



Autumn Knight

- **NOTHING#31: a bar, a bluff**

Theater, Art

MAR 15 - 16, 2024 at 8:30 PM

MAR 17, 2024 at 7 PM

REDCAT
Roy and Edna Disney
CalArts Theater

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California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandefío, and Venturefío; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

Autumn Knight

• NOTHING#31: a bar, a bluff

Creator, Director, & Performer: AUTUMN KNIGHT

Camera Operator: SHIRLEY CHAN

Music (March 15): BAE BAE

Music (March 16): DJ MAIYA

Scenic Design and Construction: MATT SHALZI

Lighting & Production Design Collaborator: TUÇE YASAK

Creative Producer: RACHEL COOK

NOTHING#31: a bar, a bluff is a National Performance Network Creation and Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Performance Space New York, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, and REDCAT; LA. The Creation and Development Fund is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information, visit npnweb.org.



ABOUT THE WORK

Drawing from her training in theater and the psychology of group dynamics, New York-based artist Autumn Knight makes performances that reshape perceptions of race, gender, and authority. Drawing from her *NOTHING#31* series—an investigation into the Italian concept of “dolce far niente,” the sweetness of doing nothing—Knight performs two works at REDCAT.

Presented on Friday March 15 and Saturday, March 16, part one, *a bar*, is a social experiment transforming the theater space into a host club in which, guided by Knight, the audiences undertake the task of creating the optimal conditions for temporary but meaningful companionship, desire, and connection with their fellow audience members.

Presented on Sunday, March 17, part two, *a bluff*, is just that. Using her training as an improviser and the inexhaustible possibilities each audience member brings, Knight alone on stage responds improvisationally to the space, its architecture, its audience, pointedly launching from the potentiality—both the sweetness and desolation—of nothingness.

NOTHING#31: a bar, a bluff is a continued consideration within the artist’s body of work—on economies of time, attention, and survival, and the creative role within those realms. *NOTHING#31* reconceives intimacies within the relationship between audience and performer, whittling itself down weekly from its maximalist beginnings to a bare minimum: an improvisatory point of departure with no expectations.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Autumn Knight is a New York-based interdisciplinary artist working with performance, installation, video, and text. Knight's video and performance work has been presented by various institutions, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Kitchen (New York), and Performance Space New York. Knight is the recipient of the 2021-2022 Nancy B. Negley Rome Prize in Visual Arts and a 2022-2023 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Shirley Chan is a Brooklyn-based cinematographer and editor specializing in documentary and journalism. This experience also informs Chan's narrative and commercial work. You can find her work in HuffPost, Slate, NBC, NYT Cooking, BBC, Conde Nast, Vox, More Perfect Union, Oregon Public Broadcasting, and through brands like Facebook, Nike, Levi's, Arc'teryx, MinuteMaid, Neutrogena, Walmart, Coca-Cola, and institutions like The Met and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and political campaigns and more.

Kumi James, aka **BAE BAE**, is an LA-based DJ, producer, organizer and multidisciplinary artist. The LA native has risen to prominence within LA's underground music scene, organizing innovative communal spaces, including the notorious underground party HOOD RAVE. BAE BAE is driven by her commitment to creating safer party spaces for queer black and indigenous folks. Her dj mixes race freely through global afro diasporic riddims, breaks, club, techno, bass and beyond, with her lifelong love of R&B never far from the surface. The intuitive selector's wide-ranging taste combined with a deft hand, makes for sensual and emotional, sure to get you on your feet and in your feelings. As a DJ, BAE BAE's selections uplift Black diasporic music and femme voices, while her original experimental productions, slick edits, and shape-shifting remixes have become club essentials. Her original music has been lauded by *DJ Mag*, Resident Advisor, Tidal, and presenters on BBC Radio, while her mixes have made "best of" lists on *Pitchfork* and *Crack Magazine*.

DJ Maiya is an LA native who returned to the city after spending over a decade in the DMV and New York City. In her early career, she became immersed in all things music as a journalist for publications like *Entertainment Weekly*, *SPIN*, *The Source* and *Vibe*. Maiya then segued into the creative marketing and advertising world and expressed her passion for music through blogging and throwing artist showcase series in New York and major festivals like SXSW nationwide. Highlighting rising artists has been a source of joy and her ear for discovering new talent is a gift. In addition to spinning bicoastally, she's also working as a music supervisor for several indie films and series. As A&R Director for WVZ, her focus areas are connecting artists and brands for sync opportunities and building a network of global DJs.

Matt Shalzi is an artist living in Queens, New York. Matt works in performance and sculpture. Aside from his solo practice, he often collaborates with other artists.

Tuçe Yasak has been following light in NYC since 2008, creating over 100 site-specific light installations for performance in the US and abroad. Yasak received the 2018 BESSIE (...*Memoirs of a... Unicorn* by Marjani Forte-Saunders at Collapsable Hole and NYLA) and 2019 BESSIE

(*Oba Qween Baba King Baba* by Ni'Ja Whitson at Danspace) for Outstanding Visual Design with her lighting design. She has ongoing collaborations with Raja Feather Kelly / the Feath3r, Ana Maria Alvarez / Contra Tiempo, Ni'Ja Whitson, Nia Witherspoon, Justin Hicks. Among her recent collaborations *Hysteria* by Raja Feather Kelly at New York Live Arts, *The Bridge Called My Ass* by Miguel Gutierrez (The Chocolate Factory/NY, Montpellier Dance Festival/France, The Walker Center/Minneapolis, PICA/Portland) *Skinfolk: An American Show* written by Jillian Walker/ directed by Mei Ann Teo (The Bushwick Starr, NYC), *We're Gonna Die* written by Young Jean Lee, directed by Raja Feather Kelly (2nd Stage Theater/NYC) -all three have recently been reviewed on New York Times-, *M---ER* by Autumn Knight (On The Boards), *JoyUS JustUS* by Contra Tiempo (national tour), *Patch the Sky with 5 Color Stones* by Daria Fain at the Chocolate Factory among many others. Light, movement and architecture intertwine in Yasak's work to support space-making and story-telling.

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