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FREEDOM

#BRITNEY

ZIEL DANCE THEATER

September 25th, 2021 - 7pm - September 26th, 2021 - 5pm

Caelum Gallery
508-526 W 26th St, Suite 315
New York, NY 10001



FREEDOM ≠ BRITNEY

#FREEBRITNEY

ZIEL DANCE THEATER
PRESENTS

FREEDOM ≠ BRITNEY

Freedom ≠ Britney is a campy and immersive show in support of Britney Spears' fight for freedom from her now 13 year conservatorship. The show will be an experiential essay on how Britney has been calling out her situation for years all while being forced to entertain.

Britney's story is a signpost of modern feminism on the road of American misogyny. Britney is seen as a consumed object, an archetype of the Mary and her fall from The Virgin to The Magdalene, and so her image and narrative has been energized by and reflective of American respect for women. Freedom ≠ Britney explores the visual and musical character of Britney Spears and lends a critical eye to the audience in their participation in her trapping.

Ziel Dance Theater's mission is to bring its modern live performance, dance films, and innovative repertoire to this important moment in the feminist movement.

ZIEL DANCE THEATER DIRECTOR
DEVIN ZIEL

ZIEL DANCE THEATER DANCERS
Tomislav Nevistic, Lauriane Nabet

FILM ARTISTS

Gabriella Engdahl, Slobhan Murphy, Jle-Hung Connie Shlau

SIOBHAN MURPHY

Siobhan Murphy is a choreographer and academic based in Naarm, Melbourne. Her practice focuses on screendance works for single channel and gallery installation outcomes, with works screened in festivals and museums in cities throughout Australia and New Zealand, as well as London, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Edinburgh. Her recent scholarly and artistic research centres on dance portraiture, with her portrait of Joanne White at the London International Screendance Festival in 2019, and her portrait of Alice Cummins at Dance (Lens) and FLOW in 2021.

Siobhan is a Lecturer in Dance at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, where she teaches and supervises in dance studies, screendance and artistic research.

JIE-HUNG CONNIE SHIAU

Jie-Hung Connie Shiau, born in Gainesville, Florida, raised in Tainan, Taiwan. Graduated from The High School Division For Dance of Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA), and the Dance Conservatory of SUNY Purchase College. Shiau is a dancer, choreographer, and educator. Shiau has worked as a collaborator with an array of companies, including Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, AIM by Kyle Abraham, Gallim Dance, Helen Simoneau Danse, MeenMoves, Adam Barruch/Anatomiae Occultii, and Kevin Wynn Works. She has performed works by Crystal Pite, Ohad Naharin, Lou Conte, Kyle Abraham, Brian Brooks, Peter Chu, Robyn Mineko Williams, Alejandro Cerrudo, Helen Simoneau, Sameena Mitta, Rena Butler, Alice Klock, Hanna Kiel, Osnel Delgado, Adam Barruch, and Kevin Wynn. Shiau is currently freelancing in New York City and is an Artistic Associate with Gibney Company.

Shiau has taught nationally and internationally at National Cheng Kung University, Sheng Kung Girls High School, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, AIM by Kyle Abraham's summer and winter intensives, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's summer intensives. Shiau has restaged Kyle Abraham's repertoires at SUNY Purchase College, Point Park University, Cornish College, Rutgers University, Princeton University, Queensborough Community College, Booker T. Washington Visual and Performing Arts High School.

Shiau has presented works at New Choreographer Project in Taipei, Taiwan, Loyola University, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago summer intensives, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's 43rd virtual season.

PROGRAM

Silk Paper and Bruises

Director - Gabriella Engdahl

Silk Paper and Bruises is an experimental dance film exploring norms and expectations in the dance industry where traditional stereotypes still are impactful. It takes us through a poetic experience of hungry dressing rooms, self-doubt and cracking bones. The film uses barbie dolls to portrait a bigger issue within society of how women's bodies are represented, presented and talked about.

Alice With The Black Mattress

Director - Siobhan Murphy

'Alice with black mattress, Riddells Creek, May 2019' is a portrait of dancer Alice Cummins. Alice folds, sculpts, embraces and is at times engulfed by a black mattress that duets with her in a succession of shifting images, depicting a life lived in movement.

PERFORMANCE

FREEDOM ≠ BRITNEY

Director - Devin Ziel

Choreography - Devin Ziel and the dancers

Soloist - Tomislav Nevistic

2nd Soloist - Lauriane Nabet

Rehersal Director- Lauriane Nabet

Costumes- Devin Ziel

Scenography- Devin Ziel, Tomislav Nevistic

Music: Britney Spears, court testimonial

Greener Grass

Directors - Jie-Hung Connie Shiau, Kevin Michael Briggs

This film is an exploration of witnessing the establishment of concentration camps to forcibly contain Uyghurs, a traditionally Muslim minority group, in China's Xinjiang Autonomous Zone. The insufficient effort and failure by world leaders to recognize and condemn the violent act leads to the necessity of the piece. In order to keep this machine going, one must keep participating.

LAURIANE NABET

Hailing from Melun, France, Lauriane Nabet has extensive training in contemporary, ballet, improvisation and modern, with a particular emphasis on Graham and Limón techniques. She also has a thriving passion for ballroom dance and is performing as a burlesque/cabaret dancer.

Ms. Nabet completed the Paris Marais Dance School's three-year program in Paris before moving to New York City to pursue certification from the Teacher Training Program at the Martha Graham School.

In June 2019, she graduated from the Accelerated Program, with a concentration in choreography. As an Accelerated Program student, Ms. Nabet has created two original works, which premiered in the Martha Graham School's Fall and Spring Showcases. Additionally, she interned with Mr. Oliver Tobin, Director of Resources at Martha Graham, to assist in staging the annual All-City Panorama project, where students across NYC's five boroughs audition to perform Graham's Panorama as part of the Martha Graham Dance Company's New York City season. Since her landing in NYC in 2017, Lauriane performed for several companies such as iDance Ministry (Lead Dancer) or WellBeing Dance Company. Her performance history includes the RAW festival Showcase, APAP festival at New York City Center, the 2019 NYC Fashion Week and the National Week of Dance 2021. Ms. Nabet also performed in the Free to Be concert choreographed by Elizabeth Troxler in 2019 and took part of several video clips. Lauriane is currently dancing for Born Dance Company, iDance Ministry, Reza Farkondeh, Zoe's Dance Theater, TK Dance Lab, The Lyoness Cabaret and works for Mignolo Dance Company.

GABRIELLA ENGDahl

Gabriella Engdahl is a filmmaker, choreographer and dance theatre-maker who combines movements, text and design in a playful way.

Through her practice, she is interested in character work, everyday movements and storytelling with a focus on social and economic injustices in relation to women / non-binary, as well as portraying nuanced women / non-binary in films and on stage.

She is enthusiastic about working in a way where the forms and material used on stage and in films have equal value and although movements come primarily to her in a creation process, she is interested in the idea of non-hierarchical making. Her vision is always to make films breaking traditional boundaries of dance, as well as to make the audience question what they see through witty aesthetics and relatable subjects.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

DEVIN ZIEL

Devin is a contemporary modern dancer and the founder of Ziel Dance Theater, choreographic collaborator, and teacher with Deborah Rosen and Dancers and with Louise Reichlin and Dancers, whose background in cognitive neuroscience informs her interdisciplinary approach to creating dance theater and to remounting repertoire with authentic drama and technical integrity.

Founder Devin Ziel is a Los Angeles born modern dance maker, performer, and teacher whose degree in cognitive neuroscience informs her interdisciplinary approach to Dance arts creation and production. She received her training from Occidental College, Sussex University, Joffrey Ballet West and the Martha Graham School. Devin worked for many seasons with Deborah Rosen and Dancers and Louise Reichlin And Dancers as a principle dancer and collaborator performing in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Las Vegas and Seoul. Devin is delighted to present Ziel Dance Theater to New York City.

TOMISLAV NEVISTIC

Tomislav is from Zagreb, Croatia, where he began his training in the School of Contemporary Dance Ana Maletic, where he studied Laban technique, Release and ballet. In 2015 he has received The Oscar for Knowledge in dance from the Agency for Education under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Parliament and co-organized by the Ministry of Science and Education.

In 2015 he moved to New York to study at Alvin Ailey School. He has studied and performed works by Alvin Ailey, Martha Graham, Eddie Ocampo, Michelle Manzanakez (Ballet hispanico), Anabel Ochoa, Gabriela Vazquez, and deepened his performing skills participating in ABT Summer and Ballet Hispanico Lab. He got a two year certificate and teaching certificate from Martha Graham School and he was dancing with Graham 2 for two seasons.