
Danspace Project

Fall 2021

DraftWork:
Kayla Hamilton /
Julie Mayo
curated by Ishmael Houston-Jones

Saturday, December 4, 2021 | 12pm ET

Kayla Hamilton
this/that

Performance and Choreography: Kayla Hamilton with members of AXIS Dance Company; Yuko Monden Juma, DeMarco Sleeper, JanpiStar and Sonsherée Giles

Audio Descriptions: Yuko Monden Juma, DeMarco Sleeper, JanpiStar, Sonsherée Giles

ASL Interpretation: Brandon Kazen-Maddox

Captions: Shannon Yu

Music: "Dark was the night" by Blind Willie Johnson and "Vibez" by Dababy

Video excerpt: Sammie Amachree

This work was crafted for the Zoom space as this was the vehicle we were using. The work would live differently if it was taken out of the studio.

For this piece, you will find multiple layers of audio description -- some as external description and some as dialogue in the piece. In addition to sharing the words, the ASL interpreter will also communicate the structural impacts and effects of the words.

I am aware of the tension between access and artistry. Aesthetic access is a critical contemporary conversation in our community, and artists are taking risks and exploring how access can be an aesthetic inside the work.

This piece was developed with the 2021 AXIS Choreo-Lab, sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Kayla Hamilton (she/her) is an artist, experience creator and educator based in The Bronx, NY. She is a member of the 2017 Bessie-award winning collective of *skeleton architecture, the future of our worlds*, curated by Eva Yaa Asantewaa. In addition to *skeleton architecture*, Kayla has been in process with Gesel Mason Performance Projects, Sydnie L. Mosley Dances, and Maria Bauman Morales/MBDance. Kayla's creative explorations have been presented

at Gibney, Performance Space New York and New Live Arts. When Kayla is not dancing, she's a special education teacher at the Highbridge Green School who loves to watch *Law and Order* on Hulu while sipping on peppermint tea.

Julie Mayo
what will i be wearing?

Created and performed by Julie Mayo

Recorded sound by Alog

Thank you to Mathew Pokoik for the space.

Julie Mayo has been making dances for 20+ years. She is also a performer and a teacher. Her work has been called "an associative, sometimes absurdist choreographer" by the New Yorker and in New York her choreography has been presented by The Chocolate Factory, The Kitchen (DAP), Gibney Dance, New York Live Arts (Fresh Tracks), JACK, Dixon Place, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Brooklyn Studios for Dance and alongside the visual artwork of James Bierdeman at the Elizabeth Harris Gallery. Her work has also been presented at NOHspace in San Francisco, Highways Performance Space in Los Angeles and multiple venues in Chicago and in Richmond, Virginia, where she is originally from. Julie has been an Artist-in-Residence at Movement Research, Center for Performance Research and is currently a 2021 Gibney DiP Resident Artist. She has been a recipient of residencies at Yaddo, Djerassi, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Ucross, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Mount Tremper Arts. She has taught at many universities and colleges as a guest artist, at community venues, and currently teaches through Movement Research, the online + live platform freeskewl, and on her own Zoom'in platform.

Ishmael Houston-Jones is a choreographer, author, performer, teacher, and curator. His improvised dance and text work has been performed world-wide. He has received three New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Awards for collaborations with writer Dennis Cooper, choreographers Miguel Gutierrez and Fred Holland and composers Chris Cochrane and Nick Hallett. Houston-Jones curated Danspace Project’s Platform 2012: *Parallels*, which concentrated on choreographers from the African diaspora and postmodernism and co-curated with Will Rawls Platform 2016: *Lost & Found*. Houston-Jones’ work has been supported by The Herb Alpert Foundation, The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts and The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation.

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About Danspace Project

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.

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, so it is reasonable to assume that this building where we are when we stand, sit, dance, and some still worship, was built by en-slaved individuals on what was the homeland of the Lenape people.” - Ishmael Houston-Jones (Read more at danspaceproject.org/about)