

Fall 2025/Winter 2026 Season

Movement Research at the Judson Church

Monday, January 26, 2026 7pm

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

Jian Yi

Cloud States

Choreographed/Written/Directed by: Jian Yi

Performed by: Yuxi Ma, Jian Yi

Original Music by: Daniel Garcia

Cinematography by: Yining Chi

AV Support by: Max Van

Lighting Design by: Tuçe Yasak

Jian Yi is a 2024-2026 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence supported in part by the Jerome Foundation.

Ellen Söderhult

GHOST DANCES FOR THE JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH BY ELLEN SÖDERHULT

Costume by: Trove Dreiman

Music by: Stravinsky, Ligeti, Purcell, Bendik Giske

Thank you to: Hara Alonso, Christoffer Lloyd, Yari Stilo and Unn Faleide

Ellen Söderhult is supported by MRX/Sweden in partnership with Konstnärnsämnden/The International Dance Programme, Sweden.

Dance steps haunt Ellen Söderhult; Ellen Söderhult haunts Judson Memorial Church.

Fauns, suitors, opera demons and their aunt are invited to a little medley of dance ghosts.

Choreography invokes history and allows that which is past to be resurrected and made present again in an altered form. Choreography is a haunted art form: dances echo their performers and performers echo dances. The proposal embraces the idea of the ghost as something that is simultaneously absent and present in order to delve into the relationship between the dancer and the dance, the self and the environment. The dancer summons her ghosts and is danced by her own dance phantoms through forces acting at a distance. In this partial reiteration of a solo, time is out of joint and the body is the caretaker of a collection of dances.

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Margareta Firinger

Plate number 9

Performed by: Margareta Firinger

Choreographed by: Margareta Firinger

The GPS residency in NYC for Margareta Firinger is organized in partnership with Objekt plesa / Object of Dance (Croatia) with support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding. This event is part of a yearlong celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the GPS program at Movement Research.

Jelena Alempijević

Weathering

Choreographed and performed by: Jelena Alempijević

Music by: The Howlite (Dunja Crnjanski, Predrag Okiljević, Marko Čurčić)

The GPS residency in NYC for Jelena Alempijević is organized in partnership with STATION - Service for contemporary dance (Serbia) with support from the Trust for Mutual Understanding. This event is part of a yearlong celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the GPS program at Movement Research.

This material unfolds through a family archive, sound, and a movement practice grounded in attentive perception of light, sound, and spatial conditions. Abstracted gestures slide into Waving, a relational eco-somatic movement practice that attends to exchange between bodies and environment; together, they enter a cloud. Here, the material takes the form of an open configuration in which memory and environment meet through the body, approaching weathering not as a theme, but as a process.

Artist Biographies

Jian Yi's movement practice is rooted in an ongoing enquiry into the ambiguities of emotional experience, and touches upon borderline states – considering Otherness, neurodivergence and alternative states of consciousness/being – in line with their continuing research focus on queer mental health. Their projects are a multi-sensory, non-linear exploration of unconscious dream states, seeking collective experiences of queer ritual. They are interested in expanding the territory of performance art and contemporary dance practice by bridging the gap between our mind and our animal selves, the connection between the inside and the outside; exploring what happens when this border between public and private, exterior and interior, opens up. Questions around social normalcy and neurodivergence are highly pertinent to their practice and in their work the figure of the 'social outsider' often takes centre stage, estranging everyday realities through intensified mental and emotional states. Through their multidisciplinary performance art, photography, social sculpture and installation, film/video and new genres' dance work – they seek to explore the experiential trauma of marginalised persons within our society such as neurodiverse and queer people of colour and how we reflect on the broader human condition. Their practice aims to reconcile identity/difference through finding ways to connect emotionally. They often investigate non-linear performance methodologies, expanding the practice of performance art and experimental dance into the realm of the experiential-unconscious. Their work has been performed and exhibited internationally in venues such as New Museum, The Kitchen NYC, ACMI Melbourne, Summerhall, Dance Base Edinburgh, Tramway and Centre for Contemporary Arts Glasgow. They have received awards and have been selected for residencies including with Cove Park, Dance4, Take Me Somewhere Festival/the Work Room Glasgow, Live Art Development Agency London, Theatertreffen Berlin, Seventh Gallery Melbourne, and People's History Museum in Manchester among others.

Ellen Söderhult is a dancer and choreographer based in Stockholm. Her choreographic works have often taken on the collective as protagonist (Rudy, Shane et al, How to do things with Romance: a prologue, DUNKA DUNKA), but also explored monstrous emotions and textures in sweet-bitter love (ROUGH) and the ghostly in the relationships between dancer and dance, and between person, history and environment (Ghost dances, Blessika). Ellen has worked with choreographers such as Iki Gonzalez Magnusson, Sorour Darabi, Anna Källblad, Nikima Jagudajev, Sindri Runudde, Nadja Hjorton, Marvil Iglesias and Catarina Zarazua Mujo, and as a musician with composer Hara Alonso. Ellen is educated at Bollnäs Folk High School's music line and on the bachelor's programmes in contemporary dance and circus at DOCH / Stockholm University of the Arts.

Artist Biographies

Margareta Firingier (born in 1994) works and lives in Zagreb, Croatia. Margareta is a freelance dancer, a member of the Association of Professional Dance Artists PULS and the Croatian Freelance Artist Association. In addition to attending the X. Gymnasium, she also graduated from the “Ana Maletić School for Contemporary Dance.” She continued her education at the “SEAD” Dance Academy in Salzburg, where she graduated in 2019. From 2019 to 2022, she was a member of the dance ensemble Zagreb dance company, participating in performances such as Gore (Ferenc Fehér), Oko s površine (Aleksandra Mišić), Revel, revel (Roser Lopez Espinosa), Okvir (Borna Babić), and Geometrija daha (Laura Arís Álvarez). Margareta is a member of the Zagreb-based artistic organization Škvadra, a self-organized collective of dance artists who promote culture, demystify, and expand the space of dance through their original work on the independent scene and collaboration. Some of Škvadra’s work worth mentioning are dance productions Bazen, Punopravno, Plaža, Prve 3, The Pogo Dolls, as well as many site-specific performances and numerous short films. Together with her long-time friend and colleague Jovana Zelenović, Margareta explores and develops her own artistic language. This collaboration has resulted in three performances: the dance duet Imam te (2021), a duet for a drummer and a dancer Igralište 22 (2022), and the performance Migracija zraka (2023). Since 2022, Margareta has worked as a freelance artist, participating in projects by Croatian and international authors such as Ana Kreitmayer (Priprema za sadašnje), Saša Božić and Simone Aughterlony (Agenda), and Toma Savić Gecan (Untitled, Venice Biennale). She is currently working on a remake of the show ‘Home Movie’ by Francesco Scavetta, as part of the EU project ‘Beyond Front@: Bridging Periphery.

Jelena Alempijević is an independent choreographer, dancer, and educator active in the contemporary dance and performing arts scene in Serbia. She graduated from the State Ballet School in Novi Sad, specializing in classical ballet, and from the Dance, Context, Choreography program at the University of the Arts in Berlin. She has performed with the New Dance Forum of the Serbian National Theatre and worked as a contemporary dance teacher at the State Ballet School in Novi Sad. Jelena is a co-founder of the association Practicable – Platform for Contemporary Art and Culture and Pokretnica – Contemporary Dance and Performance Festival in Novi Sad. Within the Pokretnica artist collective and Practicable, she takes on multiple roles as a curator, producer, choreographer, performer, and educator. Since 2019, Jelena has collaborated with the Per Art organization, leading workshops and participating in performances with artists with and without disabilities. Her artistic work is grounded in long-term collaborations and aims to create sustainable conditions for the development of the local performing arts scene.

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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

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2026 Van Lier Emerging Artist of Color Fellows: evan ray suzuki, Dahlia Qumhiyeh

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