



A contemporary artist residency, dance and performance center,
for Martha's Vineyard and beyond

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THE YARD ANNOUNCES 2021 WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS

[January 26, 2021] — (Chilmark, Massachusetts) The Yard is excited to announce upcoming 2021 winter and spring programs, including artist residencies and virtual family-friendly events. In the wake of cancelling the 2020 summer Yard Arts season, the organization has been devising ways to continue dance creation, performance, and education with a COVID-19 perspective. The Yard remains steadfast in its commitment to support artists in their creative process, and the organization has shifted their models to meet the current moment.

This year, The Yard is offering residencies to some artists in their home communities, which span from coast to coast. The lineup includes Yard alumni and newcomers alike whose work explores the intersection between art forms, resulting in a dynamic mix of experiences for audiences. The organization is honored to continue multiyear relationships with some artists, as well as to raise exposure for artists that are new to The Yard.

What to expect at a glance:

- On-island and remote residencies to support the development of new artistic works with in-person and virtual outcomes
- Artist-led workshops open to all ages and abilities
- Virtual family-friendly programming, spanning many presentation formats from film to live performance to lecture-demonstration

The Yard staff will provide on-the-ground and virtual support to artists throughout their residencies and engagements. A comprehensive COVID-19 safety protocol has been developed for the safety of staff, artists, and audiences. This is the first winter/spring program under leadership of new Executive Director Chloe Jones, after David R. White stepped down as Artistic Director and Executive Producer in September.

"This winter and spring, The Yard is expanding our family-friendly programming and restarting our artist residency program after the cancellations caused by COVID-19. The artists in our winter and spring lineup are a source of light in what continue to be dark times. We are honored to work with them and thrilled to connect them with our community on Martha's Vineyard and—through new virtual programming—audience members off island." —Chloe Jones, Yard Executive Director.

All programs in the 2021 winter/spring season will be ticketed on a pay-what-you-can basis. This will be the first year where all artistic programs in the season are offered at no cost to the audience. Reservations are open for The Gottabees' ScreenPLAY! series (visit

dancetheyard.org/screenplay); details and information about how to register for the other events will be coming soon.

2021 Winter/Spring Artist Residency Programs

7NMS|Everett Saunders + Marjani Forté-Saunders

#SatelliteResidency from Pasadena, CA, February 15 - 27

Virtual Work-In-Process Showing on Saturday, February 27, 5:00pm EST

7NMS|Everett Saunders + Marjani Forté-Saunders is the work of collaborative music and dance duo Everett Saunders and Marjani Forté-Saunders, now operating bi-coastally (Pasadena, CA and New York, NY). They are students and descendants of black liberation movements, and radically engage music and dance forms as alchemic mediums of elevation, healing, and futurity. Everett's work as a composer/sound designer include projects with violinist Juliette Jones, award-winning filmmaker and screenwriter Damon Colquouhoun, Sony Music and the internationally renowned Urban Bush Women. Marjani is a three-time Bessie award-winning choreographer and performer. She is an Inaugural recipient of the Jerome Artist Fellowship, Dance USA Fellowship, the UBW Choreographic Center Fellowships and a two-time Princess Grace Foundation awardee. Her work has been incubated in residencies at MANCC, LMCC Extended Life Residency, BAX, CUNY Dance Initiative, 651 Arts, and Movement Research.

7NMS' *#SatelliteResidencies* is an artist-grafted incubation program that engages artists' networks and intelligences to support off-site creative processes and presentations. The 7NMS *#SatelliteResidency* with The Yard is the fourth in a year-long pilot of this program. Starting in Fall 2020, 7NMS began incubating their latest work, *PROPHET*, from their newly erected home studios, in partnership with presenting and development organizations: Abrons Arts Center, Kelly Strayhorn Theatre, and Brooklyn Academy of Music. In the unprecedented climate of COVID-19, they are taking bold strides towards a resuscitation and fueling of radical art making and innovative critical thinking.

There will be a virtual, work-in-process showing of *PROPHET* on Saturday, February 27 at 5:00pm EST; details on how to register TBA.

Music from the Sole

In Residence Remotely from New York City, NY, March 1 - 7

Virtual Community Workshop on Saturday, March 6, 3:00pm EST

Music From The Sole is a tap dance and live music company that celebrates tap's Afro-diasporic roots, particularly its connections to Afro-Brazilian dance and music, and its lineage to forms like house dance and passinho (Brazilian funk). Led by Brazilian choreographer Leonardo Sandoval and by composer Gregory Richardson, their work embraces tap's unique nature as a blend of sound and movement, incorporating wide-ranging influences like samba, passinho, Afro-Cuban, jazz, and house.

The company will be further developing *Partido*, a piece created and presented first at The Yard in 2019. *Partido* explores the convergence of percussive dance with contemporary urban styles in African-American and Afro-Brazilian culture. Initially spurred by Leonardo Sandoval's experience as an Afro-Brazilian immigrant in the United States, the piece celebrates and highlights the deep connections between music and dance of African origin in Brazil and the US, linking styles like samba and house dance through shared rhythms and footwork, and placing these styles within the wider context of the African diaspora.

Join Music from the Sole on Saturday, March 6 at 3:00pm EST for a Virtual Community Workshop on *Brazilian Rhythms*. Leonardo Sandoval and Gregory Richardson use body percussion to introduce participants to some of the most common Brazilian claves (rhythmic patterns), like samba, maracatú, bossa nova, and more. Participants will learn various rhythm combos derived from these claves and build a poly-rhythmic piece, accompanied by Greg's bass playing. This class will be taught bilingually in English and Portuguese. All ages and levels are welcome to attend. Details on how to register TBA.

LaTasha Barnes & Caleb Teicher

In Residence in Edgartown, MA, March 22 - 31, In partnership with Slough Farm Foundation
In-person showings at Slough Farm on Friday, March 26 and Saturday, 27, times TBA
Virtual Community Workshop on Saturday, March 27, 3:00pm EST

The Yard welcomes LaTasha Barnes and Caleb Teicher in late March for a ten-day residency as individual artists in Slough Farm's movement studio. The duo, both frequent collaborators with Dorrance Dance, bring their respective wealth of talents to focus on solo work and some creation together. **There are two chances to catch in-person, outdoor, and socially distanced showings of their works in progress at Slough Farm on Friday, March 26 and Saturday, March 27 (times and details TBA).**

LaTasha Barnes is an internationally awarded dancer and Tradition-bearer of Black Social Dance forms. Her expansive skills have made her a frequent collaborator to dance organizations throughout the world. Barnes also serves as Chair of Board of Trustees for Ladies of Hip-Hop Festival, Board Member for Black Lindy Hoppers Fund, Frankie Manning Foundation, Co-Director of HellaBlackLindyHop and contributing member to NEFER Global Movement Collective. Her crafted Master's in Ethnochoreology, Black Studies and Performance Studies through New York University Gallatin School (2019), aims to bridge the gap between communities of practice and academic cultural dance research. Barnes' forever purpose is to inspire fellow artists and arts enthusiasts to the mantle of activism in their creative expressions and daily lives.

Caleb Teicher is a NYC-based dancer and choreographer specializing in musically-driven dance traditions and interdisciplinary collaboration. He began as an acclaimed tap dancer with Dorrance Dance in 2011 and has received critical acclaim for their work as a freelance dancer in Lindy Hop, Vernacular Jazz, Musical Theater, and Percussive Dance. Since founding Caleb Teicher & Company (CT&Co) in 2015, Teicher's creative work has expanded to engagements and commissions across the US and abroad including The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, the Guggenheim Museum (NYC and Bilbao), Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and Lincoln Center Out of Doors. Caleb is the recipient of a 2019 New York City Center Choreographic Fellowship, two Bessie Awards, a 2019 Harkness Promise Award, and a 2019 NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant. Their work has been featured by The New York Times, NPR, Forbes, Vogue, Interview Magazine, on the cover of Dance Magazine and, most recently, on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert alongside Regina Spektor.

Join LaTasha and Caleb on Saturday, March 27 at 3:00pm EST for a Virtual Community Workshop on Solo Jazz. Geared towards intermediate-level dancers of all ages with experience in Vernacular Jazz, this class will explore the vocabulary and values of authentic solo movement to jazz music. Everyone is welcome to join in. Details on how to register TBA.

2021 Winter/Spring Family-Friendly Programs

The Gottabees

ScreenPLAY!

How to Charm a Sea Monster: Saturday, February 6, 3:00pm EST

Race Through the Snow: Saturday, February 13, 3:00pm EST

What We Found in the Forest: Saturday, February 20, 3:00pm EST

Look Up: A Hot Air Balloon Adventure: Saturday, February 27, 3:00pm EST

Bonnie Duncan and The Gottabees return to The Yard for four virtual screenings of ScreenPLAY! ScreenPLAY! is non-stop interactive FUN, where your whole family becomes part of the story over ZOOM. We explore movement, puppetry, theater, and the irresistible power of being ridiculous. ScreenPLAY! allows you to channel your household's creativity into an inspiring work of participatory art. It's really fun and exciting...but a little hard to describe until you've given it a try.

How to Charm a Sea Monster

Ever wondered what the bottom of the sea is like? Join Bonnie as you dive deep into an ocean in your living room, surrounded by creatures both friendly and dramatic. Hopefully, magic will prevail as we are tested to our limits by a curious Sea Monster.

Race through the Snow

Join Bonnie on a chilly adventure to the arctic where you'll feel as small as a spoon amongst ice cliffs, icebergs, and snow caves. Beware of the Penguins: they give terrible advice.

What We Found in the Forest

They always said, DON'T GO INTO THE DARK FOREST. But today, we're doing it anyway! Thankfully we have a trusty guide to help us navigate our way to safety, past fast-growing ivy, some very hungry bugs and a curious moose.

Look Up: a Hot Air Balloon Adventure

Join Bonnie on an almost-true story from her childhood about hot air ballooning. You'll float among the clouds, learn how to pilot a balloon, and attempt to harness the wind. You might even have breakfast with a baby dragon, if you're lucky.

Reserve your spot today at dancetheyard.org/screenplay

The Gottabees are a Boston-based ensemble dedicated to creating inspirational, engaging, and empowering theater for family audiences. The company is known internationally for uniting simple-but-elegant visual theater with astonishing technique. They apply their interdisciplinary training in music, dance, acrobatics, theater, and design to share original non-verbal stories set to live music that weave together human and puppet characters in surprising ways. ScreenPLAY! was developed with the generous support of Puppet Showplace Theater in Brookline, MA.

Sandglass Theater

Rock the Boat, Saturday, April 10, 3:00pm EST

Sandglass Theater returns to The Yard to present *Rock the Boat*, a puppet show for young audiences that explores themes of migration, refugees, inclusion and respectful curiosity. It aims to get young audiences thinking about relocation, displacement and the interconnectedness of racial, climate and social justice. The production addresses attitudes about acceptance of those who come from other countries and cultures, and provides a narrative in which there is room for everyone in an inclusive society.

Sandglass Theater is an internationally renowned theater company specializing in combining puppets with music, actors and visual imagery. Since 1982, the company's productions have toured to nearly 30 countries, performing in theaters, festivals and cultural institutions and winning numerous international prizes. Sandglass Theater produces works for adult audiences and young audiences—two repertoires that tour separately and together. Sandglass also performs and teaches in its own 60-seat renovated barn theater in Putney, Vermont.

More information coming soon, including details on how to register.

La Mezcla

An Afternoon with La Mezcla, Saturday, May 8, 3:00pm EST

Join La Mezcla and The Yard for an afternoon of virtual dance performances, live music and interactive movement workshops! We'll be sharing some original rhythmic Tap dance choreography, including excerpts from La Mezcla's show "Pachuquismo" and a sneak peek of new material. Then, we'll take a virtual trip to Veracruz, Mexico, where you'll learn about the traditions of Son Jarocho music, instruments and Zapateado (footwork). After you're introduced to some members of the company, it will be your turn to dance; Director Vanessa Sanchez will lead you through some rhythmic movement activities that dancers and movers of all ages can enjoy! We'll get everyone's hands and feet moving for justice.

La Mezcla is a polyrhythmic, multidisciplinary San Francisco-based dance and music ensemble rooted in Chicana, Latina and Indigenous traditions and social justice. Founded in 2014 by Vanessa Sanchez, their work brings together Tap dance, Son Jarocho and Afro-Caribbean rhythms to bring the often unseen histories and experiences of communities of color to stages, streets and fields. La Mezcla has been featured on the KQED Arts series “If Cities Could Dance” and The Lincoln Center’s “Virtual Concerts for Kids.” Their show “Pachuquismo,” an all female Tap dance and Son Jarocho performance about the Zoot Suit Riots, was featured on The Joyce Theater’s JoyceStream and is set to tour through 2022.

More information coming soon, including details on how to register.

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The Yard is a creation and performance platform for artists from around the globe, and we offer exhilarating, wide-ranging, and educational arts experiences through performances, residencies, and community activities. We present performances by international, national, and local artists; provide paid residencies for artists; offer inter-generational engagement programs and classes for our island community; and bring dance and creativity centered education programs into schools. Our community programs run year-round and can be found on The Yard’s campus and in partner locations across the island of Martha’s Vineyard. Please visit www.dancetheyard.org for more information.

SEED. GROW. REAP. REPEAT: THE NATURE OF THE YARD.

