

Digital Program



Commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

A project of the Arnhold Dance Innovation Fund

Sculpture, Sound & Performance Installation

July 14-30, 2021

Lincoln Center Hearst Plaza

LincolnCenter.org/YouAreHere

Creative Team



Andrea Miller Concept, Choreography and Co-Direction



Lynsey Peisinger Co-Director



Justin Hicks Composer and Sound Artist



Mimi Lien Production Design

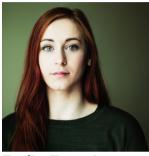


Oana Botez Costume Design



lyvon E. Dramaturg

GALLIM Dancers



Emily Terndrup Rehearsal Director



Lauryn Hayes



Christopher Kinsey



Nouhoum Koita



Misa Lucyshyn



Gary Reagan



Connor Speetjens



Taylor Stanley



Haley Sung



Georgia Usborne



Amadi Washington

Portrait Performers



Bruce Adolphe The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Composer Bruce Adolphe talks about the uncertainity of music performance during the pandemic and pivoting his time and skills to create a series of video programming for children starring the character Detective Pulse, a private "ear." During his portrait, we hear some titles of chapters from books Bruce has authored.



Kiri Avelar Ballet Hispánico

Fronteriza artist Kiri Avelar speaks on how her dancing is a vehicle for promoting social change. She speaks on how cooking has continued to bring her family together during the pandemic. Her portrait features a Whatsapp exchange with her sister.



Dietrice Bolden Harlem Week

Dietrice Bolden, Managing Director of Impact Repertory Theater, ruminates on the effect the pandemic had on her once-busy household, and the importance of her faith during the most isolating moments of the pandemic. During her portrait, Dietrice leads listeners through a meditation and a sound hug exercise (via humming and breathes) to center themselves in the present.

Portrait Performers



Jessica Chen Asian American Arts Alliance

The pandemic is not Jessica Chen's first pause. In her portrait, Jessica speaks on how a life-altering car accident fortified her resiliency and refueled her passion for dance.



Anthony Roth Costanzo The Metropolitan Opera

Famed opera singer Anthony Roth Costanzo speaks on adapting to the challenge of being an artist and producer over the last year.
He also delves into the challenges of dating online as a Queer man during the pandemic. During his portrait, we hear Anthony breathing, humming and harmonizing as he reflects on the relationship between his queerness and his vocal range.



Ryan Dobrin Movement Theatre Company

Ryan Dobrin, a Producing Artistic Leader of The Movement Theatre, speaks on the effects of processing the pandemic and how the experience of coming out connects with his work. During his portrait, Ryan's recollections overlap each other and he joyfully hums "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" by Whitney Houston.

Portrait Performers



Egyptt LaBeija BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance

Javon Egyptt / Egyptt LaBeija, from The Royal House of LaBeija, muses on how she has gotten through the pandemic as she reflects on her work as a Trans-rights activist and award-winning Pagaent Queen.



Jermaine Greaves Lincoln Center Accessibility

Jermaine Greaves, founder of Black Disabled Lives Matters and Not Like The Other Kids, recounts how the lessons of love and loss from the past year reinforced his self-determination to create positive spaces for Black and disabled people.



Milosz Grzywacz Lincoln Center Accessibility

Gotta go forward, can't go back. Milosz Grzywacz, a former Lincoln Center Greeter, expresses his love of live performance and his desire to perform. During his portrait, we hear rhythmic beat snaps and Milosz's breath.

Portrait Performers



Hahn Dae Soo Korean Cultural Center New York

Celebrated South Korean folk rock legend, Hahn Dae Soo, reflects on how he and his family came to be present here and now; and how the response to pandemic made him think of the other humanitarian crises happening around the world. Hahn Dae Soo's portrait features the undertones of sonic sounds as he joyfully speaks on the affect rock, pop and folk music of the 60s and 70s had on him.



Alphonso Horne Jazz at Lincoln Center

World-renowned jazz musician Alphonso Horne thinks on his busy life as a traveling musician pre-pandemic and how he used the pause as an opportunity for healing. During his audio portrait, Alphonso shares some of the meditations that he uses to remain present in mind; and the story of a musical he is developing about an African princess.



Lila Lomax Lincoln Center Security

What inspires you? Lila Lomax, a Lincoln Center security guard, inspired the creation of *You Are Here*. During her audio portrait, Lila hums and sings "Breathe Again," her original song. She reflects on the effects of spending the quarantine physically alone as she became even closer with her family.

Portrait Performers



Cassie Mey The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Cassie Mey, a dancer and dance historian at NYPL, ruminates on how she spent the time in quarantine practicing deep listening as a form of connection and self-care. During her portrait, Cassie recites a poem, It's Raining in Honolulu, by Joy Harjo.



Muriel Miguel Spiderwoman Theater

Muriel Miguel is a Native (Kuna/Rappahannock) theatremaker and Founding Member and Artistic Director of Spiderwoman Theater. In her portrait, Muriel speaks about her family and the importance of Native community and ancestry. Her portrait also speaks to the devastating impact of the pandemic on Native communities in the USA and Canada. Muriel's portrait features lengthened moments of breath, humming, and the cacophony of birds.



Ryan Opalanietet The Eagle Project

Ryan Opalanietet, a Lenape playwright and actor, reflects on how the pause gave meaning to what really mattered to him. During his portrait, Ryan "Little Eagle" Opalanietet, recites a poem, STOP., and gives his thoughts on the importance of land acknowledgments and honoring Indigenous people and the ancestral lands that we inhabit.

Portrait Performers



Elijah Schreiner Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School

Elijah "Eli" Schreiner, a Technical Theatre teacher at LaGuardia High School, shares how contracting coronavirus made him realize the importance of life and being present. Eli recounts how a couple of humorous moments with a funeral director brought levity to him during his father's passing.



Alexandra Siladi Film at Lincoln Center

Alexandra Siladi, former Membership Manager at Film at Lincoln Center, recounts her day before the world stood still in March 2020. She reads short excerpts from a sci-fi play she conceived while in college, which centers on Meg (a human) who falls in love with Lucy (an AI) in a world destroyed by a virus. The pause encouraged Alexandra to find community by joining a writing class.



Paul Smithyman Lincoln Center Theater

Paul Smithyman, Production Manager at Lincoln Center Theater, ruminates on some of the reflections he had during the pandemic during his starlit nighttime walks. He speaks of the energy, harmony and synergy that exist in theaters and the forest, and why he resonates with both spaces.

Portrait Performers



Taylor Stanley New York City Ballet

Taylor Stanley, a dancer with New York City Ballet, retells the moment he first saw Jewels (at New York City Ballet) and the impact it had on him. He also meditates on what the last year during the pandemic has been for him.



Jen Suragiat Lincoln Center Theater

Jen Suragiat, an Executive Asisistant at Lincoln Center Theater, is a former vocalist who was extremely moved and affected by the social justice uprisings. She sings her audio portrait at times to honor the Black people who have been been killed by police and hopes for justice in their names.



KJ Takahashi The School of American Ballet

KJ Takahashi, a dancer at The School of American Ballet, reflects on how he spent his time during quarantine and how his dancing is different one year later. During his portrait, we hear KJ breathing and humming Clair De Lune by Claude Debussy.

Portrait Performers



Fatou Thiam Maxine Greene School

Poet Fatou Thiam speaks on whom she writes for: Black people. In her portrait, Fatou recites her original poem titled "Imagine," that asks listeners to envision a different world where Black people are liberated.



Susan Thomasson Lincoln Center Education

Susan Thomasson is the longest-standing staff member at Lincoln Center. In her portrait she discusses how her practice as a dancer and educator was shaped by philospher Maxine Greene and her practicing ethos of "wide-awakeness."



Gabriela Torres The Juilliard School

Gabriela Torres, a recent Juilliard graduate, speaks about being from a Mexico/USA border town and what it means to be of two countries. During the portrait, Gabriela embodies her grandmother who speaks to her in Spanish.



Valarie Wong New York-Presbyterian

ICU Nurse Valarie Wong, recounts the fears and anxieties hospital workers felt at the beginning of the pandemic and gives insight into her coping mechanisms.

Artist Statement

Andrea Miller

Concept, Choreography & Co-Direction

The Pandemic has been devastating. Our shared experience of the world has changed, daily routines upended, jobs lost, homes left behind... Humans we've known and loved, physically gone.



Most of us have felt the postponement, the dislocation, the uncertainty. Personally, art has never felt more urgent. An existential outlet. A path to ourselves and others. So much came to an end and other things began. I feel the shape of whom and what became absent more intensely. The essence of performance, art-making, my community.

Dancing together is an essential part of our social and human fabric.

Performance and Art are an immediate, unmitigated recourse for owning and giving existential and cultural meaning to our collective experiences.

Art is a path to collective significance and recognition of the communities sharing spaces.

Portraiture is a means to understanding oneself and others.

Beyond artists and audiences, there are entire unseen communities behind artmaking... moving it forward, helping it thrive... educators, volunteers, ushers, security guards, physical therapists, administrators.

Embodiment is the chance of being without reducing.

These are my fragmented thoughts on why... You Are Here.

Program Note

It has been a collective holding of breath since March 2020. A motionless impression. A pause and a stillness none of us have ever experienced.

As you wander through Lincoln Center's campus you will find sculptures draped in clothing. They evoke both movement and stillness, and house the stories, breath, and songs of New Yorkers we interviewed. 14 from all the Lincoln Center constituents (marking the first universal cross-campus collaboration in Lincoln Center's history) and 11 community participants across New York (see participant list). The sculptures are arranged across Hearst Plaza, giving the listener the opportunity to enter the space inside the breath and reflections of a portrait. The audio portraits simultaneously and synchronously deconstruct the wholeness of humans telling humans a story.

Before we engaged in our process with each of our portrait participants, the creative team of YOU ARE HERE took time to process our own journeys and emotional and psychological transformations. We discussed moments of personal affect and how at times of this pandemic we struggled to honor the gift of being present - now grateful that we are alive, mourning those we have lost. We crafted questions that would allow our portraits to be as specific and as open about the consciousness of presence. Five prompts were created to ask the portraited participants:

- Tell us a time when you knew and felt you were in your body.
- You Are Here. Tell us what that means to you.
- You Are Here. Who else is with you?
- If you could create/share a chant, mantra, song, hum to let us know you are here and present, what would it be?
- In 5 words, describe the shape of someone's absence or the absence of something meaningful to you during this time.

Program Note

Beyond the current Pandemic, YOU ARE HERE is a reflection of our shared experience as we approach a new way of being where we are and who we are.

When you sojourn through the sound installation, we hope these stories of grief, resilience, joy, hope and community support your pauses and movement: invite you to exhale ... Surround where you are... YOU ARE HERE.

Once the sound installation completes, the audio portraits evolve into live performance. After a year in which our connection has been mediated by technology we return to embodiment — to witnessing each other by stirring the alchemy of live presence and movement, singing and dancing with strangers.

YOU ARE HERE reminds us that there is a generous world of people, educators, security guards, ushers, volunteers, administrators, essential workers that make it possible for creatives and performers to have a platform. YOU ARE HERE recognizes this family, as it is they who make up the majority of the participants featured.

Conceived by Andrea Miller, YOU ARE HERE was inspired, in part, by Lila Lomax, who has worked 12 years as a security guard for Lincoln Center and dazzles the campus with her dancing, singing and abundant care.

- You Are Here Creative Team

Credits

Acknowledgement Notes

Jessica Chen, Cassie May, Taylor Stanley, KJ Takahashi Portrait performances choreographed by participants

Reginald Wilkins Additional Music

GALLIM Staff

Andrea Miller Founder, Artistic Director, Choreographer
Amy Handelsman Managing Director
Elysia Dawn Fundraising Director
Navarra Novy-Williams Communications and Programming Associate
Stephanie Saywell Artistic Administrative Assistant
Amanda Hameline, Hannah Firestone Grant writers
Maya Lam, Matthew Cole Interns
Scott Bercu, William Langille Accountants
Juan Rengifo Borrero Writer and You Are Here Title

Produced by THE OFFICE performing arts + film

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Credits

Production Management Boyd Design

Brendon Boyd Director
Cole Morrison Production Manager
Rob Dyrenforth Production Stage Manager
Hao Bai Assistant Sound Artist
Gabby Bekeffi Production & Wardrobe Assistant

Paper Mache Monkey Art & Design Studio Scenic Design Shop Audible Difference Inc. & Audio Inc. Performance Sound Design Charlie Martinez Portrait Recording & Mastering Engineer Recorded at OneTwoSeven NYC & Gotham Studios NYC Robbie Fairchild of boo•kay nyc Sculpture Floral Arrangements

Commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

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Credits

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Leah Johnson Executive Vice President, Chief Communications & Marketing Officer

Peter Flamm Vice President, Real Estate and Executive Director, Lincoln Center Development Project

Thank You

Special Thanks:

Joy Harjo for graciously providing permission for Cassie Mey to recite her poem "It's Raining in Honolulu"

Urie Ridgeway, of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape tribal nation, for contributing an original Lenape composition

Bruce Adolphe for his composition Chopin Dreams included in the sound installation

Chloe Golding for performing and recording Bach Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor

James J. Fenton for scenery in Elijah Schreiner's segment, originally created for LaGuardia High School of Performing Arts production of "Let the Right One In" which was canceled due to COVID-19

Reinaldo De Jesus, Mia De Jesus, Jade Hicks, Meshell Ndegeocello, Morley Shanti Kamen, Christopher Bruce, Sean Davis aka theHalfStyle and **Hao Bai** for their sonic contributions and expertise.

Francis Mercier, Jeanne Naylor, AJ Salvatore, and **Tropix** for *Treat Me Like A Lady Remix (feat. Jeanne Naylor) (AJ Salvatore & Tropix Remix)* performed by Egyptt LaBeija

Thank You

You Are Here is dedicated to the memory of Michael Rosenthal, my beloved stepfather who passed away June 24th, 2021 from cancer. You Are Here with us always Michael.

I would like to relay my heartfelt thanks to Jody Arnhold and Jim Herbert for the tremendous inspiration and support which contributed so meaningfully to the fulfillment of *You Are Here*. I am deeply honored to collaborate with and grateful to the brilliant creatives Lynsey, Mimi, Justin, Iyvon, Emily and Oana.

Tremendous thanks to Henry Timms and Clive Chang for believing in this work and to Jon Nakagawa and our friends at Lincoln Center for their hard work and endless creativity. Biggest thanks to our fearless GALLIM board chair David Parker and dedicated GALLIM Board and administrative team. *You Are Here* exists thanks to the breathtaking portrait participants and their organizations, Rachel Chanoff and magical people from THE OFFICE and each individual who brought their generosity, creativity, devotion and spirit to this idea — I am forever grateful to you.

Noa, Mateo and Raquel, you are my motivation. Ima, you are my foundation. Juanfe, you are my giant love.

- Andrea Miller

Support

The commission is supported by the Arnhold Dance Innovation Fund and is presented at Restart Stages at Lincoln Center. Restart Stages is part of the SNF-Lincoln Center Agora Initiative with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), which activates outdoor space through artistic and community initiatives that speak to our current moment and reimagines public space for a new era.

About the Arnhold Dance Innovation Fund

You Are Here is a project of Lincoln Center's Arnhold Dance Innovation Fund (ADIF), a source of support for creative, risk-taking artists who are innovating in the dance field, particularly those exploring new approaches to technology (performance and delivery platforms), community (partnering with fellow dancers and creators, sharing learnings, addressing social issues), education, and diversity.

You Are Here is made possible by Stavros Niarchos Foundation-Lincoln Center Agora Initiative and Jody and John Arnhold, Arnhold Dance Innovation Fund.

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You Are Here was created, in part, during a guest residency at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park.



RestartStages.org

#RestartStages #LincolnCenter