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LA MAMA, 66 EAST 4TH ST., NEW YORK, NY 10003

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NOW PLAYING / COMING SOON

La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival
April 26-May 26, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre
The Downstairs

The Floor Is Lava
May 9-19, 2019
The Downstairs

La MaMa Kids Dance Workshop
Led by Dan Safer
Sat May 18, 2019 at 12pm
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Poetry Electric
Betty & The Belrays
May 13, 2019 at 7:30pm
The Downstairs Lounge

Messiah
May 23-June 2, 2019
The Downstairs

2018 Regional Theatre Tony Award Recipient

Poetry Electric:
Betty & The Belrays
(Voices for Civil Rights)

The Downstairs Lounge
66 East 4th Street
New York, NY 10003
May 13, 2019
Monday at 7:30pm
Poetry Electric:  
Betty & The Belrays  
(Voices for Civil Rights)

Book and Lyrics by William Electric Black  
Director is William Electric Black

The reworked piece for a smaller ensemble tells the story of three white female singers from Detroit, circa 1963, who struggle to change a racially divided society by singing for a Black record label.  
Music is by William Electric Black, Valerie Ghent (arranger/keyboards for Ashford & Simpson) and Gary Schreiner.  
Choreography is by Jeremy Lardieri.

The Ensemble:  
Levern Williams, Paulina Breeze, John Michael Hersey, Brenna Brown, Emily Pinto, Sharina Doyle, Christen Dekie

Keyboard/Musical Director: Gary Schreiner  
Guitar: John Michael Hersey  
Stage Manager: Dylan Skorish

LA MAMA STAFF

- Armando Arias: Building Superintendent  
- Hao Bai: Sound Engineer Technician  
- William Electric Black: Poetry Electric Director  
- David Bonilla: Technician  
- Marc Bovino: Graphic Design  
- Michael Boyd: La Galleria  
- Theo Cote: Photographer/Videographer  
- Jake Denney: Development Associate  
- David Diamond: La MaMa Umbria Coordinator  
- Kaori Fujiyabu: Associate Director of Development  
- Mary Fulham: Managing Director  
- Sara Galassini: La Galleria  
- Michal Gamily: Coffeehouse Chronicles Director  
- Piotr Gawełko: Carpenter  
- Merry Geng: 47 Great Jones Reception  
- Sophie Glidden-Lyon: Archive Project Manager  
- Denise Greber: Puppet Series Director, Marketing Manager, International Relations  
- Michael Greber: House Manager/Technician  
- Luis Grande: Front of House Staff  
- Alice Griffin: Archive Metadata/Digitization  
- Chris Ignacio: Box Office Asst. Manager  
- Laura Indick: Development Associate  
- Joyce M. Isabelle, CFRE: Development Director  
- Ryan Leach: Social Media Marketing Associate  
- Ingrid Lederman: Front of House Staff  
- Andrés López-Alicea: Front of House Staff  
- Jun Maeda: Resident Set Designer  
- Kenneth Martin: Operations  
- Juan Merchan: Lighting Supervisor  
- Valois Mickens: Front of House Staff  
- Matt Nasser: Experiments Reading Series Coordinator  
- Palante Technology Cooperative: IT Support  
- Nicky Paraiso: Programming Director-The Club La MaMa Moves! Curator  
- Kate Phillipson: Archive Metadata/Digitization  
- Ryan “Little Eagle” Pierce: Intern  
- Beverly Petty: Producing Director  
- Pearse Redmond: Front of House Supervisor  
- Federico Restrepo: Puppet Series Producing Director  
- Jack Reynolds: Assistant Technical Director  
- Alejandra Rivera Flaviá: Special Events Coordinator  
- Giacomo Rocchini: Carpenter  
- Ozzie Rodriguez: Director Of Archive  
- Sam Rudy Media: Press Representative  
- Kiku Sakai: Resident Artistic Associate  
- Tim Schellenbaum: Resident Sound Designer  
- Jane Catherine Shaw: House Manager/Box Office  
- Melissa Slattery: Accounts Manager  
- Shigeko Suga: Archive/Resident Artistic Associate  
- Amy Surratt: Producing Associate  
- Mark Tambella: Technical Director  
- Anastasios Toulios: 47 Great Jones Porter  
- Martin Valdez: Building Superintendent Asst.  
- Linda van Egmond: Intern  
- Mia Yoo: Artistic Director  
- Chriz Zaborowski: Carpenter
Levern Williams (SamTheBeat/Sensation) Singer-Songwriter-Actor, born in Florence, South Carolina, moved to New York at an early age where his interest for music began to take shape. Levern, known as Levern “the Entertainer” Williams, a versatile performing artist/Jazz stylist; has been compared to Nat King Cole. Levern flaunts a unique, exuberant style that is undoubtedly his own which energizes and captures his audience As a humanitarian, Levern finds time to develop and instruct creative arts programs to New York City seniors and youth by using creative arts as alternative education. Levern continues to dedicate time, towards his first love, performing songs by the great balladeers of Jazz. Levern often found his way to the clubs of Harlem, where his exposure to the music of Nat King Cole, Johnny Hartman and Lou Rawls started. During his college years Levern worked with Madame Leon Tyne Price & Leonard Bernstein, at the Metropolitan Opera House, as well as, the late Dr. Billy Taylor one of the founders of the Jazzmobile. Additionally, making his Broadway debut with Ms. Kathleen Battle at the Palace Theater in New York City.

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Levern Williams** (SamTheBeat/Sensation) Singer-Songwriter-Actor, born in Florence, South Carolina, moved to New York at an early age where his interest for music began to take shape. Levern, known as Levern “the Entertainer” Williams, a versatile performing artist/Jazz stylist; has been compared to Nat King Cole. Levern flaunts a unique, exuberant style that is undoubtedly his own which energizes and captures his audience As a humanitarian, Levern finds time to develop and instruct creative arts programs to New York City seniors and youth by using creative arts as alternative education. Levern continues to dedicate time, towards his first love, performing songs by the great balladeers of Jazz. Levern often found his way to the clubs of Harlem, where his exposure to the music of Nat King Cole, Johnny Hartman and Lou Rawls started. During his college years Levern worked with Madame Leon Tyne Price & Leonard Bernstein, at the Metropolitan Opera House, as well as, the late Dr. Billy Taylor one of the founders of the Jazzmobile. Additionally, making his Broadway debut with Ms. Kathleen Battle at the Palace Theater in New York City.

**John Michael Hersey** (Joe Belarosky/Rex Rogers) was Warden Whalen in the La MaMa production of Tennessee Williams’ _Not About Nightingales_, has released nine albums of his music, was the musical director, guitarist and second tenor for the legendary doo-wop group Speedo and the Cadillacs, wrote the book Forever Doo-wop, and is the Manager of Creative Arts at The Fortune Society.

**Paulina Breeze** (Betty Belarosky/Belray) is ecstatic to play her first lead in Betty and the Belrays at TNC! After graduating from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy she made her Off-Broadway debut at Playwrights Horizons in Comfort Women. Other productions include: American Idiot, The Drowsy Chaperone, Evita, Cabaret and Tommy. She wants to thank her mom, dad, and all of her family and friends for their endless support. And a huge thank you to William Electric Black for believing in her.

**Emily Pinto** (Connie/Belray) is thrilled to be making her NYC debut sharing this poignant and relevant story! She studied in the Musical Theatre program at Marymount Manhattan College and in the Classical Acting Program at The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Favorite roles include Annie Oakley (Annie Get Your Gun), Sheila (Hair), and Elle Woods (Legally Blonde). Since graduation last May she has been involved in several short films. She sends endless love to her family and friends for their love and support! Emily-Pinto.com
Brenna Brown (Zipgun/Blaray) is a native of Texas. In May she graduated with her BFA in Musical Theatre from Hardin-Simmons University, where she was best known for roles such as Morticia Addams, Princess Fiona, or Rosamund Musgrove. Her friends in NYC might know her from her time at the Open Jar Institute where she studied with Jeff Whiting and many other outstanding performers. This is her first show in NYC and she’d like to thank Electric for giving her this opportunity - its been “a gas!”

Sharina Marisela Doyle (Joy Jones) is a visual and performing artist currently based in New York City. After graduating from the Fashion Institute of Technology, and studying various types of dance and vocal styles, Sharina works as a freelance designer, and contributes to various music productions as a singer, songwriter, producer and dancer. Along with those contributions, and after winning ASCAP’s Harold Adamson Music Foundation, for best written song, she is currently working on her first full length album.

Christen Dekie (Loretta) is a recent Alumni from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She received her BFA in Drama with a Producing Minor. She has perviously starred in She Kills Monsters with PrimHouse Productions and performed at The Public Theater with the Civilians in An American Feast. Her mantra in life is to Aspire to Inspire before she Expires. She is excited to be making her off-off Broadway Debut with a cast and director who intend to do just that. Inspire. Thanking all of her friends and family for their support <3 Much Love <3

Series Director: William Electric Black
Sound Design/Technician: Marielle Iljazoski
Lighting Design/Board Operator: Hao Bai