



ELEVATE

CHICAGO DANCE 2022

OCTOBER 13-16

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HOMEPAGE

FORCE! at Pivotal Arts Festival 2022, Edge Theater. Photo by William Frederick

Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center

4048 W Armitage Ave, Chicago, IL 60639

Friday, October 14, 2022 • 7:00 PM

TICKETS: \$15

Wheelchair Accessible.



BOOM CRACK! Dance Company, choreographed by Trae Turner

Christopher "Mad Dog" Thomas / Kuumba Lynx*

FORCE! an opera in three acts / Anna Martine Whitehead

*Content Warning: adult language, adult themes violence



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The Elevate Chicago Dance festival was only supposed to happen once. Born out of a partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts' Regional Dance Development Initiative, the festival was a way to showcase the work of Chicago dance artists and bring local, regional, and national audiences and presenters together. That "one time" festival was supposed to have its third iteration in 2020 and we all know what happened then.

Here we are in 2022, altered, making our way back to rehearsal studios and live performance. This festival is showcasing some of what Chicago's dance artists have been thinking about, dancing about, and working toward over the last couple of years. We are intentionally positioning works-in-progress showings, excerpts, panel discussions, site-responsive performances, durational works, and completed pieces for the stage all side by side with one another to underscore the reality that this is what artists are doing now and it is worth support and recognition.

As we've listened, watched, and learned from our fellow artists in preparation for this festival we've asked ourselves, what do we need to gather again in performance? How has our work changed? And, what kind of practices help us sustain shifts in the field? We hope you ask these questions with us and remain open to all that comes next.

Joanna Furnans
Executive Director, Chicago Dancemakers Forum

BOOM CRACK! Dance Company

Choreographed by Trae Turner

"Decibel"

Decibel represents a modern, minimalistic take on hip hop culture. The overall look and feel of Decibel is inspired by modern electronic blueprints and patent designs. A blaring lofi musical score paired with BOOM CRACK's! dynamic movement aesthetic, brings a jarring look into what hip hop choreography can be. Our work will represent a small piece of a larger scale production set to debut this November.

Performers: Emily Dietze, Krista Ellensohn, Chloe Hamilton, Alison Janega, Alexa Kruchten, Paulina Pietras, Sophia Santore

Director: Trae Turner

Under the artistic direction of Trae Turner, BOOM CRACK! Dance Company (BCDC) was founded in 2009. At its core, the company's purpose is to make music visible. BCDC believes in bringing the art of hip hop dance to new audiences, and increasing its representation by creating inspirational, concept-based sets that move audiences globally.



Christopher "Mad Dog" Thomas Kuumba Lynx

"Juke for Liberation"

Juke For Liberation is a Hip Hop Theater work fusing multimedia with live DJ , dance and spoken word.

After examining the impact of environmental racism and contemplating what it would mean to reallocate a police budget, a core of creative freedom fighters from Altgeld Gardens begin to call upon the ancestors as they imagine a place worth loving

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Show components: The Hip Hop Theater work is comprised of 3 vignettes will be broken up into three pieces

1-Defunding the police: Showcases the historical facts connected to the black bodies, police, and chains.

2-Shortness of breath: centered around the environmental racism in Altgeld Gardens and unhealthy living conditions that has caused generational health conditions.

3-Boogie Wonderland: Imagining imagine a world of dance without police, and a safe space for everyone regardless of race and sexual orientation.

direct response to the ways we were impacted by last year's events of protest, rage, and call for change. We saw our neighborhoods on the south and southwest sides of the city expose the racial tensions Black and Brown communities, as well as the police oppression in our neighborhoods, changing how we see the world, the work we need to do in our own community, and the work we have to do together. "Chicago's Footprint: La huella Chicago" is about two communities coming together through joy, convergence, movement, music, and history. We want our communities to be anti-racist, but recognize we need education and built experiences that take into account culture, identity, history, and struggle. This program engages the Black and Brown community through these lenses, creating intergenerational experiences to learn more about each other, where we come from, how we celebrate, and most importantly how we do things together.



FORCE! An opera in three acts

Anna Martine Whitehead

"FORCE! An opera in three acts " **(a work-in-progress preview)**

FORCE! an opera in three acts stays with Black women and femmes as they wait to enter a prison and escape memory erasure. Exploring the interiority and shared dream-spaces of archetypes like Down'N Batter'd, Rage-a Tha World, and The Blinding Light, this project explores what kind of relationships bloom in the shadow of the prison: A strange sisterhood with the power to disintegrate walls. FORCE! is a sprawling surrealist opera blending experimental dance with the sounds of gospel, folk, pop, and contemporary experimental jazz, and is made with a majority Black, femme, and queer cast. By exploring sound, movement, and dreams with one another, we put into practice the free worlds we are dreaming of.

FORCE! is instigated by Anna Martine Whitehead. Since it began development in early 2020, FORCE! has also become a way of re-thinking performance-making in order to center care, consent, queer divergence, and Black femme rest. This work is a method of unlearning our training. Together, we have begun to build a Black abolition feminist theatre practice.

Performer/Panelist Names:

Kai Black

Rahila Coats

Teiana Davis

Jenn Po'Chop Freeman

Nexus J.

Zachary Nicol

Daniella Pruitt

Tramaine Parker

Anna Martine Whitehead



FORCE! An opera in three acts

Anna Martine Whitehead

"FORCE! An opera in three acts " **(excerpt)**

Collaborators

Ayanna Woods, co-director

Angel Bat Dawid, co-composer

Philip Armstrong, co-composer

Sky Cubacub, costumer

Directors/Designers

Anna Martine Whitehead and Ayanna Woods are co-directors

This project has been generously supported by a Creation and Development Fund Award from NPN, a NEFA National Theater Project Award, the Vera List Center; as well as grants, residencies, and fellowships from the Graham Foundation, the MAP Fund, 3AP, Arts+Public Life, and St. Benedict the African Parish.





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FORGEI at Pivotal Arts Festival 2022, Edge Theater, Photo by William Frederick

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We acknowledge that where we gather today, the Chicago area, is located on ancestral lands of Indigenous tribes, such as the Council of the Three Fires--comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations--as well as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, Fox, Kickapoo, and Illinois Nations. We can learn more about these tribes and support them through monetary donations, participating in cultural events, and engaging in advocacy efforts.

Three Fires Confederacy - collectively known as the Anishnabek people:

Potawatomi - Pokagon Band of Potawatomi / Bodéwadmiakiwen [MI]

Ojibwe - Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa [WI]

Lac Courte Oreilles Band [Hayward, WI]

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe [MN]

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe [MN]

St. Croix Chippewa [WI]

Odawa - Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians [MI]

Miami Nation - Miami Nation of Indians [IN]

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Ho-Chunk Nation - Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Sac and Fox Nation - Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa

Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri

Sac and Fox Nation, Oklahoma

Kickapoo - Kansas Kickapoo Tribe

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION.](#)



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PHOTO: El Pinet Arts Festival 2022, Edge Theater. Photo by William Frederick

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