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# Danspace Project

Fall 2022

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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.

## 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 provides context for audiences and increased support for artists. Our public programs (including Danspace Presents, Platforms, Food for Thought, DraftWork, Conversations Without Walls, and Publications), Commissioning Initiative, residencies, guest artist curators, and contextualizing activities and materials offer a responsive framework for artists' works.

## THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

Danspace Project gratefully acknowledges the private support of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters ArtsForward Program, made possible through support from the Mellon Foundation; The Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts; The Barbara Bell Cumming Charitable Trust; The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation; Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Howard Gilman Foundation; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; Marta Heflin Foundation; Jerome Foundation; Lambent Foundation Fund, a fund of the Tides Foundation; the Mellon Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, made possible with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Mellon Foundation; The New York Community Trust—George N. and Mary D. Lindsay Fund; Jerome Robbins Foundation; James E. Robison Foundation; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc.; The Shubert Foundation; and the Henry Luce Foundation, the Teiger Foundation, and Willem de Kooning Foundation, through the Coalition of Small Arts.

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 the Office of the Governor 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 the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature); the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; and the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant and the Payroll Protection Program.

Danspace Project extends special thanks to City Council members including Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Chi Ossé, District 2 representative Carlina Rivera, and Speaker

Adrienne E. Adams; New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, and State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick for their advocacy and support; as well as gratitude for Senator Charles E. Schumer's visionary leadership of the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program.

Danspace Project is incredibly grateful for the support of individual Donors and Members including the 2021-2022 Leadership Gifts: Sarah Arison, Jody & John Arnhold, Yona Backer, Paul Bader, Niki Berg, Suzanne Bocanegra, Julio Cabanillas, Anthony Calnek, Barbara Bertozzi Castelli, Kim Chan, Dr. Chui & Echo Tsang, Sara Coffey, Aidan Connolly, Paula Cooper, Terry Creach, Diana DiMenna, Katie Dixon & Richard Fleming, Hilary Easton & Joshua McHugh, David Fanger, Simone Forti, Vallejo Gantner, Becky Goldring, Jane Hait, Pearl Huang & Peter Hobbs, Mara Isaacs, Colleen Keegan, Thomas Lax, Melissa Levin, Carol LeWitt, Yael Mandelstam & Kenneth Tabachnick, Cynthia Mayeda, Frances Milberg, Edward Miller, Timothy & Virginia Millhiser, Rashaun Mitchell & Silas Riener, Ellen & George Needham, Sarah Needham, Jody Oberfelder, Eiko Otake, David Parker, Jana Reed, Judilee Reed, Sara Rudner, Kimberly Ayers Shariff, Amy Schwartzman, Martha Sherman, Linda Stein, Pat Steir, Christina Sterner & Steve Poses, David Thompson & Ginger Chapman, Helen Warwick, Nina Winthrop, Anthony Zisa, and David & Monica Zwirner.

Danspace Project receives additional support from Ford Foundation, Moody's Foundation, and The William Penn Foundation through matching gift programs.

Special thanks to the following supporters for their generosity in many forms throughout the years: Elise Bernhardt and fleur elise bklm, the Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust, Ozone Design, and Ugly Duckling Presse.

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*Danspace Project would like to acknowledge the generosity of former Board member and ongoing Leadership Supporter Terry Creach, who passed away suddenly this fall.*

*Our heartfelt gratitude for his support of Danspace, in many ways, for many years.*

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Danspace Project  
Performances and Events  
Fall 2022

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**SEPTEMBER 19-23**

Residency:  
Mina Nishimura

**SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 1**

Residency:  
Leslie Parker

**OCTOBER 3-7**

Residency:  
Tere O'Connor

**OCTOBER 22 | 3PM**

DraftWork:  
Tess Dworman / Stacy Spence

**NOVEMBER 3-5 | 7:30PM**

Mina Nishimura  
*Mapping a Forest while Searching for an  
Opposite Term of Exorcist*

**NOVEMBER 17-19 | 7:30PM**

Christopher "Unpezverde" Núñez  
*The Circle or Prophetic Dream*

**DECEMBER 8-10 | 7:30PM**

Stephen Petronio Company Bloodlines/  
Bloodlines(*future*): Davalois Fearon, Johnnie  
Cruise Mercer, Tendayi Kuumba & Greg  
Purnell, Steve Paxton, Stephen Petronio

**DECEMBER 7-10 & 14-17 | 7:30PM**

Tere O'Connor  
*Rivulets*  
at Baryshnikov Arts Center

**DECEMBER 17 | 3PM**

DraftWork:  
Martita Abril / Nora Alami

**Admission**

\$20 General Admission (unless otherwise noted)  
Wheelchair user tickets are available  
\$10 Danspace Project members

**BUY TICKETS NOW**

Visit [danspaceproject.org](https://danspaceproject.org) (through OvationTix/  
TheaterMania).

**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!  
Join at [danspaceproject.org/support](https://danspaceproject.org/support)

**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.

**FOLLOW US**

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Danspace Project and Stephen Petronio Company Present

**Stephen Petronio Company**  
**Bloodlines/Bloodlines(*future*)**

**Thursday, December 8, 7:30pm**

**Friday, December 9, 7:30pm**

**Saturday, December 10, 7:30pm**

**Steve Paxton**

**Reconstruction of *JAG VILL GÄRNA TELEFONERA (I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE  
A PHONE CALL)* (1964/1982)**

**Stephen Petronio**

***RE NEW NEW PRAYER FOR NOW* (2022)**

*~Intermission~*

**Davalois Fearon**

**Excerpts of *FINDING HERSTORY* (2021)**

**Johnnie Cruise Mercer**

***PROCESS MEMOIR 7 (VOL. 8): "BACK TO LOVE"* (World Premiere)**

**Tendayi Kuumba & Greg Purnell (ÜFlyMothership)**

***THE ADVENTURES OF MR. LEFT BRAIN AND MS. RIGHT* (World Premiere)**

*Content Advisory: There will be flashes of light in projected materials  
throughout parts of tonight's performance.*

### A note from Stephen Petronio

This program is about connections through time. There is a lineage of experimentation and trust in movement in these works that has had a deep impact on my life. It starts with Steve Paxton, a postmodern legend and inventor of the improvisational form, Contact Improvisation. Steve was also an early teacher of mine at the very start of my career at Hampshire College in 1974. Tonight, we present ***Jag Vill Gärna Telefonera (I Would Like to Make a Phone Call)*** (1964/1982), a score he danced with another icon and visual artist, Robert Rauschenberg. There is no recording of that performance, but in 1982, Paxton asked me to create a version of this score with Randy Warshaw, a dancer and colleague who I improvised with in my early days at Hampshire College and then danced with in the Trisha Brown Dance Company in the '80s. Tonight, as part of SPC's Bloodlines Initiative, you will see the Petronio/Warshaw reconstruction of Steve's score, which originally premiered on this very stage in 1982.

The second work on the program is my own Stephen Petronio Company offering created with my dancers. The process first started at a "bubble residency" at Petronio Residency Center during the first COVID-19 lockdown and was a life raft of hope and artistic survival. It began as a dance film titled ***New Prayer For Now*** (2020) and morphed into a live performance at the Joyce Theater as ***New New Prayer For Now*** (2021) when the world cracked open again. Now, this piece is reimagined for Danspace Project's St. Mark's Church sanctuary as ***RE New New Prayer For Now*** (2022), a meditation on connection: connection to space, to each other and to you, the

audience.

After intermission, you will see works by three artists that have inspired my hope of what is to come. Davalois Fearon, Johnnie Cruise Mercer and Tendayi Kumba/Greg Purnell (ÜFlyMothership) were commissioned by SPC for Bloodlines(*future*), the forward looking eye of the Bloodlines Initiative that looks to new voices in the field to facilitate needed future-facing dialogue and innovation in the modern dance field. I love these artists. Our connection starts as simple inspiration, admiration, and support. The best way SPC can serve them is to simply present opportunity, then step out of their way. While I care deeply about their trajectory, it is theirs to invent. So I won't say much about these works except to watch them for their wonderful spirit. I hope this small encouragement for them is understood as a deep belief in what they have in store for us as artists in the years to come.

- Stephen Petronio, Founder and Artistic Director of Stephen Petronio Company

### WORKS

#### **Reconstruction of *JAG VILL GÄRNA TELEFONERA (I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL)* (1964/1982)**

Score: Steve Paxton

Reconstruction: Stephen Petronio and Randy Warshaw

Performed by: Ryan Pliss and Nicholas Sciscione

Lighting: Joe Doran

Produced by the Bennington College Judson Project

**Steve Paxton** (Choreographer) is the founder of Contact Improvisation. Paxton began his movement studies in gymnastics and then trained in martial arts, ballet, and modern dance. In the summer of 1958, Paxton attended the American Dance Festival at Connecticut College, where he trained with choreographers Merce Cunningham and José Limón. After moving to NYC, he was a member of the José Limón Company in 1959 and of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 1961-64. He was a founding member of the dance collectives Judson Dance Theater and Grand Union.

#### ***RE NEW NEW PRAYER FOR NOW* (2022)**

Concept & Choreography: Stephen Petronio

Dancers: Larissa Asebedo, Liviya England, Michaela Esteban, Jaqlin Medlock, Tess Montoya, Ryan Pliss, and Nicholas Sciscione

Original Music: Monstah Black, recorded with the Young People's Chorus of New York City

Inspired by 'Balm in Gilead' by Harry Thacker Burleigh and 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' by Paul Simon  
Costume Design: Marine Penvern

Lighting: Ken Tabachnick and Joe Doran

The mission of **Stephen Petronio Company (SPC)** is to support the vision of choreographer Stephen Petronio, which includes the creation and presentation of his existing and new works, alongside legacy initiatives meant to preserve the history of postmodern dance lineage, while also advancing its future through new works that honor and extend the history and offer a platform for a greater inclusivity of artistic voices.

Founded in 1984, Stephen Petronio Company has performed in over 40 countries throughout the world, including numerous New York City engagements with 25 seasons at The Joyce Theater. The Company has been commissioned by Dance Umbrella Festival/London, Hebbel Theater/Berlin, Scène National de Sceaux, Festival d'Automne à Paris, CNDC Angers/France, The Holland Festival, Festival Montpellier Danse, Danceworks UK Ltd, Festival de Danse-Cannes, and in the U.S. by San Francisco Performances, The Joyce Theater, UCSB Arts & Lectures, Wexner Center for the Arts, Walker Art Center, and White Bird, among others and is the recipient of a Dancing Lab residency at The National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron (NCCAkron).

The 2014-15 season marked the first incarnation of Bloodlines, a project of Stephen Petronio Company to honor and embody a lineage of American postmodern dance masters. Distinguished for creating original languages that exemplify the highest level of artistic excellence displayed through extreme physical and conceptual rigor, these artists have had a profound impact on

Petronio's own artistic path. To date, the Company has restaged twelve works, by Merce Cunningham, Trisha Brown, Anna Halprin, Yvonne Rainer, Rudy Perez, and Steve Paxton, receiving two New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award nominations for the 2017 Bloodlines season. The juxtapositions of Bloodlines repertory alongside Petronio's works offers audiences an experiential insight into the evolution of this strand of creativity in American choreography. This season is the third iteration of Bloodlines(*future*), a program that commissions future generations of artists and heirs to the Bloodlines lineage, exemplifying how these historical masters frame the future of modern dance.

In 2017, Stephen Petronio Company expanded its focus on American postmodern dance to explore the meaning of legacy and its impact on the future and sustainability of this most ephemeral art form by establishing the Petronio Residency Center (PRC), which provides a safe haven for intensive developmental choreographic research. Located in the Hudson Valley, PRC supports future choreographic invention in the field with artist residencies and education initiatives. The program has since served over 100 artists, becoming part of a growing ecosystem in the U.S. dedicated to fostering a new model for the future of contemporary dance.

In 2021, with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, PRC established a permanent conservation easement for 77 acres of the 175-acre property, designating The Doris Duke Preserve at Round Top, Greene County as a preserve in perpetuity, putting PRC at

the forefront of regional conservation efforts. Sheltered in and enlivened by the restorative and inspirational power of the natural world, artists at PRC are invited to immerse themselves in a pristine natural environment, benefitting from a residency and a retreat with unconstrained time and resources to make new work, with no deliverables required, and unfettered access to an extraordinary natural landscape.

**Stephen Petronio** (Founder and Artistic Director, SPC) is a choreographer, dancer, and the Artistic Director of the Stephen Petronio Company. For over 30 years, Stephen Petronio has honed a unique language of movement that speaks to the intuitive and complex possibilities of the body informed by its shifting cultural context. He has collaborated with a wide range of artists in many disciplines over his career and holds the integration of multiple forms as fundamental to his creative drive and vision. He continues to create a haven for dancers with a keen interest in the history of contemporary movement and an appetite for the unknown. Petronio was born in Newark, New Jersey, and received a B.A. from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he began his early training in improvisation and dance technique. He was greatly influenced by working with Steve Paxton and was the first male dancer of the Trisha Brown Dance Company (1979 to 1986). He has gone on to build a unique career, receiving numerous accolades, including a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, awards from the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, an American Choreographer Award, a New York Dance and Performance

"Bessie" Award, and a 2015 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award.

Petronio has created over 35 works for his company and has been commissioned by some of the world's most prestigious modern and ballet companies, including William Forsythe's Ballet Frankfurt (1987), Deutsche Oper Berlin (1992), Lyon Opera Ballet (1994), Maggio Danza Florence (1996), Sydney Dance Company (2003, full evening), Norrdans (2006), the Washington Ballet (2007), The Scottish Ballet (2007), and two works for National Dance Company Wales (2010 and 2013). Over his career, Petronio has collaborated with a wide range of artists in many disciplines. Collaborators include some of the most talented and provocative artists in the world: composers Valgeir Sigurðsson, Nico Muhly, Rufus Wainwright, Lou Reed, Laurie Anderson, and Peter Gordon; visual artists Robert Longo, Cindy Sherman, Anish Kapoor, Donald Baechler, and Janine Antoni; fashion designers Narciso Rodriguez, John Bartlett, Benjamin Cho, and Leigh Bowery.

**Larissa Asebedo** (Dancer, SPC) grew up in Denver, Colorado until attending and graduating summa cum laude from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase. There she completed her BFA in dance and minor in psychology while also studying abroad in Perth, Australia. Since moving to Brooklyn, Larissa has had the pleasure of working professionally with Rachel Germond, Daniel Gwartzman, Megan Mizanty, Kensaku Shinohara, L'Opera de Lyon, and the Merce Cunningham Trust. Larissa joined Stephen Petronio Company in 2020 and enjoys her other vocation teaching dance to kids and teens.

**Liviya England** (Dancer, SPC) began training in her hometown of Minneapolis. She ventured to New York at 16 to study at the Ailey School where she dedicated her pursuits to modern dance as the recipient of the Oprah Winfrey Foundation and Toulmin Scholarships. She graduated from NYU Tisch School of The Arts with academic honors while studying Dance and Social and Cultural Analysis. Throughout her time in New York, Liviya has performed in the works of Wayne McGregor, Sidra Bell, Christian von Howard, and Earl Mosley. She is thrilled to join Stephen Petronio Company for the first time this season and continues to indulge in her practice as a movement artist.

**Michaela Esteban** (Dancer, SPC) (she/her) is a Filipina-American freelance dance artist. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she performed works by Shannon Gillen, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Ohad Naharin, Alex Springer and Xan Burley, and Doris Humphrey, among others. Upon graduation, Michaela spent a season as a performing apprentice with GroundWorks DanceTheater. Since moving to New York, she has had the pleasure of dancing with the Wilder Project and little house dance. Currently she collaborates with GREYZONE and The Moving Architects. Michaela is so grateful to be working with Stephen Petronio Company!

**Jaqlin Medlock** (Dancer, SPC) works with people in need of capturing movement, as a dancer, photographer, and occasionally a model. Medlock is from the Bronx, NY and holds a BFA in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College. She has performed works by various

artists, including Nacho Duato, Angelin Preljocaj, Donald Byrd, Max Stone, Tyce Diorio, Sonya Tayeh, Julie Bour, Pedro Ruiz, and Nejla Yarkin. Medlock joined Stephen Petronio Company in 2011. She was named “On The Rise” by Dance Magazine in 2012, and received a TWI-NY Pandemic Award for Best Solo Dance Performance in 2020.

**Tess Montoya** (Dancer and Education Director, SPC) was raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she began her training at the National Dance Institute of New Mexico. She graduated from Point Park University with a Bachelor of Arts in dance. Since moving to New York, Montoya has worked with Megan Kendzior, Daniel Gwirtzman, Daniel Roberts, and Alexandria Giroux. She has taken part in multiple workshops and performances through the Merce Cunningham Trust Fellowship Program. Tess is currently General Manager with Davalois Fearon Dance. She joined Stephen Petronio Company in 2015 and is Director of the Company’s Education Program.

**Ryan Pliss** (Dancer, SPC) originally from Ithaca, New York, received a BFA in Dance Performance from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase in 2014. He has had the pleasure to work and perform with many renowned choreographers such as Nelly van Bommel/NØA DANCE, Julie Bour, Johannes Wieland, and Doug Varone. Ryan currently dances with Kimberly Bartosik/Daëla and has been performing with the Stephen Petronio Company since 2017.

**Nicholas Sciscione** (Dancer and Assistant to the Artistic Director, SPC) was born

and raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He graduated magna cum laude with a BFA in Dance from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in 2011. Sciscione has worked with Netta Yerushalmy, Joshua Beamish, Kyle Marshall Choreography, and 10 Hairy Legs. He is a student of Susan Klein and the Klein Technique. Sciscione joined Stephen Petronio Company in 2011 and has been the Assistant to the Artistic Director since 2016. He has been nominated for “NY Bessie Awards Outstanding Performer” in 2017 and 2021.

**Monstah Black** (Musician) (they) is a recording/performing artist and is half of the DJ/electronic duo The Illustrious Blacks w/ husband Manchilblack. Monstah’s work has been commissioned by The Phillips Collection x The Royal Collection as well as several dance companies along the east coast. Awards include: 2021 Bessie Award nominee for Outstanding Music Composition/Sound Design, Open Call The Shed, The Tom Murrin Performance Award, Franklin Furnace Fund, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, American Music Center Live Music for Dance and NYSCA. They have garnered support from organizations including Dixon Place and Joe’s Pub/ Public Theater to name a few.

**Joe Doran** (Lighting Supervisor, Technical Director) Broadway (Asst. LD): *Summer, the Donna Summer Musical, Prince of Broadway, Doctor Zhivago the Musical, Magic/Bird*; National Tours (Asst. LD): *Hamilton, Joseph...Dreamcoat, Anything Goes, West Side Story, Flashdance the Musical, In the Heights*; NYC Dance: Stephen Petronio Company, Sean Curran Company, Armitage Gone! Dance, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Michela Marino

Lerman, and Martha Graham Dance Company, among others. Regional design credits include VA Repertory Theatre, The Fulton Theatre, Bristol Riverside Theatre, Alpine Theatre Project, The Atlanta Ballet, and Swift Creek Mill Theatre. 2008, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2017, and 2020 recipient of the Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award (Artsie.) Graduate of NC School of the Arts and member of USA Local 829. [www.joedorandesign.com](http://www.joedorandesign.com)

**Marine Penvern** (Costume Designer) Originally from France, self-taught polymorph Marine Penvern’s work spans from music and painting to fashion design. Her signature fashion designs led her to create costumes for dance since 2006 from her eponymous downtown Manhattan atelier, drawing inspirations for her designs while putting looks together for extraordinary dancers and choreographers. Penvern has recently opened her new atelier in Hudson, New York where she is now based. Alongside Stephen Petronio Company her collaborative efforts include work with David Michalek, Wendy Whelan, Lucinda Child, Zack Winokur, Emory LeCrone, Adam Weinert and Adam Barruch. “Without dance my clothing wouldn’t exist.” ~ Marine Penvern

**Ken Tabachnick** (Resident Lighting Designer, SPC) is currently the Executive Director of the Merce Cunningham Trust, where he oversees all operations and long-term planning. Prior to that, Ken worked as a Senior Associate at AEA Consulting. From 2013-2016, he was Deputy Dean at the Tisch School of the Arts, NYU and prior to joining Tisch, he was the first Dean of the School of the Arts at Purchase College, where

he oversaw the arts. Before joining academia, Ken was the General Manager for New York City Ballet (NYCB), where, in addition to overseeing administrative aspects of operations, he supervised the renovation of the David H. Koch Theater. He began his career as a lighting designer and is a Bessie Award winner for his work with Stephen Petronio. Ken earned his J. D. from Fordham Law School in 1996 and holds a 3rd degree black belt in Taekwondo.

### ***Intermission***

**Excerpts of *FINDING HERSTORY* (2021)**  
Artistic Direction and Concept: Davalois Fearon  
Choreography: Davalois Fearon  
Dancer: Davalois Fearon  
Understudy: Jalisa Wallerson  
Production Assistant: Julieta Rodriguez-Cruz  
Music: Music: Compilation of Dancehall edited by Davalois Fearon  
*Segregated Me* by Mike McGinnis,  
*Forwards Backwards* by Mike McGinnis recorded live at IBeam and performed by Peter Apfelbaum on piano, Mike McGinnis on Saxophone, and Allan Mednard on Drums  
Costume by Davalois Fearon and Jasmine Murrell  
Wearable Sculpture: Jasmine Murrell  
Lighting: Joe Doran  
Projections by André Zachery

*Finding Herstory* is a solo dance project created and performed by Davalois Fearon. It was commissioned by the Stephen Petronio Company for the 2021 Bloodlines(*future*), and was made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts

with support from Governor Hochul and New York State Legislature. *Finding Herstory* is inspired by Africanist forms such as reggae and dancehall that have contributed to the American dance landscape and shaped Fearon as an artist.

*The creation of Excerpts of Finding Herstory was made possible by support from individual donors and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the Bronx Council on the Arts. In addition, the creative development was supported, in part, by Dance/NYC's Dance Advancement Fund, made possible by Howard Gilman Foundation and Ford Foundation, the Mosaic Network and Fund in The New York Community Trust, and the 2022 Bronx Dance Fund from the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), founded through support from the Mertz Gilmore Foundation.*

**Davalois Fearon** (Choreographer and 2021 Bloodlines(future) Commissionee) a 2017 Bessie awardee and a 2021-22 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow finalist, is a critically acclaimed choreographer, dancer, and educator. Her dancing, praised by colleagues as “unapologetic” and by critics as “electrifying,” was honed over 12 years with the Stephen Petronio Company (2005–2017), where she was an audience favorite for her bold performances. Born in Jamaica and raised in the Bronx, Fearon’s choreography is said to embody a “tenacious virtuosity” that is now reflected in her work as founder and director of Davalois Fearon Dance (DFD). Established in 2016, DFD pushes artistic and social boundaries to highlight injustice and inequality and spark vital conversations about change. Fearon’s work has been presented nationally and

internationally, including at New York City venues such as the Joyce Theatre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the New Victory Theater. Among many others, she has completed commissions for the Bronx Museum of the Arts and Barnard College. Her abundant honors and awards include Mosaic Network & Fund, DanceNYC’s Dance Advancement Fund Award, as well as grants from the MAP Fund and the Howard Gilman Foundation, and her company has enjoyed continuous support from the Bronx Council of the Arts. Fearon has been featured in publications such as The New York Times and The New Yorker, in poet Ntozake Shange’s book, *Dance We Do: A Poet Explores Black Dance*, and in the 2019 documentary film, *If the Dancer Dances*.

**Jasmine Murrell** (Wearable Structure Designer) is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary visual artist who employs several different mediums to create sculptures, installations, photography, performance, land art and films that blur the line between history and mythology. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, in venues such as the Museum of Contemporary Art; the Bronx Museum; the Museum Contemporary Art Chicago; the Whitney Museum, the African-American Museum of Art, and the International Museum of Photography. Murrell has been a resident artist at the Bronx Museum AIM program; Baxter St. Gallery workspace; BRIClab Contemporary Art Residency and Block Gallery workspace. Her work has been included in the book *MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora*, and The New York Times, Ebony, Time Magazine, Hyperallergic, The Detroit Times and several other publications.

**Mike McGinnis** (Musician) is a saxophonist, clarinetist, and composer, and musical explorer unbound by stylistic barriers; unwaveringly individual, curious, and open-minded. He has released five critically acclaimed albums as a leader during his twenty-two years in the NYC jazz scene. In April of 2017 and 2018, he performed to sold-out houses at the world-famous Jazz Standard in NYC, leading a trio with jazz legends Art Lande and Steve Swallow. As musical director of Davalois Fearon Dance, he has performed his compositions at the Joyce Theater, New Victory Theater, New York City Center, Metropolitan Museum, Harlem Stage, Rubin Museum, Bronx Museum and was the recipient of a 2019 MAP Fund Grant. For four consecutive years, he has been listed in the Clarinet “Rising Star” category by the DownBeat Magazine International Critics Poll.

**Julieta Rodriguez-Cruz** (Production Assistant) is a dancer and emerging choreographer from the Bronx. She participated in the 2020 Dance your Bronx UP! choreography program with BAAD! under the mentorship of Alethea Pace. Julieta is also a recent graduate of Hunter College (2022) where she received her BA in dance. As a student she performed in works by Kyle Abraham and Christian Von Howard. During her time at Hunter, she also gained a deep interest in lightning design and lit for several of her peers’ works. After graduation, Julieta worked as the assistant lighting designer and stage manager for Davalois Fearon Dance. Dava has been my teacher since I was 14 years old and it’s always exciting to work with her. I’m grateful for her mentorship and for all the opportunities she and her company has given me to grow in my craft. I’m thrilled to be her

production assistant for this Danspace program.

**Jalisa Wallerson** (Understudy) is a 22-year-old technically trained NYC based dancer and choreographer. Born in Brooklyn, New York, she started her training with Victory Music and Dance Company INC at the age of eleven years old. She then went on to attend Brooklyn High School of the Arts. During her summers, Jalisa Wallerson attended Earl Mosley’s Institute of the Arts where she got the chance to work with Clifton Brown, Alexander Diaz, Antonio Brown, Ruddy Frias, and Earl Mosley. She made her debut in a commercial for the Nike x NYC Parks collection launch back in 2019. Jalisa is currently at Hunter College pursuing her bachelor’s degree in dance with a psychology minor so that she can continue to perform and teach professionally. As Dava’s understudy, Jalisa says she “is honored to work with such an educated and talented role model. I feel truly blessed to work closely with Dava. Representation is important and being a young black woman in the dance community, I find it refreshing to stand alongside her.”

**PROCESS MEMOIR 7 (VOL. 8):  
"BACK TO LOVE"**

Directed, Choreographed, and Performed  
by Johnnie Cruise Mercer  
Creative Management by Brooke Rucker  
Lighting Design by Joe Doran  
Lighting Design is after original designs  
by Carol Mullins from 2019's *Process  
Memoir 4: The Word, the Spirit, and Little  
Rock*.

"After six years, things feel like they have  
finally come full circle. I am happy that  
the circle led back to love. I am eager to  
live and move onward with it. One step,  
one beat at a time." - from Johnnie

**Night 1**

DJ Party Night w/DJ BSTFRND  
A night launching from Ludus (playful  
love), flying into Mania (obsessive love),  
and landing in Eros (romantic, passionate  
love).

**Night 2**

Family Night on the Block w/Sound  
Design by DJTonyMonkey  
Videographer, Jordan Brookins  
And guest appearances by the  
young movement artists of  
MelaninMovementNYC  
A night sitting with Storge (familiar love),  
and embracing Philia (affectionate love).

**Night 3**

Sermon by Johnnie Cruise Mercer w/  
Audience Facilitation  
A night speaking on Philautia (self love),  
moving with Pragma (enduring love), and  
dedicated to Agape (selfless, universal  
love).

"back to love" marks the eighth and final  
formally presented volume within *Process*

*memoir 7: Volumes on Black Philosophy,  
Othered Possibility, and Freedom  
(through Rest, Unrestricted Thought  
thus Imagination)*. The seventh process  
memoir in Johnnie Cruise Mercer's  
current six year anthology project, *A  
Process Anthology: The Decade from Hell  
and the Decade that Followed Suite*, this  
chapter in the anthology activates itself  
as a series of facilitated experiments,  
events, curations, retreats, and projects  
commissioned to ignite collaboration.  
Unlike other process memoirs, this  
chapter of the process anthology  
renders its goals completely outside of  
the context of performing; embracing  
alternate ways to view, produce, and take  
on work.

*This process was created as a 2022 Center  
for Performance Research AIR.*

**Johnnie Cruise Mercer**, a 2022 Dance  
Magazine Harkness Promise Award  
Recipient, and a 2021 Princess Grace  
Award Recipient (Choreography),  
is a queer-black think-maker; a  
choreographer, an educator, and a social  
entrepreneur based in Brooklyn, New  
York. A native of Richmond, VA, Johnnie  
holds a BFA in Dance and Choreography  
from Virginia Commonwealth University.  
In 2021, Johnnie was nominated for  
two Bessies Awards in Dance and  
Performance: Outstanding Breakout  
Choreographer, and Outstanding  
Production for *AShadowPrince* (a  
collaboratively created media-  
choreography crafted in response to the  
murder of George Floyd in 2020). As  
an educator, Johnnie facilitates within  
the New York Public School system  
through The Leadership Program,  
Movement Research's Dance Maker's

Program, and through Ping Chong and  
Company's Secret Histories Educational  
Program. Mercer has also been on  
teaching faculty/a guest educator at The  
American Dance Festival, Bates Dance  
Festival, PRATT Institute, NYU Tisch,  
Gibney, University of Massachusetts  
Amherst, DeSales University, Muhlenberg  
College, The University of Texas at  
Austin, Goucher College, Sarah Lawrence  
College, The University of Maryland,  
Harlem School of the Arts, and The  
Dance Institute of Washington. Johnnie's  
choreographic work has been seen and/  
or shared by 92Y Harkness Dance Center,  
The Dixon Place, Danspace Project,  
The Fusebox Festival, BAAD!, Abrons  
ArtsCenter, La Mama Experimental  
Theater, The NADA Conference, The  
Clarice Performing Arts Center's The  
BlackLight Summit, and most recently  
at The 2022 American Dance Festival  
(premiering a co-choreographed duet  
with season mentor/friend Stephen  
Petronio). Most recently, Johnnie has had  
the honor of being a 2019-2021 Artist in  
Residence at Brooklyn Arts Exchange,  
a 2020-2021 Ping Chong and Company  
Creative Fellow, and a 2020-2021 AIR  
through New Dance Alliance's Black  
Artists Space to Create Residency. He  
is currently finishing his final month  
as a 2022 Artist in Residence at Center  
for Performance Research. Johnnie is  
the founding producer, and director  
of TheREDprojectNYC (TRPNYC), a  
multidisciplinary ensemble of artists  
dedicated to the study of movement  
philosophy, and its use towards building  
communal spaces for black/other process,  
documentation, and investigation. In  
the past six years Johnnie has led, and  
curated numerous community events;  
including TRPNYC's *Communion* (a salon/  
mixer providing space for black artists to

share, and make in community), *Revival*  
(an annual youth-centered concert in  
partnership with various educational and  
artistic institutions), *Baptism* (a process  
orientated ritual curated specifically for  
black/brown artists in transformation)  
and RVA Homecoming, an annual  
weekend of community gatherings for  
Richmond, VA native/based makers.  
An artist dedicated to movement  
history, he is currently shepherding  
(alongside longtime film-collaborator  
Torian Ugworji) the development of a  
movement-theater documentary work  
titled, *The Decade from Hell...!* The  
first of two DocuEpicWorks within  
his project; *A Process Anthology: The  
Decade from Hell and the Decade that  
Followed Suite*, Johnnie prepares a team  
of BIPOC Millenials and Gen Z-ers  
for a three night journey grounded in  
acknowledging/letting go of nostalgia.  
The journey through *The Decade  
from Hell...* will be taken in June 2023  
presented by Gibney. Find out more about  
him (and his company) on Instagram at @  
johnniecruisemercer or  
@jcm\_redprojectnyc

**Brooke Rucker** (Creative Manager) is  
a Georgia Peach and Brooklyn-based  
artist, specializing in dance, curation,  
and arts administration. She earned her  
BFA in Dance at Florida State University,  
has apprenticed with Urban Bush  
Women, and performed as a company  
member with Charles Anderson's  
Gaspard & Dancers. Currently, Brooke  
is the Dance Captain for Johnnie Cruise  
Mercer's TheREDprojectNYC Movement  
Ensemble, as well as the Development/  
Visioning Partner Associate at Urban  
Bush Women. She acts as an independent  
curator and recently curated The *[Jersey]*



*Function* as part of her Curatorial Fellowship in Dance with SMUSH Gallery. Brooke is a member of Dance/ NYC's Junior Committee and was a featured artist for Black Dance Stories Youth Professional Experience Live, where she performed a collaborative solo at Little Island.

**DJ BSTFRND** (DJ Artist) Virginia native, multidisciplinary artist Jefferson Harris, makes music and DJ's under the name BSTFRND. His sonic explorations are made to poke at the positive sides of one's emotions, and to help process grief and growth. IG@bsfrnd\_

**DJ TONY MONKEY** aka **Antonio Brown** is the dance party prince. Born & raised in Cleveland, Ohio, he found his love for music at a young age, building his collection of music over the years traveling the world. DJTM mixes and spins everything from top 100 to classical music and everything in between. He has played at House of Yes, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Freehold Brooklyn, Le Poisson Rouge, Mana Contemporary Art Museum, New York Live Arts and many more in New York City and around the world. Antonio is also the artistic force behind AntonioBrownDance, Co-Director of Tri-C Creative Arts Dance Academy, movement director for The Public Theater's Shakespeare Initiative, artist in residence for GroundWorks Dance Theater and Associate Choreographer for the Off-Broadway musical *Black No More*. Mr. Brown is grateful to be sharing his gifts and talents around the world. Check out his music: [soundcloud.com/djtonymonkey](https://soundcloud.com/djtonymonkey) IG:@djtonymonkey

**MelaninMovementNYC** (Performers)

MelaninMovementNYC is a movement-arts and creative media internship tied to TheREDprojectNYC. Led by Johnnie Cruise Mercer and Torian Ugworji, MelaninMovementNYC uses art as a launching pad to work with personal history, collective philosophy, and entrepreneurship. With partnerships that bridge state-lines (students involved live in New York, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, and Virginia), MelaninMovementNYC is set up as an educational lab for young thinkers to practice collaboration and while working in reflection, and in service. Follow the young artists on MelaninMovementNYC on IG@melaninmovementnyc

Young Movement Artists Performing Tonight: Taysah Ximines, Xavier Pereira Jr, Sukanya Brunson

**Jordan Brookin** (Videographer) is an emerging interdisciplinary artist with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His focus includes studying various Africanist and street dance forms, with additional interest in contemporary styles. Other pursuits include videography, photography, and psychology. In his time dancing at Urbana-Champaign, Jordan has studied under Dr. Kemal Nance, Dr. Cynthia Oliver, Roxanne D'Orleans Juste, Danzel Thompson-Stout, and Abigail Zbikowski.

**Jay Beardsley** (Media Artist) is a white, nonbinary dancer, multimedia artist, and teacher based in Brooklyn, NY. Jay received their BFA in Dance & Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University, graduating in 2020 with an Outstanding Choreographer award and the Bobby Chandler Award

for Theatre. They currently produce for and perform with Ballez/Katy Pyle, TheRedProjectNYC/Johnnie Cruise Mercer and MICHİYAYA Dance, among other freelance projects. Their involvement with artists is multifaceted, spanning movement, choreography, community organizing, visual media arts, and grant writing. Jay's performance credits include Katy Pyle, Johnnie Cruise Mercer, Michelle Thompson-Ulerich, and Sinclair Ogaga Emoghene. Their choreography and media work has been produced by organizations such as Movement Research (NYC), Proteomedia (NYC), Dance Place (Washington, D.C.), and Dogtown Dance Theatre (Richmond, VA). They will be an inaugural artist-in-residence at a new venue curated by MICHİYAYA in early 2023. They are active in DIY/anti-structural performance spaces and communities which aim to create performance by, for, and through the people. Additionally, Jay is a teacher of movement and theater at various local studios and within the NYC DOE schooling systems. Jay has deepened their performance research through a multitude of workshops and intensives with artists/organizations including Sidra Bell, Kristopher K.Q. Pourzal, and American Dance Festival. You can learn more about Jay on their very casual-style Instagram, @j\_b7777777.

**ÜFlyMothership presents: *THE ADVENTURES OF MR. LEFT BRAIN AND MS. RIGHT*** (World Premiere)  
Choreography: Tendayi Kuumba & Greg Purnell  
Performers: Tendayi Kuumba & Greg Purnell  
Original visuals, Music, Vocals, and Costumes created and produced by: ÜFlyMothership  
Additional voiceovers: Ram Dass and Sarah Grant  
Video Clips: *Left Brain, Right Brain* by National Geographic Channel  
*Call of Duty* video game simulation (Additional free stock video visuals)  
Lighting: Joe Doran  
ÜFlyMothership Graphic Designer: Sage Purnell

The Adventures of Mr. Left Brain and Ms. Right, *formerly* UFly: Orbits, *was commissioned by the Stephen Petronio Company for the 2022 Bloodlines(future) Program, made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with support from Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.*

**ÜFlyMothership** is a collaboration of the minds of Tendayi Kuumba & Greg Purnell. ÜFly grew from ideas, curiosities, & celebrations of the Unidentified Flyness of black and melanated peoples. Since 2017 they've created productions that connect contemporary modern dance, improvisational movement, music innovation, dreams, sound portals, science & ancestral energy. Awarded Outstanding Female Dancer on Broadway 2022 as Lady in Brown of the Tony Nominated Broadway Revival of Ntozoke Shangè's *For Colored Girls...* directed/

choreographed by Camille A. Brown; singer, & songwriter, **Tendayi Kuumba** is a graduate of Spelman College based in Brooklyn. Former touring company member of Urban Bush Women, & cast/band member of Special Tony Award Winning *David Byrne's America Utopia on Broadway* and HBO Special Directed by Spike Lee. She has worked with various companies, collaborations & choreographers, including Asé Dance Theater Collective & Philadelphia Operas' *We Shall Not be Moved* directed by Bill T. Jones.

**Greg Purnell** is Brooklyn born/bred master barber & multi-medium artist. He has been featured in 2015 BRIC Stoop Series "Barbershop Stories: it's all about hair" and BRIC TV's Brooklyn Made series. Other features include Afropunk, BAM, OkayAfrica, and Nike collaborations. He has been a sound designer, lighting designer, director & music creator for various works. His other work has been featured in Afropunk, BAM, OkayAfrica and Nike collaborations, BRIC Stoop Series "Barbershop Stories: it's all about hair", BRIC TV's Brooklyn Made series, and *American Utopia on Broadway* HBO Special. He has worked with Urban Bush Women, The Illustrious Blacks, and MVMNT PHLSPY.

Together, past UFLYMOTHERSHIP works include *Incog-Negro, U.F.O. "The Mixtape," HEROINE, and U.F.O: Stardust Melanin*. Produced at AfroPunk, D.I.R.T. Festival Harriet's Gun, Movement Research's Spring Festival, Czech Republic of NY, Prague Effects Residency, Danspace Project's *collective terrain/s* series, Harlem Stage, Hi-ARTS, & BRICLab, and *FLUXX* a collaborative

with Bessie Award Winning performer Courtney Cook. As UFLY we believe that together we already know we are the ones we seek. Each piece created is a multi-layered portal of self discovery.

**Funding for Stephen Petronio Company**  
Stephen Petronio Company recognizes Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, and SHS Foundation as lead supporters of the 2023 Season and Bloodlines. Stephen Petronio Company's 2023 Season and Bloodlines are made possible, in part, by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and with additional support from Jody and John Arnhold, the Hyde and Watson Foundation, Joseph & Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, New Music USA's Organizational Development Fund, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Shubert Foundation, and The Serena Foundation. The opinions, results, findings and/or interpretations of data contained herein are the responsibility of the Recipient and do not necessarily represent the opinions, interpretations or policy of the State or if funded with Federal funds, the applicable Federal funding agency and all other funding institutions mentioned above, both private and public.

**Support for this evening**  
As a member of the New York State DanceForce, Danspace Project partnered with Petronio Residency Center to support residencies for Johnnie Cruise Mercer and Tendayi Kuumba & Greg Purnell (UFLYmotherShip). New York State DanceForce is funded by New York State Council on the Arts.



**Special Thanks from Stephen Petronio**

I must mention the deep gratitude I have for Danspace, lead by Executive Director Judy Hussie-Taylor and her incredible team. This is the place where I found my first home and have watched so many others receive such a vital launch here.

**Special thanks** to the entire team at Danspace for their work to help put this entire production together.

- Collaborators Monstah Black, Marine Penvern, and The Young People's Chorus of NYC

- Bloodlines(*future*) artists Johnnie Cruise Mercer, Davalois Fearon, Tendayi Kuumba and Greg Purnell

- Mentor and Choreographer, Steve Paxton

- Technical Director, Joe Doran

- Production Stage Manager, Robert McIntyre

- Resident Lighting Designer, Ken Tabachnick

- Dancers Larissa Asebedo, Liviya England, Michaela Esteban, Jaqlin Medlock, Tess Montoya, Ryan Pliss, and Nicholas Sciscione

- Executive Director of SPC, Gino Grenek

- General Manager of SPC Cassie Stern

- SPC's Board of Directors, Jill Brienza (Chair), Joa Baldinger, Claire Flack, Jean-Marc Flack, Gary Holder, Sheila

Hollender, Alison Mazzola, Marcus McGregor, Sarah Silver, Ken Tabachnick, Todd Whitley, and Malin Yhr

**Special thanks** to our lead donors and supporters, who we wouldn't be here without.

*Anne Ackerley and David Lewis, Nancy Barber, Kristen Borg, Val Bourne, Tracy Calvin, Valerie Carney, Eileen and Michael Cohen, Patricia Cossutta, Eric Diefenback and JK Brown, Martha Eddy, Daniele and Ronald Flack, Deborah Fried, Arthur and Carol Goldberg, Jerry Greenfield, Sharon Halperin, Stephen Hannock, Margaret and Lenny Harrington, Ed Henry and Susan Monk, Victor Herlinsky, Harold Koda and Alan Kornberg, Tim Legg and Doug Wingo, Vicki Lowry, Nina Matis and Alan Gosule, Timothy McClimon, Marika Molnar, Steven and Michele Pesner, Narciso Rodriguez, Cindy Sherman, Richard Slusarczyk, Jean Stone, Martin Wechsler and David Fanger, Jane Weinstock and James Welling, Lynn Wichern, Brenda Wehle and John Lynch*

**Stephen Petronio Company**

Artistic Director, Choreographer  
**Stephen Petronio**

Stephen Petronio Company Artists  
**Larissa Asebedo, Liviya England, Michaela Esteban, Jaqlin Medlock, Tess Montoya, Ryan Pliss, Nicholas Sciscione**

Assistant to the Artistic Director  
**Nicholas Sciscione**

Resident Lighting Designer  
**Ken Tabachnick**

Technical Director/Lighting Supervisor/  
Lighting Designer  
**Joe Doran**

Production Stage Manager  
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Ken Tabachnick  
Todd Whitley  
Malin Yhr

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**Socialize with Stephen Petronio Company Online**

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**Accessibility at Danspace Project**

This event is located in Danspace Project's main sanctuary space.

The 10th Street entrance is wheelchair accessible via a permanent ramp.

A same-level, one stall restroom is available near Danspace Project's main performance space in the church Sanctuary. The doorway of that bathroom is 33 inches wide.

If our space or a particular event is not accessible to you for any reason, if you have accessibility questions or accessibility needs that haven't been addressed, please email [seta@danspaceproject.org](mailto:seta@danspaceproject.org).

**Covid Safety**

**Vaccination:** Audiences, aged 5 years and older are required to show proof of vaccine and first eligible booster against COVID-19 before entry to Danspace Project.

**Masks:** All guests and staff must wear a surgical face-mask while inside Danspace Project (KN95 or N95 recommended).

Face masks are allowed to be temporarily removed for the following exceptions:  
-When outdoors.  
-5 Years and under – at the discretion of the guardian.

\*Performers may remove masks when on stage rehearsing or performing.

**Testing:** Proof of negative COVID-19 test is not required for a public audience although every person is expected to know their COVID-19 status. Danspace recommends testing once weekly: PCR (within 72 hours) or rapid antigen (within 12 hours).

Danspace Project Inc. bases all decisions regarding public health on the best available science and follows at all times guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New York State Department of Health and the City of New York Department of Health. Danspace's plans, policies, and guidance to Danspace community members will adapt and be updated as guidance from those agencies evolves with our understanding of COVID-19.

**Danspace Project Community Guidelines**

At Danspace Project, we value people, connections, inquiry, listening, adaptability, and equity.

These values can only be upheld when respect, care, and safety are practiced.

Please use this guide to help prioritize the safety of the physical and virtual spaces in which we gather.

**Guidelines:**

- Privacy
- Respectful Communication
- Observe and Respect Boundaries

**Intolerable Behavior:**

- Hateful Behavior, Speech, and Violence
- Threatening Behavior, Speech, and Harassment
- Unsolicited Advertisements

**Reach Out:**

For immediate assistance in physical space: Please locate the house manager, a staff member, or box office manager.