
Danspace Project

Winter 2021

Danspace Project

Land Acknowledgment

Danspace Project pays respect to Lenape peoples. We acknowledge that this work is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta) in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to Lenape land, water, and ancestors past, present, and future.

Site Acknowledgment

“Before we begin, let’s take a moment to acknowledge that the construction of this building, Saint Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery, was completed in 1799. That same year, New York State enacted the Gradual Emancipation Act 1, so it is reasonable to assume that this building where we are when we stand, sit, dance, and some still worship, was built by enslaved individuals on what was the homeland of the Lenape people.”

– Ishmael Houston-Jones

Danspace Project Presents

devynn emory

deadbird

world premiere & conversation with Okwui
Okpokwasili
Wednesday, March 31, 7pm (ET)

can anybody help me hold this body

public grief altar
Thursday-Saturday, April 1-3, 12-4pm (ET)
at Prospect Park

instructions to engage the public grief altar,
or to create your own, are available at deadbird.land

deadbird team:

choreography

devynn emory, in collaboration with stevie may, Angie Pittman, and Jules Skloot

direction

devynn emory

written text

devynn emory in conversation with their patients, Nana, and Mark Aguhar

cinematography and editing

Jorge Cousineau

live performance

stevie may, Angie Pittman, Jules Skloot, devynn emory, and many the mannequin

film performance

devynn emory and many the mannequin

conversation partner

Okwui Okpokwasili

music composition and mixing

HPrizm

mannequin voice acting

Julia Bennett, Neil Greenberg, and Calvin Stalvig

mannequin audio production

Michael Ryterband

production/stage management

Reilly Horan

manny care team

Reilly Horan

Heather Kushner

Kelsey Leuken

Gina Siepel

3 Angels at Home Depot

film captioning

Yolanda Royster

the music in this film is comprised of mixed compositions by HPrizm and a cover of “Dancing Queen” by Hannah Grace (original music by ABBA).

can anybody help me hold this body team:

direction

devynn emory

institutional support

Danspace Project
Onassis USA
Bartram's Garden
Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)

altar design

devynn emory in collaboration with
Reilly Horan

production/stage management

Reilly Horan

altar carpenter

Jordan House, Soda Creek Furniture

sign carpenter

Dave Hall, Hall's Edge Inc.

gold leafing/props artist

Nayon Kim

website designer

Fei Liu

website producer

Leslie Cuyjet

House Manager

Toni Carlson

Crew

Ben Demarest

devynn emory is a mixed Lenape/ Blackfoot transgender choreographer, dance artist, bodyworker, ceremonial guide, and acute care and hospice nurse currently working as a COVID-19 nurse in NYC. emory's performance company devynnemory/beastproductions draws from their multiple in-between states of being, holding space for liminal bodies bridging multiple planes of transition. their formal dance training pulls on mathematical and mapped scores to support bodies decolonizing and bleeding human truths, opening peep holes and revelations for collective performers and audiences. they are currently working on a trilogy centering medical mannequins processing transitional mediumship. *deadbird* with it's touring public altar *can anyone help me hold this body* will be first. *Cindy Sessions* and *boiling-rain* are to follow which are interactive storytelling projects with an elder mannequin holding a collection of grandmother wisdom. As a healer they have dual licenses in "western" and "eastern" bodywork and run a private practice sage-massage that offers end of life consultation, channeled counseling and hands on care modalities in conversation with thresholds. you can find their work at devynnemory.com.

Okwui Okpokwasili is a Brooklyn-based performance maker. Her work includes two Bessie Award winning productions: *Pent-Up: a revenge dance* and *Bronx Gothic*. Other productions include *Poor People's TV Room*, and *Adaku's Revolt*. She was the "Lady in Green" in the Public Theater's revival of "For Colored Girls.." Okpokwasili recently co-curated the Danspace Project Platform, *Utterances From the Chorus*. An installation work is currently on view in the New Museum show, "Grief and Grievance: Art and Mourning in America." Her commissions, Residencies and awards: 10th Annual Berlin Biennale Commission, 2018 Doris Duke Artist Award in Contemporary Dance, 2018 USA Artist Fellow, 2018 Princeton Hodder Fellow, 2018 Herb Alpert Award in Dance, LMCC's Extended Life Program (2013-2016, 2019); The Foundation for Contemporary Arts' Artist Grant in Dance (2014), MOMA, The Young Vic, Tate Modern, the OnassisUSA Foundation, and CapUCLA. Okpokwasili is a 2018 MacArthur Fellow.

Joseph M. Pierce is Associate Professor in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature at Stony Brook University. His research focuses on the intersections of kinship, gender, sexuality, and race in Latin America, 19th century literature and culture, queer studies, Indigenous studies, and hemispheric approaches to citizenship and belonging. He is the author of *Argentine Intimacies: Queer Kinship in*

an Age of Splendor, 1890-1910 (SUNY Press, 2019) and co-editor of *Políticas del amor: Derechos sexuales y escrituras disidentes en el Cono Sur* (Cuarto Propio, 2018) as well as the forthcoming special issue of GLQ, "Queer/Cuir Américas: Translation, Decoloniality, and the Incommensurable." His work has been published recently in *Revista Hispánica Moderna*, *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *LARR*, and has also been featured in *Indian Country Today*. Along with SJ Norman (Koori of Wiradjuri descent) he is co-curator of the performance series *Knowledge of Wounds*. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

special thanks to

Judy Hussie-Taylor, Benjamin Akio Kimitch, Okwui Okpokwasili, Seta Morton and the Kin and Care collective, Lydia Bell, Sophie Sotsky, Lily Cohen, Jodi Bender, Yolanda Royster, Sev Kaufman, Jasmine Haynes, Deborah Kirschner, Lawrence Timberlake, Marty Woess, Gary Flores, Vallejo Ganter, Niki Cousineau, Jorge Cousineau, Scotty McPheeters, Brian Rogers, Sheila Lewandowski, Blaze Ferrer, Madeline Best, Demetries Morrow, Melissa West, Shawna Salmon, Jenny Kelly, Peter Musante, Andrew Schneider, ayo ohs, Bran Fenner, Yanira Castro, Ryan Kelly, Morgan Bassichis, Fatima Adamu, New York Peace Institute, the Knowledge of Wounds family, Nurse Babin and Doctor Manda (Nana's medical team), Dulce Izaguirre, Nayon Kim, Leslie Cuyjet, Fei Liu, IV Castellanos, Irit Reinheimer, Aretha Aoki, Tara Aisha Willis, Anna Gallagher-Ross, Ron Berry, Kristin Juarez, Kristy Edmunds, Erin Boberg, Roya Amirsoleymani, Kristan Kennedy, Mami Takahashi, Kevin Holden, Leslie Vigeant, Reuben Roqueni, Anthony Hudson, Carlee Smith, Aseel Rasheed, Shanna Mitchell, LJ Brubaker, Roin Morigeau, leeba emory, Angbeen Saleem, Amanda Mays, Brett Smith-Hams, Cayden Halligan, Angie Manes, the many people who offered food and mutual aid PPE during the COVID-19 times, and the many patients who offered their stories as teachers.

deadbird and *can anybody help me hold this body* were commissioned and premiered at Danspace Project in 2021 and were a part of the Eureka Commissions Program by Onassis USA.

They were created with residency support at YouAreNowhere (NYC), Chocolate Factory Theater (NYC), Snug Harbor Residency (NYC), and Subcircle (ME) with additional support by Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

Special Thanks to community partner, Prospect Park Alliance



Mission & History

Danspace Project presents new work in dance, supports a diverse range of choreographers in developing their work, encourages experimentation, and connects artists to audiences.

For over 45 years, Danspace Project has supported a vital community of contemporary dance artists in an environment unlike any other in the United States. Located in the historic St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, Danspace shares its facility with the Church, The Poetry Project, and New York Theatre Ballet. Danspace Project's Commissioning Initiative has commissioned over 570 new works since its inception in 1994.

Danspace Project's Choreographic Center Without Walls (CW²) provides context for audiences and increased support for artists. Our public programs (including Danspace Presents, Platforms, Food for Thought, DraftWork), Commissioning Initiative, residencies, guest artist curators, and contextualizing activities and materials are core components of CW² offering a responsive framework for artists' works. Since 2010, we have produced twelve Platforms, published thirteen print catalogues and five e-books, launched the Conversations Without Walls discussion series, and explored models for public discourse and residencies.

Follow Us

Instagram: @DanspaceProject

Twitter: @DanspaceProject

Facebook: Danspace Project

danspaceproject.org

Danspace Project's Online Journal

Issue #11: *trembling archive* is ongoing with new posts weekly!

danspaceproject.org/journal

Danspace Project
Performances and Events
Winter 2021

All Winter 2021 Performances and events take place online.

February 17 | 10am-1pm
Samita Sinha
Breathing Room

April 1-3 | 12-4pm
devynn emory
can anybody help me
hold this body

February 26 | 5pm
Conversations Without Walls: devynn emory & Angie Pittman

April 9 | 5pm
Conversations Without Walls: iele paloumpis & Alice Sheppard

RSVP
online at
danspaceproject.org or by
phone at (866) 811-4111
(OvationTix/TheaterMania)

March 12 | 5pm
DraftWork: Athena Kokoronis

April 21 | 10am-1pm
Samita Sinha
Breathing Room

March 17 | 10am-1pm
Samita Sinha
Breathing Room

April 23 | 5pm
DraftWork: J Bouey / Jordan Demetrius Lloyd

Be Bold!
Become a Member!
Danspace Project members get exclusive benefits and experience a vital part of New York City's dance community. Support the presentation of innovative new dance, get great deals on tickets, and much more!

March 26 | 5pm
Conversations Without Walls: Jaamil Olawale Kosoko & Larissa Velez-Jackson

April 26
Virtual Gala 2021
Rebel Angels
honoring Bebe Millier,
Annie-B Parson,
and Pat Steir

March 31 | 7pm
devynn emory
deadbird premiere &
Conversation with Okwui
Okpokwasili

Join at
danspaceproject.org/support

Thanks to our Funders

Danspace Project's 2020-2021 Commissioning Initiative and Residency Program receives generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and The New York State Council on the Arts, as well as the generous individuals that support the Creation Fund.

Danspace Project's 2020-2021 season, including the DraftWork and Conversations Without Walls series, is presented, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Danspace Project programs are made possible in part through **public funds** from the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the NYS DanceForce, a partnership program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; and Materials for the Arts (a joint program of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Sanitation).

Danspace Project extends special thanks to City Council Majority Leader and Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, and State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick for their advocacy and support.

Danspace Project gratefully acknowledges the **private support** of Anonymous; The Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts; Barbara Bell Cumming Foundation; Cultural Services of the French Embassy; Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; FUSED (French U.S. Exchange in Dance), a program developed by FACE Foundation and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States with support from the Florence Gould Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Institut français- Paris, the French Ministry of Culture

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Danspace Project is also appreciative of the support of individuals, including donors, Members at every level, and its 2020-2021 Leadership Circle, which includes Carol Bryce-Buchanan; Barbara Castelli; Terry Creach; Vallejo Gantner; Allyson Green; Gary Hattem & Frazier Holloway; Dorothy Lichtenstein; Glenn Ligon; Ellen & George Needham; Derek Sands; Martha Sherman; Christina Sterner; Lena Stringari; and David and Monica Zwirner.

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Danspace Project Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Individuals

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Carol J. Bryce-Buchanan
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Terry Creach
Vallejo Gantner
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Gary Hattem & Frazier
Holloway
Dorothy Lichtenstein
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Martha Sherman
Christina L. Sterner
Lena Stringari
David and Monica
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\$5,000+

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As of March 31, 2021

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Visit Us!

Danspace Project is located inside the historic St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery at 131 East 10th Street (at 2nd Avenue) in New York City's East Village.

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danspaceproject.org