



Lionel Popkin

- Reorient the Orient

Dance, Art

MAR 9 - 10, 2024

OPEN 2 PM - 10 PM

DURATIONAL PERFORMANCES 3 PM & 7:30 PM

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, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; 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.

Lionel Popkin

• Reorient the Orient

Directed by LIONEL POPKIN

Performed by JAY CARLON, LIONEL POPKIN, ARUSHI SINGH, WILLY SOULY

Original Sound by TOM LOPEZ

Video Design by MEENA MURUGESAN

Set and Costumes by MARCUS KUILAND NAZARIO

Lighting Design by CHRISTOPHER KUHL

Art and Archive Consultation by CORI OLINGHOUSE

Stage Manager: PAIGE O'MARA

Production Assistant: JACKIE DAVIS

Marketing/Publicity: KELLY HARGRAVES, LYNN TEJADA

Map Design by JESSE BONNELL, FOGHORN PRODUCTIONS

Special Thanks: Anurima Banerji, Ann Carlson, Miguel Gutierrez, Susan Foster, Dan Froot, Vic Marks, David Rousseve, and all my colleagues at UCLA. Clare Croft, Paul Donald, Sujata Goel, Leigh Ann Hahn, Carolyn Hall, Kristin Juarez, Natalie Kamajian, Hari Krishnan, Lauren Lee McCarthy, Edgar Miramontes, Pramila Vasudevan, Jan Williamson, and the 18th Street Arts Center. And of course my family, my sisters, my parents (Prema and William Popkin), Orlando Popkin, and Alex Purves.

Reorient the Orient is the recipient of a National Performance Network (NPN) commission with REDCAT in Los Angeles as the lead commissioner and Dance Place in DC as a co-commissioner. Additional funds come from the UCLA Council on Research, The UCLA Chancellor's Arts Initiative, the National Performance Network's Storytelling and Documentation Fund, and the Mellon Foundation.



ABOUT THE WORK

Reorient the Orient is renowned choreographer and performer Lionel Popkin's response to the dubious history of interculturalism. Seeking to expand the discourse on how brown South Asian bodies inhabit contemporary art and performance spaces, Popkin draws from his nearly 30-year archive of dance-making. In REDCAT's theater and gallery, dancers, videos, archival materials, rugs, sculptures, neon yellow wiffle balls, and the headpiece from an elephant costume invite audiences to make their way, choosing where to be and what to see.

Open 2 PM - 10 PM; Durational performances at 3 PM & 7:30 PM

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lionel Popkin was born and raised in Bloomington, Indiana by an Indian mother and a Jewish father. He is a multidisciplinary artist trained as a choreographer whose work engages people, objects, and media to explore issues of hybridity, archival practices, historical inequities, and the confusions surrounding the representations of the South Asian diaspora in North America. His art has been presented on four continents at venues including Danspace Project in New York, REDCAT in Los Angeles, The Place Theater in London, the Guangdong Modern Dance Festival in Guangzhou, China, and the Sao Carlos Dance Film Festival in Brazil. *The New Yorker* called his work, “by turns comical, creepy, and uncanny,” alluding to how he uses objects and projections to frame his dances and ground their meanings in relatable, sly, and humorous imagery. Notable grants include the National Performance Network’s Creation Fund, the National Dance Project Touring Subsidy, and the Mellon Foundation. As a performer, he is predominantly trained in the western traditions of improvisation and somatic awareness, influenced by his prolonged study of Skinner Releasing Technique, various physical therapy regimes, and multiple forms of yoga. As a dancer, Popkin spent four years as a member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company and was in dance companies led by Terry Creach and Stephanie Skura amongst others. In 1989 he lived in Delhi and studied Kathak from Pandit Birju Maharaji. Written publications include an upcoming article in the Handbook on Indian Dance from Oxford University Press and the 2015 article “Orienting Myself: Finding My Way Through Ruth St. Denis’ Archive,” in the journal *Choreographic Practices*. Popkin is a resident artist at the 18th Street Arts Center. He is a Professor of Choreography in the Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance and the Interim Dean for the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA.

Meena Murugesan (they/them) is an award winning video artist and movement artist living on Tongva-Kizh land, or Los Angeles. Meena creates experimental non-linear narratives at the intersection of live performance, video art installation, and social issues. Grappling with the practices of improvisation, somatic bodywork, brahminized bharatanatyam, video collage, projection mapping, and sensorial ethnography, Meena centers an anti-racist, anti-caste, feminist, queer, melanin-rich creative liberatory practice. They are directing a speculative multichannel video art installation entitled *Dravidian Futurities* about Dravidian-African connections, casteism, colorism, trance/possession art rituals, and re-earthing a sunken landmass called Kumari Kandam or Lemuria.

Tom Lopez teaches at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he is Professor of Computer Music and Digital Arts, and Chair of the TIMARA Department (Technology in Music and Related Arts). He is also a Teaching Artist with Avivo, a community of artists dedicated to cultivating creativity through music. Tom has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fulbright Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund, the Betty Freeman Foundation, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, the Knight Foundation, the Disney Foundation, ASCAP, and Meet the Composer. He has appeared at festivals and conferences around the world as a guest lecturer and

composer. Tom has also been a resident artist at the Banff Centre, MacDowell Colony, Copland House, Blue Mountain Center, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Villa Montalvo, and Djerassi. His compositions have received critical acclaim and peer recognition including releases by Hanson Records, Innova, Centaur, Vox Novus, SCI, SEAMUS, and the Oberlin Label. | tomlopez.org

Los Angeles native **Marcus Kuiland-Nazario** is an interdisciplinary artist, curator, and producer. He is an Artist in Residence at the 18th Street Art Center and is the inaugural recipient of The Jacki Apple Award in Performance and Artist Projects. Marcus is the costume designer and visual consultant for *Reorient the Orient*.

Christopher Kuhl is an acclaimed theater, dance, opera, installation artist and designer. Kuhl has developed work which has been produced and presented at such venues as Santiago a Mil Chile, Queer Zagreb, Sydney Festival, Hebbel am Ufer, Centre Pompidou, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, On the Boards, Fusebox Festival, Walker Arts Center, Sundance Film Festival, and Santa Fe Opera, among others. Recent work includes *Trade / Mary Motorhead* (Prototype Festival, REDCAT), *Human Measure* (HOME Manchester, Canadian Stage), *Confederates* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *The Carolyn Bryant Project* (REDCAT), *Voices from the Killing Jar* (Long Beach Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic), *The Hunger* (Abbey Theatre, BAM), *The Object Lesson* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Home* (BAM), *The Institute of Memory* (Under the Radar), *Straight White Men* (Young Jean Lee's Theatre Company, The Public Theatre, Kaai Theater) and *The Elephant Room* (St. Ann's Warehouse). His work has been recognized with two Bessie Awards, two Los Angeles Ovation Awards, and the Center Theatre Group's Sherwood Award. Kuhl is an Assistant Professor at UC San Diego in the Department of Theatre and Dance. He is from New Mexico and a graduate of California Institute of the Arts

Jay Carlon (he/they) is a dance artist, choreographer and community organizer whose work facilitates shared healing, exploring post-colonial identity, ancestry, and the complex queer/Filipinx experience. The youngest of 12 in a migrant family, Carlon connects a global network of Filipinx creatives and communities. Named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 To Watch," Carlon has spoken and led workshops at Johns Hopkins, UCLA, UArts, USC, SAIC, and Asians @ Google. He has shown work with the Filipino American National Historical Society, at REDCAT, homeLA, 92ndY, Lincoln Center, and more; and performed with Makini, The Industry Opera, Oguri, Bill T. Jones, and the Metropolitan Opera. Commercial work includes performance and choreography for Mndsgn, Kanye West, Solange Knowles and Rodrigo y Gabriela; and as associate director with Sway, the Olympics and Super Bowl. His latest work WAKE, supported by the NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant, is set to premiere October 2024 in LA and tour 2025-26.

Arushi Singh is a scholar, educator, and movement artist from New Delhi. Her research explores the intersections of Indian dance modernism and political economies of cultural production. Singh's work has been supported by the UCLA Center of India and South Asia, the UCLA

School of Arts and Architecture, the American Association of University Women, and the International Federation for Theatre Research. Her writings on contemporary Indian dance appear in *Dance Chronicle: Studies in Dance and Related Arts*, *Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies*, *Tilt Pause Shift: Dance Ecologies in India*, and an upcoming volume, *The Oxford Handbook of Dance Praxis*. Singh earned her PhD in Culture and Performance from UCLA. She also holds an M.A. in Arts and Aesthetics and an MPhil in Theatre and Performance Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Singh is a Lecturer in Dance History and Theory at Chapman University and has previously taught at CalArts and UCLA.

Wilfried G Souly is a Los Angeles based Choreographer, dancer and Musician whose works blends bold dance/Movement and expressionism. His performances often depicts the social issues lived by black bodies in the USA and around the world. He was trained in West African/Mandé and has presented his works around the world. Willy holds an MFA in Choreographic Inquiry from the UCLA's World Arts & Cultures/Dance department, where he also teaches as an adjunct professor.

Born in the Bay Area, **Paige O'Mara** received her BFA in Dance and Choreography from California Institute of the Arts. She discovered her passion for production during her last years in her undergrad and has since been the stage manager and production manager for many shows in the Los Angeles area. Paige is the company manager for Rosanna Gamson/ World Wide and is excited to join Lionel Popkin's team and be a part of *Reorient the Orient*.

Jackie Davis is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Jackie's research focuses on the avant-garde German/Jewish dancer Valeska Gert (1892-1978), her performance spaces in Germany and the U.S., and the forms of sociality (and non-sociality) she cultivated through her artistic practices. Overall, Jackie's research combines Dance Studies, Queer Theory, and German/Jewish History to advance an interdisciplinary, transnational conversation about how dance produces subversive body politics. Jackie is also an experimental filmmaker and visual artist. Her work has been screened internationally and she has been published in a number of artist books. Jackie holds B.A. degrees in Dance and History as well as an M.A. in Culture and Performance.

Sybil Mosely is an artist who has worked 25 years as a professional costumer. Her tailored fabrications, design, and creative supervision of costumes are geared to support artists, performing companies, and their creative production. Some performers she has collaborated with include Actors' Gang, Open Fist Theatre, The Company, and artist Nao Bustamante. Sybil graduated from UCLA with a major in Italian and Special Fields. This is her second time teaming up with designer Marcus Kuiland-Nazario and choreographer Lionel Popkin.

Foghorn is a creative studio that makes commercial and experimental projects ranging from digital / analog / live / motion & creative direction. Our work bounces between platforms,

reconciling what we dream up with the tangible. We create across disciplines forming visual communications that seek to illuminate and expand imagination and image making. Foghorn was created by **Jesse Bonnell**, a multidisciplinary artist, designer and director working in live performance, and film. His latest on-going body of work, titled, *Flag Semaphores*, includes interconnected mediums and was presented at *Una Boccata d'Arte*, a program of *Galleria Continua* based in Milan, Italy. He is a Creative Capital award winning artist and a recurring guest lecturer at NYU Gallatin School of Independent Study.

Calvin Lee is an artist/photographer based in Los Angeles. He graduated from CalArts in the MFA Photo & Media program in 2009. He is also a gallery installer at Redcat.

Cori Olinghouse is an artist, archivist, and curator working with performance and timebased media. She is Popkin's former colleague from the Trisha Brown Company where she danced from 2002-2006 and served as the archive director from 2009-2018. She has a practice dedicated to the archiving and contextualizing of embodied histories and brings her expertise to the printed matter of *Reorient the Orient*. Olinghouse holds an MA in Performance Curation from the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University and serves as visiting faculty at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.

REDCAT TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Director of Production & Technical Director: ADAM MATTHEW

Associate TD, Sound and Video: PETE PACE

Associate TD, Lighting: CHU-HSUAN CHANG

Audio Engineer: MAX KNOUSE

Video: SCOTT GARNER

Lighting Operator: CHRISTA TROESTER

Deck: JERREL MILAN, ANDREW CHILD

Wardrobe: ALEJANDRA ALEMAN

Steven D. Lavine Executive Director of REDCAT &

Vice President for Cultural Partnerships: JOÃO RIBAS

Facilities and Production Manager: JACQUES BOUDREAU

Box Office and Visitor Services Manager: BRENT CHARLES

Executive Producer: PETE GALINDO

Assistant Curator: TALIA HEIMAN

Deputy Director, Finance and Operations: ALLISON KEATING

Front of House Manager: NAOMI OPPENHEIM

Chief Curator and Deputy Director, Programs: DANIELA LIEJA QUINTANAR

Administrative Manager: ROLANDO RODRIGUEZ