LA MAMA EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB
and
CultureHub
present
DOWNTOWN VARIETY: TAKE 4
POWERED BY LIVE LAB
a weekly online live performance series

Live Stream
April 10, 2020
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 week:**

Rue Bainbridge, Adham Hafez, Kristin McWharter, Mur, Matt Romein, Stacey Karen Robinson, John Maria Gutierrez and Amy Gernux with projection design by Delaney McDonough

Video Art by Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Meir Schraiber

Music in videos:

Jeff Alexander (Come Wander)
Keir GoGwilt (Violin Partita No.5 in D Minor: III Sarabande)
Rue Bainbridge, the duo of Gryphon Rue and Benton C Bainbridge, explore the intersection of expanded cinema with sonic art. Bainbridge employs a hacked game console, driven by custom synths, to generate electric calligraphy. For Rue, these light patterns become a score, with visual rhythmicity suggesting electro-acoustic events. Rue Bainbridge is the first recipient of the Nam June Paik and Shigeko Kubota Video Art prize (2019). Rue Bainbridge have been presented by Roulette Intermedium, Pace Gallery, Hauser & Wirth, The Hepworth Wakefield, Slate Projects / Foreign Domestic, Center for Visual Music, Public Works at Governor’s Island, Andrew Freedman Home, and Shigeko Kubota Video Art Foundation.

Amy Gernux comes from Western MA; lives, performs, learns, works, thrifts, makes soap and the occasional garment in Brooklyn, NY; is very psyched to have worked with Jim Findlay, David Dorfman, Bebe Miller, and Third Rail Projects; finds great joy in costume/makeup design, dried flowers, and wool; has been a member of the feath3r theory + working with Raja Feather Kelly since 2013.

John Maria Gutierrez is a multidisciplinary artist, creator, and performer originally from Washington Heights, NY. Since finishing his BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch, John has ventured into various worlds of performance, working with directors and choreographers from around the world - recent credits include The Trojan Women at La MaMa dir. Andrei Serban, performing internationally with Miguel Gutierrez (This Bridge Called My A$$, Sadonna), MOTUS (Panorama), and Pilobolus. He is a graduate of the Terry Knickerbocker Studio and faculty at Peridance Contemporary Dance Center. John is a proud member of the Great Jones Rep Company of La MaMa and G^2, an ongoing collaboration with Beth Graczyk which recently presented work at Judson Church and the Shanghai Tower in China.

Delaney McDonough (Projection Design) is a performer, producer, and designer based in Brooklyn, NY. Their work has been produced primarily in New York, San Francisco, and throughout New England. Delaney serves as production manager for experimental dance and performance festivals including Performance Mix Festival (NY), FRESH Festival (CA), and Lion’s Jaw (MA).

Kristin McWharter is an artist whose practice uses multidisciplinary approaches to interrogate the relationship between competition and intimacy. She often integrates novel technologies and unexpected material forms to conjoin viewers within immersive sculptural installations and viewer- inclusive performances. Her work imagines new and alternative forms of social behaviors and relationships.
Inspired by 20th century sports narrative, collective decision making, and technology as a contemporary spiritual authority. Blurring the boundaries of social intimacy and hype culture the work challenges viewer's relationships to affection and antagonism within the larger social context. Her work has been exhibited widely including at The Hammer Museum, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Bangkok Arts and Cultural Center, Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria, Museo Altillo Beni in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, and FILE Festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil. McWharter is an Assistant Professor in Art & Technology Studies at SAIC and received her MFA from UCLA in Design Media Arts. She teaches courses in experimental media, experimental game design, and virtual reality.

**Mur** is a New York City–based visual and performance artist with a focus in music composition. He has exhibited and performed solo works in collaboration with La MaMa, National Sawdust, Le Poisson Rouge, Justin Vivian Bond, Alan Cumming, Jill Platner, The Wild Project, Illesteva, Creatures of Comfort, Susan Alexandra, Nordstrom, and Soho House. His debut musical, *Vagina Town* opened Off-Broadway in 2017 with glowing reviews and quickly developed a cult following. *Vagina Town*, inspired by the women’s movement, has been performed throughout New York City and recently released an Original Off-Broadway Cast Recording. Mur’s visual work is on display at The Wild Bird Fund where he is the artist in residence. Follow him at @murnewyork

**Matt Romein** is an artist and performer based in Brooklyn, NY. His artistic work inhabits the intersection of live performance, generative computer art, and multi-media installation. He has worked in NYC’s downtown performance community as a sound and video designer while also making his own technology-centric live performances. His design work includes *plural (love)* by Haruna Lee + Jen Goma, *Knot in My Name* by Ita Segev, *King* by Neal Medlyn, and *[50/50] old school animation* by Peter Mills Weiss + Julia Mounsey. His design and performance work has been shown at BAM, Mana Contemporary, Soho Rep, The Public Theater, 3LD Art + Technology Center, and more. A self-taught coder, he has developed and designed large scale visual and interactive installations that have been shown at Sundance’s New Frontier Program in Park City, Utah, IDFA’s Doclab in Amsterdam, and SXSW in Austin, Texas, among others. He has had artist residencies and received grants from Pioneer Works, Google, CultureHub, Signal Culture, NYU, and more. He is currently a Research Fellow at NYU’s ITP, a masters program focused on creative uses of art and technology, where he leads a research group exploring new techniques for virtual performance and teaches as an adjunct professor.
Stacey Karen Robinson is a multidisciplinary theater artist. She performed her solo work, *You Never Can Always Sometimes Tell*, at JACK (NYC) & Salvage Vanguard Theater (TX). The show was developed with support from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Foundation of Contemporary Arts. She’s a recipient of an Art Matters Grant (2019) and a BRIO Award for Playwriting (2009). Her previous monodrama, *Quiet Frenzy*, is published in solo / black / woman: scripts, interviews, and essays, Northwestern University Press, 2014.

Or Schraiber was born in 1992 in the city of Jerusalem, where he studied at the ‘Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance’. In 2010 Or joined the Batsheva Dance Company which whom he danced for seven years. In parallel to his time in the company, he served at the IDF for three years. In 2017, Or moved to New York City. Studied at the Stella Adler Studio for Acting. In 2019, he starred in and co-choreographed Boaz Yakin’s feature film *AVIVA*. Later that year, Played Thaddeus in Terrence Malick’s *The Last Planet*; the same year he joined the National Tour of the 10 Tony-awards Broadway production *The Band’s Visit*, playing the role of Zelger. Or is a core member of AMOC (American Modern Opera Company). As a certified gaga teacher, he has taught in Institutions such as Juilliard, Princeton, Suny Purchase, etc. Or has choreographed, and appeared in numerous music videos and short films including collaborations with Netta Barzilai, Celia Rowlson-Hall, Jose Padilha, and Yemen Blues. Or wrote and directed two Immersive shows commissioned by the TLV municipality (*We are TUTU*, and *YYY*). He wrote and directed various short dance films that were presented by festivals all over the world.

Bobbi Jene Smith is an alumnus of The Julliard School, North Carolina School of the Arts, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, she is a founding member of the American Modern Opera Company (AMOC), and a former member of Batsheva Dance Company under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin. Her choreography has been presented by The Batsheva Dance Company, La MaMa, Martha Graham Dance Company,PS122 COIL Festival, A.R.T., The Israel Museum, UNC Chapel Hill, and CORPUS of The Royal Danish Ballet among others. Film work includes the choreography for “Annihilation” directed by Alex Garland, and choreographing and starring in Boaz Yakin's “Aviva.” She is the subject of “Bobbi Jene,” winner of the awards for Best Documentary, Best Cinematography, and Best Editing at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival. She is the the recipient of The Harkness Promise Award and was The Martha Duffy Resident Artist at Baryshnikov Art Center in 2019. She is part-time faculty at The Julliard School and is a guest teacher at NYU and UArts.
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’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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April 10, 2020
Live Stream

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April 14, 2020
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Live Talks: Take 3
April 15, 2020
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La MaMa Kids:
The Missing Matzo
April 16, 2020
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CultureHub: Experiments in Digital Storytelling
April 18 - May 16, 2020
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