



# AGORA DANCE

The Kind of Thing That Would Happen  
July 8-21, 2017  
Elstad Auditorium, Gallaudet University  
Washington, DC

**Choreography:** Olivia Sabee with the dancers

**Sound Design:** DeLesslin George-Warren

**Set Design:** Ben Levine

**Lighting Design:** Annie Choudhury

**Stage Manager:** Patrick Gallagher Landes

**Costumes:** Olivia Sabee & Catherine Roth

**Sound Technician:** Kyle Kerwin

**Dancers:** Hannah Joo (7/8, 7/9), Melissa Lineburg, Catherine Roth,  
Robert Rubama, Meredith Stapleton (7/13, 7/15, 7/21)

## Music:

"Alles ist hin"/Hans Lüdemann,  
"Hand Covers Bruise"/Trent Reznor  
& Atticus Ross, "À la vie"/Kraked  
Unit, "Berlin by Overnight"/Louisa  
Fuller, "Sheep May Safely Graze,  
BWV 208/9"/J.S. Bach, perf. by  
Leon Fleisher, "Goodbye  
Stranger"/Supertramp,  
"Mascara"/Superphénix, "Broken  
Symmetries for Y"/Max Richter, Ian  
Burdge, Chris Worsey, & Su-A Lee,  
"Ça plane pour moi"/Plastic  
Bertrand, "A Sudden Manhattan of  
the Mind"/Max Richter, "Coppélia  
Act III, No. 20, Valse des  
Heures"/Léo Délibes, Saint  
Petersburg RTV Symphony  
Orchestra, "Found Song for P"/Max  
Richter, Ian Burdge, Chris Worsey,  
& Su-A Lee

## Text adapted from:

*Poetics/Aristotle, Before, Between,  
and Beyond: Three Decades of  
Dance Writing/Sally Banes, A  
Lover's Discourse:  
Fragments/Roland Barthes, A  
Choreographer's  
Handbook/Jonathan Burrows,  
"There is No Theory of  
Everything"/Simon Critchley, The  
White Album/Joan Didion, The Year  
of Magical Thinking/Joan Didion,  
Aspects of the Novel/E.M. Forster,  
The Art of Making Dances/Doris  
Humphrey, The Things They  
Carried/Tim O'Brien, Reality  
Hunger/David Shields (and all the  
other works contained therein)*

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JULY 14 @ 7:15 PM  
JULY 20 @ 9:00 PM  
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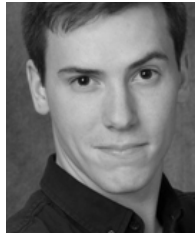
# Aflight

CAPITAL  
FRINGE



**ANNIE CHOUDHURY** graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2009 with a Bachelors degree in Theatre and has been working in the DC area as a technician and stage manager ever since. Always on the lookout for creative movement, she has had the pleasure of working with some of the nation's

leading authorities in dance. This will be her sixth season with Dance Place and is now their Resident Stage Manager, Master Electrician, and Associate Technical Director. She wants to thank all of her fellow technicians and dancers for making this piece possible and allowing her to be a part of it.



**PATRICK GALLAGHER LANDES** has been working as a stage manager and playwright in Washington DC for two years. His stage managing credits include Brave Spirits Theatre's *The Bloody Banquet* (2015) and Green Spark Productions' *Coping* (2016), both named to Best of Capital Fringe in their respective years, as well as the Source Festival's Artistic Blind Dates in both 2015 and 2016. His plays have been produced as part of Gateway Theatre Ensemble's *A Minute in Presidential History* produced at the 2016 Page To Stage Festival at the Kennedy Center.



Passionate about modern dance and experimental theater, **BEN LEVINE** aims to combine his dance and theater training with his knowledge of theater technology to make awesome art. Since 2007, Ben has worked as the Technical Director/Theater Manager of Dance Place. As Resident Lighting Designer

at Dance Place, he has had the opportunity to collaborate with many dance artists including Wally Cardona, Tiffany Mills Company, Lionel Popkin, Nejla Yarkin/NY2Dance, PEARSONWDRIG Dance Theater, and EDGEWORKS Dance Theater. He was named "Best Up-For-Anything Technical Director" in the Washington City Paper. Ben holds a degree in Theater Arts and Mathematics from Drew University. He also works as the Production Manager for the National Performance Network.



**DELESSLIN GEORGE-WARREN** grew up with one moccasin in the "city" of Rock Hill, SC and the other in the Catawba Indian Reservation. Today he continues to straddle multiple boundaries as an artist, researcher, activist, and performer. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music from Vanderbilt

University in May 2014, DeLesslin travelled to Copenhagen as a Humanity-in-Action Fellow, followed by a return to his reservation to conduct workshops with Catawba youth and oral history interviews with Catawba elders. Since relocating to the District of Columbia he has continued performing, working across media, and lecturing throughout the east coast including Nashville, Washington, Baltimore, New York City, Ithaca, and Charleston. In addition to Sparkplug 2.0 his time is spent teaching Digital Literacy at DC's premiere Adult Literacy non-profit (Washington Literacy Center) and giving an indigenous tour of the National Portrait Gallery's Presidential Portrait Gallery ([indigenousdiscovery.com](http://indigenousdiscovery.com)) which runs until Election Day 2016.



**HANNAH JOO** hails from Los Angeles, where she began studying ballet under the syllabi of the Royal Academy of Dance and American Academy of Ballet. Hannah moved to the Greater Philadelphia Area to attend Swarthmore College, where she recently graduated with a BA in Dance and Anthropology.

Swarthmore's dance program afforded her the opportunity to study with different balletic, modern, African, Indian, and other cultural dance traditions and to work with local and international choreographers. Outside the studio, Hannah is involved with Dance for All Movement Therapy and Dance for Parkinson's Disease.



**MELISSA LINEBURG** began training at a local dance studio in Charles Town, WV, and continued her training under the direction of Joyce Morrison at the Frederick School of Classical Ballet. Melissa received a B.F.A. in Dance: Ballet from Radford University in 2011. She has been a company member with Misako Ballet Company

since 2011, and she also performs with Agora Dance, Metropolitan Ballet Company, and Connect the Dots Dance Company. Melissa has performed at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center accompanied by the National Symphony Orchestra. Melissa serves on the Board of Dance Metro DC and is the Administrative Services & Database Manager at Dance/USA in Washington, DC.



**CATHERINE ROTH** grew up on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She received her early training at Pointe Dance Academy and went on to earn a B.F.A in Ballet Performance from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She has spent time performing in New York City with Brooklyn

Ballet, as well as teaching and choreographing in St. Croix. In 2012 Catherine moved to Maryland and has since been a member of MOVEIUS Contemporary Ballet, Ballet ADI, Bowen McCauley Dance, and Metropolitan Ballet Theatre Ensemble.



**ROBERT RUBAMA** is a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia and is currently enrolled at George Mason University pursuing a B.F.A in dance and a minor in anthropology. Attending GMU has given him the opportunity to perform works by Andrea Miller, Mark Morris, Donald Byrd, and Nick Puppillo. Outside of

his training at GMU he has attended the Bates Dance Festival and Sidra Bell Dance New York's Summer Module.



**OLIVIA SABEE** is a dance historian and choreographer. She is currently assistant professor of dance at Swarthmore College. After receiving her early training at Pacific Northwest Ballet and Cornish College Prep Dance, she graduated from the ballet program at North Carolina School of the Arts. Since then, she has

choreographed for her own project-based company and created new work for MOVEIUS Contemporary Ballet, DC's Source Festival, ARC Youth Dance Company, the Department of Music & Dance at Swarthmore, and Agora Dance. She holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, both in French.



**NIKO SOMMARIPA** grew up on an organic culinary herb farm in Massachusetts. He moved to DC to study International Affairs and Business at The George Washington University. Since, he has worked as a management consultant, developing performance management tools and designing organizational systems to help clients achieve their goals. The arts and entrepreneurial problem solving have always been dear to his heart. From producing pop-up art galleries to creating unique performance events, Niko has been actively engaged in the arts. Niko enjoys curating artistic experiences and bringing people together to make connections across diverse sectors.



**MEREDITH STAPLETON** is a Philadelphia-based dance artist and teacher. She grew up in Harvard, MA training at Acton School of Ballet and performing with Commonwealth Ballet Company. In 2013, she graduated from Muhlenberg College as a Dance major and Women's Studies minor. Meredith has worked professionally with

DanceSpora, Nora Gibson Contemporary Ballet, Teresa Vandenendzorge, Megan Flynn Dance Company, DRIGGProductions, Evalina Carbonell, Sean Thomas Boyt, Ashley Sleeth, Kat Sullivan, The Naked Stark, and Antonia & Artists. Meredith's choreography has been presented regularly in and near Philadelphia including InHale Performance Series, ETC Performance Series, The Outlet Dance Project, the Allentown Art Museum, and Fringearts festivals. Meredith has taught at Happy Feet Dance Studio, and Haddonfield School of Dance, and is currently on faculty at Koresh School of Dance and Muhlenberg College.

“It is clear that the function of the poet is not to say what has happened, but to say the kind of thing that would happen, what is possible in accordance with probability or necessity.”

—Aristotle, *Poetics*

“Art is not truth. Art is a lie that enables us to recognize truth.  
 What is a fact? What’s a lie, for that matter?  
 What, exactly, constitutes an essay or a story or a poem  
 or even an experience? What happens when we can  
 no longer freeze the shifting phantasmagoria  
 which is our actual experience?”

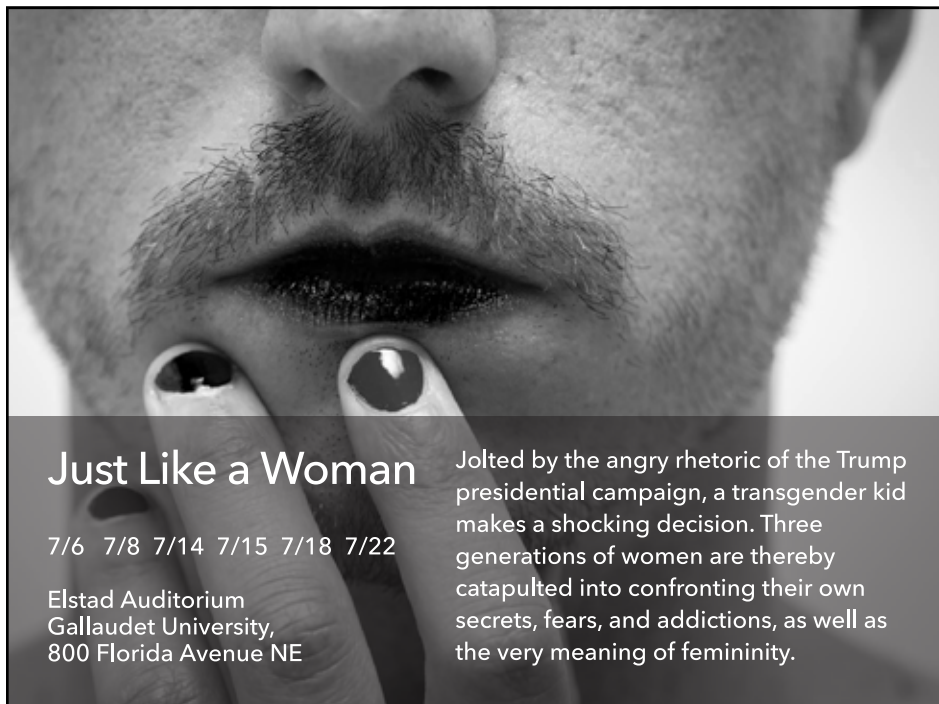
—David Shields, *Reality Hunger* (after Pablo Picasso)

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## Just Like a Woman

7/6 7/8 7/14 7/15 7/18 7/22

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Jolted by the angry rhetoric of the Trump presidential campaign, a transgender kid makes a shocking decision. Three generations of women are thereby catapulted into confronting their own secrets, fears, and addictions, as well as the very meaning of femininity.

### **Special thanks to:**

Kim Arrow, Sasha Fornari, Stephanie Kestelman,  
Kimberly Parmer & Maryland School of Dance, Paris Preston,  
Greg Redlawsk, Patrick Ross, Sarah Waldrop.

### **AGORA DANCE**

Olivia Sabee, Artistic Director  
Niko Sommaripa, Executive Director  
Catherine Roth, Managing Director

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Corinne Baker  
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Niko Sommaripa

Agora Dance is a Washington DC and Philadelphia based company committed to the presentation of new choreography by emerging and established choreographers grounded in interdisciplinary approaches to the balletic idiom. We produce work in both traditional and unconventional performance spaces in order to build diverse audiences and engage more deeply with a range of communities.

Two thirds of our performances last season were open to the public free of charge. To continue producing free and low-cost programming, we depend on your support. Your donation will allow us to compensate our dancers, sound and set designers, and theater production staff, and to rent space to experiment and create.

Agora Dance Productions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to Agora Dance are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

[www.agoradance.org](http://www.agoradance.org)

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**CAPITAL  
FRINGE**

This production is presented as a part of the 2017 Capital Fringe Festival, a program of the Washington, DC non-profit Capital Fringe.

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**Cover image** dancer: Melissa Lineburg; photo: David Dettloff; design: Sasha Fornari

# MSD

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