

OPEN AIR

Oskar Sinclair

“Mammy May I...?”: A Paroxysm Back Home

December 10, 2023 at 5 P.M.

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



“Mammy May I...?” is an ongoing contemplation of “Black Womanhood” as a reaction to the disillusionment of “Black Girlhood.” Exploring sensuality, play, rage, and release, this work by CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence **Oskar Sinclair** undertakes a simple query: to whom does your body belong, Black girl?

My body. A canvas of ebony hues. An emblem of Africanity and feminine strength. Carries me places where power, masculinity, and race entwine. My form—thickset with broad shoulders and big back, mammoth arms and stalwart thighs—is a tool → a crucible → forever dangerous when not useful. I know this. Now....

Before, without context of its lineage, my body was simply bad; the reason why, aged six, men began the cat-calling, and, aged nine, deemed me “too fast;” the reason popular girls kept me as bait for their wanton boy toys. I knew I was bait. I also knew I wasn’t very popular and, coming off the African Booty Scratcher train, I played their game, acted as pawn, found sense and made cents in my body’s usability. Promiscuous Jezebel, overlooked Mammy. Spectacle all the same.

Do not pity me. I’m grown. Now.

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

Credits

Oskar Sinclair – Creator, Writer, Performer
Cassandra Dieudonné (she/her) – Performer
Kofi Addo (he/they) – Performer
Jhevere Reynolds (he/him) – Audio Production
J Alex Ray (they/she/he) – Performer
Kevin Caldwell (he/him) – Performer
Anik Hossain (he/him) – Performer
Urechi Oguguo (they/them) – Set Design/Art Provision
Star Mitchell (they/them/he/she) – Movement Coordinator
Lucy Strawberry (she/they/any) – Shibari Coordinator
Alexa Espinal (they/them) – Graphic Design
Onoriode Akporotu (he/him) – Script Support
Khari Johnson Ricks (he/they) – Art Provision

Oskar Sinclair (Vu/They) is a tough yet syrupy genderqueer femmebo(i)rg. Using Vu’s body as a site of conversation, Oskar’s work explores, interrogates, and provokes notions of power, négritude, body politics, sex, queerness, desire, and outsidership. So here Vu is. Puckish. Malleable. Aspiring to wholesomeness. Amusing in all the ways you’re grateful for. Catch Vu running around NYC existing in multidimensional consciousness (because it be like that sometimes).

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For more information about CPR – Center for Performance Research, including upcoming programs, opportunities for artists, and Subsidized Space Rental Program, visit www.cprnyc.org.

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