



NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2022

SARA LYONS, SARAHJEEN FRANÇOIS,

THE ROCK COLLECTION

SEPTEMBER 1 - 3, 2022

8:30pm

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CALARTS

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; 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.

NEW ORIGINAL WORKS FESTIVAL 2022

SARA LYONS: *THIS EMANCIPATION THING*

Produced by Sara Lyons Projects

Conceived and Directed by Sara Lyons

Co-Created by the Ensemble

Text Adapted by Sara Lyons from archival documents by Vivian Gornick for *The New York Times Magazine*, Shulamith Firestone, New York Radical Feminists, New York Radical Women, Redstockings, and the performers

Performed by Alanna Blair, Ginna Diaz, Patty Gone, Jennifer Jonassen, Chenoa Rae

Media and Sound Design by Joseph Amodei

Scenic Design by Emily MacDonald

Lighting Design by Chu-Hsuan Chang

Assistant Direction by Claire Edmonds

Supported by a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant

Sara Lyons Projects is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas

Special thanks to Wesleigh Gates and Jamison Edgar, Chatham University Immersive Media Program, Thymele Arts, Cheri Gaulke, Gina Young, Nicole Kelly, Heather Hewko, Lex Ryan, Edgar Miramontes, Jonathan Snipes, Yuval Zehavi, Kfir Lapid-Mashall, Daniel J. Hirsch, Kap Taylor, and Cindy Lopez

Sara Lyons' This Emancipation Thing is a new interdisciplinary theatre work that seeks to discover how second-wave feminist histories live in our bodies and relationships. The theater becomes a multimedia consciousness-raising session as archival texts from 1968-1973 collide with first-person testimony from feminists of all genders in 2022, creating a textual landscape that collapses time. What resonances/glitches emerge between 1968 and 2022, across generations? With reproductive rights slipping through our fingers, what wisdom must we learn from the activists who ushered in Roe v. Wade (1973)? What must we abandon?

Sara Lyons is an LA-based director creating critically embodied new feminist theatre works. Previous work with REDCAT includes *This Emancipation Thing* (2022 Studio Residency), and *BigBlackOctoberSurprise* (2020) and *BBC (Big Black Cockroach)* (2019) with Paul Outlaw. Their work has also been presented by The Kitchen, The Wattis Institute, Los Angeles Performance Practice, OUTsider, SFX Festival at The Wild Project, Ensemble Studio Theatre, HERE Arts Center, LaMaMa, Edinburgh Fringe, and more. Sara has received residencies from REDCAT, Ucross Foundation, Thymele Arts, PAM Residencies, and Los Angeles Performance Practice/Automata. They hold an MFA in Directing from Carnegie Mellon University and are an alum of the Hemispheric Institute's EMERGENYC program for artists working at intersections of performance and politics at NYU. They have taught at UCLA and Sarah Lawrence College, and their writing is published by ContemporaryPerformance.com and Riting.org. Thank you to activists past, present, and future. | sara-lyons.com

Alanna Blair (they/he) is stoked to be back at REDCAT after tooling around NYC's independent theaters. Love to this cast, crew, and all nonconforming feminists.
| alannablair.com

Gianna Diaz is an actor and occasional writer from Los Angeles. Recent credits include the short film *Out In Place* by Nicolas Jara and the play *Iden* by Zack Guzman. They are a recipient of the Outfest/Anthony Meindl Actors Fellowship where they currently train.

Patty Gone is a poet, performer, & video artist. She is the author of *Love Life* (2019) and director of *Painted Dreams* (2017-2020), a serial film about soap operas. Her work has appeared at the Queens Museum, The Poetry Project, and Smack Mellon, and has received support from Mass MoCA, Northampton Open Media, and Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. Her film *The Opposite* (2022) will debut at the Porn Film Festival Berlin this fall.

Jennifer Jonassen is a performance artist, director, choreographer, writer and clown. She founded and is the Artistic Director for Intrepid Dance Project, which is based on her belief that everyone can dance—it is now in its 7th year! Most recently, she collaborated with choreographers Deufert & Plishcke at the Odyssey Theatre & Goethe Institut. Jennifer also trained earlier this summer with SITI Company. In 2018, Jennifer had the great pleasure of performing in Sara Lyon's *I'm Very Into You*.

Chenoa Rae is a proud trans woman who hails from San Francisco, CA but lives in sunny Los Angeles, CA. I am an actress, freelance writer with featured work in *GLR Review*. You can find me in the short film *Love* and the upcoming independent film *Under the Robe*. In my free time you can find me cuddling on the couch, binge watching *Love Life* Season 2, or reading a novel.

Joseph Amodei (they/them) is a new media artist, theater designer, activist, and educator. They are a Professor of Immersive Media at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. Recent transdisciplinary work has explored voter suppression + gerrymandering, immersive archive creation + queer care, the HIV/AIDS crisis + performance, and COVID-19 vaccine access + issues of health equity.
| jamodei.com

Emily Anne MacDonald designs for Theater, Opera, Concert, and Dance throughout the United States and Europe. She has designed for notable companies such as the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, LA Phil, San Francisco Symphony, Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, The Juilliard School, and Latino Theater Company. She comes to stage design from a background in fine art, music, and dance, as well as retail and museum design. | macmocdesign.com

Claire Edmonds is a freelance director whose work has been seen in NYC, Baltimore, Cincinnati and other cities around the US. Specializing in new works, her most recent premiere was a series of short plays by John Patrick Shanley titled *I am Your Masseuse*. UCLA MFA class of '22.
| clairedmonds.com

— INTERMISSION —

SARAHJEEN FRANÇOIS: *SISTER, BRAID MY HAIR*

Written by Sarahjeen François

With Movement Direction by Adzua Ayana Asha Amoa

Performed by Eboni Alexander, Dionne Robinson, Adzua Ayana Asha Amoa,
Sarahjeen François, and E. E. Williams

Music by Justin Bardales

Lighting Design by Chu-Hsuan Chang

Special thanks to Sam Paul Salman, Amrita Ramanan, Bill Ballou, Milton Turner,
Jayshun Mathews

Accompanied by the bass, tone, and slap of the Djembe, Sarahjeen Francois' new theater work, Sister, Braid My Hair, pays homage to the rich cultural practices of African hair braiding through rhythmic poetry and flow. When the ancestors of today's Diaspora were kidnapped and sold into slavery, they did what they could to hold on to whatever generational traditions, information, lessons, and skills they could— among those traditions was hair braiding preserving the bond it creates. Sister, Braid My Hair participates in the tradition of this passing of knowledge by exploring just how cyclical time can be, examining the effects of the over-policing of Black and Brown spaces, and asking: What happens when unsuspecting Black lives are interrupted by systemic oppression?

Sarahjeen François is an LA based Haitian-American performer and playwright from Miami, Fl. Her creative work is an exploration of the Afro-mythic and participates in the rich practice of creating new myths derived from traditional and contemporary Afro-Caribbean folklore; through this folkloric lens, her stories highlight the complexities of Black femme personification. An MFA Acting graduate from the CalArts School of Theater, her artistic endeavors have led her to work with The Playwrights' Center, The Atlantic Center for the Arts, Castello San Basilio, Emory University, Netflix, QCODE Media, Atlanta Fringe Festival, Hollywood Fringe Festival, SheLA Arts, Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, CalArts Center for New Performance, Teatro Línea de Sombra, Horizon Theatre Company, Peach State Opera, and others.

Adzua Ayana Asha Amoa is a beautiful flower born on Monday, full of life, gift from God. She is an artistic vessel. In her work, she portrays human complexities. She embodies the heartbeats of those who so graciously whisper their stories into her ears. Adzua has recently graduated from Calarts with her M.F.A. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support and love. | adzuaamoa.com

Eboni Alexander is a vocal soloist who has performed in vocal jazz ensembles, musical theater productions, rock bands, classical chorales and gospel choirs at venues like the Dorothy Chandler Pavillion, Disneyland Hotel, London Hard Rock Café, and Long Beach Jazz Festival. A Vocal Music

Performance alum of LACHSA with training from American jazz great Kenny Burrell, she was signed as an artist to Night Vision Records in 2018.

Originally from Columbus, Mississippi and by the way of New York City, **Dionne Robinson** is an actress and teaching artist currently living in California! She will be going into the second year of pursuing her Master of Fine Arts in acting at CalArts this Fall. Dionne is very honored to be a part of the *Sister, Braid My Hair* cast and to be performing at REDCAT for the first time!

E. E. Williams (he/him) is a Los Angeles based artist most recently appearing in *Waiting (4,380,000 Hours and Counting)* at the Inkwel Theatre. E is a proud graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he obtained his BFA in Acting with a double minor in dance and musical theatre. E is an actor, choreographer, and writer currently pursuing his MFA in Acting from the California Institute of the Arts.

Based out of his hometown of Los Angeles, **Justin Bardales** is a composer/multi-instrumentalist/educator who embraces a global perspective on both composition and instruction. He earned both his BFA & MFA degrees from CalArts and has spent time studying, teaching and performing in India, Ghana and Mexico. Music from all over the world has become an important part of both his performance and compositional palette.

— B R I E F P A U S E —

THE ROCK COLLECTION: *FAULT | LINES*

Choreography and performance by Members of The Rock Collection: Arletta Anderson, Jamar Morris, Finn Murphy, Nguyễn Nguyễn, Sarri Sanchez, Erik Speth

Text by Jamar Morris

Music and Sound Design by Eric Mason, George Malek

Lighting Design by Erik Speth

The Rock Collection would like to thank Renaissance Arts Academy, Joseph Kraft and Talia Moreta for their creative contribution to this work.

Combining dance, spoken word, sound, and light, Fault | Lines creates a landscape both obscured and defined by darkness. Throughout the new work, the members of The Rock Collection (Erik Speth, Sarri Sanchez, Arletta Anderson, Finn Murphy, Jamar Morris, and Nguyễn Nguyễn) oscillate between manipulating warm halogen and cold LED work lights to constantly recontextualize their bodies and the space. Illuminations and shadows become extensions of individuals with their surroundings, their link to one another, as well as the deepest parts of themselves shielded from the appraisal of an outside world. Fault | Lines contemplates the mechanics of memory, origins, beginnings, and human connection—physical and otherwise.

Arletta Anderson is a Los Angeles-based movement artist and performance maker. As a performer she has worked closely with various artists including Gerald Casel, Catherine Galasso, Lauren Simpson & Jenny Stulberg, Aura Fishbeck, and Detour Dance. She has guest taught at University of San Francisco, City College of San Francisco, Scripps College, Bowling Green University, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center, and Renaissance Arts Academy. Under the moniker Andersmith, Arletta makes work in collaboration with theater artist/writer Adam Smith. Their work lives at the intersection of movement, theater, and live sound and has been presented nationally.

A native son of the San Francisco-Bay Area, **Jamar Morris** is an educator by trade, a spoken word poet by craft, and a Hip Hop head at heart. Jamar co-founded Vocal ARTillery in 2013, a spoken word showcase collective, to create spaces in the San Fernando Valley centered around a shared culture for artists to present work and fellowship. In collaboration with colleges, universities, and nonprofits across California, he has performed original compositions and presented “spacing-making” and writing workshops. Alongside Percussionist Kevin Yokota, he is one half of the jazz duo, Little Seeds. Jamar’s work is often concerned with story that reconnects ancestral wisdom lost to the peoples throughout the African diaspora and other peoples of similar experiences. To that wisdom, rhythm is always essential in his work. Jamar is currently a faculty member at Renaissance Arts Academy.

Finn Murphy is an LA-based dancer, choreographer and teacher. He began his dance training at Renaissance Arts Academy and went on to receive a B.A. in Dance and Literature from Bennington College, Vermont. Soon after graduation, he relocated to Barcelona to start the Three Planes Collective alongside Kaya Lovestrand and Emma Villavecchia. Together they staged works by Elena Demyanenko and Isabel Lopez both in Spain and the US, in addition to their own choreography. While in Los Angeles, Finn has had the honor of working on projects with No)One Art House, Lindsey Red-tail, Jay Carlon, as well as The Rock Collection. He now teaches full-time at Renaissance Arts Academy in the humanities and dance departments.

Nguyễn Nguyễn is a dance maker based in Los Angeles. He was born in Vietnam and came to the United States as a refugee. Nguyễn makes works that are layered autobiographical narrative to express the complexity of identity by looking at public versus private memory, collective versus personal, and the universal versus the particular. His explorations are not meant to merely reveal binaries, but rather to express simultaneity, an integration of all the parts to make the whole. He has worked with The Rock Collection since 2011. Nguyễn will be sharing his new endeavor, *to get there from here*, with Maria Gillespie and Kevin Williamson at the Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College, August 24-October 9, 2022. The premiere performance as a part of the gallery installation will be September 17, 2022.

Sarri Sanchez is a Los Angeles-based dancer, choreographer and educator, and a founding member of The Rock Collection. Sarri has performed with artists including Liz Hoefner Adamis, Robin Conrad, Mike Kelley, Dance Aegis, LA Contemporary Dance Company, Invertigo Dance Theatre and as a founding member of Holly Johnston’s Ledges and Bones. She is also a co-founder of the movement collectives, Tales Between Our Legs and IN/EX Dance Project. Sarri

holds an MFA in Dance from Hollins University/American Dance Festival and a BA in World Arts and Cultures/Dance from UCLA. Sarri's teaching practice is rooted at Renaissance Arts Academy, where she has helped cultivate the dance program since 2006.

Erik Speth is an LA-based choreographer, performer, multimedia artist and educator. He holds an MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University, emphasizing Dance & Technology and Dance pedagogy; in addition, he holds a BFA in Choreography & Performance from California Institute of the Arts. He is a founding member of Ledges and Bones Dance Project under the artistic direction of Holly Johnston. Erik was selected to partake in the Music and Dance Exchange (MADE) 2006 at Darting Arts College in England. He has worked with Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company, Los Angeles Movement Arts Oni Dance and project-to-project with other US artists: Maria Gelespie, Maggie Lee, Liz Hoefner, Kate Hutter-Mason, Lisa K Lock, Nguyen Nguyen, Kevin Williamson, Abby Zbikowski, IN/EX Dance Project, Oni Dance and Tales Between Our Legs. In addition, Erik is the co-founder of the dance department at Renaissance Arts Academy, as well as The Rock Collection.

Eric Mason started his relationship with music at the tender age of 4, and has continued to nurture his love affair with creating and performing music to this day. He is an alumnus of UCLA with a B.A. in Business and Economics with a Minor in Music and New Media, where he performed as a cellist in the UCLA Philharmonia Orchestra. He continued post-grad studies in design/animation at ArtCenter College of Design. | telemason.com

George Malek is an instrumentalist and producer based out of Los Angeles whose work is featured on numerous records, commercials, and film scores. Previously he was a touring musician on the East Coast, where he earned a B.S. in Physics before moving out West.

REDCAT TECHNICAL STAFF

Technical Director: Bill Ballou

Assoc. TD, Sound and Video: Pete Pace

Assoc. TD, Lighting Director: Chu-Hsuan Chang

Audio Engineers: Cordey Lopez, Olivia Popejoy

QLab: Scott Garner

Stage Manager: Johanna Romo

Lighting Programmer: Alejandro Melendez

Deck: Jerrel Milan, T Kosek

Camera Operator: Jean-Paul Jones



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UPCOMING AT REDCAT

Faye Driscoll: *Thank You For Coming: Space*

September 15 - 17

Choreographer Faye Driscoll is a Doris Duke Award-winning performance maker who has been hailed as a “startlingly original talent” by *The New York Times*. Her most recent work, *Thank You For Coming: Space*, is a shared rite of passage—a conjuring of the transformative powers of presence and absence. The dance work unfolds within an intimate installation—wired for sound and upheld by pulleys, ropes, and the weight of others—where Driscoll appears alone with the audience. Through an alchemy of body, object, voice, and live sound, she builds a moving requiem for the human body, creating a world that is, like ourselves, alive and forever changeable.

Sharon Lockhart: *EVENTIDE*

September 21

“Sharon Lockhart’s latest film, *EVENTIDE* (2022), is a meditative, non-narrative single long shot that uses choreography to explore landscape, communal relations, solitary searching, psychic endurance, and the play of light moving through darkness. Locating drama in the real-time shift of evening fading into night, and in the emergence of stars, this is perhaps Lockhart’s most optical and painterly moving image to date, composing figures, scenography, and soundscape into allegory and abstraction. Shot on the Swedish coast with a close-knit group of friends Lockhart has been involved with for years, *EVENTIDE* is concerned with grieving and the future.” —Sarah Lehrer-Graiwer

SPELLLING

September 24

Bay Area artist SPELLLING premieres a series of new compositions for voice and synthesizer. Since the beginning of 2022, she has been working on the challenge of recording one composition a day. Many of these include voice memos taken from her cellphone when away from the studio or on tour. SPELLLING will weave together samples and elements of these compositions in an improvised live performance at REDCAT. She aims to offer insight into the early and deeply intimate stages of her songwriting process that includes digging and remixing ideas still floating between many ethers of possibility.

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For more information, email info.redcat@calarts.edu or visit redcat.org