

DIVE
RSIO
NARY

when my body talks

Directed by Dannel Ureña

a devised queer
theater and dance work

April 12 & 13 @ 7pm
Diversionary Mainstage





A Message from the Team

We interact with the world and face new challenges, new ideas, new beauties, and new bodies. We encounter new situations every day that shape us. We are endlessly creating first-time experiences for ourselves. But sometimes, people tell us that some of our first-time experiences are different. Shameful. Wrong. Unhuman. Why is it that our experiences are different?

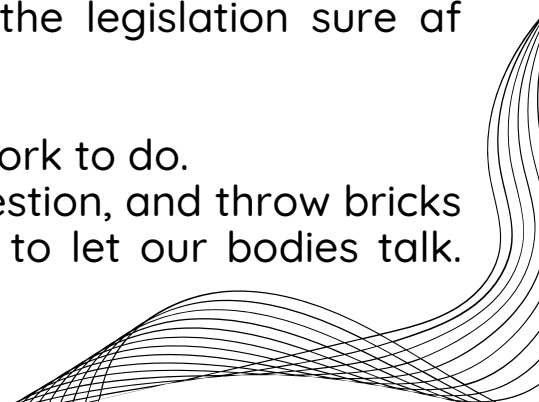
Four weeks ago our group sat on the ground for day 1 of rehearsal and Danniell asked this enormous question that no one was ready for. In our current political, economic, genocidal world, context how can we, as twenty-somethings queer humans, possibly know how to change the world?

We envisioned a world where we connected with our bodies, listened to ourselves, and then could listen openly to each other. We tossed around ideas about connecting, listening, empathy, traditions, stories, and healing through dance. We shared our personal stories with each other and began crafting realities of what queerness is, not isn't. We began to embrace the way our bodies curve, jiggle, crack, quiver, and rock. We listened to our younger selves, our ancestors, and the bodies that fought before us and began to listen to our future selves. A taste of what true peace looks like. In this room we resisted violence. In this room, we resisted our internalized racism, homophobia, fatphobia, and transphobia.

We invite you to listen to our body's first time. The playful, tearful, highs, and lows, of the becoming of our sexuality. The first time we cried. The first time we loved. The first time we felt sexy. The first time doubted ourselves. Because this is a human experience. Because we were told our first time was different. Because everyone has a first time.

We will continue our ancestor's tradition of resistance. We will, boldly destigmatize, dignify, humanize, and inspire queerness by daring to let our bodies contradict the erasure they tried to inflict on us. Queerness cannot and will not be erased. Our elders didn't let it. The pandemics couldn't kill us, the murders, and the hate, and the legislation sure as couldn't do it.

We are still here. We've made it and we still have work to do. We'll continue the resistance, investigate every question, and throw bricks at every barrier because together we've learned to let our bodies talk. Together we vow, to listen.



The Team

**The stories you are about to see are a culmination of everyone's experiences.
All members of the team contributed their voice, body, and history.**

Danniel Ureña (he/him).....Director
Sam Dedal (they/them).....Assistant Director
Karina Ortega (she/her).....SM and Sound Designer
Stephaney Knapp (she/her).....Lighting Designer
Cambria Herrera (she/they).....Deviser & Contributor
Ulises Aguirre (he/him).....Performer
Gabi Chen (she/her).....Performer
Stephen Loftesnes (he/him).....Performer
Ben McLaren (they/he).....Performer

Show Order

1. Hips
2. Spine
3. Lips
4. Skin
5. Heart
6. Shoulder Blades
7. Hands
8. Mind

Mission Statement

This is a space for the love, joy, and celebration of our queer experiences.

We listen, learn from and claim our stories unapologetically. .

We dance to connect with our community, lineage, and freedom.

We connect to create tradition, empathy, and celebrate what queerness
IS... without fussing about what it isn't.

We respect our histories of loss, abuse, and recovery while challenging art
and language

Our dance is universal and infinite and through it we can manifest a better
tomorrow.



Thank you to Diversionary Theatre for generously providing the space for us to bring our vision to life. We are grateful for this organization's dedication to uplifting BIPOC and queer artists through the Artistic Fellowship Program.

A special thank you to Kian Kline Chilton and David Romero for their invaluable mentorship and support throughout this fellowship journey. Your guidance has been instrumental in shaping this piece that we hold so close to our hearts.

Thank you for believing in our voices and giving us the opportunity to share our queer stories on stage.

