

Spring 2025 Season

Movement Research at the Judson Church

Monday, May 12, 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.

Abbey McBride

Just Left From There

Choreographer/Director: Abbey McBride

Performers: Abbey McBride and Amber Neff

Music: "Mostly Chimes" by Adrienne Lenker

Text and Costumes: Abbey McBride

Mohammadreza Akrami and Belinda He

IN ABStENTIA

Choreography: Mohammadreza Akrami and Belinda He

Performance and interpretation of score: Wendy Perron and Barbara Forbes

Sound and music: Siavash Amini

Special thanks to Wendy Perron and Barbara Forbes for agreeing to interpreting the score with one week's notice

Halie Bahr presents Human Resources/HR Department

weareeasilydistractedbys shinythings

Choreographers & Performers: Halie Bahr, Jessica Boone, Virginia Broyles

Sound: Daniel Clifton

Costumes & Props: Halie Bahr, Jessica Boone, Virginia Broyles



Artist Biographies

Born and raised in Portland (OR), **Abbey McBride** is a white, cis-gender, queer performer and choreographer currently based in Brooklyn (NY). She holds a Bachelor of Science in Dance and Philosophy from the University of Oregon. After graduating, she continued her studies in Brussels (BE) at P.A.R.T.S. School for Contemporary Dance. She has worked as a freelance movement artist in Brooklyn (NY) since 2018. Currently she is examining the intersection of comedy and improvisational score building in her dance making. Abbey has presented work in and around NYC hosted by Triskelion Arts, The Center for Performance Research, Spoke the Hub, Movement Research, The Craft NYC, Green Space, The Field Center and Emerging Artists Theatre.

Mohammadreza (Momo) Akrami is an Iranian-Canadian dance and interdisciplinary artist whose work spans Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, San Francisco, and Brussels. With a multifaceted background in mathematics, physics, and theater, Momo brings a unique perspective as a creator, dancer, and teacher. His diverse dance lineage encompasses Flying Low/Passing Through/Improvisation with David Zambrano, Butoh/Noguchi Taiso with Atsushi Takenouchi and Imre Thorman, and Grotowski/post-Grotowski theater. His physical practice is enriched by martial arts such as Wing Chun, Escrima, and Chi Kung. Momo has taught at various institutions including Simon Fraser University, Dance Arts Institute (formerly Toronto Dance Theatre) in Toronto, UC Berkeley, Studio 303 (Montreal), ODC (San Francisco), and BOE (San Francisco). His teaching philosophy integrates his dance lineage, personal practice, and life experiences, fostering an inclusive and exploratory learning environment. Momo's artistic practice explores the intersection of dance, image, and sound to shift perceptions of time and self. Grounded in his lived reality in Iran, his projects examine bodily autonomy and collective agency. Committed to questioning artistic norms, Momo creates environments that foster exploration, driven by his fascination with epistemology, playfulness, and cultural appropriation. **Belinda He** is a Singapore-born, San Francisco-based dance artist of Chinese descent who received an MFA in Dance at Sarah Lawrence College under the directorship of Sara Rudner. She utilizes pedagogical and improvisational structures to support her creative processes, which often reflect her deep concern of the weaponization of "fake news" as propaganda, and desire to diversify ways of seeing as an antidote to the violence of erasure. Her physical practices of qigong and the Feldenkrais Method deeply influence her creative work, in the ways she relates to time, space, scale and self. She thrives in collaborative relationships, and enjoys current collaborations with Karla Quintero, Hope Mohr, Heidi Carlsen and Mohammadreza Akrami, which have recently taken her to artist residencies at SARUYA, Fujiyoshida, Japan (2024), The Old Mines, Outukumpu, Finland (2024), The Field Center, Vermont (2024) and Dance Nucleus, Singapore (2023). Belinda continues to be an active performer in the Bay Area and beyond, and considers the totality of all aspects of her life to be her artistic output. She acknowledges with gratitude influential teachers Sara Rudner, Barbara Forbes, Janet Panetta, Sandra Chinn and David Zambrano.

"Human Resources/HR Department" is a highly collaborative dance collective established by Halie Bahr, Jessica Boone, and Virginia Broyles. "Human Resources/HR Department" values fluid leadership and reimagining how dances can rub against systemic oppression. By contemplating the impacts of late-stage capitalism on bodies and dancemaking practices, we ask ourselves how imagination and choreography can question our current times and find a more livable way to make work today. Halie Bahr is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Southern Utah University. She researches the socio-political implications of trauma in the creative process, and has presented work and performed nationally in venues such as The Walker Art Center, Milwaukee Art Museum, 12 Minutes Max, and The Soap Factory. Texas-based artist Jessica Boone is a Lecturer of Dance at Texas A&M University and explores how choreographic processes can develop autonomy, intuition, and empowerment in performers. She performed professionally with Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company and has presented work at Austin Dance Festival,

Barnstorm Dance, and more. Virginia Broyles is a film and dance maker currently based in Salt Lake City, UT. Her screendance work has been presented internationally and she's performed with Kathleen Hermesdorf, Simpson/Stulberg, Scott Wells, and BANDALOOOP.



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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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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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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.



