

Spring 2025 Season

Movement Research at the Judson Church

Monday, April 21, 2025 7pm

Movement Research at the Judson Church is a free forum for experimentation, emerging ideas & work-in-process.

Note that this performance is not open to review.

Johnnie Cruise Mercer//The REDprojectNYC

Mercies of a Butterfly (Draft)

Creator and Performer: Johnnie Cruise Mercer

Creative Assistants: Rah McSweeney, Torian Ugworji

I Need You Now by Smokie Norful, Chaos Walking (Givenchy Mix) by Robert Hood,

Let Go by Dewayne Woods

Johnnie Cruise Mercer is a 2024 AIR supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts

Morgan Gregory

new ting

Collaborators-Dancers: Bryanna Strickland, Na'Zear Brown, and Morgan Gregory (myself)

Sound: @shadowofadoubt

Paris Cullen

bearing

Created by: Paris Cullen, in collaboration with the Performers: Sarah Zuccherò, Julianne Cariño, Rose Cole-Cohen

Music: rain sounds, Mirrors by Justin Timberlake

Costume design: Paris Cullen

Baring "God is Change" -Octavia Butler

This piece would not have been possible without my teachers/dancestors Ishmael Houston-Jones, Keith Hennessy, Hana Van Der Kolk, Anya Cloud, Makisig Akin, Steve Paxton, Nancy Stark Smith, Ivan Cofield, and the extensive

network of peers and friends/loves. THANK YOU!



Artist Biographies

Johnnie Cruise Mercer, a 2022 Dance Magazine Harkness Promise Award Recipient, and a 2021 Princess Grace Award Recipient (Choreography), is a queer-black think-maker; a choreographer, an educator, and producer based in Brooklyn, New York. A native of Richmond, VA, Johnnie holds a BFA in Dance and Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University. Johnnie's choreographic work has been shared by 92NY Harkness Dance Center, Danspace Project Inc, BAAD!, La Mama Experimental Theater, Tariq 'Meally's BlackLight Summit, and at The American Dance Festival. Johnnie has had the honor of being a 2019-2021 Artist in Residence at Brooklyn Arts Exchange, a 2020-2021 Ping Chong and Company Creative Fellow, a 2020-2021 AIR through New Dance Alliance's Black Artists Space to Create Residency, and a 2022 Artist in Residence at Center for Performance Research. Johnnie is currently a NYSCA supported 2024-2026 AIR at Movement Research, and a 2024-2026 Pioneers Go East Fellow. As an educator, Johnnie specializes in K-12 and pre-collegiate development focusing on history and movement's uses in building collaborative work/community. Johnnie has facilitated/taught within the New York Public School system through The Leadership Program, and Movement Research's Dance Maker's Program. Mercer has also been on teaching faculty/a guest educator at The American Dance Festival, Bates Dance Festival, PRATT Institute, Goucher College, Sarah Lawrence College, The University of Maryland, Harlem School of the Arts, and The Dance Institute of Washington. Johnnie also writes curriculum; being the Co-Creator/Curriculum Writer for both Martha Graham's Our Own American Document Curriculum, and Queen's College's Kupheburg Center for the Arts Jazz and Justice Curriculum. He is currently a professor at NYU Tisch (within their High School Dance Program), the Dance Performance Workshop III Director at Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and a full time IB Theater instructor at Brooklyn Prospect High School. Johnnie is the founding producer, and director of TheREDprojectNYC (TRPNYC), a multidisciplinary ensemble of artists dedicated to philosophy, and its use towards building communal spaces for process, documentation, and investigation. Learn more about upcoming projects Johnnie's cooking up with his production company at www.theredprojectnyc.org, IG@jcm_redprojectnyc or him personally on IG@johnniecruisemercer

Morgan Gregory, originally from Richmond, Virginia, is an interdisciplinary performer and choreographer focusing on Afro-diasporic storytelling. She is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program and majored in Africana Studies and Dance with Magna Cum Laude honors. In her junior year, she was named the Denise Jefferson Memorial Scholar for her graduating class and a performance fellow with Sidra Bell. Morgan is currently collaborating with visual artist Julien Creuzet and choreographer Ana Pi on a continuing multi-disciplinary project exploring sound, shapes, and movements within the African diaspora. This work entitled, Algorithm Ocean True Blood Moves, premiered in New York City and has toured Amsterdam and Dakar. In her choreographic and performance work development, Morgan, as an American Black woman, is constantly exploring ancestral importance. In this continuous effort of understanding, Morgan finds herself creating in spaces of intersectionality: Academia, Womanhood, Desire, Blackness, Movement, and Spirituality. Recently, she was named a recipient of the LiftOff performance residency with New Dance Alliance and a fellow with The Performance Project.

Paris Cullen is a queer movement artist and facilitator based in New York City (Lenapehoking), originally from San Diego (Kumeyaay territory). Their practices, based in the creative spirit of improvisation, connect them with presence, gravity, and imagination— contact improvisation, breaking, aikido, visual art, meditation, singing, Thai bodywork— through play and collaboration they're guided into queer realms of the future. P is grateful to teachers including Anya Cloud, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Keith Hennessy, Ivan Cofield, and Hana VanDer Kolk. They've shared work at Groundswell Series, BK Art Haus, CreateART, The Craft, and HATCH. P has performed with Pilobolus, Alison Chase, URBAN | TRIBE, Smashworks Dance, Monica Bill Barnes, and more. They host and teach at a queer contact improvisation jam in NYC. Email Paris at pariscullen1996@gmail.com



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or give at movementresearch.org/support.
Tax-deductible donations can be sent to:
Movement Research, 150 First Avenue, New York, NY 10009
We appreciate your support!

MR@Judson Selection Committee Fall 2024/Winter 2025 - Spring 2025:

Fana Fraser, Dominica Greene, Carolyn Hall, Johnnie Cruise Mercer,
Barkha Patel, Annie Wang, Jo Warren

Movement Research at the Judson Church artists are selected through an application process reviewed by a rotating committee of peer artists, each season the Artists of Color Council (AoCC) invites a member of the community to curate three artists to participate. These artists are joined by Movement Research Artists-in-Residence and GPS/MRX exchange artists. To apply, visit movementresearch.org

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Event Staff

Judson Technical Director: Judson Production Team **Photo and Video Documentation:** 5' nothing productions by Rachel Keane and Makenna Finch

MR Interns: Isabella Campbell, Yining Chi, Grey Cooper, Jack Dexter, Alex DiCastro, Justine Florence, Sydney Greenhill, Meg Hasou, Olivia Kick, Spencer Klink, Ethan Luk, Lucienne Parker, mik phillips, Nia, Storm Stokes, Annabelle Stern, Cameron Surh, Liz Westbrook

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Color Council: Jelani Taylor, Megan Curet, Rebecca Gual, Shawn Rawls

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Advisory Board: Wendell Beavers, David Dorfman, Simone Forti, Cynthia Hedstrom, Bill T. Jones, Daniel Lepkoff, Yvonne Rainer, Jim Staley, and Steve Paxton* and Mary Overlie* (*In Memoriam)

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Thanks always to the clergy and staff of Judson Memorial Church. Judson Memorial Church continues to be a beacon for free spirits in the arts and politics, and a leader among progressive faith communities in the city and nation for over 100 years. Enormous gratitude to Frances Alenikoff (1920-2012), founder of Eden's Expressway, and to her daughter Francesca Rheannon and family, for their continuing belief in the mission of Movement Research and for keeping alive Frances' spirited example of what lifelong artistry is.

