

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 Kajiyama

Performed by: José Ome Mazatl and Debby Kajiyama

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.](#) **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 FuentesmMichelle 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, wildass 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.

Support Movement Research today!

TEXT "GIVETOMR" TO **44-321**, sink a dollar (or more) in the box,
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 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

Movement Research Staff

Executive Director: Barbara Bryan

Director of Artist Programs: María Wethers

Director of Education & Pedagogy: Amanda Loulaki

Director of Movement Research at the Judson Church

Program: Martita Abril

Programs & Events Manager: Leah Fournier

Senior Associate, Programs & Events: Anaís Gómez

Classes & Workshops Associate: Paulina Meneses

Development Manager: Elle Cherry

Development & Executive Support Associate:

Michaela Esteban

Media & Communications Manager: K May Paz Suarez

Communications Coordinator: Katherine De La Cruz

Senior Manager of Administration & Finance:

Amanda Stambrosky

Operations Manager: Raychel Ceciro

Operations & Finance Associate: Justine Florence

Artists of Color Council Coordinator: Jelani Taylor

Event Staff

Judson Technical Director: Margot May

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, Havi Millar, Sumire Muratsu, Nailah Murray, Ella Newgarden, Ana Teresa Rodriguez, Amira Samiy, Annabelle Stern, Yushu Wang, Liz Westbrook, Ally Wilson, Moira Zhang, Spencer Zambri-Moran

MR Publishing, Performance Journal: Joshua Lubin-Levy, John Arthur Peetz, Nicole Bradbury

Critical Correspondence: Takahiro Yamamoto

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

Board of Directors: Kevin Beasley, Barbara Bryan, Wally Cardona, Stephen Facey, Ishmael Houston-Jones, André Lepecki, Kay Takeda, Charmaine Warren, Edisa Weeks, Cathy Weis

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

Accessibility Advisory Team: Kiera Bono, Pelenakeke Brown, Anna Gichan, Kayla Hamilton*, Yo-Yo Lin*, Alejandra Ospina*, iele paloumpis*, Ogemdi Ude (*founding member)

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)

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Movement Research receives additional public support from City Council Member Carlina Rivera; Materials for the Arts (a program of NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYC Department of Sanitation, and NYC Department of Education).

Movement Research gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of private support from Dance/NYC's New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program, an initiative made possible by The Mellon Foundation; Harkness Foundation for Dance; Howard Gilman Foundation; James E. Robison Foundation; Jerome Foundation; Lotos Foundation; Marta Heflin Foundation; the Mellon Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; New York Community Trust; NYU Community Fund; Robert Rauschenberg Foundation; Ruth Foundation for the Arts; and Trust for Mutual Understanding. Movement Research is a member of Coalition of Small Arts NYC. Movement Research also acknowledges the individual donors and dear Friends of Movement Research, who contribute financial, support, labor, and love.

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.

