VELOCITY

VELOCITY DANCE CENTER PRESENTS



EMERGE ARTS SHOWCASE

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

MAY 27 + 28

NORTHWEST FILM FORUM

PRESENTING PARTNERS





ABOUT EMERGE

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

ARTIST COHORT



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.

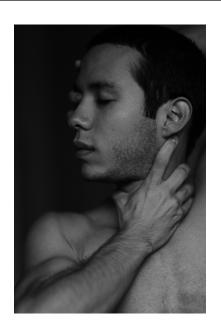
Photo by Jean Paul Builes

ARTIST COHORT



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.

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CURATING ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Alyza Delpan-Monley

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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.















(O) @velocity_seattle (f) /VelocityDanceCenter (f) @vdcseattle





VELOCITYDANCECENTER.ORG

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ABOUT GAY CITY

GAY CITY: SEATTLE'S LGBTO 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 LGBTO center in Seattle; through our arts, resource referral, youth advocacy and wellness programming, we support LGBTO folks experiencing intersecting health inequities and oppressions.

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