

OPEN STUDIOS

Jess Barbagallo and Emily Davis, Anne Gridley,
and Kimiko Tanabe
Curated by Big Dance Theater

November 2, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

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



OPEN STUDIOS is a series of work-in-progress showings held regularly throughout the year, organized by guest curators. The program serves as an incubator for new work, and often includes an opportunity for dialogue or feedback in an informal setting, inviting the public into the artistic process.

Guest curator **Big Dance Theater** invites artists from Big Dance: Big Tent – a long-standing, ever-evolving group of Big Dance associate artists, which includes actors, dancers, composers, and designers – to share works-in-progress.

Jess Barbagallo started performing with Big Dance 18 years ago! Jess and **Anne Gridley** are currently creating a new work with Paul Lazar. Anne Gridley joined BDT's tent in 2017 for Big Dance's rendition of Anne Carson's *Antigone*. **Kimiko Tanabe**, a new Big Dance collaborator, and **Emily Davis** are artists whose work Big Dance Theater's Paul Lazar and Sara Pereira da Silva have been following with admiration, enthusiasm, and interest.

PROGRAM

Kimiko Tanabe *Sweet Beets*

This is a work in process showing of a new piece inspired by the undeniably adorable beet plushie. This playful and whimsical dance work centers an investigation of plushie beets, sugar beets, anime aesthetics, and Asian sensuality all within the Japanese-American imagination.

Created and performed by Kimiko Tanabe

Anne Gridley *Watch Me Walk*

Snippets of disability told first hand. Bags included.

Created and performed by Anne Gridley
With additional support from Rex, James Turrell, Dorothy Parker, Carter, Cervantes, and Ma

Untitled Planes

Emily Davis will share selections from her growing archive of time in Texas: how

familial methods of communication and expression have evolved and converged in light of the extraordinary limitations imposed on her brother and father, the former a traumatic brain injury survivor, the latter diagnosed with aphasia.

Written and performed by Emily Davis
Directed by Jess Barbagallo

BIOGRAPHIES

Jess Barbagallo is an actor, playwright, director, and teacher. He has performed with Big Dance Theater, Half Straddle, Theater of a Two-Headed Calf (and its Dyke Division), and The Builders Association. Most recently, Jess appeared in Amanda Horowitz's *Bad Stars True West* at STARS Gallery in Los Angeles. Currently running at Soho Rep: *Snatch Adams and Tainty McCracken Present It's That Time of the Month*, directed by Jess and devised in collaboration with Becca Blackwell, Amanda Duarte, and others. His writing has been featured in *Artforum*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *Culturebot*, and *53rd State Press*. Film (Youtube, really): *Christmas on Earth/Joe Ranono's Yuletide Log and Other Fruitcakes*; *The Puzzlers 1+2*. TV: *Law & Order: SVU*.

Emily Davis is an actor based in Brooklyn who has been making work with Jess since college. She has worked with theater company Half Straddle as a performer since 2009, premiering work in the US and abroad. She originated the role of Reality Winner in *Is This A Room* (The Kitchen, The Vineyard Theater, Broadway's The Lyceum Theater), for which she received an Obie Award, The Lucille Lortel Award, and a Drama Desk nomination. TV: *American Rust*, *The Patient*, *Tulsa King*, *High Maintenance*, and *Servant*. Film: *Loophole*, *The Plagiarists*, *The Harbinger*.

Anne Gridley is a two-time Obie Award-winning actor, dramaturg, and artist. As a founding member of Nature Theater of Oklahoma, she has co-created and performed in critically acclaimed works including *Life & Times*, *Poetics: A Ballet Brut*, *No Dice*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and *Burt Turrido*. In addition to her work with Nature Theater, Gridley has performed with Jérôme Bel, Caborca, 7 Daughters of Eve, and Big Dance Theater, served as a Dramaturg for the Wooster Group's

production *Who's Your Dada?*, and taught devised theater at Bard College. Her drawings have been shown at HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin and Mass Live Arts. B.A. Bard College; M.F.A. Columbia University.

Kimiko Tanabe is a fourth-generation Japanese American artist. She explores the mediums of performance art, dance, writing, and origami, and is in a committed partnership with her .38 Muji pen. She is forever fascinated with Japanese folklore and as a lover of literature she finds herself making important life decisions under the eyes and influence of fiction. Her work combines her background in contemporary dance with her literary tendencies to create surreal performance art that is both joyful and haunting, and that gives platform and power to the Asian-American emotional experience. For Kimiko, art is intimate and inexact. Kimiko graduated from Colorado College with a degree in Creative Writing and Dance. She is a 2022 BAX Space Grant Recipient, 2022 Gallim Moving Artist Resident, 2022 Colorado College Artist in Residence, 2021 Artist in Resident at The Floor, and 2021 Fresh Ground Pepper PlayGround PlayGroup Residency Cohort Member. She currently performs with Glenn Potter-Takata and Shannon Yu and has performed with Marion Spencer, Catherine Galasso Projects, Kizuna Dance, Seymour::Dance Collective, and Lisa Fagan and Hannah Mitchell.

Founded in 1991, **Big Dance Theater** is known for its inspired use of dance, music, text, and visual design. The company often works with wildly incongruent source material, weaving and braiding disparate strands into multi-dimensional performance. Led by Artistic Director Annie-B Parson, Big Dance has delved into the literary work of such authors as Anne Carson, Twain, Tanizaki, Wellman, Euripides, and Flaubert, and dance is used as both frame and metaphor to theatricalize these writings. For more than 25 years, Big Dance Theater has worked to create over 20 dance/theater works, generating each piece over months of collaboration with its associate artists, a long-standing, ever-evolving group of actors, dancers, composers and designers. Big Dance Theater received New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Awards in 2002

and 2010; the company was awarded an OBIE in 2000, and BDT company members have received five other "Bessie" Awards and an OBIE award for their work with Big Dance. In 2007 the company received the first-ever Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. Big Dance Theater has been presented around the world, in venues including the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Dance Theater Workshop, The Kitchen, City Center, The Performing Garage, New York Live Arts, The Chocolate Factory, Classic Stage Company, Japan Society, Under the Radar, American Realness, Tanz Im August (Berlin), PS122's COIL Festival, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Walker Art Center, Yerba Buena, On the Boards, UCLA Live, ICA Boston, American Dance Institute (ADI), Fusebox Festival/Austin, CounterCurrent Festival/Houston, and Spoleto Festival USA. Recent commissions have been from Les Subsistances in Lyon, Chaillot Theatre National in Paris, BAM, Walker Art Center, Wexner Arts Center, Carolina Performing Arts, the Old Vic/London, Spoleto Festival USA, American Dance Festival, NCCAkron, and the new Perelman Arts Center in NYC.

CPR STAFF

Alexandra Rosenberg
Executive Director

Nico Cabalquinto
Production and Facilities Manager

Anna Muselmann
Programs Manager

Rebecca Gual
Rentals Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nick Hockens, Esq., *President*
Martha Sherman, *Vice President*
Kathleen O'Connell, *Treasurer*
Megan V. Springer, *Secretary*
Sidra Bell
Randall Bourscheidt
Amber Sasse
John Jasperse, *CPR Co-Founder and Honorary Board Member*

SUPPORT

CPR's public programs are supported by The Harkness Foundation for Dance, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, as well as by CPR's Board of Directors, and generous individual donors.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

UP NEXT AT CPR

Thurs, November 5 at 6 P.M.
 OPEN STUDIOS | Jordan Deal, Michael J. Love, Kaleena Miller, and Adriana Ogle, curated by Benae 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

Tues, November 14 from 6:30-7:45 P.M.
 OPEN LAB | *Virus as Other* with Eleanor Kipping [virtual]
 Free with RSVP

Wed, November 15 at 7:30 P.M.
 OPEN DOOR | *An Evening with Psychic Wormhole* [Stacy Lynn Smith and Alex Romania]
 Tickets \$0-\$25, pay what you can

Sat, November 18 from 12-3:30 P.M.
 OPEN LAB | *I'll Be At Home...Maybe With You* with Star Mitchell, Ash Rucker, and Osamudiamen Aiworo, organized by Oskar Sinclair
 Free with RSVP

For more tickets and more information, visit www.cprnyc.org.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support CPR's programs and artists!
www.cprnyc.org/donate

ADOPT-A-CHAIR!

For \$100, you can Adopt-A-Chair at CPR for one year!

A brass plaque will be placed on one of CPR's new chairs for the theater – naming you as a sponsor, or in honor of, memory of, or dedicated to a beloved person, place, or thing of your choosing.

Contributions re tax-deductible, and sustain CPR's mission to support artists and experimentation.



