

**LA MAMA**  
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB  
PRESENTS

# LOOK WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

Co-presented as part of Crossing the Line Festival,  
produced by the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)

Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland  
Created By Stefanie Batten Bland



Ellen Stewart Theatre  
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003  
October 3 - 6, 2019

# ***Look Who's Coming To Dinner***

**Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland**

**Created By  
Stefanie Batten Bland**

## **Collaborating Dance Artists**

**Claire Gieringer  
Matthew Quigley  
Raphaël Cyril Segouin  
Ryan Rouland Smith  
Annie Wang  
Rachel Watson Jih  
Latra Ann Wilson**

**Visual Installation: SBB**

**Dramaturge Guillaume Segouin**

**Music Composition and Performance: Paul Damian Hogan**

**Lighting Designer: Yuki Nakase Link based off Clifton  
Taylor's design**

**Costume Designer: Shane Ballard**

**Assistant to Shane: Keyon Woods**

**Stage Manager: Emma Rivera**

*Look Who's Coming To Dinner* Film in lobby

A Film by Stefanie Batten Bland

With

Yeman Brown, Kayla Ferrish, Benjamin Cheney, Jennifer Payàn.

Any text cited is in critical dialogue with the 1967 Stanley Kramer film, *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, and is used courtesy of Columbia Pictures. Our work pays tribute to those who paved the way toward acceptance in love and life.

**Stefanie Batten Bland (Choreographic Artist & Filmmaker, Jerome Robbins Awardee)** Beginning in New York City, followed by over ten years in Europe before a return to Soho eight years ago, Stefanie Batten Bland's career has taken a geographically rich path to her present stage as a Jerome Robbins Awardee. New York Resident Magazine wrote "When it comes to tackling demanding subject matter, there are few choreographers as intellectually ambitious as Stefanie Batten Bland." SBB's interdisciplinary creative practice is embedded in human relationships, the communicative choices we make, and how we fit into space and place. Her work interrogates preconceived notions embedded within contemporary and historical culture, situating her work within the dance-theatre genre with an integration of objecthood through her work with materials. This work is seen in installation, film and live performance settings. SBB's work has been seen throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. She has created twelve dance films that have been shown in international festivals in Europe, South America, the United States and South Africa. Current credits: Choreographer, American Ballet Theatre's Women's Movement Initiative; Choreographer, Gina Gibney Dance Company; Featured Artist, 2019 FIAF Crossing The Line Festival; Fellow, 2019 Movement Director EU delegation of UN Climate Change performance installation; Center For Ballet Arts at NYU; Artist-in-Residence, American Center For Art & Culture in Paris; Movement Director, *Eve's Song* at The Public Theater which made Forbes 2018 Best Theatre List; Jerome Robbins Awardee for outstanding artistic integrity, among names such as Twyla Tharp and Robert Wilson. Recent artistic residencies include Juilliard, Duke University, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Oakland University, Wayne State University, Spelman College, Santa Fe College, University of Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, Ohio University, Middle Tennessee State University, Guest Faculty at Ithaca College. She was the 2017/18 Guest Artist Lecturer at Rutgers University in Rutgers, NJ. Batten Bland's performing career spans postmodernism, Tanz-theatre to immersive theatre methods, and she has performed for PunchDrunk, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Pal Frenak, Sean Curran Dance Company, Kraig Patterson, Georges Momboye, Cie Linga, Pina Bausch Tanztheater Wuppertal, Lar Lubovitch, Julie Taymor and Angelin Preljocaj. She has been featured in the New York Times, Bouger Magazine, Dance magazine, Dance Europe Magazine, Dance Teacher Magazine and Marie Claire. SBB received her MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts, Concentration - Performance Creation, at Goddard College in Vermont and lives with her family in SoHo NYC, where she grew up the daughter of artists.

**Shane Ballard (Designer)** is an Emmy Award winning Costume Illustrator and Designer. He most recently worked as an illustrator on the design teams for Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* and forthcoming Aretha Franklin biopic, *Respect*. Illustration credits also include: the film *Harriet*, NBC's *The Wiz Live*, and HBO's *The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks*. His costume design credits include: *Hair* for Berkshire Theater Group, *An Octoroon* for Rutgers Theater Company, *Madame Infamy* for The NY Musical Theater Festival, *One Day* at 3LD Art and Technology Center, *Oliver The Musical* at El Museo del Barrio and *Inappropriate* at The Odyssey Theater. His work in the world of dance includes costume design for dance artists Brotherhood Dance and Mersiha Mesihovic. This is his second collaboration with Stefanie Batten Bland. Earlier this year he designed the costumes for Batten Bland's, *Embarqued*. Ballard currently teaches Costume Design and Illustration at Rutgers University, Mason Gross School Of The Arts.

**Claire Gieringer (Performer)** is a New York City based dance/performance artist. Raised in Denver, Colorado, she moved to the city to attend NYU's Tisch School of Arts from which she graduated in 2017 with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Anthropology. During her time at Tisch, Claire was fortunate enough to perform work by Crystal Pite, Stefanie Batten Bland, Loni Landon, and Ori Flomin. Upon graduating, she was one of fifteen international dancers selected by Marie Chouinard to participate in the Venice Biennale in Venice, Italy where she performed work by William Forsythe and Benoit Lachambre. As a freelance artist she has performed with Alexis Zaccarello, and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company (apprentice). In July 2019, she was selected as a resident artist at The Sable Project in Stockbridge, Vermont. Within her own work as a solo performance artist, Claire works within the mediums of movement, voice, poetry, meditation, and tarot reading as channels for reflection, storytelling, and healing. This is her second season with Company SBB.

**Paul Damian Hogan (Composer)** writes and records music for film, dance, installations and albums. He earned his doctorate in music composition from Columbia University with a focus on chamber and electronic music. He has collaborated with choreographer Stefanie Batten Bland on works premiered at La MaMa Moves Dance Festival and Lincoln Center's New Dances. He scores narrative and documentary films, earning an Emmy nomination for his soundtrack for *Birders: The Central Park Effect*. His music is featured in artworks in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum and MOMA. In his spare time, he also makes albums about dreams, traveling and dreaming about traveling.

**Yuki Nakase Link (Lighting)** is a Japanese lighting designer for performing arts and fashion productions. Recent design credits include: *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)* (Disney Hall, Power Center, Kennedy Center and BAM), *Sell/Buy/Date* (New York Live Arts), *Rakugo* (New World Stages), *Resonance III* (LaGuardia Performing Arts Center), *Theo*, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Women Of Padilla* (Two River Theater), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Long Wharf Theatre), *Queen of Basel* (Colony Theatre/Miami New Drama). She was born in Tokyo, grew up in Kyoto, Japan and currently lives north of NYC in the woods. M.F.A.: NYU. <https://yukinlink.com/>

**Matthew Quigley (Performer)** is a dancer who grew up in Montreal and Toronto. He has performed repertoire by Crystal Pite, Richard Alston, Ohad Naharin and Jose Limon. He has worked with choreographers; Andrea Miller, Roy Assaf, Stefanie Batten Bland, Bobbi Jene Smith, Danielle Agami, Katarzyna Skarpetowska and Helen Simoneau. He studied dance at Canada's National Ballet School, graduating in 2015 with multiple awards. He went on to study dance at The Juilliard School receiving his BFA in 2019. He is also an active choreographer, photographer and visual artist. This is his first season with Company SBB.

**Emma Rivera (Stage Manager)** (she/her) is the Space and Production Manager at The Performance Project @ University Settlement (NYC). Select freelance work: Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland (Bienvenue/Welcome/Bienvenido/أهلاً وسهلاً), Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondi 2018, Spoleto, Italy; The Winter Yard 2019, Martha's Vineyard, MA), Karen Bernard/New Dance Alliance (Showgirls, NYC; Poolside, NYC), and André Zachery/Renegade Performance Group (Dapline! NYC, NY; August Wilson Cultural Center, Pittsburgh, PA; Untamed Space, Wexner Center for the Arts, OH).



She also produces FailSafe Festival, a performance arts festival for works-in-progress ([failsafefestival.com](http://failsafefestival.com)). This is her second season working with Company SBB.

**Guillaume Segouin (Dramaturge)** began his career as a professional actor at the age of 18 alongside Maria Casarès, Philippe Clévenos and Denis Lavant at the National Dramatic Center of Gennevilliers. He has worked with Kamel Ouali as an artistic assistant for *The Sun King* and *Cleopatra, The Last Queen of Egypt*. He is also a professor of theater at the International Academy of Dance, at the Conservatoire des Mureaux, at Gennevilliers, at the International Studio Vanina Maréchal and at the Ciné-Danse Académie.

**Raphaël Cyril Segouin (Performer)** has worked as a dancer and a choreographer for musicals in France (*Fame, Hair, Footloose, Cleopatra, Pinocchio*) and dance and theatre companies (Blanca Li, Pal Frenak, Georges Momboye). He is a founding collaborator of Company SBB // Stefanie Batten Bland and this is his 12th year performing with the company.

**Ryan Rouland Smith (Performer)** hails from Denver, Colorado and graduated cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in dance and choreography. At VCU in 2010, Smith had the opportunity to work with Stefanie Batten Bland during her guest artist-in-residence. While a student at the American Dance Festival in 2012 and 2013, Smith had the pleasure of dancing in works by John Jasperse, Reggie Wilson and Bill T Jones' first re-staging of *Love Redefined*, with Leah Cox. Currently, Smith dances with Kate Weare Company and has been a guest performer with ODC in San Francisco. He also has begun showing a duet *A Portrait of Them* with choreographer Nicole Vaughn Diaz, which recently won *Dance Now* at Joe's Pub. This is his first process with Company SBB and he is thrilled to be a part of the magic.

**Clifton Taylor (Lighting)** is proud to have been associated with the Juilliard School as a designer for the dance and opera divisions since 1995. In that time, he has worked to create new works and revive classic pieces from the repertory. Mr. Taylor also designs for opera, dance and theater companies around the world. His work has been seen on Broadway and with companies ranging from ABT and Ailey to Indonesia's Sardono Dance Theater. He is committed to arts education and the supporting the work of performing artists here at Juilliard and at other schools where he has long associations such as the Royal University of Fine Arts in Cambodia and Casa Richter in Chile. Mr. Taylor resides in New York with his family.

**Annie Wang (Performer)** is a freelancer based in New York. She is a dancer with Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group and has also worked with Carrie Ellmore-Tallitsch, Parijat Desai, and MADArt Productions. Her choreography has been presented at Five Myles, the Center for Performance Research, the 92Y, BKSD, WestFest Dance, Triskelion, BRIC, and the Chocolate Factory Theater. Annie has been artist-in-residence at BRIClab, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Marble House Project, and was awarded a 2017-2018 Brooklyn Arts Council grant to develop her work, *Marigram*. She is excited and honored to dance with Company SBB for the first time.

**Rachel Watson-Jih (Performer)** began her dance training at age four in Raleigh, NC. After attending the University of North Carolina School of the Arts summer dance program in 2008, she was recruited to attend school there, where she received her BFA in Contemporary Dance in May of 2012. Since relocating to New York, she's performed at Lincoln Center Outdoors and Joe's Pub with Mark Dendy, Karen Harvey Dances, Mari Meade Dance Collective, and apprenticed with Camille A. Brown and Dancers. She made her Public Theater Debut in *Eve's Song* Fall 2018. Her TV and commercial work include ABC'S Manhattan Love Story, PC Richard and Sons commercial, SKYPE, Aetna, and danced with Ryan Heffington in New York Fashion Week, Desigual Couture line. She has been a part of SheThinX and Coach campaigns and featured in music videos for Vanity Fair and VICE/Black Coffee. Some of her commercial print work include Lyft, Aetna, and Knoll. Rachel is currently a teaching artist with the Alvin Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, and is the Founder and Artistic Director of Blue Morph Collective. Rachel is thrilled to be a part of Company SBB, this is her first season.

**Latra A Wilson (Performer)** is a Tyler Texas native and graduate of the University of Missouri at Kansas City with a BFA in dance. Ms. Wilson has since danced with artists and institutions across the creative spectrum. Credits include: The Public Theatre (NY), Taylor 2 (NY), Opera Theatre of St. Louis (MO.). Ms. Wilson is a Teaching artist at Alvin Ailey Arts in Education, MMAC, & ABT Youth Summer Intensive (NY). Ms. Wilson Assistant credits: *Eve's Song* with Stefanie Batten Bland and *Dance Lab New York* with Josh Prince. Ms. Wilson is the Co-founder of *TheDynamitExperience* dance project. She has a BFA from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and is currently signed with LDC Artist Rep. This is her 7th year performing with Company SBB.

**Keyon Woods (Assistant Designer)** is overjoyed to be returning to La MaMa since he participated in the Director's Symposium and Playwright's Retreat in Umbria, Italy over a year ago. Since then La MaMa has been an artistic home for him, hosting a reading of his second full length play, *Queen*. He is a recent graduate of The University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a B.A. in Costume Design.

## **Company SBB**

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Company SBB is fiscally sponsored by FIA Foundation For Independent Artists.

*Thanks!*

My great thanks to Crojik's Croft and Juilliard for developmental phases of the work. To my family at La MaMa - Mia and Nicky who continue to believe in our work and MY DREAM of creating work that unites us regardless of which side of the Atlantic we are on or come from. I scream love to Ellen Stewart, an OG of our 'hood. I'm humbled to be in your space and to offer work that honors your legacy. Thank you Courtney Geraghty of French Institute Alliance Francaise and everyone at Crossing The Line Festival. It is with great enthusiasm that we debut this piece under your festival's umbrella.

Thank you to University Settlement and The Performance Project, who give me and our company a creative home. I thank Alison Flemminger, Baba Israel and our fearless leaders, Melissa Aase and Eric Wienarter, for their continued support. Space is so valuable and can be so rare in the city. As a long term resident artist, I know we have a home and an immediate community with whom we develop and share our work. This gives us stability and allows me to impact the diverse population that passes through our neighborhood settlement doors.

Company SBB is deeply grateful to our team and our board, led by Alton Murray and our fearless US managing partner, Jana La Sorte and European managing partner Petya Hristova. I am grateful for the long standing support of The Jerome Robbins Foundation. All at Company SBB wish to thank the support of Pentacle. They have offered fiscal and administrative support since my return to New York eight years ago.

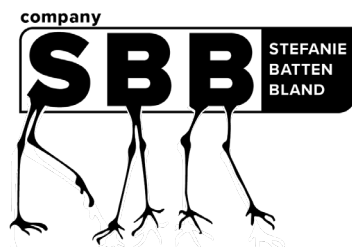
Thank you Columbia Pictures for your consent.

Finally, to the flock of birds that fly with me. I'm honored by your work and generosity. I love you with all my heart. Annie, the newbie, Claire, our savage angel, Ms. T, who can cut you and kiss you at once, Ryan, what a great re-find! Go baby Jen! Bravo to Quigs and his many ways, Rachel, how lucky am I to cross genres with you, my heart is warmed by our meeting, Guillaume, un tel merci et Raph, je n'ai rien à dire, sauf que c'est pour la vie mec. Paul, Shane, Emma, Clifton and Yuki, oh how you let me dream and then show me what that dream is in reality. To my family - JC, ma Filomène et Tatum - how lucky am I to call you mine. Je vous embrasse.

To all of our families, thank you. We are who we are because of you. Personally, I know how to exist in conflict and, within that discord, find harmony and, I might even say, learn how to thrive as I live inside of it. This piece has been a creation of excavation, and, in the end, sings our inalienable rights to simply love who we love.

Mom and Dad, this one's for you. xosbb

**For more info: [www.companysbb.org](http://www.companysbb.org)**



# LA MAMA



## RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



*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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October 3 - 6, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

### **All My Fathers**

October 3 - 20, 2019  
The Downstairs

### **La MaMa Kids Tomte**

October 6 - 20, 2019  
The Downstairs

### **Poetry Electric Tribute to Toni**

October 7, 2019  
The Downstairs

### **Everyday Murder**

October 8 - 11, 2019  
On Street in Front of La MaMa  
66 East 4th Street

## **COMING SOON**

### **400 Years of Inequity & Protest**

October 12 - 16, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

### **Poetry Electric Reflections of History**

October 14, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

### **La MaMa Puppet Slam**

October 25 - 27, 2019  
The Downstairs

**This is Whay We Live**  
September 19 - 29, 2019  
The Downstairs

### **Experiments Play Reading Series Suzanne**

October 28, 2019  
La Galleria  
47 Great Jones