



*BODY / SHADOW*



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October 27 & 28, 2023

8:00 pm

Judson Memorial Church  
NYC



*BODY / SHADOW* is an experimental opera with music by Paul J. Botelho; text, video, set design, by Brice Brown; choreography by Douglas Dunn; and visual media design by Steve Gibson.

This layered multi-media opera calls into question the coherence of the human body, highlighting its vulnerability and doubleness. What is more real: a body or its shadow?

There are seventeen dancers: fifteen perform a series of non-linear, one-minute acts, at times stretching screens—or skins—as they move throughout the space that activate different sections of a five-channel video; two other dancers act as fifth column free agents, invading the other dancers' organized space, as well as Botelho's actions, mischievously disturbing the logic of the performance. The video is a hallucinatory collage of shadows, still and moving images and colors, and abstracted sections of each one-minute act. When projected onto the dancers and the stretched screens, they become a reverse shadow theater. Dunn and the dancers use in-ear radio devices; he conducts them in real time, improvising the sequencing of each one-minute act. Botelho circulates among the dancers, performing vocal improvisations as well as the libretto to his set score. He carries a large bag that doubles as a second body—or shadow. In the bag are sealed envelopes; each envelope contains a unique instruction Botelho must perform.

*BODY / SHADOW* is presented in the round; audience members are encouraged to quietly circulate during the performance and experience a different point of view.

[www.bodyshadowopera.com](http://www.bodyshadowopera.com)

Dancer in images: Jin Ju Song-Begin

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Libretto

Each act lasts one minute

ACT ONE

Amputation / Witness

ACT TWO

Heartbeat / Skipped stones

ACT THREE

Will you confirm / Softer thoughts

ACT FOUR

Eventually / Severance

ACT FIVE

Sunburned / Tripwire

ACT SIX

Shapeless skin / Exalted

ACT SEVEN

Frisky / Mandarin

ACT EIGHT

To pinch upon / Snitched out at last

ACT NINE

Underground fires / Behind me

ACT TEN

My tender / Secret beauty

ACT ELEVEN

Bluffing motives / Plunder golden restraints

ACT TWELVE

Waxy flowers / By the way

ACT THIRTEEN

Try to explain / First try

ACT FOURTEEN

Transfixed, I / Stand in drought

ACT FIFTEEN

Unleashed alarm / Frontal process ignited

ACT SIXTEEN

Rippled space / Falling sideways

ACT SEVENTEEN

Regal anemia / Underarm excitement contained

ACT EIGHTEEN

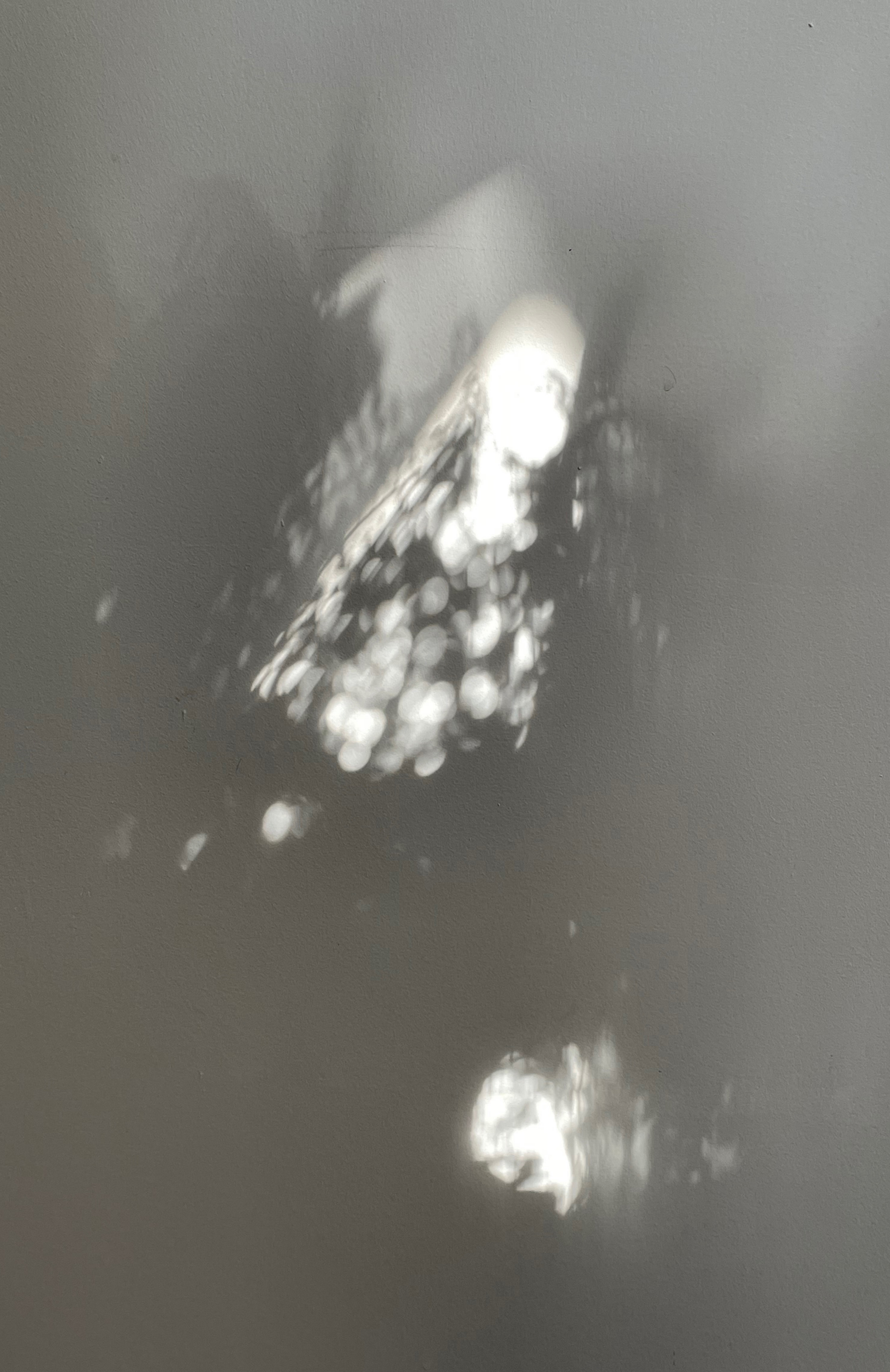
Rubbing thorough crusts / Capacity achieved

ACT NINETEEN

Pocked ambitions rising / Seaside plunder

ACT TWENTY

Escape / Turn signaled





Paul J. Botelho, music  
Brice Brown, images, set design, and text  
Douglas Dunn, choreography  
Steve Gibson, visual media design

DANCERS  
Jules Baksh  
Cemiyon Barber  
Jay Beardsley  
Alexandra Berge  
Dwayne Brown  
Janet Charleston  
Savannah Jade Dobbs  
Eve Jacobs  
Steph Jacco  
Vanessa Knouse  
Corinne Lohner  
Cassidy Martin  
Emily Pope  
Deniz Erkan Sancak  
Jin Ju Song-Begin  
Mac Twining  
Timothy Ward  
Arthur "Trace" Yeames

Carol Mullins, lighting coordinator  
Mimi Gross and Sue Julien, costume design and construction  
Jennifer Lippert, prop fabricator  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library, video documentation

DOUGLAS DUNN + DANCERS STAFF

Douglas Dunn, Artistic Director  
Janet Charleston, Company Manager & Rehearsal Director  
Sandra Gibson, Company Archivist  
Grazia Della-Terza, Company Historian  
Jacob Burckhardt, Videographer  
Janet Stapleton, Press Representative

DD+D Board Members: Elizabeth Powers, Elena Alexander, Isabel Roberts

Special Thanks: Judson Memorial Church, Melissa Jameson, Don Joint, and Daisy Pommer









