

For C.J. virtual premiere Program Details

The virtual premiere of the **BRIClab** work-in-progress performance of ***For C.J.***, followed by a **post-performance discussion** with historian, dancer, curator, and co-creator of **Black Dance Stories**, **Charmaine Warren**, and Fearon. The event will be available for streaming at **7 pm EDT on Friday, October 23rd, 2020.**

For C.J.

(Work-in-Progress)

Davalois Fearon Dance

Founder and Artistic Director, Davalois Fearon

Music Director, Mike McGinnis

Rehearsal Director, Morgan Anderson

General Manager, Tess Montoya

Project Manager, Anya Kress

Development Associate, Njeri Rutherford

Publicist, Emily McGill

BRIClab Mentor Stew Stewart

Choreography by Davalois Fearon with the assistance of the dancers

Music by Mike McGinnis with the assistance of the musicians

Silent Killer and *Take Care of You* songs by Davalois Fearon

Costumes, sculptures, and makeup design by Jasmine Murrell

Set and audience interactive props design by Myssi Robinson

Lighting Design Tricia Toliver

Dancers

Davalois Fearon

Morgan Anderson

Mikaila Ware

Njeri Rutherford

Musicians

Michael McGinnis, Composer, Clarinet, saxophone

Brian Drye, Trombone

Jeff Hermanson, Trumpet

Sara Schoenbeck, Bassoon

Dana Lyn, Violin

Yoon Sun Choi, Vocals

Allan Mednard, Drums

For C.J. is dedicated to Artistic Director Davalois Fearon's nephew C.J., the victim of a fatal asthma attack in 2017. Fearon explores themes of loss, remembrance, and the entanglement of

medical and environmental racial disparities that resulted in his death through her fluid yet assertive movement vocabulary. Music direction by composer and clarinetist/saxophonist Mike McGinnis; wearable sculpture, costume, and makeup designed by interdisciplinary artist Jasmine Murrell; and set design by the performer and visual artist Myssi Robinson. Dancer Morgan Anderson represents the medical industry, and dancer Njeri Rutherford embodies the environment. Dancer Mikaila Ware takes the audience through C.J.'s story.

In New York City, asthma hospitalization and death rates among Blacks and Hispanics are 3–5 times those of Whites. *For C.J.*'s initiative component seeks to highlight disparities in asthma care and provide tools to combat them. Please visit davaloisfearon.com/the-for-cj-initiative for more information.

The For C.J. Virtual Premiere is supported in part by a 2020 Project Grant from New Music USA. The development of For C.J. was made possible with partial financial support from Dance/NYC's Dance Advancement Fund, made possible by the Ford Foundation, Bronx Council on the Arts, the Bronx Museum of Art, individual contributions, the MAP Fund Grant, BAX, BRIC, BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance and RestorationART ChoreoQuest dance residencies. For C.J. was created in part from "As Above, As Below," a site-specific piece created in dialogue with Gordon Matta-Clark's exhibition "Anarchitect" at The Bronx Museum of the Arts and The BxMA Co-Lab commission program. BxMA Co-Lab is made possible by the Mertz Gilmore Foundation. Davalois Fearon is fiscally sponsored by the Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc., a non-profit organization administered by Pentacle (DanceWorks, Inc) and also receives capacity-building support from Pentacle's Administrative Resource Team (ART).

Special Thanks

Thank you to all DFD team members, performers, collaborators, family, friends, advisory board members, presenters, funders, donors, Kickstarter Backers, For C.J. Initiative members, and supporters who made this event possible. Special thanks to BRIC for the video recording, BRIC Media Education Classes, and the AMAZING BRIClab experience! Thank you to Mama Charmaine Warren, for all your support, mentorship, and wisdom and for being the very first *Time to Talk with Dava* guest!!! Huge, thank you to Stew for the spot on mentorship during the residency, Jen Nagilla, and Elissa Buxbaum for your ongoing guidance, support, and labor. Lastly, Thank you So much, Lohith Vijay Krishna Nagilla for generously providing us with the technology needed to pull off this event!!

Biographies

Davalois Fearon Dance (DFD) was founded in 2016 by Davalois Fearon, with the mission to push artistic and social boundaries by creating multidisciplinary works that confront difficult issues and educate audiences. Fearon brings her diverse movement vocabulary, hailed by critics for its "tenacious virtuosity," to collaborations with diverse creators including poet Patricia Smith, multi-reedist Mike McGinnis, fashion photographer Nigel HoSang, interdisciplinary artist Andre Zachery, and visual artist Jasmine Murrell. Her critically acclaimed choreography has been presented nationally and internationally, and at prestigious venues such as the Joyce Theater and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. DFD has received recurring support from the Bronx Council on the Arts, and foundational support from the MuKha Arts & Science Foundation and the MAP Fund Grant. The company was selected to participate in the

DanceMotion USA Professional Development Follow-on Program in 2017 and received arts administration and professional development support from Pentacle from 2017 to 2019.

DAVALOIS FEARON (Artistic Director), one of Dance Magazine's Up-and-Coming Black Artists to Have on Your Radar, is a Bessie award-winning, accomplished choreographer, dancer, and educator born in Jamaica and raised in The Bronx. Fearon's thought-provoking choreography "holds audiences in the moment" and is often complemented by educational or interactive elements. Her diverse movement vocabulary, hailed by critics for its "tenacious virtuosity," has found form in collaborations with diverse creators including poet Patricia Smith, composer Mike McGinnis, interdisciplinary artist Andre Zachery, and visual artist Jasmine Murrell. She has completed commissions for the Bronx Museum, Harlem Stage, and Barnard College, and has received an Alvin Ailey New Dance Direction Choreography Lab residency, among others. She has been featured in prominent publications such as *The New York Times*, *Dance Magazine*, and *The New Yorker*. Fearon danced with Stephen Petronio Company from 2005-2017 and is a professor at Purchase College and College of Staten Island.

MIKE MCGINNIS (Music Director, Composer) Saxophonist, clarinetist, and composer Mike McGinnis is a musical explorer unbound by stylistic barriers; unwaveringly individual, curious, and open-minded. He has released five critically acclaimed albums as a leader during his twenty-two years in the NYC jazz scene. In April of 2017 and 2018, he performed to sold-out houses at the world-famous Jazz Standard in NYC, leading a trio with jazz legends Art Lande and Steve Swallow. As musical director of the Davalois Fearon Dance Company, he has performed his compositions at the Joyce Theater, New Victory Theater, City Center, Metropolitan Museum, Harlem Stage, Rubin Museum, Bronx Museum and was the recipient of a 2019 MAP Fund Grant. For four consecutive years, he has been listed in the Clarinet "Rising Star" category by the DownBeat Magazine International Critics Poll.
<http://www.mikemcginnis.com/>

JASMINE MURRELL (Costumes, Wearable Sculptures, and Makeup Designer) is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist that employs several different mediums to create sculptures, paintings, installations, and films that blur the line between history and mythology. Her works have been exhibited nationally and internationally for the past decade, in venues such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MOMA, Bronx Museum AIM, African-American Museum of Art, Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, and The Whitney Museum. Her work has been published in the Art Forum, The New York Times, The Amsterdam News, Metro Times, and Hyperallergic.

MYSSI ROBINSON (Set and Audience Interactive Props Designer) is an artist from Richmond, VA. Home is currently Jersey City and the movement worlds of David Dorfman Dance, Kyle Marshall Choreography, and the Coleman Collective. Since graduating from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University with a BFA in Dance, Myssi has maintained a visual art practice of marking, design, and simple construction. Her work has been presented by Mana Contemporary, the Jersey City Theater Center, the Gallery at Nimbus Dance Works, Smush Gallery, along with BAAD! and the Bronx Museum of the Arts through Davalois Fearon Dance. In all her working, empathy is queen.

MORGAN ANDERSON (Rehearsal Director, Dancer) has performed with DFD since 2014, with whom she premiered *Consider Water* at the Joyce Theater. Morgan performs with Cain

Coleman and is a performer/rehearsal assistant with Damani Pompey, Michael Czerwinski, and Iquail Johnson. Morgan co-founded Big Evil Collective and Skyline Seventy Seven. Morgan teaches in the Teen Division at the Martha Graham School.

MIKAILA WARE (Dancer) a graduate of Florida State University where she obtained her B.F.A in Dance. Upon moving to New York, she has worked in the mediums of dance and film with choreographers and producers such as Gwen Welliver, André Zachery, Bouchra Ouizguen and Monticello Park Productions. She is currently a company member with Davalois Fearon Dance, Urban Bush Women, and an administrator at Brooklyn Arts Exchange. Follow her on Instagram @mikaila.move

NJERI RUTHERFORD (Development Associate, Dancer) administrator, an entrepreneur from Detroit, MI. After receiving her B.A. in Dance and Communication Arts from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC, Njeri relocated to New York City to pursue her career as an artist. Njeri has danced professionally for Davalois Fearon Dance, Dance The Yard, to name a few. She has choreographed for several festivals and concerts including Charlotte Dance Festival and Art on the V.I.N.E in Martha's Vineyard. As an administrator, Njeri has worked for Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, and Charlotte Ballet, and currently serves as the Development Associate at Movement Research in Manhattan. Njeri's passions as an artist include performance, choreography, and bridging the gap between artists of color and proper funding, resources, and notoriety. Njeri is the founder of The Barre, an artist services company, that caters to the artistic, administrative, and performative needs of artists of color.

JEFF HERMANSON (Musician, Trumpet) Performance and/or recording credits include Stew, Yo La Tengo, Amy Lynn & The Honey Men, Lonnie Plaxico Group, Teo Macero Big Band, N'Dea Davenport (of The Brand New Heavies), Mike McGinnis + 9 Roadtrip Band, The Loser's Lounge, 30 Rock, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt, Stephen Petronio Dance Company. Jeff graduated from The Eastman School of Music.

DANA LYN (Musician, Violin) is at home in a wide range of musical genres and has worked with a wide variety of artists, including Tony Award-winning musicians Stew and Heidi Rodewald, actor-directors Ethan Hawke and Vincent D'Onofrio, D'Angelo and the Vanguard, 2017 MacArthur Fellow Taylor Mac, Irish poet Louis de Paor, Killer Mike and the Walkmen. As a composer, she has received commissions from the Brooklyn Rider, the Apple Hill String Quartet, the National Arts Council of Ireland and the New Orchestra of Washington, among others. A violinist/fiddler, violist, pianist, and enthusiastic bass player, she leads a number of her own projects, including a collaboration with actor Vincent D'Onofrio, *slim bone head volt*, and the sextet *mother octopus*. Most recently, she was an awardee of the 2018 American Composers Forum "Create" Commission and a 2020 recipient of the NYFA Women's Fund Grant for Media, Music and Theater.

YOON SUN CHOI (Musician, Vocal) has spent more than two decades capturing listeners with her uncompromising, freewheeling and beautiful style and the breadth of her musical vision. A Korean-Canadian improvising vocalist and pianist, Choi has been based in New York City since 2000. Her main musical projects are with her longtime collaborative duo with pianist Jacob Sacks, her solo voice/piano work. Choi has performed and collaborated with renown artists such as Jane Ira Bloom, Samir Chatterjee, Steve Coleman, Mark Dresser, Mark Elias, Gerry Hemmingway, Darius Jones, D.D. Jackson, Oliver Lake, Mat Maneri, Ben Monder, the Tri-Centric Orchestra, Sarah Weaver, Kenny Werner and Kenny Wheeler. She has performed in some of the finest concert houses and music venues including The Blue Note, Birdland, The

Stone, Roulette, The River Theater, Roy Thompson Hall and Carnegie Hall. Choi received a BMus in classical piano and composition at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and a BMus in voice and jazz performance at the University of Toronto. She studies voice with Thomas Schilling and piano with Sofia Rosoff.

SARA SCHOENBECK (Musician, Bassoon) is in The Wire magazine's "tiny club of bassoon pioneers" at work in contemporary music today and the New York Times has called her "riveting, mixing textural experiments with a big, confident sound." While focusing on the intersection between extended technique and melody Sara works to expand the notion of what the bassoon is capable of in both notated and improvised music. Sara is a member or performed with Anthony Braxton's 12+1(tet), the Nels Cline Lovers Orchestra, the Gravititas Quartet with Wayne Horvitz, Ron Miles and Peggy Lee, the Michael Leonhart Orchestra, SEM and Wavefield new music ensemble. Sara has performed at major venues and festivals throughout North America and Europe including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center out of doors, the Guggenheim, Disney Hall, SXSW, New Orleans Jazz Festival, Tempere Jazz Festival, Berlin Jazz Festival, Biennale Musica in Venice Italy, Vancouver Jazz Festival and the San Francisco Jazz Festival. Sara can be heard on music and film recordings including Matrix 2 and 3, Spanglish and Dahmer. She is looking forward to releasing her debut album as a leader in a series of intimate duets in the Fall of 2021 on Pyroclastic Records. Sara received her BFA from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

BRIAN DRYE (Musician, Trombone) is a trombonist and pianist, as well as an integral part of NYC's creative music scene. His debut as a leader, Bizingas was hailed as "one of the best introductions to a new band" by The New York Times. Brian has been a consistent member of the lower brass sections of balkan brass juggernauts Slavic Soul Party! and Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars, Banda De Los Muertos, a Mexican Banda, The Brooklyn Qwaali Party and the Brazilian group, Maracatu NY and Nation Beat. As a jazz trombonist Brian has performed with Hank Roberts Sextet, Billy Martin's Wicked Knee, Medeski Martin and Wood, Steven Bernstein, jazz legend Clark Terry and the Wood Brothers. Brian has performed with celebrated experimental composer Annie Gosfield, performance artist Laurie Anderson and was featured in Andy Biskin's Goldberg Variations at BAM as well as Bang On A Can's 25th Anniversary Celebration at Lincoln Center with the Asphalt Orchestra. Brian spent his formative years touring the nation with The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, crooner Paul Anka and The Four Tops. He has performed and recorded on both piano and trombone with Tony award winner Stew (Passing Strange) from Stew and the Negro Problem. In 2016 Brian made his theatre debut, performing trombone in the cast of Hometown at the New York Theatre Workshop. Brian is currently performing in the Tony and Grammy award winning Musical Hometown which features the trombone prominently.

ALLAN MEDNARD (Musician, Drums) was born and raised in Queens, New York. His early musical experiences involved New York City's All-City High School Music program, Bayside High School's Academy of Music, and Queens College's Center for Preparatory Studies in the Music program. In 2008, he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in jazz performance from the City College of New York (CCNY). While attending CCNY he studied with the great Carl Allen. He has performed around the globe with ensembles led by Jeremy Pelt, Ben Allison, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Aaron Parks, Michael Wolff, Andrew D'Angelo, Alix Ambroise, and many more.

TRICIA TOLIVER (Lighting Designer) is currently the Lighting Designer/Technical Director for the Barnard College Dance Department and has had the pleasure of working primarily in dance for such companies as the Trisha Brown Dance Company, Lucinda Childs, the Limon Dance Company, Lar Lubovitch, Donald Byrd/The Group, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, Yin Yue, Complexions among others. She has also stage managed regularly for Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project and appeared on Broadway stage-managing Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy in 2008. Her other credits include production managing for the National Ballet of Cuba, Netherlands Dance Theatre II, City Center Theater, and NJPAC. Tricia has a B.A. in dance from UCLA and an M.F.A. in dance from the University of Washington and danced with Donald Byrd/The Group from 1987-1991. She is very happy to be working with Davalois here at BRIC.

CHARMINE PATRICA WARREN (Post-performance guest speaker), Charmaine Warren performer, historian, consultant, and dance writer, is the founder/artistic director for "Dance on the Lawn: Montclair's Dance Festival," and curator of dance at The Wassaic Project. She has curated for E-Moves and danced with david roussève/REALITY. Charmaine is on faculty at Hunter and Empire State Colleges, and former faculty at Ailey/Fordham, Sarah Lawrence College and Kean University. Published in Dance Magazine, Amsterdam News, and panelists for Robert Battle's New Directions Choreography Lab. Charmaine holds a Ph.D. in History/Howard University, a Master's in Dance Research/City College, and Bachelor Degrees (Dance/English)/Montclair State College. She is a member of Skeleton Architecture Collective.

Survey questions

Please take a moment to reflect on the performance and write down your immediate reactions.

Do you or someone you know have asthma? Yes or no? If so, do you have an asthma-related story you would like to share?

What do you know about asthma and asthma care management?

Do you want to join the *For C.J.* Initiative? If so, please email us at forcj@davaloisfearon.com and let us know.