Birthing
Dying
Becoming
CRIP WISDOM

SINS INVALID 2016
10TH ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE
We began Sins Invalid ten years ago, with only a hope for where this might lead. Originally thinking it would be a single one night performance in 2006, we have rooted and grown into an organization that creates compelling artistic work year-round, as well as one which advances disability justice as a framework and practice every day. Every ten years is a generation. This decade has brought rippling transformations through our bodies, lives, and world. I see the impact of our work, and I am proud of all of us.

*Birthing, Dying, Becoming Crip Wisdom* reflects the belief that life and its transmogrification into itself is a continuous process, that we are ultimately always becoming as we live, die, and live anew. We offer an evening of dreamspace, looking at our corporeal bodymind and the planetary fluid bodyearth in the context of the universal energetic ebb and flow. From within this dream, we see the truth that human linear time does not exist in the universe, that everything happens simultaneously, we are simultaneously being born and dying, loving.

In this calendar year I’ve experienced loss of family born and family found, loss of community and community members, yet every morning I marvel at each breath and its power to energize my fingers and tongue with every deepening inhale. This year I’ve struggled to reconcile my individual body and its needs and care, our organizational needs and care, and our collective vision for a robust disability justice movement. The show is not an answer but an expression of that struggle. I’m very grateful to the artists, collaborators, organizers and loved ones who have supported our vision of the world where all of us are recognized as valuable and beautiful.

*(Footnote: “Crip years” are longer than non-crip years; people with disabilities often age so much faster, as we bear the compounded brunt of ableism, heteronormativity, patriarchy and the enforcement of capitalist expectations for productivity.)*
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Patricia Berne

ARTISTS
Antoine Hunter
Aurora Levins Morales
ET Russian
India Harville
Lateef McLeod
Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha
Malcolm Shanks
Maria R. Palacios
Neve Be(ast)
Nomy Lamm
Patricia Berne
Sean Shelly
Todd Herman

ARTISTS in the #CripBedLife Exhibit
Allie Yates  Anna Baron
Elliot Kukla  Kiyaan Abadani
Micah Bazant  Patricia Berne

PRODUCTION CREW
Production/Stage Manager: Dave Robertson
Assistant Director and Stage Manager: Tara Ayres
Lighting Designer: Hamilton Guillén
Sound Engineer: Dylan McMillan
Voice Actor in Obatala’s Blessing and Obatala’s Love: Baba Afolabi
Costumer for Primordial: Sky Cubacub//Rebirth Garments
Costumer for Bringing It Black: Sandie Yi
Stay Open: The Hebrew prayer (“Lulei Hemanti”) is from Psalm 27, tune by Arik Labowitz
Graphic Design: Micah Bazant
Photography: Richard Downing
Videography: Rapt Productions
Additional Recording Support: Deverol Ross
Our deepest thanks to our fiscal sponsor Dancer’s Group for its dedication to the performance and dance communities in the Bay Area, especially Wayne Hazzard for his leadership, tireless efforts and gentle warmth.

Our heartfelt gratitude to our generous funders—the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Fund, the Community Foundation (Boulder), the Carpenter Foundation, the Horizons Foundation, the Kindle Project, and the Left Tilt Fund. So much love and gratitude to our generous individual donors and monthly sustainers—you know who you are, we know who you are, and we thank the deities for you!

Special thanks from the Sins Invalid Program Team and Performers go to: Co-Founders Leroy Moore, Amanda Coslor, Todd Herman; all past and future Sins Invalid performers; Micah Bazant, Mary Bow, Mordechai Ettinger, and JP for their boundless love, support & protection; Anna Baron, Torreyanna Barley, Zoey Palmer, Karina Camarena Heredia, and Evyn Lotito for their loving and consistent care; Saba Aghazadehmasrour for her joy and love; David Langstaff for his brilliance, labor and love; all of our comrades who share a passionate commitment to Disability Justice; Rachel
Gelman for her ongoing love and commitment to Sins Invalid; Jesse Manuel Graves and Billie Rain; Lisa Ganser, Malinda Lamm, Erin Daly, and Shameka Gagnier; Tony Ricardi, Pam and Janaka, Ali Myers-Oki and Blue Above; and our Black and Brown and Queer and Genderqueer Disabled Brothers and Sisters Worldwide.

In great gratitude to the staff at ODC Theater, especially Alona Christman, Francesca Gabourel, and its Technical Team. Profound appreciation from the bottom of our hearts to our amazing, amazing volunteers – disability justice is a collaborative effort to create and practice, and we couldn’t do this show with you. Big thank you’s to all the great business who fed us or otherwise gave in-kind donations to our show including Blue House Farms, Andronico’s, Trader Joe’s, and all the vendors who have fed us this week. Thank you to our organizational friends including but not limited to all of San Francisco Women Against Rape.

This evening’s performance is supported by Dancers’ Group’s Fiscal Sponsorship program, which currently serves over 120 Bay Area dance companies and independent artists. Dancers’ Group, founded in 1982, provides a wide range of services and programs, including presenting opportunities, Bay Area National Dance Week, In Dance publication, and the Parachute Fund. The Parachute Fund provides emergency financial support to members of the San Francisco Bay Area dance community facing HIV/AIDS or other life-threatening illnesses. We’re here when you need us. www.dancersgroup.org

“Building relationships in itself is a political revolutionary act in the context of the isolation of ableism.”

— Lateef McLeod
**DIRECTOR**

**PATRICIA BERNE** is a Co-Founder, Executive and Artistic Director of Sins Invalid. Berne’s training in clinical psychology focused on trauma and healing for survivors of interpersonal and state violence. Her professional background includes offering mental health support to survivors of violence and advocating for LGBTQI and disability perspectives within the field of reproductive genetic technologies. Berne’s experiences as a Japanese-Haitian queer disabled woman provides grounding for her work creating “liberated zones” for marginalized voices. She is widely recognized for her work to establish the framework and practice of disability justice.

**PERFORMERS**

**ANTOINE-DEVINCI HUNTER** is a deaf African American choreographer, dancer and writer. He is the founder and director of Urban Jazz Dance Company and Iron Triangle Urban Ballet. Antoine has performed numerous forms of dance with well-known artists and companies, including Nuba Dance Company, Reginald Ray-Savage and Zafra Miriam-Savage Jazz Dance Company, Ramon Alayo, Robert Moses’ Kin Dance Company, Kim Epifano, Raissa Simpson, and Ross Dance Company. Antoine studied West African Dance with Master C.K. and Betty Ladzekpo, and studied at the Paul Taylor Summer Intensives in 2003 and 2004. He performed in London with the Sign Dance Collective, where he performed with Mat Fraser, among other dancers with disabilities. He tours with his own company and with others – currently five of them – and he teaches children and adults in over 13 locations, including East Bay Center of the Performing Arts, Dance-a-Vision Entertainment, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, Youth in Arts, and Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts. Two members of Urban Jazz Dance Company will be joining Antoine on stage.

**AURORA LEVINS MORALES** is a nationally known Puerto Rican Jewish feminist writer and activist. She is the author of *Medicine Stories*, *Remedios: Stories of Earth and Iron from the History of Puertorriqueñas*, and *Kindling: Writings On the Body*, and co-authored two books with
her mother, Rosario Morales. She created the Vehicle for Change project to research, design, fund and build her chemically accessible mobile home, and is currently traveling around the United States writing about the confluence of ecology, health and social justice struggles for her radio blog Letters from Earth, broadcast on Flashpoints on Pacifica Radio. She is a member of the Jews of Color Caucus working in partnership with Jewish Voice for Peace.

INDIA HARVILLE is an African American, queer, disabled, femme of center integrated dancer/dance instructor, choreographer, performance artist, somatic bodyworker, social justice activist, and educator. India has danced professionally with Liz Lerman’s Dance Exchange, based in Washington DC, DanceAbility, based in Eugene Oregon, and is a company member in the Dance Sing Drum Company and Inclusive Interdisciplinary Ensembles at Cal State Hayward. India’s performance work addresses racial justice, queer identity, survivorhood, disability and chronic illness. In addition to choreographing and performing, India is dedicated to supporting people with personal and collective healing and transformation from a place of embodiment. India believes “If you can breathe, you can dance.” India offers classes in many styles of integrated dance including DanceAbility, American DanceWheels Wheelchair Ballroom, and Adaptive Stretching. lovingtheskinyouarein.com.

LATEEF MCLEOD is as a motivational speaker and spoken word artist. He has earned a BA in English from UC Berkeley and a MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College. He is studying Anthropology and Social Change in a doctoral program at California Institute

“...Politically, it’s an imperative that people using a disability justice framework are accountable to people with disabilities, disabled people of color, disabled queer folks, that we’re accountable to each other.”

— Patty Berne
for Integral Studies. He published his first poetry book entitled *A Declaration Of A Body Of Love* in 2010. He currently is writing a novel tentatively entitled *The Third Eye Is Crying*. He was in the 2007 performance of Sins Invalid and also their artist-in-residence performance in 2011 entitled Residence Alien. He currently is writing a novel tentatively entitled *The Third Eye Is Crying*. [www.lateefhmcleod.com](http://www.lateefhmcleod.com) and [www.huffingtonpost.com/lateef-mcleod](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lateef-mcleod).

**LEAH LAKSHMI PIEPZNA-SAMARASINHA** is a queer disabled non-binary femme Lambda Award winning writer and cultural worker of Burger/ Tamil Sri Lankan and Irish/ Roma ascent. The author of *Dirty River: A Queer Femme of Color Dreaming Her Way Home, Bodymap, Love Cake* and *Consensual Genocide*, she is also co-editor of *The Revolution Starts At Home: Confronting Intimate Violence in Activist Communities*. From 2006-2016, she co-founded/ co-directed Mangos With Chili, North America’s longest running queer and trans people of color performance art tour, and is also the co-founder of Toronto’ Asian Arts Freedom School and PDA (Performance/ Disability/ Art). Primarily, she is a weirdo who writes about survivorhood, disability justice, transformative justice, queer femme of color lives and Sri Lankan diaspora sitting in her room. [www.brownstargirl.org](http://www.brownstargirl.org)

**MALCOLM SHANKS** is a social justice organizer, facilitator, and trainer based in DC. They are exploring and trying to deepen the connections between the history, healing, and the veneration of ancestors.

**MARIA R. PALACIOS** is a feminist writer, poet, author, spoken word performer, and disability activist whose message of hope and empowerment pulsates through her work. Known in the artistic world as The Goddess on Wheels, her multicultural background and passion for onstage performance have come to life through various events over the years. Maria is the author of several publications including *Criptionary: Disability Humor & Satire, Dressing Skeletons: A Poetic Tribute To Frida Kahlo, Poetic Confessions Vol. I*, as well as two empowerment journals for women and young girls, and *The Big Little Black Book: An Address Book Revealing What Women Want Men To Know*. Maria is also the author of a now out of print feminist poetry collection *The Female King* and the founder of Houston’s Women with Disabilities Empowerment Forum. [www.goddessonwheels.com](http://www.goddessonwheels.com)
NEVE BE(AST) (aka Lyric Seal) is a black, gross femme, queer punk writer, dancer/actor, and sacred/creative accessible space maker for all occasions. They are an adult and alt art film performer and director, sex and love coach, wedding officiant, accessible event consultant and planner, columnist for Maximumrocknroll, contributing writer for Everyday Feminism, and proud queer family builder and crew starter for those who like to roll deep. Neve co-founded Oakland’s Blueberry Jam with Ali M-O, an integrated improvisational dance lab for women and nonbinary people. They now a-bound and grow in Seattle with their partners and many other collaborators in life and love. Neve is proud to be writing for and performing in their first Sins show this year. Their writing also has appeared in ModelViewCulture, Plenitude, Harlot, Curve, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna Samarasinha and students’ zine Hard Femme Poetics, Jiz Lee’s Coming Out Like a Porn Star, and on Crashpadseries.com’s blog, most frequently in the form of the advice column Slumber Party with Lyric Seal! littlebeasthood.tumblr.com; Twitter/Instagram: @littlebeasthood

NOMY LAMM is a writer, performer, voice teacher and creative coach who is now living (again) in her hometown of Olympia, Washington, after almost a decade in the Bay Area. She has been working with Sins Invalid since 2008 as a performer, advisory board member, and staff person, and is beyond excited to return to the stage with the Sins crew this year. Nomy makes short films including animations and experimental documentaries, and is embarking on a larger film project about the Shriners called Legacy of the Mystic Shrine. Nomy has been publishing writings about fat, disability and queerness since the early 90’s, in zines, magazines and anthologies, including Ms., Make/Shift, The Body is Not An Apology, and most recently Glitter and Grit: Queer Performance from the Heels on Wheels Femme Galaxy. Nomy has co-written a rock opera called The Transfused, and released two solo albums, Anthem and Effigy. She has two projects available on bandcamp, ((double hug)) and ganser/lamm. www.nomylamm.com and www.nomyteaches.com

SEAN SHELLY is the co-creator of awesomness. Broke the world record for being most chocolate person alive, twice. Holds a Masters Degree from the School of Hard Knocks.
**VISUAL ARTISTS**

**ALLI YATES** is a queer, white, chronically ill musician and disability justice activist who makes sick queer experimental pop under the name collander. She values mutual aid and frozen corndogs and works collaboratively to dream of and build more accessible and accountable community arts and event spaces in the Bay Area. You can find her at collander.bandcamp.com and soundcloud.com/collander.

**ANNA TORREFIEL BARON** is a caregiver, healer, artist and nature-dweller bouncing between Lake Tahoe and the Bay Area. She is new to the Sins Invalid world this year and is excited to help create beauty with this radical family. In *Birthing, Dying, Becoming Crip Wisdom*, Anna has offered her unique fly-on-the-wall, third-eye perspective in collaboration with the vision of Patty Berne.

**E.T. RUSSIAN** is a multi-sensory artist, author, filmmaker, cartoonist, educator and healthcare provider living in Seattle, Washington. Russian is the author of *The Ring of Fire Anthology* (2014) and has published work in *The Graphic Medicine Manifesto* (2015), *Gay Genius* (2011) and *The Collective Tarot* (2008). Russian is a member of Seattle cartoonist collective THE HAND, an Advisory Board Member of Seattle’s Short Run Festival, an organizer centered in disability justice, a featured dancer with Seattle company Light Motion, and Co-Director of the documentary *Third Antenna* (2001). Russian’s most recent work, *CASTING SHADOWS*, is a multi-sensory installation of video comics. Learn more at ETRUSSIAN.COM.

“We’ve got fierce crip skills that have been discredited as femme labor, and we can use that to build something new that doesn’t replicate structures and movements that don’t work for us.”

—Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha
ELLIOT KUKLA is a disabled, chronically ill, trans Jew. He is a rabbi at the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, where he provides spiritual care for those who are living with illness or dying. He has been painting since he was a toddler, but this is the first time he has shown his visual art in over 20 years, and the first time he has ever shown his work about disability and illness. He lives in Oakland with his partner, dogs, and Turkey the cat, all of whom make life sweeter and art more possible.

KIYAAN ABADANI has been advising Sins Invalid since 2013. They are a visual artist, political writer, and community activist committed to performance art as a path toward collective healing. Kiyaan identifies as a diasporic Iranian transboi... a tenderqueer krip who loves science-fiction, tea, astrophysics, and storytelling.

MICAH BAZANT is a visual artist who works with social justice movements to make change look irresistible. They create art inspired by struggles to survive white supremacy, patriarchy, ableism, the gender binary, and climate change. They are part of the Sins Invalid Advisory Board. micahbazant.com

PATRICIA BERNE is a Co-Founder, Executive and Artistic Director of Sins Invalid. Berne’s experiences as a Japanese-Haitian queer disabled woman provides grounding for her work creating “liberated zones” for marginalized voices.

TODD HERMAN creates films dealing with themes of the body and transience; sexual and representational taboos; spectatorship and complicity. His work looks to a rare beauty, making no claims to journalistic inquiry. He has presented his films at such venues as the International Film Festival Rotterdam, San Francisco International Film Festival, Southbank Centre, Anthology Film Archives, San Francisco Cinematheque, and Pacific Film Archives. todd-herman.com
ABOUT SINS INVALID

SINS INVALID is a disability justice based performance project that celebrates and centralizes queer and gender non-conforming disabled artists of color as communities that have been historically marginalized. Conceived and led by disabled people of color, Sins Invalid develops provocative, multidisciplinary performances for audiences in the San Francisco Bay Area and nationally challenging normative paradigms of “sexy”, offering instead a vision of beauty and sexuality inclusive of all individuals and communities.

Sins Invalid has both a Cultural Program (including home and touring performances, performance based workshops led by disabled artists and film distribution of a 32 minute documentary on the performances), and a Disability Justice Movement Building Program (including a leadership development program, local and national presentations at universities and conferences, and working with community organizations to expand their capacity to work with disabled communities). Sins Invalid defines disability broadly to include people with physical impairments, people who belong to a sensory minority, people with psych impairments, people with cognitive challenges, and those with chemical injury or chronic illness.