

HIVEWILD

2023 Press Kit



Photography by Travis Emery Hackett

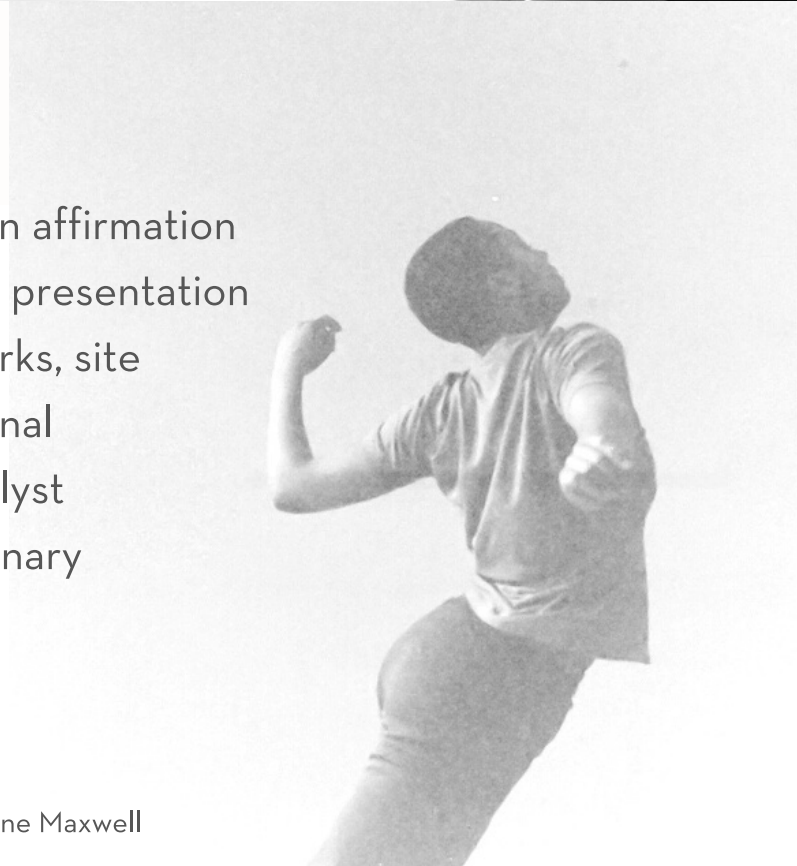


THE BODY IS THE MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH WE CREATE ART.



MISSION

Hivewild exists to present movement as an affirmation of human value and emotion. Through the presentation of formal evening-length works, public works, site specific projects, dance films, and situational encounters, Hivewild aims to act as a catalyst for movement, sensation, and interdisciplinary artistic exchange.



KATHERINE MAXWELL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Creating work for the mainstage, alternative spaces, and for film, Katherine Maxwell is a director, choreographer, and the founding Artistic Director of Hivewild. Maxwell's 26 choreographic projects have been presented at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, CPR- Center for Performance Research, the Ace Hotel, Dinner Gallery, Atlantic Terminal-Barclays Center, and the Actors Fund Art Center, among others. Maxwell has been featured by online platforms such as Nowness, VICE, and on Vimeo as a Staff Pick. Her film works have screened at 14 international festivals including Dance on Camera at Lincoln Center, the San Francisco Dance Film Festival, and Edinburgh Fringe. Maxwell has been featured in NYTimes, Dance Informa, Lomography Magazine, and Art Zealous. She has been awarded residencies including the Downtown Brooklyn Rehearsal Residency Initiative, BAC's AccessArt, and Shawbrook Creative Space (Ireland).

Maxwell established Hivewild in 2016 as a platform to create formal works, engage the Brooklyn community, and promote artistic partnerships between visual artists, musicians, costume designers, and beyond. Maxwell is actively interested in using movement as a platform for mindfulness and human acceptance, and her practice seeks to continuously blur the edges between performance, installation, and human encounter.

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VISION

Founded in 2016 by Artistic Director Katherine Maxwell, Hivewild is a contemporary movement platform based on the unceded land of the Lenapehoking People (Brooklyn, NY). Hivewild is dedicated to the presentation of formal, site-specific, and public works that ignite conversation and unlock emotion, rooted in the principles of radical inclusion and lifelong curiosity. Endemic to each Hivewild work, and the processes that create them, are strong senses of dignity, interconnectivity, and playfulness. Hivewild is an invitation to experience, feel, and be - embodying a broader bandwidth of what it means to be alive.

Members of Hivewild seek to invest in their communities by actively engaging in cross-disciplinary collaboration and skill-sharing. Every human has a body, and this understanding is used as a starting point to identify connections and celebrate differences between people. Hivewild aims to use accessible performance work to engage a variety of viewers: artists, art enthusiasts, and those who have yet to experience contemporary dance work.

Unlock emotion, ignite conversation, and center interconnectedness



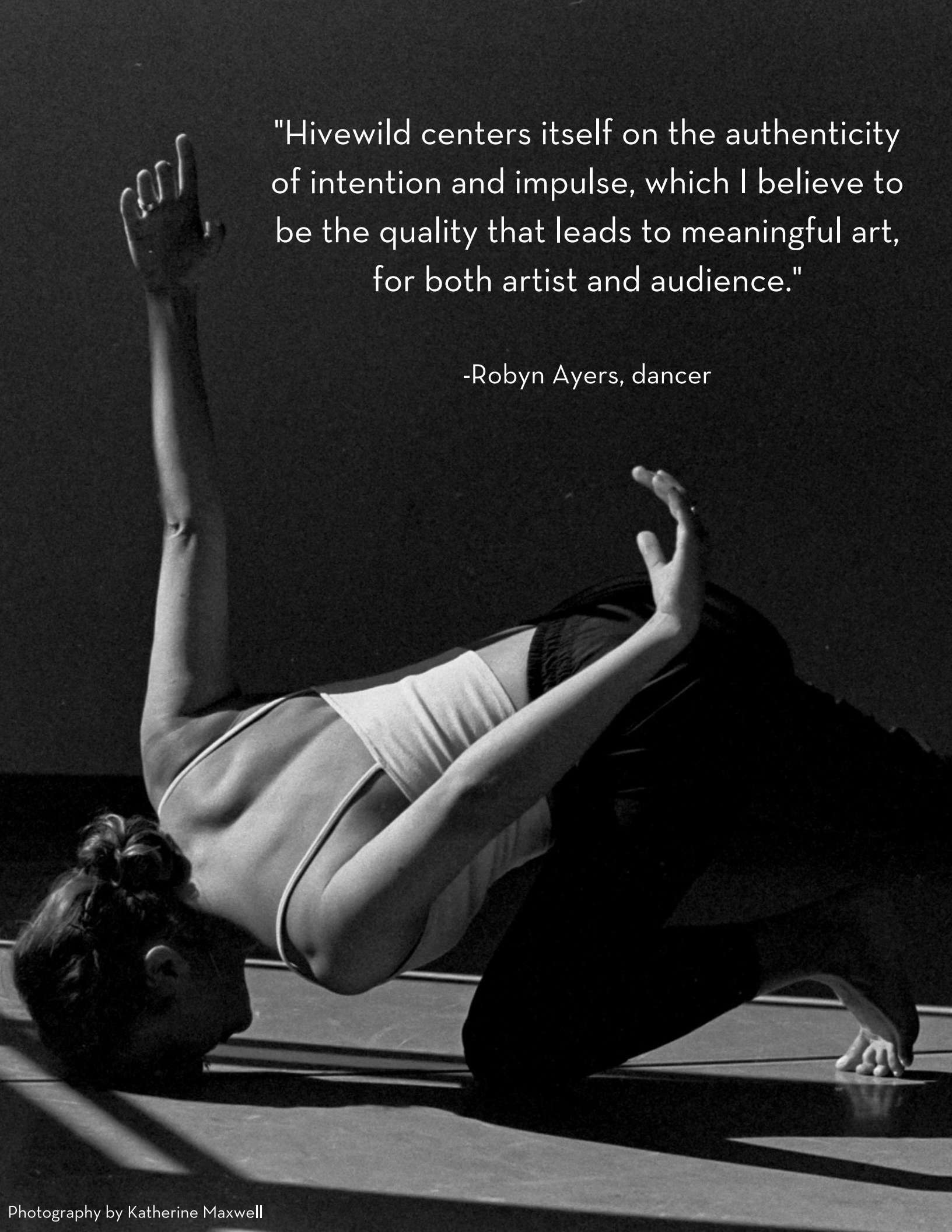
Photography by Travis Emery Hackett

EXPERIENCE

Hivewild shapes work through the use of internal triggers and genuine impulse - a thought, flavor, or emotion - to incite motion throughout the body. Refined fluidity and a strong sense of honesty are central to Hivewild's creative process and product. When establishing new work, Artistic Director Katherine Maxwell identifies a recurring idea or impulse and begins to introduce these nascent concepts to the team through spoken word, visualization, and proprioceptive movement cues.

Hivewild performances feature elements of contemporary dance, gestural movement, and interpretive interplays between speech and sound. Creative narratives reject transactional relationships between artist and audience, in favor of a strong sense of empathy and curiosity. Audiences can expect to engage with artistic narrative that is sincere, guttural, earned, and fundamentally honest.

Curiosity as the conduit between listening and understanding



"Hivewild centers itself on the authenticity of intention and impulse, which I believe to be the quality that leads to meaningful art, for both artist and audience."

-Robyn Ayers, dancer

a sigh of origin

dance film

'a sigh of origin' is a dance film situated within an aging psyche, invoking multi-dimensional experiences of identity, perspective, and memory throughout a lifetime.



Photography by Taylor Antisdell & Birgit Buchart

While the film's subject is never seen, her mind is inhabited throughout, as the film's cast of ten embody a lifetime of disjointed long-term memories. As characters disappear and reemerge, and storylines converge and spin off, linear narratives are upended in favor of more kaleidoscopic experiences of consciousness. 'a sigh of origin' was inspired by time spent between the director and her grandmother, who has dementia, and seeks to explore how the brain and body store memory beyond the reaches of the thinking mind.

Writer/Director/Choreographer - Katherine Maxwell

Director of Photography - Taylor Antisdell

Executive Producer- Julia Lourie

Assistant Director - Lauren Fondren

Producers - Lauren Fondren, Caitlin Adams, Stephanie Schramm, Gillian Halbreich, Robyn Ayers

For full credits and screening information, visit www.hivewild.com/a-sigh-of-origin

"Hivewild embraces process and unity among our entire team- from our Board of Directors, photographers, videographers, to costume designers and beyond- we are all uniquely interwoven in a manner I've never experienced within the dance community."

- Xenia Mansour, dancer



Photography by Travis Emery Hackett

OUR COMMUNITY

Hivewild aims to reach a broad audience through works performed in formal theater spaces, non-traditional sites, and on film. Audience members range from 5 to 85 years old, and reside throughout NYC. Over the years, Hivewild has presented works in Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Bushwick, downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City, Chelsea, the Financial District, the Flatiron District, NoMad, the West Village, and the Upper East Side. Hivewild selects fully ADA-compliant venues for its in-person events, and offers free events for economic equity. All ticketed Hivewild events follow a tiered ticketing scale to increase opportunities across income levels.

Hivewild programming also prioritizes the NYC dance community at large by offering seasonal open classes. Open classes are either “pay what you can” or are priced at 20-40% of standard NYC class prices, allowing artists to realistically access the training necessary for their careers.

Hivewild recognizes and values each of our team members as our constituents. Organizational development prioritizes bringing together individuals with different skill sets and experiences, in order to create a more balanced and diverse work environment.



Photography by Travis Emery Hackett

OUR OFFERINGS

Open Class

Led by Hivewild choreographer Katherine Maxwell, open class is an invitation to connect with the body while sourcing tools from intuition and education. As effort builds from personal curiosities to group tasks and games, this hour-and-a-half class culminates in phrase work building on the resonating themes of the day. Phrases crafted are ever-changing but reliably athletic, detailed, fluid, and sensation-driven.

Conditioning & Cross-Training

This hour-long class is dedicated to providing dancers with strengthening, structural mobility, and conditioning training to further support their professional performance careers. Throughout this series, you can expect to work with kettleballs, light weights, bands, blocks, and more. Each dancer's specific needs will be taken into account to provide adjustments for any pre-existing injuries or conditions.

OUR TEAM

Hivewild is currently comprised of 10 dancers, 27 collaborating artists, and 9 board members ranging in age from 24-50, who presently represent the boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. Hivewild supports national and international artists who are living and working in NYC. The team includes individuals of a wide range of ethnic and gender identities: 70% of Hivewild's dancers are BIPOC, and 77% identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Hivewild's board is a working board, with members who are active in the functionality of the organization to help the company to fulfill its mission. Hivewild prioritizes sustaining long-term relationships within the team, and the majority of the dancers and collaborators have participated in multiple Hivewild projects since 2018.

COLLABORATING ARTISTS

Taylor Antisdell, Film & Photo
Jordan Carrier, Design
Laetitia Deleuze, Photography
Travis Emery Hackett, Photography
Yi-Wen Lai-Tremewan, Music
Paul Maxwell, Music
Wardell Milan, Visual Art
Selvil Messi, Production
Theo Rosenthal, Music
Sara Shanahan, Costume Design
Rowan Spencer, Music
Caitlin Taylor, Costume Design
Tim LaSalle, Design

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julia Lourie, Board President
Alixandra Holloway
Aaron Koffman
Elizabeth Cooke
Ella Strauss
Gillian Halbreich
Tim LaSalle
Luke Mansour

SPONSORS & FUNDERS

Brooklyn Arts Council
New York Foundation for the Arts
Dance/NYC
Dance Films Association
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
New York State Council on the Arts



DANCERS

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Robyn Ayers (they/them) is a movement artist, facilitator, and writer living on occupied Lenape land (NYC). They hold a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Fordham University & The Ailey School, which they obtained summa cum laude with majors in dance and philosophy. Since moving into the professional world, Robyn's career has taken them through formal stage production, site-specific installation, and dance for film; wandering around the intersection between classical modern and gestural contemporary impulse. Their artistic priorities are rooted in mindfulness and accessibility, striving to move at the speed of trust and build holistic relationships between artist and audience. Robyn's performance career spans NYC and surrounding areas in company with Hivewild, cullen+them, The DynamiteExperience, and more. Prominent credits include Ben Stamper's short film "Stay With", Katherine Maxwell's stage production "PRISM", and Jacolby Satterwhite's film installation "An Eclectic Dance to the Music of Time" at Lincoln Center. Most recently, Robyn has begun to build their skills within the world of film production and cinematography. Beyond the stage, Robyn works in instructional design, writing and facilitation, and arts administration. They can often be found hovering over a soup pot or sitting by the ocean with their nose in a book.

Felix Bryan (he/they) is a New York-based artist born and raised in Boulder, Colorado. He began his training in classical ballet, eventually dancing for Oregon Ballet Theatre II from 2016-2018. He received his BA in dance and mathematics from Mt. Holyoke College in 2022, graduating Magna Cum Laude. Felix's additional training includes Springboard Danse Montreal and the Hubbard Street Professional Program. He has had the pleasure to perform works by artists including Sidra Bell, Bill T. Jones, Johannes Wieland, Robyn Mineko Williams, Jenna Riegel, Rena Butler, and Peter Chu. As a freelance artist, Felix has performed with Sidra Bell Dance New York, HIVEWILD, Owen/Cox Dance Group, and Queer the Ballet. In his creative endeavors, Felix is deeply invested in exploring play, idiosyncrasy, and the boundaries of narrative, and his choreographic work has been presented in Chicago, Massachusetts, New York, and on film.



Dylan Contreras (he/they) is a Brooklyn based dancer and interdisciplinary creator. As a graduate of The Boston Conservatory, he has been featured in works by Doug Varone, Juel D. Lane, and Dam Van Hyunh. Professionally, Dylan has worked with Jon Batiste, Tiesto, David Dorfman, Cherice Barton, Hivewild, Kampnagel Hamburg, and Fire Island Dance Festival. Dylan is a performer and dramaturg for Haus of Pvmnt and Motlee party, and he is currently on tour with serpentwithfeet and in the stage production of "Heart of Brick" with Joyce Theater Productions.

DANCERS

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Akane Little (they/them) is a contemporary dance artist exploring performance as an interdimensional portal into the personal and collective unconscious. They began as a competition dancer in Starkville, MS and went on to study contemporary dance under Alysia Ramos at Oberlin College. In their time as a freelancer, they have performed in Cleveland with artists including Catherine Meredith, Megan Young, Rebecca Burcher, and Pam Tanowitz and more; and in Brooklyn with Hivewild, Boy Friday | Evik Abbott-Main, Kinesis Project, Terre Dance Collective, and more. They are a featured performer in music videos for Tom Petty (direction by Adria Petty) and Bridget Kearney (Lake Street Dive). Additionally, they are featured in the dance film *You Left Me Alone*, with direction by Lauren Fondren and choreography by Katherine Maxwell. The film has been shown at festivals across the US, including at the Dance on Camera festival at Lincoln Center.



Xenia Mansour (she/her) is a dancer, mover, and performer based in NYC and Chicago. She is currently a member of Katherine Maxwell's Hivewild and BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance, and has worked with Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener, Angie Moon Dance Theatre, Gabrielle Johnson + Artists, Javier Padilla & The Movement Playground, and experimental dance theater HOLDTIGHT's site-specific and immersive show, *Nourishment*, in both Denver and NYC. Originally from Oak Park, IL, Mansour is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She has performed in a range of stage, site-specific, immersive, film, and fashion work including as a guest dancer and model for Mexican fashion designer Carla Fernández with choreography by Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener, and as a feature dancer for CXN's Fashion Commercial *Come With Us* choreographed by Katherine Maxwell. Off the stage, she's curating pop-up contemporary dance events with Hi Artist and Airbnb Experiences, boxing, and playing pickup softball.

Sean Rosado (he/they) is a Texas native and a graduate of Cornish College of the Arts. Sean Rosado received his BFA in Dance in 2015. He has been privileged to perform the choreography of Alex Ketley, Andrea Miller, Crystal Pite, David Harvey, Kate Wallich, Kate Weare, Madboots Dance and William Forsythe. He has also had the opportunity to perform with Ashani Dances, Chamber Dance Company, Gallim, HIVEWILD, and Kate Wallich + The YC2.





Originating from Montreal, Canada, **Gabriella Sibeko** (she/her) is a freelance dance artist, performer, educator, choreographer, and a graduate of The Ailey School Scholarship and Certificate programs. Now based in New York City, Gabriella can be credited in Netflix's Making Malinche documentary and Nowness Digital's Top Picks for her work in Still. Her artistry has been shaped profoundly by the choreographers she has worked with including Dolly Sfier, Omar Román De Jesús, Katherine Maxwell, Al Blackstone, Avihai Haham, Matthew Rushing, Ellenore Scott, and Darshan Singh Bhullar to name a few. She has danced for musical artists Phish, Alison Sudol, Sondre Lerche and ELENI, and has performed in venues like Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, The Apollo, The Joyce and Los Angeles' The Montalban. Combining her love for commercial, concert and theatrical work, Gabriella has also had the privilege of dancing for a wide range of New York-based dance companies including Hivewild, Bocatuya, Stewart/Owen Dance, MICHİYAYA, Abarukas, BARE Dance, TedTed Performance Group, and Jon Rua's TheGrit, and is represented by New York's Clear Talent Agency. As a dance educator and choreographer, Gabriella teaches and sets work throughout the Tri-State area, and Canada, and is a faculty member of Luminous Tour Dance Convention. Along with performing and educating, Gabriella is also pursuing a degree in psychology and interdisciplinary studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ragin Smith (she/her) is a New York based dance artist, originally raised in Maryland. She received a BFA in dance at Marymount Manhattan College in 2020, and since has enjoyed performing works by Brendan Fernandes, Evan Ray Suzuki, Andrea Miller, Valeria Gonzalez, Morgan Bobrow-Williams, Ryan Bailey, Troy Ogilvie, La Intrusa Company, Beatriz Castro, and others. Alongside her freelance projects, Ragin is a collaborator with the Wet Hairy Women Collective, Hivewild, Verbal Animal, MORISATO, and Alison Chase Performance Group. She has presented some of her own work at The Tank, Fabled Narcissism, ESTIA Day Fest, and as an artist in residence at the Jonah Bokaer Arts Foundation. She was selected to be a 2023 artist in residence at Nancy Manocherian's the cell theatre. Ragin also works with Haley Morgan Miller and Nathan Dies to direct and produce the Fabled Narcissism arts events.



Madison Wada (she/her) is a performance artist born and raised in Lancaster California. After intense ballet training and living in New York since 2015, she has accomplished a multitude of things such as a professional contemporary career with Sidra Bell Dance New York, a project with Ate9 in Los Angeles works by Lydia Shamoun, and now receiving recognition for her own creations. She currently remains freelancing as a dancer, solo performer, and a student of many artistic mediums to fulfill her inevitability of a performance artist as a whole entity.

DANCERS

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Liana Zhen-ai Kleinman (she/her) is an interdisciplinary artist and dancer from Los Angeles, CA. She received her BFA in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College, and subsequently danced for Hivewild, Holly Blakey for Puma's New York Fashion Week Show, and Andrea Miller for Beautiful Destinations Panama. Liana has been commissioned to create work for Opera Notre Dame and The Angel's Share at Green-Wood Cemetery in collaboration with The New York Philharmonic, and is a founding member of PROMPTUS Collective. Liana completed her Master's in Contemporary Dance Performance at London Contemporary Dance School, University of Kent researching the changing landscape of narrative in the Anthropocene.



PRESS

THE NEW YORK TIMES

[Three Dance Performances to See in N.Y.C. this Weekend](#)
[24 Outdoor Performances to See this Summer In and Around New York](#)

ART ZEALOUS

[Meet Katherine Maxwell, the Powerhouse and Artistic Director of Hivewild](#)
[Katherine Maxwell highlighted in Art Zealous' 30 under 30ish](#)

LOMOGRAPHY MAGAZINE

[Hivewild: An Exploration of Movement in Monochrome](#)

VICE

[Striking Scenes, Illuminated Brooklyn, and Wild Performances | Culture Beat Episode 7](#)

DANCE INFORMA

[Conduits to United Communities: Katherine Maxwell and Hivewild](#)

QNS

[INSITU Site-Specific Dance Festival to take place in LIC parks](#)

DANCE NYC

[Downtown Brooklyn Rehearsal Residency Initiative](#)

AP STUDIO FILES

[Episode #5: Katherine Maxwell](#)

Photography by Katherine Maxwell

