New England/Now Dance Platform
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

For over 15 years, NEFA’s RDDI program has supported the advancement of contemporary dance in New England. Through partnerships with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) and Global Arts Live, our goal is to create a more hospitable environment for the creation and performance of new dance works in this region.

Performers and Collaborators

Directed and designed by Michole Biancosini

Music

Sarangi played by Ustad Sabir Khan — India
Heiko Dijker — Netherlands

Dramaturgy

Afro Surrealist Ekow Brew

Dramaturgy

Dramaturgy

Choreographer

Lida Winfield

Choreographer and Performer

Deborah Goffe in collaboration with thedden performs

Dancers

Deborah Goffe, Lauren Horn, Abena Koomson-Davis, and Chavi Bansal

Performer and Collaborator

Christa Michell, Like A Virgin by Madonna, and Fool of Me by Mechell Ndegeocello

Assistant Director

Kristin Wagner

Stage Manager

Kailey Bennett

Master Carpenter

Alex Hamilton

Master Electrician

Jeff Bousquet

Lighting Designer

Indira Goodwine

Audio Engineer

A Note from the RDDI: New England Now

With curating six additional New England-based performances to move towards more inclusive artist and audience representation and participation, artist cohort of 12 were tasked to develop site-specific performances in three New England cities with a goal of raising the cultural profile of contemporary dance in the region.

It is our desire to leverage the RDDI experience with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) and Global Arts Live to support the development of the New England dance community to a self-aware, resilient, and inclusive community one that recognizes the cultural contributions of and creates space for historically marginalized artists and audiences.

We invite you to join us in cultivating equitable relationships. Whether you are joining us for one performance or the full weekend, we appreciate your support of New England dance. Lastly, a huge thank you to Cheri Bridge, an in-process performance project with an anticipated opening in May 2022, and Shey Rivera, whose invaluable efforts helped support the overall RDDI: New England Now presentation and New England–based dance makers.

NEFA understands that the role of regional funds is to recognize that creating a culture of abundance requires more sharing, more support, where we can share live dance performances and more opportunities. Thus, the RDDI: New England Now is as essential for transformative growth as their artistic prowess. We see their creative practices amplify collective action and responsibility.

While the original design of RDDI: New England Now was to support 12 artists, we recognized that creating a culture of abundance that celebrates dance artists to share their work and perspectives is as essential for transformative growth as their artistic prowess. We see their creative practices amplify collective action and responsibility.

“Unsuturing” grows out of the development of “Liturgy | Order | THE ARTS, GLOBAL ARTS LIVE, AND THE TOUCHED BY WATER (EXCERPT)

Video editors

You are invited to join us in cultivating equitable relationships. Whether you are joining us for one performance or the full weekend, we appreciate your support of New England dance. Lastly, a huge thank you to Cheri Bridge, an in-process performance project with an anticipated opening in May 2022, and Shey Rivera, whose invaluable efforts helped support the overall RDDI: New England Now presentation and New England–based dance makers.

It is our desire to leverage the RDDI experience with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) and Global Arts Live to support the development of the New England dance community to a self-aware, resilient, and inclusive community one that recognizes the cultural contributions of and creates space for historically marginalized artists and audiences.

You are invited to join us in cultivating equitable relationships. Whether you are joining us for one performance or the full weekend, we appreciate your support of New England dance. Lastly, a huge thank you to Cheri Bridge, an in-process performance project with an anticipated opening in May 2022, and Shey Rivera, whose invaluable efforts helped support the overall RDDI: New England Now presentation and New England–based dance makers.
Bessie New York Dance and Performance

Thank you, Sho, for interpreting everything!

The Yard, and Jacob's Pillow. Lida is currently working with Boston artists including Holly Stone / Stone Saheli, the Cool Rulers, and Van Davis, and is a Women's National Association of Dance (SNIC) Award recipient. She was crowned "Contemporary Artist of the Year" by the magazine "Contemporary Dancer" for her "innovative" and "energetic" approach to dance. Lida's work has been showcased at the BAM Fisher Theater, Central Square Theater, Broadway in America, and at the Boston Dance Festival. She has also performed at the New England Foundation for the Arts and the New York Dance and Performance Awards (NYDA) Foundation.

Lauren Horn is a Boston-based dance artist and choreographer. She has performed and choreographed for the Wheelock Family Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Landmarks Orchestra, and at the Boston Dance Festival. Lauren's work explores ritual, memory, and emotional states. She is a recipient of the Chair of the Dance Department at the University of Vermont and has performed with Sara Shelton Mann, FAKE Company / Kinetech Arts / Daiane Kathleen Hermesdorf, Arien Wilkerson, and many others.

Elbert Joseph is known as EJ. EJ is thrilled to have his artistic co-partner, Betsy Goldman, who is a Boston Conservatory graduate, Arien Wilkerson is Founder and Artistic Director of the NYC dance company Scapegoat Garden. In her position, she has functioned as a primary vehicle and the founder of the EMERGENCY INDEX Vol. 9 Foundation for her work and teaching at Hampshire College. Scapegoat Garden's mission is to connect, empower, and share stories through the medium of dance.

Mitzi Eppley: A Boston Conservatory graduate, Mitzi has had the privilege to study movement, theater, music, and film. Her work has been performed most recently at the Cape Ann Art Haven, CCA Gallery, and the COCA/Contemporary Dance Festival. Mitzi's work explores ritual, memory, and emotional states. She is a recipient of the Chair of the Dance Department at the University of Vermont and has performed with Sara Shelton Mann, FAKE Company / Kinetech Arts / Daiane Kathleen Hermesdorf, Arien Wilkerson, and many others.

Eva Yaa Assentawa, a Ghanaian-British playwright, has written "Women's default," a play that explores the impact of Western education on African women's lives. The play has been performed in theaters, galleries, and festivals throughout the world. Eva's work has been showcased at the BAM Fisher Theater, Central Square Theater, Broadway in America, and at the Boston Dance Festival. She has also performed at the New England Foundation for the Arts and the New York Dance and Performance Awards (NYDA) Foundation.

Kathleen Hermesdorf, Kinetech Arts / Daiane Kathleen Hermesdorf, is a Boston-based dance artist and choreographer. She has performed and choreographed for the Wheelock Family Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Landmarks Orchestra, and at the Boston Dance Festival. Kathleen's work explores ritual, memory, and emotional states. She is a recipient of the Chair of the Dance Department at the University of Vermont and has performed with Sara Shelton Mann, FAKE Company / Kinetech Arts / Daiane Kathleen Hermesdorf, Arien Wilkerson, and many others.

Lauren Horn is a Boston-based dance artist and choreographer. She has performed and choreographed for the Wheelock Family Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Landmarks Orchestra, and at the Boston Dance Festival. Lauren's work explores ritual, memory, and emotional states. She is a recipient of the Chair of the Dance Department at the University of Vermont and has performed with Sara Shelton Mann, FAKE Company / Kinetech Arts / Daiane Kathleen Hermesdorf, Arien Wilkerson, and many others.

Mitzi Eppley: A Boston Conservatory graduate, Mitzi has had the privilege to study movement, theater, music, and film. Her work has been performed most recently at the Cape Ann Art Haven, CCA Gallery, and the COCA/Contemporary Dance Festival. Mitzi's work explores ritual, memory, and emotional states. She is a recipient of the Chair of the Dance Department at the University of Vermont and has performed with Sara Shelton Mann, FAKE Company / Kinetech Arts / Daiane Kathleen Hermesdorf, Arien Wilkerson, and many others.
The New England Foundation for the Arts invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape of New England and the nation. NEFA accomplishes this by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions. NEFA serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England's state arts agencies, and private foundations.

Since its founding in 1936, the ICA has shared the pleasures of reflection, inspiration, imagination, and provocation that contemporary art offers with its audiences. A museum at the intersection of contemporary art and civic life, the ICA has advanced a bold vision for amplifying the artist's voice and expanding the museum's role as educator, incubator, and convener. Its exhibitions, performances, and educational programs provide access to the breadth and diversity of contemporary art, artists, and the creative process, inviting audiences of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the excitement of new art and ideas. The ICA is located at 25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston, MA, 02210.

Global Arts Live is a nonprofit organization that brings inspiring music and dance from all corners of the world to stages across greater Boston. By putting the spotlight on exceptional artists and reflecting the diverse and vibrant community that is Boston, we aspire to transcend borders, cultivate community, and enrich lives. A trusted curator for almost 30 years, Global Arts Live has made live, international music and dance an essential part of Boston's cultural scene by featuring more than 800 artists from 70+ countries in over 1,500 performances attended by more than one million people. To be as inclusive as possible, foster experimentation, and support a diverse community of artists, Global Arts Live is not bound by walls. Instead, it brings outstanding artists to the most appropriate setting — from intimate 200-seat clubs to 2,500-seat theaters and everything in between. Each year, it presents over 60 concerts in more than 15 different venues across the city.

CreativeGround is the dynamic regional directory that celebrates and reflects the vital work of artists, creatives, culture bearers, creative organizations, and businesses. When creative communities are supported, all communities thrive. Sharing the stories, relationships, and data of the creative community empowers its people with more knowledge, connection, and resources. Whether you are part of the creative community or are invested in its health, CreativeGround invites you to explore and connect with over 30,000 profiles representing New England's creative economy.

Click here for more information → globalartslive.org

Click here for more information → creativeground.org

Please see creativeground.org for more information →
Among the most acclaimed pianists of his generation, Vijay Iyer consistently expands the musical, textural, and expressive possibilities of jazz through live performance and recordings. Iyer returns to the ICA with his intrepid trio featuring bassist Linda May Han Oh and drummer Tyshawn Sorey. The group’s newest album, *Uneasy*, reflects musically on America’s current political and social turmoil, and in the words of Iyer, “reminds us that the most soothing, healing music is often born of and situated within profound unrest.”

ICA/Boston presents A.I.M by Kyle Abraham April 15–17, 2022

Kyle Abraham is one of the most acclaimed and sought-after choreographers making dance today. A MacArthur “genius” Fellow, Abraham has created and presented work at Alvin Ailey Dance Center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, and other stages across the world. He has collaborated with a range of artists including dancers Misty Copeland and Wendy Whelan, musician Sufjan Stevens, and Beyoncé.

At the ICA, A.I.M presents several evocative works including *Our Indigo: If We Were a Love Song*, a series of solos, duets and trios harnessing the brilliance, tenderness, and power of Nina Simone’s most intimate songs.

Global Arts Live presents Jean Appolon Expressions

Friday, May 13, 8 PM

Cambridge-based contemporary dance company, Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE) explores themes that are vital to Haitian and immigrant experiences. Weaving modern technique with Haitian folkloric dance, JAE sparks healing for dancers and audiences alike. The company will perform the World premieres of Traka (“Troubles” in Haitian Creole). Traka incorporates powerful reflections on injustice and trauma to explore how dance, culture, and community are pathways to healing. Renowned Haitian composer, turntablist, and Afrofuturist Val Jeanty will perform live during the event.

Get your tickets now →