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# For Immediate Release

## The world we live in, the world they dance about

# NINE WORLD PREMIERES AND THREE AMERICAN PREMIERES HIGHLIGHT 2016 LA MAMA MOVES DANCE FESTIVAL, APRIL 29-MAY 29

Contemporary issues of gender, current ideas about the environment, questions about politics and culture are threaded through the works of the 17 artists representing many nations and generations



First, meet Katy Pyle, whose "Sleeping Beauty and the Beast," a world premiere, upends conventional notions of gender, offering a triple pirouette spin on the themes of the 1890 classic ballet as well as the 18th century tale, "Beauty and the Beast." Then meet Tiffany Mills, whose "After the Feast" looks with fear and warning at our heedless destruction of the environment, and then consider Cardell Dance Theater's "Supper, people of the Move," an immersive work that explores the consequences of migration and immigration.

These three artists and the 14 other participants, who comprise the 2016 La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival cannot turn their backs on the world's social, political, sexual and cultural challenges, transforming them into inevitable subjects for dance.



"This year's choreographers ask some deep and sometimes dark questions about the world we live in and the future we are shaping," said Nicky Paraiso, who has shared the curation of the festival since its inception 11 years ago. "Their work promises to explore with wit and passion the issues that are currently facing this generation and generations to follow."

In her commitment to opening the ballet canon to a reassessment of gender roles, Pyle described her festival contribution this way: "Sleeping Beauty & the Beast' is a two-act, two theater Ballez that merges two classic tales, re-writing them to insert the herstory of L.E.S. lesbian activists into the ballet canon: the striking garment workers of 1893, and the AIDS activist dykes of 1993." Performed to live music by the Queer Urban Orchestra, Pyle's ballet is populated by a cast of characters from 'Sleeping Beauty' as well as from various fairy tales including Beast, Aurora Carabosse, Violet Faierie, Scarlet Faierie, Lesbian Princess, Dying Swans, Firebird, Cinderella, and Little Red Riding Hood, among others.

Silvana Cardell's "Supper, people on the Move," which was greeted with rave reviews and packed houses at its 2015 premiere in Philadelphia, brims with the emotional power that is part and parcel of the psychological and physical challenges of an immigrant's journey. The audience becomes part of the experience, most notably at the conclusion of the work when it is invited to join the dancers for a meal at the dinner table, which has been transformed into various scenic devices throughout the 55-minute performance. A photo exhibition, "People on the Move," featuring personal stories of Philadelphia-area immigrants, will be on display in the theater lobby.

Taking place in an imagined urban dystopia created by vanishing resources, "After the Feast" questions the possibility of a community emerging from such horrifying circumstances. Kay Cumming serves as the production's dramaturg; Jonathan Melville Pratt is the composer for the six-dancer work, and the visual design is by Dennis O'Leary.

In keeping with La MaMa's unique worldview, 12 of the 14 artists are from other countries with their different cultural and artistic backgrounds mightily contributing to the irrepressible vitality, aesthetic variety and varying points of view that has always signified the Festival. The artists include: Suk Soon Jung (Korea); Amanda Loulaki (Greek-born); Yvonne Meier (Swissborn); Afshin Varjavandi (Italy); Sonia Olla (Spanish-born); Silvana Cardell (Argentinianborn); Jeremy Nelson (British-born); Luis Lara-Malvacias (Venezuelan-born); Poorna Swami (Indian-born); Bruno Isakovic (Croatian); Ori Flomin (Israeli-born) and Helena Franzen (Swedish).

### WHERE TO GO & TICKET INFORMATION

La MaMa Moves! will take place at the Ellen Stewart Theatre, The Club, The Downstairs and The First Floor Theatre at La MaMa. The Ellen Stewart Theatre and The Downstairs are located at 66 East 4th Street. The Club and The First Floor Theatre are located at 74A East 4th Street.

Adult Tickets: \$35 - \$20

Student and Seniors Tickets: \$30 - \$15

La MaMa also makes ten tickets available for \$10 each to every performance, advance purchase only, as part of their 10@\$10 ticketing initiative.

All tickets can be purchased online at www.lamama.org or at the La MaMa Box Office located at 66 East 4th Street, from noon to 6pm. The box office phone number is 646-430-5374.

### **FUNDING CREDITS**

La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival has been made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, with special thanks to City Council Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and additional support from Ford Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Coca-Cola Company and TD Bank.

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PLEASE SEE ATTACHED NIGHT BY NIGHT SCHEDULE FOR LIST OF ARTISTS, DATES AND THEATER.

Photo Credits:

**Top of page** – left to right: "Sleeping Beauty and the Beast" by Katy Pyle photo by Theo Cote, "After the Feast" by Tiffany Mills, "Mammal" by Paula Josa-Jones photo by Darial Sneed, "B" by Jeremy Nelson & Luis Lara Malvacias photos by Paul Glazier, **Top of page below title** – "Supper on the move" by Silvana Cardell photo by Josh McIlvain **Second Page Top** – "toPRAY" by Afshin Varjavandi photo by Costanza Coloni, "Meeting You" photo by Håkan Jelk

# MaMa Moves! Dance

4/29 7:00pm 5/5 7:00pm BALLEZ, Sleeping Beauty & the Beast ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KATY PYLE 4/30 7:00pm 5/6 7:00pm World Premiere The Ellen Stewart Theatre 5/1 4:00pm 5/7 7:00pm and The Downstairs 5/4 7:00pm 5/8 4:00pm 4/29 7:30pm SUK SOON JUNG/PROJECT S <For Whom> Free performance (RSVP) The First Floor Theatre SHARED EVENING PAULA JOSA-JONES/ Mammal 4/30 7:30pm PERFORMANCE WORKS World Premiere 5/1 2:00pm YVONNE MEIER Durch Nacht und Nebel House of wind (a process for Untitled two) AMANDA LOULAKI The First Floor Theatre toPRAY 5/5 7:30pm AFSHIN VARJAVANDI / 5/6 7:30pm **InNprogress Collective** The First Floor Theatre SHARED EVENING JUMATATU POE Let 'im Move You: This is a Success 5/7 7:30pm 5/8 2:00pm **B.S. MOVEMENT /** Machine Affect **BRYAN STRIMPEL** The First Floor Theatre & SHAINA BRANFMAN AL SON SON - FLAMENCO 5/12 8:00pm **SONIA OLLA** 5/13 8:00pm The Downstairs 5/15 4:00pm 5/13 7:00pm TIFFANY MILLS COMPANY After the Feast 5/14 7:00pm The Ellen Stewart Theatre 5/12 at 7pm a benefit performance Supper, people on the Move 5/14 8:00pm CARDELL DANCE THEATER 5/15 7:00pm The Downstairs Choreography 1. Work in Progress. Title: "B" Choreography 2. Work in Progress. Title: "E" 5/19 10:00pm **JEREMY NELSON AND** 5/20 10:00pm LUIS LARA MALVACÍAS / **3RD CLASS CITIZEN** The Club SHARED EVENING **NICO BROWN** This is not a letter but my arms 5/21 10:00pm around you for a brief moment 5/22 6:00pm

74A East 4th Street (btw Bowery & 2nd Ave)

La MaMa The Club 74A East 4th Street (btw Bowery & 2nd Ave) New York, NY 10003

The Ellen Stewart Theatre 66 East 4th Street

New York, NY 10003

The First Floor Theatre New York, NY 10003

**CALEB TEICHER & COMPANY** 

**POORNA SWAMI** 

**BRUNO ISAKOVIC** 

### The Club 5/27 10:00pm ORI FLOMIN & 5/28 10:00pm Meeting You **HELENA FRANZEN** 5/29 6:00pm

Chet or Just The Way He Sings

5/26 10:00pm

World Premiere

Cartography

The Club

Disclosures

The Club