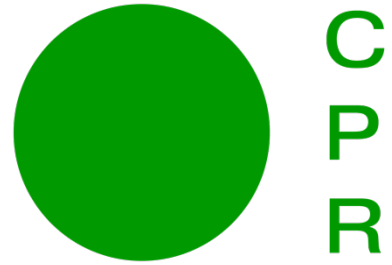


Smashworks Dance
CITY STORIES

November 18, 2022 at 7:30 P.M.
November 19, 2022 at 5 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.



Presented as part of the @CPR Performance Series

CREDITS

Choreography: Ashley McQueen & Dancers

Performers: Tyler Choquette, Laurie Deziel, Manon Hallay, Taylor Jordan, Natalie Katz,
Louisa Pancoast, Haley Williams

Videography & Projection Editing: Ashley McQueen

Artwork: Benny Cruz

Benny Cruz Photography: Jens Franzen

Special Thanks to Kelcey Coffin, Jacqui Dugal, Manon Hallay, Louisa Pancoast, Sarah Starkweather, Stephanie Borcharding, Kurt Gosselin, Amanda McQueen, Pure Barre Jersey City, Benny Cruz, Jens Franzen, and Smashworks Dance Development Board.

ABOUT CITY STORIES

CITY STORIES is a multimedia performance inspired by the verve, challenges, and elation of living in New York City. This interdisciplinary collaboration brings together choreography and immersive video projections by **Ashley McQueen**, and paintings on Metropolitan Transit Authority subway maps by **Benny Cruz**. An episodic pastiche of emotional peaks and valleys, **CITY STORIES** teeters between sublimity and deluge, showing the utterly unheroic heroism of surviving in New York City's ecosystem.

Drawing together choreography, video installation, painting, and audience participation, **CITY STORIES** is a malleable and deeply personal expression of quotidian life in an unpredictable subterfuge. Choreography has been sourced from the dancers' reflections, found narratives, and automatic writing submitted by the audience throughout the performance. Upon entry, attendees are given miniature subway maps and an opportunity to write, share, and witness their words be integrated into the living organism of the performance. **CITY STORIES** honors a multiplicity of experiences, no one more privileged than the other. This hydra of narratives overlaps and diverges, a joyride no matter whose strand you follow. Coupled with wall-to-wall video installation, **CITY STORIES** is surreal, gritty, sarcastic, self-aware, and poetic.

BIOGRAPHIES

Smashworks Dance is a 501(c)(3) New York-based dance company advocating for women's empowerment through live performance, education outreach, and community partnerships. Founded and directed by choreographer Ashley McQueen, Smashworks has performed throughout the greater New York City metropolitan area and toured to San Antonio, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Kalamazoo, and St. Louis. Community outreach includes dance workshops for the Girl Scouts of Greater New York & Troop 6000 (a Girl Scouts program that supports girls experiencing homelessness in the NYC area), and providing free movement classes for Yap About It (a nonprofit dedicated to providing accessible arts and talk therapy for young people). "*Smashworks. . . what a perfect name for these powerful sisters. McQueen's company is tightly precise and fearless*" (*Front Row Center*). Smashworks Dance was named a Village Voice "Voice Choices" for their performance of *City Stories* at the Center for Performance Research in 2016, and their evening length political satire *For Which It Stands* was featured in *Time Out New York* and Brooklyn's "Top 20 Cheap Things To Do." In 2018, Smashworks was invited as a local community group to hear Michelle Obama speak on her *Becoming* tour at the Barclays Center. They were also awarded the Theaterlab Hotel New Work residency in collaboration with Hope Salas and Justin Cimino, exploring the fusion of dance and clown. Smashworks partnered with Rebel Girls Productions to write movement activities for their most recent chapter book *Alicia Alonso Takes The Stage* published worldwide August 2020. Smashworks also presented two original dance films for *Dance The Vote St Louis*, in collaboration with the Missouri History Museum, in an effort to promote voter turnout and registration. Additional commissions include original dance films for the London Climate Change Festival, and Girls Inc. of New York City's Virtual Gala. Smashworks collaborated with Swedish visual artist Benny Cruz to create a multidisciplinary performance experience incorporating his subway map artwork. In addition to an evening length performance at CPR-Center for Performance Research, Smashworks performed at Benny Cruz's art gallery opening reception at Box Factory Gallery and staged a public installation at Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY.

Benny Cruz is an interdisciplinary artist based in Sweden. Cruz works primarily with text—either drawing, collaging, or installing phrases in hand-made fonts across found images or in public spaces. Drawn to New York, guerilla art, and hip hop, Cruz's artwork has attracted responses and praise from Public Enemy, Wu-Tang Clan, and Cypress Hill. Born and raised in Chile, Cruz was an apprentice of the late Alfredo Mosella.

ABOUT CPR – CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH

CPR – Center for Performance Research is dedicated to supporting artists in the development of new work in contemporary dance and performance. CPR focuses its activities in three key areas: creative and professional development support; providing affordable space for artists; and public programming. Curated and open-call programs focus on providing artists with rehearsal, residency, and performance support, which generates time and space for research and dialogue, and creates opportunities to share work in a variety of contexts. CPR's subsidized space rental program helps to ensure that artists can access CPR's flexible studios and performance space at affordable rates to create and share their work. By presenting work to the public through

performances, work-in-progress showings, salon-style discussions, exhibitions, and festivals, CPR exposes local audiences and its community to contemporary artistic practice and process.

The **@CPR Performance Series** is part of CPR's Subsidized Space Rental Program, and provides artists with affordable space to produce their work, offering technical production, front-of-house, and marketing support.

UP NEXT AT CPR

Fall Movement: Karen Bernard, Barnett Cohen, Cayleen Del Rosario, Muyassar Kurdi, Estrellx Supernova, and Blake Worthey
Fri, December 2 and Sat, December 3 at 7:30 P.M.

Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Ayano Elson
Tues, December 6 at 6:00 P.M.

For more information on upcoming events and CPR's programs, including the Subsidized Space Rental Program, visit www.cprnyc.org