

ICA LIVE



Photo by Itai Zwecker

The Institute of Contemporary Art presents

Shamel Pitts | TRIBE:
BLACK HOLE—Trilogy and Triathlon

Friday, February 9

Saturday, February 10

Welcome

Welcome to the ICA's Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater.

Each year, the ICA welcomes visionary performing artists whose creativity, inventiveness, and imagination inspire us to rethink and reframe our relationship to one another and our world. Their restless, inventive artistic explorations not only showcase their extraordinary talents, but also invite us to gather together and share in the pleasures of live performance.

For spring, we present a diverse array of artistic voices creatively expanding the genres of dance, film, and music through their unique perspectives and individualism. Choreographer Shamel Pitts, alongside his artistic instigators TRIBE, mesmerize with their mysterious, evocative, and hypnotic study of transformation and regeneration. Norwegian-American singer Okay Kaya brings her haunting melodies and piercing wit to our stage in a jazzy homage to her grandmother. Sam Green returns with a poignant and humorous live documentary exploring how sound connects us physically and emotionally. Finally, we celebrate the ingenious drummer and composer Max Roach in a celebratory evening of dance, featuring acclaimed choreographers Rennie Harris, Ayodele Casel, and Ron K. Brown with Malpas Dance Company.

From all of us at the ICA, thank you for coming, and we hope you enjoy your time here.

John Andress

BILL T. JONES DIRECTOR/CURATOR OF PERFORMING ARTS

Like the show? Let us know!

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Shamel Pitts | TRIBE:
*BLACK HOLE—Trilogy and
Triathlon*

**Concept Direction &
Choreographer**

Shamel Pitts

Performers

Shamel Pitts,
Tushrik Fredericks &
Ashley Pierre-Louis

**Video Light & Mapping
Designer**

Lucca Del Carlo

Musician & Composer

Sivan Jacobovitz

Artistic Production Manager

Rus Snelling

Black Tarp Designer

Naomi Rapaport

Costume Designer

Mirelle Martins

**Photographer &
Cinematographer**

Itai Zwecker

**Photographers &
Cinematographers**

The Adeboye Brothers

Spoken Word Text

Shamel Pitts

Stage Manager

Kaz Russell

Creative Director

Mirelle Martins

Artistic Administrator

E Katrina Lewis

Managing Director

Brittany Wilson

Digital Creative Associate

Pam Panozzo

Press Agent

Kamila Slawinski

Worldwide Bookings

Sophie Myrtil-McCourty,
Lotus Arts Management

ICA PRODUCTION CREW

Audio Engineer

Kevin Corzett

Master Carpenter

Cidalia Santos

Video Engineer

RJ LaMura

Wardrobe Mistress

Nancy Flessas

Crew

Dillon Brooks, Mikey Diaz, Allan Espejo, Brandon Espejo,
Makenna Harnden, Emma McGrory, Adrian Monaghan,
Bill O'Donnell, Squier, Paul Vekiarides

Brighter Boston Interns

Athamar Pierre, Blue

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

Sound Collage / Remixes Track ID:

"Door of the Cosmos," Sun Ra

"AirFlow! Velocity," Keru Not Ever

"Fever Dream," Daniel Avery

"Funeral Canticle," John Tavener

"Radiance," Tim Hecker

"Heavy Snow," ChiHei Hatakeyama

"Feeling Good," Nina Simone

"Fever Dream," Daniel Avery

"Funeral Canticle," John Tavener

BLACK HOLE was developed with the kind support of Trust for Mutual Understanding (TMU), American Dance Abroad, gloATL, PearlArts Studios, CrossAward (Italy), Dock 11 / Eden (Germany), Derida Dance Center (Bulgaria), Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, Artis, New York Live Arts, and 92nd Street Y Harkness Dance Center. The presentation of *BLACK HOLE* at the Belgrade Dance Festival was supported in part by Mid Atlantic Arts through USArtists International, a program in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding.

Support for *BLACK HOLE* is provided, in part, by The David Henry Fund for Performance.

BLACK HOLE Synopsis

BLACK HOLE—Trilogy And Triathlon is a multidisciplinary performance choreographed by the award-winning movement artist Shamel Pitts, co-created and performed by his Brooklyn-based arts collective TRIBE. *BLACK HOLE* constitutes the final installment of Pitts's "BLACK Series" triptych.

Deeply inspired and infused by the spirit of Afrofuturism, this contemporary gesamtkunstwerk combines dance, original sound, video projection, and light design in a tale of vitality and tenderness, darkness and light, personal growth and collective empowerment.

In *BLACK HOLE*, a trio of Black performers (all of African heritage) shares the stage in a narrative of unity, vigor, and unrelenting advancement. Their journey originates in the darkness of the titular Black Hole, understood not as a cosmic void but a metaphorical place of transformation and potential. Engulfed in an evocative soundscape of original music, sound samples, and spoken word, the dancers embark on an hour-long, uninterrupted journey in movement in which their tenacity and grace are emphasized by cinematic video projections and stark, monochromatic lights.

BLACK HOLE—Trilogy and Triathlon concludes the "BLACK Series" triptych, a series of deeply personal live performance pieces conceived and choreographed by Pitts since 2015. The first work of this collection, a solo titled *BLACK BOX—Little Book of RED*, introduced the recurring themes of this cycle: identity, search for the roots and community, and personal evolution of the artist, born "young, gifted and Black." 2019 saw the New York premiere of *BLACK VELVET—Architectures And Archetypes*, "a haunting duet" (*The New York Times*) with Brazilian-born Mirelle Martins. Collaboration with her and other Black Series artists

subsequently spurred the inception of TRIBE, a multidisciplinary collective of international creatives, united by Afrofuturistic ideals and shared goals. As an artistic hub and a nonprofit organization, TRIBE became not only a tool for producing works but a creative endeavor in its own right. Pitts explains: “By working with performers from different places within the African diaspora, my own understanding of the many facets of Blackness has evolved. Now, united by the feedback loop of ideas and empowered by shared resources, we can create and cultivate our own space.”

Biographies

Shamel Pitts

Concept Direction, Choreographer & Performer

2020 Guggenheim Fellow Shamel Pitts is a performance artist, choreographer, conceptual artist, dancer, spoken word artist, and teacher. Born in Brooklyn, Shamel began his dance training at LaGuardia High School for Music & Art and Performing Arts and, simultaneously, at the Ailey School. He is a 2003 YoungArts Finalist and a first prize (level 1) winner of the YoungArts competition. Shamel received his BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School and was awarded the Martha Hill Award for excellence in dance. He began his dance career in Mikhail Baryshnikov's Hell's Kitchen Dance and BJM_Danse Montreal. Shamel danced with Batsheva Dance Company for seven years under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin and is a certified teacher of Gaga movement language. He is an adjunct professor at the Juilliard School; a guest faculty member at Princeton University, New York University, and Wesleyan University; and has been an artist in residence at Harvard University. He is the recipient of a 2018 Princess Grace Award in Choreography, a 2019 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Award winner in Choreography, a 2020 Jacob's Pillow artist in residence, and a 2021 New York Dance Award winner (The Bessies). Shamel is the Founding Artistic Director of TRIBE, a Brooklyn-based multidisciplinary arts collective. TRIBE was a 92Y Harkness Dance Center's Artist in Residence for the 2020–2021 season. Shamel Pitts | TRIBE is also a New York Live Arts Live Feed artist in residence.

For more information, visit shamelpitts.com, itsatribe.org and [@itsatribe](https://www.instagram.com/itsatribe).

Tushrik Fredricks

Performer

Tushrik Fredricks, recipient of a Princess Grace Award (Chris Helman dance honor), nominated by TRIBE in 2021, is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa. Growing up, Fredricks found himself drawn toward the style krump. He graduated from the Peridance Certificate Program in New York in June 2015 and has had the opportunity to work with Ate9 dANCEcOMPANY (Danielle Agami, Artistic Director), Sidra Bell Dance New York, and UNA Productions. Tushrik was an assistant lecturer to Sidra Bell at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia 2016 to 2018. In 2021 Tushrik received third prize for dance at the SoloTanz Festival in Stuttgart for his self-choreographed solo '*(territory) of the heart,*' which was presented in 2022 at the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts.
[instagram.com/tushrik](https://www.instagram.com/tushrik)

Ashley Pierre-Louis

Performer

Ashley Pierre-Louis is originally from Miami, Florida. Pierre-Louis attended New World School of the Arts and later Florida State University, where she graduated with a BFA in dance. She is currently a dance artist and creator freelancing and exploring choreography in New York City. When making, she asks herself and audiences to imagine what our physical, emotional, and psychic expressions of what is deepest and strongest and richest within each of us is, and how we can share them collectively in order to create a sense of freedom in the mind and body. She currently performs with Shamel Pitts's multidisciplinary performance collective TRIBE, Emily Johnson/Catalyst Dance, and Edisa Weeks's DELIRIOUS Dances. She is also the Dream Partner/Program Manager for Florida State University's Arts in NYC program, as well as the Artist Services Associate for Performance Space New York (PS 122). Her past artistic feats include working as the dramaturg for Shamel Pitts's work *Touch of RED* and

serving as Associate Choreographer for the play *Help* (2022) by acclaimed poet and playwright Claudia Rankine, directed by Taibi Magar, and commissioned by The Shed in New York. She has premiered the play *Thoughts of a Colored Man* by playwright Keenan Scott II and director Steve Broadnax III at Syracuse Stage and Baltimore Center Stage and performed for the premiere of Donna Uchizono's work *March Under an Empty Reign* at The Joyce: NY Quadrille Festival. She has been one of GALLIM's Moving Women spring artists-in-residence and has also been a part of Alvin Ailey's inaugural Choreography Unlocked Festival under the direction of Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Urban Bush Women, and Robert Battle.

[instagram.com/ashleypierrelouis](https://www.instagram.com/ashleypierrelouis)

Lucca Del Carlo

Video Light & Mapping Designer

Lucca Del Carlo is a graphic designer and video artist from São Paulo, Brazil, currently based in New York. Del Carlo is a founding member of the Brooklyn/New York-based multidisciplinary arts collective TRIBE. He has created the lighting and video mapping projections for numerous performance works and has toured and performed live with the collective in countries all over the world. He specializes in transmedia, mixing cinema techniques, concepts of architecture, visual arts, light design, and technology, and integrating those into the direction and creation of scenography, immersive environments and visual live shows. In his view, all ways of visual communication have interlacing points, using not only technology but also human cognition and its related sensorial illusions. Del Carlo's specialty is mixing it in new ways to inspire and break common patterns in visual expression.

luccadelcarlo.com

Sivan Jacobovitz

Musician & Composer

Sivan Jacobovitz is a producer/musician living in NYC. Dance collaborations include Kimberly Bartosik's *I Hunger For You* (BAM Next Wave) and *Through the Mirror of their Eyes* (NYLA - Bessie Outstanding Production Honoree); Shamel Pitts's *BLACK HOLE* (touring internationally), *MENAGERIE* (with Gibney Company), and *Touch of RED*; and *ASSEMBLY* with GREYZONE.
[instagram.com/sivan_daniel](https://www.instagram.com/sivan_daniel)

Rus Snelling

Artistic Production Manager

An Australian artist with a career spanning 30 years, Rus has worked as a production, stage, site, and tour manager; lighting and set designer; consultant; technical director; and a fire sculptor with arts organizations, institutions, and freelancing on events and installations around the world including intimate theatrical works and shows on and off Broadway and in London's West End. His work includes large-scale indoor and outdoor festivals, the Sydney Olympic Ceremonies, the Melbourne Commonwealth Games Ceremonies & Cultural Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival, Montreal Just for Laughs, Edinburgh Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Vancouver Winter Olympics Cultural Festival, Centennial celebrations, river and street parades, tours, and various music festivals. Select artists Rus has worked with include Merce Cunningham, Laurie Anderson, John Leguizamo, Phillip Glass, Brian Eno, Tim Robbins and The Actors Gang, Taylor Mac, Patti Smith, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Bandaloop, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Abraham.In.Motion, Streb and Phantom Limb Company, among many. His projects and tours have taken him through Australia, USA, Canada, Tunisia, Europe, Asia, and South America. Rus worked at PS122 many moons ago and was the founding Production Manager and Resident Lighting Designer at Oz Arts Inc in Nashville, Tennessee, for six years before moving on to freelance. He is currently touring

And So We Walked featuring DeLanna Studi, TRIBE's *TOR*, and this presentation of *BLACK HOLE*.

Mirelle Martins

Costume Designer, Creative Director

Originally from Brazil, Mirelle Martins received her Bachelor Degree in Social Communications (UnB 2002–06). She has worked as an artist, independent curator, and art producer since 2010. In 2013, Mirelle started to research her own artistic expression in performance art with the intensive summer course of *Gaga.people.dancers* in New York. Since 2015, she has been producing *Gaga* courses yearly in Brazil, so far reaching over 1,200 students. In 2016, Mirelle made her dancing debut at 32 in *BLACK VELVET*, a duet by Shamel Pitts with light designer Lucca Del Carlo. The show toured in the US and internationally from 2017 to 2020, and has received the Audience Choice Award in Stockholm Fringe Festival (Sweden, 2017), and Best out of Town Production by ArtsATL (Atlanta, 2018). The partnership with Pitts continued with *BLACK HOLE* (2018), where Mirelle has collaborated as performer and costume designer. Since 2019, Mirelle is one of the founding artists of TRIBE, the Brooklyn-based arts collective led by Pitts, where she also acts as Creative Director.
mirellemartins.com

Naomi Rapaport

Black Tarp Designer

Naomi Rapaport is a Dutch-born, Israel-based EcoFashion Designer with over 30 years of experience creating upcycled, redesigned fashion pieces. Naomi made her first piece for her daughter out of worn-out jeans. Her garments are fashioned from either her own collection of high-end materials or out of materials supplied by her clients. Her brand line has since evolved into a high-end recycled—albeit high-fashion—line worn by Israeli artists and celebrities. “Memories, events, joy, happiness, sadness

are all parts of the materials I use, blended to create a unique garment with a story on its own,” Rapaport says.
naomimaaravi.com

Itai Zwecker

Photographer & Cinematographer

Itai Zwecker is an Israeli-born director of cinematography, photographer, and video editor, collaborating with Shamel Pitts and later TRIBE since 2018. His photography has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and other outlets. Zwecker is based in Brooklyn and Tel Aviv, where he works shooting film, dance, music, documentary and commercial projects.
vimeo.com/zwecker

The Adeboye Brothers

Photographers & Cinematographers

The Adeboye Brothers are a director duo based in New York City. Their work includes documentaries, narrative, animations, commercials, and experiential design. Together they have produced and directed documentaries, commercials, and animations for the Woodruff Arts Center, Pepsi, and Spotify, and have been frequent collaborators of Shamel Pitts and TRIBE since 2018, contributing film and photography for *BLACK HOLE* and *Touch of RED*.
thepalettegroup.com

Upcoming Performances



Photo by Oliver Burslem

An Evening With Okay Kaya Fri, Mar 8, 2024, 8 PM

The ICA is pleased to present the Boston debut of enigmatic singer and visual artist Kaya Wilkins. The Norwegian-bred, Brooklyn-based performer “offers softly sung lyrics that simultaneously skew sarcastic and soberingly real, set to saccharine bedroom-pop melodies” (*Vogue*). Kaya’s poetic lyrics playfully wander through themes such as emotional ambivalence, shared loneliness, and habitual love. Her records draw on both laconic folk and upbeat disco, as well as a host of esteemed collaborators (Eli Keszler, Adam Green, Taja Cheek of L’Rain, to name a few) to conjure hypnotically immersive soundscapes that create a one-of-a-kind live experience. This special, one-night-only performance is offered as a tribute to her Boston-based grandmother and will feature a blend of original music and reimagining of jazz standards and other tunes of yesteryear.



Photo by Maria Baranova

32 Sounds

Fri, Mar 22, 8 PM

Sat, Mar 23, 8 PM

32 Sounds is an immersive documentary and profound sensory experience from filmmaker Sam Green that explores the elemental phenomenon of sound. The film is a meditation on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders, and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us. The film will be at ICA/Boston in its “live cinema” form, featuring live narration by Sam Green and live original music by JD Samson.

Now on View at the ICA



Joe Wardwell, *If You Got the Money Honey*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas. 54 × 72 inches (137.2 × 182.9 cm). Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston. Gift of Mathieu O. Gaulin. © Joe Wardwell.

Wordplay

Jan 30 – Dec 1, 2024

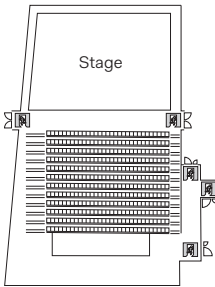
Highlighting the rich interplay between imagery and text and the related practices of looking and reading, *Wordplay* draws primarily from the ICA's permanent collection to showcase how contemporary artists have played with words to animate and expand their art practices. Text has been part of visual expression for centuries, but “text art” as a genre began to proliferate with the emergence of conceptual art in the 1960s. Artists in the exhibition use text to probe philosophical questions, express and subvert political messages, challenge notions of identity, and connect their artwork with multiple references, writers, and cultural icons. This exhibition will feature many recently acquired works that have never been on view by artists Kenturah Davis, Taylor Davis, Joe Wardwell, and Rivane Neuenschwander, alongside work by Shepard Fairey, Jenny Holzer, Glenn Ligon, and others who have pioneered the creative engagement with language.

Membership gets you more!

Join today to begin a year of inspiration and discovery. ICA members enjoy special access to our exhibitions, performances, and events, while also providing vital support to the museum and the arts in Boston.

Learn more about ICA Membership opportunities at icaboston.org/membership or by emailing membership@icaboston.org.

Learn more about the ICA at icaboston.org.



Barbara Lee Family Foundation
Theater Fire Exits

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