



THE NEXUS CABARET

BY

TIMEA WHARTON-SURI

NUIT BLANCHE NORTH YORK
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
BEGINNING AT 7 PM, RUNNING ALL NIGHT

WWW.TIMEAWHARTON.CA/NEXUS-CABARET

SHANNON LITZENBERGER . NAISHI WANG
MARTIN GOMES . TRAVIS KNIGHTS
JAZ 'FAIRY J' SIMONE . NICOLE INICA HAMILTON

MERIDIAN ARTS CENTRE
5040 YONGE STREET

TO Live



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

October 1, 7:00 PM - October 2, 7:00 AM, 2022

Meridian Arts Centre's Studio Theatre

5040 Yonge Street, North York

Part of Nuit Blanche Toronto

FREE to the public

Cab-a-ret· a form of theatrical entertainment featuring music, song, dance, and drama in a nightclub setting. For me, cabaret is a beautiful form of expression that presents endless possibilities for connection between people from all walks of life. And what better way to spend Nuit Blanche than at The Nexus Cabaret. I curated The Nexus Cabaret to centre contemporary performance as a visual artform using interdisciplinary acts of dance, poetry, music, theatre, photography, and digital projection. The effect is to create magical moments of spontaneity, exquisiteness, and touching collaboration to embody Nuit Blanche's 2022 theme, The Space Between Us. For this, I bring together some of Toronto's most exciting contemporary artists, with our marvellous Master of Ceremonies, **Nicole Inica Hamilton**, weaving together the evening's performances.

- This immersive performance and film Cabaret begins with **Shannon Litzenberger's** *World After Dark*.
- Next, **Naishi Wang** shares his stunning solo, *Taking Breath*.
- As the night advances, JAYU presents their work in the space where art and human rights connect, with *Afro Anthology*, co-created by **Lex & Martin Gomes**.
- Next, tap dance griot, **Travis Knights**, will be engaging in a *'Tap'athetical Meditation* of sound and movement.
- In the final live performance of the evening, **Jaz 'Fairy J' Simone** invites you to attend *The Reception: A gathering; a performance; an experience*.

Our intrepid MC, Nicole, will then invite you to stay with us for a screening of some of JAYU's celebrated, experimental human rights films, along with **Toronto Dance Theatre's** *Bin Chicken* film by **Alyssa Martin**.

And on your way into or out of The Nexus Cabaret, stop by the Meridian Arts Centre's other spaces for an art exhibit by JAYU youth artists - **Leilah Dhore**, **Jasmine Vanstone**, and **Theia Ramsammy** - and additional digital works. Nuit Blanche 2022 will be a night to remember!

[For The Nexus Cabaret](#)

Concept, Curation, Development & Co-Production: **Timea Wharton-Suri**

Co-Production & Production Management: **TO Live – Julian Iacob, Ariana Shaw, Duncan Morgan**

Lighting Design: **Arun Srinivasan**

Stage Management: **Andrew Gavin Hicks**

Assistant Stage Management: **Amelia Mielke-O'Grady**

Nexus Volunteers: **Zahra Badua, Kai ner Maa Pitanta**

Generously Supported by The Ontario Arts Council

THE NEXUS CABARET

The Nexus Cabaret is a 12-hour performance and film event that begins at 7:00 PM on October 1, 2022. Arrive for 7:00 PM and stay with us for the entire event! Alternatively, you can arrive for specific performances.

The wearing of **facial masks** while within the Studio Theatre is strongly encouraged.

The Meridian Arts Centre's Studio Theatre bar will be open throughout **The Nexus Cabaret** where you can purchase snacks and beverages to bring into the theatre as you watch these incredible performances!

Schedule of Events

Note: Times are approximate

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	WORLD AFTER DARK by Shannon Litzenberger
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM	TAKING BREATH by Naishi Wang
9:30 PM – 10:00 PM	AFRO ANTHOLOGY by Martin Gomes & Lex
10:00 PM – 11:00 PM	TAPATHETICAL MEDITATION by Travis Knights
11:00 PM – 2:00 AM	THE RECEPTION by Jaz 'Fairy J' Simone
2:00 AM – 4:30 AM	EXPERIMENTAL ART FILM LOOP by JAYU and Alyssa Martin for Toronto Dance Theatre
4:30 AM – 7:00 AM	A replay of the EXPERIMENTAL ART FILM LOOP by JAYU and Alyssa Martin for Toronto Dance Theatre

About

WORLD AFTER DARK by Shannon Litzenberger

October 1 at 7:00 PM

Electric, immersive, rejuvenating, and disarming, *Night* demands to be met by the intuitive, sentient body, and its mysteries offer respite from the drama of the day. The nights of our generation are aglow with artificial light - is there no trace of darkness left on you? The perfect kick off to Nuit Blanche, World After Dark invites us to reclaim the night within us. Based on Christopher Dewdney's Award-Winning Text, *Acquainted with the Night: Excursions Through the World After Dark*.

Performed by Linnea Swan, Louis Laberge Côté, Kathia Wittenborn, Michael Mortley, Yui Ugai, Lindsay Harpham, and Aryana Malekzadeh. **Concept, choreography and direction** by Shannon Litzenberger.

- **Projection and Interactive Video Design:** Elysha Poirier
- **Lighting and Set Design:** Ken MacKenzie, remounted with Arun Srinivasan
- **Sound Design:** John Gzowski
- **Creative Advisors:** Marie-Josée and Gerry Trentham
- **Stage Management:** Laura Cournoyea and Shannon Farrell
- **Costume Design:** Alexandra Lord
- **Assistant Costume Designer / Builder:** Kleanthi Markakis
- **Rehearsal Assistant:** Nikolaos Markakis
- **Videography and Trailer:** Craig Chambers

Original Creation Credits 2019: Writer / Theatre Dramaturg Guillermo Verdecchia; Production Coordination Jordana Deveau; Videography and Trailer Aria Evans.

TAKING BREATH by Naishi Wang

October 1 at 8:30 PM

Breathing - an innate action of taking in air and expelling it from the lungs. *Taking Breath* brings the subconscious to the conscious, the passive to the active; questioning how we have taken breathing and the air we breathe, for granted. The piece is a choreographic inquiry exploring the multiple facets of breathing in our lives - What is it like without breathing? What is it like with too much breathing? How does breathing affect movement? How does breathing affect our thoughts? When does breathing start to mean something? When does breathing become communication? When will air truly matter to us?

Performed by Naishi Wang

Light Design and Execution: Ivy Wang

Concept and Choreography: Naishi Wang

Outside Eyes: Paul-André Fortier & Ginelle Chagnon

Dramaturgy: Françoise Hüsches & Ivy Wang

AFRO ANTHOLOGY by Martin Gomes & Lex for JAYU

October 1 at 9:30 PM

Afro Anthology was co-created by **Lex & Martin Gomes**. The poetry and digital design piece takes the audience on a journey through several stories told through a Black lens to showcase that, while there are many parts of the Black experience that are shared, to be Black is not to be part of a monolith.

Written & Directed by Martin Gomes

Illustrated & Animated by Lex, with

Music & Poetry Performances by Martin Gomes & Desiree Mckenzie

TAPATHETICAL MEDITATION by Travis Knights

October 1 at 10:00 PM

Travis will work his with his tap shoes, tap board, and loop station to create spellbinding, improvisational rhythmic wizardry.

Conceptualized & Performed by Travis Knights

THE RECEPTION by Jaz 'Fairy J' Simone

October 1 at 11:00 PM

In the final live performance of the evening, **Jaz 'Fairy J' Simone** invites you to attend *The Reception*: A gathering; a performance; an experience. *The Reception* is an Interactive performance event that invites us to bask in the joy and simple pleasure of gathering and celebrating life. Everything is optional and everyone is encouraged to exist in the space in a way that feels joyful and comfortable for them. There will be snacks, drinks, games, activities, dance party and more. The work functions to dissolve the boundary between audience and performer, prioritizing the power of community; a world somewhere between spontaneous play and a guided experience. Dresscode: wear whatever makes you feel FABulous!

Concept, Creation & Performance by Jaz 'Fairy J' Simone

With Roney Lewis, Miranda Liverpool, Jim O'Brien, and more artistic collaborators.

END OF LIVE PERFORMANCES / START OF FILM SCREENINGS

EXPERIMENTAL ART FILM LOOP with films by JAYU & ALYSSA MARTIN/TORONTO DANCE THEATRE

October 2 at 2:00 AM

Note: This 2.5-hour film sequence will loop twice during the Nexus Cabaret.

FOR JAYU:

WONDER

This film is dedicated to those who question life, but are left unanswered. Take a journey through one's mind as they venture through the struggles we all face and know too well.

Director & Director of Photography: Maliha Khalid

Main Cinematographer: Aishah Memon

Co-Cinematographer: Neha Modgil

Featuring: Khalifa Salisu, Maya Marcus, Christopher DeLeon

IT BLOSSOMS

A short documentary about Aysia Grosbeck.

Director & Director of Photography: Tehya Horton

CALL ME KRISHNA

After trying on a binder and a packer for the first time, Krishna, a trans male, has to face his own insecurities, and is on a journey of overcoming his fear of passing and coming out. Luckily, he is not alone. His best friend Skyler, a post-operation trans female, is there to support him.

Writer: Aneel Vyas, Rojelio Palacios

Director: Rojelio Palacios

Producer: Aneel Vyas

Key Cast "Krishna": Claudia Liz

UNTITLED

Animated Short by Theia Ramsammy

ROOTED

Kai is forced to attend a family dinner reunion bombarded by personal questions from gossiping aunties and pestering ignorant relatives. Their societal pressures resurface Kai's struggle with identity, in finding her voice, and the cycle of healing their inner child.

Director: Anne Vo

FOR “BIN CHICKEN”:

Created and Directed by Alyssa Martin for Toronto Dance Theatre

Produced & Performed by Toronto Dance Theatre & Morgan-Paige Melbourne

Music by Morgan-Paige Melbourne

Note from Alyssa Martin:

“Let me give you a quick run down of the namesake of this work. It’s a brilliant, almost demonic looking bird with a long black snout and feathery white body about the size of a terrier. It trots around town feasting on people’s trash (hence their nickname, the Bin Chicken, after the garbage bins they love). When I first saw one in the flesh, I was surprised to find I related to its awkward, disjointed demeanor, and admired its unapologetic presence. I quickly grew to love them, and their ability to make a plentiful meal out of what the rest of us have disposed of and wish to forget. I kept two tender reminders with me throughout this process; a DVD copy of the staged version of “CATS: The Musical” and a journal entry I wrote in a coffee shop in Byron Bay, Australia where I describe myself as “fun trash” about fifteen different times in an attempt to reckon with a wounded heart.

And now, through pandemic, injury, laughter, mishaps and the incredible ingenuity and hard work of the amazing team at TDT, this piece attempts to make a proverbial palace of our collective trash. The world which these artists conjured became a place of much-needed questioning, wildness, and escape. It was a place to juggle nonsensical advice, to question Beethoven, to deal with transition, to move forward and dig deeper, finding clues to our own lives buried within this lopsided reality, and from these clues a new kind of resilience.

It was such an honour to be invited to create this work for Toronto Dance Theatre in 2019. I can say I found immense joy in this world, and am so grateful to have navigated it alongside such incredible people. I’m overjoyed to be sharing *Bin Chicken* with you. I hope that by the end of this, you find something you were looking for too!”

THANK-YOU FOR VISITING THE NEXUS CABARET!