



Part of the La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival

presents

Not About Race Dance

Concept and Direction by Gerald Casel



Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
April 22 - 24, 2022

Not About Race Dance

**Concept and Direction by
Gerald Casel**

**Movement Collaborators
Styles Alexander, Audrey Johnson,
Karla Quintero, and Cauveri Suresh**

Live Sound Design by Tim Russell

Lighting and Media Design by Aron Altmark

Dramaturgy by Rebecca Chaleff

Text “Coyotes” by Styles Alexander

Script “La revancha” by Karla Quintero

Costume Consultant: Pamela Rodriguez-Montero

Running Time: 65 minutes iwith no intermission.

A NOTE

This piece has been developed over three years with much of the research being done at residency centers (MANCC, NCC Akron, UC Santa Cruz, and Bogliasco) and virtually through Zoom meetings and working with creative prompts using improvisation, video, and writing. This cast (Audrey, Cauveri, Karla, and Styles) has contributed much of themselves through this process, which was not always easy since we have worked to exhume and are constantly working to move past difficult histories as racialized bodies in predominantly white spaces. I extend my deepest gratitude to them for their care and courage. I also want to thank Aron, Becky, and especially Tim, with whom I have been working for ten years, for their work on this and other projects.

BIOGRAPHIES

Gerald Casel (he/they/siya) is a Bay Area-based dance artist, equity activator, and antiracist educator. As director of GERALDCASELDANCE, his choreographic work complicates and provokes questions surrounding colonialism, collective cultural amnesia, whiteness and privilege, and the tensions between the invisible/perceived/obvious structures of power. Casel is an Associate Professor of Dance and is the Provost of Porter College at UC Santa Cruz. A graduate of The Juilliard School with an MFA from UW Milwaukee, they received a Bessie award for sustained achievement. Casel founded Dancing Around Race, an ongoing community engaged-participatory process that interrogates systemic racial inequity in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. www.geraldcasel.com

Styles Alexander (they/them) is an emerging choreographer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Styles Graduated from the Boston conservatory, where they graduated with a B.F.A in contemporary performance and choreography. While attending the Boston Conservatory, Styles performed and collaborated in creative processes with choreographers such as Andrea Miller, Robert Moses, Dwight Rhoden, Kathleen Hermesdorf, Doug Varone and more. Styles has also had the honor of performing repertory by Ohad Naharin, Idan Sharabi, Robin Aren, and William Forsythe. Styles is currently a freelance performer and choreographer in the SF Bay Area.

Audrey Johnson (she/her) is a queer Black mixed-race movement artist with roots from Detroit and Plymouth Michigan, currently rooting in Oakland, CA. Audrey's work lives, arrives, and changes in the realms of embodiment, movement, food, relationship, magic, ritual, plants, and land. www.audreyjohnson.space

Cauveri Suresh (they/she/he) is an artist from the Bay Area. They have studied with Joanna Kotze, Jodi Melnick, David Parker, Okwui Okpokwasili, Christina Robson, and Doug Varone among others. Currently, they work with Emma Lanier, GERALDCASELDANCE, Ky Frances, and Risa Jaroslow & Dancers. Cauveri holds a B.A. in dance from Barnard College.

Karla Quintero (she/her) is a Latin-American, Oakland-based artist whose work explores themes of intimacy, consumption, biculturalism, and defamiliarization. Dance improvisation is her primary tool, but her creative work orients beyond dance. Recent highlights include the dance film *Flavedoom*, which screened at the 2021 SF Dance Film Festival. Karla also performs in works by other artists, including Gerald Casel, Catherine

Galasso (NYC), Hope Mohr, and Maxe Crandall. When collaborating with other artists, she draws heavily from her experience as an organizer in NYC with Transportation Alternatives. Karla also currently co-directs The Bridge Project, an equity-driven presenting platform. [Karlajohannaquintero.tumblr.com](https://karlajohannaquintero.tumblr.com)

Pamela Rodriguez-Montero (she/her/ella) is a scenographer, educator, and visual artist from Costa Rica. She earned her BFA degree in Arts and Visual Communications from the National University of Costa Rica and her MFA in Scenography from the University of Kansas. Currently, she serves as Assistant Professor of Costume Design at The University of California, Santa Cruz. Pamela has designed for dance, theatre and devised work in Costa Rica and the United States, including National Theatre for the Dance in Costa Rica, Costa Rica National Theatre, and The Alliance Theatre. She is honored to make her La MaMa debut! <https://www.pamelarodriguezmontero.com>

Tim Russell (he/him) lives at the confluence of the aural and the visual. He currently serves as Music Director for the University of Wisconsin's Dance Department. In 2019, Tim was selected as one of the Cowles Visiting Artists at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, a first for a Musician in the field of Dance. He has a vast catalogue of works specifically for choreography, most of which exist live, in collaboration with movement. He holds an MFA in Music Improvisation from Mills College in Oakland.

Aron Altmark (he/him) is a lighting and media artist based in Santa Cruz, CA. He utilizes light and interactive technologies to create conversations between performers and audiences. Growing up in Alabama, he first found his passion for light at the Alabama School of Fine Arts before graduating from CalArts. Since 2014, he has helmed Visual Endeavors -- a design and creative solutions company operating across genres, from live concerts to broadcast to art installations. He has worked with Gerald Casel since 2016, and really enjoys finding the balance of art and technology that supports Gerald's works. www.visualendeavors.com

Rebecca Chaleff (she/they) is a dance scholar, performer, and dramaturg. Her academic research focuses on how politics of race and sexuality shape and are shaped by contemporary reperformance and legacy building projects. She has been working with Gerald Casel as a dancer since 2013 and as a dramaturg since 2018. Rebecca is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of California, San Diego.

Not About Race Dance is made possible with generous support from New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project (Production Grant, Community Engagement Fund, and the Residencies for Dance Grant), Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, The National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron, San Francisco Arts Commission, CA\$H grant, Kenneth Rainin Foundation NEW Grant, UCSC Arts Research Institute, and The Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship.

THANK YOU

Nicky Paraíso and the team at La MaMa Moves, Paul Singh and the Baryshnikov Arts Center for hosting *Dancing Around Race*, NYC DOE's Amber Lodman and Sandi Stratton-Gonzalez, Adam Smith, Megan Wright, Pamela Rodriguez-Montero, CounterPulse, The Bogliasco Foundation, Carla Peterson, Chris Cameron, Ansje Burdick and the entire staff at MANCC, Christy Bolingbroke/NCC Akron, the team at NEFA's National Dance Project, the *Dancing Around Race* family (Yayoi Kambara, David Herrera, Bhumi Patel, Raissa Simpson, Kimani Fowlin, Ayo Walker, and Alana Isiguen), and as ever, with much love, Robert Foran.



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Stage Manager: Sarah Morse for the Downstairs Theater

Stage Manager: Shannon Stewart for the Ellen Stewart Theatre

Production Manager: Sarah Murphy

Press Rep: Janet Stapleton

**A full program with information on
this production can be found on the**

Not About Race Dance
page of the La MaMa website.

**In addition you can scan the
QR code Poster located in the
theatre lobby for access to the
digital program.**

LA MAMA



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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Ellen Stewart Theatre

**Shared Evening: Pele Bauch +
Marina Celander**
April 22 - 24, 2022
The Downstairs

**Secret Journey: Stop Calling Them
Dangerous #3 - Panel**
April 23, 2022
47 Great Jones Street

**Compañía Cuerpo de Indias: Flowers for
Kazuo Ohno (and Leonard Cohen)**
April 28 - 29, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

John Scott Dance: Cloud Study
April 29 - May 1, 2022
The Downstairs

COMING SOON

**La MaMa Kids Dance Workshop
with Marina Celander**
April 30, 2022
The Downstairs

**Valetango Company:
Confianza (Trust)**
April 30 - May 1, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

**Coffhouse Chronicles
Jim Nicola**
May 7, 2022
Ellen Stewart Theatre

**La MaMa Kids
Mary Had a Little Lamb and
Also a Substitute Teacher**
May 21 - 22, 2022
The Downstairs