



*The Clarice presents*

**slowdancer: SUPERCCELL**

September 21 & 22, 2023 • 8PM

KOGOD THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

*The Clarice presents*

## slowdanger: **SUPERCELL**

### **Direction**

taylor knight and anna thompson

### **Performance Collaborators**

AJ Libert, Nile Harris, kira shiina

### **Process Collaborators**

Christian Warner and Jasmine Hearn

### **Design Collaborators**

Scenic Design by ProjectileObjects

Lighting Design by Harbour Edney

Costumes by Mad Recital

Sound Design by slowdanger in collaboration with cast

Dramaturgical Support, Collaborating Media Design and Collaborating Sound Design by Jasmine Hearn

### **Advisory Committee**

Nathan Darity

Jasmine Hearn

Heather Kelley

Michelle King

Jennifer Roberts

### **Project Manager**

Joshua Bristow

*SUPERCELL is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Mellon Foundation. SUPERCELL is a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation and Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Kelly Strayhorn Theater, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and NPN. SUPERCELL is also supported by the Opportunity Fund, The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments, with additional residency support from NCCAkrón, The Space Upstairs and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts Department of Dance.*

*Additional funding has come from the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The performance is also supported by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.*



THE MORRIS & GWENDOLYN  
CAFIRITZ FOUNDATION

*SUPERCELL*: a vortex... a brooding hiss... a chorus of breath... a collective exhale... The impetus for this work came while touring the third work in its trilogy, *empathy machine*. While on a trip to Texas to visit Taylor's family, we witnessed a supercell storm from afar. It was hypnotizing; a towering cloud form with lightning illuminating large pockets of the mammoth storm. Beneath it multiple tornadoes were born in its wake. We sat in quiet, miles away, watching this breathtaking climate event, in awe of its beauty and detrimental power. We began to gestate the apocalyptic climate event that would lead to the fallout present in *empathy machine*'s sparse landscape. We questioned our own attraction to such an event and contribution to passive observance. *SUPERCELL* investigates the multitude of sensations of living in a body on a changing planet. We do not aim to solve, fix or repair the climate crisis, rather, to hold up a mirror to ourselves, to reflect, to share, to brew, to break, to fall.



### **READ THE *SUPERCELL* COMPANION BIBLIOGRAPHY!**

Learn more about tonight's work by scanning the QR code.

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Every community owes its existence and strength to the generations before them, around the world, who contributed their hopes, dreams and energy into making the history that led to this moment.

Truth and acknowledgement are critical in building mutual respect and connections across all barriers of heritage and difference.

So, we acknowledge the truth that is often buried: We are on the ancestral lands of the Piscataway People, who are the ancestral stewards of this sacred land. It is their historical responsibility to advocate for the four-legged, the winged, those that crawl and those that swim. They remind us that clean air and pristine waterways are essential to all life.

This Land Acknowledgement is a vocal reminder for each of us as two-leggeds to ensure our physical environment is in better condition than what we inherited, for the health and prosperity of future generations.



### **Harbour Edney (they/he)**

Harbour Edney is a freelance lighting designer and installation artist who is currently nested in the Philadelphia area. Recent designs include *Always the Hour* (Annie Wilson), *The Wild Party* (Eagle Theatre), *a hit dog will holler* (Azuka Theatre Company), *Chaat* (Usiloquy Dance Designs), *Papa* (The New Hazlett Theatre) and *Bruise & Thorn* (Pipeline Theatre Company). They have designed for other companies such as Obvious Agency, The Bearded Ladies Cabaret, The Pillow Projects, The Kelly-Strayhorn Theatre, Alumni Theater Company and INTAR NYC. Harbour has a special love for dance and is thrilled and grateful to be working on *SUPERCELL* with this team.

### **Nile Harris (he/him)**

Nile Harris is a performer and director of live works of art. He has done a few things and hopes to do a few more, God willing.

### Jasmine Hearn (they/them)

Jasmine Hearn is an internationally-touring interdisciplinary artist, director, performer, choreographer, organizer, doula and teacher. They are committed to performance as an expansive practice that includes a spectrum of dance and somatic traditions and techniques, sound design, garment design, cooking and the archiving of matrilineal memories. They give gratitude to Spirit, their mothers and aunts, and all the mothering Black people who have supported their moving, remembering body. Hearn has performed their work at venues such as the Kelly Strayhorn Theater in Pittsburgh, PA (2021); New York Live Arts in New York, NY (2021); Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University in Houston, TX (2021); Danspace Project in New York, NY (2019, 2017); and BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance in Bronx, NY (2016). They have also performed with the companies Helen Simoneau Dance, Urban Bush Women, and David Dorfman Dance, among others, and collaborated with many artists, including Holly Bass, Maria Bauman, Marjani Forté-Saunders, Gerard & Kelly, Vanessa German, Li Harris, Bill T. Jones, Solange Knowles, Ayanah Moor, Lovie Olivia, Staycee Pearl, Alesandra Seutin and Alisha B. Wormsley.

Hearn is the recipient of a Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky Rome Prize in Design with collaborator Athena Kokoronis of Domestic Performance Agency (2023), a Creative Capital Award (2022), New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Awards for Outstanding Performer (2021, 2017), a Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship (2019) and Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grants (2022, 2017). They have been awarded residencies through Movement Research in New York, NY; Pittsburgh Foundation in Pittsburgh, PA; and the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France.

Hearn, born and raised on occupied lands now known as Houston, TX, studied dance with a multitude of teachers, including their sister, cousins, aunts, instructors and friends at family events, church and took class at the Houston Metropolitan Dance Center. They have also been greatly influenced by teachers, mentors and collaborators, including Byronné J Hearn, Claudette Nickens Johnson, Joy KMT, Barbara Mahler, Pamela Pietro, Kendra Portier, Samita Sinha, Sandra Organ Solis, Jhon r. stronks, Sherie van den Wijngaard, Charmaine Warren, Marya Wethers, Bennalldre Williams, Marlies Yearby and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. Hearn received a B.A. from Point Park University.

### AJ Libert (he/him)

AJ Libert from Pittsburgh, PA, started his dance training at the age of three. He graduated from PBT’s full time program, and then attended Point Park University where he received a B.F.A. in Modern dance. AJ enjoys the complexities that movement exploration has to offer. Combining his love for the natural world with his love for movement drives AJ to continue to find deeper connections between the two, in hopes to merge both worlds seamlessly. AJ would like to thank his two beautiful mothers, without them he would not be where he is today.

### Mad Recital

Mad Recital is an avant-garde fashion label established in 2010. The designers involved in the label are Richard Ramirez (who started his own fashion label in 1997 prior) and Sean E. Ramirez-Matzus. Mad Recital focuses on deconstruction, repurposed garments, handmade techniques, alternative visions of beauty and unconventional designs. Drawing inspiration from nature, folk-lore, myths and legends, film and the arts as well as the history of avant-garde fashion, Mad Recital aims to create wearable art. The end goal, pieces that delight, unsettle, inspire and provoke. Their work has been sold at boutiques in Japan and France.



### ProjectileObjects (he/him)

Cornelius Henke III, also known as ProjectileObjects, is a multi-talented creative with a passion for video production and performance art. His work spans across various mediums, including music videos, motion graphics, live events and interactive installations.

As a former fellow and artist in residence at the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University, Cornelius has had the opportunity to showcase his talent in prestigious venues such as the 9:30 Club, the Guggenheim Museum and the Carnegie Museum of Art.

In addition to his impressive performances, he has also participated in residencies at MANCC, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, The Yard Martha's Vineyard and Catskill Mountain Foundation.

Cornelius is a contributing writer for VIDVOX, the makers of VDMX, and has contributed to the forums with tutorials and blog posts. He is also an activist and partner at Merging Media, a boutique digital media production company based in Pittsburgh, PA.

In 2021, ProjectileObjects formed an LLC that offers a range of services, including conceptual design, development, engineering, fabrication and installations. With a wealth of experience and expertise, Cornelius continues to captivate audiences with his unique vision and exceptional talent.

### kira shiina (they/she)

kira shiina is a freelance dance and sound artist based in the land of the Lenape people known today as Philadelphia, PA. kira shiina received their dance education at Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts 6-12, going on to receive their BFA in Dance from the University of the Arts under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. She has performed in works by Andrea Miller, Beth Gill, Bobbi Jene Smith, Doug Varone, Mark Caserta, Sidra Bell, slowdancer and Tommie-Waheed Evans, among others. In 2019, they presented their first solo work, *DID YOU / FALL APART*, exploring themes of memory, nostalgia and intimacy in collaboration with painter Jameelah Platt at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. They were a founding company member of Mark Caserta's Big Kid Dance, having performed with the company from 2021-2023. She is currently a creative associate of choreographer Tommie-Waheed Evans and has been a company member of his project-based company, waheedworks, since 2019. kira shiina holds an Adjunct Assistant Professor position at the UArts School of Dance. This is their second project performing with slowdancer.



## slowdanger

taylor knight (they/them) & anna thompson (they/them) are co-founding artistic directors of slowdanger, a multidisciplinary performance organism based in Pittsburgh, PA. slowdanger uses a systematic approach to movement, integrative technology, found material, electronic instrumentation, vocalization, physiological centering and ontological examination to produce their performance work, which utilizes ritual practice to delve into circular life patterning including effort, transformation and death. Through the process of making each piece, slowdanger works with an ever deepening understanding of energy, synergy, action, gender, time and storytelling. As a queer, non-binary led organization, slowdanger is committed to deconstructing the binaries of how performance and performers are viewed onstage through their performances, workshops and public facing engagements.

Their work has been presented by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts, Springboard Danse Montreal, Carnegie Museum of Art, Place Des Arts, Université du Québec à Montréal, Usine C, Dance Place, The Andy Warhol Museum, the CURRENTSESSIONS, BAAD!, Triskelion Arts, New Hazlett Theater, Kelly Strayhorn Theater and more. They have facilitated workshops at Carnegie Museum of Art, Gibney, Peridance, Painted Bride Arts Center, BAX, Slippery Rock University, Middlebury College, Point Park University, Carnegie Mellon University and more. slowdanger was one of Dance Magazine's 2018 "25 to Watch" and has been supported by NEFA/National Dance Project Production Award, NPN Creation and Development Fund, The Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, The Heinz Endowments & Pittsburgh Foundation Investing in Professional Artists Award, and The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Special Presenters Initiative with Dance Place. Currently, taylor and anna are on faculty at Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts Dance Program and premiering *SUPERCELL* at The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and Kelly Strayhorn Theater in Fall 2023.

## slowdanger and The Clarice

Over the past two years, slowdanger has visited the University of Maryland for weeklong residencies to conduct research, teach and developing the choreographic material for *SUPERCELL*. They taught a workshop based on "demystifying the box," which unpacked the often puzzling box of technological performance tools and internal process mechanisms used in slowdanger's creation of *SUPERCELL*. The class included 12 M.F.A. students in multimedia design, in partnership with the UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies' Brin Institute for New Performance. The primary instructor for the course was Sam Crawford, UMD faculty member in sound design. The Clarice is thrilled to host *SUPERCELL*'s world premiere! Support of this work exemplifies one of the goals of The Clarice to support the work of contemporary artists to translate the complexities of the grand challenges of our time.

# THE CLARICE PRESENTS

## Coming Up

### MUSIC

Sun, Oct 8 • 7PM

#### **NOBUNTU**

The all-female a cappella quartet from Zimbabwe performs with pure voices, augmented by minimalistic percussion, traditional instruments such as the mbira (thumb piano) and organic, authentic dance.

### MUSIC

Sat, Oct 28 • 8PM

#### **DANIEL WOHL: HOLOGRAPHIC**

Holographic brings together improbable combinations of sound and projections to create a "boldly surreal aural experience" (*The New York Times*).

### MUSIC

Wed, Oct 25 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

Wed, Nov 29 • 7:30PM @ The Hall CP

#### **JAZZ JAM WITH THE HALL CP**

Kick off the season with our monthly jazz jam sessions led by D.C.-based saxophonist Elijah Balbed! The house band will play a set starting at 7:30PM. Bring your instrument! After enjoying their set, you'll have a chance to call a tune! Participation in our jazz jams is free--no tickets required and all levels welcome.

### MUSIC

Sun, Nov 5 • 3PM

#### **SAYEH-ROSHAN (CHIAROSCURO):**

**ALI KIAN YAZDANFAR, DOUBLE BASS,**

**KIMIA RAFIEIAN, PIANO & FATEMEH**

**KESHAVARZ, POET**

*IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UMD ROSHAN INSTITUTE  
FOR PERSIAN STUDIES*

This program blends ancient Persian poetry with new works for piano and double bass to create a unique interaction between eastern cultures in our western society.

### MUSIC

Fri, Nov 17 • 8PM

#### **BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:**

#### **BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 4**

The BSO, The Clarice and the UMD School of Music announced a groundbreaking partnership for 2023-24 featuring extraordinary performances, unique educational experiences and meaningful community engagement. In the first of these events, Music Director Jonathon Heyward leads Beethoven's Symphony No. 4 and Unsuk Chin's *Subito con Forza*

### MUSIC

Sun, Nov 19 • 7PM

#### **BRAD MEHLDAU TRIO**

One of the most lyrical and intimate voices of contemporary jazz piano, Brad Mehldau has forged a unique path that embodies the essence of jazz exploration, classical romanticism and pop allure.

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT **THECLARICE.UMD.EDU** OR **301.405.ARTS!**

### **SAFETY FIRST!**

Your safety is paramount! For your own safety, look for your nearest exit. In case of an emergency, walk, do not run, to that exit. Please follow all instructions provided by Clarice staff and emergency first responders.