

QUEER NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 16–26 // 2015

MICHAEL BRESLIN US

IVO DIMCHEV Bulgaria

KAIA GILJE / LORENE BOUBOUSHIAN US

BRUNO ISAKOVIĆ Croatia

MMAKGOSI KGABI South Africa

MEHDI-GEORGES LAHLOU Morocco/France

JOHN MOLETRESS US

SOCIAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE CLUB US

ANNIE SPRINKLE / BETH STEPHENS US

MAX STEELE US

QUEER NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2015

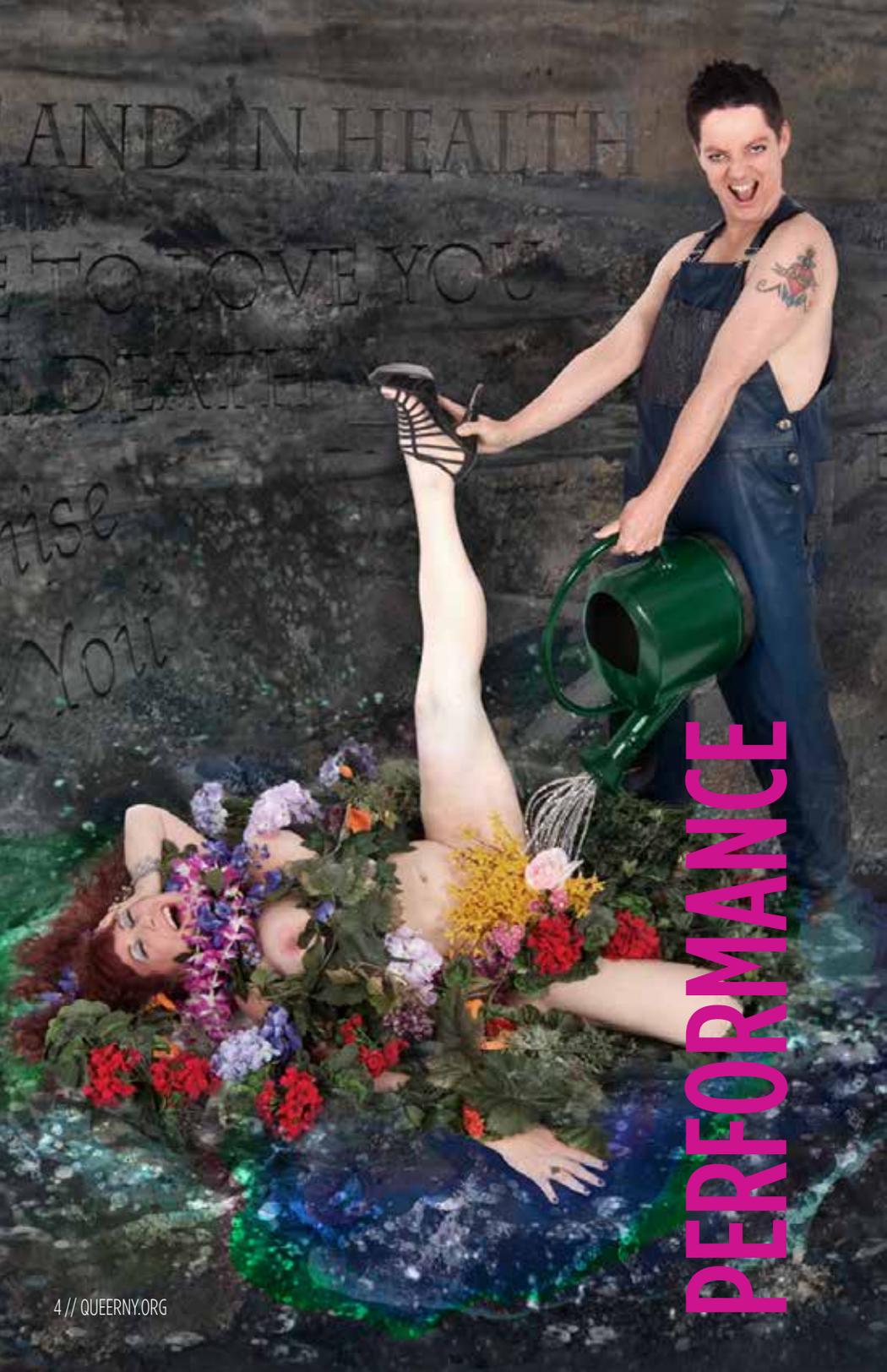
It is always a privilege to be able to work with talented and dedicated artists and to present their work. This festival has been very lucky that it is personal to so many people and to so many artists and that kind of ownership that a lot of people feel about it is something that we at **Queer New York International** appreciate and cherish most of all. This year we are bringing US and NYC premieres by artists from Bulgaria, Croatia, France / Morocco, South Africa, Switzerland and of course the US. We have over 40 participating artists in the festival and we are looking forward to each one of the performances this year.

We are kicking off the festival with an ecosexual extravaganza by **Annie Sprinkle** and **Beth Stephens**, San Francisco based artists who are also dear and old friends. **Ivo Dimchev**, who is already well known to NY audiences and who has been here many times with us, will have two nights of his most recent works. South African artist **Mmakgosi Kgabi**, who was curated by Marya Wethers, will present her piece about queerness in Africa. The festival will in the future create a special block of programming dedicated to artists from different African countries and this performance is somewhat of a teaser of our future direction. **Mehdi-Georges Lahlou** questions Arab and queer identities in ways that not many artists dare to. **Joshua Monten** who is a US born choreographer, but based in Switzerland now, will have his NYC premiere of his latest work. **Bruno Isaković** from Croatia will work with performers from New York to present a piece about nudity and its different meanings. And of course, we have a lot of artists from NYC whose work we are dedicated to support: **Max Steele, Kaia Gilje, Lorene Bouboushian, Michael Breslin, John Moletress, Ian Deleón, Geraldo Mercado, Ivy Castellanos, Esther Neff** and **Ayana Evans**.

Queer New York International continues to question the current notions of queer and geographies that define it. New York City is a place that should be at the forefront of redefining and discussing queer and our festival creates a space for it.

Come to the festival, see the work, meet the artists.

Zvonimer Dobrović
Artistic Director
QueerNY.org



ANNIE SPRINKLE / BETH STEPHENS ^{US}
EcoSex Walking Tour of Central Park NYC Premiere

Wednesday, September 16 // 3 pm

Central Park (South East Corner @ 59th Street and 5th Avenue)

\$25

Having coined the term "SexEcology," **Annie Sprinkle** and **Beth Stephens** and have been developing this new field of research over the course of their twelve-year collaboration. They shift the metaphor of Earth as mother to that of lover, inspiring and engaging others in more mutual relationship with nature and each other. Infusing sensual pleasure, humor and absurdity into unlikely situations, Stephens and Sprinkle engage the unexpected, encouraging us to slow down the alarming speed of our lives. In doing so, they hope to increase awareness around the current rate of ecological devastation, and to open participants up to more viable possibilities for human and non-human survival in the future.

In their *EcoSex Walking Tour of Central Park* the adventure begins with Ecosex Orientation. Explore twenty-five ways to make love to the Earth and find your E-spot (ecosexy spot). The show will feature a special water toast, demonstrate Ecosexercises, and climax with rubbing Manhattan's planetary clitoris. Sprinkle and Stephen's shine a spot light on environmental issues. By the end of the walk "you'll likely have the 'ecosexual gaze' and you might discover that you're an ecosexual too!"



LECTURE/PERFORMANCE/FILM

ANNIE SPRINKLE / BETH STEPHENS US
Goodbye Gauley Mountain (2014) NYC Premiere

Wednesday, September 16 // 8 pm
Abrons Arts Center Underground Theater
MIX NYC partnership presentation
\$25 // abronsartscenter.org

Goodbye Gauley Mountain: An Ecosexual Love Story is the true tale of the two San Francisco "ecosexual" artist-lovers who join forces with environmental activists in trying to stop a destructive form of mining. This David-and-Goliath struggle for survival in the coalfields is narrated through an autobiographical family visit home. The documentary injects an otherwise dire situation with sexy fun and surprising activist strategies, such as a performance-art marriage to the mountains. *Goodbye Gauley Mountain* raises awareness about the devastation of mountain-top-removal (MTR) mining, while celebrating the Earth's ecosexual glory.

Annie Sprinkle was a NYC prostitute and porn star before morphing into artist and sexologist. She has passionately explored sexuality for over forty years, creating her unique brand of feminist sex films, visual art and performance, as well as writing, teaching and lecturing. A champion of sex worker rights and a pivotal player in the Sex Positive Movement, Sprinkle received her BFA from the NY School of Visual Arts, and was the first porn star to earn a Ph.D. For the past 12 years she has collaborated on art projects with her partner Elizabeth Stephens. In 2013 she received the Artist/Activist/Scholar Award from Performance Studies International at Stanford, and was awarded the Acker Award for Excellence in the Avant Garde.

Beth Stephens is an interdisciplinary artist, activist and a professor at U.C. Santa Cruz. For over 25 years, her visual and performance work has explored themes of the body, queerness, and feminism. Stephens has exhibited and performed in museums, galleries and theaters across the US and Europe, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Vortex in Austin, PS1 in New York City, the Museo Reina Sophia in Madrid, Spain, and the Museum Kunstpalast in Dusseldorf, Germany.



PERFORMANCE

IVO DIMCHEV Bulgaria Facebook Theater US Premiere

Thursday, September 17 // 8 pm
Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater
\$25 suggested // abronartscenter.org

After the well-received performance at last year's QNYIA Festival, Bulgarian artist **Ivo Dimchev** returns to the festival with his new performance *Facebook Theater*. This interactive theatrical experiment has actors articulate a text simultaneously created by a Facebook audience. Ever trying out and exploiting new formats and ways of doing, thinking, or writing theater, Dimchev sees social networks as potentially inexhaustible sources of dramaturgical material. Asking himself whether people's accustomed experience in dealing with them can be transposed to a theatrical context, he has invented Facebook Theater as an opportunity for the audience to create the performance text.

Ivo Dimchev has received numerous international dance and theater awards, including the Iron Medal for Contemporary Art "Vencislav Zankov" in 2013, and a Bessie Award nomination for *Lili Handel* in 2011. After his master's studies at DasArts Academy in Amsterdam, Dimchev moved to Brussels and opened his own performance space, Volksroom, where he presents young international artists. He is a master teacher at the National Theater Academy in Budapest, founding director of Humarts Foundation in Bulgaria, and currently Artist in Residence at Kaaitheater in Brussels.



PERFORMANCE

IVO DIMCHEV Bulgaria
15 songs from my shows US Premiere

Friday, September 18 // 8 pm
Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater
\$25 suggested // abronsartscenter.org

The exceptional performer **Ivo Dimchev** gives one of his live concerts at the festival. His enormous musicality and his remarkable vocal gift are part of all of his productions. For this event, he has selected 15 songs from his performances, detached them from their original context, presenting them as independent, individual opuses.

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PERFORMANCE/DANCE

SOCIAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE CLUB (SHPC) US

Friday, September 18 // 9 pm

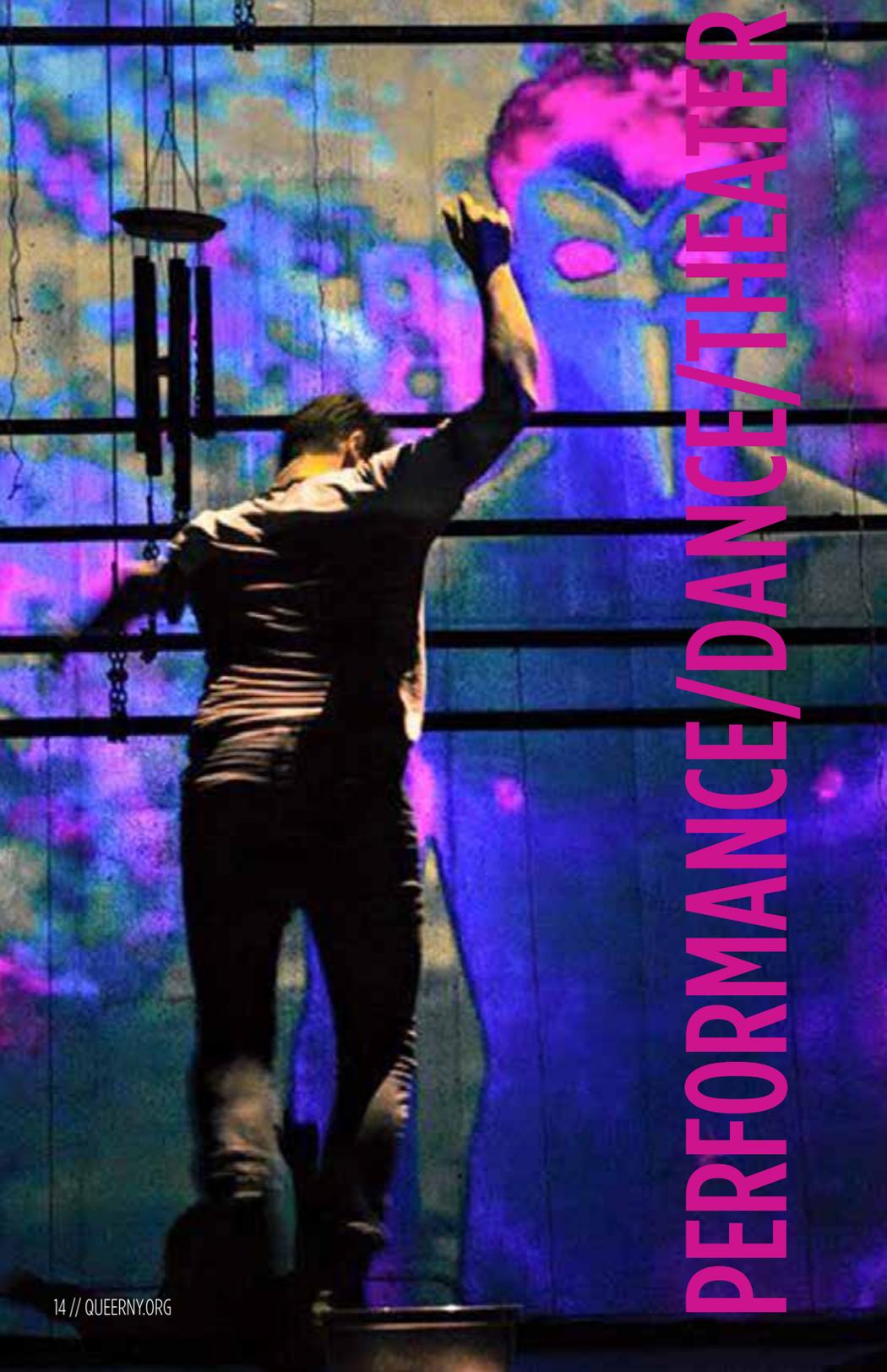
Abrons Arts Center Underground Theater

\$15 // abronsartscenter.org

Social Health Performance Club (SHPC) will present an evening of performances that engages the problematics of framing work as queer—aesthetically and personally. Simply put, SHPC asks: what is “queerness” in this context? How do their individual lived experiences relate to it? How does their presence in this festival, on this night, situate them as/among the marginalized or subaltern and relate those categories with queerness? SHPC seeks to create a conversation with the curatorial platform by interrogating its very presence in it. The evening will feature works by **Ian Deleón, Geraldo Mercado, Lorene Bouboushian, Ivy Castellanos, Esther Neff, and Ayana Evans.**

Social Health Performance Club is a collective of artists actively questioning systemic values at work in performance art through themed performances, potlucks, and member collaborations. SHPC gathers as a collective of artists to produce events, exhibitions, and other public art projects which directly confront systemic social issues in the art world and beyond. The Club itself is framed as a performance, gathering together as action, understanding social relationships as artistic processes.

SHPC are the recipients of the 2015 André von Ah research and development grant for queer art.



PERFORMANCE/DANCE/THEATER

JOHN MOLETRESS US
Jarman (all this maddening beauty) NYC Premiere

Saturday, September 19 // 8 pm
Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater
\$15 // abronsartscenter.org

Jarman (all this maddening beauty) is a solo performance work inspired by avant-garde, queer filmmaker Derek Jarman. Evocative poetry, lush new music and multimedia landscape combine to create a theatrical event exploring the meaning of beauty and art. The project marks a continuing collaboration between the bold performance ensemble force/collision and award-winning playwright Caridad Svich. Jarman looks at how the specter of illness affects the making of art, and at the changes in cultural, transatlantic perceptions of queer artistry since Jarman's time.

John Moletress is a multi-discipline artist who collides the cerebral and the visceral in performance through collaborations with artists of mixed disciplines. He is founding director of the performance ensemble force/collision, an educator for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, a member of The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, and was awarded the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre for his cofounding of Factory 449. As well as directing premiers by other playwrights, Moletress has had work performed at theaters such as Arena Stage and La MaMa ETC, and has been a multiple recipient of awards from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and Creative Communities Fund.



MAX STEELE US
The Good Daughter NYC Premiere

Sunday, September 20 // 8 pm
Abrons Arts Center Underground Theater
\$20 // abronsartscenter.org

The Good Daughter is a solo cabaret/music performance examining the relationship between queer identity, power, and gender. **Max Steele** utilizes pop music, punk rock, and performance art to reverse-engineer drag performance, performing songs written by women about female identity, and articulating a female voice against a culture of late-capitalist, globalist white-supremacist patriarchy. Between songs, he deconstructs his maleness, revealing the aggression in "fag art" as empty. His performance aims to exhaust the rage of being a gay person now, when history has already happened and the future seems foreclosed.

Max Steele is a performer and writer based in Brooklyn. He has presented work at the New Museum, Deitch Projects, BAM, Joe's Pub, La MAMA, Envoy Enterprises, PPOW Gallery, The Afterglow Festival in Provincetown, and the Queens Museum of Art. He writes the psychedelic porno poetry zine *Scorcher*, and his writing has been featured in *Dossier Journal*, *Spunk [arts] Magazine*, *East Village Boys*, *Birdsong*, *Vice* and *Best Gay Stories 2014*. He was an Artist in Residence at BAX/Brooklyn Arts Exchange from 2012 to 2014.



PERFORMANCE/DANCE

MMAKGOSI KGABI South Africa **Shades of a Queen** US Premiere

Curated by Mariya Wethers
Monday, September 21 // 8 pm
Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater
\$15 suggested // abronsartscenter.org

Shades of a Queen is a coming-of-age, coming-to-self, coming-out piece exploring the identity constructs of an African Queer child. The creative process was based on personal experiences and challenges in the journey to coming out both literally and metaphorically. Her Majesty the Queen (a.k.a. Mmakgosi, which translates to "The Mother of the Chief") battles with stepping out of the house and out of the closet. She confronts her self in all her majestic glory, and the demons and counter-masks that reveal themselves as identity constructs come into being from mundane interactions with the world.

Mmakgosi Kgabi studied choreography and acting at Rhodes University (2007). She was born out of wedlock to a South African freedom fighter and a Botswana maiden. She has performed on several platforms both at home in Johannesburg and internationally. Among others, she collaborated with Mbogeni Ngema and Constanza Macras's *the Offside Rules* (2010), and Pink Zebra Theatre Co.'s *Super Zoom* for the Impulstans festival in Vienna (2011). She's a member of Stash the Suitcase Performance Arts Collective.



PERFORMANCE/DANCE

BRUNO ISAKOVIĆ Croatia *Disclosures* World Premiere

Tuesday, September 22-Friday, September 25 // 8 pm
Saturday, September 26 // 10 pm
Abrons Arts Center Underground
\$20 // abronsartscenter.org

Disclosures is a performance that invites different people to share their stories, fears and confidences, demystifying borders of privacy and nakedness as they strip away their clothes. Getting naked/being naked/nakedness is an intimate experience closely related to one's individuality and the social norms of one's surroundings. Whether extrovert or introvert, the idea of nakedness connotes meaning for everyone—about borders, privacy, shame, vulnerability, the gaze of the other, and the social order. It can also serve as a powerful affirmation of self, an empowering mirror through which one might not only see themselves, but also more fully see others. For the purposes of this experiment/performance nakedness is utilized as a vehicle for the individual's story, reason, self-representation—a history into which all these meanings are condensed.

Bruno Isaković studied dance at the Rotterdam Dance Academy, graduated from Amsterdam School of Arts, and is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards. Having worked internationally as both a dancer and choreographer, Isaković is a collaborator of the new BA course in dance art at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb and at Bilgi University for the Performing Arts in Istanbul. Since 2009 he has been a company member of The Studio for Contemporary Dance in Zagreb. His recent works *Denuded* (solo version) was expanded into a version for eleven dancers and premiered in June 2015 at the Perforations Festival in Croatia. It will be shown in New York in January 2016.



KAIA GILJE / LORENE BOUBOUSHIAN US
Know What Smokes US Premiere

Wednesday, September 23 // 9 pm
Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater
\$15 // abronsartscenter.org

Know What Smokes is a performance piece that embraces the simplest way there is to learn about something: to hit your head against the thing repeatedly. Or to shove your fingers up a nose, or jiggle a pair of breasts until your fingers ache. If we close our eyes and feel what we are pressed against, what do we learn? **Lorene Bouboushian** and **Kaia Gilje** attempt to activate sensation through different types of touch—tender, sensual, surprising, painful, mundane, and absurd. Working with closed eyes, they submit to each other's touch. At times this touch serves as a guide to a deeper sensory experience and at times becomes distracting, invasive, or even a violent element to be defended against. The performative focus of the work arises from commitment to the emotional arcs, the deep fears, and the extreme sensations that their own actions conjure. How do guilt and betrayal function in a world where logic is warped and sensation is central?

Kaia Gilje and Lorene Bouboushian's collaborative performances emerged from the desire to deconstruct a performance situation, throwing the room, the performance setting, and the social milieu into relief. Their years of research have formed an improvisational score-based performance relationship that blends vocalizing, moving, and audience/room interaction. They have presented work in New York at JACK NY (Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival), Movement Research at the Judson Church, Panoply Performance Laboratory, CAGE, and a cow farm in the countryside; and internationally at Meinblau Projektraum, and Liebig12 (Month of Performance Art-Berlin).



PERFORMANCE/DANCE

MEHDI-GEORGES LAHLOU MOROCCO / FRANCE Stupidité Contrôlée or Jump Jump Baby Jump Jump

Friday, September 25 // 7 pm
Merton D. Simpson Gallery
\$15 suggested // mertonsimpson.com

Mehdi-Georges Lahlou produces performances and installations that deal with humour both cultural identities and “gender”, to the point of dissolving the one in the others. And indeed, if gender is socially constructed, as opposed to biological sex, then it is caught in the cultural fabric in which it is built whatever it is. Juggling from one community to another, from the ethnicity to the «gender», by its burlesque actions, Lahlou makes an undermined work. He is engaged in a kind of typology of clichés associated with Arabian- Muslim world, and attacks it with knocks of red stiletto heels, during performances, which are all sports achievements supposed to challenge testosterone. These high heel shoes are those of the topical figure of what the queer, the transsexual or the transvestite is.

Mehdi-Georges Lahlou was born in France in 1983 and now lives and works in Brussels and Paris. Having grown up French-Moroccan with one Muslim and one Christian parent, he daily experienced a multicultural and multiform society. Making performances and installations that deal with cultural identities and gender, he tackles ideas of masculinity within Maghrebian and European cultures, testing limits both cultural and physical. Embracing physical endurance, his performances are highly athletic, fearless, and provocative. “By way of a reinvented surrealism, Lahlou has chosen to show us, as through a keyhole, what we refuse to see, know, or understand.” - Marie Moignard



THEATER/DANCE

MICHAEL BRESLIN ^{US}
kiss me just once more NYC Premiere

Friday, September 25 // 8 pm

Dixon Place

Co-Presentation Dixon Place and QNYI

\$15 // dixonplace.org

kiss me just once more is a solo theatre piece that investigates the relationship between a queer son and his straight mother(s) in literature, drama, and theory. Using the “Goodnight Kiss” passage from Marcel Proust’s *Swann’s Way*, Breslin explores questions about the “natural” and the “deviant” and this binary’s relationship to queer failure, psycho-sexual identification, and ritual. Like Proust’s prose, *kiss me just once more* manipulates linear time and plot structure to explore philosophy and psychology—unearthing the personal journey of discovering one’s own gender and sexual queerness under patriarchal forces.

Michael Breslin is a Brooklyn-based theatre and dance artist from New Jersey. His work has most recently been presented at Dixon Place and at the Orchard performing arts residency at Hamilton College. In the past year, he has assisted Half Straddle (The Kitchen), Raja Feather Kelly (Dixon Place), and Lee Sunday Evans (Baryshnikov Arts Center). Michael has trained, performed, and conducted research in cross-gender and queer performance in over 10 countries. Including: studying acting at the Moscow Art Theatre School (Russia) and the Grotowski Institute (Poland), working for Outburst Queer Art Festival (Northern Ireland), and researching queerness and politics at Nowy Teatr (Poland). He collaborates with Javanese dance artist Didik Nini Thowok from Yogyakarta. He graduated from Hamilton College with degrees in comparative literature and theatre.



PERFORMANCE/DANCE

JOSHUA MONTEN Switzerland / US
Doggy Style US Premiere

Friday, September 25 // 9 pm
Saturday, September 26 // 8 pm
Abrons Arts Center Experimental Theater
\$20 // abronsartscenter.org

Doggy Style is an evening-length performance at the intersection of dance and sign language. Its starting point is the behavioral patterns of dogs, transposed onto human bodies and minds. These hybrid forms provide the basis for a choreography dealing with otherness, communication and long-term relationships (such as between dog and owner) that are deeply unequal, yet rewarding and sustainable. The performance features four professional dancers—all of them human. *Doggy Style* is co-produced by ROXY Birsfelden (Basel) and LOFFT - Das Theater (Leipzig), and has been touring extensively since March 2015. The performances are accessible to both hearing and hearing-impaired audiences.

Joshua Monten was born in New York and received his B.A. in literature and cultural anthropology from Duke University, moving into a dance career via his participation in the 1997 American Dance Festival. After further studies at UNC, Buenos Aires, and an M.A. from Ohio State, he moved to Europe, becoming a member of the Tanztheater Irina Pauls at the Stadttheater Heidelberg and of the Bern Ballet. Monten has worked with many international choreographers, performed and toured throughout Europe, and is regularly commissioned by the Bern Ballet. In 2009 he developed *Jabberwocky* as a Bessie Schönberg Choreographer-in-Residence, and in 2010 choreographed the opera *Platée* for the Ballet National du Rhin. He writes on anthropology and dance, and teaches dance at the University of Bern.

Supported by City of Bern, Canton of Bern.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 16

3 pm // **ANNIE SPRINKLE / BETH STEPHENS** US

EcoSex Walking Tour of Central Park

Central Park

8 pm // **ANNIE SPRINKLE / BETH STEPHENS** US

Goodbye Gauley Mountain (2014)

Abrons Underground Theater

Thursday, September 17

8 pm // **IVO DIMCHEV** BULGARIA

Facebook Theater

Abrons Experimental Theater

Friday, September 18

8 pm // **IVO DIMCHEV** BULGARIA

15 songs from my shows

Abrons Experimental Theater

9 pm // **SOCIAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE CLUB** US

Abrons Underground Theater

Saturday, September 19

8 pm // **JOHN MOLETRESS** US

Jarman (all this maddening beauty)

Abrons Experimental Theater

Sunday, September 20

8 pm // **MAX STEELE** US

The Good Daughter

Abrons Underground Theater

Monday, September 21

8 pm // **MMAKGOSI KGABI** SOUTH AFRICA

Shades of a Queen

Abrons Experimental Theater

Tuesday, September 22

8 pm // **BRUNO ISAKOVIĆ** CROATIA

Disclosures

Abrons Underground Theater

Wednesday, September 23

8 pm // **BRUNO ISAKOVIĆ** CROATIA

Disclosures

Abrons Underground Theater

9 pm // **KAIA GILJE / LORENE BOUBOUSHIAN** US

Know What Smokes

Abrons Experimental Theater

Thursday, September 24

8 pm // **BRUNO ISAKOVIĆ** CROATIA

Disclosures

Abrons Underground Theater

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Stupidité Contrôlée Or Jump Jump Baby Jump Jump

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8 pm // **BRUNO ISAKOVIĆ** CROATIA

Disclosures

Abrons Underground Theater

8 pm // **MICHAEL BRESLIN** US

kiss me just once more

Dixon Place

9 pm // **JOSHUA MONTEN** Switzerland/US

Doggy Style

Abrons Experimental Theater

Saturday, September 26

8 pm // **JOSHUA MONTEN** Switzerland/US

Doggy Style

Abrons Experimental Theater

10 pm // **BRUNO ISAKOVIĆ** CROATIA

Disclosures

Abrons Underground Theater

QUEER NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2015

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Zvonimir Dobrović

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Abrons Arts Center

Dixon Place

Merton D. Simpson Gallery

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GAYLETTER
CULTUREBOT
MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE

Queer New York
INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

D This is a Domino project.