

[EVENT CALENDAR](#)[MOVIES & TV](#)[MUSIC](#)[THEATER](#)[ART & EXHIBITS](#)[DANCE](#)[CLASSICAL](#)[BOOKS](#)[MOVIE SE](#)

DANCE

Experience of hearing impaired inmates is heart of ‘Deaf’s Imprisoned’ in SF

Claudia Bauer | October 25, 2018 | Updated: October 26, 2018, 1:43 pm



Artistic Director Antoine Hunter (left) joins dancers Zahna Simon and Maim Mendelson in the new work “Deaf’s Imprisoned” about the lives of incarcerated deaf people.

Photo: RJ Muna

Dance, like theater, can be a powerful instigator of awareness, empathy and political action. In “Deaf’s Imprisoned,” Oakland choreographer Antoine Hunter uses dance to draw attention to the experiences of incarcerated deaf men and women.

Hunter, who is deaf, brings an urgent empathy to their experiences in prison, where a lack of sign-language translators and telecommunications devices – and even the withholding of appropriate services – can undermine their due process rights and deepen their isolation. The result is a “prison within a prison,” as he describes it.

Created as part of CounterPulse’s artistic residency program, “Deaf’s Imprisoned” combines modern and jazz dance, sign language and spoken word, music, film and periods of silence to interrogate the prison-industrial complex and look at the lives of deaf inmates. For three of the four shows, “Deaf’s Imprisoned” is paired with a different performance piece (no two bills are the same); a panel discussion follows the Saturday, Nov. 10, performance.

Deaf’s Imprisoned: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 8-10; 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11.
CounterPulse, 80 Turk St., S.F. \$20-\$35. 415-626-2060. www.counterpulse.org



Claudia Bauer

Claudia Bauer is a Bay Area freelance writer