



Alex Tatarsky

• **Sad Boys in Harpy Land**

Theater

**March 19 - 21**

**8 PM**

**CaLARTS**

**REDCAT**

**ROY AND EDNA DISNEY  
CALARTS THEATER**

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

In this unhinged solo performance, self-proclaimed “experimental clown artist” Alex Tatarsky ushers audiences through an absurdist hellscape of the mind. Equal parts sad clown, demented cabaret, and extended crisis of meaning, *Sad Boys in Harpy Land* confronts anguish through humor in a spiraling narrative of artmaking and despair. Through a series of existential vignettes, Tatarsky fuses autobiographical bones of their own story onto those of equally tormented protagonists from sources including Goethe, Dante, Amiri Baraka, Helen Adams, and Seinfeld. A whirlwind coming-of-age story, Tatarsky presents a highly calibrated mess in a tour-de-force performance that challenges the idea of individual malady, and instead embraces the turbulent maze of shared struggle.

On March 20, there will be a post-show Q&A with Alex Tatarsky, moderated by Katy Dammers, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Performing Arts.

*Please note: This program contains flashing lights, nudity, loud sounds, and mature content.*

**Runtime: Approx. 75 minutes, no intermission**

## **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

**Created and Performed by** Alex Tatarsky

**With Live Music by** Shane Riley

**Directed by** Iris McCloughan

**Developed with** Eva Steinmetz

**Dramaturgy:** Basie Allen, Lisa Fagan

**Scenic, Costumes, Props Design:** Andreea Mincic

**Lighting Design:** Masha Tsimring

**Stage Management:** Payton Smith

## **FUNDING CREDITS**

*Sad Boys in Harpy Land was commissioned by Abrons Arts Center through the Jerome Foundation AIRspace Residency Program.*

*Playwrights Horizons, Inc, in New York City produced the NYC Off-Broadway premiere of Sad Boys in Harpy Land in 2023.*

*Sad Boys in Harpy Land received development support through FringeArts, the Jilline Ringle Solo Performance Program at 1812 Productions, Poetry Electric at La Mama, and MAAS.*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

“A hilarious, finely tuned absurdist” (Theater Jones) and “one of the most exciting and hilarious performance artists around” (ArtSpace), **Alex Tatarsky** is a writer and performer. They make solo performances in between theater, performance art, comedy and deluded rant—sometimes with songs. Their original shows *Americana Psychobabble*, *Untitled Freakout*, *Dirt Trip*, *Sad Boys in Harpy Land*, *MATERIAL*, and *Nothing Doing* have been presented by venues including Abrons Arts Center, The Kitchen, La Mama, MoMA PS1, Playwrights Horizons, The Whitney Biennial, Under the Radar, and many bars and basements. Tatarsky is one half of roving bootleg research duo Shanzhai Lyric and their fictional office Canal Street Research Association. As curatorial fellow at the Poetry Project, they organized a series on the poetics of rot. | IG: @tartar.biz

## **UPCOMING AT REDCAT**

### **APR 9: JACK Quartet: *Haas in the Dark***

JACK Quartet performs George Friedrich Haas' visionary *Third String Quartet*—designed to be experienced in total darkness. As Haas wrote about this work, “The outline of one’s hand will ideally not be visible even when directly in front of their face. The darkness is absolute, and the effect is disorienting: an audience member feels they have become absorbed in a level of blackness with no visual cues to demarcate the size and shape of the space or their relation to it.” JACK Quartet, the foremost interpreters of Haas’ work, surround the audience in this unique performance of his String Quartet No. 3, “in iij Noct.” Part of the Body and Sound festival organized by LA Phil Insight and Liquid Music, this performance uniquely considers how senses shape perception of music in an unconventional concert experience in total darkness.

### **APR 17 - 18: Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener: *Open Machine***

Choreographers Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener combine technological and human pathways into a dynamic work that imagines an Artificial Intelligence lovingly programmed by experimental dance. *Open Machine* presents a constantly shifting performance with live speech-to-text transcription, projected images, and virtual renderings that amplify and react to the unfolding dance.

Blurring the lines between brain, body, and machine, the piece is accompanied by a sweeping, mechanical sound score. As dancers navigate the stage with precision and abandon, *Open Machine* synthesizes disparate modes of working, and reflects the social and spatial structures that shape our daily lives.

**MAY 1 - 2: Jibz Cameron: *Hell in a Handbag***

Queer performance artist Jibz Cameron, best known for her multimedia alter ego Dynasty Handbag, returns to REDCAT for an evening of performance, film, and readings celebrating the debut of her memoir. Entitled *Hell in a Handbag*, the book traces Cameron's unique perspective shaped by a childhood spent with hippie clowns in Northern California, to making morbid zines as a teen in the East Bay punk scene, to in-your-face experiences of misogyny in New York City's avant-garde theater scene. By turns both frank and funny, Cameron addresses the impact of addiction and mental illness in her life, as well as her mother's suicide, in a candid account of her journey. This personal narrative culminates in the birth of Dynasty Handbag, and her gutting commentary on contemporary life. In a first, both Jibz Cameron and Dynasty Handbag will appear each evening to tell the story of these intimately intertwined halves of one iconic individual.

**MAY 13 - 14: T. Akuchu, Dimitri Chamblas, James Gregg,**

**Caitlin Javech: *CalArts Dance: Emergent Forms***

Meet the next generation of dance artists as The Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance presents the choreographic and performance achievements of its 2026 undergraduate class. Choreographers James Gregg, T. Akuchu, Dimitri Chamblas, and Caitlin Javech (MFA Choreography 22) craft new works that highlight the unique artistic voices of students as they embark on professional careers in a powerful evening celebrating growth, artistry, and the bright future of dance.

## **REDCAT CREW**

**Lighting Operator:** Christa Troester

**Audio Engineer:** Shivani Desai

**Deck:** Donato Karingal, Jennifer Gonzalez

**Wardrobe:** Andrew Child

*REDCAT would like to extend a special thank you to our devoted team of Volunteer Ushers.*

## **REDCAT STAFF**

**Jacques Boudreau**, Facilities and Production Manager

**Jheanelle Brown**, Film Programming

**Chu-Hsuan Chang**, Associate Technical Director, Lighting

**Brent Charles**, Box Office and Visitor Services Manager

**Katy Dammers**, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Performing Arts

**Allison Keating**, Deputy Director, Finance and Operations

**Daniela Lieja Quintanar**, Chief Curator and Deputy Director,  
Programs

**Lucio Maramba**, Associate Technical Director, Audio and Video

**Adam Matthew-McMillen**, Director of Production  
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**Naomi Oppenheim**, Front of House Manager

**João Ribas**, Steven D. Lavine Executive Director of REDCAT  
& Vice President for Cultural Partnerships

**Rolando Rodriguez**, Administrative Manager



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