



REFRACTIONS

JULY 6TH 2022

7PM

545 8th Ave 1410, New York, NY 10018

WWW.ZIELDANCETHEATER.COM

ABOUT

Every story has a destination, every movement leads to something, somewhere. The energy never dies and if we tell the stories they will never be forgotten. The end destination is always Love, the sweet release, and empowerment. As they say, it's not about the destination but the journey, so come and take one with us! Let us share our vision, ideas, and movement with You. Dance, dance, dance and just let the movement lead.

Our mission and goal is to bring dance back into people's lives. Our passion is telling stories through dance and movement with cinematic qualities.

DEVIN ZIEL

FOUNDER AND THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Devin is a contemporary modern dancer at the Martha Graham School, 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

DANCER

Tomislav Nevistic began his professional dance training in Laban technique at the School of Contemporary Dance Ana Maletic in Zagreb, Croatia. After receiving an Oscar for knowledge in dance he moved to New York to study at The Ailey School and Martha Graham School.

Tomislav then became a member of Martha Graham's second company, Graham 2, where he performed roles in Martha Grahams' works Secular Games, Acts of Light, Diversion of Angels, Owl and The Pussycat, and many more.

Tomislav is also dancing fro iDance Ministry, Kritya Dance, Alison Cook Beatty Dance and have danced with choreographers Isaac Iskra, Gabriela Vasquez, and Jasminka Zajec. Tomislav has received reviews in various media, including major media in the US and Croatia. Among them are Broadway World, Theater Scene Net, The Lifestyle Republic, Nacional Magazine, Plesna Scena, and Bljesak.info. This is his second season with Ziel Dance Theater.

GUEST ARTIST

FANG-TING YEH

GUEST ARTIST

Fang-Ting Yeh (Taichung, Taiwan) graduated from the National Taiwan University of Arts in 2015. In the same year, Fang-Ting joined the Body Expression Dance Theater and performed with Odyssey Dance Theatre in Singapore. In 2018, Fang-Ting moved to New York training at Martha Graham School. In the same year, she performed one of Martha Graham's works "Heretic" with Graham 2 at The Joyce Theater. In 2020, Fang-Ting performed for EFSD (emergency fund for student dancers) at The Ailey School. Now she's a choreographer and dance video project director, collaborating with videographer Steven Speliotis to create "Who Says" and "Silent But Not Silence". Fang-Ting's first dance video "Who Says" had selected by many international film festivals and presenting her works, such as 2021 Collective Thread Dance Festival by MODArts Dance Company, Anyplace Anytime Online Film Festival by Cross Move Lab. "Silent But Not Silence" also got the Best Direction of Black & White Feedback Film Festival and Special mention from Art Film Award. She created the dance art video series "MURMUR". One of the solo dance video "MURMUR_S" had selected by the 8th Fine Arts Film Festival, New York Movie Awards as Official Selection and become the Winner of dance video of Open Vision Film Festival First Season.

MADELAINE BURNETT

GUEST ARTIST

Madelaine Burnett began her dance training in Vancouver, BC, Canada. In 2015 she moved to New York City to study on scholarship at the Ailey School under the mentorship of Kanji Segawa.

Madelaine then became a member of Martha Graham's second company, Graham 2, where she held lead roles such as the Pussycat in The Owl and the Pussycat, the Woman in Yellow in Diversion of Angels and Mary in El Penitente, performing at The Joyce Theatre, Nimbus Dance Theatre, the Martha Graham studio theater and many other venues.

Madelaine has also studied and performed works by Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Doug Varone, Mark Morris, Jessica Lang, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Esme Boyce and Johnathan Lee. This is her second season with Alison Cook Beatty Dance.

Madelaine is a Royal Academy of Dance certified Ballet teacher and recently earned her Graham Technique teaching certification from the Martha Graham School.

PROGRAM

**SHE
A BODY IS
DANCE FRIENDS**

**BREATH
MA CIGNO (THE ALMOST DEAD SWAN)
CIELO ELENA**

**WORLD PEACE DANCE
L'HEURE BLEUE**

LIVE PERFORMANCE

**FANG-TING YEH
MADELAINE BURNETT**

**DEVIN ZIEL
TOMISLAV NEVISTIC**

SHE

Caught in a room the protagonist, Clarice, unfolds a vision of her own identity through a mirror interrogator.

SHE is a cinematic adaptation of a solo dance performance with the same name. The original performance work was created and performed by Dorotea Saykaly and premiered at 5^{ème} Salle at Place des Arts in Montréal, Quebec in 2019.

Inspired by *The Passion According to G.H.* by Clarice Lispector, the solo revolved around identity and doubt.

Manifested through movement, distortion and an interview with a phantom interrogator, the original work proposed looking at a questioning body through a female lens.

The cinematic adaptation of the original performance work arose during the first COVID lockdown in 2020 as a collaboration between Dorotea Saykaly and film director Emil Dam Seidel.

Director Biography - Emil Dam Seidel

EMIL DAM SEIDEL is an award winning director and visual artist with +++.

Most recently he directed and produced the acclaimed dance film SHE.

Before starting his own career as a director he notably assisted Thomas Vinterberg on the Academy award winning film, *Another Round*, and the Academy award winning director Susanne Bier on *A Second Chance*.

Director Statement

"We wanted to make a film that addressed the isolation we were both experiencing, but didn't want the work to revolve around covid. -So we tried to create a world on a universal sense of isolation – the digital isolation that has been creeping in between us all over the course of the last decade."

About the choreographer & performer

Dorotea has danced with Compagnie Marie Chouinard in Montreal, touring internationally with the company for 8 years. She then relocated to Sweden to join the Goteborg Danskompani, one of Europe's leading contemporary dance companies. Alongside her performance career, she has a body of work for stage and film.

Dorotea moves fluidly through different environments, whether it be collaborating with visual artists such as Cooper&Gorfer or working in film. She has choreographed and performed in the awarded screendance

short films PAINTED and Brief Candle, both featured in film festivals internationally. Her stage works have been shown in Goteborg, Stockholm, Malmo, Warsaw and at Place Des Arts in Montreal. She is the inaugural recipient of the Emily Molnar Emerging Choreographer Award and has recently created a new work for Ballet BC in Vancouver which is premiering on May 12th in 2022.

A BODY IS

Antonio José Martínez Palacios was going to be the biggest Spanish musician of the 20th Century. Unfortunately, he was incarcerated and executed without a trial at the age of 33, at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War.

Director Biography - JAIME DEZCALLAR

Jaime Dezcallar (Madrid 1981)

Studied Law School at ICADE, acting at Claudia Fress School and filmmaking at NYFA.

I've worked in TV and advertisement for 15 years as scriptwriter, producer, creative director and director. I built La Costa (my production company) a couple of years ago. There we shoot mostly advertisement but also music videos, short films, and experimental visuals.

I write, I direct and sometimes I produce for other directors

DANCE FRIENDS

Film by Madelaine Burnett and Jeffrey Shirbroun.

Director Biography -Madelaine Burnett

Madelaine Burnett began her dance training in Vancouver, BC, Canada. In 2015 she moved to New York City to study on scholarship at the Ailey School under the mentorship of Kanji Segawa.

Madelaine then became a member of Martha Graham's second company, Graham 2, where she held lead roles such as the Pussycat in The Owl and the Pussycat, the Woman in Yellow in Diversion of Angels and Mary in El Penitente, performing at The Joyce Theatre, Nimbus Dance Theatre, the Martha Graham studio theater and many other venues.

Madelaine has also studied and performed works by Alvin Ailey, Paul Taylor, Doug Varone, Mark Morris, Jessica Lang, Jacquelyn Buglisi, Esme Boyce and Johnathan Lee. This is her second season with Alison Cook Beatty Dance.

Madelaine is a Royal Academy of Dance certified Ballet teacher and recently earned her Graham Technique teaching certification from the Martha Graham School.

BREATH

"Breath" aims to make a critical and ironic foray, in rhythm of dance, into the destructive universe of the human being. On a hot day, five young people get stuck with their car in the middle of a golden field. Suddenly, the trunk opens and the story begins.

Director Biography - Catalin Rugina

Cătălin Rugină is a Romanian cinematographer, passionate about visual storytelling. He has a BA degree diploma in cinematography at National University of Theatre and Film "I.L. Caragiale". Also he started the MA in cinematography at the same university. The intense study of the light and the different means of rendering the image determined him to find a balance between technique and creation, always looking for creative visual expressions, useful for the dramatic structure. He has the ability and experience to work both in digital format and film(35mm,16mm). He strongly believes in the artistic intuition educated simultaneously with the discipline of aesthetic taste. Over time he participated in numerous workshops and courses after which he acquired different skills and knowledge. In the last years he has shot different projects, short films, videos, commercials, presented both in festivals and in the online environment.

MA CIGNO (THE ALMOST DEAD SWAN)

In an atmosphere suspended between real and grotesque places, between the stereotyped movement and the visual flow, we follow the gait of a swan in 20 inch heels, perhaps more clumsy and unfortunate than others, which has no place in the pond of its life.

Director Biography - Simone Rosset

Simone Rosset is a director and visual artist, after having studied at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, he graduated from the Experimental Center of Cinematography in Piedmont.

In his artistic language, he intersects the codes of the cinema of the real with experimental animation, interested in exploring the possible points of contact and trespassing between the real and the imaginary.

He collaborates for a long time with the world of performing arts, creating workshops, installations and documentaries (among others with the Teatro Stabile in Turin, Zona K, Teatro della Fall, Reggio Emilia Theaters, Teatro Coccia in Novara, Circolo dei Leggi di Torino).

His works have been presented at the Torino Film Festival, Indielincs, Nefiltravanae kino, and screened at the Lincoln performing art center (UK) and at the Macba (Museum of contemporary art of Barcelona) within the Mecal Pro Barcelona Film festival.

CIELO ELENA

Like all good infatuations, Cielo Elena began with a pair of pants sold at a 60% discount. The brainchild of director and choreographer Omar Román De Jesús, cinematographer Xhon Dang, sound designer Jesse Scheinin, and lighting designer Christopher Chambers, this fifteen-minute performance film takes viewers through six movements celebrating individual and interpersonal relationships to the human body. Cielo Elena splays intimacy open, posing questions about ecstasy, kink, queerness, vulnerability, and risk while participating in an ongoing effort to liberate concert dance from moral rigidity. Through the durable medium of film, this work intentionally makes space for eyes to linger then adjust, discomforts to stir then process, and audiences to pull back the curtain on what else might be consumer friendly at 60% off.

Director Biography - Omar Román De Jesús

Omar Román De Jesús (Bayamón, Puerto Rico) is a Queer Puertorriqueño choreographer and company director who creates rhythmic narratives through contemporary dance forms, improvisation, and dance theater techniques. He is a 2020 Recipient of The Ann & Weston Hicks Choreography Fellowship (Jacob's Pillow). Omar has been commissioned to create work on over 20 companies and pre professional schools including: The Baryshnikov Arts Center, Limón Dance Second Company, Ballet Hispánico's Instituto Coreográfico, MOVE NYC, Bruce Wood Dance, Jacob Jonas The Company, The Paul Taylor Dance Company, Joffrey Ballet Concert Group, Whim W'him, Parsons Dance, The Ailey School, Kennesaw State University, James Madison University and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Omar was commissioned twice by Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña to create work for the International Dance Festival of Puerto Rico where he was awarded the Ambassador of Dance medal. His stage work has been awarded top recognition through the Joffrey Academy of Dance's Winning Works Choreographic Competition, Whim W'him's Choreographic Shindig, The Dance Gallery Festival, and Reverb Dance Festival. His 2021 screendance, Los Perros del Barrio Colosal, has been viewed by audiences in over 20 countries and was awarded Best of Screen Dance International and Best Choreography and Best Narrative of ReThink Dance Film Festival. In 2021 Omar's work toured to ENDANZANTE (Colombia), Chop Shop: Bodies of Work (Seattle), and PRISMA International Dance Festival (Panama).

Omar is currently teaching as faculty at The Ailey School. He is fond of education and has experience teaching workshops and master classes all over the world for dancers, special needs communities, people with physical disabilities, and marginalized communities.

Director Statement

I have come to a turning point in my approach to dance. This shift reflects not only my own accumulation of movement experiences, but also the deep rooted reality that dance work is always colored by the context of the world in which that work lives.

While we work to envision, create, and share, we must do so with an acute awareness of our containers. Art does not exist in a bubble. As a Queer Puerto Rican Artist, I create in an environment that regularly pressures me to make dance that specifically focuses on community-centric social advocacy. Although there are many angles by which I find this stereotype frustrating, I also understand a deep seated desire to use art as a means to bring people together, reveal injustices, and provide for the people who have been historically disenfranchised.

In studying my own choreography, I have come to appreciate that the cultural component of my work that so often threatens to box me in has also taught me a tremendous amount about how I want to craft my life as a dance professional. The music, movement vocabulary, drama, fantasy, and humor that I call upon in my dances all derive from a long lineage of events and practices with traceable, participatory histories on both the personal and collective levels. These histories aren't about boosting leadership for the purpose of optics, but rather exist as constantly compounding sets of information gained through immersion.

Being an artistic director means more than simply identifying myself as a leader of creative experiences. As the head of Boca Tuya, I am proud to facilitate the exchanges, collaborations, conversations, and performances that give our dancers the tools they need to create without boundaries.

L'HEURE BLEUE

Link to full film: <https://youtu.be/5kAl4ogxJil>

In their struggle with insomnia, two women desperately try to fall asleep, but behind closed eyelids, great fears reveal themselves.

Synopsis

When subdued Jill is admitted to a sleep clinic, she has to share a room with the rigid, seasoned Danielle. When the clock strikes 10 and the lights go out, their struggle begins. The two women force themselves to sleep.

As soon as the fatigue sets in and their subconscious takes over, painful imaginations show themselves. Jill is confronted in her dreams with her fear of failure. The painful possibility of not being good enough. And the chance that her physical body will one day give up. She frantically tries to fight against losing the control she so desperately needs.

Danielle's subconscious puts her in the midst of a pounding regime, facing her loneliness. Her fear of not being able to keep up with the pressure and speed of society is painfully symbolized in her dreams. The darkness of their shared night brings the women closer together.

L'Heure bleue is an oppressive dance film that takes the viewer into the mental decline of not being able to sleep night after night.

Director Biography - Danielle HUYGHE, Stefan Mandersloot

Danielle Huyghe (1997, BE) is a young and up-and-coming choreographer based in Rotterdam (NL). Danielle graduated in 2016 from the Art Academy, Contemporary Dance in Antwerp (BE) and in 2020 from ArtEZ University of the Arts, Bachelor Dancer/Maker (NL). Danielle has worked for several choreographers during her education and professional experience. Since 2019 Danielle is focused on creating her own work. In her productions she deals with human behavior themes related to the current claustrophobic times.

In 2019 Danielle took part in the young makers trajectory 'One Night's Dance' at Dansateliers (NL). Together with Alexandra Verschuren she created the performance 'Out of the blue'. The choreography was shown at several international dance festivals. The performance won the Jury Prize for best choreography at 25Masdanza (ES). 'Out of the blue' also became a finalist at Festival 10 Sentidos (ES), the 14th Copenhagen International Choreography Competition (DK) and the Rotterdam International Duet Choreography Competition (NL).

That same year, Danielle started collaborating with Nathalie Vermeiren. Together they made the performance 'Detached Separation' and the film 'Ontkoppeling'. 'Detached Separation' was shown at various festivals in the Netherlands and Belgium. 'Ontkoppeling', got selected for several Film Festivals such as: TanzFilm Festival Berlin amongst others. The film got nominated as 'Best Dance Film' at the Dancin'Bo Film Festival (IT) and won 'The best performance award' at the ZED Film Festival (IT).

In 2021 Danielle decided to pursue her interest in filmography. She made the performance 'Into the blue', a performance in which dance and film are combined. As part of the production she made the film 'L'Heure bleue' in co-production with Korrel Film (NL). The film was selected at the official selection of Cinedans (NL). The entire production was presented at various theaters in the Netherlands and Belgium and is still touring abroad.

In addition to Danielle's great passion for choreography, filmography and composition, she works as a freelance dancer in various projects and as a teacher at various institutions in Belgium and the Netherlands, such as Hofplein Theater. Danielle functions also as 'dance coach' for the graduation solo's at the Fontys University of the arts.

Director Statement

I am concerned about the lack of attention being paid to the consequences of a sleep disorder. There is a stigma attached to talking about 'problems'. This stigma prevents a large number of people like myself from asking for help or speaking about these topics. With L'Heure bleue I want to contribute to the normalization of mental health problems in our society. I want to encourage people to recognize their problems/symptoms in time and start a conversation about them.

WORLD PEACE DANCE

Link to full film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6L_A3GNqRs

“World Peace Dance” is a documentary about the folk traditions of Adjara, one of Georgia's mountainous regions, and specifically about dance, which has been passed down from generation to generation for hundreds of years, changing and evolving. Georgian folk traditional culture and art is a world heritage site of great significance, and it continues to play an important role in Georgian daily life. The film's characters are the oldest people who have preserved the ancient dance traditions. The film has been in the works for years. Therefore, the majority of the characters in the film are no longer alive, making the films more impressive.

Director Biography - Gia Diasamidze

He was born in Batumi on January 9, 1971. After completing his secondary education, he enrolled at the Batumi Naval Academy in 1985 and graduated in 1989.

From 1993 to 1997 he studied at the Faculty of Foreign Relations in Tbilisi.

From 2002 to 2004 he attended the Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography (VGIK) on the directing faculty (Andrei Eshpay's studio). At the very same time, he worked as an editing director in the studio "Ostrov" with his instructor Sergei Miroshnichenko.

He returned to Georgia in 2004 and continues to direct as his primary activity. Since 2012, he has been working with the Adjara Public Broadcaster. He is a filmmaker who specializes in documentaries.

From 2004 to 2012, he worked with the following bands: "Zumbaland" — vocals, panduri, and percussion instruments; "Outsider" - accordion and acoustic guitar player; vocals in the folk ensemble "Chveneburebi."

Filmography

- 2020-2021. (the director of the televised version) television play: „the Truth“, „Conflict in the Garden“, „the Room“, „When You Miss Me Very Much“, „the Ideal Strangers“.
- 2016-17 - A series of documentary films about religious confessions in Georgia, 12 films;
- 2016 - „My Georgia“ (a short narrative film);
- 2015 - „Holy offering“ (short narrative film, the finalist on Figueira da Foz Film Festival);
- 2015 - „Khinotsminda“ (a full-length documentary);
- 2015 - „After a Long Time“ (a full-length film);
- 2015 - „Journey in Folklore“ (a 40-part documentary cycle);
- 2014 - „The World Peace Dance“ (a full-length documentary);
- 2012 - „The Star“ (a short narrative film);
- 2010 - „Insight“ (a full-length documentary; International film festival BIAF-2010 – a special jury prize; Zbigniew Rybczyński personal prize);
- 2009 - „The Expectation“ (a full-length documentary);
- 2007 - “Artgene Diaries” (documentary);
- 2006 - “Adila” (Lviv International Movie Festival – the special jury prize and the best documentary);
- 2005 - “Trip to Folklore” (documentary).

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