

American Dance Asylum presents:

The Civic Social created by Mark Schmidt + Remi Harris in partnership with **IMAGINE!: Public Art in The Plaza**. Funded by NYS DanceForce, a NYSCA partner & Corning Pride Council.



On September 2, 2021 Corning Civic Center Plaza, in the heart of Corning, NY will be reimagined as a social dance hub by NYC-based choreographers Mark Schmidt + Remi Harris. Part performance, part pop-up community dance party, *The Civic Social* will bring together local artists along with their creative team, dance artist Martita Abril and DJ Krunk Pony.

The Civic Social will design and activate the underused Corning Civic Center Plaza through structured improvisation and set material, including a line dance called the Market Street Slide specifically created for Corning. With an ethos of “come as you are”, this dance installation reflects a shared value system of community, local pride, and individual expression. We are beginning an unprecedented transition; we are getting back together after being apart for so long. So let’s rediscover the joy of social dance!

Conceived and Directed by Mark Schmidt + Remi Harris

Music: DJ Krunk Pony

Costumes: Malcolm-x Betts

Choreographed and Performed by Martita Abril, Rosita Adamo, Amy Bush, Malcolm-x Betts, Remi Harris, Kelly Johnson, Kat Kiklowicz, Quiana Lynch, Pearl Marasigan, Nicole Miller, Hailey Morse, Allison Nordman, Erick Montes, Tiffany Krunk Pony Pilgrim, and Mark Schmidt.

Special Thanks to Lois Welk/American Dance Asylum for the support, Meghan O’Toole for the vision, the cast for the endless inspiration, and to the people of Corning for their generosity.

Artist Bios:



Martita Abril is a performer, choreographer, and teaching artist from the border city of Tijuana, México. She earned her BFA from San Diego State University and has worked with dance artists and companies throughout México, the U.S. and Ecuador, including a number of projects and performances with Lux Boreal, Allyson Green Dance, Khosro Adibi, Cristina Baquerizo, Will Rawls, Daria Faïn & Robert Kocik, Yanira Castro Acanarytorsi, and most recently with Rebecca Davis, Cori Olinghouse, and Mina Nishimura. She has stage managed shows for Larissa Velez-Jackson, Kyle Marshall, and Catherine Galasso. She was named PECDA Scholar

“Young Creator” by the State of Baja California and awarded the national FONCA 2012-2013 fellowship.

Since relocating to New York in 2013, Martita was selected for the Fresh Tracks Residency at New York Live Arts and she was a mentor for the New York Foundation for the Arts Immigrant Artist Program in 2015 and 2016. Her work has been commissioned by New York Live Arts, and presented at Movement Research at the Judson Church and Open Performance, New York Foundation for the Arts, HERE Arts Center, Mascher Space Co-op in Philadelphia, The Lumen Festival, and site-specifics throughout NYC. In 2014 SDSU named her Outstanding Alumna. Martita also served as the NYC Education Operations Associate for Trisha Brown Dance Company 2013-2015 and is currently Programs and Events Associate at Movement Research.



Born in Managua, Nicaragua, **Rosita Adamo** began her dance training with Triangle Youth Ballet at the age of five. Adamo graduated from the Carolina Friends School where she studied under the mentorship of Annie Dwyer. She went on to be a scholarship recipient at The Ailey School in their Certificate Program, and later joined Alvin Ailey's second company, Ailey II, in 2006.

In 2009 Adamo joined *Philadanco!*, The Philadelphia Dance Company where she toured both nationally and internationally. She performed with *Philadanco!* for 12 years, where she became a *soloist*, *senior member*, and *rehearsal assistant* under the direction of the late Debra Chase Hicks and Founder

Joan Myers Brown. During Adamo's career with Philadanco! she performed in Ulysses Dove's restaged piece *Bad Blood* in 2014. In 2015 She was in the James Brown touring show of *Get On The Good Foot*. Through dance Adamo fell in love with teaching and coaching young artists. In 2015 Adamo also joined the Parent Infant Center where she became the Lead Kindergarten teacher for both after-school and summer programs. After retiring from Philadanco! in December 2020, Adamo moved to New York and has recently joined the faculty of 171 Cedar Arts Center in Corning, NY, where she will be an instructor. She plans to continue her love for teaching, coaching and bringing the arts to the community.



Malcolm-x Betts is a Bronx-based curator, visual, and dance artist who believes that art is a transformative vehicle that brings people and communities together. The frame of his artistic work is around using embodiment for finding liberation, Black imagination, and directly engaging with challenges placed on the physical body. Betts recently developed and presented excerpts of *Black Bodies Gone Down* at La MaMa Umbria International in Spoleto, Italy. Gibney Dance Center, Movement Research at Judson Church, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Bronx Museum,

and Dixon Place. Betts has a community engagement practice allowing artistic freedom and making art accessible to everyone. Betts has also been involved with HIV Stops With Me, Edgar Allen Poe Visitor Center (Bronx), and many other projects all around New York City. Betts is also currently working with Luciana Achugar and performed in works in collaboration with Jonathan Gonzalez and Mersiha Mesihovic.



Amy Bush started Dancers' Alley Studio in Horseheads NY in 1995, In 2018 Amy manifested her dream of an expanded movement school, moved the studio to Elmira, and re-branded as Link Movement Arts Center (LMAC). She is also the founder of Sharing Space Dance Collective, which is a product of her many talented teachers, students, and network of dance professionals coming together to share creative voices through performance art in the community. Amy received a BS in Dance from SUNY Brockport and is a Registered Somatic Movement Educator through ISMETA and RYT500 through Yoga Alliance. She is on Faculty at EastWest Somatics Institute teaching certification workshops and retreats throughout the world. Amy will be completing module training at the Laban Movement Institute in NYC this year as a

Certified Movement Analyst. She believes being a lifelong student of dance and movement is essential for the quality of content offered to her students of all ages.



Remi Harris is a dance artist from Barbados, raised and based in Brooklyn, NY. She has co-directed, designed, danced, and collaborated with a range of artists and collaborators, and creates work that investigates these experiences through the lens of the female black body. She has had the pleasure of working with Racoco/Rx, Sydnie L. Mosley Dances, Keigwin + Company, Olek, Christal Brown/INSPIRIT, Catherine Malandrino, Kay Ottinger, Katie Workum, Okwui Okpokwasili, and Coco Karol among many others. As a choreographer, her work has been performed at Abrons Art Center, Brooklyn Studios for Dance, Danspace Project (Food for Thought), Teatro La Tea, Triskelion Arts, CPR-Center for Performance Research, The Actors Fund Theater, The Brick Theater, and Thalian Hall in North Carolina, the Boll Family YMCA in Detroit, and site-specifics throughout NYC among others. Her curatorial work includes the Adaptable Apple

visual and performance residency at BKSD, "fix yo' face" as part of Danspace Project's Food For Thought series, and the 2019 DanceNYC Symposium. Her video and virtual reality work have been presented in the Spark Dance Film Festival, Triskelion Dance Film Festival, and the Cucalorus Film Festival in

Wilmington, NC. She holds a BA from Hofstra University and is currently the Programs Manager for CPR-Center for Performance Research. www.remitharris.com



Kelly Johnson is a dance educator, choreographer, performing artist, mother, and community organizer. Her values honor ancestral voice, interrogate systems of power, embody feminist perspectives and centralize compassion. She conducts research in Jamaica and Guinea West Africa and performs with Company Atebayilla, directed by internationally recognized Djembefola, Mohamed Diaby. As Assistant Professor of Dance at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, she teaches African Diasporic and Modern dance techniques, composition, and performance. A founding member of Community Education for Transformation based in Geneva NY, Johnson and fellow local activists organize

events centered in anti-racist practices by inviting groups such as the NAACP, the Geneva Women's Assembly, and the People's Peaceful Protest to share the ways in which their organizations' work breathes social justice into the local landscape.



Kat Kiklowicz was born and raised in upstate New York and has been studying, teaching, and performing various genres of movement for over 30 years. Some of her former students are among the ranks of the Radio City Rockettes, Miss New York State title holders, various Broadway and Disney World casts, and the EuropaPark cast and faculty. Kat's favorite genres to teach and perform have been jazz, lyrical, and musical theatre. She currently divides her time between teaching yoga around the area and tending her mini-farm in the Finger Lakes. Photographer: Ryan Shuler



Hey everyone! My name is **Quiana Lynch**, and I have been dancing for about 17 years! I grew up dancing at Dancer's Alley Studio (now Link Movement Arts) in Horseheads, NY. I love the way that I can express myself through movement, and create pictures and stories with other dancers. My favorite dance styles are hip hop, contemporary, and jazz! Another passion I have found is teaching dance to kids, which I've been doing for about 6

years now. There is truly nothing better than reliving dance education through brand new feet.



Pearl Marasigan has been dancing and teaching dance in the NYC area since 2005, and she joined Bard High School Early College in 2006. She presented "Exploring Equity in the Dance Classroom" at the 2020 Winter Conference of the New York State Dance Education Association (NYSDEA) at Hunter College. As a choreographer and performer, she auditioned for and was accepted for the 2020 Dance Educators Collective Concert at the 92nd Street Y. After earning her Bachelor's degree in dance from Hofstra University, Pearl Marasigan danced for various choreographers and served as co-director of

HalloHallo Dance. In 2017, Pearl earned her Masters in Dance Education through Hunter College's Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program. When she's not teaching, Pearl devotes a great deal of her time to training the African-Brazilian martial art of capoeira. She is over the moon to be working with American Dance Asylum!



Nicole Miller has been dancing at 171 Cedar Arts for 3 years. She loves modern dancing and also enjoys tap. She will be going into 8th grade at the Alternative School for Math & Science in Corning. She also enjoys competitive swimming, music, theatre, and spending time with her friends and family. She is thrilled to be dancing at the Civic Social!



Hailey Morse will be a junior at Corning-Painted Post High School and has been dancing at 171 Cedar Arts Center for 11 years. Her favorite style of dance is tap and she also enjoys ballet and modern.



Allison Nordman, a senior in the Corning-Painted Post School District has been performing through local dance studios for ten years, including performances with the Moscow Ballet and Dance the Magic at the Walt Disney World Resort. She currently works and dances with 171 Cedar Arts Center. Allison also enjoys studying ballet, pointe, jazz, contemporary, and lyrical with Leslie School Of Dance. She participates in competitions with the Dance Intensity Team and has earned a national championship. Allison is looking forward to participating in an upcoming Nutcracker in Motion performance. Allison is thankful for the opportunity to join The Civic Social cast and wishes to extend her gratitude to the

artistic directors for bringing this project to Corning.



Former member of The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (2003-2015) **Erick Montes** trained at The National School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in México City, his career started with Company Barro Rojo in 1997. He holds a fellowship in Choreography from The New York Foundation for the Arts, Fund for New Work/Harlem Stage, and received México's National Grant FONCA. As faculty Erick has been fortunate to teach dance for Festival Graciela Moreno, Costa Rica, The National Ballet Academy of Beijing, The International Project for Dance and Performing Arts in Rome, Festival Cuerpo al Descubierto, and Festival Internacional "Lila Lopez" in México and the NYU Summer Dance Intensive. Erick has collaborated with artists such as Stephen Petronio, Colleen Thomas, Bill Young, Jennifer Nugent, Moving Theater, Alicia Sánchez, Yin Mei, DJ Spooky, DBR, Sam Crawford, Malcolm Low, and Yara Travieso; showing his

choreography at River to River Dance Festival, La MaMa Experimental Theater, E-Moves at Harlem Stage, Movement Research at Judson Church, CPR, Dixon Place, DUMBO Dance Festival, and The Blatino & Boogie Dance Series at BAAD since 2003. His work has been commissioned by DaDa Dance Project, Lotería Performing Arts, Barro Rojo, and The México Now Festival in New York City. In addition, Montes is a 700Hrs Meditation and Yoga instructor with his own practice "Vive" Studio, Upstate New York.



Tiffany Pilgrim (DJ and performer) is a graphic artist by day and by night she is **Krunk Pony**, the curator of fun. For 14 years she has been DJing around New York City spinning her own genre-bending blend of warm and funky classics. Community and connecting people is her passion; DJing is just the medium. Sorry, no requests! Tiffanypilgrim.com



Originally from the Corning area, **Mark Schmidt** is a choreographer, performer, and educator who first found solace on the dance floors of New York City's underground house music and LGBTQ club scene in the 1990s. His recent work explores these unique social dance spaces as cultural security zones that simultaneously function as sites of resistance and community building. In addition to studying at The Ailey School, Mark holds a BA with a concentration in Cultural Studies from the New School for Social Research and MFA in Performance and Choreography from SUNY Brockport. As a choreographer, he has presented work at Dixon Place, Kraine Theater, Triskelion Arts, Sia Gallery, Chen Dance Center and Center for Performance Research in New York, and the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit, Bol Theater, and ArtLabJ in Detroit. Mark is a cabaret law reform activist and

previously served as the Curatorial Committee Vice Chair at Dance Parade Inc. from 2014-2018. www.markschmidt.org