasil but has lived in New York since 2014 where she works as an actress, Performance Art, Butoh Dancer and Cultural Producer. 2015 received the Brazilian Press Award for the best Actress. 2017 received The Notables awards from the Brazilian Community Heritage Foundation. She was included in the book Butoh cradling Empty by Vangeline from New York Butoh Institute. She is a collaborator of Beyond Fashion by Antonio Oliveira.

Melania Maldonado is a Ecuadorian mezzo soprano, lyrical and popular singer, with an international trajectory, whose objective is to expose the different aspects of the Ecuadorian and Latin American culture to generate a better perception of the Latin identity. She is also a voice teacher for 28 years, she developed a pedagogical-musical plan with cultural and therapeutic activities for young people called Music for Life, working with students of different levels and styles at Melania Music , where she transmits her knowledge and experience to students from all over the world.

Antonio Oliveira is a visual artist that explores the intersection of painting and performance creating dynamic and immersive experience for the audience, drawing inspiration from the human condition and the fluidity of emotions exploring the diversity, influenced by multicultural experiences, combining the power of paintings, mixed media and the expressive raw energy of the performance, often revolving around identity human connections and societal issues striving to create a dialog between the performance and the audience, inviting viewers to engage in multiple levels. He aims to challenge conventional boundaries and provoke thoughts about existentialism.

PANEL DISCUSSION

**Moderated by
Megan Cattau**

*Assistant Professor of Human-Environment Systems at Boise State University,
Co-founder & Co-director at Flight Collaborative Aerial Dance*

**Panelists
Pastor Martin Hauser
Julie Becton Gillum**

FILM SCREENING

The King's Keeper **by Thomas Rowell/ Brother Mountain**

Created by Thomas Rowell
Original Score by Steve Gorn, Camila Celin, Ehren Hanson
Recording Engineer & Sound Design Charles Van Kirk
Music Director Andrew Wells Ryder

In the King's Keeper we meet Gajraj and Prahlad on their journey home. Gajraj, a seventy year old tusker whose name means "King of the elephants," spent more than fifty years of his life in chains. When Prahlad first saw him come out of the rescue vehicle and step into the Elephant Conservation and Care Center he says "I had my heart set on him."

Thomas Rowell is a photographer and multidisciplinary storyteller, National Geographic Explorer, member of the Explorer's Club in New York City, and a connoisseur of fine chips and salsa. He studied theatre directing at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and soon after had residencies in dance and mask at the Waaw Centre in Sénégal and directing at the Kennedy Center for the performing arts. His first documentary project followed dedicated conservationists working to conserve the critically endangered Álala. He has filmed and photographed conservation efforts with the northern white rhino in Kenya and the US and worked with asian elephants, sloth bears and leopards in India alongside Wildlife SOS India. Thomas feels most like himself near a stream in the forest somewhere in the mountains.
<https://www.brothermountain.com/new-page-1>

Blind Contour

Carl Annala

***A Message from Those that Have
Gone Before...***

Moving Productions

ASHITA MAÑANA

AIDA MIRÓ & KEN ARII

Blind Contour

Carl Annala

ARTISTS

Costumes	Carl Annala
Soundtrack	Jason Hovatter

Carl Annala is a visual artist, musician and butoh dancer from Portland, Oregon. He was artistic director for Ash Pillar butoh for 5 years and has done solo performances since the late 90's. He has a robust musical background with many records under his belt. He has exhibited and taught visual art for decades. His Butoh teachers include: Andrew Forshee, Akira Kasai, Natsu Nakajima, Yuko Kaseki, Yumiko Yoshioka, Mari Osani, Mishi Chaves, Denice Fujiwara, Seisaku, Rianto, Atsushi Takenouchi, Sayoko Onishi, Julie Becton Gillum, Joan Laage, Vangeline (online) and Other Spaces (online).

Jason Hovatter is a musician from Portland, Oregon. He records and performs under the names A Minority of One and Learning From Place. He is also a well know shoemaker. <https://jasonhovatter.bandcamp.com/>

A Message from Those that Have Gone Before... **Moving Productions**

ARTISTS

Performer/Creator/Choreographer/ Co-Director	Jody Gazenbeek-Person
Overall Sound Design/ Performer/ Creator/Co-Director	Deena Jiles Shu'aib
Projections/ADT Direction	Tyann Sells
Additional Sound Design	Tiernan Stover
Make-up Design	Micah B. Goldschmidt
Production Assistants	Jessica Klatskin Nick LaRussa

MOVING PRODUCTIONS is an interdisciplinary performance company based in Newark, NJ and working in the TriState area. We are dedicated to a trifold purpose: to provide a voice for those who are voiceless, to expose toxic structures of power and consumerism, and to create interdisciplinary work that breaks down the barrier between people and art. We are committed to bringing together a community of interdisciplinary artists to create new work.

Deena Jiles-Shu'aib is a Professional actor (AEA), voice artist, director, producer, and acting teacher. Her work focuses on bringing issues for people of color to audiences. Giving a voice to those who are often marginalized or completely overlooked drives the work she creates.

Tyann Sells is a professional Video Producer and artistic filmmaker. Her love of photography and theatre have punctuated her videography career; she has written several plays. She's directed a dozen theatre

productions and produced 27 supportive video assets for her theatre partners.

Jody Gazenbeek-Person's artistic work focuses on the intersection between humans' connections to each other and the environment around them. His artistic practice and process is guided by the holistic idea of helping diverse communities of humans forge deeper connections. A queer artist, Jody has been creating award-winning interdisciplinary work since 1987.

ASHITA MAÑANA

AIDA MIRÓ & KEN ARII

ARTISTS

Live Music Soma Pipe Ken Aarii

Idea, Video Editing, &
Dance Movement Aida Miró

Aída Miró is a Bronx based multidisciplinary artist from Ibiza (Spain). She works mainly as a painter and muralist, but does Butoh dance performance too. After graduating in Fine Arts in Valencia (Spain) she did circus in Barcelona. Doing Butoh dance since 2007 learning from different teachers in different countries. She is PhD in Art education by the University Autonomy of Madrid with her thesis in Butoh dance as art therapy.

Ken Aarii is a Brooklyn based Soma pipe (voice processing instrument) player born in Osaka, Japan. Aarii plays for new wave-esque rock band Street Missile, spooky electro pop duo The Invisible College, Noise duo Coput and solo under the name of Juice. Buses in NYC subway stations and performs in venues all around NYC.

broken limbs and broken roots

Jacquelyn Marie Shannon

KUZU/屑: dust

RenGyoSoh

Dusk, the darkening

Julie Becton Gillum

Asheville Butoh Collective

broken limbs and broken roots

Jacquelyn Marie Shannon

ARTISTS

Choreography & Performance Jacquelyn Marie Shannon

Live Music Waverly Langston

Jacquelyn Marie Shannon is a ritual artist and PhD candidate in Theatre and Performance at The Graduate Center, CUNY in New York City interested in magic, witchcraft, and ritual; death, haunting, and mourning; queer and feminist performance; affect, sensuality, and dramaturgies of the body. Her work gravitates towards questions of presence, enchantment, and the supernatural, exploring how performance conjures, catalyzes, and transforms, as well as artistic process which engages marginal registers of performance that extend beyond bounded notions of body, space and time, that cultivate and operate as and through liminal and altered states, alternative temporalities, synesthesia, hypnosis, visions and dreams. Jacquelyn holds an MA from Indiana University in Communication and Culture, an MA from New York University in Educational Theatre, and an MPhil from The Graduate Center, CUNY in Theatre and Performance. In addition to public performance, she regularly lectures about magic and witches in/ and theatre, leads workshops in ritual movement and 'ghostly practice' technique, and works as a certified integrative hypnotist in New York City.

<https://jacquelynmarieshannon.com/>

KUZU/屑: dust

RenGyoSoh

ARTISTS

Performers	Zak Ma Megan Cattau Grace Olinski Yoshiko Usami
Choreography	Yokko
Composers	Paul Michael Henry Hiroko Komiya Yuri Dini

RenGyoSoh is a multi-award winning New York-based Butoh theatre group which founded by a Japanese artist, Yokko in 2014. It dedicates to create and produce a work through collaborations, organize an event such as UNFIX NYC, and offer training opportunities. Since 2021, RenGyoSoh created Artist Lab (Playground) program to opened the possibilities to develop a new work by early career artist. RenGyoSoh's primal mission is to be a cultural bridge in the world by not only carrying individual voices but through collaboration, and cultivates new forms of theater that reflect our evolving culture. Our work is constantly challenging to our society, our audience, and our own limitations.

Yoshiko Usami Sienkiewicz (AKA Yokko) is an actor and an interdisciplinary artist from Japan specialized in Butoh, Theatre and Movement. Yokko has acted in, devised, and choreographed a variety of local and international shows and films, winning various awards, including "Best One-Woman Show," "Best Choreography," "Best Physical Theatre," and "Best Actress" for Butoh Medea, in festivals such as United Solo NYC at Theatre Row (2014 & 2015) and the Hollywood Fringe (2018). Butoh Medea appeared in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, winning a nomination for the "Asian Arts Awards." It has toured the US and Europe (Poland, UK, Italy, Turkey, Germany and Czech Republic) since 2015. Another of Yokko's original productions, Hide Your Fires:

Butoh Lady Macbeth, premiered at Pan Asian Rep's NuWorks (2017), was the winner of the "Best Physical Theatre" at United Solo NYC (2017), and "Best International Show" at the Hollywood Fringe (2019). Her choreographed & directed ensemble work SHINKA won "Outstanding Premier Production of a Play," and "Outstanding Choreography and Movement" at The New York Innovative Theatre Awards (2019). Yokko's Butoh work has been seen in several music & Arts videos, including Ready To Let Go (Cage The Elephant, 2019), and The 8 dissolutions at Morris Museum, Times sq billboard (Erik Bergrin, 2022) Yokko has been offering her Butoh & Movement workshops across the USA & Europe since 2014, and has served as an adjunct faculty at Universities and training programs. She published an article "Why Butoh Theatre" by Routledge / Taylor and Francis (2020), is a recipient of the G. William Hume Fellowship in Performing Arts (2023). Yokko is the founder and Artistic Director of a NY Based Butoh Theatre Group, RenGyoSoh, the producing artistic director of Unfix NYC Festival

Zak Ma is a NY-based actor and multidisciplinary theatre artist of Vietnamese descent. He received his MFA Acting at the Actors Studio Drama School, and is a member of RenGyoSoh since 2019. Zak is passionate in devising multimedia original work, aiming to transcend societal definitions and connect people of all backgrounds. Recent credits include experimental projects, Iceberg and self-produced The Intermediate, and traditional plays: His Is A Cage (Paul), Northbound Train (Huang), and The Seagull (Trigorin). IG @letitbezak. Zak-ma.com

Megan Cattau is an aerialist. She found her primary movement form, the dance trapeze, training under Susan Murphy, who remains a deep inspiration. Since then, she has performed, choreographed, directed, and taught extensively in the US and abroad, working principally under the project Flight Collaborative. Her performance and teaching homes have included Canopy Studio in Athens, GA (where she was the business manager and then assistant director); Circus Warehouse in NYC; and Frequent Flyers in Boulder, CO. She also founded the aerial dance program at Durham School for Ballet and the Performing Arts in Durham, NC and has performed as a core member of Constellation Moving. Her choreography is featured in the book Aerial Dance (Bernasconi and Smith, 2008). She is interested in how movement and visual art can be used to communicate in a way that is kinesthetic, cerebral, immersive, honest, and emotionally evocative. Megan is also a disturbance ecologist, working in Indonesia as well as the Western U.S., and her mind is always on the trees.

Grace Olinski (she/they) is a Brooklyn-based actor and writer. Recent projects include Nationals with The 24 Hour Plays, teaching movement and body work to young artists, and the creation of her show Triptych, which had its world premiere at the 2023 Denver Fringe Festival, where it received the Audience Choice Award. Born and raised in Southern

California, she grew up studying theater and training at every opportunity. After studying Meisner and Creative Dreamwork with Lea Floden, she attended the three year program at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, where she graduated with honors. She is thrilled to be joining the Company!

Paul Michael Henry (Music) His starting points are dance, music, writing and ritual; his artistic approach grows out of punk rock and Butoh. Most of the time this ends up on a stage, but he also makes recorded music, films and collaborates on other artists' projects. He is the artistic director of UNFIX Festival and teaches dance workshops called The Dreaming Body. His themes are political, social & spiritual, dealing with love, neglect of the body, destruction of the environment and atrophy of the soul in consumerist society. <https://paulmichaelhenry.com>

Hiroko Komiya (Music) creates music including object sound, percussion, and voice. She expresses the sound from the air, space, movements, inner body, memory, without bound melody or rhythm. Since 1999, she collaborates with a Butoh artist, Atsushi Takenouchi through Jinen Butoh, and composes sounds and music for his work, and tours with him nationally internationally. She also collaborates with film artist, sculptor, painter, poet, story teller, costume designer, and performers for exhibition, installation and performance. <https://sonore.exblog.jp/>

Dusk, the darkening

Julie Becton Gillum / Asheville Butoh Collective

ARTISTS

Julie Becton Gillum, artistic director of the 14-year-running Asheville Butoh Festival, has been creating, performing, and teaching dance in the US, Europe, Asia, and Mexico for over 40 years. She has practiced butoh for 27 years and was awarded the 2008-09 North Carolina Choreography Fellowship. She used the funds to travel to Japan to study Butoh.

The Asheville Butoh Festival brings US and international artists to teach and perform at the BeBe Theater in downtown Asheville. This event has drawn a local and regional audience for butoh as well as international recognition and interest. Since 2019 Gillum has been active in India, Serbia, Georgia, Greece, Mexico, and the USA. Recent performances at the Amsterdam Butoh Festival (October 2023) and Seattle Butoh Festival (November 2023) were well received.

Her most influential mentors have been: Anzu Furukawa, Diego Piñon, Yoshito Ohno, Natsu Nakajima, and Seasaku. Noguchi Taiso has become an equally important practice for Gillum who learned the basics from Itto Morita, Semimaru, and Dairakudakan. Gillum's studies with Mari Osanai and Emre Thormann have further refined the practice. She has been guiding butoh for 25 years and Noguchi Taiso for 10 years.

STAFF

Yoshiko Usami, Producing Artistic director

Megan Cattau, Co-productiong Artistic director

Saki Kawamura, Production director

Chase Kniffen, Technical director, Co-production director

Brandon Perdomo, Visual Arts Coordinator

Paul Michael Henry (Founder of Unfix festival)

Jonah Piali, Associate producer (host)

Pastor Martin Hauser, Associate producer (host)