

LA MAMA
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB
PRESENTS

VIRGO STAR:
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THE WEST THIS WILD!
by Pioneers Go East Collective



The Downstairs
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
November 14 - December 1, 2019

VIRGO STAR:

You've never seen the West this Wild!

by Pioneers Go East Collective

Virgo Star is an underground, kinetic ride through the Cowboy and Cowgirl myth performed from a queer perspective. This thought-provoking and high-energy performance installation fuses personal storytelling and choreography to re-create scenes from Western Movies.

Featured performance artists:

Daniel Diaz

Anabella Lenzu

Bree Breeden

Chris Riffle

Alessandro Magania

with performance artist, writer & activist Agosto Machado

Creative team:

Hao Bai (video designer)

Jon Burklund (cinematographer)

Dmitri Barcomi (SM/ assistant sound designer)

Beth Graczyk (choreographer)

Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte (writer/director)

Gavin Price (sound designer)

Philip Treviño (production / lighting designer)

Mark Tambella (technical director / design)

PR David Gibbs/ DARR Publicity

Pioneers Go East Collective arts & educational programs 2019/20 are made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; Creative Engagement administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; Foundation for Contemporary Arts; The Nancy Quinn Fund, a program of the Alliance of Resident Theatres /New York, and Subsidized studio space provided by the A.R.T./New York Creative Space Grant, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Private support is provided by The Puffin Foundation, and The DuBose & Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund.



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Pioneers Go East Collective is a New York City award-winning ensemble. Pioneers Go East Collective is a laboratory collective of multimedia and performance works in residence at two historical downtown venues: La MaMa and Judson Church. Since 2010, the collective has created high-energy interactive performances to celebrate a multigenerational collective of queer artists, to build platforms of inclusion which link audiences throughout all of New York to celebrate LGBTQ and Feminist stories. The collective has collaborated with over 300 art-makers to date, and develops performance, video, and curated series – including Crossroads Series presented at Judson Church, and Out-Front! Series presented in Brooklyn during The Exponential Festival. Under the leadership of Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte, Daniel Diaz, Beth Graczyk and Philip Treviño, the collective merges storytelling and interview-based documentary to expose the realities of queer identity and otherness to provoke understanding and promote social justice. Inspired by Walt Whitman's poem "O Pioneers!", an homage to the pioneers' search for a brighter future – the collective is comprised of artists who explore stories of collective courage and conviction. The collective has presented original works in NYC at La MaMa, Judson Church, JACK, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD!), Ars Nova, Chez Bushwick, The Tank, Dixon Place, HERE at Performance Mix/New Dance Amsterdam, Chashama, Goethe Institute, A.R.T./New York, Triskelion, Exponential Festival, St Ann's Warehouse, Governors Island / Process Space LMCC (Building 101), The LGBT Center, Wild Project; upstate at Time Space Limited (Hudson); and Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto. For info & to present works with us: visit www.pioneersgoeast.org.

The collective (in alphabetical order)

Hao Bai (Projection Designer) works as a designer & tech in lights, sound & projection. Hao is a resident visual/audio designer at La MaMa and has just won an IT Award in Outstanding Innovative Design. Selected credits: Lighting: Martha Graham (Texas); *Waterboy and the Mighty World* (Bushwick Starr); *The Tempest* (The Gallery Players); *I Wanna Be With You* (Performance Space New York); *Go Forth* (Stanford Live, CA); *Asian Zombie Moms* (La Mama); Shasta Geaux Pop (CAC, Cincinnati); YNCAST (JACK); 2017&2018 La MaMa Moves! Projection: *Electronic City* (NewStageTheatre); *Eternal Now* (ACC, South Korea); *M.Beth* (14 Street Y); *Animal Magnetism* (WuZhen Festival, China); *CowboysCowgirls* (JACK). Music & Sound: *Don Quixote Takes New York* (Loco7); *The Violin* (59E59); *Gemini Stars/Scorpio Stars* (Pioneers Go East Collective). Projection & Sound: *American Mill #2* (A.R.T./New York Theatres). Upcoming Projects: *Insects in Heat* (Stellar Adler); *Elements of OZ* (Skillball NYU)

Dmitri Barcomi (SM/Assistant Sound Design) is a theater creator and director from New York City. His artistic interests include working with unusual source materials, exploring technology/multimedia in performance, and honoring queer icons. Dmitri's work has been seen throughout New York at HERE Arts, La MaMa, The New Ohio, Cloud City, BRIC, and other hubs of experimental new work, as well as internationally at the Edinburgh Fringe. Upcoming: *Others*, a movement-based adaptation of the first gay rights film from 1919 Weimar Berlin (Exponential Festival, January 2020). Dmitri is Artist-in-Residence at Playmachine Theater Lab. BA, The New School. mxbarcomi.com

Bree Breeden (performer/ choreographer/ video) is from Cheraw, S.C. Currently, she is a dancer and the Managing Director for Proteo Media + Performance, and dances with VON HOWARD PROJECT and Michiyaya DANCE. She also choreographs and performs her own work which has been presented at Embodied Spaces Festival, Montclair State University, Danceworks, ACDFA, and at Earl Mosley Institute of the Arts dance talk series. She was awarded the Choreographic Excellence Award in 2015 and Outstanding Performer Award in 2016 from Montclair State University.

Jon Burklund (he/him) (cinematographer) is a New York based video artist specializing in documentation and documentary video for performing artists and arts organizations. Since 2015, Jon has documented over four hundred performances and events for organizations including Arena Stage, American Repertory Theater, The Public Theater, La MaMa, New York Theater Workshop, 59E59 Theaters, Bushwick Starr, Parsons Dance, ART NY, and All for One Theater. Jon is resident videographer at The Exponential Festival, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and Ma-Yi Theatre Company, and is the digital content producer at Musical Theatre Factory. Jon's work has long focused on creating sustained partnerships with some of NYC's boldest artists, especially those working towards social justice and representation. With this intention, Jon has developed video content in collaboration with Diana Oh (*{my lingerie play}*), Pioneers Go East Collective (*Gemini Stars*), Jomama Jones (*BLACK LIGHT*), Dan Fishback (*Cheese on Bread*), Rattlestick Playwrights Theater (Dael Orlandersmith's *Until the Flood*). Jon is currently in production for his first full length documentary film, featuring dance artists Mina Nishimura and Kota Yamazaki.

Daniel Diaz (performer/ writer / costume design) is a NYC-based performance artist. Daniel creates works from a queer male perspective to inform audiences and bring clarity on social-political injustices through storytelling, burlesque, choreography and video projects. Daniel joined Pioneers Go East Collective in 2013. With a focus on modern and interpretive dance, Daniel has performed at various New York City venues including La MaMa, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, PS1 MoMa, Brooklyn Museum, The Coney Island Sideshow, Joe's Pub, Dixon Place, Performance Mix/ New Dance Alliance, as well as various nightlife spots up and down the east coast.

Beth Graczyk (choreographer) is a Brooklyn-based artist and scientist. She brings a decade of teaching nationally and internationally, working with populations spanning from non-dancers to advanced professionals. She recently began teaching movement practices to artists with developmental and cognitive disabilities through Interact Theater in Minneapolis and is commissioned to make a new dance work with their LGBTQIA artists in 2019. She has a collaborative partnership with John Gutierrez (G²), in which they co-teach improvisation and create performance works together. In addition, Beth partners with BAIRA in Detroit as a teaching and creative collaborator and is a resident artist for NYC-based Pioneers Go East Collective. Graczyk has performed throughout the United States and internationally in Japan, Ecuador, France, China and India for the past 17 years. Concurrently, she has contributed to 10 science publications in the field of cancer research. Graczyk travels annually to India to work as an educator and choreographer with Kerala-based artists Sen Jansen and Arunima Gupta. She co-directed the performance company Salt Horse in Seattle with Corrie Befort and Angelina Baldoz from 2008-2016. After moving to NYC five years ago, Graczyk launched a solo project called *Desire Motor*. In NYC, her solo works have been presented by Gibney, La MaMa, Judson Church, Jack, Triskelion, CPR, Movement Research, Oye Group, Kraine Theater, and through Pioneers Goes East Collective. She has been awarded residencies at Abrons Arts Center (NYC), The Marble House (VT) and through the NAP program (PA). She works part-time as a Research Specialist at Rockefeller University.

Anabella Lenzu (performer/ writer/ choreographer) Originally from Argentina, Anabella Lenzu is a dancer, choreographer and teacher with over 25 years' experience working in Argentina, Chile, Italy and the USA. Her choreography has been commissioned all over the world, for opera, TV programs, theatre productions, and by many dance companies. Lenzu has written for various dance and arts magazines, and published her first book in 2013, entitled *Unveiling Motion and Emotion*. The book contains writings in Spanish and English on the importance of dance, choreography, and dance pedagogy. Currently, Lenzu conducts classes at Peridance Center and NYU Gallatin, and is Artist-in-Residence at CUNY Dance Initiative, 2019-2020.

Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte (writer / director/ design) is a NYSCA Individual Artist recipient (2019) and a NYC-based writer, director and video-maker dedicated to performance and installations that reflect queer perspectives and vulnerability. He founded Pioneers Go East Collective in 2010 - a company in residence at La MaMa and Judson Church. Gian Marco's projects presented in NYC at La MaMa, Dixon Place, Galapagos, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, The Exponential Festival, JACK, Incubator Arts Project/ Ontological Hysterical, Chez Bushwick, HERE, Governors Island/ LMCC, Art on Air - Clock Tower Gallery, Galapagos Arts; and he collaborated with The Foundry, Great Jones Repertory, and Ellen Stewart. He designed at Biennale of Venice and toured in Europe. LMCC (2011-19); New Vic Artist Associate (2015); Process Space Residency - LMCC (2014), Opera America Director Award (2010); MFA Tisch - New York University.

Agosto Machado (writer / performer, activist) is best known for his work with Ellen Stewart's La MaMa theatre, and his association with Jack Smith, Mario Montez, Jackie Curtis, John Vaccaro, Holly Woodlawn, Candy Darling, Marsha P Johnson, Ronald and Harvey Tavel, Ethyl Eichelberger and Peter Hujar. Agosto appeared in over 30 Off-Off Broadway plays by Ken Bernard, Jackie Curtis, Al Carmines, Harvey Fierstein, H.M. Koutoukas, Megan Terry, Jeff Weiss. A member of John Vaccaro's 'Playhouse of the Ridiculous'.

Alessandro Magania (performer) is a New York-based performer, choreographer, and writer. Recent projects include *The Third Man* (The Million Underscores), *Radio Delirio* (The Performing Garage), and the movie *Autotrophia* by artist Anton Vidokle (e-Flux / 2019 Matera City Of Culture). He has performed in works by The Wooster Group, Eliza Bent, Sibyl Kempson, Tereke Ortiz, Roman Ondak, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Peter Petralia, Alison Folland and Viva Ruiz. He has received residencies from YADDO, P.A.R.T.S. (Bruxelles) and ChaShaMa, and was FCA grant recipient. TV/Film: *Living With Yourself* (Netflix); *Past, Present, Future* (FilmHub); *Utopians* (Zbigniew Bzymek), *Love, Ludlow* (Adrienne Weiss/Washington Square Films). Together with music producer Max Tannone he directed the documentary *There Were Always Dogs Never Kids* (IndiePix) - about Allan's Alley, one of New York City's last standing video stores and cinephile's heaven - available for streaming on Amazon. He has created video works showcased by Visioanire and Artforum.

Zoie Omega (zΩ) (cinematographer) is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker, performer, and multidisciplinary artist who has worked with a diverse list of collaborators such as Virgil Abloh, Janelle Monae, LeBron James, Tourmaline (aka Reina Gosset), Bunny Michael, Dan Deacon, Martha Stewart, Camonghne Felix, the cast of *Stranger Things*. Their work has been on display at the Whitney, Tate Modern, Moma PS1, and has been written up in the New York Times and ArtForum.

Gavin Price (sound designer) Designer, actor and multi-instrumentalist. Co-founder of Saint Fortune Collective and ensemble member of Elevator Repair Service. He has also performed and designed with CabinFever, Sibyl Kempson, Moises Kaufman, Mabou Mines, Anonymous Ensemble and Target Margin. With ERS: *Gatz*; *Everyone's Fine With Virginia Woolf*; *Measure for Measure*; *The Select* (The Sun Also Rises); *The Sound and The Fury*; *Arguendo*; *Fondly, Collette Richland*; *A Sort Of Joy*. FILM: *Boccamazzo Construction*; *Noah*; *Facebiters*; *How Far*. OTHER: *The Return of Adam* (Metropolitan Museum of Art); *XX-ID* (New Museum); *Merce Cunningham Retrospective* (MCA).

Chris Riffle (songwriter) Chris Riffle's brand of heartfelt folk is a product—and a tale—of two coasts. There's no mistaking the pastoral, spacious sound of his roots—the picturesque coastal towns of Washington state, where while still in college Riffle began making waves on local radio stations, and landed support gigs for such indie mainstays as Death Cab for Cutie. And yet it's the other side of the country, on New York's Lower East Side, where Chris has found a home with residencies at venues like the venerable Living Room and

Rockwood Music Hall. Chris' albums have been in rotation at over 150 radio stations & featured on Sirius XM. Since the release of his last album, *Out of Town*, Chris has shared the stage with Patti Smith, Blood Orange, Joan As Police Woman; embarked on a national tour supporting Heather Nova; and toured Germany & Belgium. Chris is currently finishing up a new full-length album planned to release in 2020. Stay tuned... "One of the more sophisticated singer-songwriters on the Lower East Side." - THE NEW YORKER

Philip Treviño (production & lighting designer/ writer) is a 2010 recipient of a New York Dance and Performance Award (BESSIE) for his lighting and scenic design for Pam Tanowitz's *Be In The Gray With Me*. He is also the scenic designer for Camille A. Brown and Company's *Mr. Tol E. Rance*, which won a 2014 BESSIE for Outstanding Production. Recently, he designed lights for Jenn Freeman/Freemove Dance *...it's time...* at 14th Street Y, Catherine Cabeen/Hyphen *Give Me More* at Theater for the New City, and Pioneers Go East Collective's *Gemini Stars/Scorpio Stars* at La MaMa and *CowboysCowgirls* at JACK. Some of his other credits in lighting and scenic design can be seen in works by Brian Brooks Moving Company, Pam Tanowitz Dance and Chris Tanner/Brandon Olson's *Ravaged by Romance* at La MaMa. His work has toured nationally, internationally and at such notable venues as BAM, The Joyce, Joyce Soho, DTW, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, The Kitchen, La MaMa, New York City Center and Jacob's Pillow. He is a proud alumnus of San Francisco State University where he received a BA in Drama and a Minor in Music. Philip is Technical Director for the Dance Department at Marymount Manhattan College where he teaches Stagecraft for Dance. Complete details available at www.philiptrevino.com

David Gibbs (Press Representative) is the founder of DARR Publicity, a boutique press agency specializing in theater, dance, music-driven shows and unique theatrical experiences. Clients include The Amoralists, Company XIV, Ice Factory Festival, La MaMa, Molière in the Park, New Ohio Theatre, Pioneers Go East and PTP/NYC. David has publicized shows at many Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway venues throughout NYC. His clients have won Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel and Obie Awards. www.DarrPublicity.com

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Virgo Star is developed through residencies in New York City at Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, La MaMa Experimental Theatre, and Judson Church. This project is featured in seasons 2019/20 at La MaMa, The LGBT Center in the West Village, Judson Church, Time Space Limited in Hudson (NY), Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, Ars Nova.

LA MAMA



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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The Downstairs

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November 15 - 16, 2019
The Downstairs

**La MaMa Kids
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November 16, 2019
The Downstairs

**The Dark Star From Harlem:
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Nov 21 - Dec 1, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre

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Other Than We
Nov 21 - Dec 1, 2019
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November 25, 2019
La Galleria
47 Great Jones

**The Trojan Women
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December 5 - 15, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Where Are We Now
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The Downstairs

**La MaMa Kids
Winter Wonderland**
December 22, 2019
The Downstairs