

GRAVITY & COUNTERPULSE

PRESENT

EUROPA GRACE
GABRIEL CHRISTIAN, JOSE E. ABAD,
& GABRIEL NUÑEZ DE ARCO
ABBY CRAIN
ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO
RACHAEL DICHTER AND ALLIE HANKINS

in

Beyond Gravity 2021

JUNE 25 & 26



Show Program

Janah 58 / جنة ٥٨ / Heaven 58, Chapter 2: The Darkroom

By Zulfikar Ali Bhutto / Faluda Islam

2020, video, 8 minutes (excerpt of work-in-progress)

This video is an 8 minute work in progress excerpt of a 20 minute film titled *Heaven 58*, جنة ٥٨ this sequence, the film's main character - Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's alter ego, Faluda Islam - enters into a dream loosely based on a story by 13th century Muslim mystic and poet Ibn Arabi who claims to have made love to all 28 letters of the Arabic alphabet, deriving separate powers from each of them. *Heaven 58* places Faluda Islam in Jean Genet's 1950 film, *Un Chant d'Amour*, *A Song of Love*. Genet's film looks at a French prison holding a group of queer Algerian male prisoners, who we can only assume are likely incarcerated due to some involvement in the Algerian revolution. Two of the incarcerated men have an intense love affair despite the literal walls between them. Through placing herself in this story Faluda Islam looks at real and imagined histories of queer involvement in past revolutions.

Closer

Created and performed by Rachael Dichter & Allie Hankins

Music by Eliane Radigue

Edited by Allie Hankins

Closer is a short dance duet by Allie Hankins (PDX) and Rachael Dichter (SF) created and filmed in residence at Headlands Center for the Arts.

Waking Above Ground

Written, directed and performed by Europa Grace

Original Sound score by Europa Grace

Video shot by Truc Nguyen

Tar black lungs trying to hold steady while whistling the national anthem. The deathly soft crash of an anglers line, cinder-blocking bodies to breathlessness. A fly in slow motion whipped into an abyss of blue-green. The poetry of slow collision, horse hair pulled taught over cello strings.

CANT

Performed by Gabriel Christian, jose e. Abad and Gabriel Nuñez de Arco

Soundscore by Gabriel Nuñez de Arco and jose e. abad.

Videography by B Dukes

CANT is a new collaborative experimental performance ritual developed by jose e.abad, Gabriel Christian, and Gabriel Nuñez de Arco. Using dance, sonic pathways, rhythmic structures, and poetics, the project will explore the disparities between our rhythmic and ancestral lineages that waver between American Afro-Diasporic, Filipinx, Carribean, and Andean mestize, deeply ambient, a-percussive and thoroughly syncopated.

to morn (u). Daybreak.

Performed and conceived by Abby CRAIN

Direction: Abby Crain and Chani Bockwinkel

Filmography, photography and editing: Chani Bockwinkel

Sound design: Miles Lassi

Performance of Elegie Op. 3 in E flat minor by Sergei

Rachmaninoff: John Beck

Additional photography: Stella Louise Fitzsimmons

Fifty days marking the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021.
Day break. Morning. Mourning.

A video book of writing and movement on loss, elegy, the sunrise, the practice of persistence, composed over fifty days of walking up a hill in California at sunrise and thinking about the dead.

About the artists

EUROPA GRACE is a black, queer, non-binary person, living in San Francisco, and originally from Albany, NY. Since 2012, they have been a teacher of the healing somatic practice of yoga. Europa is a poet, dancer, and cellist, taking risks to push the boundaries of praxis within these mediums. Europa insists on transforming the impact of systemic and personal trauma in order to generate long lasting change through alternative education, experimental performance and collective care. Their work has been featured at Joe Goode Annex, African American Arts and Culture Center, and EastSide Arts Alliance, among others.

GABRIEL CHRISTIAN is an american artist specializing in experimental choreography, high dramatics, social practice, and poetics. For more than ten years, their work has metabolized the vernaculars within BlaQ diaspora–futurity, afroivalism, faggotry–through body-based live performances, intersectional collaborations, and digital interventions (often on their IG: @doom_body).

JOSE E. ABAD is an interdisciplinary social practice performance artist exploring queer futurity through an intersectional lens. Rooted in collaboration and community engaged arts as a form of resistance and liberation, thier work utilizes dance, storytelling, and ritual, to unearth lost histories, memories, and wisdom that are held within the body that the mind has forgotten or dominant culture has erased.

GABRIEL NUÑEZ DE ARCO is a visual artist, composer, and DJ from Oakland, CA (Chochenyo Ohlone land) with roots in La Paz, Bolivia (Ayamara territory). Their work explores queer diasporic belonging, the complications of ancestral reverence in a colonized bloodline, and re–formations of history as pathways to decolonized futures.

ABBY CRAIN makes dances, writes and teaches and lives in and around the Bay Area, on occupied Ohlone land. She works through the body, words, and images in an attempt to make sense of the world, to trouble what is considered sensible, and to offer ways of seeing and being otherwise.

ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO (b. Damascus, 1990) is a visual artist, performer and curator whose work explores complex histories of colonialism that are exacerbated by contemporary international politics and in the process unpacks the intersections of queerness and Islam through a multi-media practice. He is currently wrapping up his four year long multimedia project, Tomorrow We Inherit the Earth, with an accompanying short film series, ABJAD, in which his drag alter ego, Faluda Islam, a martyred drag queen turned rebel from a future revolution, interacts with the ghosts of historical revolutionary figures. Bhutto was curatorial resident at SOMArts Cultural Center where he co-curated The Third Muslim: Queer and Trans Muslim Narratives of Resistance and Resilience and has shown in galleries, museums and theaters globally. He is currently based between Karachi, Pakistan and in San Francisco.

RACHAEL DICHTER is a San Francisco-based dancer, performer, choreographer and curator. She makes work about closeness, the shortest distance and shortening the distance between things and between people. She was a 2015 Danceweb Scholar, a 2017 Artist in Residence at Caldera, a 2019 Artist in Residence at Headlands Center for the Arts and a recipient of the Robert Rauschenberg Residency. Her work has shown locally and in Berlin, Cork, St Erme France, Portland, and Seattle. She has been lucky to collaborate with a number of fierce and talented folks, and for four years she co-curated the San Francisco based live arts festival, THIS IS WHAT I WANT.

ALLIE HANKINS is a Portland-based dancer and performance maker. Her current collaborators include Physical Education (Lu Yim, keyon gaskin, and Taka Yamamoto), Linda Austin, and Rachael Dichter. Most recently, Hankins danced for Milka Djordjevich (LA), and Morgan Thorson (Minneapolis).

CHANI BOCKWINKEL is a performer and filmmaker. She makes interdisciplinary-collaborative-feminist imagery for the stage, gallery, and internet. Her current project is : Those Who Wait a feature film re-telling the story of a 19th century doomsday movement. She also teaches an internationally roving queer feminist dance class SAPPHO and SWEAT. Her collaborative work has recently shown at BAMPFA, SOMArts, Acre TV, BRIC NYC, ODC Theatre, SF Dance Film Festival, Dock 11 Berlin and Aggregate Space Gallery.

MILES LASSI is an interdisciplinary artist based out of Oakland, CA. As a musician, he has performed in over 150 cities throughout North America, Europe and Asia with many different ensembles ranging from the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall to the national tour of Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story on Stage. Miles is dedicated to creating new sounds, visual media and music and has done so at the New York Musical Festival, Lincoln Center, Apollo Theater, ODC Dance Commons, wcciJAM, the de Young Museum, Big Sur's Esalen Institute, and the New York Film Festival.

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Project Instigator: Jess Curtis

Production Manager: Lisa Evans

Video Coordinator: Loren R. Robertson

Access Services Manager: Jeshua Aveno

Audio Describer: Alisa Rasera

Financial Manager: Alley Wilde

D/deaf Access Consultant: Zahna Simon

Blind Access Consultant: Tiffany Taylor

Equity Consultant: Gabriel Christian

Social Media Coordinator: Allie Hankins, Justin Ebrahemi

Photos: Robbie Sweeney

Design: den of Arc and Type Design

Press: Mary Carbonara

ASL Interpretation: Debby Kajiyama

Audio Description by: Alisa Rasera

House Manager: Ágnes Palotas

Livestream technician: Gabriel Nuñez de Arco

Special thanks to:

Matia Emsellem

Lydia Glenn-Murray

Cynthia Holloway

Mariah Tiffany

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ABOUT BEYOND GRAVITY

Beyond Gravity provides artists with a platform for presenting their work, sharing their distinct audiences, and bringing together their individual communities in an intersectional meeting of excellent and innovative art. Gravity provides artists robust production support, including Lighting Designer, Technical Director, and Production Manager, professional documentation services including photo shoots, and edited 2-cam video shoot of the performance, comprehensive marketing and PR campaign, including both providing services and offering marketing coaching/education, sensory access accommodations for the performances (Audio Description and Captioning), mentorship sessions with Gravity's Artistic Director Jess Curtis with the subject matter and focus of the mentorship to be determined by the artist, and a performance fee.

ABOUT GRAVITY

Jess Curtis/Gravity creates, produces, and tours original works of body-based performance that physically explore and address issues and ideas of substance and relevance to anyone with a body; educates professionals, students, and members of the public with physically accessible workshops presented in cities throughout the US and Europe; nurtures emerging artists through an incubation program that provides artistic mentorship, professional guidance, and fiscal sponsorship; fosters international exchange through co-productions that mobilize our international network to bring international artists to San Francisco and help San Francisco artists present work abroad; supports the presentation of free performances in public spaces through our Pop Up Performance Project, which commissions artists to present site-specific work on city streets; and provides access services and consultations to make performing arts more inclusive of people with disabilities through Gravity Access Services.

Company Website: www.JessCurtisGravity.org

Please talk to us if you are interested in finding out about making your upcoming event or performance more accessible!