

**VELOCITY**

VELOCITY DANCE CENTER PRESENTS



# EMERGE ARTS SHOWCASE

FEATURING FILMS BY ABDIEL, AKOYA HARRIS,  
ZARA MARTINA LOPEZ, AND BREA WILSON

**MAY 27 + 28**

**NORTHWEST FILM FORUM**

**PRESENTING  
PARTNERS**



# ABOUT EMERGE

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The Emerge Arts Cohort and Showcase is a film creation program for BIPOC LGBTQ+ performing artists that offers production support, artistic mentorship, and business and sustainability training. The selected Artist Cohort cohort has received mentorship and support from Velocity, Gay City, and established BIPOC and LGBTQ+ artists to create a film translation of their live work, and a platform to share their work in a fully-produced, in-person showcase at Northwest Film Forum.

This year's artists were curated by the Emerge Curating Council members Dakota Alcantara-Camacho, Saira Barbaric, David Rue, dani tirrell, and Fox Whitney.

Thank you to Northwest Film Forum for partnering with Velocity and Gay City, Amy Piñon for your role as video artist mentor, and Maria Manness and Washington Ensemble Theater for production support. Thank you to Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Arts Fund, 4 Culture, Seattle Pride, + Transgender Economic Employment Coalition for supporting this program. And thank you, dear audience for watching the show!

## PROGRAM STAFF

Director of Photography: Amy Piñon

2nd Camera Operator: Maria Manness

Production Manager: Jessica Jones

Program Coordinator: Symone Sanz

## PROGRAM SUPPORTERS



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Velocity Dance Center + Gay City: Seattle's LGBTQ Center are a part of a settlement on the unceded ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, specifically, here, the Duwamish People. We recognize that all Coast Salish peoples are the contemporary and rightful stewards of this land.

# SCREENING PROGRAM

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## BATHE

Filmmaker: Brea Wilson

Music: Original Score produced  
by Brea Wilson

Note: Special thanks to the  
EMERGE 2022 cohort for  
engaging in this deeply radical,  
loving process all together.

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## TBD

Director: Abdiel

Performers: Abdiel, Orb, + Tracey  
Wong

Music:

An exploration of joy as a transcendent force  
combatting homophobia and effeminophobia  
within relationships between straight and  
queer people.

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## Home is Here

Director: Akoiya Harris

Performer: Akoiya Harris

Music:

Having lived in two different historically  
Black neighborhoods (Harlem, NYC and the  
Central District, Seattle), I have firsthand  
witnessed the displacement of Black people  
that's happening in cities nationwide. This  
work looks at what it feels like to still reside  
in a community that is being broken apart.  
It explores how spaces can hold warm  
memories while also triggering feelings of  
grief, isolation, and loneliness. This project  
reminds us that "home" is not always found  
in a physical place but rather in self and  
community.

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## Umbilical

Director: Zara Martina Lopez

Performer: Zara Martina Lopez

Music:

Umbilical is a film about my ancestors,  
the cycles of life and how we are all  
interconnected with all living creatures  
through water. It's a collage of images  
inspired in traditions and matriarchy through  
the lens of my direct life.

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# ARTIST COHORT

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**ABDIEL** is a former Principal Dancer of the Martha Graham Dance Company. Abdiel and their dance partner made history becoming the world's first professional "male-female" ballroom couple to compete as Gender Neutral in DanceSport ballroom competition. They've taught their gender neutral approach at The Juilliard School, Harvard University, Stanford University, University of California Irvine, and currently as a pre-doctoral lecturer at the University of Washington. Abdiel is an avid Hustle dancer/educator/researcher dedicated to its cultural preservation and creative expansion. Their greatest passion is igniting and uniting people through social dance as a form of collective healing and celebration.

*Photo by Warren Woo*



**AKOIYA HARRIS** (she/her) was born and raised in the Central District of Seattle Washington. She graduated from The Ailey Schools Certificate Program where she had the opportunity to gain a deep understanding of her body's relationship to movement through technique and choreography. She has performed as a company member with Donald Byrd's Spectrum Dance Theater. Akoiya has been able to perform in galleries such as The Henry Art Gallery (Seattle), Seattle Art Museum, The Luminary (St. Louis), and The Frye (Seattle). Akoiya is currently a member of Wa Na Wari's Seattle Black Spatial Histories Cohort. Through her art, she hopes to give voice to the stories, both known and unknown, of her community and honor those who came before her.

*Photo by Jean Paul Builes*

# ARTIST COHORT

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**BREA WILSON** (they/them) is a Black, mixed race, trans non-binary multidisciplinary artist born and raised in occupied Duwamish territory. Their primary mediums include photography, filmmaking, music production and fashion design. Their work is primarily centered around Black and brown queer folk and their experience.

*Photo by Ruby Meza*



Originally from Medellin-Colombia, **ZARA MARTINA LOPEZ** (She, They) is a Seattle based dancer, performer, filmmaker and photographer. She studied photography in São Paulo, Videodance in Cuba and worked as a video dance instructor at the University of Antioquia.

Combining mediums such as drag, physical theater, spoken word, video and photography, her work pulses with the synergy of myriad techniques that give shape to her unique visual poetry.

She's sexy, she's fun, she likes ketchup and mustard on hot dogs.

*Photo by Joe Reynolds*

# ABOUT VELOCITY

**VELOCITY DANCE CENTER** is dedicated to providing Seattle dance-makers with the resources, advocacy, and collaborative support they need to blossom their ideas into impactful art and community actions. Our mission is to advance contemporary dance and movement-based art by fostering the creative explorations of artists and audiences. We do this through flexible and responsive platforms that support dance research and creation, movement education, and opportunities to share and experience contemporary dance.

## VELOCITY TEAM

Erin Johnson | Executive Director  
Fox Whitney | Artistic Director  
Vladimir Kremenovic | Digital  
Engagement Manager  
Shirley Wong | Operations Manager  
Jessica Jones | Technical Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## CURATING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Alyza Delpan-Monley

## 2022 - 2023 MADE IN SEATTLE ARTISTS

Drama Tops | Nia-Amina Minor |  
Lavinia Vago

## 2022 CREATIVE RESIDENTS

Moonyeka | Milvia Berenice  
Pacheco Salvatierra | Jody Kuehner  
/ Cherdonna Shinatra | Jordan  
MacIntosh-Hougham | Devin Muñoz |  
Hannah Simmons | Ben Swenson-Klatt  
+ Ettie Wahl | Markeith (Keyes) Wiley

## 2022 SEASON SPONSORS

Thank you to Velocity's 2022 season sponsors: John Robinson + Maya Sonenberg, Case van Rij, Jeremy Steward + Eric Hartmann, Anonymous, Melissa Feldman + Daniel Greenstein, and Barbara Lewis + Joe Cable. Velocity Dance Center is supported in part by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support general operating expenses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



@velocity\_seattle



/VelocityDanceCenter



@vdcseattle

**VELOCITYDANCECENTER.ORG**

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# ABOUT GAY CITY

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**GAY CITY: SEATTLE’S LGBTQ CENTER’S** mission is to cultivate access and connections to promote self-determination, liberation and joy in LGBTQ+ communities. We believe that art is the voice, spirit, and conscience of every community and is a vital tool for community reflection, dialogue, and pride. Gay City is the only LGBTQ center in Seattle; through our arts, resource referral, youth advocacy and wellness programming, we support LGBTQ folks experiencing intersecting health inequities and oppressions.

## GAY CITY TEAM

Bekah Telew | Co-Executive Director  
Kai Horton | Director of Programs  
Sam Choi | Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator  
Jiéyì Zhou | Youth Advocacy Program Manager

## COMMUNITY ADVISORS

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Patrick Carr | Trey Rabun

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