LaMaMa

presents

Untold Wajda: Blokowisko (The Estate)

Blanka Barbara Stahl
composer, director, dramaturg



Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
October 22-25, 2026

Untold Wajda: Blokowisko (The Estate)

Blanka Barbara Stahl (composer, director, dramaturg)
Anthony Matsena (choreography)
Sarah Housepian (rehearsal director)
Ismini Papaioannou (costume and stage design)
Philip Burke (original lighting design)
Lydia Brinkmann (New York lighting adaptation & operation)
-8 (video designer)

Battery Dance Cast
Nelson Mejiaa
Kar'mel Antonyo Wade Small
Victoria Sames
Perla Martinez
Jillian Linkowski
Jonathan Colafrencesco
Shannon Harkins
Joe LaLuzerne

Ignatius Sokal (UNTOLD productions executive producer)
Robin Cantrell (Battery Dance producer)

This diplomatic cultural exchange is supported by the Polish Cultural Institute New York, Polish National Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation.

Set against the concrete geometry of a housing estate, Untold Wajda: Blokowisko (The Estate) explores the fragile boundary between personal intimacy and urban anonymity. In a world governed by digital rhythms, mechanical commutes, and monotonous factory shifts, two solitary figures - The Protagonist and The Girl - briefly cross paths within the crowd.

Their tender duet offers a quiet sanctuary from the noise of the metropolis, culminating in a night of shared freedom and nocturnal euphoria. Yet as dawn breaks over the uniform towers, the city reclaims its space. Blokowisko is a haunting visual reflection on modern isolation, fleeting human connection, and the quiet struggle to remain visible within the mass.

Blanka Barbara Stahl (composer, director, dramaturg) is a visionary composer, producer, performer, and event curator based in London. She is a recipient of several prestigious awards and scholarships, including the Philip Bates Prize and the Summer Media Studio Award for Best Film Music, and was recognised as one of the Top 10 Electronic Music Producers of 2023 by Magnetic Magazine. With an impressive portfolio that includes two full-scale operas, both receiving glowing 5-star reviews - Out at Sea, based on Sławomir Mrożek's play, at Crescent Theatre, and The Hour Glass, inspired by W. B. Yeats's play, at Birmingham Contemporary Opera - alongside five theatre productions, including her most recent work, KS6: Small Forward, presented at La Mama Theatre in New York City, Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, and at the Barbican Centre in London, Blanka firmly establishes herself as a composer and dramaturg. She masterfully showcases her distinctive compositional voice, artfully blending live instruments and voices with electronic elements such as synthesisers, live effects, and tape to create a rich, immersive auditory tapestry.

Battery Dance performs, teaches, presents, and advocates for the field of dance on stages and in communities around the world. Founded in New York City in 1976, the Company is dedicated to the pursuit of artistic excellence and making the arts accessible to everyone. An integral part of New York City's cultural fabric for 50 years, Battery Dance supports artists and the creative process, provides dance education to children in New York City schools, and engages the public through performances, community programs, national and international tours, and international arts exchange initiatives.

Jonathan Colafrancesco is an Italian dancer, choreographer, and teacher based in New York. He has danced in productions by international choreographers such as Roberta Ferrara, Rena Butler, Roya Carrera, Caleb Teicher, Assaf Salhov, Igal Perry, Tsai-Hsi Hung, Yoshito Sakuraba, Vive Khamsingsavath, Douglas Dunn, Michelle Thompson Ulerich, Eamon Foley, Simon Kuban, and Norbert De La Cruz III. Jonathan is currently a dancer for Mckoy Dance Project, Pony Box Dance Theatre, Peter Stathas Dance, Aslin Projects, Artichoke Dance Company, Matthew Wensterby Company, EdgeCut Arts, and The Creature. Throughout his career, he has also danced with Nimbus Dance Works, Ballet Nepantla, White Wave, Project Tag, and Tabula Rasa. Jonathan performed alongside tenor Jonas Kaufmann in the Park Avenue Armory's production of Doppelganger. He was a swing performer in the immersive off-Broadway production of Life and Trust. Jonathan has recently starred as Paris in the opera "Die Ägyptische Helena" at the Fisher Center at Bard.

Shannon Harkins is a New York City-based dance artist. She began her training at The Washington School of Ballet, where she performed in Septime Webre's world premieres of *The Great Gatsby* and *ALICE (in Wonderland)* at the John F. Kennedy Center. She trained at Walnut Hill School for the Arts and attended summer programs at Ballet Austin, Charlotte Ballet, LINES Ballet, BalletX, and Arts Umbrella in Vancouver. Shannon graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Conservatory of Dance at Purchase College, SUNY, where she performed works by Norbert de la Cruz III, Hannah Garner, and Maurya Kerr. Upon graduating, she has choreographed for Brooklyn Ballet, Battery Dance Festival, Norte Maar's CounterPointe series, Monet's Garden, and Dixon Place. Shannon continues to freelance as a performer and has danced with Spark Movement Collective and Le Ballet Fou.

Joe LaLuzerne is a Brooklyn based freelance dance artist. They Graduated from Texas Christian University in 2021 (BFA Ballet). Joe has danced with Italian/Austrian based Tanz Company Gervas, Artistic director Elio Gervasi, in four productions (2022-2026), performing in Vienna, Austria and at ImpulsTanz International Dance festival. Joe was a company dancer with New York based contemporary ballet company MorDance, artistic director Morgan McEwen from 2022-2026. They were featured in a Nikon commercial *The Audition* directed by Victoria DeMartin (2024), and a Principal dancer in Amazon Prime series *Etoile*, directed by Marguerite Derricks (2024). Joe is a current company dancer with Ballez, Director Kade Pyle, in development of a new evening length reimagined *Swan Lake*. And is honored and excited to be a part of the US premiere of *Untold Wajda: Blokowisko*, choreographed by Anthony Matsena, co-produced by Battery Dance.

Jillian Linkowski is a freelance dancer, actor, model, and writer based in New York City. Jill joined Battery Dance in 2018. She has worked with choreographers such as John Carrafa, Faizah Grootens, Dolly Sfeir, Tsai Hsi Hung, Ana Maria Lucaciu, Alison Chase and others. She is a former member of Martha Graham Dance Company's Graham 2. Her notable performance credits include the Joyce Theater, The Shed, New York Live Arts, Metropol Theater, American Dance Festival, and Battery Dance Festival. She has been featured in numerous films, commercials, and TV shows, including HBO's "The Gilded Age" Seasons 3 and 4. Her choreography and teaching methodology have been showcased around the world. Jillian holds a BFA in Dance and a BA in International Studies from Marymount Manhattan College and additionally studied at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. She is honored to be a part of "Untold Wajda: Blokowisko" here at La MaMa

Perla Martinez is a versatile dancer and performer trained at the prestigious Joffrey Ballet School in the Jazz & Contemporary Trainee Program. Her professional experience includes performances in Queen of Versailles on Broadway, New York Fashion Week for PatBO, and multiple contemporary and musical theatre productions.

Nelson Mejia is a freelance performer based in Brooklyn, NY. He holds a BFA in Dance + Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University. He's worked with and danced works by Kyle Abraham, Rena Butler, Norbert De La Cruz III, Omar Román De Jesús, Akira Uchida, among others. Nelson currently performs with Raja Feather Kelly's the feath3r theory and Brian Brooks Moving Company, and assisted Kelly for projects with Hermès and Soho Rep. Additional credits include serpentwithfeet's "Heart of Brick" (Joyce Theater Productions), Tanguay+EREZ's FUTURE FORMS V2, Liz Gerring Dance Company, Pony Box Dance Theatre. Nelson was a 2025 DanceWEB Fellow through ImPulsTanz. As a choreographer, his work uses popular media as a means to excavate desirability in the digital age. His work has been shown at ICA Richmond, Gibney's Agnes Varis Theater, Invisible Dog Arts Center, The Tank, Triskelion, 12x12, Arts On Site, and Entangled Garden.

Victoria Sames, originally from Annapolis, MD, graduated from The Hartt School in 2017 with a BFA in Ballet Pedagogy and Performance. While at Hartt, she performed works by José Limón, Adam Barruch, Manuel Vignoulle, Gemma Bond, and Norbert De La Cruz III.Following graduation, Victoria joined Ballet Tech under the direction of Eliot Feld. She continues to teach, coach, and choreograph throughout the tri-state area and currently serves on the faculty at The Graham School. She is a New York City-based freelance artist working with Twyla Tharp Dance, Pigeonwing Dance, and The New Jack Cole Dancers.Victoria has performed at many of New York City's renowned venues and institutions, including the Minskoff Theatre for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, The Joyce Theater, Little Island in the Off-Broadway production How Long Blues, NYU's Skirball Center for the Chita Rivera Awards, La MaMa, Baruch Performing Arts Center, and the New York Botanical Garden. Under the direction of Gabrielle Lamb, she has performed in The Carpet Series, a collection of more than 200 compact outdoor performances presented in parks and on sidewalks throughout all five boroughs. Her work has also extended into photography, film, and television. Victoria was featured in Howard Schatz's book Pairs, modeling for "Dance Study 1439," and has appeared on screen in The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Maestro, and A Complete Unknown. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA) and SAG-AFTRA. Victoria also serves as the studio manager and events coordinator for Battery Dance.

Kar'mel Antonyo Wade Small is an Afro-Puerto Rican interdisciplinary artist from the South Bronx. Kar'mel has toured and worked with A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham (currently known as Kyle Abraham Dance Vanguard), Kizuna Dance, and is currently with Battery Dance. He has performed works by Kevin Wynn, Jock Soto, Damani Pompey, Kayla Farrish, Roderick George, Martha Graham, Sidra Bell, Merce Cunningham, Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Jerome Robbins, Eleo Pomare, Faizah Grootens, and many more notable choreographers and collaborators. In August 2026, he performed at the Wagner Park stage for Kayla Farrish and esperanza spalding's ceremonial grade creation. Kar'mel has been on set for HBO's Random Acts of Flyness, TELFARTV, and UNIVISION. He is also featured in music videos such as KAYE's "Neon God" and Heesu's "SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL". Kar'mel has shared his own work at Judson Memorial Church, Battery Dance Festival, PepsiCo Theater, Triskelion Arts, Chez Bushwick, and Arts on Site. One of his most recent projects, ROADMAPPIN' (2026), was presented in The Bronx Museum in collaboration with Anthony C. Wyche III/SOUNDWAV3, Kennedy Hill, and poet T.J. McGowan/The Everyday Bite. He also performed a collaborative work with Music Under New York handpan drum artist Anthony Bell at the Alianza Dominicana Cultural Center. In 2022, he was recognized as an Chez Bushwick Artist in Residency award recipient through the Jonah Bokaer Arts Foundation. In 2025, Kar'mel received the Bronx Recognizes Its Own (BRIO) Award, supported by the Bronx Council on the Arts, for Choreography in Performing Arts. Outside of performing, Kar'mel has been credited for musically composing Damani Pompey's Empty Hand, a piece choreographed with the support of the NYSCA Support for Artists grant to choreograph new work with Battery Dance Company during a residency at Vassar College in March 2025.

The Polish Cultural Institute New York promotes Polish culture, heritage, and art to audiences across the United States, while building lasting connections between cultural and academic communities in Poland and the U.S. Through partnerships with leading American cultural institutions, universities, festivals, and independent organizations, the Institute supports and develops collaborations across the arts and humanities — from film, theater, dance, music, literature, visual art and design to history and contemporary social thought. By bringing Polish artists, thinkers, and cultural practitioners into dialogue with American audiences, the Institute strengthens the presence of Polish culture in the U.S. and contributes to meaningful international exchange. Established in 2000, the Polish Cultural Institute New York operates under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and is part of Poland's global diplomacy network.

POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE NEW YORK

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A full program with information on this production can be found on the La MaMa website page of **Untold Wajda: Blokowisko (The Estate)**

In addition you can scan the QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for access to the digital program.

LA MAMA

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REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent 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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