

ANNONYARTS PRESENTS

FOR WHICH IT STANDS

an original political performance

by

SMASHWORKS DANCE

Artistic Director Ashley McQueen



November 1, 2, 3 - 8:00 PM | November 4 - 2:30 PM

SATORI, AN ARTIST SPACE

3003 LOCUST STREET

ANNONYArt's

at Satori

3003 Locust Street St. Louis MO 63103 annonyarts.org annonyarts@gmail.com

**SMASH
WORKS**
DANCE COLLECTIVE

About ANNONYArts

ANNONYArts is a not for profit organization dedicated to supporting a consortium of independent movement and performing artists who present original works and provide arts education. ANNONYArts is dedicated to providing the community with opportunities to experience the broadest definitions of movement based performance including dance, multimedia, sound and theatre. Artists are engaged in the national and international dialogue of art making having performed in Milan Italy, New York, Chicago and locally at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, COCA, Forest Park and Missouri History Museum. Tom Brady serves as the Executive Director of ANNONYArts. Consortium Artists include Tom Brady and Monica Newsam.

ANNONYArts Board Members

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ANNONYArts Artistic and Executive Director: Tom Brady

Smashworks Dance Artistic Director: Ashley McQueen

Stage Manager and Lighting Designer: Sydney Forgatch

Program Photos: Stephen Delas Heras





About SMASHWORKS DANCE

Smashworks Dance is a New York based dance company directed by choreographer Ashley McQueen. Originally founded in St. Louis amidst performances presented by ANNONYArts, McQueen relocated Smashworks to New York City in 2015.

Since inception, Smashworks Dance has grown to eight company members and has performed throughout the greater New York City metropolitan area and toured in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Kalamazoo, and St. Louis. Smashworks Dance was named a Village Voice "Voice Choices" for their evening length performance of *City Stories* at Center for Performance Research, and their evening length political satire *For Which It Stands* was featured in Time Out New York, Brooklyn's "Top 20 Cheap Things To Do," and the Dance Enthusiast.

After three years of company development, Director Ashley McQueen joined forces with Ana Lejava, former Young Ambassador of Georgia, to launch **Smashworks Advocacy**, a community action initiative dedicated to the integration of human rights activism and performance.

OUR MISSION: We dance to advocate for human rights issues through education outreach and performing arts. Our artistic work reflects and responds to current societal challenges and provides an alternative platform for peaceful dialogue. We are a multi-faceted, international group of artists and activists dedicated to promoting inclusiveness and diversity within our community.

ANNONYARTS PRESENTS

FOR WHICH IT STANDS

Choreography: Ashley McQueen

Lighting Design: Sydney Forgatch

Costume Design: Ashley McQueen

Music: Meret Becker, Elvis Herod, Edith Piaf, Onuka, The Chromatics, Olafur Arnalds & Nils Frahm

Video and Sound Editing: Ashley McQueen

Performers: Laurie Deziel, Sarah Dodd, Manon Hallay, Jacob Henss, Ashley McQueen, Sarah Starkweather

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

Consisting of 10 episodic dances that seamlessly blend humor and reality, FOR WHICH IT STANDS uses themes ripped from the headlines to satirize the Trump Administration and invites audiences to confront the contradictions of modern political discourse, tear down the walls that divide our country, and reject the normalization of nonsense.

Met with glowing reviews and standing ovations, FOR WHICH IT STANDS made its world premiere at the Center for Performance Research in Brooklyn February 2018, and was featured in Time Out New York, Brooklyn Magazine, and the Dance Enthusiast.

Excerpt from Refusing to be Disposed

Created by: Ashley McQueen

Lighting Design: Sydney Forgatch

Costume Design: Ashley McQueen

Music: PLOY, Dusts, Andy Stott, Ozel Ab, Captive Portal, and “Sufferin’ Til Suffrage” from SchoolHouse Rock

Video and Sound Editing: Ashley McQueen

Performers: Sarah Dodd, Laurie Deziel, Manon Hallay, Ashley McQueen, Sarah Starkweather

Originally created as part of McQueen's Master's Thesis through Hollins University and supported by a sixty-page, footnoted research paper, "Refusing to be Disposed" explores female bodies as a force of power — claiming space, demanding to be seen, and deconstructing the American flag in an effort to symbolically dismantle our country's patriarchal umbrella and the metaphorical borders women face.

Inspired by the waves of feminism as structure, “Refusing to be Disposed” has been hailed as a “powerful and engaging allegory of women’s struggle and resistance” by political writer Bob Dreyfuss and comments on false perceptions of freedom, radical awakenings, femininity as spectacle, and conditioned complicity in an environment of manufactured consent.

**“I want more than a biological opportunity.
I want more than a biological opportunity.**

Listen to me...”

- Karen Finley

PERFORMERS

ASHLEY MCQUEEN (Artistic Director/Choreographer) is a New York City-based performer, choreographer, and fitness instructor. Originally from Montgomery, Alabama, McQueen earned a BFA in Dance from Webster University and an MFA in Dance from Hollins University. She currently directs and choreographs for Smashworks Dance, while working as a freelance performer and Teaching Artist for Notes In Motion Outreach Dance Theatre. She has worked with choreographers such as Shawn T. Bible, Maurya Kerr, Jennifer Medina, Christine Knoblauch-O'Neal, Jennifer Huffman-Olivas, Omar Olivas, James Robey, Uri Sands, Amanda Selwyn, Michael Uthoff and Paris Wilcox; and performed with ShawnBibleDanceCo, Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre, Common Thread Contemporary Dance, and Arova Contemporary Ballet.

McQueen's choreography has been commissioned by other companies, including Arova Contemporary Ballet, Alabama Dance Theatre, Big Muddy Dance Company, Lake Arts Project, and Southern Danceworks; and has been presented at Midwest RADFest, NYC Transit Museum (PLATFORM), Westfest Dance, Footprints Modern Dance Festival, Evening of Contemporary Dance at Actor's Fund Arts Center, St. Louis National Dance Week, Dance St. Louis Spring to Dance, RDA Serba Festivals, and American College Dance Festival. She was twice invited by ANNONYArts to independently choreograph and direct two evening length concerts and was named a Kranzberg Exhibition Series Guest Artist, where she choreographed *Laune*, a site-specific dance performance on rideable lawn mowers for Laumeier Sculpture Park. The work culminated in a film installation, *Harmony in 3*, by Zlatko Cosic that remained on exhibition through February 2016. Since 2015, she has choreographed/performed with Lake Arts Project Milwaukee, including *War Words Dance* - in collaboration with Feast of Crispian and Bright Hill Press (with generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts).

LAURIE DÉZIEL (Company Dancer) 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 in *Heretic* at The Martha Graham Company's 90th 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 works as a freelance dancer, actor and model for various project companies in the city. She is excited to embark on her 3rd season with Smashworks Dance as a proud performing artist and human rights advocate.

SARAH DODD (Company Dancer) hails from Syracuse, NY and recently 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.

MANON HALLAY (Company Dancer) was born in France. She started dancing in the Conservatoire de Tarbes and went to Bordeaux at 13 to study in a pre-professional course. Two years later she has been accepted to the Royal Ballet School of Antwerpen and had the opportunity to work with choreographer as Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui or Micheal Shannon. She moved out to New-York 5 years ago to integrate the Alvin Ailey school as a scholarship student. She is now dancing for several dance company including Amanda Selwyn Dance Theater, Smashworks Dance, and Les Ballets Nomades.

JACOB HENSS (Guest Artist), from Trenton, Illinois, completed his BA in Dance, with a choreographic emphasis, and a BA in Music from Webster University. In addition to collegiate production and directing credits, Jacob was awarded the "*Emerging Choreographer Award*" from Webster University, after his choreography was chosen to perform at the ACDA Central Conference in 2017 and selected for the Gala performance. In addition to his apprenticeship for MADCO, Jacob is very active in the St. Louis dance community, having produced two evening-length works, "*The Other Sides*" and "*Conversation*" and choreographed for several local organizations and studios.

SARAH STARKWEATHER (Company Dancer) is a dancer and fitness professional living in New York City. Since 2009, Sarah has performed over 100 times with professional dance companies from Texas, Missouri, and New York. Sarah has worked with choreographers such as Jennifer Archibald, Amanda Selwyn, Liz Imperio, 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 continues to teach technical and leadership workshops across the United States through MA Dance, for whom she also adjudicates regional and national dance competitions. Sarah has been a certified fitness trainer since 2014 and currently teaches group fitness classes for Equinox.

SPECIAL THANKS

To those who made this production possible:

ANNONYArts and Tom Brady

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Rachel Neville's MOVE THE VOTE CAMPAIGN

We are honored to be part of #movethevote - a campaign encouraging voter registration and turnout by New York photographer Rachel Neville. What moves YOU to vote?

Visit [movethe.vote](https://www.movethe.vote) for more information!





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www.annonyarts.org

For more information about
Smashworks Dance, visit us here:

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