



EMERGING
ARTISTS
THEATRE



SPARK
THEATRE FESTIVAL NYC

FALL 2024



IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE



The Spark Theatre Festival NYC gives artists the rare opportunity to present their work-in-progress before an audience, afterwards engaging in a meaningful talkback session with audience, director, cast, and curator. The resulting insights are invaluable to the process, providing the playwright with the tools necessary to take the work to the next level.

Founded in 1993 by Artistic Director Paul Adams, **EMERGING ARTISTS THEATRE** has been an incubator for new voices, from the page to the stage for 32 years.

This fall, Emerging Artists Theatre brings you the Spark Theatre Festival NYC. Visit the theater any evening during this three-week event and you'll find yourself transported in a number of surprising ways: by a single performer embodying a whole host of characters; by a dance piece that mesmerizes and entertains; by a play that forces you to think or laugh; or perhaps by a bouncy new musical that will have you humming.

Emerging Artists has always been about new works and diverse voices. That's never been more evident than now. And you, the audience, are the vital ingredient to making this a success. Your presence and participation in the unique talkback with the artists provides the insight they need to move their work forward.

During our 32 year history, Emerging Artists has premiered over 2,000 new works and also garnered a Drama Desk Nomination, received the American Theatre Wing Grant Award for Consistent Commitment to Excellence in Theatre, and was named Best Off-Off Broadway Theatre Company in NYC for Actors to Work With by Backstage Magazine. In the last five years alone, Emerging Artists has provided opportunities for over 4,500 diverse artists to see their work developed and premiered at no cost to the artists to submit or participate.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Emerging Artists Theatre acknowledges that this festival of new work is situated on the Lenape island of Manhattan (Mannahatta) and more broadly in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We pay respect to the Munsee Lenape ancestors and offer our care and gratitude.

The Chain Theatre

312 W 36th Street
3rd Floor
(between 8th avenue & 9th avenue)
New York, NY, 10018

SEPT 2024



MON, SEPT 9

7Pm Irreplaceable, A New Musical

7Pm Mom, Lasagna, and Marge

TUE, SEPT 10

7Pm cum rag

WED, SEPT 11

7Pm The Groomer

THUR, SEPT 12

7Pm Observant

FRI, SEPT 13

7Pm Gloria's Swansong Follies

SAT, SEPT 14

2Pm IN JUSTICE

5Pm Birdseed

5Pm The Definition of Insanity

5Pm There is Sanity in Madness

5Pm Unconditioned

5Pm Vexation

5Pm Where my grandmothers live
in my body

5Pm Peek a Boo

7Pm Observant

SUN, SEPT 15

5Pm CON*CUSSED

5Pm Absent of ...

7Pm Born to Be

7Pm I WILL STAY

7Pm Never Have I Ever

7Pm Subway Windows

MON, SEPT 16

7Pm Observant

TUE, SEPT 17

7Pm Ruthless Comedy Hour

WED, SEPT 18

2Pm Observant

7Pm The Schmidt Sisters

THUR, SEPT 19

7Pm Observant

FRI, SEPT 20

7Pm Model Majority Masterpiece
Theater

SAT, SEPT 21

2Pm Mon Carton/My Cardboard Box

5Pm The Recall

5Pm A Lamp in a Dark Room

5Pm Eden

5Pm The Gritarer Verde

5Pm The Regret

7Pm Swan Song for a StarBoy:
A One-Man Confession Booth
of Virtues and Verses

SUN, SEPT 22

2Pm Observant

5Pm Comfort Shows

5Pm Melting the Glass

5Pm Poor Man's Parable

5Pm The Boardroom

5Pm Reset Stasis

7Pm Burning

7Pm Are you listening?

7Pm Everything, but the Kitchen Sink

MON, SEPT 23

7Pm Music Appreciation

TUE, SEPT 24

7Pm Observant

WED, SEPT 25

7Pm FINDING AARON

THURS, SEPT 26

7Pm Observant

FRI, SEPT 27

2Pm The ALSO-RAN

7Pm again and...

7Pm Canvas

7Pm Pray

7Pm You're never gonna guess who I
have to train at work today

SAT, SEPT 28

2Pm Femina Ira

2Pm Chet Sketches

2Pm Untethered

2Pm Paris in the Springtime

5Pm A Path to Travel

5Pm Neurochoreography on the
Detection of Socio-Emotional
Oscillations

5Pm Reborn Series

5Pm The Drift

7Pm Observant

SUN, SEPT 29

2Pm Vincent the Musical

5Pm Earth

5Pm Jinwu

5Pm KAFRA Collective & Friends:
an evening of dance

7Pm Olivia O, The Musical

Red Lyric Productions in association with Adam Weinstock and Emerging Artists Theatre presents

OBSERVANT



The Chain Theatre
312 West 36th Street

How can we repair the world if we don't repair ourselves?

Three generations of women confront their relationships to their Jewish identities—and to each other. Comedy and tragedy entwined, like braided challah, when a mass shooting in their community tests the bonds of faith and family.

Writer: **PAMELA WEILER GRAYSON**

Director: **SHELLEN LUBIN****

Set Designer: **COLLEEN SHEA**

Lighting Designer: **DAVID CASTANEDA**

Sound Designer: **GRAYDON GUND**

Costume, Hair, and Make-Up Coordinator: **SOPHIA DORIO**

Production Stage Manager: **ARYN GEIER**

Stage Manager/Assistant Director: **AKSEL TANG**

CAST:

Yair Ben-Dor*, Fady Demian*, Arielle Flax,
Rebecca Hoodwin*, Arielle Beth Klein*, and Melissa Wolff*

AEA Showcase Production

*Member of the Actors' Equity Association

**Member of the Stage Directors and
Choreographers Society

Show type: Play, 100 minutes

PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES:

Thursday, 9/12 at 7PM

Wednesday, 9/18 at 2PM*

Tuesday, 9/24 at 7PM

Saturday, 9/14 at 7PM

Thursday, 9/19 at 7PM

Thursday, 9/26 at 7PM

Monday, 9/16 at 7PM

Sunday, 9/22 at 2PM

Saturday, 9/28 at 7PM

TICKETS \$40 /\$45 AT THE DOOR

If you would like to support this production, your tax-deductible donation will be greatly appreciated. All show supporters will be mentioned in the program. You will all be 'Menschies!' You can include a donation as you purchase your tickets.

OBSERVANT is a recipient of a 2024 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. It was also a Semi-Finalist in the Jewish Plays Project's 12th National Jewish Playwriting Competition.



**Council on
the Arts**

FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES

MON, SEPT 9, 7PM

Irreplaceable, A New Musical

Book: Ei Sugai

Music & Lyrics: Yu Okuda

Lyrics & Dramaturgy: Ayumi Okada

After his mother's tragic death, a music-loving teenager stops singing. Now in high school, he cares for his disabled grandfather, manages household chores, and works at a ballet studio. There, he meets a single mother and former TV director who wants to interview him for a movie about young carers.



MON, SEPT 9, 7PM

Mom, Lasagna, and Marge

Writer/Director: Nancy Davidoff Kelton

After her father dies, Joanna, a complex woman of 50, flies to Florida to the assisted living facility where her mother lives. They disagree on where Mom will live, then fly to New York, where Mom moves into a facility. She adapts well, except she fears an aide named Tazonya, whom she calls Lasagna.



TUE, SEPT 10, 7PM

cum rag

Writer: Leif Larson

Director: Matthew Pezzulich

A boy's sexual awakening is inter-twisted with humiliation and shame-- setting him on a scandalizing trajectory of raunchy perversion and moral degeneracy.



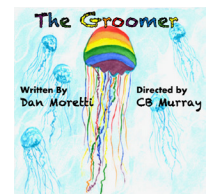
WED, SEPT 11, 7PM

The Groomer

Writer: Dan Moretti

Director: CB Murray

A retired Florida Judge tries to mediate a lawsuit between angry parents and their son's school teacher in a politically charged drama.



PLAYS

MUSICALS

SOLO SHOW

DANCE

TICKETS \$20 - \$40 | EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG

THUR, SEPT 12, 7PM

Observant

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson
Director: Shellen Lubin**
Set Designer: Colleen Shea

Three generations of women confront their relationships to their Jewish identities—and to each other. Comedy and tragedy entwine, like braided challah, when a mass shooting in their community tests the bonds of faith and family.



FRI, SEPT 13, 7PM

Gloria's Swansong Follies

Gloria Swansong and family present an evening of glamour, joy, and emotion through lipsync, burlesque, and impeccable performance. Usually confined to the small stages of NYC nightlife, Swansong and her troupe are excited to fill the stage of The Chain Theatre with numbers you won't want to miss!

Special guests include Andy Starling, Phoebe Jeebies, Zelda Garment, and Valentino West.



SAT, SEPT 14, 2PM

IN JUSTICE

Book & Lyrics: Sonya Baehr
Music: Thomas W Jones
Book & Lyrics & Music: Vanessa Baehr-Jones

Inspired by real events, *IN JUSTICE* follows an ambitious prosecutor as she pursues the case of her career against a female tech icon. But when her boss in the Justice Department turns on her key witness, the tech company's young, Black CFO, she must decide whether to resign in protest.



SAT, SEPT 14, 5PM

Birdseed

Choreographer/Performer: Davinara Marcario
Costume Designer: Cythnia Rucinski-Marcario
Music: "Lligai" and "Ak Ozen" by Folk Ensemble Of The Presidential Orchestra

Using the fusion movement framework from past works, the dancer this time embodies a Kazakh bird. Despite the obstacles in her journey, the bird ends more driven than before.



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PLAYS

MUSICALS

SOLO SHOW

DANCE

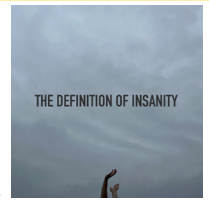
TICKETS \$20 – \$40 | EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG

SAT, SEPT 14, 5PM

The Definition of Insanity

Choreographer: Claudia Logi

The *Definition of Insanity* delves into the complexities of toxic relationships, exploring the repetitive cycles of destructive behavior and the futile hope for change. Inspired by Einstein's insight on insanity, this piece by Claudia Logi offers a raw, compelling look at human nature and the struggle for transformation.



SAT, SEPT 14, 5PM

There is Sanity in Madness

Choreographer: KZ (Karina Mehta)

A duet that delves into the complexities of being in love. A tale-like, physical interpretation of the speaker's description of falling in love that highlights the rollercoaster of a connection love is. There are moments of comfortability, attachment, dependence, pressure, and weakness displayed through storytelling movement.



SAT, SEPT 14, 5PM

Unconditioned

Choreographer: Elizabeth Fields

Choreographer: Caleb Mansor

Dancer/Collaborator: Violet Hartman

Unconditioned consists of two duets that explore the intimate human relationship and how closeness costs us vulnerability. The work explores themes of connection, support, and belonging through the versatile voice of dance.



SAT, SEPT 14, 5PM

Vexation

Choreographer: Mia Canzonieri

An intense build of frustration and self-deprecation, where a young queer artist must navigate and learn to understand and trust themselves in creating their work and getting through life. A beaten-down individual must learn to overcome internal anxiety and frustrations before it all consumes them.



PLAYS

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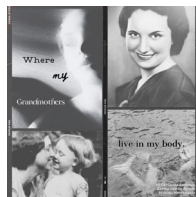
SAT, SEPT 14, 5PM

Where my grandmothers live in my body

Creator: Christina Swanson

Performer: Karina Parker

Sound design: Efthimi Matsamakís



Where do lessons live when our teachers are long gone? Where my grandmothers live in my body is an exploration of ancestry and the physical manifestation of legacy. Combining movement, original music, and monologues, two characters interact from separate worlds, sharing their stories while their descendants make sense of them.

SAT, SEPT 14, 5PM

Peek a Boo

Choreographer: Caroline Alter in collaboration with the dancers

Object permanence is defined by child psychologists as knowing an object or person still exists even when they are hidden and you can't see or hear them. We grow up to innately understand this concept in our environment. I'm drawn as I feel hidden memories and emotions stored in my fascia coming out during my strongest cries or my calmest moments. This is the embodied peek a boo game we play with ourselves.



SAT, SEPT 14, 7PM

Observant

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson

Director: Shellen Lubin**

Set Designer: Colleen Shea



Three generations of women confront their relationships to their Jewish identities—and to each other. Comedy and tragedy entwined, like braided challah, when a mass shooting in their community tests the bonds of faith and family.

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SUN, SEPT 15, 5PM

CON*CUSSED

Writer & Performer: Elizabeth Alice Murray*

Director: Roger Cacchiotti

Some people suffer head injuries and can suddenly speak French, play a musical instrument or visualize quadratic equations. Elizabeth kept waiting for that to happen to her. *Con*Cussed* is a hilariously painful and ridiculously true story of healing which explores questions of how we perceive our reality.



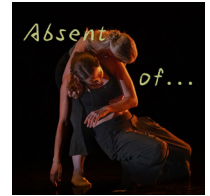
SUN, SEPT 15, 5PM

Absent of . . .

Choreographer: Alyssa Myers

Set/Costume Designer: Kyle Livsey

Five dancers explore the nuance of connection - how it exists and does not. *Absent of...* is meant to give space to ask what reality exists in our mind as well as outside of it. These two trains of logic can run parallel and/or perpendicular to each other, creating a continuous thread of dissonance and unity. While the feeling of this work is weighted at times, this piece embodies an overall resonance of resiliency and perseverance.



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SUN, SEPT 15, 7PM

Born to Be

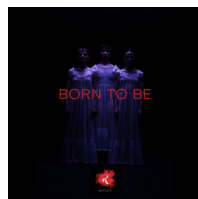
Director/Choreographer: Naïma Pöhler

Composer: Allison Spann

Costumes: Amanda Kyleen C

“One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.” - Simone de Beauvoir

Born to Be reimagines this exploration of womanhood through a vibrant contemporary ballet, merging movement, music, and art into a narrative that dissects gender constructs and amplifies the voices from the margins. This work is a homage to resilience and transformation, inviting a journey into the depths of identity and rights across eras.”



SUN, SEPT 15, 7PM

I WILL STAY

Choreographers: Eric Vidana, Irenie Melin Gompper, Claudio Caverni, Laura Izquierdo

I Will Stay explores the paradoxical emotions entwined with commitment. Through fluid movements and poignant pauses, dancers express the interplay of security and doubt, affection and resentment. *I Will Stay* invites the audience to contemplate the fragile yet resilient nature of staying, evoking a turbulent journey through the depths of emotional connection and choice.



SUN, SEPT 15, 7PM

Never Have I Ever

Choreographer: Joey Anderson

Five performers share stories of remorse and lessons learned through physicalized sensation and the spoken word. How do we balance space between you and me? Why do we speak out?



SUN, SEPT 15, 7PM

Subway Windows

Choreography: Beth Jucovy and company

Visual Artist: Ilene Isseks

Groups of diverse subway riders attempt to engage in the NYC ritual of ignoring each other. As the subway proceeds, the riders' anonymity dissolves, personalities and dreams emerge, and interactions occur. As their destinations approach, the riders burst into a frenzied celebration of the subway and city that never sleeps.



PLAYS

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MON, SEPT 16, 7PM

Observant

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson
Director: Shellen Lubin**
Set Designer: Colleen Shea

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TUE, SEPT 17, 7PM

Ruthless Comedy Hour

Creator/Co-host: Cynthia Kaplan
Creator/Co-host: Karen Bergreen
Producer: Eileen Katz

In its 8th smash year, *The Ruthless Comedy Hour* features top comedians, musicians and celebrity interviews, and addresses social, political and local concerns by making brutal fun of them. Bergreen is a veteran stand up and acclaimed novelist. Kaplan is a comedy writer and musician and just as acclaimed essayist.



WED, SEPT 18, 2PM

Observant

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Director: Shellen Lubin**
Set Designer: Colleen Shea

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WED, SEPT 18, 7PM

The Schmidt Sisters

Book: Rebecca Farley

Lyrics: Margo Hera

Music: Blake Dylan Pilger



In a bid to earn a few thousand rubles, Lenin sends two of his most trusted comrades to seduce and marry two heiresses: the Schmidt sisters. “The Schmidt Sisters: A Revolutionary Situation” follows the paths of these two sisters as they collide with history’s most meme-able leftist and his plans.

THUR, SEPT 19, 7PM

Observant

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson

Director: Shellen Lubin**

Set Designer: Colleen Shea



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FRI, SEPT 20, 7PM

Model Majority Masterpiece Theater

Director/Writer/Actor/Producer: Veronica Dang*

Celebrate books with a night of sketch comedy inspired by famous novels with the acclaimed comedy team “Model Majority” while it is still possible. “Model Majority” has been featured on GOOD MORNING AMERICA, CBS, NY1, and more, and you may have seen team members on TV and Film.



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SAT, SEPT 21, 2PM

Mon Carton/My Cardboard Box

Performer/Creator: Selena Rook

Theatrical Director: Felipe Magana

Pedagogical Director: Coline Irwin

Mon Carton is a physical theater, dance, and object manipulation performance. Drawing on the simplest of sets, the magic and mystery of a featureless box provide the entry into a world of discovery. As surprises emerge from the box, the performer embarks on a journey of construction, play, and transformation, employing ordinary items (cardboard, paper, balls) to evoke landscapes, animals, vehicles, and more.



SAT, SEPT 21, 5PM

The Recall

Choreographer: Kristen Klein

Six Degrees Dance Artistic Director: Cecly Placenti

The Recall explores our perceptions of memory and how alternating points of view can cause changes within our personal belief systems.

This work was made in collaboration with the performers through research, dialogue and movement algorithms.



SAT, SEPT 21, 5PM

A Lamp in a Dark Room

Choreography: Laura Ardner

Music: Andrew Mastalli

This piece is inspired by a non-linear interpretation of the 79 AD eruption of Mt. Vesuvius that destroyed the city of Pompeii, Italy. The piece begins in the present day looking at the city from the tourist perspective before transporting back to before the disaster and what the modern-day person believes the victims experienced.

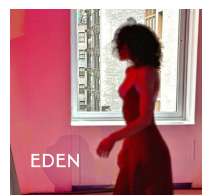


SAT, SEPT 21, 5PM

Eden

Choreographer/Performer: Lil Aronoff

No matter how hard we work, or how busy we are, or how much we learn, none of us actually and entirely knows what we're doing. But that's no excuse to stop doing. So let's just keep trucking on this perpetual journey of delusion that we will ever figure out what the f*ck is happening!



PLAYS

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SAT, SEPT 21, 5PM

The Gritarer Verde

Writer/Director: Dan Brown

In an effort to secure a long-overdue promotion and advance her career, Steph tries to win her boss's favor by mailing him an expensive gift. However, her future plans and entire life are turned upside down when she realizes that she may have accidentally purchased him an adult pleasure item.

The Gritarer Verde



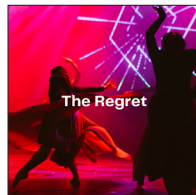
SAT, SEPT 21, 5PM

The Regret

Choreographer: Abby Zeng

Music: Julia Govor, Rashid Ajami

In *The Regret* the ancient art of Chinese classical dance meets the pulsating rhythms of modern techno, crafting a narrative that transcends time and culture. This dance piece is a vivid exploration of the emotional landscapes we navigate in our relationships, where the languages of love often become mediums through which we express, yet also conceal, our true selves. Through the fluidity of traditional dance and the relentless tempo of techno, the performance captures the turmoil of giving oneself entirely to others and the transformative realization of one's neglect of self-love and care.



SUN, SEPT 22, 2PM

Observant

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson

Director: Shellen Lubin**

Set Designer: Colleen Shea

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SAT, SEPT 21, 7PM

Swan Song for a StarBoy: A One-Man Confession Booth of Virtues and Verses

Writer: Cris Eli Blak

Director: Lawrence Floyd

Music: Ronvé O'Daniel

After overdosing and passing away in his hotel room on Christmas Eve, the spirit of a successful young hip-hop artist tells his life story, tracing the threads of how he went from abuse survivor to rich and famous through the use of traditional storytelling, spoken word, and rap lyricism.



SUN, SEPT 22, 5PM

Comfort Shows

Choreographer: Elizabeth Buchheister

Music: Sean Kimball and various artists

A whirlwind of TV show theme songs from your favorite comfort shows are brought to life in this relatable and comedic dance theater piece. We escape into their world as soon as the title theme plays, but now they're dancing their way into ours.



SUN, SEPT 22, 5PM

Melting the Glass

Choreographers: Kaitlin Hill and Catherine McConnell

Melting the Glass explores the awareness of being watched. As the dancers' movements mirror, distort, and diverge from each other, they begin to sense one another's presence—similar yet unsettlingly different. This dance questions perception, presence, and the impact of being seen in a dynamic interaction of live movement and videography.



SUN, SEPT 22, 5PM

Poor Man's Parable

Choreographer: Natalia Nikitin

How do we process the loss of something we never thought was possible to lose? It is through overcoming those painful losses, that we can find our inner strength and recognize the community that surrounds us. The movement is set to the raw voices of the Pyatnitsky Russian Folk Chorus.



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SUN, SEPT 22, 5PM

The Boardroom

Choreographer: Caroline Voultepsis

Animators: El Carhart and Gus Koeniges

Lighting Designer: Ian Clark

Dive deep into the mind of one artist, a brain run by five board members fighting to bring color and creativity into a dull and mundane world. Set to music by Talking Heads, enter the boardroom and see what magic happens inside an artist's head.

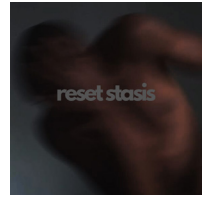


SUN, SEPT 22, 5PM

Reset Stasis

Choreographer: Robert Rubama

The piece will explore the concept of Cryptobiosis, a state in extremophiles where their metabolic process is slowed due to adverse environmental conditions. This state of self-preservation continues until the environment improves. We will also explore adverse situations, relationships, and environments that have caused us to pause and consider how our communities can help us and bring us back to a state of balance.



SUN, SEPT 22, 7PM

Burning

Writer & Producer: Rebecca Nyahay

In the searing desert heat, a middle-aged woman named Jesse arrives at a deserted roadhouse, seeking the man who once made her laugh. Having had a life-altering epiphany, Jesse hopes to rekindle the joy and connection she once shared with John, a rockabilly bartender. *Burning* explores themes of redemption, lost love, and the profound impact of laughter.



SUN, SEPT 22, 7PM

Are you listening?

Choreographer: Julia Ramirez

Caught between pursuit and the allure of distraction, we navigate the intersections of moments, memories, and relationships that shape our identities and ground us in our realities. This journey sees six entities converging, guided by the ethereal boundaries of light and space.



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SUN, SEPT 22, 7PM

Everything, but the Kitchen Sink

Choreographer: Julia Ramirez

Caught between pursuit and the allure of distraction, we navigate the intersections of moments, memories, and relationships that shape our identities and ground us in our realities. This journey sees six entities converging, guided by the ethereal boundaries of light and space.



MON, SEPT 23, 7PM

Music Appreciation,

Writer: Ben Yarmolinsky

Director: Scott Klavan

Music Director: Bob Goldstone

Music Appreciation is a full-length musical theater piece about contemporary music education. Inspired by the author's experiences teaching at a community college in the Bronx, it dramatizes an educational situation in crisis. It looks at this situation unflinchingly but with humor, pathos, and affection for the people involved.



TUE, SEPT 24, 7PM

Observant

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson

Director: Shellen Lubin**

Set Designer: Colleen Shea

Three generations of women confront their relationships to their Jewish identities—and to each other. Comedy and tragedy entwined, like braided challah, when a mass shooting in their community tests the bonds of faith and family.



WED, SEPT 25, 7PM

FINDING AARON

Producer/Book, Music, Lyrics: Kris Maloy

General Manager/Director: Jay Michaels

FINDING AARON -- a cross between *How to Succeed in ...* and *Wicked*. It's about the struggle almost every young adult in America faces: who you are and what you want in life, finding someone to be with, and how to make all that work together. It's a comedy with a message about finding your way in the modern world despite all the ways the world conspires against you.



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THUR, SEPT 26, 7PM

Observant

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Director: Shellen Lubin**
Set Designer: Colleen Shea



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FRI, SEPT 27, 2PM

The ALSO-RAN

Playwright/Performer: Billy Hipkins
Director: Perry Dell'Aquila

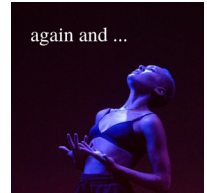


What became of Jennie Gourlay, For'd Theatre actress whose benefit performance was canceled after Booth shot Lincoln? And why does this obsess Billy Hipkins? He'll tell you in his one-man journey through her story, his story, and history in this return benefit for Emerging Artists Theatre.

FRI, SEPT 27, 7PM

again and ...

Choreographer/Performer: Araya Morris



Everyone has an inner monologue that floods their minds with the same thoughts over and over, again and again... This dancer's monologue through movement conceptualizes how intimacy, physical touch, and sexuality can, at times, be one and the same but at other times be completely exclusive.

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PLAYS

MUSICALS

SOLO SHOW

DANCE

TICKETS \$20 – \$40 | EMERGINGARTISTSTHEATRE.ORG

FRI, SEPT 27, 7PM

Canvas

Choreographer: Sarah Rose with Helen Greider and Ross Daniel

Projection Design: Sarah Rose based on original paintings by Dotty Kyle

Sound Design: Ross Daniel

Canvas is a trio dance performance exploring ideas for spatial design and movement quality from Dotty Kyle's oil paintings of New England landscapes. The movement is paired with close-up projections of the paintings, which are displayed on the dancers' bodies.



FRI, SEPT 27, 7PM

Pray

Concept, Choreography, and Direction by Tina Bararian

This piece comments on the water scarcity that poses a real danger for the future of Iran, and the Islamic Republic of Iran refuses to allow any environmental experts to address the issue. Instead, government officials, and extremists, see 'prayer' as the primary solution for the crisis.



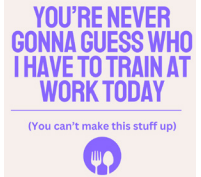
FRI, SEPT 27, 7PM

You're never gonna guess who I have to train at work today

Writer: Arianna Wellmoney

Director: Imani Youngblood

Maddey is preparing for her waitress shift before the dinner rush when she finds out she has to train Quiana, the woman her ex-boyfriend left her for. Maddey's work crush, Omari, also intervenes and causes chaos. Awkwardness prevails.



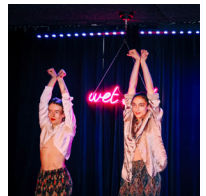
SAT, SEPT 28, 2PM

Femina Ira

Choreographer: Sammie Murray

Collaborators: August Honey and Maverik Leslie

Femina Ira is a space created to luxuriate in femininity from a genderqueer perspective.



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SAT, SEPT 28, 2PM

Chet Sketches

Choreographer/Performer: Amanda Egan

Chet Sketches is a solo based on the life and music of Jazz legend Chet Baker. The choreography aims to physically transcribe and embellish upon the musical nuances of the selected recordings while also taking audience members on a separate journey of love, loss, and celebration.



SAT, SEPT 28, 2PM

Untethered

Dancers: Variety Pack Collective

Accompanying Artist and Effects Creator: Trevor New

Untethered connects artists across space and disciplines and experiments with technology, visuals, music, and the impacts these have on a dancer's movement. The artists explore connection, disconnection, and collaboration in an interactive environment. Through visual effects, live music, and movement, the audience is immersed in a 3D viewing experience.



SAT, SEPT 28, 2PM

Paris in the Springtime

Writer/Director: Neil Friedland

Two people meet away from their therapy group for the first time and explore risk, desire, and a chance at happiness.



SAT, SEPT 28, 5PM

A Path to Travel

Choreographer/Performer: Rachel Daly and Caroline Sherwood

This is a story about taking the undesirable path, shedding pieces of yourself in return for a lighter load, and learning to share the weight you carry. In the end, you let the resistance diminish and give into the pull of the journey.



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SAT, SEPT 28, 5PM

Neurochoreography on the Detection of Socio-Emotional Oscillations

Choreographer: Spenser Stroud

Research Advisor: Hakan Fischer, University of Stockholm

Could the interdisciplinary nature of performance rearticulate the rigidity of Neuroscience research and suggest alternative methodologies and theories? Our objective is to delineate quandaries concerning not only the interplay between the body and mind but the relationship between perception and affect, the role of performance in eliciting recursive meta-analysis and reorienting the sterility of empirical perspectives.



SAT, SEPT 28, 5PM

Reborn Series

Choreography: FioRise dance works

What do you feel when your burden torments you? You might think there's no way out... but suddenly, life makes you find a light that gives strength, beauty and hope. Reborn Series is a journey that leads you from darkness to the brightness of a renewed life.



SAT, SEPT 28, 5PM

The Drift

Choreographers/Performers: Georgina Bates and Ethan Jacques

An excerpt from a larger work, this section of *The Drift* is a movement exploration of how the collective WE find ourselves again after events seemingly shift our identities. Rocky relationships, parental responsibility, addiction, loneliness—how do we reestablish ourselves in the present while navigating the past and the future?



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SAT, SEPT 28, 7PM

Observant

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson

Director: Shellen Lubin**

Set Designer: Colleen Shea

Three generations of women confront their relationships to their Jewish identities—and to each other. Comedy and tragedy entwine, like braided challah, when a mass shooting in their community tests the bonds of faith and family.



SUN, SEPT 29, 2PM

Vincent the Musical

Writers: Gabi Ammirato & Yen Nien Hsu

Director: Lauren Stock

Vinnie, a middle schooler recently diagnosed with ADHD, struggles to cope in a school, family, and society not built for his success. Along the way, he finds confidence through the arts and learns the importance of using his voice with the help of a very famous ghost, Vincent Van Gogh.



SUN, SEPT 29, 5PM

Earth

Choreographer: Xinyi Zhang

Music: "Heaven and Earth" Pius Cheung

Earth ("Kun") represents the earth in ancient China and is a traditional symbol of motherhood and femininity. This piece comments on Earth, which gives birth to everything and embraces all growth, is resilient, nurtures love, and reinvents itself. I also incorporate one of the five elements of ancient China, which is the source of qi and blood biochemistry. Through physical expansion, connection, and mobility, the work embodies the "earth" of people in the spiritual world.



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SUN, SEPT 29, 5PM

Jinwu

Choreographer: Xinyi Zhang

Music: "Heaven and Earth" Pius Cheung

This piece draws its inspiration from the legendary tale of the Golden Crow as chronicled in the 'Shan Hai Jing' ('Mountains and Seas').

This three-legged avian deity rests within the heart of a crimson sun ablaze with golden luminescence. The Golden Crow embodies the passage of time, its feathers etched with the stories of endless days and fleeting years, each moment a brushstroke upon the canvas of existence.



SUN, SEPT 29, 5PM

KAFRA Collective & Friends: an evening of dance

Choreographers: Francesca Antonacci, Caroline Brethenoux

Step into "KAFRA Collective & Friends: an evening of dance" and witness Caroline Brethenoux and Francesca Antonacci navigate stories of mercy and migration through dance. 'Le bleu déchirant du ciel' confronts forced migration, while 'Sweet Escape' explores acts of mercy. A poignant evening of contemporary dance awaits.



SUN, SEPT 29, 7PM

Olivia O, The Musical

Book: Diane Currie Sam and Jessica Carmona

Lyrics: Jessica Carmona and Diane Currie Sam

Music: Gil Yaron

Separated from her mother at the US/Mexican border and sent to an abusive foster home, a young girl must maintain her hope, kindness, and strength of will as she struggles to reunite with her family.



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To submit your new play, musical, dance, solo show, or other theatrical piece to the Spark Theatre Festival go to emergingartists theatre.org.

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Actors' Equity Association, American Guild of Musical Artists, American Guild of Variety Artists, and SAG-AFTRA through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the Artists to appear on this program.



Actors' Equity Association ("AEA" or "Equity"), founded in 1913, is the labor union that represents more than 49,000 Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans, for its members. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity Emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.





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