Sunday Salon
Pioneers Go East Collective:
My name’sound

Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 5 P.M.

CPR – Center for Performance Research
361 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211

My name’sound is an original three-part work merging live performance, installation design, and film, and is inspired by James Baldwin's The Artist’s Struggle for Integrity. For Sunday Salon, CPR 2022 Artist-in-Residence Pioneers Go East Collective will show the third part of the triptych, a radio play (in progress) incorporating music, sound, and spoken text. A meditation on creative agency and Queer identity, the work supports and amplifies contemporary stories of resilience and otherness amidst censorship, and investigates the nexus of Queer intimacy, physical embodiment, and media to reflect on the legacy of LGBTQ icons.

Sunday Salon is an extension of CPR's Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Program, and provides a platform for AiRs to share their current practice with the larger CPR and NYC performance community. Sunday Salon may take many forms, including presentations of live work, artist talks, and presentations of research, materials, and ephemera.

CREDITS

Performance Artists
Daniel Diaz (writer, performer, film performance artist)
syd island (musician, composer - vocals)
Vanessa Rappa (musician, composer - vocals)
Symara Johnson (choreographer)
Maria Eisen (musician, composer)
Joey Kipp (featured in film: dance-maker, performance artist, writer)
Creative Team
Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte (creative director, filmmaker)
Philip Treviño (production designer)
Mark Tambella (installation designer - film)
Azmi Mert Erdem (cinematographer, editor - film)
Bryan Baira (sound designer - film)
Jo Wiegandt (stage manager)

Pioneers Go East Collective’s 2023 creative projects are made possible with public funds from National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and Harkness Foundation for Dance. My name’sound is developed with residencies at BRIC Arts Media, and CPR – Center for Performance Research, and Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).

BIOGRAPHIES

Pioneers Go East Collective is a radical Queer laboratory dedicated to dance-theater and video art to empower the LGBTQ experience. Based in NYC, the collective is led by BIPOC/immigrant artists Daniel Diaz, Philip Treviño, Joey Kipp, and Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte. They portray same-gender-loving experiences, memory, and marginalization that resonate with contemporary lives. The collective combines stories of vulnerability and courage with popular culture to facilitate communal meaning and advocate for cultural integrity. Their work has been presented in NYC at Judson Church, La MaMa, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, St Ann’s Warehouse, The LGBT Center, JACK, Exponential Festival, LMCC’s Process Space at Governors Island, Chashama Gallery, Incubator Arts Project, New Dance Alliance, and Goethe Institut. They have been artists in residence at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) (2023), BRIC ARTS MEDIA (2021/22); Center for Performance Research (2022), New Vic LabWorks Artists Associates (2015-16), and LMCC’s Process Space (2014). In the past 3 years, they were named TimeOut NY Critics’ Pick, The New Yorker’s Highlighted ‘Things to See’, Dance Enthusiast’s Pick, and NY Magazine's Pick; and their work was highlighted in The New York Times and hailed by CULTUREBOT as "a strong gesture about collective queer yearning on a deep microcosmic, personal level." Current collaborators include syd island, Vanessa Rappa, Symara Johnson, ALEXA Grae, Darrin Wright, Mark Tambella, Azmi Mert Erdem, Maria Eisen, and Bryan BAIRA. www.pioneersgoeast.org

Daniel Diaz is a Black/Puerto Rican Gay performance artist and writer. Daniel is a NYSCA Individual Artist recipient (2022). Daniel creates works from a queer black male perspective to inform audiences and bring clarity on social-political injustices through storytelling,
burlesque, choreography, and video projects. Daniel joined the radical Queer group Pioneers Go East Collective as a co-creator in 2014. With a focus on modern and interpretive dance, Daniel has performed at various NYC venues including La MaMa, BRIC Arts Media, Center for Performance Research, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, MoMa PS1, Brooklyn Museum, The Coney Island Sideshow, Joe's Pub, Dixon Place, Performance Mix/ New Dance Alliance, as well as various nightlife spots up and down the East Coast. In 2023, Daniel Diaz will perform at Lumberyard (Catskill, NY) and Collar Works gallery (Troy, NY).

**Maria Eisen** is a saxophonist based out of Woodstock, NY. She started playing professionally as a teenager in Chicago, with strong roots in Latin jazz, before studying at The Indiana University Conservatory and SUNY Purchase. She has played with Lee Scratch Perry in the group Dub is a Weapon, Avant Latin artist Zemog el Gallo Bueno, and singer-songwriter Holly Miranda, amongst others. She also writes and co-produces post-rock music as Monster of the Week. Her focus now is processing the saxophone through various electronic means, to reshape what the instrument can be and how it exists in sonic space.

**syd island** (they/them) is a queer vocal and performing artist based in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. They received a B.A. in Music from Brown University and graduated from Arizona School for the Arts. Alongside co-creators Andy Boyd and Philip Santos Schaffer, syd developed *Room, Room, Room, in the many Mansions of eternal glory for Thee and for everyone* as a 2022 Lab Artist for The Assembly's Deceleration Lab. syd also performed and collaborated in *My Name'sound* by Pioneers Go East Collective at BRIClab in 2022. They have collaborated on several incarnations of *DEVOTION DEVOTION* by Lydia Mokdessi and Jason Bartell at The Exponential Festival (2020), Crossroads at Judson Memorial Church (2021), and The Brick (2022). In 2019, syd performed in Mae May's *softboarding: medium shred* at Roulette Intermedium. In addition to performing in experimental theater and dance, they sing choral and plainchant sacred music at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Park Slope.

**Joey Kipp** is a Queer Afro-Latinx-Brazilian Brooklyn-based artist. Joey collaborates with Cynthia Madansky, Biba Bell, Ani Taj, Rachel Klein, Pioneers Go East Collective, and Heather Kravas. In 2019 he was in residency at the Rauschenberg Foundation with Heather Kravas, Vic Haven, and Zeena Parkins. Joey was featured in *The New York Times* and their online project *Speaking in Dance* for Biba Bell, Stacy Grossfield, and Jody Oberfelder. Theater credits include *WOW: An Opera (BRIC), The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Progressive Theater), *SOCIAL!* (Park Avenue Armory), and *Lucky Star 0.3* (Pioneers Go East Collective). As a writer, Joey has shared work with TELL: A Queer Storytelling, Occupy City Hall, and JUNETEENTH at Grand Army Plaza.

**Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte** is a Gay immigrant of Italian/Middle Eastern descent who is a NYC-based writer, director, filmmaker, and cultural organizer dedicated to performance and media that reflects queer perspectives and vulnerability. Gian Marco Riccardo is a recipient of the NYSCA Artist grant 2019), Foundation for Contemporary Arts grant (2019-23), and LMCC's Creative Engagement grant (2014-19); and was a finalist for the Jerome Foundation's Fellowship (2019-20). He was an artist in residence at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) (2023); BRIC Arts Media(2021-22); Center for Performance
Research (2022); and LMCC's Process Space (2013/14). With Pioneers Go East Collective, he was in residence at La MaMa and Judson Church, and his film and performance work presented in NYC at La MaMa, BRIC Arts Media, Center for Performance Research, Ars Nova, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, The LGBT Center, Exponential Festival, JACK, Incubator Arts Project/ Ontological Hysterical, Chez Bushwick, Governors Island/ LMCC, and Art on Air - Clock Tower Gallery. Upcoming projects will be presented at LUMBERYARD Center for Film and Performing Arts (Catskill) and Collar Works (Troy).

**Azmi Mert Erdem** is a NY-based Turkish multidisciplinary artist working with video and performance. He has worked as a cinematographer in feature and short films, has directed award-winning short films featured in international film festivals; and his video art and installations have been exhibited internationally. Mert's project and collaborations have been featured at Festival international du Cinema Mediterraneen, and Lucerne International Film Festival. He received his M.A. in Liberal Studies from the CUNY Graduate Center focusing on film studies and [LGBTQIA+ representation in Turkish cinema.](vanessarappa.weebly.com)

**Vanessa Rappa** is an interdisciplinary artist exploring in and creating for the realms of poetry, music, theater, and movement. Their music, plays, and poetry have been presented by Undiscovered Countries, Judson Memorial Church, Loisaida Center, Pioneers Go East Collective, Nuyorican Poets Cafe, CreateART, New York Theater Workshop open mic events, as well as Poetic Theater Productions. In Fall 2021, they performed their first fully produced original piece, *Scribbled Lines*, presented by Poetic Theater Productions. They recently completed a run of workshop performances of *LEARNING HOW TO READ BY MOONLIGHT*, written by Gaven Trinidad and presented by Leviathan Lab, Mixed Asian Media, and Episcopal Actors' Guild; as well as *Embodied*, created by Jaime Sunwoo and produced by Free Rein Projects at The Brick.  

**Mark Tambella** is a visual artist-in-residence at La MaMa. They have had solo exhibitions in 2016, 2014, 2010, and 2008 at John Davis Gallery in Hudson, NY; in 2005 at Marmara Manhattan Gallery; as well as several solo and group exhibitions at La MaMa/La Galleria (NYC), Portrait Show/PS122 (NYC), a benefit show for St Vincent's Hospital (NYC). Tambella's art has been published in Bomb Magazine; and they have made Illustrations for poems by Richard George-Murray and Richard George-Murray (*Lilac Cure*); and drawings for Gay Sunshine. Upcoming projects will be presented at LUMBERYARD Center for Film and Performing Arts (Catskill) and Collar Works (Troy).

**Philip Treviño** has been an artist-in-residence with Pioneers Go East Collective since 2016. Philip is a Latinx LGBTQ artist who has received the NYSCA individual artist grant (2021), a 2010 BESSIE for Design, and a 2014 BESSIE for Outstanding Production for Camille A. Brown's *Mr. Tol E. Rance*. He has worked with Catherine Cabeen, Brian Brooks Moving Company, and Pam Tanowitz; and his work has toured nationally, internationally, and at venues including BAM, The Joyce/Joyce Soho, Dance Theater Workshop, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, The Kitchen, NYC Center, and Jacob’s Pillow. Upcoming projects will be presented at LUMBERYARD Center for Film and Performing Arts (Catskill) and Collar Works (Troy).
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SUPPORT

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UP NEXT AT CPR

Performance Philosophy Reading Group with Subtext: Queer Theory Reading Group
March 22, 6–7:15 P.M. [virtual]

Starr Reading Series: Marissa Joyce Stamps
Co-Presented with The Bushwick Starr
March 27 at 7:30 P.M.
Starr Reading Series: Alba Delia Hernández  
Co-Presented with The Bushwick Starr  
March 28 at 7:30 P.M.

Starr Reading Series: Divya Mangwani  
Co-Presented with The Bushwick Starr  
March 29 at 7:30 P.M.

Visit www.cprnyc.org/event-calendar for tickets and more info.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support CPR programs & artists!  
www.cprnyc.org/donate

SAVE THE DATE!

CPR's 2023 Spring Benefit  
Tuesday, May 23

DECOMPOSITION  
a not-your-garden-variety show  
with CPR artists and friends