

vTDIF2021

INFORMATION PACKET



dance classes
artist workshop
livestream concert
virtual jam

OCTOBER 9, 2021

\$20* SIGN UP AT:
tdif.dance/register
*early registration rate



Department of Dance
COLLEGE OF ARTS & MEDIA
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

\$20 Early Registration until 9/30
\$30 Late Registration starts 10/1

IMPORTANT

before the festival

Register online at tdif.dance/register. **Check your email** for links to access the virtual festival platform.

during the festival

Practice personal safety at all times. Sam Houston State University Department of Dance and the instructors of the Virtual Texas Dance Improvisation Festival 2021 stress that students should participate with caution when it comes to their abilities and surroundings to ensure their health and safety. The University, its employees and TDIF are not liable for any accidents or injuries students may sustain while taking part in the festival classes. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure their space is safe and adequate for movement.

No one knows their body more than the individual participant. If there are any known injuries or movements that the individual is not capable of performing, it is expected that the individual will know how to best adjust and take care of themselves.

By registering for this event, each participant agrees to waive any claims of liability for the duration of or as a result of the vTDIF 2021.

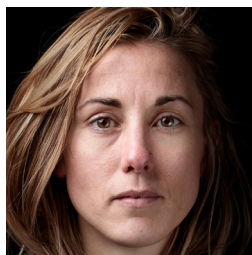
Netiquette: This festival, the classes and all workshops are a safe and sacred space. Anything that is shared is part of an educational process and should be treated with the utmost respect. We will NOT share videos/lectures/assignments on social media or any public platforms. We expect the same from all participants unless the only person in the image or video recording is yourself and no one else is in the frame.

Please follow the golden rule and always be polite, respectful and professional when interacting with one another throughout the event. Whether spoken or typed, we expect that your communication will always be exemplary. Represent yourself well at all times, just as you would in any face to face situation. Always be truthful and accurate in your interactions and we ask that you limit the use of slang, emoticons and any profanity. Refrain from using sarcasm, rudeness and ALL CAPS as written words can easily be misinterpreted as they lack nonverbals.

2021 festival leadership



Sarah Gamblin
TDIF Coordinator



Adele Nickel
SHSU Faculty
& 2021 host



Erika Record-Sparks
TDIF Admin

contact

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SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 9th, 2021

Time (CST: Central Standard Time)	Event (all are hosted via SHSU's online platform)
8:00 AM - 8:30 AM CST	Check-In
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM CST	Virtual Opening Circle
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM CST	THE POSTHUMAN BODY Paulina Colmenares GLOW FLOW Jocelyn Perez UNDERSTANDING PLACE THROUGH IMPROVISATIONAL STRUCTURES Brandin Steffensen FOLDING/UNFURLING DIMENSIONS IN SPACE/IN SELF zap:::mcconnell
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM CST	Break
11:15 AM - 1:15 PM CST	SHAPING AT THE POINT OF UTTERANCE Anna Brown Massey PRACTICING GRIEF Rebekah Chappell TOYS & MAKE-BELIEVE FOR IMPROVISATION Amy Chavasse & Paty Lorena Solorzano SELF-PRODUCING EXPERIMENTAL WORKS OF DANCE AND THEATRE Danielle Georgiou & Justin Locklear
1:15PM - 2:00 PM CST	Break
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM CST	Guest Artist Workshop STAR PŪ METHOD ~ IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EVERYTHING Larissa Velez-Jackson
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM CST	Break
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM CST	Livestream Concert
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM CST	Break
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM CST	Virtual Jam
Hosted by SHSU Department of Dance	



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Schedule subject to change.
 Visit www.tdif.dance for most recent information.

GUEST ARTIST



Larissa Velez-Jackson

Larissa Velez-Jackson is a choreographer, interdisciplinary artist, performer and teacher who uses improvisation as a main tool for research and creation, focusing on personhood and the dancing/sound-making body. She employs a deep humor to grant audiences universal access to contemporary art's critical discourse. Of her first, solo, critically acclaimed show at Danspace Project (2010), the New York Times said, "Ms. Velez-Jackson demonstrates her own formidable presence as she bursts into the space... A choreographer who is not afraid of being (or showing) ugly onstage, she disarms her audiences with humor...." In 2011, she launched a song-and-dance collaboration with her husband, Jon Velez-Jackson, called Yackez, "The World's Most Loveable Musical Duo." Yackez presented a two-act world premiere at New York Live Arts in March 2017, entitled "Give It To You Stage." For more info on Yackez visit www.yackez.com. She is also the Artistic Director of her project-based company, LVJ Performance Co.

Velez-Jackson's works have been curated internationally in Mexico City, Mexico and Madrid, Spain. Her works have been performed widely in New York City, including The Bushwick Starr, The Chocolate Factory, Roulette, Museum of Art and Design, Danspace Project, New Museum, American Realness Festival at Abrons Arts Center, and Martin E Segal Theater. In May 2014, LVJ performed an exciting mobile outdoor work, S.P.E.D. THE BX, with the support of Bronx non-profit, Papatian and Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education. S.P.E.D. THE BX was a durational site-specific work that culminated for an audience of 70 children and BRONXNET cable television. Later in 2014, LVJ premiered "Star Crap Method" at Chocolate Factory Theater. The piece was the culmination of three years of studio and stage research in LVJ's improvisational performance methodology for a cast of four people. The piece also featured lighting designer Kathy Kaufmann's improvised lighting design for each performance. Talya Epstein, a member of the cast, was nominated for a 2015 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" award for her performance in "Star Crap Method".

Velez-Jackson was a Movement Research Artist-in-Residence (2012-2013), a Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide artist-in-residence with the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (2013), an El Museo Del Barrio Artist in Residence (2014-2015), a Live Feed artist-in-residence at New York Live Arts (2015-2016). In 2012 she attended the danceWEB Scholarship Program of Impulstanz Festival in Vienna, Austria with the support of a Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Grant.

Velez-Jackson is a passionate teacher of mind/body wellness and fitness classes, working at 92 St Y and West Side YMCA in New York City for fifteen years, specializing in the older adult population. Larissa's private teaching includes Pilates, functional and corrective exercise and Gentle Rasa Yoga. Her recent choreographic works, "Give It To You Stage" with Yackez and her "Zapatografía/Shoography" at Bushwick Starr incorporated a cast of senior dance-exercisers. The latter featured members from the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council (RBSCC). With the support of Henry Street Settlement (HSS) and an AirSpace residency at Abrons arts Center, LVJ restaged "Zapatografía/Shoography" in December 2018 at Abrons Arts Center with seniors from HSS and the original cast from RBSCC.

The year 2016, Velez-Jackson's tenth year of making experimental dance, fulfilled the famous Martha Graham adage "it takes ten years to make a dancer," or in this case a choreographer. In 2016, LVJ was awarded the prestigious Foundation for Contemporary Art's "Grant to Artists" award, The Award (mentoring initiative 2016-2017), a Gibney Dance Center DIP residency, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Process Space residency (for Yackez), Mount Tremper Arts Watershed residency (for Yackez), and was nominated for a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer. After which she was a choreographic Artist in Residence at the historic Harkness Dance Center at 92Y from 2017-18. She has been a Movement Research Artist in Residence from 2018-2020 and prepares for a new commission with the Chocolate Factory Theater in 2021, researching self and community care and healing through her newly named Star Pû Method (f.k.a Star Crap Method). This new work for LVJ Performance Co. is also supported by the Shonberg Fellowship at The Yard in Martha's Vineyard.

CLASSES



Star Pû Method ~ In Partnership with Everything

Larissa Velez-Jackson

A movement, vocal sounding, and speaking practice for dancers researched and formulated in the choreographic work of Larissa Velez-Jackson. Participants will exercise their creative personal power, humor and joy through a listening approach to their movement dynamics and the full instrument of their body (which includes their breath and sound). Participants will create from all of the information freely given from their body in any given moment. Here we practice being in partnership with Self, place, our training, history/herstory, skill, failure, each other... everything.



THE POSTHUMAN BODY

Paulina Colmenares

The posthuman body seeks emergent qualities rather than stable ones. It is not singular and defined but rather complex, fluid ambiguous and contradictory. Key to this movement/making dynamic directed practice is to cultivate the ability of the body to fluidly shift perspectives, forms and states through the exploration of multilayered improvisational scores, as well as the exploration of improvisation in a relationship of reciprocity with it's conventional "opposite", set movement. We will strive to escape polaric and dicotomous thinking to instead achieve metasatable performative qualities; that is, qualities or states in potential; like melting solids, freezing liquids or condensing gases; focusing on the process of becoming itself rather than in the specific thing that we are "becoming". Through these explorations and their accomodating and implicate failures, we will gain access to creative modalities of endless possibility and endless transformation.



GLOW FLOW

Jocelyn Perez

This class is designed to guide movers through a movement practice of introspection while witnessing others. This virtual format will allow the individuals in the group to see and be seen. A virtual or physical writing tool will be needed to journal throughout the practice. Let's find a flow for your inner glow to surface.



UNDERSTANDING PLACE THROUGH IMPROVISATIONAL STRUCTURES

Brandin Steffensen

In this class we will build improvisational structures together that inform how we make decisions and then use those structures to discover sites around the studio (or outdoor sites, weather permitting). Our site specific investigations will serve as the basis for understanding how we relate to each other in public spaces. We will consider how we can use this understanding in performance settings.

CLASSES



FOLDING/UNFURLING DIMENSIONS IN SPACE/IN SELF zap:::mcconnell

Utilizing spontaneity inspired by the structure of space we currently inhabit, we will explore twining activities aiming to bind us to each other's actions, through the ether/digital ecosystems. unraveling space through investigations of embodied anatomy and imagination, participants will telescope in and out towards the group and their own domain, finding the facial thread between making and allowing. what kind of altered state arrives into our cellular structure as we connect to being present within the play of improvisation? how do we discover visceral experience through our senses in dialogue with the screen? in what way is this resistance?



SHAPING AT THE POINT OF UTTERANCE Anna Brown Massey

In conversation, we shape at the point of utterance while taking parallel leaps of interest. How like spontaneous speech can we correspond, arrive, and diverge in dance? In this session we'll witness how form arises in language to discover moving momentum with others. We will tend the tone, weight, and musicality of our compositional rhythms. In a year of grief, fear, and isolation, we will go towards the intimacy of building something new, together.

* *"shaping at the point of utterance" attributed to James Britton*



PRACTICING GRIEF Rebekah Chappell

I write this in June 2021, sixteen months into a global pandemic. I have been sitting with grief, practicing alone, yet together - layers of support manifesting. This practice session will draw on the rituals that have emerged, creating a container to collectively make space for loss(es)... The unfathomable. The invisible. That which has yet to become. The expected. The pain of waiting, of yearning, of longing; the grief that comes from a hope that may never be fulfilled. Our practice will contain that which can be seen, be heard, be understood. It will also hold the inexplicable.



TOYS & MAKE-BELIEVE FOR IMPROVISATION Amy Chavasse & Paty Lorena Solorzano

In each of our spaces, we are surrounded by objects that give us possibilities for play, creativity and poetry. In this workshop, participants will employ the use of toys, mirrors and other objects at their disposal to explore the relationship between the body/object and each other across screens. We will begin with a warm up in our spaces, then continue with short group improvisation structures that employ the limitations of the zoom platform and our selected toys as tools for generating images and narrative.



CLASSES



SELF-PRODUCING EXPERIMENTAL WORKS OF DANCE AND THEATRE

Danielle Georgiou & Justin Locklear

This class outlines our preparation and production process for creating an original work of dance theatre and self-producing said work. We will offer our methodology, writing practices, and both rehearsal and performance processes. We will share the ways in which we engage with venues, festivals, producers, and community members.

Everyone's work comes from a different place in their artistic journey and we want to give everyone in the class an opportunity to trace the steps of a small self-producing organization that has produced over 50 new works of dance theatre and site-specific installations in 10 years.