

**PEPATIÁN: Bronx Arts CollABorative presents**

**BRONX ARTISTS NOW: SHOWCASE & CONVERSATION 2024**

*~ 14th annual ~*

In 2024, Pepatián's *Bronx Artists Now: Showcase and Conversation* is produced in collaboration with Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture and PRTT/Pregones Theater.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024**

<b>8:45am</b>	<b>Bus pick up, Midtown Manhattan's Hilton Hotel, 54th St &amp; 6th Ave</b>
<b>9am</b>	<b>Depart from the Hilton Hotel</b>
<b>9:45am</b>	<b>Arrive at PRTT/Pregones Theater 571 Walton Ave (2,4,5 trains to 149th / Grand Concourse)</b>
<b>10-11:30am</b>	<b>Artist Showcase coffee</b>
<b>12Noon</b>	<b>Arrive at Hostos Center for the Arts &amp; Culture (3min walk from Pregones) 450 Grand Concourse (2,4,5 train to 149th St/Grand Concourse)</b>
<b>12Noon-1:30</b>	<b>Artist Showcase</b>
<b>1:30-3:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Depart from Hostos Center for the Arts &amp; Culture to Hilton Hotel Transportation provided (with RSVP)</b>

*Pepatián gratefully acknowledges our privilege to be able to work and create on the traditional and ancestral lands and waters of the Weckquasgeek, Lenape and the Siwanoy Nations. In addition, we acknowledge the ancestors of the Tainos of the Arawak people of the Caribbean.*

This event was initiated in 2010 and produced by **Jane Gabriels, Ph.D** in collaboration with a network of South Bronx arts and community organizations pooling resources to create unique opportunities for other presenters and funders to learn about Afro-Caribbean-Indigenous-Latin/x/a/o and/or Bronx-based artists who create work in the borough.

*[www.pepatian.org](http://www.pepatian.org) [pepatian@gmail.com](mailto:pepatian@gmail.com) office tel: 917 300 8736*

***! THANK YOU !***

*Pepatián's Bronx Artists Now: Showcase & Conversation* is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the generosity of individual donations to Pepatián.

*Special thanks* to Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture and PRTT/Pregones Theater for hosting this event, and to the Hostos team for printing the program booklet, and contributing lunch for everyone to enjoy.



## BRONX ARTISTS NOW: SHOWCASE & CONVERSATIONS 2024

Friday January 12, 2024 PROGRAM

~ WELCOME ~

**Pepatián: Bronx Arts CollABorative**

Jane Gabriels, Ph.D., and Co-Director

**Pepatián: Bronx Arts CollABorative** is a South Bronx-based non-profit organization dedicated to creating, producing and supporting contemporary multi-disciplinary art by Latinx/a/o and Bronx-based artists underserved by mainstream institutions.

Directed by **Jane Gabriels, Ph.D.** since 1999 in collaboration with consulting artists, Caridad De La Luz/La Bruja and Rokafella since 2018, Pepatián continues to provide a regional draw and vital network for performing arts, raising visibility of artists making work in the Bronx. Several generations of Latinx artists throughout its 40+-year history have been positively affected by this proven ability to formulate significant projects and collaborations.

Pepatián was originally founded in 1983 as a collective by award-winning artists: **Merián Soto** (Bessie-award winning choreographer), **Pepón Osorio** (visual artist, MacArthur Fellow), and **Patti Bradshaw** (director and educator).

*Looking ahead*

Next year's 2025 Bronx Artists Now Showcase will be co-curated with **Rebecca Gual**, and will feature the current Dancing Futures residency artists in addition to other artists.

**Rebecca Gual** is an Afro-Latinx mover, choreographer and project manager born and raised in Queens, New York. [Rebecca-gual.com](http://Rebecca-gual.com)

## PRTT/PREGONES THEATER

Welcoming remarks

**Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater (aka Pregones/PRTT)** is a multigenerational performing ensemble, multidisciplinary arts presenter, and owner/steward of bilingual arts facilities in The Bronx and Manhattan. Our mission is to champion a Puerto Rican/Latinx cultural legacy of universal value through creation and performance of original plays and musicals, exchange and partnership with other artists of merit, and engagement of diverse audiences. <https://pregonesprtt.org/>

## ARTIST SHOWCASE

(showcase order)

### CYNTHIA PANIAGUA

*Acurruncun! : Contra Amarguras Y Penas*  
*Acurruncun ! : Against Bitterness and Sorrow*

Choreographer and ancestral dancer Cynthia Paniagua navigates her Afro-Andean Peruvian roots by piecing together the details of her grandfathers identity and racial erasure. Through oral history, ancestral memory and the guiding words of Afro Peruvian poet Nicomedes Santa Cruz and the words of her late mentor Victoria Santa Cruz, she rediscovers the parts that were hidden.

**Cynthia Paniagua** is a dancer, choreographer, and educator whose work reflects her Indigenous, Peruvian and Nuyorican heritage. She was raised in New York City where she earned a B.A. in Dance at Hunter College and an M.A in Performance Studies at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She is a Fulbright scholar who has researched and practiced traditional dances in Peru, Latin America and the Caribbean for 20 years in order to honor and pass on the legacy of ancestral memory through dance. While studying in Peru at the Escuela Nacional de Folklore, living and dancing in the Amazon, Andes and Coast of Peru, her experience was filmed as part of the award-winning documentary “Soy Andina. The movie along with her performance work toured South America as part of the biggest cultural exchange tour ever organized by the U.S. Embassy. She has since then led workshops and performed across the U.S., Peru, Colombia, and Puerto Rico.

Her choreographic style interweaves contemporary movement and Peruvian traditional dances to tell the stories of the past as it relates to the diasporic present and future. Cynthia brings Andean and Afrodiasporic dance to the forefront of her work, centering collective ritual-based practices meant to empower and heal from a long history of colonization, genocide, racism and misogyny. Her work is deeply grounded in decolonizing the body through reactivating and renewing ancestral memory to awaken consciousness, inform, inspire and empower new generations back to their roots.

Cynthia has spent years developing choreography and performing for Circo Etno in Peru, where she was able to continue her research and practice of indigenous ritual dance. Her work led her to the Peruvian Amazon where she organized and performed with women leaders and activists in the Upper Amazon basin for the defense of indigenous land rights and sovereignty. Dance as a form of activism, preservation and reclamation further informed her work on and off the performance stage.

In 2019 she created *Kaypacha Dance project*, focusing on telling the stories of "our true ancestral origins and connections" as multigenerational, multicultural Latinx peoples living in the U.S. She was the choreographer for the United Nation Symphony Orchestra and has showcased her work in " El Condor Pasa" for the UN Forum for Indigenous Issues in 2019.

In 2022 Cynthia finally launched her dream program ‘Dance Your Ancestors’ which combines and honors her experience, research, performance, education and activism. Dedicated to her mentors in Peru, Dance

Your Ancestors is an emerging program that connects Peruvians living in the diaspora to their heritage through dance, historical research, and community connection. This includes guiding students, travelling to Peru and learning with dance families and cultural ambassadors. Importantly, the program gives back to the local dance community by help rebuild cultural dance centers and protect sacred land cites vital to the dances.

As a “dancestor” and multicultural indigenous artist, Cynthia continues to create works that dives deeply and weaves through her heritage to lift and liberate the voices of her ancestors.

KACHKANI RAQMI “We Are Still Here.”

[cynthiapaniagua.com](http://cynthiapaniagua.com)

## **CARIDAD DE LA LUZ**

### ***FROM POOR TO RICO***

an original production

Created and Composed by

Caridad De La Luz AKA “La Bruja”

**FROM POOR TO RICO** is a theatrical tour de force that offers audiences an opportunity to experience the Puerto Rico Caridad knew as a child growing up between the island and the Bronx, and reflections on Puerto Rico post-Hurricane Maria through her eyes as an Emmy-winning Nuyorican poet, musician, and storyteller. It is a powerful testament to the richness of Puerto Rican history and culture, the island and its diaspora. This work is a love letter to the lives lost and to those still surviving the devastation of Hurricane Maria, 6 years later. While addressing the trauma of disaster capitalism, displacement and privatization of sacred indigenous lands, this work celebrates the Boricua culture, history and spirit with original poetry, music and visuals taken in 1970 to the present day by Caridad and her family. In development since 2017, this is a work in progress thanks to the support of Pepatián, Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, The Jerome Hill Foundation, Elaine Del Valle, Theoria Foundation and The Nuyorican Poets Café.

**Writer/Performer/Composer - Caridad De La Luz AKA “La Bruja”** won an Emmy as Script Writer of the “Legacy of Puerto Rican Poetry” that aired on ABC during the National Puerto Rican Day Parade 2021. In January 2022, she became the Executive Director of the NUYORICAN POETS CAFE where she began her career in 1996. Winner of the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship 2019-2020 and a 2021 David Prize finalist, Caridad balances a career of activism, education and entertainment. She has been one of America's leading spoken word poets for over 20 years and has received the Puerto Rican Women Legacy Award, The Edgar Allan Poe Award from The Bronx Historical Society and was honored as A Bronx Living Legend by The Bronx Music Heritage Center. She was presented with a Citation of Merit from

The Bronx Borough President and named “Top 20 Puerto Rican Women Everyone Should Know”. You can follow her at @LaBrujaNYC on all social media platforms.

## **ROKAFELLA & KWIKSTEP**

### *Full Circle Souljahs*

**Kwikstep** (host) began dancing as a child and grew to join the ranks of well known street dancers and Breakers who traveled around the world sharing the ethos of Hip-hop culture as it evolved. He was featured in popular music videos, films as well commercials and has choreographed Hip-hop theater shows. Full Circle is a non profit dance company that he founded in 1992 to help preserve and embrace the culture and lifestyle of Hip-hop in NYC. He also DJ’s open format dance parties and produces music for shows and local MCs. He recently became a professor at Queens College in NYC and does guest lectures about Hip-hop’s roots and influences. He is a content producer for the “Kwik2Rok” BronxNet TV show. [www.fullcirclesouljahs.com](http://www.fullcirclesouljahs.com)

**Rokafella** (host) began dancing in school talent shows and eventually as a background dancer for local artists. She claims her roots as a street performer/Hitter and appeared in pivotal music videos and films. She helps manage Full Circle dance company and is a professor at The New School University. She directed a documentary about B-girls entitled All The Ladies Say and has a collaborative T-shirt line with Japanese Graffiti writer Shiro called ShiRoka. Recently, she performed with her music and poetry with a Live band at Bronxlandia which was taped for a German TV show on ZDF representing a female Hip hop artist in NYC. She’s a well known advocate for women in Hip-hop and brings her Nuyorican aesthetic into the dance floor, stage or classroom. She is a recipient of the Creatives Rebuild NY Artist Employment program grant and is a content producer for the BronxNetTV show “Kwik2Rok” [www.larokasoul.com](http://www.larokasoul.com)

*Video clips from Full Circle Souljahs projects also available for viewing at [pepatian.org](http://pepatian.org)*

## **MEGAN CURET**

### *El Manifiesto de un Boricua Negra*

Created and Performed by Megan Curet

Sound score and text by Megan Curet

*El Manifiesto de un Boricua Negra* is the written manifesto of Megan Curet to all of the black identifying femme Boricua bodies who navigate systems of white supremacy and oppression while seeking higher ground. While seeking solace, while seeking a haven, while nurturing, while undoing and redoing...while existing. Rhythms, percussion and text accompany this story dedicated to the untold and muted bodies of the island and diaspora of Puerto Rico.

*Thanks to the bomba community of Loiza, Puerto Rico for reminding me that black Puerto Ricans are here and keeping la cultura ALIVE.*

UPCOMING: En Ritmo workshop at Movement Research in NYC 3pm on 1/13/24 and Premier of new choreographic work for Malashock Dance Company in San Diego 1/25/24-1/28/24

Megan Curet a Bronx Native Nuyoricana dancer, choreographer, educator and birth doula. Former Coordinator to the Artist of Color Council at Movement Research, Curet is currently completing a practice-led research PhD in Art and Media at The University of Plymouth. Curet's practice expands upon the elements of bomba from Puerto Rico through cultural syncretism of contemporary dance in her En Ritmo workshops.

Curet holds a BA in Theater and Dance Performance from CUNY BACCALAUREATE, trained at the Martha Graham School and later received a Masters in Dance Studies from Roehampton University. Curet has guest lectured at Roehampton University in London, Franklin and Marshall College, The University of Maryland and CUNY's Lehman College and BMCC.

Former founder and artistic director of Curet Performance Project a contemporary dance company and former online dance magazine TiLLT. Curet's work, choreography and practice has toured South America, The Middle East, The Caribbean, North America and Europe. Recipient of the 2022 Dancing Futures Artist Residency. Her works has been supported by the Jerome Foundation and NYC Cultural Affairs. Recent publications include the Movement Research Performance Journal.

A community dancer for San Diego Dance Theater, BKSoul Dance, and commissioned choreographer and dance teacher for Malashock dance.

She dedicates her work and practice to black and brown communities across the diaspora. Her art form is rooted in Puerto Rican lineage and she often returns back to her island of Puerto Rico where she completes field work in Loiza as well as San Juan to aid her academic research. <http://megancuret.com/>

## **BEVERLY LOPEZ**

*Update on her new projects and REDi Dance Company*

**Beverly Lopez** is a Bronx native dancer, choreographer, and educator. She is the founding Artistic Director of REDi Dance Company, which comprises a professional adult dance-theater company as well as educational programming, notably the Dance Bridge Workshop for Bronx youth. Beverly earned a BFA

in Multimedia Performing Arts at CUNY Lehman College. She continues to build her community with an urgency to form healing connections and supportive platforms for BIPOC artists.

Beverly's contemporary dance work fuses a variety of social dance forms, including House, Bachata, and Salsa. She most recently debuted her latest live work, "Mientras Tanto" and concept video, "Bloom", with the ongoing support of the arts collective Dancing La Botanica: La Tierra Vive, produced by Pepatían: Bronx Arts ColLABorative. Beverly choreographed the play *Electricidad* (2018), by Luis Alfaro, at Lehman College and *A Grave is Given Supper* (2021), by Mike Soto, at New Ohio Theatre, both under the direction of Claudia Acosta. She has presented work at Dixon Place, Groundswell Series, Bronx Artists Now 2020/2021 and 2023 APAP showcases, Triskelion Arts, Mark Morris Dance Center, Oberia Dempsey Theater, and BAAD! ASS Women Festival. Beverly has performed in dance works by Desiree Godsell, Beatrice Capote, Sekou McMiller, Luis Salgado, and Leah Tubbs. [beverlylopez.com](http://beverlylopez.com)

## **LEENDA BONILLA**

### *The BATA Project*

Created and Performed by Leenda Bonilla

Video: Pagan Marketing

Art Direction: Leenda Bonilla

*Special thanks to Ana "Rokafella" Garcia, Rhina Valetin, Abigail Montes, Juanita Lanzo, Elena Martinez, Bobby Sanabria, Lizzy Alejandro, Ruddy Mejia, Katherine Miranda, Laura Alvarez, Peggy Robles - Alvarado, Yolanda Rodriguez, Gia Gutierrez, Mary Mattingly, Nydia & Wally Edgcombe, Marisol Diaz-Gordon, Jane Gabriels, Luis Pagan*

The Bata Project explores stories of Caribbean womxn and their journey of transnationalism to sustain family, culture, community within the local-global diaspora of NYC. Leenda Bonilla and invited artists, activists, and community members gather to pay homage to the urban/island matriarchy wearing a "bata," a traditional house dress.

The work integrates a public engagement- inviting participants to don a bata (from the artist's collection or their bring own) in colorful patterns/styles leading to a shindig of dance, drawing, oral history exchanges, singing, urban/folkloric games, and conversations and documenting these events to build a visual anthology about this modern urban folkloric.

Wearing this day dress outside home subverts social expectations (I see you abuela, sister, titi, y Mami!) and celebrates the power of home as something you bring with you everywhere.

*Thanks to the support of Pepatián: Bronx Arts CollABorative, NALAC/National Associaton of Latino Arts & Culture, Art in Odd Places, CUNY CENTRO - The Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Bronx Music Heritage Center.*

Leenda Bonilla is an interdisciplinary artist, arts/cultural producer specializing in civic engagement and art-making practices. Her work centers on reclaiming the many lost narratives of her diasporic heritage from Puerto Rico. She develops diaristic projects with conceptual framings to focus on the impact of urban history and social tropes. This work elevates narratives of self and communities living in the local/global urban scene with all their intersections of gender, race, identity, and age into multidisciplinary art projects. In Spring 2023, The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CENTRO) named Leenda as an Artistic Research Resident Fellow. Leenda's ouvres and installation/performance work has been presented at Art in Odd Places (NYC), New York Botanical Gardens (Bx), AS220 (RI), El Barrio ArtSpace (NYC), The New Museum (NYC), The Bronx Museum of the Arts, El Taller Boricua (NYC), MOLAA (LA), among others. <https://www.leendabonilla.com/pages/aiop-2023-the-bata-project>.  
<https://www.leendabonilla.com/> IG: Leenda.art

*~ this concludes the morning showcase ~*

We will leave Pregones Theater at 12Noon to arrive at Hostos Center for the afternoon event

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## **Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture**

### **Welcoming remarks**

**The Hostos Center**, an integral part of Hostos Community College of The City University of New York/CUNY, is a long-standing arts center in The Bronx which has been showcasing theater, dance and music artists for over 35 years. Programming consists of a performing arts presenting series; a visual arts exhibiting series; periodic festivals, including the highly acclaimed *BomPlenazo*, the Hostos Repertory Company, a children's performing arts series, and an individual artists' program consisting of commissions and residencies. <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/culturearts/>

### **ARTIST SHOWCASE**

*(showcase order)*

**MILTERI CONCEPCION TUCKER**

*BECOMING*

*An excerpt of Como Eres.*

*Choreographed and directed by Milteri Tucker Concepcion*

*Performed by **Bombazo Dance Co Members:***

*Dancer Roberto E. Ventura*

*Drummer: Oreste Abrantes*

Como Eres is an evening long production exploring the intersectionalities of gender traditional roles in Bomba. Bomba is Puerto Rico's oldest musical and dance genre dating back to the 17th century practiced and maintained by the enslaved and free people of color.

Milteri Tucker Concepcion is a master bomba dancer from Puerto Rico educating and sharing Bombas history through dance for all communities. [www.bombazodanceco.com](http://www.bombazodanceco.com)

**QUEERLY FEMMETASTIC**

*WE BEEN HERE: BLACK BURLESQUE LEGACY*

*created and performed by Queerly Femmetastic*

Hot-cha girls. Strip tease darlings. Exotic dancers. Shake dancers. Hoochie coochie girls. Black women have always been a part of the building and rebuilding of burlesque in America, but are often left out of the history books. Our unique way of storytelling through movement, costuming, props, and performance is an integral part of the legacy of classic burlesque in the 40s and 50s and the revival of the art form through neo-burlesque in the 90s. The We Been Here showcase pays tribute to Black burlesque legends and features six acts from New York's vibrant Black burlesque scene. We are looking for spaces to continue to celebrate the rich legacy of Black burlesque and explore its exciting future!

We Been Here stars Queerly Femmetastic, Nita B. Yellowcakes, & Miss AuroraBoobRealis, is hosted by Gigi Holliday, with stage management from Susie Dhal, support from Dominant Jeane, and mentorship by a living legend, Perle Noire.

Curated by Dancing Futures Resident Queerly Femmetastic, today's piece pays tribute to the legacy of Black women being villainized when they ask for what they want through a portrayal of Poison Ivy. She invites the audience to interrogate their relationships with pleasure, desire, and joy.

Brooklyn-bred bombshell Queerly Femmetastic is a nerdy connoisseur of Blackness. Her pronouns are she, her, and ma'am. Queerly is inspired by Black shake-dancers, strippers, and hoochie-coochie girls across generations. She is a classically trained dancer with deep experience in education, facilitation, change management, organizational development, data analysis, and equity & inclusion culture work. In 2023 she was crowned Most High at the Mile High Burlesque Festival, Champion at the Exquisite Burlesque Festival, and the Golden Ratchet at the Revenge of the Blerds Burlesque Festival. She also was

the winner of the Soft Carnal category at the 2023 Haute Velour pole competition. Queerly loves the smell of books, practicing sneaky splits, and the feeling of your money on her skin.

Producer: Pipes & Pasties, Sweet Brooklyn Burlesque Co-producer: Flossy Follies. A recent recipient of the Papatian's Dancing Future Residency at BAAD!, funded by the Jerome Foundation.

[@QueerlyFemmetastic](https://www.instagram.com/QueerlyFemmetastic) [linktr.ee/queerlyfemmetastic](https://linktr.ee/queerlyfemmetastic)

## COCO MOTION PRESENTS NUTRIBE DANCE CO

### *INTERLUDES*

*Choreographed and performed by CoCoMotion with movement Collaborators and musicians.*

Choreographed by CocoMotion and performed by NuTribe Dance Company, Interludes is about love, friendship, self love, the space between pivotal movements and seasonal changes that accompany these shifts in life. Interludes features live musicians including: a bassist, beatboxer, keyboardist and emcee, in addition to dancers who both partake in choreography and freestyle.

Collaborators who contributed to the full piece include Musicians: Ms. Cam Vidal, Lembo, LexGetIt, Zacchae'us Paul and Dancers: Marcus Braggs, Muriel Peterson, Algin Ford, Luffy and CocoMotion, choreographer.

Dancer, choreographer and Jamaica Queens native **Christina Smith, better known under the moniker CocoMotion**. Serves as the founder and artistic director of NuTribe Dance Company. The company's rituals in dance explore a fusion of black dance vernacular including hip hop, funk (waacking and locking), African, Krump, spoken word and meditation practices.

Graduating from Hunter College in 2019 with a M.A in Dance Education. Coco was awarded a prestigious full scholarship to attend graduate school, fully funded by the Lincoln's Center Education Scholars Program. It was there that she founded NTDC during graduate studies at Hunter.

Currently working as an educator and freelance artist. She is an educator and adjunct professor of dance and teaching artist. Conducting classes in hip hop and experimental dance. As a performer she has performed at The Apollo Theater, The New Victory Theater, SummerStage, The Guggenheim and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

As a choreographer her work was shown at Movement Research at Judson Church, Mark Morris' Open Spaces and Downtown Brooklyn. She was awarded The City Artist Corp Grant, The Movement Research Parent Grant, Queens Council of the Arts Grantee and the recent recipient of the Papatian's Dancing Future Residency. <https://www.nutribedance.co>

## AREGLIA ARROELA

*Acusticorporal*

**Acusticorporal** is a one-woman show that centers the focus on the body as a resonator of everything it senses--how sounds, rhythms, vibrations, and words shape it. The body itself is a generator of harmony and polyrhythms, transforming it into a musical instrument of the environment. Acusticorporal takes as inspiration different traditional styles of African dance from Guinea and Senegal as well as Son Jarocho from Mexico and interpreting them in a contemporary language.

*Music credits*

*“El Aguanieve”*

*Dominio Público*

*Intérprete Andrés Vega*

*Álbum Laguna Prieta Vol. 1*

*2015*

*“El Zapateado”*

*Dominio Público*

*Intérprete Andrés Vega*

*Álbum Laguna Prieta Vol. 1*

*2015*

*“Extracto de entrevista: 21 Question’s with Akram Khan”*

*BBC Arts and One Dance UK #DancePassion*

*Voz: Akram Khan*

*2019*

**Argelia Arreola** is a Bronx based Mexican dancer, choreographer and musician, passionate about rhythm and everything related to African influences within artistic expressions. Graduated from Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico, with a Bachelor degree in Contemporary Dance. Formally trained in traditional African Dance of Guinea for 20 years. She is currently on faculty at Gibney Dance and Mark Morris Dance Center teaching Son Jarocho/Afro Mexican dance and has developed her own AfroKorp style. Argelia has her own artistic project AcustiKorp, dancer and choreographer of Ballet Nepantla, dancer and musician of La Mezcla (a polyrhythmic San Francisco-based dance and music ensemble), and member of Jarana Beat.

She has performed at Lincoln Center, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Movement Research at the Judson Church, BAM Dance Africa, Ailey Theater, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Joe’s Pub Theater, Symphony Space, She has been awarded with the fellowship of the Mexican National Program of Scenic Creators FONCA as choreographer and dancer.

**ALICIA RAQUEL MORALES**

*CROWNING, or how to change shape while remembering your name (excerpt)*

Conceived and performed by Alicia Raquel Morales with creative collaboration by Carissa Matsushima, Queerly Femmetastic, Johnnie Cruise Mercer, STEFA\* & Fana Fraser. Sound design by Kikashima, sampling Moses Sumney & Oliver Jennings, text by Alicia Raquel Morales, Carissa Matsushima, Thomas King & Fana Fraser, performed by Carissa Matsushima, Alicia Raquel Morales, Fana Fraser and Chelsea Laboucane

*CROWNING, or how to change shape while remembering your name*, is an interactive scavenger hunt/dance ritual following urban waterways back to the ocean. Born in 2020 (DEEP pandemic) CROWNING follows four familiar characters—each an embodiment of nature in the city—through the urban natural world. CROWNING lives through dance, interactive storytelling, moving meditation, altar building, and scaffolded levels of collaboration, the first level being with the audience.

Lead artist **Alicia Raquel Morales** (she he or they) is a ritual movement artist and cultural organizer. Their aesthetic is queer, quirky, boricua, “spanglish,” working class and boldly fantastical.

Alicia is a former Dancing Futures and Skylab resident artist, CulturePush Utopian Practice fellow, EmergeNYC participant, and a current BAAD! Muse.

Alicia has been building her current work--CROWNING--since 2020. In addition to her original works, Alicia has had the joy and privilege to create and perform with [Johnnie Cruise Mercer](#)/TRPNYC, Arthur Aviles, MBDance, RPG/André Zachary, K. Hamilton Productions, the NWA Project, PISO Proyecto/PISO Fénix, Queerly Femmetastic and Brown Girls Burlesque.

[www.crowninginOctober.com](http://www.crowninginOctober.com)

**Community Shout-out**  
**TOMORROW SATURDAY JANUARY 13 2024**

**CROWNING in the cold**  
*a scavenger hunt through the wild wetlands of BAAD!*  
**Saturday, January 13, 2024**  
from 4pm to 7pm  
**Staggered entry times at 4pm, 5pm and 6pm**

Admission: Sliding Scale - Free to \$20

[tickets.baadbronx.org](http://tickets.baadbronx.org)

BAAD! Bronx Academy of Art and Dance  
2474 Westchester Ave, Bronx, NY 10461

~ this concludes the afternoon showcase ~

LUNCH until 3:00pm

Transportation will leave Hostos at 3:30pm to arrive at midtown Manhattan Hilton Hotel (with RSVP)

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## **BRONX ARTISTS NOW 2024 TECH & DOCUMENTATION**

### **Music playlist: Dj Om-Amari**

**Project Tech Support and Audio - VAMIR** is the Crown Creative Entity (C.C.E) of Studio Green Penguin. SGP is the resident composer/music arranger/lighting designer for The Xaelon Manifesto, VISIONS Contemporary Ballet and Richard Rivera/PHYSUAL. VAMIR is a recipient of the MapFund Grant in Music Composition and BRIO [Bronx Recognizes Its Own] Fellowship in Vocal Performance. SGP has created original works/music arrangements for Alvin Ailey II, Malcolm Low/Formal Structure, Arthur Aviles Typical Theatre, Los Nutcrackers – A Xmas Carajo, Doug Elkins, Bill T. Jones, Alethea Pace, and Synthesis RGB. SGP offers video editing, stage managing, lighting design, photography and graphic design. An upcoming - soon to be released collaboration with SGP as Videographer/Editor - Co Director in collaboration with GRIOT Productions of "Sacred" - an exploration of dance narrative/experimental film about the 5 Elements. IG: @greenvortex7

**Stage manager: Kip Silva** - studied at Fashion Institute of Technology and Parsons School of Design. Fashion design has been part of my life for 35 years. Also doing costumes and wardrobe for Ballet Trockadero for 6 years, and various other companies. For the last 4 years I've worked at B.A.A.D in The Bronx holding various titles like stage manager, assistant set designer, house manager, wardrobe, costume and Tech. This is my 8th year owning my own business called KStraps, a black and gay owned fetish wear company that promotes body positivity using sustainable materials and inclusive to all. @Kstraps\_fetishwear on IG. Kstraps on Facebook.

**Showcase Videographer:** MJ Abiva

**Showcase Photographer:** Abigail Montes

Pepatian is partnering with DreamYard Internships to support two local interns this Spring 2024.

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## **PEPATIÁN: Bronx Arts ColLABorative**

**PEPATIÁN** is a South Bronx-based organization dedicated to creating, producing and supporting contemporary multi-disciplinary art by Latinx/a/o and Bronx-based artists. [pepatian.org](http://pepatian.org)

Board of Directors: **Shanika Blount, Thomas F. DeFrantz, Alicia Díaz, Marisol Diaz, Erin K. Hylton, Neyda Martinez, and Wanda Raimundi Ortiz.**

**DONATIONS: [www.pepatian.org](http://www.pepatian.org) or P.O. Box 86, Bronx NY 10451**

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### **Pepatián, SPRING 2024 EVENTS**

#### **HIP-HOP**

##### **Hip Hop Homelands**

in collaboration with Full Circle Souljahs and Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture featuring a new collaborative dance work by Janice Tomlinson and Lotus Bomb, April 13, 2024.

##### **Hip Hop Academy**

The Point CDC, June 2024.

Artists: TooflyNYC, and others TBA.

##### **Bronx Indigenous Futurisms, 7th annual gathering**

Produced in partnership with Bronx River Garden, 1086 E 180th St

*Supported with a generous grant from TD Bank.*

Caridad De La Luz in collaboration with Leenda Bonilla and other poets/writers, plus dance artists Cynthia Paniagua and collaborator, guest artist Rulan Tangen in residence at the garden.

Public event, Saturday June 22, 2024 afternoon.

##### **Dancing La Botánica: La Tierra Vive! (the earth is alive)**

in conversation with Jacob's Pillow on a possible residency, 2025-26.

##### **Botanica Bronx Grows Dance, 3rd annual @ DreamYard**

For teens: workshops and conversations about dance led by choreographers who make their work in The Bronx, like: Megan Curet, Beverly Lopez, Cynthia Paniagua, Militeri Tucker Concepcion, among others)

May / June 2024

##### **Reflecting Archives: Artists in Conversation, 2024**

*Supported with a generous grant from NY Community Trust.*

A digital library of artists in conversation, sharing video excerpts from work produced by Pepatián.

##### **Dancing Futures: Artist & Mentor Collaborative Residency, 2024**

*New call for artists announced in March/April 2024*

**Pepatián:Bronx Arts CoLLABorative's *Dancing Futures: Artist and Mentor Collaborative Residency*** offers three selected IBPOC artists and/or Bronx-based artists with opportunities to create new performance works at BAAD! with access to rehearsal space, mentorship support, written documentation, and professional development opportunities.

Pepatián is proud to work on this residency project in partnership with the wonderful BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, a collaborating partner with Pepatián since 1999.

*Dancing Futures: Artist and Mentor Collaborative Residency* is a project initiated by Pepatián in partnership with BAAD! and funded in large part by the Jerome Foundation, as well as in part by public funds from the Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and public funds from the Statewide Community Re-grants Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Bronx Council on the Arts.

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**THANK YOU  
TO THE ARTISTS, COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS & FUNDERS  
BRONX ARTISTS NOW: SHOWCASE & CONVERSATION, 14th annual**