



Mariana Valencia

• **Jacklean (in rehearsal)**

Dance, Music

April 24 - 25

8:30 PM

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater

CALARTS

California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash people 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.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In *Jacklean (in rehearsal)* choreographer Mariana Valencia and musician Jazmin “Jazzy” Romero improvise dance, sound, and text to propose that the rehearsal process can be the performance. Drawing on their shared Latina identity—Valencia’s Guatemalan, and Romero’s Salvadorian and Mexican descent—this piece considers their queer, Brown, and first-generation immigrant experiences. Valencia’s dance draws on everyday gestures, social dance, freestyle, and postmodern traditions, and is accompanied by Romero’s polyvocal repertoire of cumbia, punk, jazz, and electronic music in a dynamic interplay. *Jacklean (in rehearsal)* considers the interplay between the individual, the collective, and inherited intergenerational transmission, in a work that savors the thrill of the unexpected.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Choreographer and dancer Mariana Valencia's lyrical, witty, and transgressive performances are created from rigorously ordered sequences where movement, song, and spoken text are improvised upon in front of audiences. She foregrounds personal experience against the broader cultural context and is invested in the idea that improvisation carries emancipatory potential. She believes that when we lose all other power (safety, predictability, peace) we are left with our bodies and must make use of them, ideally in liberatory ways. Inserting cultural traditions into contemporary dance spaces, her movement lexicon draws on numerous sources, from social forms and the vernacular, all informed by the politics of a queer, Latina sensibility. Valencia has held numerous residencies and received awards for her choreography, most notably a 2024 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, a 2023 Creative Capital Award, the 2018 Bessie Award for Outstanding "Breakout" Choreographer, a 2018 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grant to Artists Award, and a 2015 Jerome Foundation Travel and Study grant. Her work was included in the Whitney Biennial in 2019. Valencia's writing reaches beyond the stage through her books: *Mariana Valencia's Bouquet* (3 Hole Press, 2019)

and *Album* (Wendy's Subway, 2019). Her writing has recently been included in the anthology *Dance History(s): Imagination as a Form of Study* (Dancing Foxes Press / Wesleyan University Press / Big Dance Theater, 2024). Valencia has toured in the United Kingdom, Norway, and the Balkans. She has received major commissions from the Abrons Arts Center, New York; Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York; Chocolate Factory Theater, Long Island City, New York; Danspace Project, New York; Performance Space New York; and The Shed, New York.

Jazmin “Jazzy” Romero is an interdisciplinary artist from Los Angeles, California. Her work explores how memory is embodied through performance, video, sound, and sculpture. Romero's practice is concerned with how experimentation, improvisation, and collectivity allow for alternative forms of storytelling. She engages with the relationship between musical gesture and physical form to produce scores, assemblages, and compositions. She is also a member of various performance and music production collectives, such as COQUETA.

UPCOMING AT REDCAT

Wild Up: Arthur Russell: 24 to 24 Music

May 1 - 3

GRAMMY-nominated orchestral collective Wild Up presents Arthur Russell's minimalist disco masterwork *24 to 24 Music* as part of the *To the Fullest* festival. Performed a number of times during Russell's life, this open-form jam for ensemble, percussion, keyboards, and voices bridges the seeming chasm between the new music community of Downtown New York and the popular dance music of the Loft.

CalArts Spring Dance

May 13 - 14

Meet the next generation of dance artists at this year's CalArts Spring Dance program. Featuring performances by the graduating class of 2025, this two-night engagement highlights the agility, intelligence, and innovation of this dynamic group of young artists. This dynamic program includes a restaging of Trisha Brown's *Glacial Decoy* with costumes and set by Robert Rauschenberg, commissions from choreographers Genna Moroni, and Omar Ramón de Jesús, along with a piece by CalArts alum Jobel Medina (Dance MFA '21).

Tania El Khoury: *The Search for Power*

May 29 - June 8

On a night with a sudden electricity outage in Beirut, artist Tania El Khoury and her husband, historian Ziad Abu-Rish, promised each other to research the history of power outages in Lebanon. Born during the Lebanese Civil War, the artist had grown up with the understanding that the problem with electricity in Lebanon began during the war. The historian, however, recalled finding [REDACTED] that announced scheduled electricity outages across Beirut. The two decided to research the history of power outages in Lebanon. *The Search for Power*, a performance that places the audience in an intimate gathering, delves into the intersection between public utilities infrastructure, people's relationship to the state, and various popular mobilizations to shape both. In time, they reach as far back as the introduction of electricity in Beirut before [REDACTED]. In space, they collect documents across Lebanon and beyond its borders, visiting the archives of [REDACTED]: Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. What they find is a transnational story that locates electricity at the intersection of colonial legacies, the machinations of political and

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economic elites, and everyday acts [REDACTED].

The Search for Power is an intimate performance and installation featuring the artist, the historian, and [REDACTED].

The Search for Power can be experienced as a ticketed live performance (May 29 - Jun 1) or as an open installation (June 4 - 8) without ticket or reservation.

PARTCH Ensemble

June 13 - 14

PARTCH Ensemble—the Grammy Award-winning ensemble specializing in the music of the iconoclastic composer Harry Partch—presents a triple bill of premieres performed on Partch’s extraordinary instruments.

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Lighting Programmer: Jerrel Milan

Deck: Chris Mindel

Audio Engineer: Shivani Desai

QLab/Audio Assistant: Natalie Nicholas

Wardrobe: Alejandra Aleman

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