

**LA MAMA** <sup>57</sup>  
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB

**LA MAMA MOVES!  
DANCE FESTIVAL**

present

*but the sun came up and we were here*

**Direction: Colleen Thomas**

**Choreography: Colleen Thomas with the performers**



**Ellen Stewart Theatre  
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003  
May 3 - 5, 2019**

# ***but the sun came up and we were here***

**Direction: Colleen Thomas**

**Choreography: Colleen Thomas with the performers**

**Performers:**

**Samantha Allen (USA), Oluwadamilare (Dare) Ayorinde (USA),  
Daniil Bielkin (Ukraine), Mikołaj Karczewski (Poland),  
Krystian Lyson (Poland), Evgenia (Jenya)  
Romanovich (Belarus), Krystyna Lama Szydlowska (Poland),  
Monika Witkowska (Poland), Darrin Wright (USA).**

**Music: original score by Robert Boston  
with a sampling from Johanna Morris**

**Lighting/Visual Design: Rebecca Makus**

**Costumes: Rachel Jones Bellas**

## **About the show:**

We feel like strangers in a strange world, *but the sun came up and we were here*. In her newest international work, choreographer Colleen Thomas delves into the embodied experience of self, perception and connection in a climate of heightened political and social unrest. With its international cast – including dancers from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and the U.S. – *but the sun came up and we were here* asks if the expression of our individual essence, intuition and power can be the antidote to division in a fractured world.

## **About Colleen Thomas Dance**

Colleen Thomas Dance exists to explore human connection through the intricate conversations between moving bodies. Mixing humanity with virtuosity, the company strives to reach beyond the traditional concert dance experience by turning the traditional theater space into an all-encompassing environment that breaks down the divide between audience and performers and asks viewers to see themselves within the dancers. The company uses dance performances, national and international tours, and surrounding events to bring audiences near and far with any level of dance expertise into discussions of how structural choreographic elements, including form, modern dance techniques, or content, can influence our understanding of the intangible pillars of human existence, from love and passion to honesty and risk. Colleen Thomas Dance believes wholeheartedly in the value of collaboration (both between company members and with artists in other disciplines) and that new ideas allow for the most enriching creative environment. The company embraces every opportunity to exhibit the great diversity of human experiences on stage, and hopes that these reflections of life will evoke empathy and trust between performers and audience members.

**Colleen Thomas** is a New York-based choreographer and performing artist. She began her professional career with the Miami Ballet and went on to work with renowned contemporary choreographers such as The Kevin Wynn Collection, Nina Wiener Dance Company, Donald Byrd/The Group, Bebe Miller Dance Company, and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company among others. In 1997 a creative collaboration with Bill Young evolved into a company focused on rigorous physicality and dynamic partnering. Their work has been seen throughout the U.S, Europe, Asia, and South America. Now interested in focusing on illuminating her vision of contemporary work, Thomas has formed Colleen Thomas Dance. Thomas has presented her work in Hong Kong, Estonia, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, and Russia and in New York at Joyce Soho, Danspace Project, DTW, Dance New Amsterdam, The Miller Theater, Danny K. Playhouse, and The Kumble Arts Center, the 92nd Street Y, Governors Island, as well as at Cal State Long Beach, East Carolina University, and Minneapolis at the Ritz Theater, Southern Theater, and The New Guthrie. Thomas received her BA in Psychology from SUNY Empire State College and her MFA in Dance from University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus, The New School, Barnard College, Skidmore College, and Bates College. She is currently an Associate Professor of Professional Practice at Barnard College of Columbia University. Thomas is also the co-director and a co-curator of the LIT series at 100 Grand.

**Samantha Allen** (Performer) is a dancer and maker. As part of the Institut IDGAF, she makes live work and films with collaborators Devika Wickremesinghe and Chris Cascarano. She is a frequent collaborator with Colleen Thomas Dance, and has also worked with choreographers in New York City and Chicago including Katie Workum, Julie Mayo, Yanira Castro, Buck Wanner, Jessie Young, and others.

**Rachel Jones Bellas** (Costume) has costumed film, theater, and dance in New York City since 2007. In addition to launching capsule collections, she has worked as a tailor and a re-purposer of vintage garments. She holds a BFA in fashion design from the Fashion Institute of Technology and studied theater at Atlantic Acting School. Rachel is a member of USA 829.

**Oluwadamilare (Dare) Ayorinde** (Performer) is Nigerian - North American freelance creating dance artist living in New Jersey. Since Rutgers University he has worked with Colleen Thomas, Bill Young, Netta Yerushalmy, Company Stefanie Batten Bland, Kayla Farrish, Douglas Dunn, Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker The Trisha Brown Dance Company and his dear friends Kyle Marshall Choreography and Miriam Gabriel + Carlo Antonio Villanueva. This year Dare is Dance on the Lawn's fifth Emerging Commissioned New Jersey Choreographer.

**Robert Boston** (Composer and Musician) is a pianist who regularly performs free jazz, contemporary classical, rock and electronic music. As a composer, Boston endeavors to fuse his eclectic experience, finding form within mechanical noise and functionality of harmony/melody for each specific dance piece or instrumentation. He has scored dances by Korhan Basaran, Diane Coburn Bruning, Giada Ferrone, Loni Landon, Lone Larsen, Jodi Melnick, Pietro Pireddu, Caitlin Trainor, and the Martha Graham Dance Company. Boston has appeared on NPR's Front Row and at the Prospect Park Bandshell, the Joyce Theater, 92Y Tribeca, The Knitting Factory, The Stone, Rockwood Music Hall, and Pianos, among others. Formerly Principal Pianist for the Mark Morris Dance Group, he is currently Music Director at Barnard College Department of Dance.

**Daniil Bielkin** (Performer) is a dancer, performer, and teacher. Born in Ukraine, he has studied modern dance and choreography, most recently at the Kiev National University of Theatre, Film and Television. Belkin has performed, choreographed, and taught in a wide range of international settings over the past two decades. Recent projects include the International

Festival in Moldova (teacher, 2011), "In Four Hands" in Ukraine and Belarus (performer, 2014), "Lab Work 19.9" in Belarus (performer, 2016), and Dnipro Body Project in Ukraine (curator, 2016), among many others.

**Mikołaj Karczewski** (Performer) Since 2008, Mikołaj Karczewski has worked in theaters in Poland as a dancer, actor and choreographer. He performed in pieces by Magdalena Piekorz, Monika Strzępka, Bartosz Szydłowski, Dominika Knapik, and Wojciech Klimczyk, and choreographed for works by Jędrzej Piaskowski ("Raj-Tutorial" and "Puppenhouse. Kuracja"). A graduate of The Ludwik Solski State Drama School in Cracow, Dance Theatre Department in Bytom (MA), his dances are based on contemporary dance technique. Since 2012, he has danced with an international company based in Denmark – Granhøj Dans. For his role in "Petrushka – Extended" (chor. P.Granhøj), he received nomination from "CPH Culture" as "best dancer for season 2015/16 in Denmark". Since 2013, he has worked as a teacher of contemporary dance at The Ludwik Solski State Drama School in Cracow, Dance Theatre Department in Bytom.

**Krystian Lyson** (Performer) Hello. I'm Krystian Łysoń, I'm 28 years old and I've achieved masters in acting and dancing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Cracow in 2016. I don't know, "If I have found the dance, or the Dance has found me" - that's the quote from the Wall Street Journal, that I'm really proud of. I have to be honest, I love movement, every part of it and each of its representations, for me it's a pure joy and essential truth hidden in every change. My goal is... to Be, and I think, that dance and the body as an instrument is a way to grow as a human being, being a part of bigger structure. I found something unexpected for me in contact improvisation, small steps are creating a balance in weight of a sentence. Polarisation and laws of physics between active bodies build a space for speechless relation. Timespace starts to be in both as one.

**Rebecca M. K. Makus** (Design) holds an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts and a B.A. from Smith College and is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Kennesaw State University. Her work frequently includes custom designed and built light objects that are unique for each production. Her international work includes designs at Lyon Opera Ballet, Nuffield Theatre at Lancaster University, Opera de Monte Carlo, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Sibiu International Theatre Festival. She has also worked extensively in New York City for over 10 years including shows at Lincoln Center, Mint Theatre, Dance New Amsterdam, Dance Theatre Workshop, P.S. 122, HERE Arts Center and D.R.2 Theatre.

**Evgenia (Jenya) Romanovich** (Performer) Born in Grodno, Belarus, Evgenia Romanovich is an actress and puppeteer. She trained at the Belarusian State Academy of Arts under Vladimir Gromovich. She is a principal actress with Grodno Regional Puppet Theater. Romanovich has performed at and participated in many workshops, festivals, and forums, including: International Festival Zawierowania (Poland, 2009); Festival of Puppet Theaters (Poland, 2011), Festival Danse à Péronne (France, 2012); Lilia Burdinskaya's "Dostoevsky in the head" (Russia, 2015), and Adeksandr Tebenkov's "From Point A to Point B" (Belarus, 2017). In 2015, Romanovich founded the creative space DOM46 in Grodno, Belarus.

**Krystyna Lama Szydłowska** (Performer) is a Poznań, Poland-based performer, improviser, dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Her interests are focused around conceptual choreography preceded by in-depth research and expressed through all the necessary channels of communication with the viewer. She is interested in both innovative experiments and working with patterns from the past. She graduated from Poznań School of Social Sciences with a Bachelors Degree (majored in dance composition and techniques), Alternative Dance Academy 2015, 2016 and 2017 Art Stations Foundation by Grażyna Kulczyk scholarship holder, currently studying a Masters course in Choreography at Academy of Music in Łódź.

**Monika Witkowska** (Performer) was born in 1994, graduated from E. J. Dalcroze Eurhythmics Section of National Secondary Music School in Czestochowa and Physical Theatre Studio at Silesian Dance Theatre in Bytom. She studied at the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Krakow, Dance Theatre Department in Bytom. In 2015 she held scholarships at the Dance Department of the prestigious Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen, Germany and at the Dance Theatre Department of Kibutzim College of Education in Tel Aviv, Israel. She took part in research project focused on exploring Pina Bausch repertoire (project created through cooperation between Pina Bausch Foundation and Folkwang University). She was a finalist at the Solo Dance Contest at Gdansk Dance Festival (Poland) with the piece I fought piranhas, choreographed by Maciej Kuźmiński. She has performed in pieces by Jacek Łumiński, Maciej Kuźmiński, Henrik Kaalund, and Anna Piotrowska, among many others. She has participated in many European dance projects, workshops and festivals.

**Darrin Wright** (Performer) a Brooklyn-based artist, is a native of Los Angeles, California where he started tap dancing at the age of six. In 1997, Darrin joined The Bella Lewitzky Dance Company as part of its farewell tour. He received his BFA in Dance from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2002. Since graduation, Darrin has had the pleasure of working with the Metropolitan Opera, Susan Marshall, Terry Creach, Jane Comfort, Bill Young, Colleen Thomas, Yanira Castro, Jack Ferver, and Doug Varone, among many others. In 2009, he received a Bessie Award for his work in A Canary Torsi's "Dark Horse/Black Forest."

#### - Funding Credits

*but the sun came up and we were here* is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC. This piece was also made possible with the generous support of The Adam Mickiewicz Institute, The Trust for Mutual Understanding and Barnard College.

Szymon Wroblewski of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Centrum Kultury W Lublinie and Lublin Dance Theater organized and produced residencies and performances that took place at the International Dance Theatres Festival in Lublin, Poland in 2017/2018.

#### Thank you notes

I would like to thank these beautiful artists who are committed to this journey of cultural and physical understanding. I look forward to continuing this work and play together. Thank you Szymon for being the inspiration. Thank you Ryszard, Konrad, and the Annas for all of the support and organization. And thank you to Mia and Nicky and the incredible La MaMa peeps for bringing the work to this home where we are still trying to find some sort of common ground.

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## VIDEOGRAPHER: John Burklund / Theo Cote

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The 14th Season of the La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival has been made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, with special thanks to City Council Speaker, Corey Johnson; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Ford Foundation; Howard Gilman Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; The Harkness Foundation for Dance; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; The Jerome Robbins Foundation; The Shubert Foundation and The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust.



# **La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival | April 26 - May 26, 2019**

## **we want miles, in a silent way**

April 26 - 28, 2019

The Downstairs

## **All – A Physical Poem Of Protest**

May 3 - 5, 2019

The Downstairs

## **But The Sun Came Up And We Were Here**

May 3 - 5, 2019

Ellen Stewart Theatre

## **Peony Dreams: On The Other Side Of Sleep**

May 9 - 10, 2019

Ellen Stewart Theatre

## **SKIN, Mea Culpa, Uma and Holy Cow(s)**

May 11 - 12, 2019

Ellen Stewart Theatre

## **Lost Mountain**

May 16 - 19, 2019

Ellen Stewart Theatre

## **Surveys The Prairie Of Your Room**

May 18 - 19, 2019

Ellen Stewart Theatre

## **Calling: A Dance With Faith**

May 23 - 24, 2019

Ellen Stewart Theatre

## **Mirror**

May 25 - 26, 2019

Ellen Stewart Theatre

## **Special Off-Site Events**

### **Free Panel | Secret Journey: Stop Calling Them Dangerous #2**

May 18 - 19, 2019

Location: Movement Research | 122 Community Center, 150 First Ave New York, NY 10009

# LA MAMA



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*Rendering: 74 East 4th St.*

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit [www.lamama.org/remakeaworld](http://www.lamama.org/remakeaworld)



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April 26 - May 26, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre  
The Downstairs

### **The Floor Is Lava** May 9 - 19, 2019 The Downstairs

### **La MaMa Kids Dance Workshop** **Led by Dan Safer** Sat, May 18, 2019 at 12pm Ellen Stewart Theatre

### **Poetry Electric** **Betty & The Belrays** May 13, 2019 at 7:30pm The Downstairs Lounge

## **COMING SOON**

### **Messiah**

May 23 - June 2, 2019  
The Downstairs

### **Stonewall 50 at La MaMa** May 30 - June 30, 2019 Ellen Stewart Theatre

### **Bach & Bleach** June 5 - 9, 2019 The Downstairs

### **Coffeehouse Chronicles** **Taylor Mac** Sat, June 8, 2019 at 3pm Ellen Stewart Theatre

### **La MaMa Kids** **Family Play Date** June 9, 2019 at Noon The Downstairs