

## CPR 2023 Spring Benefit: DECOMPOSITION

### ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**a<sup>2</sup>z (aka Akeema-Zane)** is an artist and researcher working in the mediums of literature, film performance and sound. a<sup>2</sup>z is the arm which houses some of the artists' music/sound practice which includes deejaying, composition and scoring/sound design. Her sound design and musical direction is credited in Nile Harris' "Testify (The Worst Is Yet To Come)" (2023; commissioned by Under The Radar and Ping Chong and Company), Shea Moisture's Pride campaign (2021), Mia Wright-Ross' "A Moment To Breathe" (2021; commission by Museum of Arts and Design), Naima Ramos-Chapman's short film, "In Place of Monuments" (2021), Art 21's short doc "Doreen Garner on Her Own Terms" (2021), and Joselia Rebecca Hughes' "Masque On (2021; commission by ArsNova). With collaborator Rena Anakwe, the artist has developed works that combine her literary, film, performance and sound practices including "Sonic Escape Routes: Shall We Fly? Or, Shall We Resist?" (2020; commissioned by Weeksville Heritage Center) and "Our Mourning Due: A Funeral Sermon" (2022; commissioned by SCAD Museum of Art's Evans Center for African American Studies). She is currently serving as board chair of The School of Making Thinking and on the board of Cucalorus Film Festival.

**Laurel Atwell** is @spooky\_action.tif

**j. bouey** is the founder of The Dance Union Podcast, initiating the NYC Dancers COVID-19 Relief Fund and The Dance Union Town Hall For Collective Action to support the dance community through numerous world-changing events. As a creator, j. is a recent 2021-2022 Jerome Fellow and is a 2022/2023 Movement Research Artist in Residence. J. Bouey was also recently a Gibney 2021 Spotlight Artist, a 2020-2021 Artist-In-Residence at CPR – Center for Performance Research, and 2021 Bogliasco Fellow. j. was also a 2018 Movement Research Van Lier Fellow and 2018 Dancing While Black Fellow. j. is currently a collaborator with nia love. They were also a former performer with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, danced with Germaul Barnes' Viewsic Dance, Maria Bauman's MB Dance, Dante Brown, Antonio Brown Dance, Christal Brown's INspirit Dance, and apprenticed with Emerge 125 (formerly Elisa Monte Dance) under the artistic direction of Tiffany Rea-Fisher.

**Jibz Cameron aka Dynasty Handbag** is a performer, visual artist, actor and writer. Her multi-media performance work as alter ego Dynasty Handbag has spanned over 20 years and has been presented at arts venues such as New Museum, The Broad Museum, The Hammer Museum, REDCAT, BAM, Centre Pompidou, among others. She has been heralded by *The New York Times* as "the funniest and most pitch perfect performance seen in years" and "outrageously smart, grotesque and innovative" by *The New Yorker*. Jibz is a 2022 Guggenheim Fellow, a 2021 United States Artist Award recipient, and a 2020 Creative Capital Grant awardee. Jibz produces and hosts *Weirdo Night*, a monthly comedy and performance event in Los Angeles + New York. Her film *Weirdo Night* is an official 2020 Sundance Film Festival selection. Jibz was a Spring 2023 CPR Technical Resident, working on her most recent performance project, *Titanic Depression*, which recently premiered at Pioneer Works. [Dynastyhandbag.com](http://Dynastyhandbag.com)

**Leslie Cuyjet** is a Brooklyn-based choreographer and performer. Mostly known as a performer (receiving a 2019 "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Performance Sustained Achievement), she is also a writer and editor, as well as a co-founder of the Authentic Movement collective, Duvet, which all play an ongoing role in shaping her interdisciplinary artistic practice. Cuyjet's work has been presented in New York at The Shed, The Kitchen at Queenslab, MoMA PS1, and CPR – Center for Performance Research. Recent honors include Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants for Artists Award, Princeton Hodder Fellow, Movement Research Resident Artist, and MacDowell Fellow. Leslie was a 2019 CPR Artist-in-Residence. [Lesliecuyjet.com](http://Lesliecuyjet.com)

**Nile Harris** stages meditated confrontations between performer and audience that collage various modes of communication: choreography, reappropriated and scripted text, improvisation, spatial design, and clowning. His work has been presented at the Palais de Tokyo, The Watermill Center, New York Live Arts, Volksbühne Berlin, Prelude Festival, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Otion Front Studio, Grace Exhibition Space, and Movement Research at Judson Church. As a performer, Harris has originated roles in works by Crackhead Barney, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Tina Satter, Robert Wilson, Young Boy Dancing Group, Nia Witherspoon, slowdanger, Lilleth Glimcher, Malcolm-x Betts, and Miles Greenberg. Harris was recently appointed to the Artistic Leadership Team at Ping Chong and Company.

**Paul Lazar** is a founding member, along with Annie-B Parson, of **Big Dance Theater**. He has co-directed and acted in works for Big Dance since 1991, including commissions from the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Walker Art Center, Dance Theater Workshop, Classic Stage Company and Japan Society. Paul's one person performance, *Cage Shuffle*, premiered at the American Realness Festival in 2017 and continues to tour the U.S. and Europe. Paul has acted in over 40 feature films, including *Snowpiercer*, *The Host*, *Mickey Blue Eyes*, *Silence of the Lambs*, *Beloved*, *Lorenzo's Oil* and *Philadelphia*. Stage acting credits include *Macbeth* on Broadway, *Tamburlaine* at Theatre For A New Audience, Young Jean Lee's *Lear*, *The Three Sisters* at Classic Stage Company, Richard Maxwell's *Cowboys and Indians* at Soho Rep, Irene Fornes' *Mud* at the Signature Theater and Mabou Mines, and Mac Wellman's *1965 UU* at The Chocolate Factory Theater. Paul has performed with The Wooster Group, acting in *Brace Up!*, *Emperor Jones*, *The Hairy Ape*, and *North Atlantic*. Awards include two Bessies (2010, 2002), the Jacob's Pillow Creativity Award in 2007, the Prelude Festival's Frankie Award in 2014, and an Obie Award for Big Dance in 2000. Paul has taught at Harvard, Yale, Rutgers, Barnard, and The William Esper Studio. Big Dance Theater was a Technical Resident at CPR in 2019.

**Ampersand Paris** is an interdisciplinary performing artist and fermentation revivalist. Their current practice is a fermentation CSA that sustainably feeds community while cultivating a trans-microbiopolitic for making and being. They concern themselves with taking care of nearly invisible things: bacteria, yeast, lines of code, and the liminal space of trans existence. Their overlapping processes of fermentation, decomposition, self-portraiture, computer programming, and performance improvisation build relationships to these invisible forces and illuminate their world-shaping impacts. Their desire is to learn the technologies of the small in order to care for big transformations necessary to survive, if not effervesce, in climate ruin.