ON THE BOARDS’ DIGITAL PERFORMANCE COHORT PRESENTS PUBLIC ACCESS: BLACKBOX WEATHERMXN, JULY 21-24

Influential Contemporary Performing Arts Institution Brings Together Creative Teams for Exciting Project Blending Digital Art and Performance

On the Boards’ (OtB; Rachel Cook, Artistic Director; Catherine Nueva España, Interim Executive Director) new digital performance cohort, launched by Nabilah Ahmed (Associate Producer), has been designed to give artists access to resources that allow them to create innovative contemporary performance work with technological or digital elements. This first post-pandemic artistic cohort consists of four artistic teams, whose work will be showcased in Public Access: BLACKBOX WEATHERMXN, July 21-24.

The final participants in the cohort were selected from applicants by a panel of local artists that included Emily Zimmerman, Adrienne Mackey, and Vivian Hua. These teams include one performer and one animator each. The teams of artists participating in this cohort are: Moonyeka Alviar-Langley and Arabella Bautista; Gary Champi and Chari Glogovac-Smith; Minna Lee and Brendan Mack; and Alistair Fyrn and Saira Barbaric.

Each artistic team has been collaborating to create short performance pieces using the technological set up that is used for weather forecasts on the local news. They will also be using the aesthetics and framework of public access television broadcasts. This particular creative assignment was inspired by the avant garde spirit of public access television and the tradition of artists using it as a platform to disrupt conventional media forms, provide cultural commentary, and reflect issues back to the public in unique ways. Each team will approach this inspiration in their own way, providing the audience with a variety of creative takes on this technological medium.
On the Boards Associate Producer Nabilah Ahmed says “On the Boards has long prided itself on being on the cutting edge of contemporary performance, and scores of Seattle-based artists are eager to push artistic boundaries themselves. If anyone should be supported in this kind of artistic innovation, it should absolutely be the talented folks right here in our community. We are excited to be able to provide these artists with access to the digital resources and funds to make their pieces happen, as well budgeting, technical, and marketing support.”

2022 Digital Performance Cohort
Public Access: BLACKBOX WEATHERMXN
July 21-24, 2022

Thursday, July 21, 8 pm
Friday, July 22, 8 pm
Saturday, July 23, 8 pm
Sunday, July 24, 5 pm (followed by post-performance conversation with Emily Zimmerman and Vivian Hua)

TICKETS: $18-25
CAPACITY: Each performance can accommodate 100 people
RUN TIME: 60-70 minutes with no intermission

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION:
Local Public Access TV station WMXN is hosting a live, primetime weather forecast special: 4 Weathermxn, 4 ten-minute forecasts...

On the Boards has brought together performers and animators to create a Digital Performance Cohort: Public Access: BLACKBOX WEATHERMXN. 4 teams of 1 performer and 1 animator apiece have devised 10-minute pieces that give windows into new worlds, explore deeper truths, and turn the audience around in a show that will leave you wondering what ‘real’ even means.

We’ve grown accustomed to green screens and animated text. Sometimes we find them cheesy. But imagine what could happen when these tools are given to artists to play with: what worlds could be built, stories told, and ideas explored. Think Space Jam, Mary Poppins, and that scene in Jurassic Park where John Hammond talks to an on-screen version of himself.
TV studios don’t have a monopoly on this technology anymore, and at On the Boards, we have the software, equipment, and knowledge necessary to replicate and elevate the weather-forecast format with a high level of technical sophistication.

Weather forecasts are Magical.

**About the Digital Performance Cohort:**
The Digital Performance Cohort is On the Boards’ latest effort to push the frontier of contemporary performance.

The program pays artists to create new work using tools that may be inaccessible to the average performer. OtB provides the necessary equipment, production support, digital expertise, and budget. The artist brings the rest.

*Public Access: BLACKBOX WEATHERMXN* will launch the Digital Performance Cohort program, which will hold an open call annually.

**About the Artists:**

**Moonyeka Alviar-Langley and Arabella Bautista**

Moonyeka Alviar-Langley is a nonbinary Filipinx femme interdisciplinary artist with a specialty in dance and movement-based storytelling. Moonyeka is one of Velocity Dance Center’s Creative Residents for 2022 where they will be diving into a performance research that centers QT + POC show girl histories, performance intelligences of working girls, and so much more.

Amongst many project and collaboration Moonyeka is a co-curator for NIGHTLIGHT, a Velocity Dance Center program, where they invite a roster of dance/performing artists and live musicians to create unique performances that explore the spectrum of dance party and ritual. Moonyeka is also one of the vocalists and lyricists of The Gender Tender Experiment, led by Fox Whitney.

Find out more about group offerings such as Aswang Movement Incantations, Q Tuts, SLITHER: a sensual movement practice, and other class offerings at Patreon: patreon.com/moonyeka or Instagram: @m00nyeka.

Arabella Bautista is a queer Filipin/x/a/o immigrant who is a lifelong learner with a Gemini moon with too many interests and drive to help in telling more stories.

**Gary Champi and Chari Glogovac-Smith**
Gary Champi is a dance artist originally from San Diego, CA. He performs between New York and Seattle, drawing on experience with a variety of choreographers, touring nationally and abroad in theater spaces, museum installations, and site-specific work. As an educator, he teaches commercial dance and contemporary modern at the University of Washington, and has taught master classes and workshops for many institutions throughout the country. As a choreographer, Gary has presented work at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club (NY) and Base Experimental Arts+Space (WA). He currently has projects with On the Boards (WA), Seattle Theater Group, Men in Dance (WA), and Chamber Dance Company (WA). He is authorized to teach Cunningham Technique® by the Merce Cunningham Trust (MCT) and also has experience restaging dance choreography. Gary worked in various capacities for MCT from 2011-2020, holds a degree in Cognitive Science from Stanford University, and is an MFA candidate at UW.

Chari Glogovac-Smith is a composer, performer, and mixed media artist. Using an evolving mixture of traditional and experimental techniques, Chari is dynamically exploring and illustrating various counterpoints between human experience and society. Chari’s recent works have posed questions about empathy, conflict, landscapes and cultural connections, the archive, social justice, healing, listening, and time. As a composer, Chari is known for creating progressive experimental soundscapes, and experimental orchestral compositions. They have composed and created commissioned recent works for The Center of the Art of Performance at UCLA, Emmy nominated Black Iris Project Ballet Company (NY, USA), New Music USA, the multi-award winning independent film "Miss Alma Thomas: A Life in Color: As a mixed media artist, Chari’s work includes video, data art, immersive audio, and live sound processing, and continues to present work locally and internationally.

Chari is a McNair Scholar, a Nevada Art Council Fellow, a UW Black Opportunity Fund Awardee, a New Music USA Creative Development Fund Awardee, a UW Howard P. Dallas Fellow and a Henry Arts Gallery Ritual Fellow. Chari holds a B.S. in Health Ecology from the University of Nevada, Reno, an M.F.A. in Electronic Music and Recording Media from Mills College in Oakland, CA, and is currently in their second year of Ph.D. studies in Experimental Arts and Digital Media at the University of Washington.

Minna Lee and Brendan Mack
Minna Lee (they/them/she/her) is a Hmong-Vietnamese American writer, animator, and performer making art on Lenape land and pursuing an MFA in Playwriting at Hunter College. They have been involved in shows at On the Boards including Andrew
Schneider's *AFTER* and *ACTING STRANGER* and Michelle Ellsworth's *The Rehearsal Artist*. They are currently developing an animated pilot about the Mekong River.

Brendan Mack (they/them) also known as Terrible Drag Performer Butch Alice is a writer, director, puppet person, chaotic hell storm, friend, lover, and I guess a performer. Focusing in Scenic and Prop design at college at Syracuse University, Brendan found their way into every area of theater. "Knowledge is power, and I'm trying to get to level 100". Brendan is a member of the selection committee for 14/48, is a children’s theater director with Broadway Bound Children’s Theater, and has written and directed with Cafe Nordo, Annex Theatre, Copious Love Productions, STAGEright Theater, the Haus of Glitterbeast, Theater Schmeater and has done fabrication and puppets for countless folk, including most recently creature fabrication for Book-It Theater’s amazing production of *Mrs. Caliban*. If there’s something to make, make it. If there’s something to un-make, burn it to the ground. Thanks to all our Cloud House Friends <3

**Saira Barbaric and Alistair Fyrn**

*Saira Barbaric* (they. he. she. ze.) is a multidisciplinary, gender blending hedonist creature in a thicc Black human suit. Saira graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul with BFA in costume design. Since 2015, he/she has been based in Seattle creating performance, films, events and visual art that explore mythology, eroticism, Afro Psychedelic dreams, ritual objects and glitch aesthetics. Saira’s work has shown in over fifteen cities around the United States, five in Europe and three in Canada.

*Alistair Fyrn* (They/He) is a mixed media creator whose work explores eroticism, trauma, and mythos. In 2017, they co-founded Scumtrust Productions, a queer porn film crew. The films they have helped to craft have shown nationally and internationally. Alistair enjoys painting, woodworking, wire wrapped jewelry, fiber art, storytelling, and garden design. Follow me on IG: @lethalfyrn

**CREDITS:**

Creative Producer: Nabilah Ahmed
Production Design: Nabilah Ahmed
Production Manager: Annie Liu
Lighting Design: Annie Liu
**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 (dxʷdəbš) (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, please visit our Press Resources page [https://www.ontheboards.org/press-resources](https://www.ontheboards.org/press-resources)

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**Box Office & Ticket Information**

TICKETS for this performance are $18-25. All tickets can be purchased at [ontheboards.org](http://ontheboards.org).

Contact [boxoffice@ontheboards.org](mailto:boxoffice@ontheboards.org) with questions about tickets.