



EMERGING ARTISTS
THEATRE



SPARK

THEATRE FESTIVAL NYC

FALL 2023



presents the



Emerging Artists Theatre (EAT) is proud to present the Spark Theatre Festival NYC, formerly called the New Work Series. As part of EAT's 30th anniversary celebration, we gave our biannual festival of new works for the stage a new name and a new look, one that represents the flicker of an idea and artists that ignite.

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** is celebrating 30 years of being an incubator for new voices, from the page to the stage.

Emerging Artists Theatre is thrilled to bring you the Fall 2023 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 well choreographed 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, emerging talents, 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 participation in the unique talkback with the artists provides the insight they need to move their work forward.

During our 30 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 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.

28th Street Theater (also known as TADA!)

15 West 28th Street, 2nd Floor
Between Broadway & 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10001

**OCT-
NOV
2023**



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
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5 2Pm Spinning My Wheels 5Pm That Is Not What I Meant at All 5Pm You and I 5Pm Friday Night in a Bookstore 5Pm Légèreté 7Pm I Will Call Again 7Pm Marga- the Path 7Pm Codes/Obedience 7Pm Oh, YoU DoOOo???	6 7Pm OBSERVANT	7 7Pm Bari, the abandoned princess
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19 5Pm Two Brothers 5Pm 3rd Gen		

WEDNESDAY**THURSDAY****FRIDAY****SATURDAY****1****2**7Pm ILLUSION**3**7Pm CROSSING
POINTS**4**7Pm Garden of Eden
7Pm Entropy
7Pm Behold
7Pm Cry Me A River
7Pm NO(W)
9Pm Space Cat BACK
aLIVE
9Pm Please Let Me
Save You**8**7Pm Inside/Out
7Pm ALL THAT WE
KNOW
7Pm Prism**9****10**7Pm elements of
being honest
9Pm Starin' at and
Spittin' Down...the
Abyss
9Pm What about
Love?**11**7Pm Best if used by
9Pm So Now, I'm the
Bad Guy**15**7Pm She Speaks No
English, I Speak No
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7Pm 3 by e.e.
cummings
7Pm Recognition
7Pm I'm A Dreamer
Immersive Experience
9Pm To Unfold and
Hold
9Pm Luck of the Draw
9Pm Dinner Party**18**7Pm Apathetic
7Pm Where the
Violets Bloom
7Pm Fellas
9Pm 9 Tales of a Bitch
9Pm untitled
mermaid project

MON, OCT 30, 7PM

Saints Preserve Us

Writer & Performer: Billy Hipkins

Director: Perry Dell'Aquila

Incorruptible Saints? That's Catholic for bodies that didn't decompose but mummified instead. Miraculous, creepy and on display all over Italy. Billy's gotta see this, while putting his drinking on hold permanently. But, well, when in Rome... Saluti! So, can these venerated Saints intercede with God? And help with his drinking? It'll take a miracle.



TUE, OCT 31, 7PM

Project: Library

Director, Bookwriter, and Lyricist: Maeve Kelley Baker

Composer and Music Director: Gaby Mank

Stage Manager: McKelvey Courtney Collins

What happens when you don't return a book for twenty years? You owe the library a million dollars. Based on the popular web-series of the same name, this musical is the story of a run-down library and the lengths taken to try and save it.



THURS, NOV 2, 7PM

ILLUSION

Book & Lyrics: Donald Loftus

Music: Steve Zackim

Director: Ronny Dutra

In the tradition of "FUNNY GIRL" & "GYPSY", "ILLUSION" is a showbusiness bio-musical which tells the story of Julian Eltinge. He conquered Vaudeville, Burlesque, Broadway, and legitimate theaters worldwide before moving on to Hollywood. He even had a Broadway theatre named in his honor; yet today, nobody knows his name.



PLAYS

MUSICALS

SOLO SHOW

DANCE

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

FRI, NOV 3, 7PM

CROSSING POINTS

Director/Choreographer: Grazia Capri

Composer: Stefano Cavazzini

Immerse yourself in an intimate night of performances that delve into the poetry of bodies in motion. Explore the crossing points, dissolve boundaries, savor solitary breaths, and witness the profound union between movement and emotion. Join us for a truly intimate and evocative experience.



SAT, NOV 4, 7PM

Garden of Eden

Choreographer: Miaotian Sun, Xinyi Zhang

Musician: Fang

A thought-provoking modern dance project that explores the complexity of female aggression and competition, and invites people to examine their own experiences of female relationships and the complex web of dynamics that exist within them.



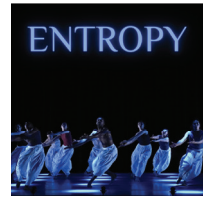
SAT, NOV 4, 7PM

Entropy

Choreographer: Xinyi Zhang

Musician: JUHA

A tapestry of nature's anguished cries, woven with threads of water pollution, environmental decay, and the relentless spectre of global warming.



SAT, NOV 4, 7PM

Behold

Choreographer: Kristal Nicole

A composer suffering mentally and existentially falls in love with one of his musical compositions. Together, they navigate the obstacles of life.

A short dance piece exploring the highs and lows of an artist's journey.



PLAYS

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SAT, NOV 4, 7PM
Cry Me A River

Choreographer/Performer: Alyssa Faye

A theater dance solo, playing within memory, heartbreak, and the choice to move forward.



SAT, NOV 4, 7PM
NO(w)

Choreography/Performance: Grace Fisher, Laura Ardner

Past and future selves meet in this investigation of the present belonging to each of us. We developed this dance in response to our curiosity around time and how we as individuals exist through it.



SAT, NOV 4, 9PM
Space Cat BACK aLiVE

Choreographer: Anna McGary
Composer: Mack Watson

Paris. 1963. The thick of the space race. A humble stray is kidnapped off the streets of Paris to become the first feline astronaut. She SURVIVES the groundbreaking trip. That is until she's shot down in her prime by the same team that rocketed her to superstardom (and outer space).



SAT, NOV 4, 9PM
Please Let Me Save You

Writers/Actors: Kaiya Linkugel and Ariella Carmell
Director: Andie Lerner

“Repeat after me: I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. You're not answering. Do you accept Him or not? Your soul is in danger. Are you there? Please let me save you.” An absurdist play about two young women navigating life and death with Jesus lurking in the background.



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SUN, NOV 5, 2PM

Spinning My Wheels

Writer: Michael Garfield Levine

Director: Caitlin Langstaff

Actor: Michael Garfield Levine*

This brutally honest, funny, and harrowing roller coaster of a ride takes us from the stages and streets of New York to the hills of Vermont and into the depths of Michael's psyche as he battles mental illness and addiction. A courageous journey of sheer guts, dogged determination and survival.

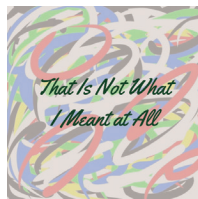


SUN, NOV 5, 5PM

That Is Not What I Meant at All

Singer/songwriter: Robert Firpo-Cappiello

Two-time Emmy nominee Robert Firpo-Cappiello delivers a high-energy set of cabaret punk songs from his musical plays "Beggars Rain" and "Festa: Songs & Stories".



SUN, NOV 5, 5PM

You and I

Writer: Benjamin Ward

YOU AND I is a short, two-man song cycle exploring the differing paths a relationship can take - from friendship to romance and breakup and grief - or perhaps even hope and a happy ending. With a soaring contemporary pop-Broadway score, *YOU AND I* examines how our own identities and relationships must shift in an ever more complex world, and how our outlook on life and each other can change as we do.



SUN, NOV 5, 5PM

Friday Night in a Bookstore

Writer: Gwendolyn Fitz

Songs from a movie musical based on Gwendolyn Fitz's song, "Friday Night in a Bookstore." Every Friday, Gwendolyn goes to her local bookstore in the hopes of having a meet-cute with "the one", only to find she starts spending every Friday night at the bookstore with Andrew, a bookseller and aspiring author, who also finds Gwendolyn's idea for a meet-cute silly. Little do they know they make Gwendolyn's meet-cute a reality with each other.



*Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

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SUN, NOV 5, 5PM

Légèreté

Choreographers & Dancers: Francesca Antonacci & Caroline Brethenoux,
co-founders of KAFRA Collective

Two dancers share the result of their personal exploration of the possibilities of weightlessness while gravity is the only law that prevails.

LEGERETE

SUN, NOV 5, 7PM

I WILL CALL AGAIN

Writer/Actress: Jessica Terry

Director: Aksel Tang

Sound Designer: Carla Costabile

A son that leaves for class. A mom who tries to communicate with him without success. The days go by, the son still hasn't come back. Phone calls, voices, minutes. Phone calls, voices, hours. Phone calls, voices, days. Phone calls, voices, tears. Tic, toc, tic, toc...the phone rings.

I Will Call Again

BY JESSICA TERRY

SUN, NOV 5, 7PM

Marga- the Path

Choreographer and Performer: Anugraha Sridhar

"Marga" is an exploration of the movement technique that forms the root of Indian classical dance. This show takes the audience through multiple short story-telling narratives of Indian mythology, through movements inspired by ancient temple sculptures filled with emotions of various characters, all played by a single performer! The first act has stories of characters from the great Indian epic -The Ramayana - and are combined and presented to show various human emotions. The second act is a story of a small boy's devotion and love for Vishnu who saves him from his father - a demon king.

Marga- the Path



SUN, NOV 5, 7PM

Codes/Obedience

Choreographer: Leigha Bartko

The experience of women in America is to fight: politically, mentally and physically. This is the manifestation of those experiences in moving bodies.

CODES

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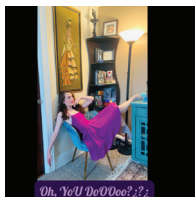
SUN, NOV 5, 7PM

Oh, YoU DoOOo???

Choreographer: Abby McBroom

Dancers: Abby McBroom, Jake Corcoran

The same insincerity that plagues society has a very unhinged Brenda Lee on the verge of discovering that even the closest people aren't always what they seem. Her emotions explored through a satirical lens that only theatre and dance can bring, Brenda's movement and her patronizing comedic timing reveals that she can either sink into insanity or trust her own instincts.



MON, NOV 6, 7PM

OBSERVANT

Writer: Pamela Weiler Grayson

Director: Alice Jankell

When a violent mass shooting rocks their community, three generations of women in a family confront their relationships to their Jewish identities—and to each other. Comedy and tragedy entwine, like a braided challah, as family members grapple with what it means to be a Jewish American.



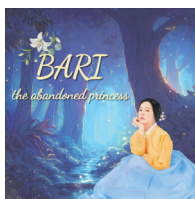
TUE, NOV 7, 7PM

Bari, the abandoned princess

Book & Lyrics: Alexandra Munroe

Music & Lyrics: Yejune Kim

Bari discovers a secret about her past, and is asked to journey to the Underworld to save her biological parents, but instead finds her true purpose in life.



WED, NOV 8, 7PM

Inside/Out

Choreographer: Teresa Fellion

Composer: John Yannelli

Costume Designer: Nina Katan

“Inside/Out” reflects and responds to publicized actions that have actively worked against gender expression, sexuality, and infringements on personal rights to bodily autonomy. Performed by three multi-identity dancers, the piece also reflects on the mental distress caused as a result of this ongoing violence and unjust legislation.



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WED, NOV 8, 7PM

ALL THAT WE KNOW

Writer: James Bosley

Director: James Bosley

A cross section of local characters - priest, nurse, mom, party girl, janitor, teen boy - share their intimate thoughts, before and after a tragic event.

ALL
THAT
WE
KNOW

WED, NOV 8, 7PM

Prism

Choreographer: Samantha Paulik

Music: Chris Cruz

“Prism” unveils the vibrant world within a beam of light. Dancers embody colors, revealing their unique personalities and relationships. This contemporary dance piece transforms the color spectrum into a captivating narrative, celebrating the interplay of light, emotion, and the human experience.



FRI, NOV 10, 7PM

elements of being honest

Choreographers: Amanda Lindamood and Maia Virgil

In an unexpected encounter, two ex-lovers see each other in a crowd. Involuntary memories rush through before they are pulled back to reality and continue on their separate ways.



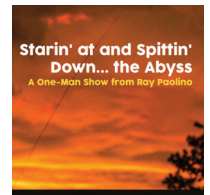
FRI, NOV 10, 9PM

Starin' at and Spittin' Down...the Abyss

Writer/Performer: Ray Paolino

Director: Barry Pearson

In this irreverent, time-jumping survey of his personal life, Paolino explores the profane, tragic, comic and dynamic tensions between the physical and the mental.



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FRI, NOV 10, 9PM

What about Love?

Director & Choreographer: Emanuele Fiore

A journey into the multiple aspects of Love, full of passion and drama, will lead hearts and minds into the awareness that nobody in this world will ever be alone.



SAT, NOV 11, 7PM

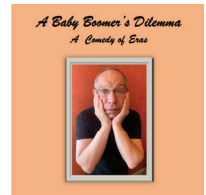
Best if used by

Writer: Joe Anania

Director: Annette Maillard

Producer: Roland Michely

Stories of a man growing up in the late 50s and 60s in a blue-collar neighborhood. Trying to find his place in life by pursuing an acting career and finally finding peace of mind.



SAT, NOV 11, 9PM

So Now, I'm the Bad Guy

Writer: Josh Hyman*

Producers: Carmen Delessio, Shayne Hyman

Josh Hyman, the most famous comic you never heard of, tells a story about speaking up for himself when nobody else would - to the detriment of every modicum of success he ever could have attained. From acting with Robert DeNiro, to drinking whilst Shakespearling, mis-parenting and being mis-parented, come see this one-man show about a mensch just needing to be mentioned.



*Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

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SUN, NOV 12, 2PM

Riverbend

Director: Olivia Songer

Lyrics/Book: Caroline Game

Music: Michael Oosterhout



The headstrong, eighteen year-old Daphne has a plan: Leave her small town and take her late mother's sailboat for a year-long trip. But when twins Diana and Aiden move to town, she is challenged by feelings she's never known. Inspired by Greek mythology, come aboard for this heart-wrenching coming-of-age story of grief, self-discovery, and falling in love.

SUN, NOV 12, 5PM

DUSK

Writer: Lynda Crawford

Director: CB Murray

Choreography: Kat Files



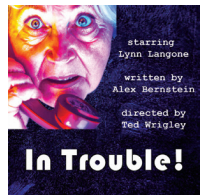
A woman tries to make amends to a friend for something she did thirty years before during the AIDS crisis. A play with dance about memories - the ones that haunt us, the ones that escape, and what we can and can't do to change the past.

SUN, NOV 12, 7PM

In Trouble

Writer: Alex Bernstein

Director: Ted Wrigley



Gamma is on high alert when she gets a late night call from Billy, her grandson, who's being held at the police station. Or is he?

SUN, NOV 12, 7PM

Everyone's a Stranger

Writer: Nancy Davidoff Kelton

Director, Scott Klavan*/**



Joanna, an engaging, complex woman of 50, journeys towards self-love and understanding her mother. Mom was in a mental institution, which Joanna called "the nervous hospital" to make her father laugh. Being funny was Joanna's calling card. That had a price. So did her attachment to Dad. She evolves.

*Appears courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

**Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

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SUN, NOV 12, 7PM

Unrequited Fruitbowl

Choreographer/Dancer: Natalie Long

After my last work was shown at SPARK Theatre Festival NYC in the spring, I knew the 'Unrequited' story wasn't finished being told. This time, I'm expounding on previous themes while investigating my solo practice, reflecting on how I've grown as a mover, a lover, and a lover of movement.



MON, NOV 13, 7PM

If I Can't Dance You Can Keep Your Revolution: The Coca Crystal Story

Actor/Writer: Danielle Quisenberry

Music by Jesse Krakow and Sandy McKnight

Director: Derek Jamison

Public access TV Star, anarchist, and former East Village Other reporter Coca Crystal hosts a reunion show with a live in-studio audience, but when her featured guest fails to arrive, she fills in with her personal story; a moving testament to the power of humor, love, art, and perseverance. Our collective experience makes this idyllic world feel closer while it realistically gets farther away.



TUE, NOV 14, 7PM

of body of body of

Director/Choreographer: Erin Landers

Composer: Zosha Warpeha

Creative Technologist: Brian Ellis

A movement myth for a time of rising oceans, which encounters a proverbial watery past and future, flipping gravity to explore the depths. A story of evolution and continuation – a surreal, thoughtful, and compassionate look at humans as the part of nature we have always been: bodies of water.



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WED, NOV 15, 7PM

She Speaks No English, I Speak No Korean

Writer: Suzie Cho

Director: Steven Hauck

Lopsided home-perms, forbidden Twinkies, and dreaming of becoming the next Connie Chung (sort of). Welcome to my childhood with my Mother. From Korea, to Texas, to New York, we travelled the globe NOT understanding each other. This is the odyssey of how I survived her, escaped her, and found her again.



THURS, NOV 16, 7PM

Insides Out

Playwright: Scott C. Sickles

Director: Paula D'Alessandris

Actor: Alyssa Simon

The wilderness. A windowless room. The human heart. Alyssa Simon performs three solo plays with different types of traps: THE INTERIOR, THE TIME YOU WERE AWAY and END OF A LONG, LONG DAY. Written by Scott C. Sickles (General Hospital). Directed by Paula D'Alessandris (Mind the Gap Theatre.)



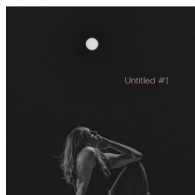
FRI, NOV 17, 7PM

Untitled #1

Choreographer/Dancer: Ellery Jernigan

Choreographer/Dancer: Julia Dunne

This movement piece is an exploration of sensation and memory in the physical body. Our experiences course through us like a river, informing all we do.

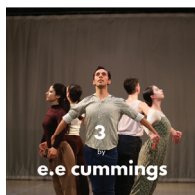


FRI, NOV 17, 7PM

3 by e.e. cummings

Choreographer: Cecilia Whalen

American poet e.e. cummings once said his poems were “to be seen and not just heard.” These are three poems turned to dance and put onstage to be seen. Poems include “buffalo bill’s,” “next to of course god america i,” and “i carry your heart with me.”



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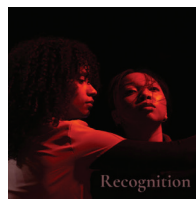
FRI, NOV 17, 7PM

Recognition

Choreographer: Emily Aslin

Composer: Johnny Butler

Four individuals lived the same event and came out with different memories. When does the personal become a selfish barrier to connection with loved ones? Through movement, four figures confront the ephemeral nature of memory amidst conflict and everyday moments in their relationships.



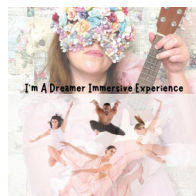
FRI, NOV 17, 7PM

I'm A Dreamer Immersive Experience

Artist: Gwendolyn Fitz

Choreography/Dancers: Variety Pack Collective

A story that tells the thoughts of a dreamer who is sometimes struggling to get through the day, but remains optimistic through movement, artistry and the compassion that friendship provides. Using the voice of Gwendolyn Fitz, the dancers paint her story through their own artistic interpretations.



FRI, NOV 17, 9PM

To Unfold and Hold

Choreographer: Eilish Henderson in collaboration with the dancers

Dancers: Shuning Huang and Nimisha Mahiyaria

Through landscapes of movement, this work examines connections to other women as an intricate web, causing both intense synchronicity and complications. Expressing falling in love with women through friendship, romance, and all that lies in between, this work focuses on that space which cannot be named or understood, only felt.

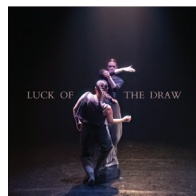


FRI, NOV 17, 9PM

Luck of the Draw

Choreographer: Claire Louise Goldes

“Luck of the Draw” is about chance and trust. Witnessing, disrupting, and building new patterns. Magnetic attraction and repulsion; stirring and conjuring space. How do we relinquish control over that which we cannot change? When do we lean in, trust, and surrender?



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FRI, NOV 17, 9PM

Dinner Party

Creator: Chloe Cappo

Creator: Andrea Bracamonte

“Dinner Party” is a theatrical dance piece that navigates the complicated yet unavoidable process of grief. This piece follows the internalized journey of someone who has just experienced a tragedy and is beginning their grief process. Seen through the lens of a dinner party, the guests being each stage of grief, they grapple with complicated relationships, emotions, and a choice to maintain connections with each guest.



SAT, NOV 18, 7PM

Apathetic

Choreographer/Dancer: Mayu Nakaya

Music Composer: Rin Nagaya

“Apathetic” is a solo choreographed work by Nakaya that premiered in 2022. It has been remade with music by Rin Nagaya, as well as further thematic and choreographic explorations.



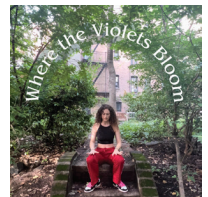
SAT, NOV 18, 7PM

Where the Violets Bloom

Director/Choreographer: Rush Johnston

Made in collaboration with the Dancers

“Where the Violets Bloom” is a dance theatre piece that celebrates the joys and freedom in queerness. So often the media portrays violence against queer people and hardships that the queer community has gone through, where this piece highlights the beauty and divinity in queerness. A love letter to the queer community, this piece combines poetry, set choreography, scored improvisation, and music to encapsulate the radiance of the queer community. Following the dancers through their journeys of transitioning, coming out, and exploring their identities, this work strives to uplift their stories and find the joy within.



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SAT, NOV 18, 7PM

Fellas

Choreographer: Jo McKendry

Dancers: Tim Bendernagel, Owen Prum

The dance is about the dance. No more no less.



SAT, NOV 18, 9PM

9 Tales of a Bitch

Choreographer: Sunhi Willa Keller in collaboration with the dancers

Performed by: Sunhi Willa Keller, Amanda Knight, Julia Foti

Long, long ago, there was a woman named Kumiho who lived between two worlds. She transformed between human form and a fox with nine extravagant tails. She was a temptress who lured men in, only to eat their hearts out. Or so they say. This is her story.



SAT, NOV 18, 9PM

untitled mermaid project

Book + Lyrics: maguire wilder

Music + Direction: Maiya Pascouche

Music + Arrangements: Lucas Saur

An island in the middle of the ocean. A community of women with tails for legs. When a stranger arrives, she must learn their history in order to survive, bringing love back to a community that has been robbed of it.



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SUN, NOV 19, 5PM

Two Brothers

Writer Kevin Brofsky

Performer: Steve Hauck

Edwin Booth was acclaimed as the greatest American actor of the 19th Century. His life was a whirlwind of tremendous triumph and terrible tragedy, including the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by his beloved younger brother, John Wilkes. In 1890, at the age of 58, Edwin suffered a minor stroke. While waiting to give what will be his last interview, Edwin relives his extraordinary life and attempts to make peace with his demons and regrets. Steve Hauck (“The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”) is Edwin Booth in this solo play.



SUN, NOV 19, 5PM

3rd Gen

Director & Choreographer: Shany Dagan Kerem

A dance memoir that utilizes movement to commemorate the events of the Holocaust through the personal survival stories of the creators' grandparents. This inspiring piece will shift the audience through a whirlpool of emotions, intertwining two parallel stories that move through a tumbling experience of despair, hope, and heroism.



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A home for emerging artists, a playground for emerging work.

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