

# MOVING THE BALLOT

PROGRAM

MEENMOVES &  
GUESTS

NOVEMBER 2, 2024 | 7:00 PM

92NY HARKNESS DANCE CENTER

# PROGRAM

## *Moving the Ballot*

### by MeenMoves & Guests

Directed & Conceptualized by Sameena Mitta

Lighting Design by Cassie Dietrich

Harkness Dance Center Production Manager: Louise Brownsberger

### **WHO ARE THE PEOPLE**

Excerpt. William H Taft. 1912

Retrieved from the Library of Congress

Recording edited by Mark Trumbo

### **BHANGRA BEATS**

José Martí STEM Academy | Instructor: Melissa Gaul

Choreography by Kruti Shah

Recording edited by Kruti Shah

Performed by Ediel Abreu, Leslie Arriaza, Valentina Garcia, Jislannie Gomez, Melanie Jacomino, Savira Kratochvil, Samantha Lopez, Emma Lugo, Silvana Ramirez, Deborah Reyes, Christopher Torres, Sophia Torres

*Bhangra Beats embodies and celebrates unity and inclusivity. Dance serves as a vibrant expression of the diverse identities within our communities and highlights the shared values that bring us together. These principles are essential to a thriving democracy and align seamlessly with the act of engaging in the electoral process.*

## **MY QUADRENNIA MONOLOGUE I**

MeenMoves and Marymount Manhattan College | Instructor: Sameena Mitta

Choreography by MMC Students

Monologue written by Margaux Nicolas

Text edit by Emma Harzem

Performed by Aspen Aragon, Aveyrey Bartle, Nicholas Coscarart, Kalliyan Johnson, Margaux Nicolas, Anita Macagno

## **EXCERPT FROM OUR OWN AMERICAN DOCUMENT**

Teens@Graham | Instructor: Johnnie Mercer Cruise

Choreography by Teens@Graham Students

Performed by Thaleia Chan-Miller, Naomi Fowler, Aisling Joyce, Rebecca McNeil, Kai Misra-Stone, Salvador Peña Nissenblatt, Brianna Ruiz

*Our Own American Document is a collaborative creative project inspired by Martha Graham's American Document, which premiered in 1938. In response to the rise of fascism in Europe and the "vile words coming across the water," Graham wove excerpts from essential American texts into a dance about democracy and the American identity. Little video remains of Graham's original choreography, but her themes resonate anew within today's conversations about race, gender, nationalism and how we each see ourselves and our personal legacies as part of the evolving American story.*

## **FUN FACTS**

MeenMoves and Marymount Manhattan College | Instructor: Sameena Mitta

Concept by Sameena Mitta

Performed by students from Marymount Manhattan College

## **WASTE MY TIME**

Recanati-Kaplan Program for Excellence in the Arts at 92NY Harkness Dance Center

Instructor: Sameena Mitta

Choreography by Angelina Kwan and Jesse Uppal

Music composed and performed by Gracie Duggan

Performed by Peace Akinoye, Angelina Alejo, Mikaylah Arce, Julia Chin, Seine Cabral, Rafael Garay, Lalitha Gowtham, Angelina Kwan, Audrey O'Neill, Tessa Slyz, Jesse Uppal

*"Waste My Time" is a piece highlighting the perspectives of the youth. The original composition and choreography reflect the frustrations of those who cannot yet vote, but desire to make their voices heard. In this monumental election year, it is essential to recognize the passion of these young individuals and their capacity to influence change.*

## **MY QUADRENNIA MONOLOGUE II**

MeenMoves and Marymount Manhattan College | Instructor: Sameena Mitta

Choreography by MMC Students

Monologue written by Keara Gonzalez

Text edit by Emma Harzem

Performed by Keara Gonzalez and Iris Tang

## **1844**

Marymount Manhattan College | Instructor: Sameena Mitta

Choreography by Sameena Mitta with Liv Hernandez, Madison Brice, Mandi Loughran,

Morgan Baker, Adam Cico, Catherine Mills, Caitlyn Zaniewski

Music: "Clay and Frelinghuysen" (1844) by Oscar Brand

Performed by Hattie Greene, Owen Lunsford, Madison Burns, Emily O'Neil, Ava Bagan, Sydney Cullen, Sophia Greene, Nicholas Coscart, Carla Smith, JK Smith

## **MY QUADRENNIA MONOLOGUE III**

MeenMoves, Marymount Manhattan College, and Recanati-Kaplan Program for Excellence  
in the Arts at 92NY Harkness Dance Center | Instructor: Sameena Mitta

Choreography by Students

Monologue written by Averej Bartley

Text edit by Emma Harzem

Performed by (MeenMoves) Karma Chuki, Chelsea Enjer Hecht, Paulina Meneses, Mark Willis; (Marymount Manhattan College) Aspen Aragon, Averej Bartley, Nicholas Coscarart, Keara Gonzalez, Kalliyann Johnson, Anita Macagno, Margaux Nicolas, Iris Tang; (Harkness Dance Center) Peace Akinoye, Angelina Alejo, Mikaylah Arce, Julia Chin, Seine Cabral, Lalitha Gowtham, Angelina Kwan, Audrey O'Neill, Tessa Slyz, Jesse Uppal

## **EXCERPTS FROM PSALM (RUNNING DANCE)**

José Limón Dance Foundation Professional Training Program (LimónPro Trainees) 2024

Choreography by José Limón

Music: Original score by Eugene Lester

Staging & Direction: Daniel Fetecua (Program Director) & Frances Samson (Faculty)

Original Lighting Design by Thomas Skelton | Original Costume Design by Pauline  
Lawrence

Costumes by Marion Williams

Performed by Psalmists: Abby Dias, Sabina Fritz, Bailey Gioino, Riley Haley, Alanna Huling, Morgan Jensen, Asta Lemvigh Jørgensen, Sundari Joseph, Ivanna Paulina Manriquez Campa, Sky Pasqual Katharina Markschat, Cara Marguerite, Valentina Monsalve, Lydia Pate, Mikayla Radermacher, Sonja Stahl

*"The choreographic treatment as I envision it would be an evocation of the heroic power of the human spirit, triumphant over death itself. The objective is to achieve dramatic power through abstract choreographic visions."*

-José Limón, from original choreographic notes

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## **MY QUADRENNIA**

MeenMoves, Marymount Manhattan College, and Recanati-Kaplan Program for Excellence  
in the Arts at 92NY Harkness Dance Center

Concept, Direction, and Choreography by Sameena Mitta

Rehearsal Assistant: Chelsea Enjer Hecht

Music composed by SlowPitchSound

Monologue written by Jasminn Johnson

Costume Design by Sarah Timberlake with additional manufacturing by Gabrielle Corrigan  
on loan from the Marymount Manhattan College Dance Department

Production Consultant: Haejin Han

Performed by (MeenMoves) Karma Chuki, Chelsea Enjer Hecht, Paulina Meneses, Mark Willis; (Marymount Manhattan College) Aspen Aragon, Averey Bartley, Nicholas Coscart, Keara Gonzalez, Kalliyann Johnson, Anita Macagno, Margaux Nicolas, Iris Tang; (Harkness Dance Center) Peace Akinoye, Angelina Alejo, Mikaylah Arce, Julia Chin, Seine Cabral, Rafael Garay, Lalitha Gowtham, Angelina Kwan, Audrey O'Neill, Tessa Slyz, Jesse Uppal

*With the COVID-19 pandemic raging, the uprisings for racial justice reverberating, and the nation more politically divided than ever, the events from the week preceding election day 2020 through inauguration day in 2021 had a profound effect upon all Americans. Throughout this period, Recanati-Kaplan Scholarship students at the 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center and company members from New York City area dance company MeenMoves recorded their reactions to these intensely charged historic events. These interviews were the source material for an intergenerational dance film that highlights the excitement, anxiety, mourning, shock and hope this diverse set of people experienced during one of the most divisive times in recent memory. My Quadrennia brings this dance film to the stage as a dance-theater work, intensified by a telling of one family's historical relationship with voting in the United States. It is a timely reminder of both the importance and fragility of the most fundamental of democratic institutions.*

# MEENMOVES BIOS



## **Sameena Mitta (Artistic Director/Choreographer)**

SAMEENA MITTA is artistic director of dance-theater company MeenMoves and its outreach program MadHops. Mitta was a 2022/23 Artist in Residence at 92NY Harkness Dance Center, a NJPAC Choreography Fellow 2019-2022, and received a 2023 Choreographic Fellowship award from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. She has presented works at Little Island, 92NY, NJPAC, BAM Fisher, Americas Society, Ailey Studio Theatre, Martha Graham Theatre, Judson Church and many other venues around NYC and around the world. Mitta has produced live events including International Women's Day of Dance and co-produced international digital events with 1014 Space For Ideas. Mitta recently completed an intergenerational dance film Bilateral Quadrennium and continues work on a 10-year site-specific dance film project Struwwelpeter. Mitta earned with distinction the Cecchetti Society's Diploma and a MA in Dance Creation from Université du Québec à Montréal focusing on Movement Intervention for South Asian survivors of domestic violence. Under Mitta's artistic direction, MeenMoves explores questions of identity, focusing on the unique perspectives of those who check "none-of-the-above", to create socially relevant, quirky, highly-technical dance-theater works for stage and film. Mitta advocates for diversity in dance and has sat on multiple dance juries for granting agencies in Canada and the USA. Mitta is mentor to the Recanati-Kaplan scholars in dance, she is the Harkness Dance Center Artistic Advisor, and she is on faculty at the Limón Institute, 92NY, and Marymount College. Website: [meenmoves.com](http://meenmoves.com)



## **Karma Chuki (Performer)**

KARMA CHUKI was born and raised in Thimphu, Bhutan. Chuki is a dancer with New York city based, Dance Entropy/ Valerie Green, MeenMoves, Sandsilk Dance Co/Elisabetta Minutoli, dancer with Rovaco Dance company and apprentices with Oui Danse/Brice Mousset. Karma trained under The Danceworx Performing Arts Academy since 2012 and later became one of the principal dancers of India's leading touring contemporary company, Navdhara India Dance Theatre.

# MEENMOVES BIOS



## **Chelsea Enjer Hecht (Performer)**

CHELSEA ENJER HECHT (she/they) is a Brooklyn based dance artist and licensed massage therapist with roots in Minnesota and Mongolia. She graduated from Purchase College (a State University of New York) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance performance and Minor in arts management, then Pacific College of Health and Science. They have enjoyed performing and improvising in fashion, films and installations in addition to the stage, most recently with Rachel Gill, POGO Dance, MeenMoves, Amber Sloan, and Megan Williams. She has created and presented work collaboratively at Chen Dance Center, West End Theatre, Fort Greene Park, and Arts on Site, and has guest taught for Midday Movement in Boston and Peridance in Manhattan. Chelsea is interested in how emotions live in the body, and loves to improvise. They would prefer to dance outside for the rest of their days.



## **Pauline Meneses (Performer)**

PAULINA MENESES (she/they) is a Filipino-American dancer hailing from Las Vegas, NV, and a graduate of SUNY Purchase with a BFA in Dance and minor in Arts Management. During her time in college, she performed works by Shannon Gillen, Kimberly Bartosik, Xan Burley, Alexandra Beller, and Trisha Brown. Now based in New York City, they have worked with esteemed artists including Doug Varone and Dancers, Dylan Crossman, Hannah Garner's 2nd Best Dance Company, Johnnie Cruise Mercer, and Kyle Abraham on his New York City Ballet premiere, "The Runaway." In addition to MeenMoves, Paulina currently collaborates and dances for Peter Stathas, Marie Paspé, and Julia Antinozzi.



# MEENMOVES BIOS



## **Mark Willis (Performer)**

MARK WILLIS is a freelance artist from NYC. He received his B.F.A in Dance from Montclair State University where he was the recipient of Jeanne Wade Henningburg Scholarship and Spirit of Dance Award. Mark has worked with companies such as The José Limón Dance Company, WHITEWAVE Dance, Jody Oberfelder, Douglas Dunn & Dancers, Christina Noel & The Creature, among others. He has taught and performed in the US, Mexico, Canada, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. He has been guest faculty at Montclair State University and has taught at The University of Wyoming, Detroit Dance Festival, Gibney Dance, Chung-Ang University, Ningbo Culture and Arts Training Center among others. His other interests include choreographing, composing, singing, and playing the trumpet.



## **Paige Barnett Kulbeth (Administrative Associate)**

PAIGE BARNETT KULBETH is a Louisiana/NYC-based dancer and artist from Lafayette, LA, where she graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering in 2017. Paige's artistic endeavors include her self-produced works which experiment with women's gender consciousness: CAMGIRL, a live-streamed and ongoing look into the feminine performer's psyche, and A Song of Visions, an opera which received grants from South Arts, Louisiana Consolidated Government, the City of Washington, and Acadiana Center from the Arts, and Holy Animals, a live dance and music show based on the women of Dante's Divine Comedy. Once in NYC, Paige danced for the Marc Jacobs Spring 2020 Fashion Show under Karole Armitage, Christina Noel & The Creature, MeenMoves, and Dance Heginbotham. Notable performance venues include Jacob's Pillow, San Diego Music Society Festival, Scottsdale Arts, The Ringling Museum, Park Avenue Armory, Little Island, Bryant Park, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

[www.paigebarnettkulbeth.com](http://www.paigebarnettkulbeth.com)

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

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Manalo

Mark Trumbo for your support and assistance in the creative process for this project  
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All of the dedicated educators who offer their students the opportunity to share  
their voices

All of the students for being brave and shining a bright light on the future