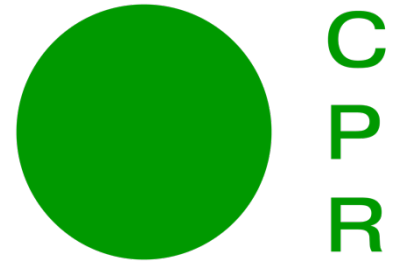


OPEN DOOR

An Evening with Psychic Wormhole (Stacy Lynn Smith and Alex Romania)

November 15, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

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



CPR presents a special evening of film, conversation, performance, and celebration with *Psychic Wormhole* – the creative partnership of Stacy Lynn Smith and CPR 2023 Artist-in-Residence Alex Romania.

In *RECKONING* we journey through Smith's abstract memoir, featuring an incredible intergenerational cast including the legendary Charles Dennis and rising phenom Nia Joseph-Donnelly. Through poetic visual storytelling in stunning locations across New York and New England, the film excavates Smith's experiences of trauma and somatic memory as a means to reclaim embodiment.

For more info about *RECKONING*:



PROGRAM

- ◇ Introduction by **Psychic Wormhole**
- ◇ Excerpt from *RECKONING*
- ◇ Conversation with **Stacy Lynn Smith** and **Nia Joseph-Donnelly**
- ◇ Excerpt from *RECKONING*
- ◇ Conversation with **Charles Dennis**
- ◇ Excerpt from *RECKONING*
- ◇ Conversation with **Psychic Wormhole**
- ◇ Excerpt from *RECKONING*
- ◇ Performance by **Speaker Music**
- ◇ Celebration!

FILM CREDITS

- ◇ *Co-Creators* **Psychic Wormhole**
- ◇ *Memoirist* **Stacy Lynn Smith**
- ◇ *Performers* **Hollis Bartlett, Charles Dennis, Blaze Ferrer, Nia Joseph-Donnelly, Alex Romania, and Stacy Lynn Smith**
- ◇ *Composers* **AVA VEX aka Hegemonix and Alex Romania**

PROGRAM CREDITS

- ◇ *Conversation* **Psychic Wormhole, Nia Joseph-Donnelly, Charles Dennis**
- ◇ *Performance* **Speaker Music aka DeForrest Brown, Jr.**

RECKONING

Fragments of the Self journey through the

curvatures of time, holding space for

each Other as They mine shame, extending lifelines to the Exiles.

Out in the swamps, strange bodied flares give way to undoing visions.

Reckoning with trauma is a full time job.

BIOGRAPHIES

Psychic Wormhole (Stacy Lynn Smith and Alex Romania) embraces a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to filmmaking informed by dance forms – improvisation, somatics and butoh – melded with experimental visual design and object creation filtered through genres of Horror, Afro-futurism and Arthouse Cinema.

Stacy Lynn Smith is a neurodivergent, mixed race/Black performing artist, choreographer, director and Green Circle Keeper at Hidden Water (by and for those affected by childhood sexual abuse (CSA)), whose fifteen-year professional practice incorporates a lifetime of diverse movement training; especially synthesizing various lineages of improvisational forms, somatics, experimental theater and butoh. Fiercely dedicated to collaboration, Smith creates, devises, improvises and performs across disciplines and genres with an array of talented artists including: DeForrest Brown, Jr., Anna Homler, Karen Bernard, Thaddeus O'Neil, Rakia Seaborn, Vangelina Theater (2008-2017), Michael Freeman (2010-2016), Saints of an Unnamed Country, Salome Asega, GENG, Bradley Bailey, Donna Costello, Michele Beck, Jasmine Hearn, thinkdance, mayfield brooks, Kathy Westwater, Josephine Decker, Emily Johnson, Peter Born, Okwui Okpokwasili and more.

Member of Jill Sigman's artist/activist cohort, Body Politic. Selected by Eva Yaa Asantewaa as part of the curatorial board for Black Womxn Summit. Smith is a 2022-24 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence.

Alex Romania is a multidisciplinary filmmaker, performing artist, and improviser. A 2023 CPR Artist-in-Residence, Romania has also held residencies with MacDowell, Djerassi, Movement Research, Old Furnace, Tofte Lake Center, Chez Bushwick, and Brooklyn Arts Exchange. Romania's upcoming projects include *Face Eaters* premiering at the Chocolate Factory Theater in May 2024, (co-directorship of) the experimental documentary *Patch the Sky with Five Colored Stones* conceived by choreographer Daria Fain, a short film with Daniela Fabrizi and the Re Hecho community in the LES, and the film *The Philosophy of Whatever* featuring their father Arthur Romania. In addition to creating original work which has been presented internationally at spaces such as Grace Exhibition Space, Abrons Arts Center, Encuentro, Casa Viva, UV Studios, and Sub Rosa Space, Romania has performed in works by Kathy Westwater since 2013, has been featured in the work of Simone Forti, Éva Mag, Eddie Peake, Andy de Groat, Catherine Galasso, and danced early on with George Russell and De Facto Dance who extended practices of the improvisational choreographer Richard Bull. Romania has had several designs featured within the works of Antonio Ramos, and has worked in various filmmaking roles with Marin Media Labs, TAAMAS / Sarah Riggs, Trixie Films / Therese Shechter, Christopher "Unpezverde" Nuñez, Martita Abril, and Sarah White-Ayón. Romania received a B.F.A. from Tisch School of the Arts in 2013.

Hollis Bartlett is a performer, teacher, creator, and advocate for the arts. His curiosity for movement and performance began at an early age, and led him to NYU where he received a BFA in Dance and studied abroad at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance in Austria. As an educator, he has taught at

the Bates Dance Festival and at universities including Rutgers, Montclair, and SUNY Purchase. As a creator, he collaborates with partner Nattie Trogdon and they are currently in residence at LMCC's Art Center on Governors Island. nattieandhollis.com

DeForrest Brown, Jr. aka Speaker Music is an Alabama-raised, Ex-American rhythmanalyst, writer, and curator. As Speaker Music, he has released three albums on Planet Mu; 'Of Desire, Longing' (2019), 'Black Nationalist Sonic Weaponry' (2020) and 'Techodus' (2023). His written work explores the links between the Black experience in industrialized labor systems and Black innovation in electronic music. Brown's debut book 'Assembling a Black Counter Culture' was released on Primary Information in 2022.

Nia Joseph-Donnelly is in the first grade dual-language program at PS166. She is passionate about movement and music. She plays the piano, takes dance class at Alvin Ailey and Sunnyside Ballet School and is on the flying trapeze team at STREB. She has been working with Stacy and Alex on *RECKONING* for over a year now and is loving every minute of it.

Charles Dennis is an interdisciplinary artist: choreographer, performance artist, filmmaker/videographer and arts curator/producer. Charles was a member of theater director Robert Wilson's collective, the Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds, and went on to perform in many early Wilson works including the original 1976 production of *Einstein on the Beach*. In 1977 Charles began creating his own form of "physical theater", combining dance, spoken word and visual art and media. Charles co-founded Performance Space 122 in NYC in 1979 and presented his work there for over 25 years. In 2019 Charles moved to Hurley, NY and began to curate and produce arts events through his company Charles Dennis Productions. He also documents live performance on video and has created a collection of short films and documentaries. www.charlesdennis.net

Blaze Ferrer is an interdisciplinary performer and choreographer interested in the mainstreaming of queerness within the American capitalist hegemony. Blaze makes experiences that express the vibrancy and limits of embodiment through post-Judson choreographic scores and the incorporation of consumerist cultural iconography. As a lead artist, Blaze has made work for The Brick Theater, The Exponential Festival, PAGEANT, Movement Research at Judson Church, Sundays on Broadway, New Dance Alliance, AUNTS, danceh0l0, Brooklyn Arts Exchange (NEEDING IT), HERE, Dixon Place, and various DIY events. Blaze has performed for and

helped generate pieces with Stacy Lynn Smith, Jeff Aaron Bryant, Nora Sorena Casey + Christopher Dennison, The Drunkard's Wife, Radiohole, Ursula Eagly, Londs Reuter, Ilan Bachrach & Robert M. Johanson, minor theater, Sophie Weisskoff, Ben Ferber, The Pack and Built For Collapse. Blaze has received funding through Brooklyn Arts Council, NYFA, and Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

AVA VEX aka Hegemonix is a queer multimedia artist based in Massachusetts whose work primarily involves electronic music and video art. With their music, they seek to explore unmapped alien terrains with abstract electroacoustic synthesizer scores that lie somewhere between the void of the real and imaginary. They are excited to be part of the creative team for this film and to seek out new and exciting ways to combine visuals and sound into one transcendent whole. Check out their music at hegemonix.bandcamp.com

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SUPPORT

CPR's public programs are directly 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 individuals.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

UP NEXT AT CPR

OPEN LAB

I'll Be At Home... Maybe With You

An afternoon of workshops with Star Mitchell, Ash Rucker, and Osamudiamen Aiworo, organized by Oskar Sinclair
Sat, November 18 from 12–3:30 P.M.

OPEN STAGE

Fall Movement: Juli Brandano, ALEXA GRÆ and Stephanie Acosta, Dominica Greene, Nazareth Hassan / Paratheater, and Cherrie Yu
Fri, Dec 1 & Sat, Dec 2 at 7 P.M.

OPEN DOOR

Starr Reading Series

Weds, Dec 6 at 7 P.M.: Nia Calloway
Tues, Dec 12 at 7 P.M.: Michael Oluokon
Weds, Dec 13 at 7 P.M.: Lily Gonzales

OPEN AiR

Oskar Sinclair: *"Mammy May I?..." A Paroxysm Back Home*
Sun, December 10 at 3 P.M.

OPEN STUDIOS

Tallulah Haddon, Elin Kuo, and Anh Vo, curated by Kenneth Tam
Thurs, December 14 at 7:30 P.M.

Tickets and more info at www.cprnyc.org/event-calendar

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To commemorate your support, we'll place a plaque on your adopted chair with a dedication to a person, place, or thing of your choosing. To learn more, visit www.cprnyc.org/adopt-a-chair

Tonight's gathering also serves as the launch of Psychic Wormhole's fundraising campaign as they work towards the film's premiere in 2024/2025.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution of \$25-\$1,000 (or more!) to support Psychic Wormhole.

