



**New Dance Alliance presents the 38th Annual Performance Mix Festival**  
**June 6-9, 2024, at Abrons Arts Center**

New York, NY, March 18, 2024 – The **38th annual Performance Mix Festival** brings together 35 experimental dance and film artists with deeply personal and expansive approaches to art-making. Among the many extraordinary works to be presented this season are *Mystic-Informatic*, a collaboration between Montreal-based artists Audrée Juteau, Zoey Gauld, Catherine Lavoie-Marcus, and Ellen Furey, produced by L'Annexe-A, and new and recent works from Mickey Davidson, Jordan Deal, and Aya Shabu as part of New Dance Alliance's Black Artists Space to Create residency, and Tal Halevi and Yolette Yellow-Duke as part of its LiftOff residency. New Dance Alliance (NDA) will also host its annual Breakfast Mix, a convivial gathering and discussion with the international artists featuring a presentation by Agora de la danse/Koros.

The 2024 festival is curated by New Dance Alliance Founder and Executive Director **Karen Bernard** and artist panel **Rafael Cañals**, **Maxi Hawkeye Canion**, **Jil Guyon**, **Rebecca Patek**, and **Stacy Lynn Smith**. In addition, films were selected in collaboration with **Ciné-Corps**, a film festival focused on dance and the body.

**Performance Mix Festival 38 artists:** Carole Arcega, Arantxa Araujo, j. bouey, Beatriz Castro Mauri, Thomas Choinacky, Clément Cogitore, Jordan Deal, Bob Eisen, Chloë Engel, Lena Engelstein, Estrellx/EHQs, Ellen Furey, Zoey Gauld, Tal Halevi, Viktor Horváth, Audrée Juteau, Smaïl Kanouté, Catherine Lavoie-Marcus, Nina Laisné and François Chaignaud, Lo Fi Dance Theory, Johanna Meyer, Mickey D. & Friends, Frédéric Nauczyciel, Company [REDACTED], Flamenco Rosado, Mohamad Moe Sabbah and Khansa, Aya Shabu, ankita sharma, Shua Group, Isa Spector, Karley Wasaff | Kinetics with Karley, Yolette Yellow-Duke, and Shannon Yu/SHA Creative Outlet.

Performances will take place Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9, at Abrons Arts Center's Underground Theater, 466 Grand Street, NYC. Performance times vary. Tickets for the 38th annual Performance Mix Festival are \$18.50 (includes fees). Special packages are also available. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.abronsartscenter.org/programs/performance-mix-festival-38>

Breakfast Mix will be held on Friday, June 7, from 10am to 12pm, at New Dance Alliance Studio, 182 Duane Street, 3rd Floor, in Tribeca. The event is free. Space is limited. Reservations are required and can be made by emailing [admin@newdancealliance.org](mailto:admin@newdancealliance.org).

Promotional video:

<https://vimeo.com/919773755>

Images are available for download at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/uep0u1szfon229ex2xbym/h?rlkey=ioq4fzw5gql536ikcmfh8atvd&dl=0>

### **Schedule of Performances and Events**

All performances will be live unless otherwise noted.

#### **Thursday, June 6**

##### **Program A | 7pm: j. bouey, Bob Eisen, Frédéric Nauczyciel, Shua Group**

###### **j. bouey | *A Message from Mx. Black Copper***

Mx. Black Copper, a trans-dimensional, hyper-empathic being, projects their consciousness back to our time from a future that has abolished oppression and reversed climate change. Upon their arrival, they sense the troubling atmosphere of our time and reflect the joy and grief of the planet as a message toward liberation.

###### **Bob Eisen**

The Big Dictator is coming—at least that's what Iggy Pop says, which leads to a collaborative duet between dancer Bob Eisen and actor **Tom Ligon**.

###### **Frédéric Nauczyciel | *A Baroque Ball (Shade)***

The Ciné-Corps film *A Baroque Ball (Shade)* features 15 performers dancing to a Bach concerto in a baroque interpretation with clavichords.

###### **Shua Group | Over**

Delving into the relational powers between voice and movement, the Detroit-based Shua Group presents *Over*, a performance about attention, limits, survival, and grace.

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##### **Program B | 8:30pm: Nina Laisné and François Chaignaud, Flamenco Rosado, ankita sharma, Isa Spector**

###### **Nina Laisné and François Chaignaud | *Mourn, O Nature!***

“Why awaken me, O breath of spring,” from the opera *Werther* by Jules Massenet, was one of the airs that Michael Jackson sang in the intimacy of his own studio. This little known and intriguing piece of information is the starting point for Nina Laisné and François Chaignaud’s project, *Mourn, O Nature!*. In this film, presented with Ciné-Corps, the artists reinvent a Werther who has been absorbed by Jackson and shares a fascination for nature, the desire to revisit ancestral legends, and the expression of a distressing love. The performer sings, dances, and metamorphoses; he slips into different vocal and physical registers and seems to continue Michael Jackson’s dream of total expression.

###### **Flamenco Rosado**

Flamenco Rosado will share a short excerpt of their work that straddles the experimental and traditional flamenco framework.

###### **ankita sharma | *jagaana/Awaken/***

In labor, Kali awakens to the demands of worship and is remade into an idol.

*jagaana/Awaken/* is an excerpt from ankita sharma's *dhoka/Betrayal/*, in which Kali's ultimate power tips into destruction as Hinduism is colonized into propaganda for violence.

### **Isa Spector | A Larger Body**

*A Larger Body* is a meditation on masculinity set inside a story of a boy crossing a river with his pony.

### **Friday, June 7**

#### **10am: Breakfast Mix**

Breakfast Mix is a convivial meeting and informal discussion with the international artists of the festival. This year the breakfast will also offer a virtual dance experience organized by Agora de la danse/Koros.

10:00-10:30am: Breakfast

10:30am-12pm: Panel discussion facilitated by Karen Bernard, Executive Director of NDA, and guests L'Annexe-A along with Ciné-Corps director Virginie Combet and Vanessa Bousquet of Koros. There will also be a presentation by Agora de la danse/Koros and four VR headsets will be available for attendees to experience two dance pieces by **Hélène Blackburn** and **Andrea Peña**.

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### **Program A | 7pm: Thomas Choinacky, Smail Kanouté, Company [REDACTED], Shua Group**

#### **Thomas Choinacky | *Home is the Body***

This "duet" asks: How can I learn empathy from my own body? The dancer, in formation with their duct tape mummy explores a slow, reflective movement score continually asking themself to breathe into all parts of the body to find home.

#### **Smail Kanouté | *Never Twenty One***

Echoing the hashtag #Never21, coined by the Black Lives Matter movement, the dance film *Never Twenty One* presented by Ciné-Corps, wishes to pay tribute to the victims of gun violence in New York, Rio, or Johannesburg... who will never turn 21 years old. Through their graffitied bodies, three dancers embody both the words of the victims and their families, and the evils they have suffered. Like wandering spirits, they tell us about these stolen and broken lives. Moving from krump to electro, popping to contemporary dance, different energies slowly come through to bring out the victims invisible presence and name their unspeakable pain.

#### **Company [REDACTED] | *My Apocalypse***

*My Apocalypse* is an annihilation drama on the shores of Times Square Beach. Shame monsters converge at the edge of personal and societal collapse, rolling, rocking, and grabbing their way into the future.

#### **Shua Group | Over**

Delving into the relational powers between voice and movement, the Detroit-based Shua Group presents *Over*, a performance about attention, limits, survival, and grace.

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### **Program B | 8:30pm: Clément Cogitore, Estrellx/EHQs, Shannon Yu/SHA Creative Outlet, Karley Wasaff | Kinetics with Karley**

#### **Clément Cogitore | *Les Indes Galantes***

Ciné-Corps film: *Les Indes Galantes* is an opera-ballet created by Jean-Philippe Rameau in 1753. Clément Cogitore adapts, in collaboration with three choreographers **Bintou Dembélé, Brahim Rachiki, and Igor Carouge**, a short part of the ballet by mobilizing a group of krump dancers, a dance form born in South Central Los Angeles in the early 1990s as an expression of protest against police

brutality. The colonial overtones of this 18th-century opera, which presented toxic stereotypes of non-Europeans are removed in the film's re-envisioning, opening up a space for collective movements that offer justice, inclusion, and freedom to everyone.

**EstrellIx/EHQs | *The Switch***

*The Switch* is a solo performance that unfolds within an imaginary dark room where edging is foregrounded and foreplay is extended, where the tension between words and psychosomatic states moves in and out of obscurity and opacity. *The Switch* asks, Is a protest a protest if it cannot be heard, seen, or felt? What other forms of subtle, rhizomatic, telepathic, and erotic protesting are possible to conjure within the realm of the unseen?

**Karley Wasaff | @kineticswithkarley | *XwhY***

*XwhY* is a compositional-improvisational score that explores the restrictions and tension that gender markers place on a person. This score utilizes memories and "X marks the spot" as movement scores to enunciate the hardships of nonbinary/female identities.

**Shannon Yu/SHA Creative Outlet | *Shapeshifter***

*Shapeshifter* is a solo dance exploration of consciousness through textures of movement and sound. A mixed streamlining of Asian roots and hip-hop culture.

**Saturday, June 8**

**7pm: Audrée Juteau, Zoey Gauld, Catherine Lavoie-Marcus, and Ellen Furey | *Mystic-Informatic***

This collaborative work features two large metal structures, a computer from 1983, and small, yellow 3D-printed sculptures in a scenography evoking the ruins of capitalism and the waste produced by the constant renewal of technology. The dance inside grows like an optimistic mushroom, the matsutake. Embodying a punk, apocalyptic, and feminist approach, the piece gives power back to dance and expels our ecological despair.

**The Saturday evening performance will be followed by a reception.**

**Sunday, June 9**

**Program A | 12pm: Carole Arcega, Beatriz Castro Mauri, Chloë Engel, Johanna Meyer**

**Carole Arcega | *Hymen***

In this Ciné-Corps film about looking for an organic cinema, an intimate relationship is created, a body moves and mutates to become the film's skin.

**Beatriz Castro Mauri | *girl crush***

clean girl, tomato girl, girl dinner, girl math, cool girl, pick me girl, girl boss, corporate girl, good girl, bad girl, party girl, it girl, girl's girl, babygirl. *girl crush* is a solo exploration on the consumption, glorification, and manufacturing of girl-ISH-ness as an unavoidable phenomenon of internet presence.

**Chloë Engel | *Rubber***

*Rubber* is a solo experimental performance practice that explores rubber as medium. Chloë Engel draws from their experience as a play therapist, the child of a psychiatric survivor, and a rubber enthusiast to build a practice with rubber that engages questions of pleasure, pathology, queerness, and madness.

**Johanna Meyer | Suit Hang**

Johanna Meyer will present a new solo featuring performance/dance material that dives into the female body, fat, and movement. The piece explores desire and unattainable perfection.

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**Program B | 1:30pm: Mickey D. & Friends, Jordan Deal, Lo Fi Dance Theory, Aya Shabu****Mickey D. & Friends | Visiting The Past To See The Future**

In *Visiting The Past To See The Future* Mickey Davidson re-explores with the community two former pieces to physically re-discover the past to respect the future by facing the present. Mickey Davidson is a 2023 Black Artist Space to Create Resident Artist.

**Jordan Deal | capeforce: prologue, stillness of villainess**

Through further explorations of chaos force as a current that can be harnessed and transformed into subversive material, *capeforce* bathes in the communal subterranean currents of the dead and the ghosts of the fugitive and social zombie. As a metzu zombie dance, this compositional and choreographic exploration invites the Black imagining and the borders of madness into a dance with triple consciousness herself. Jordan Deal is a 2023 Black Artist Space to Create Resident Artist.

**Lo Fi Dance Theory | Move Freely**

The Ciné-Corps film *Move Freely* is a documentary exploring dance as a life force within the marginalized Roma community in Belgrade, Serbia. This project brings together choreographer/director **Wynn Holmes**, cinematographer **Andrew Amorim**, and journalist **Julia Kidder** with a focus on Roma youth as they transcend imposed boundaries through dance and performance.

**Aya Shabu | LandED (excerpt)**

*LandED* is a solo narrative dance journey about Aya Shabu, a second-generation African American woman of Bajan descent remembering her childhood memories marred by her grandmother's colorism, gender norms, and prideful notions of Black mobility. Shabu upsets the matriarchal curse when she discovers a family secret. Aya Shabu is a 2023 Black Artist Space to Create Resident Artist.

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**Program C | 3pm: Tal Halevi, Mohamad Moe Sabbah and Khansa, Yolette Yellow-Duke****Mohamad Moe Sabbah and Khansa | Khayef**

The Ciné-Corps film *Khayef* is a public invitation to the personal living room of a young Middle Eastern boy belly dancing in front of his family, unveiling Arab society's perception of effeminacy and androgyny. A celebration of fluidity and nonconformity that spans various different spectra such as transformation and creativity.

**Tal Halevi | Hidden in a Closet My Mother Imagined Being Wrapped in Her Father's Shawl**

*Hidden in a Closet My Mother Imagined Being Wrapped in Her Father's Shawl* is a solo piece exploring the body's and mind's protective wrappings. Tracing spirallic pathways, it follows movement across landscapes of memory. Tal Halevi is a 2023-24 LiftOff Resident Artist.

**Yolette Yellow-Duke**

Yolette Yellow-Duke's work is an exploration of mediums. Yellow-Duke is a 2023-24 LiftOff Resident Artist.

**Shannon Yu/SHA Creative Outlet | Shapeshifter**

*Shapeshifter* is a solo dance exploration of consciousness through textures of movement and sound. A mixed streamlining of Asian roots and hip-hop culture.

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## **Program D | 4:30pm: Arantxa Araujo in collaboration with Mariana Uribe, Lena Engelstein, Viktor Horváth**

### **Arantxa Araujo in collaboration with Mariana Uribe | *Breathsculpt: Transformations Unveiled***

With *Breathsculpt: Transformations Unveiled*, artist Arantxa Araujo collaborates with sound artist Mariana Uribe to create an intricate and immersive experience. Araujo repeatedly submerges her face in molten yellow beeswax, crafting a series of transformative masks that represent her evolving identities over time. Throughout the performance, moments of hypoxia occur due to obstruction of airway passages with the wax. This, plus a resonating soundscape, which includes Araujo's heartbeat as it changes overtime because of oxygen deprivation, deepens the exploration of self-discovery and the continuous cycle of metamorphosis. This captivating artistic experience unfolds over a duration of 20 minutes, engaging the audience in a profound journey of transformation and exploration.

### **Lena Engelstein**

Lena Engelstein will present *Stage Direction*.

### **Viktor Horváth**

In this Ciné-Corps film Viktor Horváth presents a fashion video focused on shoes. Attention, it's not a cakewalk!

Schedule subject to change.

Artist biographies are available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/18zv0quulsa8w1idj40zs/h?rlkey=tw11ar98ex7b8rejx173j02fp&dl=0>

### **About Ciné-Corps**

Documentary filmmaker Virginie Combet has directed dance films, among them the series *Dancing Paths*, a collection of contemporary dance creations presented in gardens. In 2016, she founded and directed the Ciné-Corps Film Festival in Strasbourg, France. Delving into the intricacies and possibilities of the body through dance, the festival has since expanded and now plays annually in several cities.

[www.cine-corps.com](http://www.cine-corps.com)

### **About Performance Mix Festival**

For 38 years, New Dance Alliance's Performance Mix Festival has offered diverse emerging and mid-career artists an opportunity to share work with audiences in Manhattan. Annually, it offers this jam-packed program of local, national, and international artists with the direct aim to support the development of experimental works with the public. Performance Mix Festival (1986) was groundbreaking in that it was the only festival at that time exclusively dedicated to performance art in lower Manhattan. Its continued success is testimony to its vital necessity in New York's cultural community.

### **About New Dance Alliance**

Incorporated in 1989, New Dance Alliance (NDA) is a performing arts nonprofit. Its mission, from the earliest days, has been to support emerging experimental movement-based artists. NDA has made an explicit commitment to equity and inclusion by creating programs that center the work of artists from historically marginalized communities of color, LGBTQ artists, and artists with disabilities. NDA provides space, residencies, performance, and networking opportunities that help artists cultivate relationships, develop their artistry, and open doors to share their work in the US and internationally. NDA's programs are: Performance Mix Festival, Black Artists Space to Create, LiftOff Residency, Satellite, Work Session, and Karen Bernard Projects. These programs support the work of more than 100 experimental artists and 2,500 audience members each year. <https://newdancealliance.org>

NDA's season was funded by the Bernstein Family Foundation, Consulate General of Canada in New York, Harkness Foundation for Dance, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Quebec Government Office in New York, and generous individual donors.



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