



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

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For press images, click [here](#) to access the online photo gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE LISTING and RELEASE

June 11, 2021

## Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland In Residence at The Yard

With Preview Performances at the Martha's Vineyard Museum  
June 17 & 18, 2021

**[June 11, 2021] — (Chilmark, Massachusetts)** The Yard kicks off its 2021 summer season with Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland in residence from June 1 - June 21. Batten Bland's residency culminates in two work-in-process performances of *Embarqued: Stories of Soil*, happening outdoors at the Martha's Vineyard Museum on June 17 and 18 at 8:00pm.

Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland is an intercontinental dance-theatre company whose interdisciplinary creations for stages, spaces, and films question contemporary and historical cultural symbolism - and the complexities of human relationships.

Batten Bland came across the Martha's Vineyard African American Heritage Trail during her first residency at The Yard in 2016, and it inspired her new work. Batten Bland has conducted research on the Vineyard in the years since, including in the archives of the Martha's Vineyard Museum. The result is ***Embarqued: Stories of Soil***, an installation based dance-theater work steeped in island history.

*"I think it is always exciting to finish something that has been started,"* Bland says. *"I'm looking forward to completing this research and work that has been in development since 2017. The Yard will allow us, within a COVID context, to create indoor and outdoor iterations of this new work that explores the complex relationship that land, voyage and textiles play within African American and thus American identities."*

*Embarqued* centers around a performative shipmast that invites reflection and reveals post-colonial foundations and mythology. The work interrogates existing relationships to memorials and calls up African ancestral stories, enabling us to viscerally and holistically connect our country both forwards and backwards in space and time and through soil itself. The world premiere of *Embarqued* will take place at Duke Performances in spring of 2022.

"Stefanie Batten Bland's ability to weave together movement, material, sound, and site is truly extraordinary," says Yard Executive Director Chloe Jones. "We are honored to have supported the development of her new creation, *Embarqued*, since 2017. The work was seeded and grown in the soil of this island, and it will bloom on the front lawn of the Martha's Vineyard Museum."

For the month of June, an object from the Martha's Vineyard Museum's archives that inspired *Embarqued* will be on display in the Museum's Cox Gallery. Learn more at [mvmuseum.org](http://mvmuseum.org).

To purchase tickets and learn more, visit [dancetheyard.org](http://dancetheyard.org).

**[Performance Information:](#)**

**Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland**  
***Embarqued: Stories of Soil***

Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 8:00pm  
Friday, June 18, 2021 at 8:00pm

**Location:** Martha's Vineyard Museum  
151 Lagoon Pond Road, Vineyard Haven MA 02568

**Tickets:** \$30 Adult / \$25 Senior(65+)/Military / \$5 Youth Under 18

A new program, Yard Access, offers \$10 tickets to anyone for whom The Yard's normal ticket prices are prohibitively expensive due to economic hardship. Applications to the program and more information can be found [here](#).

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*The Yard is a Partner of the National Performance Network (NPN). This project is made possible in part by support from the NPN Artist Engagement Fund. Major contributors include the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information visit [www.npnweb.org](http://www.npnweb.org).*



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The Yard is a creation and performance platform for artists from around the globe. We offer exhilarating, wide-ranging, and educational arts experiences through performances, residencies, and community programs for all ages including in Martha's Vineyard schools. With programs on our campus in Chilmark and in partner locations across the island, we provide year-round opportunities for the Martha's Vineyard community to come together and be inspired. Please visit [www.dancetheyard.org](http://www.dancetheyard.org) for more information.

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

