

LA MAMA
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB



and
CultureHub

present

DOWNTOWN VARIETY: TAKE 2

POWERED BY LIVE LAB

a weekly online live performance series



Live Stream
March 27, 2020

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La MaMa and CultureHub are teaming up to create Downtown Variety, a weekly online live performance series that will feature short acts of dance, music, theater, new media, comedy, A/V performance, and more. Responding to calls for social isolation, Downtown Variety brings La MaMa's 1960s café aesthetic to a virtual platform that links performers and audiences in real time across distance. La MaMa and CultureHub will use emerging technologies to create a new venue for artistic expression that questions how art can function and how we as a society can survive challenging periods of history.

In the future we hope to have various curators involved for certain nights and open mics for others.

Artists for this weekend:

Rena Anakwe, Daniel Koren, John Kelly
Chris Ignacio, Object Collection,
Starr Busby, Kim Savarino,
Susana Cook with Timo Hughes
and music by Julian Mesri

Video art by Kameron Neal
Original music composed by John King

Rena Anakwe is an interdisciplinary artist and performer working primarily with sound, visuals, and scent. Exploring intersections between traditional healing practices, spirituality and performance, she creates works focused on sensory-based, experiential interactions using creative technology. Currently, Rena is a 2020-21 Abrons Arts Center Performance AIRSPACE Resident. She was a 2019 ISSUE Project Room Artist-in-Residence, a 2019 Abrons Arts Center (AAC) Sound Series commissioned artist, a 2018 Signal Culture Artist-in-Residence and has collaborated, produced and shown audio/visual/scent work at venues including: Knockdown Center (NYC), Lincoln Center (NYC), BAMcafé (NYC), MoMA PS1 (NYC), CultureHub (NYC), Pioneer Works (NYC), and Montez Press Radio (NYC). Rena is based in Brooklyn, New York by way of Nigeria and Canada.

Starr Busby is an experimental avant-garde artist. You may have seen Starr playing solo shows with their loop station, Francis, or fronting Brooklyn based experimental soul band People's Champs. Starr has also supported artists such as The Gorillaz, Esperanza Spalding, X Ambassadors, Kimbra, and Alice Smith. Selected appearances include *Moby Dick* (American Repertory Theatre; Starbuck); *Octet* (Signature Theatre; Paula); *Where Love Lies Fallow* (The Shed; Nia 1); *Decameron* (Studio 153); *Apollo Cafe Live: Soul Cypher*; *#BlackGirlMagic Show* (Jack; composer/performer); *Mikrokosmos* (Steirischer Herbst, Graz and Nottingham Contemporary); *The Girl with the Incredible Feeling* (Spoleto Festival di Mondì) as well as various concerts and solo shows. Starr also enjoys working as an arts educator through Carnegie Hall's *Lullaby Project*. She is looking forward to her compositional debut via the world premiere of nicHi Douglas's (pray) at Ars Nova and completing an EP to be released this year. Their music is available via all streaming services and Bandcamp.

Susana Cook is an Argentinean-born New York-based experimental performance artist who has been writing and producing original work for over 20 years. An iconic figure of the East Village art scene from the mid 1990's to the present, she has presented over 17 original plays at Dixon Place, P.S. 122, W.O.W Cafe Theater, Ubu Rep and The Kitchen, among others. Her ensemble plays and monologues irreverently, boldly and cleverly tackle racism, homophobia, classism, and animal rights. Susana's shows combine her long experience in political theater, experimental performance with cabaret elements, thus creating a funny, smart and often cathartic theatrical experience. She writes, directs and performs in her hilariously surrealistic spectacles with her constantly evolving company. Her casts are mostly comprised of minority, queer and trans peoples. Some of her most memorable pieces are "Run! It's Getting Ugly!", "The Funeral of the Cow", "The Homophobes. A Clown

Show", "100 Years of Attitude", "Dykenstein: Sex, Horror and the Tragedy of the Straight Brain", and the unforgettable and beloved classic, "Tango Lesbiango".

Chris Ignacio is a Filipino-American performer, producer and educator. He has toured nationally and abroad since graduating from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee. He is a Culture Push Fellow for Utopian Practice, and Queens Council on the Arts: Community Engagement Commissioning grantee for his self-produced project Co-written, which involves collaborative songwriting with young people of color. Chris recently produced the NYT Critic's Pick *TJ Loves Sally 4 Ever* at JACK. Previously he served as Associate Producer for the Obie Award winning Ma-Yi Theater (KPOP, Teenage Dick). He currently works and performs at La MaMa ETC in the East Village alongside resident theatre artists and puppeteers at La MaMa, such as Theodora Skipitares, Loco7 Dance Puppet Theatre, and Yara Arts Group. He has sung at Lincoln Center, Joe's Pub, and National Sawdust, and is currently developing a song series anchored around his experience of folk music as a child of Filipino immigrants.

John Kelly is a performance and visual artist whose multifaceted career spans more than three decades. His innovative performance works stem from autobiographical, cultural, gender, and identity issues, realized through the theatrical, visual, movement-based, and vocal delineation of character. Subjects have included the AIDS epidemic, the Berlin Wall, the Troubadours, and Expressionistic Film, and character studies based on Egon Schiele, Caravaggio, Antonin Artaud, Joni Mitchell, and Jean Cocteau. Kelly's performance career began in the early 1980's with performances in New York's East Village clubs including the Limbo Lounge, Pyramid Club, and Club 57. Subsequently, his works have been presented at a diverse range of venues including The Kitchen, La MaMa, PS 122, New York Live Arts, the Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, On The Boards, The Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, Museum of Modern Art, Tate Modern, Whitney Museum of American Art, The Andy Warhol Museum, PS 1, Walker Art Center, ICA Philadelphia, the Drawing Center, Participant Inc., and Joe's Pub at the Public.

Daniel Koren, born in Tel-Aviv, Israel, is an Emmy Nominated Comedian/Composer based in Brooklyn NY. His innovative musical-comedy work with the Koren Ensemble, gained excessive popularity and received more than a million views on YouTube. Koren sold an original a comedy shows to Comedy Central, Starz, and TruTV, and

his live musical comedy show “The Most Important Thing” has toured internationally.

Kameron Neal is a video artist, designer, and performance-maker. Forbes describes his work as “an absurd escape that simultaneously provokes and entertains.” He is currently a resident artist at CultureHub, The Public Theater’s Devised Theater Working Group and Bemis Center. He was recently in residence at Ars Nova’s Makers Lab with Shayok Misha Chowdhury. Kameron’s work has also been seen or developed at BAM, New York Theatre Workshop, Soho Rep, Signature Theatre, Detroit Art Week, Vox Populi, New Orleans Film Festival, Digital Graffiti Festival, Blue Balls Festival, National Geographic, Williams College Museum of Art and RISD Museum. kameronneal.com

Object Collection was founded in 2004 by writer/director Kara Feely and composer/musician Travis Just. Based in Brooklyn, the group operates within the intersecting practices of performance, experimental music and theater. We are concerned with simultaneity, complexity, and radicality, combining dense layers of text, notation, objects and processes. We work to give audiences unconventional viewing experiences through our merging of theatricality and pedestrian activity. Our works upset habitual notions of time, pace, progression and virtuosity. We value accumulation above cohesion. Object Collection has premiered six original operas since 2009. Our work has toured to Norway, Denmark, UK, Japan, Canada, Italy and nationally in the US. Object Collection’s pieces have appeared in New York at La MaMa, Performance Space 122, Ontological Theater at St. Mark’s Church, National Sawdust, Chocolate Factory Theater, Abrons Arts Center, Invisible Dog Art Center, Roulette and Issue Project Room, among others. Albums have been released on Slip Imprint, Infrequent Seams, and khalija. Object Collection has received extended profiles in Frieze Magazine, Pitchfork, The Guardian, The Wire, BOMB, and on BBC Radio. www.objectcollection.us

Kim Savarino is a Brooklyn-based artist, choreographer, and researcher. She has presented work at Arts@Renaissance, the WV Dance Festival, and pie&performance, curated by Amity Jones, Tara Sheena, and Kirsten Schnittker. Savarino joined Third Rail Projects in 2014, and currently performs leading roles in their Bessie award-winning *Then She Fell*. She has worked with Ivo Van Hove, Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, and Alex Ketley/The Foundry, among others. Recent and upcoming projects include dance works led by Kelly Bartnik, Lai Yi Ohlsen, and Nadia Tykulsker, dramaturgy for Beth Graczyk/Desire Motor, and collaborations with multidisciplinary artist John Gutierrez and Netherlands-based musician Annick Odom.

ABOUT CULTUREHUB & LIVE LAB

CultureHub was founded in 2009 in partnership with the Seoul Institute of the Arts in Korea and La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in New York City to serve the global arts and technology community by offering services such as livestreaming, telepresence, and video and projection design. We connect artists from diverse disciplines and cultures and provide them with environments in which to collaborate, experiment, explore and advance the work of artists experimenting with emerging technologies and fostering new artistic forms.

CultureHub is deeply committed to the use of open source and consumer-based technology to make electronic media art accessible to artists and audiences. In the past year, CultureHub collaborated with resident artist Olivia Jack to produce LiveLab, an open source video call software designed specifically for artists, educators, and cultural organizations. The LiveLab toolkit provides a flexible and artful environment for producing multi-location performances, workshops, and cultural exchanges. Built as an alternative to hardware video conferencing systems, LiveLab is customizable, free of cost, and as easy to use as Skype or Google Hangouts.

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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