

## OPEN AIR

### Benae Beamon: *Re(verb)*

October 22, 2023 at 5 P.M.

CPR – Center for Performance Research  
361 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211



CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **Benae Beamon** shares an in-progress presentation of *Re(verb)*, a new tap dance work that puts the ring shout – a black Southern cultural tradition tied to spiritual contexts – and Motown movements in conversation. The work considers how elements of black cultural archive and black religious discourse function within ritual and black spiritual expression. Set to music that ranges from gospel to seventies funk, *Re(verb)* uses the interplay of these two movement styles to subvert the way that we discuss black spirituality as separate from secular black culture. With that in mind, this piece uses tap dance legacies – namely that of Cholly Atkins, a tap dancer and choreographer for Motown – to explore black culture and movement as extensions of the divine and of community.

**OPEN AIR** is an opportunity for CPR Artists-in-Residence to share their current practice and research, with resident artists forming a central part of CPR's public programming. Programs may take a variety of forms – solo presentations of new work in development, multi-artist programs that offer space for dialogue between artists' practices, artist talks, exhibitions, and other formats that are responsive to each artists' practice and ongoing research.

"This piece is an ode to Black culture as interwoven with and egress to divine connection. These spaces only exist in community, so thank you for coming, imbuing your energy, and making this space with us."

—Benae Beamon

Choreographed and directed by **Benae Beamon**, with contributions from the performers

Performed by **Benae Beamon, Asha Griffith, Michael Love, Adriana Ogle, and Lucas Santana**

Post-show conversation with **Orlando Hernández**

*Special Thanks to Jai Monee, Thelathia "Nikki" Young, Penelope Wendtlandt, Center for Performance Research, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Marble House Project, Orlando Hernández, and of course, Adriana Ogle, Michael J. Love, Lucas Santana, and Asha Griffith.*

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Benae Beamon** was raised in North Carolina, and her work is informed by black Southern culture. She holds a B.A. from Colgate University, an M.A. in Religion from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in Social Ethics from Boston University. As a performance artist, Beamon uses movement, rhythm, space, and language as tools to sculpt sound and highlight the rich place where race, gender, sexuality, and class intersect with culture and ritual. Both her artistic work and scholarship examine the extraordinary and spectacular in the everyday, focusing on the way that the mundane can be sacred ritual. She has performed at Joe's Pub in NYC and the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston with Subject:Matter, a Boston-based tap dance company. Independently, she was a 2019 finalist for the Hudgen's Prize and has premiered work at VCU Institute for Contemporary Art and at Arts on Site in NYC.

**Asha "DaHomey" Griffith** is way more than just a Tap Dancer, but an International performer, Recording Artist, Music Producer, and a multifarious creative being. Her versatility has led her the opportunity to tour France, choreograph for four-time Grammy award winning musician Esperanza Spalding, and open for Jazz Legend Herbie Hancock during Summerstage's 2022 Concert in NYC. Asha is a current cast member in Dorrance Dance's "Nutcracker" suite touring fall 2023 and was a primary dancer in Tap Family Reunion's "Mayor of Harlem" production choreographed by Dormeshia Submyr-Edwards, Jason Samuels Smith, and Derick K Grant.

**Orlando Hernández** is a tap dancer and choreographer based in New Jersey. He has presented his work at On the Boards, La Casa Ruth, SPACE Gallery, the Provincetown Dance Festival, Dance Now at Joe's Pub, and Movement Research at the Judson Church. He is a member of the companies Subject: Matter and Music From The Sole. Orlando is the recipient of fellowships from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Brown Arts Initiative, and Yaddo, and is a 2022-2023 Fresh Tracks Artist at New York Live Arts and a 2023 CPR Artist-in-Residence.

**Michael J. Love** is an interdisciplinary tap dance artist and scholar who intermixes Black queer feminist theories and

Princeton University Arts Fellow and Lecturer in the Program in Dance at Princeton's Lewis Center for the Arts. In Texas, Love's work has been supported and presented by Fusebox Festival and ARCOS Dance and recognized by the Austin Critics Table. Love was one of four dance artists featured in filmmaker Tiona Nekkia McClodden's "The Trace Of An Implied Presence" at The Shed in New York. Additionally, Love and frequent collaborator, anti-disciplinary artist Aryel René Jackson, were the recipients of the 2021 Tito's Vodka Prize. In New York, Jackson and Love's videos have been programmed by CUE Art Foundation and the New Museum and screened at the Museum of Modern Art. Love's credits include the Broadway laboratory for choreographer Savion Glover and director George C. Wolfe's "Shuffle Along...," and roles in works by choreographer Baakari Wilder. Love is a native of the D.C. area. He currently lives and works in Philadelphia.

**Adriana Ogle** grew up dancing in the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, directed by Gene Medler. In 2015, she joined Boston-based tap company Subject:Matter, performing at venues such as the Montréal Fringe Festival and The Yard. She is an alumna of the 2019 Tap Program at The School at Jacob's Pillow, where she received the Lorna Strassler Award for Student Excellence. Recent highlights include: Marshall Davis Jr.'s *Revelations in Rhythm*, Okwui Okpokwasili's *Swallow the Moon* at Jacob's Pillow, the Little Island Music & Dance Festival, Bryant Park, the TODAY show, the American Dance Guild Performance Festival, and in 2021 she joined NYC-based tap company Music From The Sole. She recently premiered original choreography in the 2023 Emerging Choreographer Series via Mare Nostrum Elements, as well as co-choreographed material with Toru Sakuragi in the 2023 Battery Park Dance Festival.

## Lucas Santana

Originally from Pernambuco in Northeast Brazil, Lucas Santana started studying tap at 8 and has since performed on some of the biggest stages and TV shows in Brazil. He first collaborated with Music From The Sole in 2017, most recently appearing at Jacob's Pillow, Harlem Stage, The Yard, and Works & Process at the Guggenheim. In addition, he co-directs the group *Afetos Sonoros* in Rio. Lucas holds a degree in philosophy from the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (2015), and a

master's degree in Theatre at UdeSC in Florianópolis (2023).

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Sonic References:

Cholly Atkins; "(You Don't Know) How Glad I Am" by Nancy Wilson; Chet'la Sebree; "Twenty-Five Miles" by Edwin Starr; "Mr. Postman" by The Marvelettes; "Can't Hurry Love" by The Supremes; "I Wish it Would Rain" and "Way You Do the Things You Do" by The Temptations; "Neither One of Us" by Gladys Knight & The Pips; "Virgo | I Analyze | Mercury" by Marquis Hill; "I Told The Storm" by Joyful Noize; "Doesn't Matter" by Janet Jackson; "Airport Flight" from the Cleopatra Jones Soundtrack; "Never Would Have Made It" by Leandria Johnson; "Brighter Day" by Kirk Franklin; "Holy" by Jamila Woods; "Nostalgia" by Dawn Richard; "Don't Break" by Immanuel Wilkins; Charles "Honi Coles; Dianne Walker; Lon Changey; John William Sublett; and Bunny Briggs.

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**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

CPR respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Lenapehoking, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Lenape people.

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**UP NEXT AT CPR**

Thurs, October 26 at 7P.M.  
OPEN DOOR | *An Evening with Psychic Wormhole* (Stacy Lynn Smith and Alex Romania)  
Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can

Thurs, November 2 at 7:30 P.M.  
OPEN STUDIOS | Jess Barbagallo and Emily Davis, Anne Gridley, and Kimiko Tanabe, curated by Big Dance Theater  
Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can

Sun, November 5 at 6 P.M.  
OPEN STUDIOS | Jordan Deal, Michael J. Love, Kaleena Miller, and Adriana Ogle, curated by Benaë Beamon  
Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can

Wed, November 8 at 7:30 P.M.  
OPEN AiR | Raymond Pinto: *the zebra goes wild where the sidewalk ends*  
Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can

For more tickets and more information, visit [www.cprnyc.org](http://www.cprnyc.org).

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