



NOW Festival 2023: Week One

• JOJO ABOT, Tuixén Benet, Jordi & Cade & Ironstone

Dance, Music, Theater

AUGUST 17 - 19, 2023

8:30 PM

PRESENTED BY

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney

CalArts Theater

CaLARTS

California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandefío, and Venturefío; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

NOW Festival 2023: Week One

The 20th Annual New Original Works Festival kicks off with a program of works by JOJO ABOT, Tuixén Benet (CalArts MFA '20), and Jordi & Cade & Ironstone. With a sharp interest in rituals, fantasies and memories, these works use history and technology to formulate diverse, other-worldly futures that provide a counterpart to our reality while allowing us to examine the injustices around us.

New Original Works Festival 2023 is organized by Edgar Miramontes and Rolando Rodriguez with Sola Bamis (CalArts MFA '11), Dami Spain, and Rosanna Tavarez.

Runtime: Approx. 90 minutes, no intermission

JOJO ABOT: A GOD OF HER OWN MAKING

A GOD OF HER OWN MAKING is an immersive spatial opera performed by interdisciplinary artist, vocalist and composer JOJO ABOT. Accompanied by voices, dancers, and mesmerizing visuals, JOJO ABOT explores the power of new and ancient technologies for collective healing by drawing from her own heritage as an Ewe woman from West Africa. From these influences and histories, a new kind of ritual is born, one that leads to a trance-like realm in which the senses awaken and portals open to the divine.

Created, Directed and Choreographed by JOJO ABOT

Music Composed and Produced by JOJO ABOT

Performed by JOJO ABOT, ANDREA SOTO, LIONESS-SIA FODAY, ZOEL ESPERANZA

Pre-recorded Vocals by JOJO ABOT, ESPERANZA SPALDING, ESTERE

Spatial Sound Design by JOJO ABOT

Visuals by JOJO ABOT

Produced by JOJO ABOT

Production Assistant: CARLI RABON

Set Design by JOJO ABOT, SAKINAH SCOTT

Spatial Sound Engineering and Implementation by STEVE ELLISON, RICHARD BUGG,
LEONARD BLANCHE

Special thanks to Center For Cultural Power and to Meyer Sound for their support. Spacemap Go was used for spatial audio production. For more information, visit meyersound.com/spacemap-go.

Please note: A GOD OF HER OWN MAKING contains nudity and strobe lights.

JOJO ABOT is an interdisciplinary healer exploring evolving themes of spirituality, identity and community through music, film, fine art, fashion, photography and various other expressions. An Ewe woman born in Ghana and currently based in LA, she expands a blossoming career offering interdisciplinary works in collaboration with MOMA, Brooklyn Museum, The Ghana Pavilion at La Biennale Di Venezia, Frieze Art Fair x Theater Gates x Prada, Hult Center, Armory Week NYC, Perez Art Museum Miami and many others.

JOJO ABOT has toured with Ms Lauryn Hill, played stages like Afropunk, Roots Picnic, Radio City Music Hall, The Apollo Theater, Kennedy Center, Greek Theater and more. An alumni of the New Museum's incubator program, New Inc, and former resident at National Sawdust, JOJO ABOT continues to develop and present her interdisciplinary practice through POWER TO THE GOD WITHIN and other curatorial projects. | jojoabot.com / IG @jojoabot

—BRIEF PAUSE—

JORDI & CADE & IRONSTONE: 2300 SHE

Jordi, Cade, and Ironstone—three transgressive performers of vast imaginations—conjure a queer fever dream drenched in new music, efficient scenics, slaughterhouse fashion and original choreography in *2300 She*, a vision of the future that transcends description and language. According to The World Economic Forum, women will achieve equal pay for equal work in the year 2276. Set twenty-four years after such 'equality' has been achieved, this collaboration is a clarion call, a cry that erupts to examine our impending imperial wasteland destiny.

Directed by CADE MOGA AND IRONSTONE

Written by CADE MOGA

Choreography by IRONSTONE

Music by JORDI

Special thanks to Patria for designing the Ironstone reversible.

Please note: 2300 She contains nudity, strobe lights, and mature content.

Jordiana is a gender expanding, multidimensional artist, facilitator, and guide, weaving healing energy into all of their practices. Their performance art work has been welcomed at the Getty Center and Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity expanding from her 20+ year background in Theatre and Entertainment Industries. Informed by her individual self healing practices, Jordi has been able to guide group care workshops centered around meditation, ritual, herbalogy, and decolonial organizing for the liberation of marginalized groups of people.

Jordi creates an environment of healing through sharing wisdom informed by her experiences as a Black Gender-tired Queer person, and it is receiving information in this space that people are able to grow individually as well as collectively benefiting their own expansion and the communities they are a part of. | earthtojordi.com / IG @earthtojordi

Cade is a multilingual artist from Curitiba, Brazil, working across film, poetry, installation, and performance. They received their BFA from Otis College of Art & Design after relocating to Los Angeles. During their time in LA, Cade gained recognition as a cis femme video vixen and car show model, often catering to the male gaze under the label of a 'sexy latina.' Seeking to dismantle a binary identity, Cade embarked on a profound exploration of trans-masculinity. Since, Cade has authored a manifesto on the experience, produced short films, directed music videos, and actively engaged in collaborative performances and installations. Cade was a protagonist in *Seek Bromance*, which was awarded a Silver Lion by the Venice Biennale in the category of Theater. Influenced by the intersections of queerness in Body Horror Cinema and Magical Realism in South American Literature, Cade strives to redefine notions of words like Feminist, Erotic, and Brazilian. | cade.cloud / IG @cademoga

Born and raised in Los Angeles, **Ironstone's** dance career begins with the percussive American Dance form, Tap. Under the direction of Arlene Kennedy at Universal Dance Design (now demolished), he was able to join her internationally performing company. He returned to concert dance training in high school at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, and later Juilliard. Returning home in 2017, he began choreographing and dancing for artists such as Dorian Electra, Pussy Riot, Rachel Mason and JJ Stratford, as well as presenting short form and evening-length works. He enjoys the kinesthetic logic and intuition of movement invention. In this, his independent works consider universal decay, conserving isospin and are based on queer and trans acts. | IG @ironstonedance

—BRIEF PAUSE—

TUIXÉN BENET: *SOME MORE*

Some more is a dance performance by choreographer and filmmaker Tuixén Benet (CalArts MFA '20) that explores the process of mortality, while being concerned with the concept of eternity. In a world of mass shootings and police violence, pandemics and catastrophic events, where cascades of deaths are treated as statistics, is the reality of death being processed by those who simply hear about it on the news? Benet's work will stop time to examine the choreography of a dying body and how it relates to its surroundings, to nature, to animals and to you.

Directed by TUIXÉN BENET

Choreography by TUIXÉN BENET, MANDOLIN BURNS, CACIA LACOUNT, JENNIFER LACY,
ALICIA PAK, ZHIHAN YANG

Performed by MANDOLIN BURNS, CACIA LACOUNT, JENNIFER LACY, ALICIA PAK,
ZHIHAN YANG

Video Design by BORA KYUNG MIN LEE

Videography by MARTINA MATTAR

Costume Design by MARIA LAURA (MALI) SANDOVAL

Qlab Programmer: NATALIE NICHOLS

Dramaturgy Consultant: RICARD SOLER MALLOL

Special thanks to Rosanna Gamson, Taylor Donofrio, Matt Lemp, The Sharon Lund School of Dance at California Institute of the Arts, Marc Martínez Jordàn, Raquel Tomàs.

Please note: Some more contains fast-paced camera movements and recreations of death.

Tuixén Benet is a Filmmaker/Choreographer from Barcelona now based in LA. With a background in live performance and choreographing for the camera she's now focused on creating her own experimental films, which have screened at Cinedans Fest, Palm Springs ShortFest or Dance Camera West.

She's been nominated on multiple occasions for Best Choreography at the UK Music Video Awards and he directed the live show of Chilean artist Javiera Mena's world tour with teams of performers in Chile, Mexico and Spain. Benet was the co-director of the dance company Les filles Föllén with performances at Mercat de les Flors, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Le Lieu Unique, KUMU Art Museum of Estonia or Zoofest Montreal. She graduated in Choreography at the Institut del Teatre de Barcelona and earned an MFA in Film Directing at California Institute of the Arts, where she now teaches dance and film.

Mandolin Noelani Burns (They/Them) is an LA-based multidisciplinary artist from Portland, Oregon, who's trained and performed globally from Paris to NYC. They received their BFA in Dance from CalArts, with classical training across styles and focusing on film. Their notable works include a dance film series documenting queer experience, music videos with pop artists, and performing pieces by Yvonne Rainer, Barak Marshall and Rosanna Gamson at venues including REDCAT, Stomping Ground and Centre National de la Danse.

Cacia Lacount is originally from Boston, Ma. They studied at Walnut Hill school for the arts and graduated with a BFA from Boston Conservatory. Cacia has danced with little house dance, Boston Dance Theater and for the past 4 years with Ate9 Dance Company. Cacia has also danced for artists such as Remi Wolf, Sam Fischer, Olivia Rodrigo or Angel Olsen. Cacia is currently freelance dancing and is also a graphic designer/visual artist in LA.

Jennifer Lacy grew up in Virginia Beach, VA and began dancing at an early age. She received her BFA in Dance from The University of the Arts in 2016 and moved to California upon graduating. Jen danced with Micaela Taylor's The TL Collective for 5 years, and has performed for artists such as Olivia Rodrigo, BUZZ, LonelyTwin, and Figs Vision. Jen is currently a freelance artist in LA, in both the concert and commercial worlds.

Alicia Pak is a classically trained dancer raised in the Bay Area, California. Under the umbrella of commercial and concert dance work, she works as a performer, collaborator, and choreographer. As a Jacob's Pillow alumni, she has trained with choreographers such as Sidra Bell, Antoine Vereecken, Rosanna Gamson, and Milton Meyers. She is a recent graduate from California Institute of the Arts with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Digital Media.

Choreographer, dancer and educator, **Zhihan Yang** received her MFA from California Institute of the Arts and BFA from Beijing Dance Academy, and is currently based in Los Angeles. She is dedicated to researching the relationship between movement, installation and multi-media; the diverse embodiment of the body in the language of the camera and the reflection of identity between communities in different contexts are also the goals of her ongoing work.

Bora Kyung Min Lee is a Los Angeles-based creative producer and an artist from Seoul. She enjoys supporting the inception + execution of creative experiences and works in live performance with a focus on scenic and video design. Some of her credits in concert production include Rosalía Coachella (2023) with Frameworx / Traskhouse, Calvin Harris Coachella (2023) with Human Person, and Kendrick Lamar SNL (2022) performance with Frameworx.

Martina Mattar is a Brazilian filmmaker and audiovisual artist based in Los Angeles. Her personal work revolves around the poetics of vulnerability, sexuality and perception. She often collaborates with musicians and choreographers, as well as museums and educational institutions. As creative assistant to performance artist Simone Mattar, her work has been shown in WhiteBox Gallery, SPArte, the Embassy of Brazil in Madrid, among others. Martina holds a BFA in Film & Video from CalArts.

Natalie Nicholas / "Nat Nick" is a nonbinary, multimedia designer. While combining their love of theater and video, Nicholas toes the line between the weird, the grotesque, and the heart-wrenching. They most recently worked as Associate Projection Designer on "Fetch Clay, Make Man" at the Kirk Douglas with Center Theater Group. They have worked with experimental theater companies like Theater MITU and Phantom Limb Company after attaining their MFA at CalArts.

Ricard Soler Mallo is a director, dramaturge and teacher who was born in Barcelona. He moved to Montreal to pursue a Master's degree in Theatre and to develop his artistic career thanks to an Excellence Scholarship from La Caixa. He obtained his Master's with distinction from the

Université du Québec à Montréal. He also holds a degree in Directing and Dramaturgy from the Theatre Institute of Barcelona and in Mathematics and Telecommunications Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

Maria Laura Sandoval is a Belgo/Peruvian costume designer and artist based in LA. She participated at the runway Arte & Moda held in the museum of fine arts in Havana, and has designed scenes for the Santa Fe Opera. After graduating from CalArts in 2020, Maria Laura has designed several films, music videos and live show performances. She is currently a part of the Costumes team for the Riot Games championship live shows, including the League of Legends and Valorant franchises.

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UPCOMING AT REDCAT

New Original Works Festival 2023: Week Two

August 24-26

Vanessa Hernández Cruz: *Exhale Static, Inhale Fumes*

Exhale Static, Inhale Fumes, by Disabled dance artist and activist Vanessa Hernández Cruz, is a solo dance work that examines the contradiction of over-consuming social media to the point of feeling isolated and disconnected. Inspired by Cruz's own experience with social media, screens and technology, as someone who counts on it as a way of survival like others in the Disabled community, this work ponders how technology can expand human connection, even if in today's reality, we mostly communicate through our screens.

Melissa Ferrari: *Relict: A Phantasmagoria*

Artist and educator Melissa Ferrari's (CalArts MFA '19) *Relict: A Phantasmagoria* is an experimental documentary performed with antique magic lanterns and digitally projected hand-drawn animation. Invoking the history of magic lantern phantasmagoria as an exercise in belief and perception, this work stays true to its history, structured as a series of vignettes that navigate through various landscapes and contemporary mythologies. Nestled in a collage of audio interviews, recent creationist sermons and excerpts of pseudoscientific wildlife documentaries, Ferrari considers the zeitgeist of pseudoscience, fake news, religion, and documentary ethics collapsed within contemporary cryptozoology.

Kevin Williamson: *Safe and Sound*

Saturated hues flood the dance floor in choreographer Kevin Williamson's *Safe and Sound*, a meditation on self-preservation and solidarity where bodies morph through emotional states to combat anti-LGBTQ aggression. Shifting from punctuated tones of grief, abandonment and anger, to fluid strength and communal pleasure, this ode to alternative nightlife spaces is a sensual journey accompanied by a sound score from Anna Luisa Petrisko, film interludes by Taso Papadakis, and fashion designed by Kelsey Vidic.



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