



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

**A CONCERT & SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE CENTERING & CELEBRATING
BLACK TRANS, NON-GENDER CONFORMING, & QUEER ARTISTS**

JULY 14, 2021



WELCOME TO TRANSCEND

Katharine Pettit Creative - KPC is partnering with the Black Mental Health Alliance to curate this virtual dance-centered concert, "Transcend, Uplifting Their Voices". Our Collaboration celebrates Black Trans, Non-Gender Conforming, and Queer Youth through dance, discussion, and poetry, offering three Black Trans Mental Health Scholarships for young artists pursuing a career in dance.

Katharine Pettit Creative-KPC spotlights social injustices using dance as our universal language, changing minds by opening hearts through movement. Black Mental Health Alliance develops, promotes, and sponsors trusted culturally relevant educational forums, trainings, and referral services that support the health and well-being of Black people and their communities.

We are collaborating with multiple organizations including the International Association of Blacks in Dance and Black LGBT+ led dance companies and independent artists. "Transcend, Uplifting Their Voices" is free in order to elevate the inclusiveness of all communities and introduce various genres of dance to the cross-section of people that will attend.

Our target audience are Black and Brown LGBTQ young people who need to see themselves in the spotlight, witness their experiences through movement and hear from trailblazers in the dance world that have been where they are now.

Continued On **Page 2**





Our extraordinary lineup of collaborating artists include Pretty Big Movement @PrettyBigMovement (plus-sized dance company led by powerhouse Akira Armstrong), Maxfield Haynes @itsmaxfield (nonbinary Ballet dancer with Complexions and Guggenheim works in process), Zaman of Zamandari and Tarannng Dance Troupe @zaman_aka_sundari (1st Indo-Caribbean Guyanese LGBT+ choreographer in NYC), Kemar Jewel @Kemar_Jewel (Vogue 4 #BlackLivesMatter), Carolyn Dorfman Dance @cdorfmandance (renowned dance company founded by child of Holocaust survivors) and Okwae A. Miller @okwaemiller (Atlanta based activist & artist).

The BMHA has an awesome group of young poets, “Dewmore, Be More”, that will be sharing their poetry, rap, & songs in between dance pieces during this two-hour event. We’ve also curated a panel of dance educators & creators (Maxfield Haynes, Kemar Jewel & Okwae Miller) to offer context for our audience and artists as we aim to decolonize dance through discussion and a moderated Q&A as an intermission between dance acts one and two.

“Transcend, Uplifting Their Voices” initiative offers each of you the chance to work towards racial equity by dismantling systemic racism through the decolonization of dance.

This is our first annual concert event to center and elevate the Black LGBTQIA community through dance, discussion, and poetry!



ORDER OF PROGRAM



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



TRANSCEND PROGRAM



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

ACT ONE

**Vogue 4 #BlackLivesMatter by
Kemar Jewel**

**“Pose: Queerosity” written & performed by
Destinae Butler**

Ang Laga - Apsara

**MAYNE MENTSHN (My People) Excerpt
from Act II - The American Dream - The
Others & Fragile Thread solo**

**“Strength” written and performed by
Black Rose**

Mental Maze

This Is Me

Intermission

**Panel Discussion: with Maxfield Haynes,
Kemar Jewel, Okwae A. Miller
moderated by Mike Heyliger**

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Break Chains

**“Gangsta Rainbow” written & performed
by Keyma Flight & Sahzez**

Sean & Rajeev Duet

Sweet Lightening

**“Holes” written & performed by A’niya
Taylor**

Dis Na Lang Time

**“Paper Hearts” written & performed by
Keyma Flight**

**SOFT: A Love Letter to Black Queer Men by
Kemar Jewel**



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



VOGUE 4 #BLACKLIVESMATTER BY KEMAR JEWEL

Black Queer and Trans people using Voguing as a form of protest while also as a source of Black joy in this political climate. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and the Pride celebration of June 2020

**Directed, Choreographed, & Created by:
Kemar Jewel**

Filmed & Edited by: Jabari Taylor

Creative Director: Aaron-Michael Sobers



Kemar Jewel

Director. Choreographer. Visionary.

Cast:

Daphne Wynter

Otis Peña

O'Shae Sibley

Antonio Green

Hayden Jones





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

DEWMORE BALTIMORE POSE: QUEEROSITY

Written &
Performed By
Destinae
Butler





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



ANG LAGA - APSARA

Choreographed by Dr. Denise Ramdawah, this piece was created to showcase the power of LOVE - love for oneself, the truth that lives in a person's heart, and the love for another. The piece explores love, confession and passion, being truthful in your love, through the art of dance. This dance tells two stories- one of a girl who is ready to confess her love for someone, and take a leap of faith. The other story is of a girl who has always been ready to catch her.

Performed by: Dr. Denise Ramdawah and Satwika Reddy

Costume Design: Desrie Kuldip

Hair & Makeup: The King Ivy

Music compilation by: Dr. Denise Ramdawah
Musical Soundtrack: "Ang Laga De" from the Indian-Bollywood Film: RamLeela (Aditi Paul & Shail Hada) & "Apsara Ali" from the Indian-Marathi Film: Natarang (Ajay-Atul)



Advocating for Caribbean LGBTQ+ Voices in NYC

www.CaribbeanEqualityProject.org

MAYNE MENTSHN (MY PEOPLE) EXCERPT FROM ACT II- THE AMERICAN DREAM- THE OTHERS AND FRAGILE THREAD SOLO

A joyous and soulful work that illuminates the power of art to speak about history and legacy and to celebrate our uniqueness and commonalities, our diversity and our humanity.

Choreography by Carolyn Dorfman
Music composed, arranged and adapted by Greg Wall
Original Lighting Design by Sean Perry; recreated by Marika Kent
Costume Design by Russell S. Aubrey
Performance by Adam Gauzza, Brandon Jones, Louie Marin, and Katlyn Baskin (Formerly Waldo)

Carolyn Dorfman created Mayne Mentshn as a tribute to her family, from her nuclear and extended family, to the human race at large. It is about a spirit and passion for life, people and truth. It is about life, death, survival and renewal. She explains:

“In Mayne Mentshn, including The Klezmer Sketch and The American Dream, I finally acknowledge all of the strengths, trials, and more importantly, humor and joy that have sustained ‘my people’. In The Klezmer Sketch I wanted to mine the exuberant, joyful, yet soulful quality of Klezmer music that inspired me to explore Jewish gesture, expression, ritual, character and values. I wanted to celebrate the uniqueness of the Jewish journey, and yet, the extraordinary universal connections that it engenders. In The American Dream, I wanted to address the complexities of living in and growing up in a European Jewish community in America. The problems my family and I encountered are not unique. They represent the constant struggle of all immigrant cultures and those that are “different” as they struggle to maintain the identity of their cultural roots and authentic selves while becoming a part of another, larger whole. What is the essence of our unique legacies? What are the inextricably linked values? What is the “fragile thread”? These are the questions explored in The American Dream.”

Performances of Mayne Mentshn are dedicated to my mother, Mala Dorfman, and to the memory of my father, Henry Dorfman (1922-2001), for the humanity he engendered and the legacy he so passionately delivered.

Mayne Mentshn was made possible in part by a grant from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture’s Pearl Zeltzer Fund for Jewish Choreography, the AT&T Foundation; Nick and Shelley DeFilippis; the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; Joel, Carol, Noah & Jordan Dorfman; Henry and Mala Dorfman; Gregory S. Gallick, M.D.; The Karma Foundation; North Star Partners, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation; and Summit Physical Therapy.



carolyndorfmandance

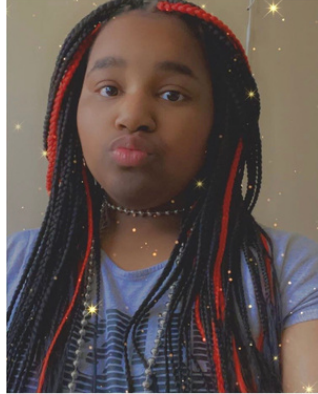


TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

DEWMORE BALTIMORE STRENGTH

Written &
Performed By
Black Rose





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

MENTAL MAZE

Written and performed by the Verbal Artisan @theverbalartisan
Choreographed by Katharine Pettit
featuring Katharine Pettit Creative - KPC
@KatharinePettitCreative Artists:
Shan Y. Chuang, Daniella Garofalo, Rachel Lauria, Aimee Van Dam
editor & videographer Shahzeb Hussain

Katharine Pettit Creative - KPC, in partnership with Episcopal Actors Guild's Open Stage Grant, presents "Mental Maze".
Filmed on location at EAG's Guild Hall
Open Stage is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



MENTAL MAZE by The Verbal Artisan

Caused me to feel like I was less than a person, but I continued to stay
The door was right there but I was in a mental maze, I couldn't find my way

I didn't pray, I stopped asking for guidance
Fuck the world, from myself I was hiding

Didn't want to see what I had become
Because I feared looking in the mirror only to call myself dumb

Like stupid, are you serious, you still fuckin' with this dude
Man, you'd be better off dying alone or a shrew

So to avoid all that, I didn't even look at my reflection
Too many imperfections, from my head to my toe section

So I took all the "Fuck yous" and every "stupid bitch" thrown
I must be to continue remaining in this home

I must be ugly, I must be unwanted, I must be dumb
I was numb

I wasn't living. Barely breathing, merely existing, taking up space
Sometimes I wish I coulda just been erased from this place

Taken out
Tired of all the black eyes and bloody mouths

Permanent scars and bruises
Always aimed for the body making sure to only leave minor contusions

Shit's confusing
You love me but you beat me
Apologize, feel guilty yet the cycle keeps repeating

You know what? I don't even care no more just let me put the baby down
'Cause last week she was in my arms when you hit me and she almost fell out

"IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU
EVERYTHING WOULD GO RIGHT IF YOU DID WHAT I TOLD YOU TO DO

STOP TRYING TO THINK, JUST FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS
DON'T ASK ME NO QUESTIONS, THIS AIN'T A DISCUSSION"

Too many fucked up memories to decipher
So I carry it on my back like I'm climbing through the mountains and proceed as a hiker

The memories are a bid and I'm a lifer
Seeing the bruises, feeling lingering pain don't lighten the sentence none neither

But I embrace it, because it reminds me to never again embrace you
I thank you, 'cause I'd never be the person I am today if it wasn't for you



Katharine Pettit Creative



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



“THIS IS ME” is a piece created by Akira Armstrong which is performed by the members of Pretty BIG MOVEMENT.

This piece represents the true essence of what one should feel like in their own skin. No matter what race, gender, ethnicity, or creed this dance represents humanity overall.

The moves were intended to be heartfelt by any audience to leave them feeling inspired and reassured to live unapologetically as long as they live.

THIS IS ME

Choreographed by
Akira Armstrong @iamakiraarmstrong

Performed by
Pretty Big Movement
@prettybigmovement

Music from
The Greatest Showman Soundtrack





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



PANEL DISCUSSION

Maxfield Haynes

Kemar Jewel

Okwae A. Miller

Moderator: Mike Heyliger





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



Katharine Pettit Creative

BREAK CHAINS

An excerpt from **UNTITLED GIRL NARRATIVE**

Concept & Choreography

Katharine Pettit

Composed by Logan Evan Thomas

Featuring Katharine Pettit Creative -
KPC @KatharinePettitCreative Artist:
Shan Y. Chuang

Editor & Videographer
Shahzeb Hussain

NYC Cultural
Affairs

UNTITLED GIRL NARRATIVE tells the story of three girls (“X”, “Y”, and “Z”) as they navigate childhood and adolescence in America today. Spotlighting the BIPOC female identifying experience versus the white privilege perspective, their struggle between societal expectation and true purpose drive this three act musical.

Katharine Pettit Creative - KPC is one of 500 New York City-based artists to receive \$5,000 through the City Artist Corps Grants program, presented by The New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), with support from the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) as well as Queens Theatre.

KPC was recognized for **UNTITLED GIRL NARRATIVE** and will showcase excerpts of our work on Governors Island in NYC throughout August 2021.

KPC will also be moving forward with the Episcopal Actors Guild Open Stage Grant January/February 2022 premiering **UNTITLED GIRL NARRATIVE** in its entirety at Guild Hall in Chelsea, NY.

More information available on our website and social media platforms!





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

DEWMORE BALTIMORE GANSTA RAINBOW

Written &
Performed By
Keyma Flight
& Sahzez





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



SEAN & RAJEEV DUET

Like many couples of all orientations, we are faced with many struggles on the road to growing relationships. These two souls are no different from the unspoken silence and internal struggles, the ups and downs, the bends and breaks, they heal and grow stronger as they learn to move as one. Performed in a semi-classical/ contemporary fusion we see two sides of the same coin. LOVE.

Song - Bollywood Popshift

Singer - Musical Avish

Dancers - Sean Kulsum and Rajeev Singh

Choreographer - Sean Kulsum

Costume Design: Desrie Kuldip



Advocating for Caribbean LGBTQ+ Voices in NYC

www.CaribbeanEqualityProject.org



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

SWEET LIGHTENING

choreography, videography, editing by
Maxfield Haynes

featuring **Maxfield Haynes**

“Sweet Lightning was a piece inspired by the music of my friend Antony Cherry. It was an entirely self produced project filmed on location in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.”



Maxfield Haynes





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

DEWMORE BALTIMORE HOLES

Written &
Performed By
A'niya Taylor





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



DIS NA LANG TIME

Choreography: Denise Sonali Reema Ramdawah, & Mohamed A. Amin (Zaman)

Performed by: International Dancer Zaman & Sundari, The Indian Goddess

Costume Design: Desrie Kuldip

Hair & Makeup: The King Ivy

Music compilation by: Mohamed A. Amin (Zaman)

For generations, Queer Black and Brown Caribbean artists fear performing publicly as their authentic selves. Indo-Caribbean Gay artist International Dancer Zaman and Drag Centric-Activist Sundari, The Indian Goddess battles with their inner self to deconstruct LGBTQIA+ stigmas and colonial teachings to create visibility.

Live Pridefully Video credits:

Producer and Creative Director: Mohamed Q. Amin (@mohamedqamin)

Videographer and Editor: The World is Rich Productions (@theworldisrich)

Set Location: Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (@jamaicaartscenter)

Makeup: Hector De la Renta (@blendgod_bk)



Advocating for Caribbean LGBTQ+ Voices in NYC

www.CaribbeanEqualityProject.org



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

DEWMORE BALTIMORE PAPER HEARTS

Written &
Performed By
Keyma Flight





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



SOFT: A LOVE LETTER TO BLACK QUEER MEN BY KEMAR JEWEL

Black men use the language of contemporary dance in order to heal from homophobia, connect as a community, and serve as a reminder to be soft with themselves and each other. Inspired by poetry and writing from Lester Mayers and Donja R. Love.

Created & Directed by: Kemar Jewel

Choreographer: Will Ervin

Filmed & Edited by: Jabari Taylor

Creative Director: Aaron-Michael Sobers

Photographer: Venancio Cortez & Aaron-Michael Sobers



Kemar Jewel

Director. Choreographer. Visionary.

Cast:

Jordan Dobson

Otis Peña

O'Shae Sibley

Tristan Grumman

Zaki A'Jani Marshall

Malik Berry

...and featuring Timothy Tobias



COMPANY/ CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



PRETTY BIG MOVEMENT



Pretty BIG Movement CEO and Founder Akira Armstrong is a trail blazing pioneer with a big heart and an even BIGGER vision. The Bronx native holds credits including Beyonce, Janet Jackson, Lizzo, Salt-N-PEPA, SWV, Jennifer Hudson, Jasmine Sullivan, Daddy Yankee, Big Freedia, Lip Sync Battle, Black Girls Rock, and you've probably seen her most recently tearing the stage up the streets in Manhattan for Vogue Ma Lizzo at the 2019 MTV VMAS. One of Armstrong's major highlights within her career was kicking some denim's ass in Canadian plus brand Pennington's commercial for ad campaign "I Won't Compromise." Akira established the house of full figured, voluptuous, talented and otherwise overlooked dancers in 2008.

She sought out the opportunity to create a path and platform all her own which would cultivate empowerment for women of the unorthodox industry look. With the release of Condé Nas "The Scene: Breaking Stereotypes" the Movement became an international household name, with +10 million views overnight! Disrupting the waves of mainstream media, her company splashed into the hands of Lane Bryant, Rome Italy's syndicated television show "Amici", Touring in Seoul Korea, Harry Connick Jr., images splattered on Vogue Taiwan, Huffington Post, People Magazine, Cosmopolitan, The Great BIG Story, and MIC.com. The clan was more so recently featured as dancers for Janet Jackson and Daddy Yankee hit single "Made For Now," expanding their market to the LGBT community as well as breaking the stereotypes of being plus-size dancers on Paramount Networks hit show Lip Sync Battle.

Beyond consistent industry work, Akira gives back to the community through her work as a teaching artist as well as producing Move Your Curves Workshop Xperience at Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre which occurs every 3rd Saturday of every month. Her workshops are open to all women & men of different shapes and sizes with a no-judgement zone safe space. In addition to Armstrong's workshops she also hosts beginner heel classes at Alvin Ailey as well.

In 2018 Armstrong created an Apprenticeship Program, an intensive dance training program geared to cultivate non-professional full-figured/Plus-sized women and men to prepare for mainstream media platforms. You may have also seen Ms.Armstrong on BET's new hit reality show LADIES NIGHT as the legendary hip duo Salt-N-Pepa & female R&B group SWV choreographer.

In 2021 Akira is looking to expand her company in different cities and countries globally all while opening up a Pretty BIG teen division to shape and mold young adults for their professional future. Armstrong's hard work, dedication and passion are evident in all of her companies accomplishments and we rest assured knowing there is much more for her to cook up.

Instagram: @iamakiraarmstrong
@prettybigmovement
Facebook: Akira Armstrong
Pretty BIG Movement
Website: www.prettybigmovement.com

CAROLYN DORFMAN DANCE



Celebrating its 40th season in 2021-2022, Carolyn Dorfman Dance connects life and dance in bold, athletic, and dramatic works by Carolyn Dorfman and nationally renowned choreographers and in collaboration with extraordinary composers, musicians, actors, storytellers, visual artists and costume, set and video designers. The company's ten multi-ethnic and stunning dancers tap their unique talents, both in performance and in its interactions with audiences, students and the community, to present high-energy, technically demanding, and highly acclaimed works that take audiences on intellectual and emotional journeys that ultimately illuminate and celebrate the human story. This is contemporary dance that moves you to think, feel, laugh, cry, and engage.

Touring nationally and internationally, her company appears at major theaters, festivals, universities, and non-traditional performance venues. At the heart of CDD's immersive artistic and educational programming is DEPTH- Dance that Empowers People to be more Human., Carolyn Dorfman and Company see dance as a powerful and joyous vehicle for human expression, connection, social action, and change. Multiple tours to Poland (2001, 2003, 2009), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2015, 2016), and 2020 Kathmandu, Nepal (unfortunately canceled) have been supported by The Trust for Mutual Understanding, U.S. Arts International and the U.S. State Department. For Dorfman, "through our work, we reveal the world as it is...the world as it can be".

Carolyn Dorfman Dance has fulfilled its mission throughout the pandemic. The company has effectively made use of technology to create, connect and thrive. Since March 2020, the company has provided exceptional virtual programming, master classes for all levels of dance, K-12 and university residencies, international creative collaborations, created and previewed new work and taped performance and educational content, all with COVID precautions. The Company was featured on State Of the Arts with others who have adapted and effectively worked during the ongoing pandemic.

Our mission is to create and present dance that celebrates the commonality of the human experience and being acutely aware of the sociopolitical activism happening all around us.

A message from Founding Artistic Director, Carolyn Dorfman:

"On behalf of my entire organization including our company dancers, administrative staff, and board of trustees, we are honored to be part of Transcend, Uplifting Their Voices. We fully understand the need to recognize and support black trans, non-gender conforming, and queer artists who at this time are both, ironically, invisible and yet completely oppressed and abused. We want to be part of the voices that stand up for the common dignity, respect, and the possibility of reaching the full potential of every human being. It is part of our core mission in terms of who we are as dance artists and as human beings and that is why we are so committed to this project. A special thank you to Katharine Pettit Creative for having us part of this remarkable event towards the support of those most in need."

MAXFIELD HAYNES



Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Maxfield Haynes (B.F.A. NYU Tisch) began their formal dance training in ballet at the University of Louisville Dance Academy at age 12 under the training of Chuck Bronson and Cynthia Bronner. At age 14 they were accepted into Louisville's Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS), and chose to continue their dance training as a Trainee at the Louisville Ballet under Bruce Simpson, where they performed in the corps de ballet of Alun Jones and Helen Starr's production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

At age 16, they left home to train at the San Francisco Ballet School on the David Palmer Foundation Scholarship, dancing roles in Helgi Tomasson's *Nutcracker*, as well as originating roles in works by Parrish Maynard.

Maxfield has attended summer intensives on full merit scholarship at the San Francisco Ballet School, Houston Ballet Academy, American Ballet Theater, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Maxfield attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a Tisch scholarship, and has also spent time studying at the HAMU Performing Arts University of Prague in the Czech Republic. While at Tisch, Maxfield had the pleasure of participating in works by Crystal Pite/Kidd Pivot, Dwight Rhoden, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane, Raja Feather Kelly, Robert Garland, and Paul Taylor. As a senior at NYU, Maxfield toured internationally as an apprentice with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

In August 2018, Maxfield was invited to join *Complexions Contemporary Ballet* under the direction of Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson as a soloist, performing in theaters across the USA, Canada, Ukraine, New Zealand, and Germany. Maxfield has performed at private parties for the fashion houses of Dior and Cartier, as well as the artist Madonna. Some of their artistic collaborations include works with James Whiteside, and Ballet Boy Productions. Most recently, they made history as the first male to dance en pointe in collaboration with Isaac Mizrahi and John Higgenbotham in *Peter and the Wolf* at the Guggenheim museum in New York.

Maxfield has taught on faculty with the Joffrey Ballet School summer intensives, and has produced work featured at the Mobile Dance Film Festival, Guggenheim Works and Process, and has lectured at the University of Georgia on topics of Race, Diversity, and Gender within the world of dance.

KEMAR JEWEL



Kemar Jewel

Director. Choreographer. Visionary.



Kemar Jewel is a Black Queer Director and Choreographer from Jamaica. Raised in Philadelphia, he has done everything from touring around Europe performing, working with recording artists, and becoming a viral internet sensation with millions of views on YouTube.

In addition, Kemar is the founder of Xcel Dance Crew, a performance based group comprised of Black queer and trans dancers. Xcel incorporates drag, hip hop, and vogue in order to tell stories and shine a light on important issues.

@kemar_jewel



KATHARINE PETTIT CREATIVE

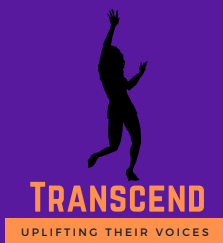


Katharine Pettit Creative - KPC spotlights social injustices using dance as our universal language, changing minds by opening hearts through movement. Founded in 2016, KPC's resume and history span many dance festivals across the five boroughs of NYC, traveling to upstate NY as ambassador to the NY State Recovery Conference, and touring to the Detroit Dance City Festival with our Black Lives Matter protest piece, "OutCry".

KPC works in the Recovery community with rehabilitation and recovery centers to offer alternative therapy for substance use disorder using movement as a pathway to wellness. Check out our website, social media platforms and YouTube channel: katharinepettitcreative.com

@Katharine_Pettit_Creative KPC YouTube Channel
Instagram & Facebook:
@KatharinePettitCreative
Twitter: @KPettitCreative





TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



ZAMANDARI

Satwika Reddy was initially exposed to dance through the South Indian classical form, where she studied Kuchipudi under Gururji Anil Kumar at Trimurthi Arts, from the age of 9-20 years old.

Performing for her parents and family events, Satwika found a sense of freedom through dance which pushed her to continue her passion for the performing arts with QC Fanaa at Queens College learning Bollywood and Contemporary dance forms. Satwika is the leading actress in the movie "Echos From The Plantation". She is a graduate in Environmental Studies. She is currently completing her MBA in Analytics and continues to share her love for dancing with the world.

Rajeev N. Singh is a 25-year-old Indo-Guyanese who's an artist, model, and dancer. He was born and raised in Essequibo, Guyana. He was introduced to dance in 2008 at his High School, Anna Regina Multilateral Secondary. While attending High School, Rajeev and a few of his close friends formed a Bollywood Style dance group which participated in school concerts and competitions. Just before graduating High School, he co-founded Kandhiya Dance Troupe, which focused on Bollywood fusions and incorporating different dance styles.

At the age of 16, Rajeev moved to Georgetown, Guyana to further his academic studies in Fine Arts attending E.R. Borrows School of Art. His art pieces were then exhibited in Castellani house gallery. Pursuing his passion for dance, he became an active member of Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha's youth group, Dharmic Naujawaan. He also became a cast member for the Annual Naya Zamana dance production where he performed for both shows in Guyana and New York. In addition to his studies and dancing, he also modeled for Guyana fashion week and featured in multiple television ads.

Rajeev has many incredible individuals who have motivated him to pursue dance, especially Miss. Kay, Cassie, and Dr. Vindi Persaud. Rajeev is a versatile performer, aside from Bollywood, he is trained in Semi classical, Ballroom, Contemporary and Street style dances.

In the search for new adventures and personal goals, Rajeev migrated to the U.S., where he currently resides in New York. As he continues to pursue his passion for dance and the arts, Rajeev is the newest member of the Tarannng Dance Troupe.

Sean Kulsum is a professional dancer, choreographer, and educator living in New York City.

An Indo Caribbean living his American dream, Sean strives to blend his diverse artistic elements from Eastern, Western, and Caribbean cultures. He is a creator of an unconventional dance style called Indian Contemporary. His grace, versatility, and lively stage presence made him a desirable artist that has captivated many audiences and critics alike.

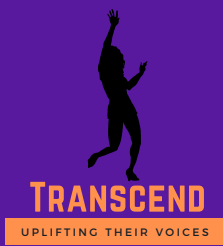
He specializes in many dance styles such as Bollywood, Kathak, Caribbean, and Hip hop. With a bachelor's degree in dance, he has extensive training in Contemporary and Modern Dance.

Sean has been dancing for the past 10 years. He worked with several dance companies such as Afro Desi, Bollywood Blvd, Exodus Artistry, Junoon Performing Arts, Tarannng Dance Troupe, and Mystic India. Some of his major accomplishments include performances at Lincoln Center with Bollywood Boulevard and the NBA half-time show for the 76ers with Exodus Artistry. Sean has also collaborated with Terence Lewis CO. at the Diwali show in Times Square and British recording artist Nish for one of his music videos.

When we think of Uniqueness, Charisma, Nerve & Talent, Denise Sonali Reema Ramdawah certainly comes to mind.

We are excited to have our collaborative team member Denise Sonali Reema Ramdawah, founder of the Nritya Priya Dance School, a graduate from Columbia University with a EdD in Educational Leadership, focusing on cultural adaptation and integration in the classroom. She has been studying Indian Classical dance from the tender age of 2 years old, having trained in the Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak, Odissi and Bollywood dance styles.

A former Miss New York and Miss District of Columbia title holder, Denise has promoted Indian dancing to international audiences for a variety of cultural events such as the Guyana Independence celebration held in St. Maarten, charitable organizations such as the Choka Lyme Thanksgiving Can Drive and the Christmas Toy Drive, fundraisers for the American Sevashram, and many other mandirs and organizations in the community. She has trained with Gururji Sadhana Paranjy of the Sadhanalaya School of Dance, Nakul Dev Maharaj of the hit show So You Think You Can Dance and appeared in Step Up 3D movie and When Harry Tries to Marry. Denise has been teaching Classical and Bollywood Indian Dance to a variety of age groups for the past 9 years and hopes to continue to share her art and knowledge with students so they can carry on the love, the passion and the dedication Denise has for dance.



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



ZAMANDARI

INTERNATIONAL DANCER ZAMAN DANCER AND ARTS & LGBTQ RIGHTS ACTIVIST



International Dancer Zaman is an Indo-Caribbean Gay and Muslim Kathak, Orissi, Bollywood, Bhangra and Chutney dancer. He is a native of Guyana, who currently calls Far Rockaway, Queens, home. Zaman studied dance with the Ghungroos Dance Academy for five years under the instructions of Dheeraj. To further his passion for interdisciplinary performing arts, he took Caribbean & South Asian cultural workshops with the Raj Kumari Cultural Center and Nirvana Humanitarian Foundation in New York, the Jaya Devi Arts in Florida, and the Leela Dance Collective, led by Rachna Nivas, a renowned Kathak dancer, educator, and arts activist in California.

In June of 2013, Zaman was hospitalized after he survived a vicious attack in an anti LGBTQ hate violence incident in Richmond Hill, Queens. The violence mobilized local LGBTQ activists and allies to organize a Peace Rally and eventually led to the formation of the Caribbean Equality Project in 2015. Zaman is the first openly gay Indo-Caribbean dance artist in New York City. He is also an International-drag artist, where Zaman goes by the name of "Sundari - The Indian Goddess." Both Zaman and Sundari utilizes performing arts to promote Indo-Caribbean Arts & Culture and the multiple, intersectional identities of LGBTQ Caribbean immigrants in the diaspora. As an arts and LGBTQ rights activist, he has pioneered several historic initiatives leading to queer and drag-centric performance pieces in faith-based institutions and at religious & cultural parades and festivals under both of his ionic personalities. Zaman is one of the founding members and the lead choreographer of the Tarannng Dance Troupe (Waves of the Future), a group of diverse trained dancers amplifying visibility and unity within the Caribbean performing arts community in the New York metropolitan tri-state area. To learn more about International Dancer Zaman, connect with him on, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and on Twitter

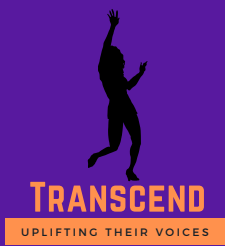
SUNDARI- THE INDIAN GODDESS INDO-CARIBBEAN ACTIVIST-CENTRIC DRAG QUEEN



Sundari - The Indian Goddess (she/her/hers) is a Guyana-born and an Indo-Caribbean drag entertainer, who currently resides in Far Rockaway, Queens. Sundari was discovered at the Raj Kumari Cultural Center in 2012, with the support of Prita Singh, Radha Singh, Denise Baboola & Detox Bu sti-ae, becoming the first Indo-Caribbean/Guyanese Drag Queen to perform in a non-LGBTQ+ musical production in Queens, NY. She is a trained Kathak, Orissi, Bollywood, Bhangra and Chutney dancer. Sundari performs frequently out of drag as well, under the moniker "International Dancer Zaman." In either persona, Sundari is the only Indo-Caribbean, Guyanese Drag Queen who uses performing arts to promote Indo-Caribbean Arts & Culture and the multiple, intersectional identities of LGBTQ Caribbean immigrants in the New York diaspora.

Since 2012, Sundari has participated in various community events, rallies, actions, and placed 3rd in the 2013 Miss Gay Caribbean USA Pageant. She is a pioneer, having broken through various barriers in the New York Tri-State area and internationally. She was the first Indo-Caribbean Drag Queen of Guyanese heritage to perform in a non-LGBTQ+ public musical Indo-Caribbean production, march in the Queens Phagwah Parade, perform for a Hindu temple, act and dance in a Hindu religious musical production, march in AIDS Walk NY, perform on the Queens Phagwah Parade Main Stage, perform at 1st United Madrassi Parade in New York, be featured on ITV Cable Television on the LTWL Show, perform at the Stonewall Inn; perform on the Brooklyn, Queens & Bronx Pride main stages, be featured on ABC7 News, perform at the 2019 World Pride Opening Ceremony in NYC with recording artist Cyndi Lauper at Barclays Center, Brooklyn NY; be a featured performer at an international academic community conference in Toronto (Breaking Silences 2018); be featured on a month-long digital Billboard in 5 different locations in New York City, and to walk the 2019 World Pride Opening Ceremony Rainbow Carpet.

In addition to her breakthrough achievements, she hopes her presence in the wider Caribbean Community will encourage LGBTQ individuals of Caribbean descent to get more involved in their local community issues and help make a difference in their world. Sundari is now a member of the Tarannng Dance Troupe (Waves of the Future), a group of diverse trained dancers, who are amplifying visibility and unity within the Caribbean performing arts community in the New York metropolitan tri-state area. To learn more about Sundari, The Indian Goddess connect with her on, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube,



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



ZAMANDARI

Mohamed A. Amin, (he/him), founder and Creative Director of Zamandari and Tarannng Dance Troupe. A queer Indo-Caribbean artist commonly known as International Dancer Zaman and the drag-centric activist Sundari - The Indian Goddess (she/her), combines his 15 years of wisdom, expertise and experiences to bring you Zamandari, a mentorship and consultancy platform for emerging Caribbean artists, especially, but not limited to, trans and queer folx. And, here at Zamandari, we also aspire to showcase and highlight the stories of these artists, aiding in obtaining and providing a platform they may not have previously had.

The Caribbean is not always the most welcoming of places for trans and queer people. The transphobic and queerphobic sentiments in Caribbean communities stem from European colonial laws and values that policed, colonized and controlled the minds, bodies, language and knowledge of those who have come to migrate to the diverse region, and have since settled in diaspora elsewhere. Caribbean culture has a multitude of roots including from West Africa and South, Southeast and East Asia, regions which historically were accepting and integrating of trans and queer identities prior to colonization. Zaman draws on the legacies of his Indo-Guyanese roots to deconstruct boundaries and foster spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ Caribbeans in his community and beyond by employing his artistry as activism.

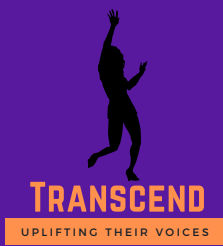
Zaman is one of the few out queer, Muslim, Indo-Guyanese dancers to perform in diverse religious spaces and cultural events. He is a source of support and inspiration for his community, which he frequently serves with volunteer work and activism in speaking up and out for those whose voices cannot always be heard. Both International Dancer Zaman and Sundari - the Indian Goddess draw on Amin's training in Kathak, Orissi, Bollywood, Bhangra and Chutney dance. Sundari was discovered in 2012 at a non-2SLGBTQIA+ cultural event in Richmond Hill, Queens. And, in 2016, she was the first Indo-Caribbean Drag Queen to march in the Queens Phagwah Parade and later performed in 2018.

Zamandari brings together the plethora of experiences had through dancing and living as Zaman and performing as Sundari. Centered in deconstructing anti-trans and anti-queer stigmas through artistic mediums, Zamandari seeks to amplify Caribbean 2SLGBTQIA+ voices and arts with community partnerships and by providing professional development, mentorship, consulting and advising for those looking to grow their artistry.

Tarannng Dance Troupe:

Tarannng Dance Troupe (Waves of the Future) is a group of unique dancers whose mission is to bring respect and unity within the performing arts communities.

Each dancer demonstrates unity by collaborating their various dance styles - Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Dancehall, Contemporary, Soca, Chutney, Bhangra and Latin in their performances. We strive to bring joy, love and peace by serving the community through collaboration, fundraising, social mixers, and dance workshops at public institutions.



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE

ZAMANDARI



TARANNG DANCE TROUPE



Mohamed Q. Amin is an Indo-Caribbean, Queer, and Muslim immigrant rights activist, a native of Guyana, who currently resides in Richmond Hill, Queens NY. Amin is a survivor of anti-LGBTQ hate violence, a cultural producer, and the founder and executive director of the Caribbean Equality Project (CEP), a non-profit organization that advocates for Caribbean LGBTQ+ voices in New York City. His transnational advocacy and community organizing are rooted in gender equity, racial justice, dismantling and decolonizing systems of oppression, healing, and ending anti-LGBTQ hate violence in the Caribbean diaspora.

Amin is the Director of "My Truth, My Story," CEP's multimedia oral history documentary series that curates "coming-out" narratives of Queer & TGNC people of Caribbean heritage in the diaspora. Grounded in the power of storytelling, the archive of stories reveals struggles with suicide, mental health, family acceptance and rejection, the intersection of religion and sexual orientation, and HIV/AIDS. He is the curator of "Queer Caribbeans of NYC," the first-ever multimedia historical retrospective exhibition and archive documenting the racial and cultural intersections of Caribbean LGBTQ rights activists in New York City.

As an intersectional community organizer, activist, and coalition leader, Amin has been profiled in many media outlets, including Voices of NY, Mashable.com, Vice.com, Queens Public Library Digital Archives, Caribbean Life Newspaper, Southeast Queens Press, Times Ledger, and The West Indian Newspaper.

In 2015, he became the first Indo-Caribbean LGBTQ activist to be featured on BRIC TV, an award-winning cable TV network based in Brooklyn, NY. Following the horrific Pulse nightclub shooting, Amin's relentless advocacy to uplift Queer Muslim voices were recognized with a Proclamation from the New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito at the 2016 NYC Council Eid ul-Fitr Celebration. That same year, he received a Citation of Honor from the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm at the 2016 Queens Borough Hall LGBTQ Pride Month Celebration. In 2017, Amin was honored with a Proclamation by NY State Senator James Sanders Jr. in recognition of his leadership, community organizing and fearless advocacy in New York State 10th Senate District.

In 2018, Mr. Amin co-organized Breaking Silences, the first International Caribbean LGBTQ conference in Toronto, Canada. In 2019, he was selected as a New York State ambassador for WorldPride and was honored by Gay City News with an "Impact Award" for his work with the Caribbean Equality Project, the first for a Caribbean LGBTQ immigrant organizer in NYC.

Amin has organized and led various LGBTQ educational community engagement forums, participated in panel discussions, and conducted informative presentations at New York City public schools, and community organizations- all aimed to break the silence on Caribbean LGBTQ issues.

Amin is a graduate of the New York City Anti-Violence Project's Community Leadership Institute and Speaker's Bureau: Intensive Organizing Training. Amin holds a B.A. in Economics, has over fourteen years of management experience in retail banking and financial literacy program development in immigrant communities, and is currently pursuing a Masters in Mental Health Counseling at his alma mater, Queens College.

To learn more about Amin, connect with him on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @MohamedQAmin.

To learn more about the Caribbean Equality Project, please visit www.CaribbeanEqualityProject.org or connect with CEP on Twitter at @CaribEquality, & Facebook and Instagram at @CaribbeanEqualityProject.



“DEWMORE” POETS



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES





TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

DEWMORE POETS



Keyma Flight (she/her) is a 20 year old Taurus slam poet, activist, and chicken box connoisseur from Baltimore, Maryland. She has been on the Baltimore City Youth poetry team for three years in a row. She is the Hyperbole Slam Champion of 2019 and 1/6th of the international slam champions of Brave New Voices in 2018. Keyma's poems, speeches, and works of creative writing have been published in many articles. She plans to get into the healthcare or creative administrative field, with hopes of creating education rehabilitation programs for the people of Baltimore. Keyma is an earth poet and loves astrology. You can catch Keyma either sleeping, working, or over-analyzing Avatar: The Last Airbender.

Poems:
Gangsta Rainbow, Paper Hearts



A'niya Taylor (she/her) is a 2021 graduate of Baltimore City College High School. It was fifth grade when she was introduced to poetry in an afterschool program. At that moment I knew that poetry was more than getting words to rhyme and make sense. It was a story written for everyone but no one at all to hear and it was beautiful to me. In the spring of 2018, I started to get more involved in politics, I became a part of a youth-led activism organization (that I now co-lead) called City Bloc. Poetry has opened me up to so many different ways to express myself, especially in City Bloc. While poetry is a way that I can connect with other people, the greatest impact that poetry has had on me is the connection that I've built with myself. For me, poetry is a form of self-love, something of which I don't allow myself to feel very often, so when I write, it's like I'm learning myself all over again, and I fall in love with new parts of me every time.

Poem:
Holes



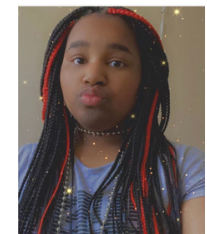
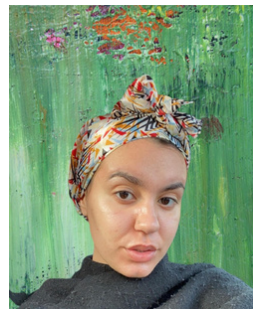
Destinae Butler (she/her) is a 2021 graduate of Western School for girls in Baltimore City and the current and 2 time (2020/2021) Baltimore Youth Poet Laureate. (The only poet to hold the position twice.) Growing up she was often told she had more of an intellectual rather than artistic brain which reasonably caused her to have a lot of self doubt when it came to self expression causing Destinae to back out of opportunities or not give things her all. Going to Western she'd get the opportunity to meet and be mentored by Mecca Verdell and Keyma Flight who gave her a drive to invest in her writing abilities.

"I've had time to figure out how to mix creativity with academics and it has helped me be less stressed in liberal arts classes. I am continuously trying to better myself and find new ways to bring awareness, encourage and evoke positivity and awareness. Poetry has given me the opportunity to build new goals to strive to and meet and build relationships that would've never happened otherwise."-Destinae Butler

Poem:
Pose: Queerosity

Sahzez AKA "No One From Nowhere" (she/her) is a Youth Art & Activism Ambassador with Dewmore Baltimore. They are also a member of the new & improved YVC (Youth Voices For Consent) Initiative. No One has been writing and performing poetry for five years now. They won first place at MIST (The Muslim Interscholastic Tournament) in 2018, and have been part of the Baltimore City Youth Poetry Team for two years now. They have also competed in Brave New Voices, an international poetry slam, in 2019. No One is a second generation immigrant of Latin American & North African Descent, & is an Anti-Capitalist Anarchist who believes in community based governance, and the reimagining of what freedom & power can look like. No One's wishes to help communities across the country understand the inherent dangers and irreparable damage which capitalism has caused, and will continue to cause, in our global society. No One implores individuals and communities to also begin the deep & important spiritual & psychological work of deprogramming our minds from the belief that global separatism, consumerism, and individualism are of benefit rather than the detriment to millions of people across the globe.

Poem:
Gangsta Rainbow



Black Rose aka Kayla Bazmore is a 10th grader at Western High School for girls and has been doing poetry for almost 4 years. She was the 2019 DewMore Poetry Festival middle school slam champion. And is a current member of the 2021 Baltimore City Youth Poetry Team. Her first year on the team.

Poem:
Strength

PANEL BIOS



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



PANEL BIOS

MIKE HEYLIGER

Mike Heyliger (AKA Mike Joseph) has worked in the music industry in various capacities throughout the last 28 years. He works as a music journalist and a radio personality. He is a tireless advocate for mental wellness, DE&I, and LGBTQIA+ rights. Mike produces and hosts two podcasts, Detoxicity (about progressive masculinity) and FM to MTV: The Music of Our Youth (about the music of his youth).

OKWAE A. MILLER

Okwae A. Miller & Artists strives to produce research-based interdisciplinary work rooted in personal identity, history and social anthropology to challenge identity politics. Representing a diverse background in performing arts and social sciences, our work intersects collaboration of mediums, technology and research to create public art. Our choreographic approach encourages an introspective journey to increase understanding of self within the social spectrum. Highly graphic and expressively pure, Miller's regard to identity politics and creative environments are informative through the texture of movement, creative process and the use of collaborative effort.

KEMAR JEWEL

Kemar Jewel is a Black Queer Director and Choreographer from Jamaica. Raised in Philadelphia, he has done everything from touring around Europe performing, working with recording artists, and becoming a viral internet sensation with millions of views on YouTube. In addition, Kemar is the founder of Xcel Dance Crew, a performance based group comprised of Black queer and trans dancers. Xcel incorporates drag, hip hip, and vogue in order to tell stories and shine a light on important issues. @kemar_jewel

MAXFIELD HAYNES

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Maxfield Haynes (B.F.A. NYU Tisch) began their formal dance training in ballet at the University of Louisville Dance Academy at age 12 under the training of Chuck Bronson and Cynthia Bronner. At age 14 they were accepted into Louisville's Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS), and chose to continue their dance training as a Trainee at the Louisville Ballet under Bruce Simpson, where they performed in the corps de ballet of Alun Jones and Helen Starr's production of Romeo and Juliet. At age 16, they left home to train at the San Francisco Ballet School on the David Palmer Foundation Scholarship, dancing roles in Helgi Tomasson's Nutcracker, as well as originating roles in works by Parrish Maynard.

Maxfield has attended summer intensives on full merit scholarship at the San Francisco Ballet School, Houston Ballet Academy, American Ballet Theater, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Maxfield attended NYU's Tisch School of the Arts with a Tisch scholarship, and has also spent time studying at the HAMU Performing Arts University of Prague in the Czech Republic. While at Tisch, Maxfield had the pleasure of participating in works by Crystal Pite/Kidd Pivot, Dwight Rhoden, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane, Raja Feather Kelly, Robert Garland, and Paul Taylor. As a senior at NYU, Maxfield toured internationally as an apprentice with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

In August 2018, Maxfield was invited to join Complexions Contemporary Ballet under the direction of Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson as a soloist, performing in theaters across the USA, Canada, Ukraine, New Zealand, and Germany. Maxfield has performed at private parties for the fashion houses of Dior and Cartier, as well as the artist Madonna. Some of their artistic collaborations include works with James Whiteside, and Ballet Boy Productions. Most recently, they made history as the first male to dance en pointe in collaboration with Isaac Mizrahi and John Higgenbotham in Peter and the Wolf at the Guggenheim museum in New York. Maxfield has taught on faculty with the Joffrey Ballet School summer intensives, and has produced work featured at the Mobile Dance Film Festival, Guggenheim Works and Process, and has lectured at the University of Georgia on topics of Race, Diversity, and Gender within the world of dance.



SPECIAL THANKS



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES



SPECIAL THANKS

SPECIAL THANKS

Billy Porter

**Lady Gaga's Channel Kindness &
Born This Way Foundation**

Jahlove Serrano

**Ame Lanasa (they, them, their) &
Ariana Saccente (she/her)
American Sign Language Interpreters**

Noha Arafa

Antoine Craigswell & DBGCM

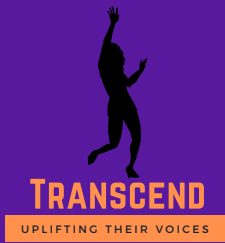
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Black Mental Health Alliance

Mission Statement:

To develop, promote and sponsor trusted culturally-relevant educational forums, training and referral services that support the health and well-being of Black people and their communities.

The Black Mental Health Alliance is proud to support the mental health and wellness of transgender youth through the arts. The arts naturally nurture the soul and spirit of people and for trans youth, the arts give voice and purpose to their being, the arts provide "transparency and translation. Ahh. The Power of the Arts.



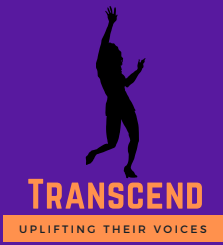
#BLACKMINDSMATTER



Roxana Feenster is the Executive Assistant at The Black Mental Health Alliance for Education & Consultation, Inc, where she supports the Executive Director (ED), Andrea Brown. Roxana serves as a front-line liaison between BMHA and external institutions and community organizations. Additionally, her duties include general administration, meeting/conference logistics, HR coordination, office management, and travel logistics. She is committed to advancing the mission and vision of BMHA with excellence. Prior to joining BMHA, Roxana was employed as the Executive Assistant at a fitness organization. In this role, Roxana was able to merge her passion and expertise for health and wellness with the administrative duties of supporting the executive team. Roxana is a certified notary public and currently holds an Associates of Arts degree from the Community College of Baltimore County.
r.feenster@blackmentalhealth.com



Nia Jones is a consultant with the Black Mental Health Alliance for Education and Consultation, Inc. and is responsible for leading the Youth and College Division, is the co-host of BMHA's Podcast Real Talk: Black Minds Matter and leads other special projects as requested. Nia is a licensed Social Worker and Owner of On Purpose with Nia, LLC a consulting company with a passion for organizations and the people that work in them. Nia is honest about her battle with Depression and Anxiety and believes that she is purposed to be the voice for Mental Health by reducing the stigma in the Black community as it relates to Mental Health care.

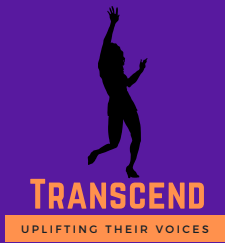


THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in advocacy, audience development, education, funding, networking, performance, philosophical dialogue, and touring.



New York Theatre Barn (NYTB) is an anti-racist non-profit theatre company that serves as a home for original culture shifting musicals during incubation. The company has been dedicated to incubating new musicals in front of live audiences since 2007. To find out more, visit nytheatrebarn.org



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

CARIBBEAN EQUALITY PROJECT



Caribbean
EQUALITY PROJECT
ADVOCATING FOR CARIBBEAN LGBTQ+ VOICES IN NYC

The Caribbean Equality Project (CEP) is a Queens-based community organization that empowers, advocates for, and represents Black and Brown, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, and queer Caribbean immigrants in New York City. Through public education, community organizing, civic engagement, storytelling, and cultural and social programming, the organization's work focuses on advocacy for LGBTQ+ and immigrant rights, gender equity, racial justice, immigration and mental health services, and ending hate violence in the Caribbean diaspora. To date, CEP is the only educational-based agency serving the Caribbean-American LGBTQ+ community in New York City, with a dedicated aim to cultivating supportive and progressive Caribbean neighborhoods free of violence, oppression, and discrimination. CEP's intersectional organizing fosters solidarity, community partnerships, and greater family acceptance in the greater New York metropolitan area.

Caribbean Equality Project was founded in 2015 by Mohamed Q. Amin in response to anti-LGBTQ+ hate in Richmond Hill, Queens, NY.

As a Black and Brown immigrant-led social justice and human rights organization, inclusivity and intersectionality are the foundation of the Caribbean Equality Project's work. The organization's liberation movement educates, inspires, uplifts, and celebrates the Black and Brown, queer and trans non-religious, Muslim, Hindu and Christian, documented and undocumented members of the Caribbean diaspora of all generations, all categories of ability, and all HIV statuses.

Additionally, the organization acts as a liaison to government agencies and elected officials with the collective vision of an equitable society based on justice, inclusivity, and equal opportunity, regardless of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity within the Caribbean diaspora. Since the official launch of the Caribbean Equality Project on June 26, 2015, the same day the U.S. Supreme Court legalized marriage equality in all fifty states in the case *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the organization has made significant strides toward advancing and uplifting of Caribbean LGBTQ+ immigrant voices in NYC.

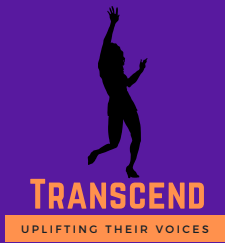
In the face of anti-immigrant sentiment, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, gender and racial discrimination, lack of access to health services, and hate violence at the hands of their families, friends, employers, medical professionals, and law enforcement officers (even in New York City), Caribbean Equality Project is creating sustainable and progressive Caribbean diaspora communities, free of violence and all forms of discrimination.

Year-round, Caribbean Equality Project conducts street outreach, hosts educational workshops and programming that provides an authentic, intergenerational safe space for shared experiences by building support networks through various pioneering programs and services.

The CEP programs, services, and initiatives are intersectional, with an emphasis on, but not limited to, family acceptance, awareness, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, education, cultural performing arts, visibility at citywide LGBTQ+ pride parades and cultural festivals, all aiming to promote acceptance and reducing stigma and eliminate all forms of discrimination in NYC.

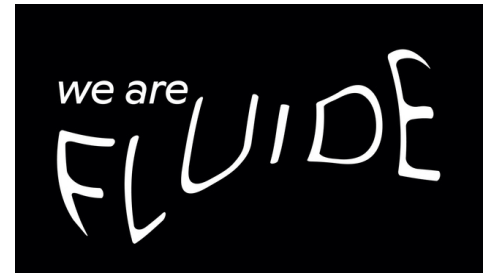


Advocating for Caribbean LGBTQ+ Voices in NYC
www.CaribbeanEqualityProject.org



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We Are Fluide (@fluidebeauty) is a queer beauty brand on a mission to celebrate under-represented faces, empower self-expression and champion a gender expansive definition of beauty.



Revel Streetwear creates streetwear for plus women that revel in the intersection of streetwear and femininity.

Bombas is a comfort-focused apparel brand with a mission to help those in need. The company was originally founded in 2013 because socks are the #1 most requested clothing item at homeless shelters. Underwear and t-shirts are #2 and #3 respectively. While the brand started with and is known for its extremely comfortable socks, Bombas used its expertise in comfort to launch into apparel with t-shirts in 2019 and most recently, underwear in 2021. For every item purchased, a specially-designed item is donated to the homeless community. To date, Bombas has donated more than 45 million items to those at-risk, in need, and experiencing homelessness.

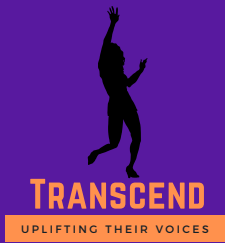


Rise Brewing Co.

We're on a mission to make the best tasting beverages on the planet, using the highest quality organic ingredients we can source. Organic doesn't just taste better – it's better for you, for our planet, and for the future generations who depend on us.

We believe that what you put in is what you get out.

The clean taste of our organic ingredients shine through in our refreshingly smooth lineup of nitrogen infused nitro cold brew coffee, oat milk lattes and our dairy free oat milks.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

In 2008 Stereotype Co started with a dream.

Since then we have been honored to

- Support 200 artists a year
- Help 500 kids design their first shirt
- Teach design, entrepreneurship, and goal setting in schools citywide
- Donate 30,000 bookmarks across the country
- Help friends, organizations, and programs when they needed us most
- Share the stories of 500+ creators on our media platform
- Collaborate with creators on clothing, art and accessories.



Stereotype Co collaborates on clothing, art, accessories and projects with friends around the world. Our mission is to celebrate dreamers, share dreams and make them a reality.

Don't stop dreaming.

www.stereotypeco.com

@stereotypeco



Adam and Eve is the nation's largest marketer of adult products with millions of satisfied customers worldwide. We opened our doors in March 1971, making us one of the oldest companies in the adult industry as well. Over the decades, we've built a time-tested reputation for honesty and reliability in an industry known for shady business dealings and fly-by-night operations. Our loyal customers know they can rely on Adam and Eve to treat them fairly, protect their privacy, and stand by our promises.

https://www.adameve.com/t-company_info.aspx

FROM OUR FRIENDS AT BLACK MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE:

Koli (Co-Lee) Tengella (Ten-gay-la) is a performer, writer, filmmaker and educator with Baltimore City Public Schools. "A Lesson Plan" is a scripted live action film featuring the students of Positive Social Change Theater/Performing Arts Program in Baltimore City Schools. The premise is based on the actual real life experiences of the student performers in the film.

The film centers on four storylines that negatively impact the African/Black community particularly in terms of mental health. These storylines are (1) a young man being homeless and trying to stay in school, (2) a young woman dealing with the aftermath of an intimate picture she sent to her boyfriend being shared on social media, (3) an openly gay young man struggles with the trauma of being assaulted because of his sexuality and (4) another deals with the pain of losing a sibling due to gun violence.

"A Lesson Plan": <https://youtu.be/MS8kdqhmwz4>



#BLACKMINDSMATTER



Council on the Arts



TRANSCEND

UPLIFTING THEIR VOICES

**A CONCERT & SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE CENTERING & CELEBRATING
BLACK TRANS, NON-GENDER CONFORMING, & QUEER ARTISTS**

JULY 14, 2021