

Ellen Sickenberger is a professional dance artist residing in Brooklyn. Since graduating with a BFA in Dance Performance from East Carolina University, she has danced for Freddie Moore, Jwon Lee, Janice Rosano, Eryn Cohn, Yoshito Sakuraba, Dante Brown, and Nadine Bommer. She has trained with Jennifer Archibald, David Parsons, John Magnus, Helen Pickett, River North Dance Chicago, Kidd Pivot, and more. Ellen currently performs with Smashworks Dance Collective and of bones || Hollye Bynum, and is a cast member of Nadine Bommer's "INVISiBall". Ellen taught Guest Artist classes in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Washington D.C., North Carolina, and New York, including classes at Gibney Dance Center and Mark Morris Dance Center. She is the artistic director of DEPTH DANCE.

Sarah Starkweather is a dancer and fitness professional living in New York City. Sarah has worked with choreographers such as Jennifer Archibald, Amanda Selwyn, Liz Impeno, Ashle Dawson, Mitzi Adams, Ashley L. Tate, Jennifer Medina, and Ashley McQueen. Sarah holds a BA in Psychology from The University of Texas at San Antonio during which time she also began her classical training with Catalina Garza, Ernesto Quenedit, and Esther Mayer of The Cuban National and Royal Ballet, respectively. Sarah is a founding member of the San Antonio Dance Fringe, and teaches technical and leadership workshops across the United States through MA Dance. Sarah has been a certified fitness trainer since 2014 and currently teaches group fitness classes for Equinox.

## ABOUT CPR – CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE RESEARCH

Addressing the critical need for space designated towards artistic research and development in contemporary dance, performance and related forms, CPR aims to provide affordable space for rehearsal and performance, innovative arts programming, education and pedagogical engagement with the communities of New York City and abroad.

Our studios are available for rental from 10am-10pm every day

**SMALL STUDIO**  
15' x 45' (675 sq ft)  
\$10/hour

**LARGE STUDIO**  
41' x 45' (1,845 sq ft)  
\$18/hour

Do you teach yoga, pilates or another form of bodywork? Host your class at CPR. We can help you promote your class and build clients. Contact [studio@cprnyc.org](mailto:studio@cprnyc.org) for further information.

CPR is also available for performances, exhibitions and events. Please contact [studio@cprnyc.org](mailto:studio@cprnyc.org) for more information regarding rental packages.

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### Upcoming Events at CPR

#### A Piece of KAKE

February 16, 2018 at 7pm

KAKE DANCE Company is proud to present their first ever artist showcase entitled a Piece of KAKE.

#### Performance Studio Open House

February 27, 2018 at 8:00pm

Artists present works-in-progress and discuss development process, moderated by Jen McGinn. Suggested \$5 donation.

Please check out our events page at [cprnyc.org](http://cprnyc.org) for more information.

**cpr** Center for Performance Research

## FOR WHICH IT STANDS



February 2 & 3, 2018 at 8pm

## PROGRAM

### FOR WHICH IT STANDS

**Choreographed by:** Ashley McQueen, in collaboration with dancers

**Performed by:** Sarah Dodd, Laune Deziel, Mana Gardner, Ashley McQueen, Jesse Obremski, Jenna Rae Smith, Sarah Starkweather, Ellen Sickenberger

**Sound and Video Editing by:** Ashley McQueen

Smashworks Dance Collective presents *FOR WHICH IT STANDS*, an evening length political performance that explores today's polarizing atmosphere of off-the-rail soliloquies, SNL-bait one-liners, and Twitterized policy-making.

Consisting of 9 episodic dances that seamlessly blend humor and reality, this work uses themes ripped from the headlines to satirize the Trump Administration. An extension of "Plunge the Swamp," an original solo heralded as "a memorable commentary on Trump's tendency toward diarrhea of the mouth" by the Santa Barbara Independent, this expanded version invites audiences to confront the contradictions of modern political discourse, tear down the walls that divide our country, and reject the normalization of nonsense.

*This work incorporates McQueen's research for her Master's Thesis with the Hollins University MFA Dance program.*

Special THANK YOU to Kurt Gosselin, Joe Desimone, Sarah Starkweather, Stephen Delas Heras, Center for Performance Research, Jacquelyn Cox, Kristalyn Gill, and our 2017-2018 season donors.

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. Plunge the Swamp              | VI. Into the Woods          |
| II. A Voter's Lament             | VII. Nasty Women            |
|                                  | [Sean] "Spicey" Interlude   |
| III. A "GREAT, GREAT" Wall       | VIII. Alternative Facts     |
| IV. Reassembling, Brick by Brick | IX. Reclamation of the Flag |
| V. Putin Puppet Pas              |                             |

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Directed by Ashley McQueen, Smashworks Dance Collective is a New York-based group of movers dedicated to experimental and political performance. Through site-specific work inspired by the human experience, McQueen aims to create dance that reaches a broad range of art-seekers. Blending strong artistic voices with athletic, technically demanding movement, the collaborators of Smashworks define the tone of each piece with their innovative responses. Smashworks was named a Village Voice "Voice Choices" for their last evening length performance at Center for Performance Research, "City Stories."

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Laurie Deziel was born in Shawinigan, Canada. She trained at L'École de danse contemporaine de Montréal, The School of Toronto Dance Theatre and was a scholarship graduate of The Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance where she worked alongside Graham II. She performed at The Martha Graham Company's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season at the New York City Center. Laurie was a choreographer and soloist for the Balasole Dance Company's season *MIXTUS* presented at the Ailey CitiGroup Theatre. She is a proud member of Smashworks Dance Collective's 2<sup>nd</sup> season and excited to perform in *FOR WHICH IT STANDS A Political Performance Piece*.

Sarah Dodd hails from Syracuse, NY and graduated from the University at Buffalo where she earned a BFA in Dance. In her training, Sarah has attended Bates Dance Festival and performed works by Hilary Easton, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Robert Battle, Jennifer Archibald, and Koresh Dance Company. Since her move to the city, Sarah has performed and continued to work with Smashworks Dance Collective and Now Dance Project.

Maria Gardner grew up in Warren, OH and graduated from Point Park University with a BA in dance. There, she performed works created by Dwight Rhoden, Terence Marling, Brian Enos, among others. Maria has attended select programs including San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Movement Invention Project, and two summers at Springboard Danse Montréal, where she performed works by Aszure Barton, Le Carré Des Lombes, and Shumpei Nemoto. Since moving to NYC, Maria has

worked with Loudhound Movement, Flusso Dance Project and Cameron McKinney Kizuna Dance. Maria currently dances with Bodystories: Teresa Fellion, Inclined Dance Project, *shawnbibledanceco*, and Smashworks Dance Collective.

Artistic Director of Smashworks Dance Collective, **Ashley McQueen** is a performer, choreographer, and fitness instructor. She holds a BFA in Dance from Webster University and is currently pursuing her MFA in Dance from Hollins University while working as a Teaching Artist for Notes In Motion Outreach Dance Theatre and West Side YMCA. McQueen has worked with choreographers such as Amanda Selwyn, Shawn T. Bible, Uri Sands, Maurya Kerr, Paris Wilcox, Jennifer Medina, and Michael Uthoff. Her choreography has been presented in numerous festivals and on companies such as Big Muddy Dance Company, Arova Contemporary Ballet, and Alabama Dance Theatre. She was twice invited by ANNONYArts to independently choreograph/direct two evening length concerts and was named a Kranzberg Exhibition Series Guest Artist, where she choreographed *Laune*, a site-specific dance performance for Laumeier Sculpture Park.

**Jesse Obremski**, described as one "with fluent simplicity" and "quiet understanding", trained at The Ailey School, LaGuardia High School, and The Juilliard School. Jesse, an Eagle Scout Rank recipient, "Dancer to Watch" by Interview En L'air (2017), and 2016 Jadin Wong Dance Awardee, teaches and choreographs across America and Canada. Jesse has performed a wide-range of works and performs with Diversity of Dance, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Buglisi Dance Theatre, the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, and is a principle dancer with the Limón Dance Company. This is Jesse's second season with Smashworks Dance Collective.

**Jenna Rae Smith** received most of her early training in her hometown of Youngstown, Ohio before attending Point Park University to pursue her Bachelor of Arts in modern dance. There, she had the opportunity to perform at TEDx Pittsburgh, several showcases and festivals, as well as becoming an original member of fireWALL Dance Theater. Most recently, she traveled to Brighton, England to perform the role *Within* in the multimedia production of *The Woman Who Shed Her Skin*. Now residing in Brooklyn, Jenna is very excited to be joining Smashworks Dance Collective this season!