

DANCES FOR SOLIDARITY: Dancing Through Darkness

August 23-25
HERE Arts Center



Image by PEN America/David Barron

Dances for Solidarity works to co-create choreography with people who are incarcerated in solitary confinement and perform those movements with system-affected people on the outside. Since 2015, the project has organized collaborations with people incarcerated in prisons around the United States in tandem with our sister groups in Denver and Fort Collins, Colorado. Performances and workshops of this choreography have occurred nationwide as well as internationally in Canada and Finland. Dances for Solidarity is an effort organized by choreographer Sarah Dahnke. More information: dancesforsolidarity.org.

The choreography performed in this performance is directly sourced from *Dancing Through Darkness*, a booklet created by Dushaan Gillum. This series of shows at HERE are the first time this choreography has been performed. Since Dushaan is in solitary confinement, he is unable to view video of this performance at this time. We will be gathering artifacts of the performance to mail to him, so he can at least see evidence of his work.

If you would like to write a letter to Dushaan, he can be reached:
Dushaan Gillum #1256533
Wynne Unit
810 FM 2821
Huntsville, TX 77349

Dances for Solidarity has been generously supported by The Fellowship for Utopian Practice from Culture Push, studio residencies at Brooklyn Studios for Dance and Abrons Arts Center, an artistic residency at A Studio in the Woods in New Orleans, a 2019-20 grant from The MAP Fund, and contributions by many individual donors.



Welcome!

Thank you for coming to *Dances for Solidarity: Dancing Through Darkness*, a SubletSeries Co-Op presentation. This program provides artists with discounted space and equipment, as well as technical support.

HERE also supports the work of artists at all stages in their careers through our HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), which develops and produces the work of our 10-13 resident artists, and Visiting Artist presentations for adult and family audiences. Please check out our other performances and events at HERE.org.

Like all the work at HERE, this SubletSeries Co-Op presentation was curated based on the strength and uniqueness of the artist's vision.

We hope to see you HERE again soon.

Best,

KRISTIN MARTING
Founding Artistic Director

SUBLETSERIES CO-OP

Check out the [full line-up](#):
NOW - SEP 1

HERE SUPPORT

HERE is extremely grateful for the support and encouragement of an important group of Foundations, Corporations, Government Agencies, Elected Officials, and dedicated individuals. We would not be HERE without them.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

HERE's programming is made possible with Public Funds from: National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Office of the Mayor of New York, and Speaker Corey Johnson; The Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer; and New York State Assembly Member Deborah J. Glick. We are extremely grateful for the support and advocacy of all of our dedicated elected officials: Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten R. Gillibrand, Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee of the City Council, and State Senator Brad M. Hoyman.

PRIVATE AND CORPORATE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

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HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation's National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowlRound. HERE is a proud member of the Hudson Sq Connection & Lower Manhattan Arts League & The National Opera America Center & TCS.

Choreographed by **Dushaan Gillum and performers**

Performed by **Christina Colon, Benjamin Hake, Hasson Harris, and Milton Jones**

Music by **Rena Anawke**

Lighting Designer **Rachel Szymanski**

Stage Manager **Matt Hunter**

Directed by **Sarah Dahnke**

Rehearsal Assistant **Sarah Pope**

House Manager **Charles Moore**

Production Assistant **Loyal**

Performer and Choreographer Bios:

My name is **Christina Colon**. I am a mother of four. I love spending time with my family and laughing a lot. I enjoy acting and dancing in my spare time. I am happily engaged. I am looking forward to more exciting projects.

This is the third work choreographed by **Dushaan Gillum** with Dances for Solidarity. Previous credits include *Going Forward with Gus*, a collaboration with PEN America and *Dances for Solidarity: New Orleans*. He is also a prolific poet and writer.

Benji Hake: 30-year-old Midwestern New Yorker with a background in TV/Film, theater, and 2 State bids. Moderate Liberal, Feminist, single, and choreographed dance virgin. Likes *The Newsroom*, *Stranger Things*, *Game of Thrones*, and iHeartRadio's Elvis Duran and the Z100 Morning Show.

My name is **Hasson “Dizzy” Harris**. I am a 21-year-old father, lyricist and improvisational actor. I have been making music since I was 9-years-old, and I’ve gotten better with time. I acquired my nickname/alias as an adolescent in my neighborhood.

Milton Jones: If complete demise is the ultimate cost of an at-risk street youth who ran away from a dysfunctional broken home for the first time at 10 and was homeless by 14 (influenced by the wrong people, places and things), then the years and years I spent in prison, are a close second. But on the inside I finally got it right. I found my true calling: the performing arts. In 2008 I joined Rehabilitation Through the

Arts (RTA) founded by Katherine Vockins, and I've been dancing or acting ever since. Credits: Susan Slotnick's, *Figures In Flight Five*; *Plays: Starting Over; Bullpen* by Dennis Watlington; *Twelve Angry Men*; Abridged staged reading of August Wilson's *Fences*; *Fade*. Wrote an interpretation of two Edward Hopper paintings; Female Acting mentors: Arin Arbus and Shawn Fischer

Special Thanks: Maria Cobb, Eva Cruz, Grey Cottun, Patrick Vassel, Jecoina Vinson, and the staff at HERE