



REDCAT

CHRIS COCHRANE, DENNIS COOPER
AND ISHMAEL HOUSTON-JONES

THEM

NOVEMBER 15–17, 2012 8:30 PM

NOVEMBER 18, 2012 7:00 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS

CHRIS COCHRANE, DENNIS COOPER AND ISHMAEL HOUSTON-JONES

THEM

Conceived by Chris Cochrane, Dennis Cooper and Ishmael Houston-Jones

Directed by Ishmael Houston-Jones

Choreography improvised by the performers after a score by Houston-Jones

Music by Chris Cochrane

Text by Dennis Cooper

Lighting by Joe Levasseur

Advisor to the Production Jonathan Walker

Performed by Joey Cannizzaro, Felix Cruz, Niall Noel Jones, Jeremy Pheiffer,

Jacob Slominski, Arturo Vidich and Enrico D. Wey

Management: Ben Pryor / tbspMGMT



REDCAT is a NPN Partner of the National Performance Network (NPN). This project is made possible in part by support from the NPN Performance Residency Program. Major contributors of NPN include the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), the MetLife Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

The creation of THEM was supported in part by Performance Space 122's TestPerformanceTest and developed through the RE:NEW RE:PLAY residency series at the New Museum with additional residency support from the Abrons Arts Center. Additional support for THEM has been provided by Tides Foundation and Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

ARTIST BIOS

Chris Cochrane (music/performance) is a guitarist who has been composing and playing music in NYC for 29 years. Chris has played with Zeena Parkins, John Zorn, Marc Ribot, Eszter Balint, Thurston Moore, Mike Patton, Henry Kaiser, Andrea Centazzo, Annie Gosfield, Tim Hodgkinson, Miguel Frascioni, Richard Buckner, Davey Williams, Ladonna Smith, Jim Pugliese, Dudley Saunders, Chris Rael, Mbiranyc, Manhattan Samba and many others. He has composed music for John Jasperse, Neil Greenberg, Nayland Blake, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Jennifer Monson, Circus Amok and others. He was in the bands No Safety and Curlew.

Dennis Cooper (text/performance) is a novelist, poet, critic, curator, and an ongoing collaborator with the French theater director and artist Gisele Vienne. Vienne and Cooper's latest work *Last Spring, a Prequel* was included in the 2012 Whitney Biennial. The duo recently co-curated *Teenage Hallucination*, a three week-long festival of art, performance, music, and lectures for the Centre Pompidou. Cooper's eleven published novels include "The George Miles Cycle", an interconnected sequence of five novels (*Closer, Frisk, Try, Guide, Period*), *My Loose Thread*, *God Jr.*, *The Sluts* (winner of the Prix Sade and the Lambda Literary Award), and, most recently, *The Marbled Swarm* (2011). His books have been translated into nineteen languages. He divides his time between Paris and Los Angeles.

Ishmael Houston-Jones (director/choreographer/perfumer) is a choreographer, author, performer, teacher, and arts activist. His improvised dance and text work has been performed in New York City, across the United States, in Europe, Canada, Australia and Latin America. Houston-Jones' *Nowhere, Now Here* was commissioned for Mordine and Company in Chicago in spring 2001 and *Specimens* was commissioned for Headlong Dance Theater in Philadelphia in 1998. In 1997 he was the choreographer for Nayland Blake's *Hare Follies* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. From 1995-2000 he was part of the improvised trio *Unsafe/ Unsited* with Keith Hennessy and Patrick Scully. In 1990 he and writer Dennis Cooper presented *The Undead* at the Los Angeles Festival of the Arts. In 1989 he collaborated with filmmaker Julie Dash on the video *Relatives*, which was aired nationally on the PBS series *Alive From Off-Center* (Alive TV). In 1984 Houston-Jones and Fred Holland shared a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie Award" for their *Cowboys, Dreams and Ladders*. In 2010 Performance Space 122 and the New Museum supported the reconstruction of Houston-Jones' 1985/86 collaboration with Dennis Cooper and Chris Cochrane, *THEM*. The piece has since been presented at the American Realness festival (New York, NY), Springdance (Utrecht, NL), Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), and TanzImAugust (Berlin, Germany). The reconstruction of *THEM* received a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" award in 2011. Houston-Jones is currently touring with Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People in *And lose the name of action*.

Joey Cannizzaro (performer) is a writer, artist, and performer. His work focuses on destabilizing language that preserves and produces dominant functionalist realities. Beyond performing as part of *THEM* in New York, Berlin, and at Centre Pompidou in Paris, Joey has worked with various American and international artists including Yves Laris Cohen, Amapola Prada, and Manuela Viera-Gallo. His writing has been published in numerous literary journals; most recently his "constrained translation" of Anna Karenina was published in the magazine *Dear, Sir*. Joey is currently an MFA candidate in Writing and Integrated Media at California Institute of the Arts.

Felix Cruz (performer) has a BFA in Dance and Choreography from VCU that is nailed onto his wall. He reflects on it often. With this piece of paper, he has presented work in cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, Chicago and Durham. He has been blessed to work with many choreographers and peers. He has been a part of *THEM* since it's reconstruction in 2010. In addition to being a dance monster, he also teaches classes at Chesterfield Dance Center in Richmond, VA. He is also the Associate Artistic Director of The Maeko Project, which is based in Richmond, VA (maekofilmproject.com). Felix loves dance and he loves you for loving dance. If you love him back, feel free to find him on the book of faces or email him at his very long email address, felix.luis.cruz.jr@gmail.com. Rock on dance lovers. Rock on.

Niall Noel Jones (performer) currently lives in Urbana, Illinois.

Joe Levasseur (lighting) has collaborated with many dance and performance artists including: John Jasperse, Rose Anne Spradlin, Sarah Michelson, David Dorfman, Jodi Melnick, Beth Gill, Maria Hassabi, Lee Saar the Company, Palissimo, Anna Sperber, Megan Sprenger, and Christopher Williams. He has received two Bessie awards for his design work, including one with Big Dance Theater for *Comme Toujours Here I Stand*. In 2009 his *Drop Clock* installation was featured in the lobby of Dance Theater Workshop (New York Live Arts). In 2010 he showed a collection of original paintings at Performance Space 122. Upcoming engagements: lighting from onstage for Jennifer Monson at the Kitchen, and projects with Tamar Rogoff and Wendy Whelan. Ringtones available at: www.joelevasseur.com

Jeremy Pheiffer (performer) was born and raised in Brooklyn. He currently dances with Faye Driscoll, Sally Silvers, and Kathy Westwater. Jeremy graduated with a BA from Sarah Lawrence in 2009.

Jacob Slominski (performer) lives in Ithaca, NY. He has also danced for Faye Driscoll, and makes his own work as a writer and choreographer. He has recently begun Vipassana meditation and finds it very helpful. He plans to move back to Brooklyn soon.

Arturo Vidich (performer) guides his compulsive behavior into creative pursuits. Improvisation is essential to his artistic practice. Since 2003, Vidich's performances have been presented in New York by The Chocolate Factory, MAD museum, NYLA, New Museum, Brucennial 2010/2012, Danspace Project, Movement Research, Dixon Place, Chashama, AUNTS, and others. He has a degree in Dance from Wesleyan University, and a master's degree from Tisch's ITP. Vidich received a Bessie Award for his collaboration on Yvonne Meier's *Stolen*. He has been an artist-in-residence at NYLA, MAD museum, Movement Research, The Chocolate Factory, and Chashama. Vidich has collaborated and performed with Deborah Hay, Yvonne Meier, Daria Faïn, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Eiko & Koma, Christopher Williams, Nami Yamamoto, and Aki Sasamoto, among others. Vidich will show new work through NYLA off-site at The Invisible Dog in January 2013.

Enrico D Wey's (performer) work has been on view since 2006, notably for Danspace, New Museum, St. Ann's Warehouse Puppet Lab, and as a curator for MR Spring Festival 2012. He was selected as an LMCC SwingSpace and DTW Fresh Tracks Residency Recipient in 2010. Enrico has had the pleasure of working with Milka Djordjevich, Trajal Harrell, Yvonne Meier, and Ishmael Houston-Jones over the years. As a member of South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company since 2004, he has toured internationally with *Tall Horse* and the William Kentridge directed opera, *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse*. He is currently puppeteering in the Tony Award-winning Broadway show *War Horse*. Upcoming: Little Lord Theater's *Pocahontas* (Bushwick Starr), Yvonne Meier (Abrons), and a collaborative work with choreographer Jon Kinzel in April (Danspace).

Thomas Benjamin Snapp Pryor (Producing Director) is an independent arts manager, producer and curator operating under the moniker tbspmGMT. His current projects include producing and touring the performance works of Miguel Gutierrez and the Powerful People, Trajal Harrell, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Yvonne Meier, Wally Cardona and Deborah Hay. Ben is also the Curator and Producer for American Realness, an annual festival of contemporary performance at Abrons Arts Center in New York, NY (Best of Dance 2010, ArtForum). Previously Ben worked as Director of Operations for Center for Performance Research, an Artist Representative at Pentacle, a project manager for Chez Bushwick and in the Planning and Development department at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Ben served as chair of the Agents Council and Trustee for Dance USA from 2008-2010. He was the recipient of the 2010 Gabriela Tudor Fellowship in Cultural Management. He has served as a panelist/reader for CEC ArtsLink, the Jerome Foundation, Creative Capital and the National Endowment for the Arts.