



Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener  
• **Open Machine**

Dance

**April 17 at 8 PM**

**April 18 at 2 PM & 8 PM**

**CaLARTS**



**ROY AND EDNA DISNEY  
CALARTS THEATER**

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

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 by electronic musician Mas Ysa and vocal artist Charmaine Lee, media design by Jesse Stiles, and lighting design by Davison Scandrett. 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.

On April 17, there will be a post-show Q&A with Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener moderated by Katy Dammers, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Performing Arts.

*Presented in English with some supertitles.*

*This program contains flashing lights and disorienting video.*

**Runtime: Approx. 60 minutes, no intermission**

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## **CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

Concept and Direction: **Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener**

Media Design: **Jesse Stiles**

Music: **Charmaine Lee, Mas Ysa**

Creation and Performance: **Morgan Amirah Burns,**

**Savannah Gaillard, Jennifer Gonzalez, Michael Greenberg,**

**Claude CJ Johnson, Catherine Kirk, Cori Kresge, Kalliope Piersol**

Lighting Design: **Davison Scandrett**

Costumes: **Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener,**

**in collaboration with performers**

*Open Machine is a co-commission of NYU Skirball and the Walker Art Center. The presentation of Open Machine by Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Foundation and the Mellon Foundation. This project is made possible in part with support from The Samuel Scripps Foundation, The Princess Grace Foundation, The New York State Council for the Arts, Creative Capital Foundation, University of Michigan's Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and Stamps School of Art & Design, and the Harkness Foundation for Dance. Open Machine*

*received residency and creation support at Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts, Pillow Fort Art Center, Al Held Foundation and River Valley Arts Collective, Headlands Center for the Arts, The Barnard Movement Lab, and The Bogliasco Foundation underwritten by Van Cleef & Arpels.*



## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener** are dance artists. Their work involves the building of collaborative worlds through improvisational techniques, digital technologies, and material construction. They met as dancers in the Merce Cunningham Dance company and since 2010 they have created over 25 multidisciplinary dance works including site-responsive installations, concert dances, gallery performances, and dances for film in venues such as the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Barbican Centre, REDCAT, The Walker Art Center, and MoMA/PS1. Throughout their career they have maintained a commitment to queer culture and aesthetics. Their partnership intentionally blurs authorship and maintains a deep commitment to collaboration with a diverse community of dancers, performers, designers, and artists. | IG: [rashaun.silas](https://www.instagram.com/rashaun.silas) / [rashaunsilasdance.com](http://rashaunsilasdance.com)

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## UPCOMING AT REDCAT

### 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 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.

**MAY 29 - 30: Jodie Landau: *Performance of Self***

Fusing memoir, concert, and cabaret, Jodie Landau takes up stories of his life in a personal exploration of love, sex, gender, and family. This debut solo show features original chamber rock compositions written and performed by Landau, backed by a six-piece band of contemporary music all-stars. *Performance of Self* reflects on the tension Landau has found amidst crafting, curating, and codifying his identity. While labels and definitions have provided comfort to the artist and those around him, this autobiographical piece also considers the ways definitions can also feel limiting in their imperfection. With commentary ranging from online dating to boy bands, Landau contends with what it means to not quite fit into the boxes society constructs in a poignant and funny performance.

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## **JUN 6: Wild Up: *The Interior Castle***

GRAMMY-nominated orchestral collective Wild Up presents *The Interior Castle*, an evening of ecstatic and contemplative music by visionary women, most of them cloistered, who span centuries of artistic and spiritual inquiry. Structured in ritornello form, the program centers on four works by Ethiopian composer, pianist, and nun Emahoy Tseque Maryam Guebrou, alongside new music by LA-based experimental vocalist and composer Eliza Bagg—including the world premiere of an original work and two reimaginings of the medieval abbess and polymath Hildegard von Bingen’s visionary chants. The program concludes with a world premiere by Wild Up member M.A. Tiesenga, inspired by St. Teresa of Ávila’s mystical treatise *The Interior Castle*.

### **REDCAT CREW**

**Audio Engineer:** Shivani Desai

**Audio Assistants:** Matt Kamimura, Anthony Storniolo

**Deck:** Jerrel Milan, Landi Wallace

**Lighting Programmer:** Christa Troester

**Livestream:** Kensaku Shinohara

**Wardrobe:** Alejandra Aleman

**QLab:** Anthony Storniolo

## **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

& Technical Director

**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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