

Fall 2025/Winter 2026 Season

## Movement Research at the Judson Church

Monday, January 12, 2026 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.*

### NAKA Dance Theater

#### Last Seen

Choreographed by: José Ome Mazatl and Debby Kajiya

Performed by: José Ome Mazatl and Debby Kajiya

Sound by: David Molina

### Jody Oberfelder Projects

#### Palimpsest

Choreographer/director: Jody Oberfelder in collaboration with

Dancers: Jody Oberfelder, Andi Farley Shimota, Mariah Anton Arters, Caleb Patterson

Music: Marianne Faithful and John King (after Marianne Faithful)

Costume (prototype): Katrin Schnabl

Dramaturg: Rebekah Morin

The word “palimpsest” stems from papyrus or parchment, original text scraped off and then reused so that old writing remains faintly visible beneath new words. It can also be used to describe an historically layered place. We layer ourselves in life, just as the world layers itself in time. Dance exists within this framework. Tonight is the first iteration of **Palimpsest**. The work will eventually unfold in layered “rooms” where audiences experience and shape the present alongside performers

### symara sarai

#### Untitled

Choreographed by: symara sarai

Performed by: symara sarai

Sound by: Keyanna Hutchinson

symara sarai is a 2024-2025 Movement Research AIR supported in part by the Jerome Foundation.

## Artist Biographies

Founded in 2001 by **José Ome Navarrete Mazatl** and **Debby Kajiyama** in Oakland, California, **NAKA Dance Theater** creates experimental performance works using dance, storytelling, multimedia installations and site-specific environments. They are honored to launch their 25th Anniversary year by showing work at Movement Research at Judson Church. NAKA cultivates partnerships with communities, engages people's histories and folklore and expresses experiences through accessible performances that challenge the viewer to think critically about social justice issues. Recent collaborations include *Ja weya ob'aj wij, ex weya nchemaj (My Story, My Weaving)*, a devised installation-performance work created with Indigenous Maya Mam Women weavers living in Oakland, and *Dismantling Tactic X: Fugitivity*, a creative response to xenophobia and the threat of mass deportations. In addition to their performance work, NAKA co-produces Live Arts in Resistance (LAIR) in partnership with EastSide Arts Alliance. LAIR is a dynamic series of performance showcases, artist residencies, and community town halls that address racial inequity and white supremacy in popular culture. @nakadancetheater

**Jody Oberfelder** is a New York-based director, choreographer, and filmmaker whose work explores how dance can illuminate life. She creates immersive, site-specific performances across stage, film, and public spaces—ranging from train stations and cemeteries to historic landmarks and city bridges. Her work invites audiences into intimate, participatory experiences. Recent projects include *Story Time, And Then, Now* at Green-Wood Cemetery, *Walking to Present* (commissioned by Dance München Festival and Brooklyn institutions), *Splash Dance* at London's V&A Museum, and *Life Traveler*, performed in Tokyo, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Munich, Frankfurt, Portland, Oregon, Philadelphia, Amsterdam, and London. Other notable works include *Monument*, *The Brain Piece*, *4Chambers*, *Madame Ovary*, *Head First*, and collaborative or commissioned pieces with orchestras and art institutions like the Brooklyn Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Kurt Weill Foundation. Oberfelder has also produced over 20 dance films, shown at international festivals and conferences. Her company has been supported by organizations including NYC's Department of Cultural Affairs, New Music USA, NYSCA, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, and the NEA.

**John King** <https://www.johnkingmusic.com> is a Composer, guitarist and violist, has received commissions from the Kronos Quartet; *Ethel*; the Albany Symphony/"Dogs of Desire", *Bang On A Can All-Stars*; Mannheim Ballet; New York City Ballet/Diamond Project, Stuttgart Ballet, Ballets de Monte Carlo; as well as the [Merce Cunningham Dance Co.](https://www.mercecunninghamdanceco.com)

**Katrin Schnabl** <https://www.katrinschnabl.com> has designed costumes for JOP for over 30 years.

**Andrea Farley Shimota** is a New York-based performer whose work spans dance, immersive theater, and video. She began her immersive theater career in *Sleep No More*, performing various roles from 2017 -2025, and performed in the large scale immersive production, *Life and Trust*, beginning in 2025. She is also a practitioner of functional nutrition and craniosacral therapy.

**Mariah Anton Arters** is a New York based freelance dance artist who graduated in 2019 from UNC School of the Arts with a BFA in contemporary dance. Mariah frequently works with the Merce Cunningham Trust, while also working with Liz Gerring, Cornfield Dance, Dance Heginbotham, Christopher Williams Dance, Helen Simoneau Danse, Daniel Gwirtzman and The Moving Architects, among others.

**Caleb Patterson** is a dance artist based in New York City. He has worked with artists Maleek Washington, Em Greenwell, Kayla Farrish and more. He has performed works by MATHETA dance, LaneCoArts, Spark Movement Collective, Nicole Fuentes, Michelle Thompson Ulerich and Johnny Butler, and has presented his own work at Arts On Site, PAGEANT, Mare Nostrum Element's Emerging Choreographer Series, Dance Gallery Festival, CUNY Dance Initiative and others.

**Rebekah Morin** (dramaturg) danced with JOP from 2002-2012. She currently is a core member of Third Rail Projects.

**symara sarai**, a Portland, Oregon native currently residing in Brooklyn, has immersed herself in interdisciplinary and choreographic studies globally with deep recognition. Named Dance Magazines' 2025 "Top 25 to Watch," a 2023 Bessie Winner for Breakout Choreographer, and a recipient of the Dai Ailian Foundation Scholarship based in Trinidad and Tobago, she is known to be a courageously committed performer and maker. The NYT stated "Sarai is a daring solo improviser, and her uninhibited spirit infuses." At present, she is interested in creating worlds that make space for queer Black femme anarchical play. Their practice works to arrive at ultimate play which is an indulgent practice of surrendering that they are steadily in as a Black, queer, radical, wild ass maker in the field. Through her work she aims to embody the destruction of normalcy and known structures. They are eager to exchange thoughts on fearlessness and radical vulnerability centered on empowering uninhibited desires and wants.

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 or give at [movementresearch.org/support](http://movementresearch.org/support).

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***We appreciate your support!***

**MR@Judson Selection Committee Fall 2025/Winter 2026 - Spring 2026:**

Biba Bell, Miguel Alejandro Castillo, Justin Faircloth, Imani Gaudin, Opal Ingle, Shayla-Vie Jenkins,  
 Iris McCloughan, Antonio Ramos, Shawn Rawls, Fabio Tavares

*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](http://movementresearch.org)

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**Photo and Video Documentation:** 5' nothing productions by  
 Rachel Keane and Makenna Finch

**MR Interns:** Moksha Akil, Estefania Castaño, Calie Champoux, Marie Dempsey, Sydney Greenhill, Maddie Luzarraga,  
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 Yushu Wang, Liz Westbrook, Ally Wilson, Moira Zhang, Spencer Zambri-Moran

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**MR Artists-In-Residence:** Maxi Canion, Tess Dworman, Wendell Gray II, Edu Hernandez, Jerron Herman, Jordan  
 Lloyd, Johnnie Cruise Mercer, Veronica Moniello, Maho Ogawa, symara sarai, Kat Sotelo,  
 Alexa West, Jian Yi, Lu Yim

**Van Lier Emerging Artist of Color Fellows:** Rochelle Wilbun and Dorchel Haqq

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