On the Boards Announces Two Stellar Live Performance Works in May 2022: Other Rooms by Pamela Z, and CUTLASS SPRING by Dana Michel.

Influential Seattle-based institution continues to demonstrate its vision for the future of its building: a flexible hub for work that blurs genres, immerses and activates audiences, and fosters community through a direct connection to live performance.

On the Boards, the contemporary performance institution based in Seattle, invites attendees to experience performances that embody the cycle of life with two new projects coming to Seattle this May 2022. First Pamela Z, a pioneer of live digital looping techniques, affirms creation and vitality as she mixes around words, sounds, and gestures, reformulating our perceptions of reality into something new, in Other Rooms. Then Canadian artist Dana Michel, who disrupts audiences’ expectations through appropriation and collage, puts a spotlight on sexuality and birth—the act of bringing a new life into the world, in CUTLASS SPRING. Each artistic project will
present unique live works interconnected through the visual design of white Marley flooring and seating on the Merrill Theater stage, mimicking a white-cube gallery setting.

**Pamela Z makes her On the Boards debut with *Other Rooms* (May 5 – 7).** As a collage artist of found sounds, words, texts, and her own voice Pamela Z’s combination of sound, image, and gesture create a spectacular multi-media evening. Pamela describes this work as being “about layers, repeating patterns, and the broad range of timbres that can be produced by the voice. I’m drawn to the musicality of speech and attracted to the interplay between language as purely abstract sound and the literal meanings that it holds.”

**Dana Michel returns to On the Boards with *CUTLASS SPRING* (May 19 – 22).** After last appearing in Seattle in 2016 with *Yellow Towel*, Dana says “I’m really happy to be going back to On the Boards and to Seattle and I have really strong and important memories from when I was there aaaaaalllllll those years ago. It’s also gonna be interesting to do this work in the US for the first time since the premiere in 2019.”

Both projects are curated by On the Boards Artistic Director Rachel Cook. Cook states, “We are thrilled to present Pamela Z’s first performance engagement with On the Boards and welcome Dana Michel back to On the Boards’ stage. Both artists embody the tremendous artistic range of what is so exciting about experiencing the field of contemporary performance today, offering vibrant explorations of the self, gestures, sound, movement happening in each of their practices.”

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**Pamela Z**  
*Other Rooms*  
May 5-7, 2022

**Thursday, May 5, 8 pm**  
**Friday, May 6, 8 pm (followed by artist conversation)**  
**Saturday, May 7, 8 pm**

**TICKETS**: $20-28  
**CAPACITY**: Each performance can accommodate 100 people  
**RUN TIME**: 60 minutes

**IMAGES**: Link to images and proper credit is available via the press resources page at [https://www.ontheboards.org/press-resources/other-rooms-pamela-z](https://www.ontheboards.org/press-resources/other-rooms-pamela-z)
PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION:
Pamela Z’s performance evenings combine live electronic processing, sampled sound, and rear-projected video to create a spectacular multi-medium event. A pioneer of live digital looping techniques—Pamela Z processes her voice in real time to create dense, complex sonic layers—allowing her to manipulate sound with physical gestures. In her practice she uses MAX MSP and Isadora software on a MacBook Pro along with custom MIDI controllers that allow her to manipulate sound and image with physical gestures. Her live works combine experimental extended vocal techniques, operatic bel canto, found objects, text, and sampled concrete sounds. This is Pamela Z’s first performance at On the Boards.

About Pamela Z:
Pamela Z has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan – performing in international festivals and venues including Bang on a Can at Lincoln Center (NY); La Biennale di Venezia; San Francisco Symphony’s SoundBox, the Japan Interlink Festival; Other Minds (San Francisco); and Pina Bausch Tanztheater’s Festival (Wuppertal, Germany). She has received commissions to compose live and fixed-media scores for choreographers and film/video artists. Her large-scale, performance works, including Memory Trace, Baggage Allowance, Voci, and Gaijin, have been presented at venues like the Kitchen in New York, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Theater Artaud (Z Space) in San Francisco, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, as well as at theaters in Washington D.C. and Budapest. Her one-act opera Wunderkabinet inspired by the Museum of Jurassic Technology (co-composed with Matthew Brubeck) premiered at The LAB in San Francisco and was presented at REDCAT in LA and Open Ears Festival in Canada. She has shown work in exhibitions at the Whitney Museum (New York); Savvy Contemporary (Berlin); the Tang Museum (Saratoga Springs NY); the Dakar Biennale (Sénégal); Krannert Art Museum (IL), and the Kitchen (NY).

Ms. Z has received commissions from chamber ensembles including Kronos Quartet, Eighth Blackbird, Bang On A Can All Stars; Ethel, Del Sol Quartet, California E.A.R. Unit; Left Coast Chamber Ensemble; and Empyrean Ensemble. She is currently composing a work for soprano Julia Bullock and the San Francisco Symphony. She has collaborated with a wide range of artists including Joan La Barbara, Joan Jeanrenaud, Brenda Way (ODC Dance), Miya Masaoka, Jeanne Finley + John Muse, Shinichi Iova Koga (Inkboat), and Luciano Chessa. She has participated in New Music Theatre’s John Cage festivals, and has performed with The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. Her interactive web-based work Baggage Allowance can be viewed at baggageallowance.tv where it is permanently installed.
Pamela Z is the recipient of many honors and awards including the Rome Prize, the United States Artists fellowship, the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Doris Duke Artist Impact Award, a Robert Rauschenberg Foundation residency, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts; the Creative Capital Fund; the MAP Fund, the ASCAP Music Award; an Ars Electronica honorable mention; and the NEA Japan/US Friendship Commission Fellowship. She holds a music degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

CREDITS:
Other Rooms
by Pamela Z
Music: Composed and performed by Pamela Z
Video: Pamela Z (with additional clips by Jeanne Finley + John Muse)

Dana Michel
CUTLASS SPRING
May 19-22, 2022

Thursday, May 19, 8 pm
Friday, May 20, 8 pm (followed by artist conversation)
Saturday, May 21, 8 pm
Sunday, May 22, 5 pm

TICKETS: $20-28
CAPACITY: Each performance can accommodate 100 people
RUN TIME: 60 minutes

IMAGES: Link to images and proper credit is available via the press resources page at https://www.ontheboards.org/press-resources/dana-michel-cutlass-spring

CONTENT CONSIDERATIONS: Nudity; primarily a performance with ambient sound and no spoken dialogue.

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION:
She is not present in their pornography. She is not found in their eroticisms. She is not even a part of her own fantasy world.

CUTLASS SPRING is what sex might mean to me right now.

I will roam inside a question: How might I locate my sexual identity within a multitude of complementary and seemingly contradictory identities – as a performer, as a mother, as
a daughter, as a lover, as a stranger? I will map a sexual education – with all of its embodiments, fabrications, and disassociations. I will follow these trajectories toward their softest core so as to discover what I hold back and what I make explicit.

She will solicit her body and all of the many things that go with her person. She will realize what remains within her for sexual contemplation.

Inching towards uncensorship, engaging the infinite potential of everyday objects, **CUTLASS SPRING** is, at once, a manifesto and a heated reflection, an ethnography of sexual understanding and an archaeology of desire.

**About Dana Michel:**
Dana Michel is a live artist. Her works interact with the expanded fields of improvisation, choreography, sculpture, comedy, hip-hop, cinematography, techno, poetry, psychology, dub and social commentary to create a centrifuge of experience. Before graduating from the BFA program in Contemporary Dance at Concordia University in her late twenties, Michel was a marketing executive, and a competitive runner and football player. In 2014, she was awarded the newly created ImPulsTanz Award (Vienna) in recognition for outstanding artistic accomplishments, and was highlighted among notable female choreographers of the year by the *New-York Times*. In 2017, Michel was awarded the Silver Lion for Innovation in Dance at the Venice Biennale. In 2018, she became the first ever dance artist in residence at the National Arts Centre, Canada. In 2019, she was awarded the ANTI Festival International Prize for Live Art (Kuopio, Finland). Michel is currently touring three solo performance works: **YELLOW TOWEL, MERCURIAL GEORGE** and **CUTLASS SPRING**. Based in Montreal, Michel is an artist supported by Parbleux.

**CREDITS:**
**CUTLASS SPRING**
by Dana Michel

**Created and performed by:** Dana Michel
**Artistic Activators:** Ellen Furey, Peter James, Mathieu Léger, Heidi Louis, Roscoe Michel, Karlyn Percil, Yoan Sorin, Alanna Stuart
**Sound Consultant:** David Drury
**Lighting Design:** Karine Gauthier
**Technical Direction:** Karine Gauthier and Caroline Nadeau
**Production:** Dana Michel
**Executive Production:** Parbleux
**Distribution:** Key Performance - Koen Vanhove, Anna Skonecka
Co-production:
Arsenic - Centre d’art scénique contemporain (Lausanne, Switzerland), Rosendal Theater (Trondheim, Norway), Black Box Theater (Oslo, Norway), Centre Chorégraphique National d’Orléans (France), National Arts Center (Ottawa, Canada), Festival TransAmériques (Montreal, Canada), Julidans (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Kunstenfestivaldesarts (Brussels, Belgium), Montpellier Danse (France), Moving in November (Helsinki, Finland)
Co-produced with the support of the Visiting Dance Artist Program, a joint initiative of the National Arts Centre and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Creative residencies:
Centre Chorégraphique National d’Orléans (France), National Arts Center (Ottawa, Canada), CounterPulse (San Francisco, USA), Dancemakers (Toronto, Canada), da:ns lab (Singapore), Galerie du Dourven – Passerelle Centre d’Art Contemporain (France), Kunstenfestivaldesarts (Brussels, Belgium), PAF - Performing Arts Forum (France), Par B.L.eux (Montreal, Canada), Usine C (Montreal, Canada), Reykjavik Dance Festival (Iceland), Tanzhaus Zurich (Switzerland)

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About On the Boards:
As one of the leading organizations of its size and focus in the United States, OtB produces unique performance projects by leading artists and creates one-of-a-kind experiences for our audiences. The organization makes significant investments in the performing arts community to help increase the quality of new work created. Since its inception, OtB has featured seminal performances by artists including Laurie Anderson, Bill T. Jones, The Wooster Group, Spalding Gray, Dumb Type, Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, Pat Graney, Dayna Hanson, Amy O’Neal, Reggie Watts, Zoe Scofield & Juniper Shuey, and Crystal Pite. OtB fulfills its mission by supporting artists from the Northwest and beyond, through new commissions and existing work presented online and in person. OtB offers a range of resources and events that provide in-depth information and complimentary social experiences to frame the art on its stages and create dynamic access for its audiences.

On the Boards is located on the traditional homelands of the Duwamish (dxʷdəwʔabš) (Dkhw Duw’Absh) and the customary territories of the Suquamish, Muckleshoot, Stillaguamish and many other Coast Salish Peoples. We also acknowledge the Native peoples from many Nations who call Seattle their home. We aim to honor these communities, past, present, and future.
Press Contact: communications@ontheboards.org

For more information and photos please visit our Press Resources page https://www.ontheboards.org/press-resources

Box Office & Ticket Information

All tickets and subscriptions can be purchased at ontheboards.org

TICKETS for individual performances are $20-28, with member discounts available.

Contact boxoffice@ontheboards.org with questions about tickets.