

Spring 2025 Season

Movement Research at the Judson Church

Curated by the Artist of Color Council

Monday, April 7, 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.

Tina Bararian

What is the Geography of My Body?

Dancers: Sacha Vega (She/Her), Rebecca Pelleri (She/Her), Tina Bararian (She/Her)

Original Music Score: James Gentile (They/Them)

Maima, The Water Spirit

The Conjuring of Godfruit

Directed by: Maima, The Water Spirit

Ceramic Sculpture: Ariadne Speliotis

Mango Lovers/Performers: Ariadne Speliotis

Music: *Mango Lover Poem* – Amina Ross, *Ngnari Konon* – Boddhi Satva & Oumou Sangaré, *Bena Bena* – Oumou Sangaré, *ADDICTED* – CKay feat. The Caveman

The Conjuring of Godfruit is a dance ritual of remembrance, play, and transformation. Rooted in the textures of ancestral memory—familial bonds, childhood joy, and sensual awakening—the performance conjures a world where embodiment is an offering and movement a portal. Through the mango's connection, we embrace its stickiness, surrendering to the masquerade that emerges—one that releases both the sacred and the mischievous.

This is a celebration of becoming—of conjuring oneself whole.

Let's witness the story unfold of this mango tree.

Ogemdi Ude

Un-

Creator/performer: Ogemdi Ude

Music: Sticky by Tyler the Creator ft. GloRilla, Sexyy Red, Lil Wayne and Sticky by Jackson State Sonic Boom of the South

Artist Biographies

Tina Bararian is an award-winning dancer and choreographer. She was the recipient of the “Contact Dance Award” sponsored by Kathleen Rea, founder of REAson d’être dance in Toronto, Canada. Tina holds degrees in Film Studies from York University and Dance Performance from George Brown College and completed her professional training in dance performance at the Martha Graham School in New York City. In 2022, she was selected for the Choreography Mentorship Program with Amanda Selwyn, where she developed her first evening-length piece, “Not Here”. This debut work earned her the “People’s Choice Artist Award” at Spoke The Hub Residency. In 2024, she premiered her second evening-length show, “57”, at The Tank Theater, where it received critical acclaim and led to her invitation to curate and choreograph for the International Human Rights Art Festival. Tina’s work explores breath, silence, and confined spaces to generate a natural rhythm within the body and to challenge both the mind and body. She is also deeply influenced by Persian mythology and using tribal movements in contemporary forms. Tina is the visionary founder of “Dancers of Iran”, a global platform supporting Iranian dancers in response to Iran’s ban on dance since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Mai’yah Kau, also known as Maima, The Water Spirit, is an emerging queer Liberian diasporic multidisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY with roots in Staten Island/ Shaolin. Their work weaves together identity, heritage, and spirituality, blending traditional West African dance with contemporary queer performance and burlesque to create ceremonial rituals and embodied storytelling. Through movement and multidisciplinary art, Kau searches for ancestral narratives—both personal and collective—as a way to honor heritage while imagining new futures. Their practice is an ongoing exploration of transformation, resilience, and the fluidity of cultural memory.

Ogemdi Ude is a dance and interdisciplinary artist, educator, and doula based in Brooklyn. Her performance work focuses on Black femme legacies and futures, grief, and memory. Her work has been presented at The Kitchen, Gibney, Harlem Stage, Danspace Project, Abrons Arts Center, BRIC, ISSUE Project Room, Recess Art, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Center for Performance Research, and for BAM’s DanceAfrica festival. As an educator, she has taught at The New School, Princeton University, Sarah Lawrence College, and University of the Arts. She is a 2025-2028 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, 2024 NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant recipient, a Live Feed Residency Artist at New York Live Arts, and a 2024/2025 BAX Artist-in-Residence. She has been a 2022-2024 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence, 2021 danceWEB Scholar, 2021 Laundromat Project Create Change Artist-in-Residence, and a 2019-2020 Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU Resident Fellow. In January 2022 she appeared on the cover of Dance Magazine for their annual “25 to Watch” issue. Most recently, she has published a book Watch Me in a collection edited by Thomas DeFrantz and Annie-B Parson: Dance History(s): Imagination as a Form of Study published by Dancing Foxes Press and Wesleyan University Press.

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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
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