

10th Anniversary

HOPE MOHR DANCE PRESENTS THE BRIDGE PROJECT,
SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020

Power Shift: Improvisation, Activism and Community

BYB CHANEL BIBENE | NIGEL CAMPBELL | SHERWOOD CHEN | JAIME CORTEZ | YALINI
DREAM | ROSEMARY HANNON | THE HIVE | TAMMY JOHNSON | LIZ LERMAN |
PALOMA MCGREGOR | AMY MILLER | HOPE MOHR | MAURICE MOORE | RANU
MUKHERJEE | MICHAEL ORANGE | ONYE OZUZU | JARREL PHILLIPS | RANDY REYES |
JUDITH SANCHEZ RUIZ | BEATRICE THOMAS



bridgeproject.art/powershift

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, September 16, 2020 – Hope Mohr Dance (HMD) is proud to present the tenth anniversary edition of **The Bridge Project**, titled **POWER SHIFT: IMPROVISATION, ACTIVISM AND COMMUNITY**. This year's program features a broad array of perspectives on the practice of

improvisation located at the intersection of dance and social action. Spotlighting artists and activists from around the U.S. and Europe, *Power Shift* continues through November 22 with 15 events including movement workshops, trainings that bring together artists and activists, and performances.

Among the highlights of The Bridge Project 2020 is a weeklong residency by renowned Berlin-based director, choreographer and teacher **Judith Sánchez Ruíz**, October 5 – 11. Saturday, October 10, HMD will present Sánchez Ruíz's most recent solo, *Encaje*. The following day she will perform a duet with **sam wentz** who, like Sánchez Ruíz, danced with Trisha Brown Dance Company for many years. In the week leading up to these performances, Sánchez Ruíz will offer individualized coaching in improvisation and choreography to intimate groups of three artists each.

The weekend of October 31, HMD will host **Onye Ozuzu** who approaches improvisation from a pluralist and instrumentalist lens. Based in Florida, Ozuzu is a contemporary dance artist whose signature movement practice draws from street dance, club culture, aikido, salsa, ballet and more. *Space Carcasses* is the title of her workshop – Saturday and Sunday, October 31 and November 1.

Both Ozuzu's and Sánchez Ruíz's workshops are tailored for people with dance training, but most of *Power Shift*'s programs are suitable for all who are interested. Of those, one highlight is a collaboration with **Gibney**, formerly Gibney Dance, in New York. Company Directors **Nigel Campbell** and **Amy Miller**, alongside Gibney "Community Actionist" educators **Thomas Moore**, **Will Noling** and **Devin Oshiro**, will offer an introduction to Gibney's community action model of addressing gender-based violence as well as mobilizing the arts as a vehicle for social change. Their workshop takes place Saturday, September 26.

Another event joining artists and activists will be led by **Tammy Johnson** and **Yalini Dream**, November 21 - 22. Johnson and Dream are performing artists and culture workers with long experience in community organizing, economic justice, electoral reform and anti-violence campaigns. Their workshop will guide participants through practices that explore individual and group habits, and community-building using movement, vocalization and other creative tools.

"Improvisation is about navigating uncertainty," said HMD Founder and Artistic Director **Hope Mohr**. "While we chose improvisation as the central axis around which this program would revolve, we did not anticipate the extent to which we would all be forced to improvise this year in the face of COVID-19. Improvisation opens a space for questioning received patterns and ingrained hierarchies. It is in that spirit, too, that HMD recently announced our shift to a model of distributed leadership."

Joining Mohr as co-directors and co-curators of The Bridge Project 2020 are **Cherie Hill** and **Karla Quintero**. "*Power Shift* centers improvisational voices and practices from traditions beyond white postmodernism," said Quintero. "The program includes Latinx voices, Asian voices, voices from African dance, jazz aesthetics, social and street dance and capoeira. The title *Power Shift* is meant to suggest just that: a decentering of white artists who have inordinately dominated the improvisation field."

"This year's Bridge Project also looks beyond performance to center practice," added Hill. "With *Power Shift* we place practice at the center of the program with 21 days of workshops and intensive trainings."

“*Power Shift* reflects our shared commitment, as co-curators, to cultural and racial equity,” said Mohr.

Detailed descriptions of *Power Shift*'s events follow below. Please note that all programs will take place either online or in person at outdoor locations with restrictions on capacity and ample space for safe distancing. Masks will be required at in-person events. All events remain subject to change. For more information, visit bridgeproject.art/powershift.

ART & ACTIVISM WORKSHOPS

Workshops for artists, social workers, educators, activists, nonprofit professionals and anyone interested in how embodiment can support social change. Through improvisation, vocalization and other creative tools, each workshop offers practical and theoretical tools for connecting deep embodiment to social justice work, legal advocacy, teaching, strategic visioning, and more. No dance background is necessary.

With the exception of 'Imaging the Future' on October 4, all Art & Activism workshops will be livestreamed via Zoom.

ARTISTS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

Workshop with Nigel Campbell, Amy Miller, Thomas Moore, Will Noling and Devin Oshiro

September 26

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. PT

This workshop is an introduction to Gibney's community action model of addressing gender-based violence as well as mobilizing the arts as a vehicle for social change. Facilitated by Gibney Company Co-Directors Nigel Campbell and Amy Miller alongside Gibney “Community Actionist” educators Thomas Moore, Will Noling and Devin Oshiro, the workshop includes both participatory and theoretical elements and is open to artists, social workers, educators and activists interested in cross-sector exchange around embodied social change.

IMAGINING THE FUTURE

Workshop with ARTogether and Ranu Mukherjee

October 4

Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m.

Center for Empowering Refugees, Oakland

A collaboration between The Bridge Project and Oakland-based nonprofit ARTogether, *Imagining the Future* is a story-building workshop focused on imagining how we want to live into the future. Co-led by painter Ranu Mukherjee and choreographer Hope Mohr, this workshop is for artists of all mediums, using the tools of writing, movement and drawing.

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING FOR THE DANCE COMMUNITY

Workshop with Beatrice Thomas

In partnership with Dance Mission Theater and Kambara+

October 17
Saturday, 12 - 3 p.m. PT

Beatrice Thomas is an arts and equity consultant, a multi-disciplinary social practice artist and performer. Among their past and current clients are San Francisco's Cultural Equity Grants program, First Night Austin (Texas), Leveraging Arts Networks for Equity, SAFEhouse Arts and the Akonadi Foundation. She will lead a workshop of transformative learning that will give participants tools to act as allies for racial justice, recognize and respond to micro-aggressions in work and studio settings, recognize and resist bias, build trust with collaborators and colleagues, and improve listening skills.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT AESTHETIC EQUITY

Panel conversation with Jaime Cortez, Liz Lerman, Paloma McGregor and Michael Orange

Moderated by HMD Director of Art in Community Cherie Hill

October 18
Sunday, 1 – 2:30 p.m. PT

HMD Director of Art in Community Cherie Hill will moderate a conversation on aesthetic equity and aesthetic bias in the arts with panelists Jaime Cortez, Liz Lerman, Paloma McGregor and Michael Orange. The conversation will be followed by small group dialogues and a full audience Q&A.

Lerman is a choreographer, performer, writer, educator and speaker, and the recipient of honors including a 2002 MacArthur "Genius Grant" and a 2017 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award. She has taught Critical Response Process, creative research, the intersection of art and science, and the building of narrative within dance at institutions including Harvard, the Yale School of Drama, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Arizona State University. Her third book is *Hiking the Horizontal: Field Notes from a Choreographer*. McGregor toured internationally for six years with Urban Bush Women and two years with Liz Lerman/Dance Exchange, and she continues to perform in project-based work, including Skeleton Architecture, with whom she received a 2017 Bessie Award.

Cortez is a visual artist, arts educator and consultant in nonprofit arts management. He currently serves as a program officer in performing arts at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in charge of a diverse portfolio of performing arts grants. Orange is a cultural affairs commissioner for the city of Oakland and the founder of Matatu, a think tank spearheading discussions around the "aesthetic enfranchisement" of historically marginalized populations.

THE KEYSTONE OF THE ARCH: EMBODIED 100 YEARS VISION

Workshop with Tammy Johnson and Yalini Dream

November 21 – 22
Saturday & Sunday, Noon - 5 p.m. PT

Tammy Johnson, based in the Bay Area, and Yalini Dream, based in Brooklyn, NY, are performing artists and culture workers with long experience in community organizing, economic justice, electoral reform and anti-violence campaigns. They will lead a workshop guiding participants through practices that explore individual and group habits, and community-building using movement, vocalization and other

creative tools. In particular, day one of the workshop will address practices of navigating dynamic tension, while day two “will involve dream work that weaves together a vision beyond the current moment of struggle.”

IMPROVISATION INTENSIVES

Workshops for those who love to improvise and who want to expand their practice through in-depth study. Each intensive shares one leading artist's approach and tools to improvisation. Previous dance or other movement training recommended to participate. Professional experience as a dance improviser and performer required to participate in Judith Sánchez Ruíz's YOUR OWN GOD intensive.

All Improvisation Intensives will be livestreamed via Zoom.

YOUR OWN GOD

Workshop with Judith Sánchez Ruíz

October 5 - 9

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT

Session #1: 9 - 9:45 a.m. | Session #2: 10 - 10:45 a.m. | Session #3: 11 - 11:45 a.m. PT

A unique opportunity to receive individualized coaching in intimate groups of three artists under the mentorship of internationally-acclaimed dancer Judith Sánchez Ruíz. Over five consecutive days, with a 45-minute session each day, this workshop will feature practical exercises, dialogue and prompts for play. Topics in improvisation include scores and equations, time, composition. Topics in choreography include structure, process and research, vocabulary, composition, equation and leadership.

DAILY IMPROVISATION PRACTICE

Workshop with Sherwood Chen

October 19 - 23

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT

Sherwood Chen performs and leads workshops internationally, and has worked with artists including Grisha Coleman, Yuko Kaseki, Amara Tabor-Smith, Xavier Le Roy, Min Tanaka, Anna Halprin, Jess Curtis, inkBoat, Sara Shelton Mann and l'agence touriste. His advocacy work targets tradition-based, indigenous and community-based artists and programs. For *Power Shift*, Chen will offer a week-long workshop exploring various points of departure for movement exploration: slowing down movement as a strategy to overheat kinesthetic attention; applying sensorial memory to render impossible landscapes in the flesh; moving from seeing without using our eyes; and heraldic experimentations with the weight of our bones. Each session builds towards self- and/or partner-generated improvisations. Single-session drop-in attendance is welcome.

SPACE CARCASSES

Workshop with Onye Ozuzu

October 31 - November 1

Saturday, 12 - 5 p.m. PT

Sunday, 2 - 6 p.m. PT

Onye Ozuzu is a performer, choreographer and educator currently serving as Dean of the College of the Arts at the University of Florida in Gainesville. As a dance artist, much of her work has focused on cultivating space for diverse movement forms to exist in pluralist relationship to one another, from tennis to ballet, West African dance to hatha yoga, freestyle house to salsa, contemporary dance to aikido. For *Power Shift*, Ozuzu will lead a two-day workshop investigating the psychosomatic shifts experienced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national reckoning over racial injustice. How do the spaces in our present day-to-day activities “become the carcasses of our earlier lives...places to visit versions of ourselves that once were?”

TWO-HOUR IMPROVISATION PRACTICES

A series of two-hour improvisation practices led by outstanding Bay Area improvisers suitable for movers of all abilities. These workshops draw inspiration from a wide range of sources to create experiences that resist capitalism in the body, bring participants in harmony with the natural world and cultivate entangled collectivity. No dance background required.

All Improvisation Practices will take place at outdoor locations in San Francisco. Participants will be required to wear facial coverings and to practice physical distancing.

EXPLORING NOT KNOWING: ART-MAKING THROUGH THE SENSES

Workshop with Rosemary Hannon & Maurice Moore

October 24

Saturday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. PT

Maurice Moore is a scholar, visual artist and performer whose work draws upon traditions and technologies such as call and response, improvisation, masking, reading, throwing shade and African-American vernacular English. Rosemary Hannon is a dancer and choreographer whose projects explore perception, perseverance, femininity, the intersection of identity and aesthetic values, the nature of story, and somatic experience within shifting cultural contexts. Together they will lead a workshop exploring mark-making with other senses, as well as pausing practice and collaborative wandering in an overlapping, timed group score. The scores are open-ended propositions for a shared practice that values doing “nothing productive” for both embodied pleasure and the resistance of capitalist values.

BYOI (BRING YOUR OWN INTENTION): EXPERIMENTS IN EMBODIED ACCOUNTABILITY

Workshop with Daria Garina and Bhumi Patel of The HIVE

October 24

Saturday, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. PT

The Hive is a Bay Area-based collective of artists working from the perspective of black indigenous queer trans people of color. Founded in 2018 and supported by HMD's Community Engagement Residency, The Hive's mission is to “invite and center dialogue, generative dissonance, embodied practices, slowing

down, rest, reconnection with the earth and its local Indigenous stewards, while bending time, dreaming and honing intuition and imagination.” Two of its members – Daria Garina and Bhumi Patel – will lead this workshop exploring practices of embodiment for accountability and transformative justice.

TRANSFORMATIONAL “MAGIC” SQUARES

Improvisation Practice with Byb Chanel Bibene

October 25

Sunday, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. PT

Byb Chanel Bibene is a Bay Area-based dance educator, choreographer and performer working in dance theater. His own technical and aesthetic sensibility is rooted in the culture and dances of his country of origin, the Republic of Congo. For *Power Shift*, he will present *Transformational Squares*, aka “Magic Squares,” a movement improvisation workshop based on specific prompts. Participants will explore how emotions shift the movement experience under the influence of either the natural elements or everyday life events. In the workshop, students will explore ways of mapping the body and movement dynamics.

IMPROVISATION PERFORMANCES

*Featuring work by leading improvisors that inspire power, joy and rumination. **All performances will be livestreamed via YouTube or Zoom.***

REAL TALK # 1: VECTORS OF ADVERSE DESIRE

randy reyes

October 2

Friday, 8 p.m. PT

Livestreamed via YouTube

Reyes is a queer, Afro-Guatemalan choreographer, performance artist and healer. After moving between Los Angeles, Berlin, New York and San Francisco, reyes currently makes his home in Lisbon, Portugal where they participate in the Advanced Performing Arts Programme through Forum Dança. For *Power Shift*, reyes will perform *Real Talk # 1: Vectors of Adverse Desire*, a solo exploring inner landscapes of eros and shame.

FREE PLAY

Jarrel Phillips

October 9

Friday, 8 p.m. PT

Livestreamed via YouTube

A performance artist drawing heavily on his experience as a San Francisco native and student of capoeira, Phillips explores the beauty and resilience of the African diaspora, its global presence and influence. His work emphasizes “living folklore,” the unfolding and continued cultivation of our lived experience, from the past to the present, through our community history. He will perform an improvised duet titled *Free Play* responding to live musical accompaniment, his partner and the *ashé* (energy).

ENCAJE

Judith Sánchez Ruíz

October 10

Saturday, 12 p.m. PT

Livestreamed via Zoom

Sánchez Ruíz is a former member of Sasha Waltz & Guests, Germany (2011-2014); Trisha Brown Dance Company (TBDC), U.S. (2006-2009); Mal Pelo Company, Spain (1997-1999); and DanzAbierta Company, Cuba (1991-1996). Since 2014, she's continued to make Berlin her home, freelancing as a choreographer with a mix of site-specific and stage works, as well as improvisation projects in collaboration with experimental composers and visual artists. *Encaje* is Sánchez Ruíz's most recent solo work, a piece about hypocrisy and the contradictions of the self, and inspired by the diaries of Anaïs Nin.

PURPLE is

Judith Sánchez Ruíz with sam wentz

October 11

Sunday, 12 p.m. PT

Livestreamed via Zoom

PURPLE is, the fourth iteration of Sánchez Ruíz's improvisational duet form in homage to the late choreographer Trisha Brown, takes place over Zoom with fellow Trisha Brown Dance Company alum sam wentz. Brown's work reset Sánchez Ruíz' perception of movement and structural choreography, and inspired her to use improvisation as her primary creative tool.

ABOUT HOPE MOHR DANCE'S BRIDGE PROJECT

Co-directed by three working female artists, The Bridge Project approaches arts and culture programming as a form of community organizing to facilitate equity-driven cultural conversations that cross discipline, geography and perspective. For ten years, The Bridge Project has brought artists and activists together in process, dialogue and performance. Though its organizers are rooted in dance and performance, The Bridge Project embraces a multi-disciplinary approach to creativity.

The Bridge Project's priorities are cultural equity, anti-racism, creating a creative commons and artistic excellence. It is committed to supporting female artists, LGBTQ artists, artists of color and artists from historically underserved populations.

"Creating spaces for debate, dissent, connection and collaboration, HMD's Bridge Project offers a model for how to build arts community" (Columbia University's Jack Halberstam).

"The Bridge Project seeks to address imbalances between 'established' and 'emerging' artists.... The Bridge Project's programming continues to ask how to build a 'we' in performance that includes audiences in the conversation" (*The Drama Review*).

The Bridge Project 2020 has received generous funding from the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Zellerbach Family Foundation. More information at hopemohr.org.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

Hope Mohr Dance celebrates the tenth anniversary of **The Bridge Project** with **POWER SHIFT: IMPROVISATION, ACTIVISM AND COMMUNITY**.

Featured Artists & Activists:

Byb Chanel Bibene, Nigel Campbell, Sherwood Chen, Jaime Cortez, Yalini Dream, Rosemary Hannon, The HIVE, Tammy Johnson, Liz Lerman, Paloma McGregor, Amy Miller, Hope Mohr, Maurice Moore, Ranu Mukherjee, Michael Orange, Onye Ozuzu, Jarrel Phillips, randy reyes, Judith Sánchez Ruíz, Beatrice Thomas

PROGRAM:

SEPTEMBER 26, 10 - 2 p.m. PT

Artists as Agents of Change

Workshop with **Nigel Campbell, Amy Miller, Thomas Moore, Will Noling** and **Devin Oshiro**
Livestreamed via Zoom

OCTOBER 2, 8 p.m. PT

randy reyes, *Real Talk #1: Vectors of Adverse Desire*

Performance livestreamed via YouTube

OCTOBER 5 - 9, Session #1: 9 - 9:45 a.m. | Session #2: 10 - 10:45 a.m. | Session #3: 11 - 11:45 a.m. PT

Your Own God

Individualized coaching in improvisation and performance with **Judith Sánchez Ruíz**
Livestreamed via Zoom

OCTOBER 9, 8 p.m. PT

Jarrel Phillips, *Free Play*

Performance livestreamed via YouTube

OCTOBER 10, 12 p.m. PT

Judith Sánchez Ruíz, *Encaje*

Performance livestreamed via Zoom

OCTOBER 11, 12 p.m. PT

Judith Sánchez Ruíz, *PURPLE is*, duet with sam wentz
Performance livestreamed via Zoom

OCTOBER 17, 12 - 3 p.m. PT

Anti-Racism Training for the Dance Community

Workshop with **Beatrice Thomas** in partnership with Dance Mission Theater and Kambara+
Livestreamed via Zoom

OCTOBER 18, 1 – 2:30 p.m. PT

A Conversation About Aesthetic Equity

Panel conversation with **Jaime Cortez, Liz Lerman, Paloma McGregor & Michael Orange**
Moderated by HMD's Director of Art in Community **Cherie Hill**
Livestreamed via Zoom

OCTOBER 19 - 23, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT

Daily Improvisation Practice

Workshop with **Sherwood Chen**
Livestreamed via Zoom

OCTOBER 24, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. PT

Exploring Not Knowing: Art-Making through the Senses

Workshop with **Rosemary Hannon & Maurice Moore**
Venue: Outdoor location in San Francisco. Location will be sent to those who register.

OCTOBER 24, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PT

BYOI (Bring Your Own Intention): Experiments in Embodied Accountability

Workshop with **Daria Garina** and **Bhumi Patel** of the **The HIVE**
Venue: Outdoor location in San Francisco. Location will be sent to those who register.

OCTOBER 25, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. PT

Transformational "Magic" Squares

Workshop with **Byb Chanel Bibene**
Venue: Outdoor location in San Francisco. Location will be sent to those who register.

OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 1, Sat. 12 - 5 p.m., Sun. 2 - 6 p.m. PT

Space Carcasses

Workshop with **Onye Ozuzu**
Livestreamed via Zoom

NOVEMBER 21 - 22, 12 – 5 p.m. PT

The Keystone of the Arch: Embodied 100 Years Vision

Workshop with **Tammy Johnson** and **Yalini Dream**
Livestreamed via Zoom

TICKETS & WORKSHOP REGISTRATION:

Art & Activism Workshops: **\$100 - \$250**, sliding scale.

Improvisation Intensives: **\$150**.

Two-Hour Improvisation Practices: **\$20**.

Five-Day Series with Sherwood Chen: **\$10 - \$75**.

A Conversation About Aesthetic Equity: **\$0 - \$100**, sliding scale.

Performances: **\$0 - \$100**, sliding scale.

Performance Pass: **\$50**, includes access to all four livestreamed performances.

Discounts available when registering for multiple events.

Registration/tickets available online at hmd.simplenetix.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Hope Mohr Dance: hopemohr.org

The Bridge Project: bridgeproject.art

Power Shift: bridgeproject.art/powershift

Video: bridgeproject.art/video

For all press inquiries please contact John Hill at johnhillpr@gmail.com.