

ABRONS  
ARTS HENRY STREET  
CENTER SETTLEMENT

November 29 – December 8, 2018

LARISSA VELEZ-JACKSON  
*Zapatografía / Shoegrrophy*

LARISSA VELEZ-JACKSON

## **Zapatografía / Shoegrphy**

### **CREATED, WRITTEN, AND DIRECTED**

Larissa Velez-Jackson

### **FEATURING**

Larissa Velez-Jackson and Talya Epstein with Lillian Bermudez, Myrna Badillo, Martha Burgos, John Garcia, Ana Gonzalez and Muñeca Sanchez

### **COSTUME DESIGN**

Larissa Velez-Jackson in collaboration with the cast

### **DRAMATURGY**

Gabriel Rivera

### **SCENIC DESIGN**

Gabriel Rivera and Larissa Velez-Jackson

### **LIGHTING DESIGN**

Lillie De

### **STAGE MANAGEMENT**

Martita Abril

### **PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT**

Lillie De

**Zapatografía/Shoegrphy** is a conceptual dance by **Larissa Velez-Jackson**, created in collaboration with community members of the Henry Street Settlement Senior Center and Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Center. Using Velez-Jackson's signature humor in its minimalist form, *Zapatografía/Shoegrphy* addresses the relationship between the longtime working class residents of New York City and its experimental arts community. The work captures the tenuous nature of language and meaning when objects, words, gestures, costumes, pregnant pauses, song, dance, and diverse cultures are placed next to one another.

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ABOUT

## **Zapatografía / Shoegráphy Cast & Crew**

**Larissa Velez-Jackson** (LVJ) is a NYC-based choreographer and multi-platform artist and the artistic director of LVJ Performance Co. She uses improvisation as a main tool for research and creation, focusing on the dancing/sound-making body and the unique personality of herself and each of her collaborators. She employs humor to make contemporary art's critical discourse accessible to audiences. LVJ has presented work at numerous NYC venues such as: Roulette, New Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of art and Design, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project '10, American Realness Festival '11 and '15 at Abrons Arts Center and The Chocolate Factory Theater '14. In 2011, she launched a song-and-dance collaboration with her husband Jon Velez-Jackson called *Yackez*. *Yackez* most recently presented their two act theatrical event at New York Live Arts in March 2017. Described in New York Magazine's blog, Bedford and Bowery, "*Whether it's rapping, dancing, or throwing down in the (wrestling) ring, their work is high-energy, silly, odd, and even chaotic at times, going from spectacle to cartoon to pop culture critique and back again.*"

In the year 2016, LVJ was nominated for a 2016 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and was awarded the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Grant to Artists award, as well as residencies with Gibney Dance Center DiP and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Process Space (with *Yackez*). Often employing the use of DJ programs for computer and handheld devices in her dance work, LVJ now enjoys DJ'ing for galas, parties and special events. For said special events she is now also an ordained minister as of 2017! She was a Harkness Dance Center Artist in Residence in 2017 and from 2018-2020 will continue her research on her improvisation practice, The Star Crap Method, as a Movement Research Artist in Residence.

**Talya Epstein** is a Bessie nominated performer, originally from Massachusetts and currently living in Brooklyn. Past and present collaborators include Anna Azrieli, Miguel Gutierrez, Ishmael Houston-

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Jones, Isabel Lewis, Juliana May, Phoebe Osborne, Will Rawls, Melinda Ring, Tatyana Tenenbaum, & Larissa Velez-Jackson. She was a 2017 danceWEB scholar at Impulstanz in Vienna. Currently you can find her performing weekly at MoMA in Simone Forti's Dance Constructions. She is a Taurus/Gemini sun, Gemini moon, Libra rising.

**Martita Abril** is a performer, choreographer, and teaching artist from the border city of Tijuana, México. She has worked with dance artists and companies throughout México, the U.S. and Ecuador, including a number of projects and performances with Lux Boreal, Allyson Green, Yanira Castro, Rebecca Davis, Will Rawls, Daria Fain & Robert Kocik, Mina Nishimura, and Cori Olinghouse. She is currently a performer for Simone Forti's Dance Constructions at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). In Tijuana, she was a lead organizer with Tiroteo AC and Lux Boreal for the Fronteras México 2010 International Project by Khosro Adibi. She was awarded the 2010-2011 PECDA fellowship as a "Young Creator" and the national fellowship from FONCA 2012-2013. Since relocating to New York in 2013, Martita was selected for the Fresh Tracks Residency at NYLA and she was a mentor for the NYFA Immigrant Artist Program in 2015, 2016, and 2018. Martita also worked for the Trisha Brown Dance Company as the NYC Education and Operations Associate and currently works for Movement Research as Programs & Events Associate and the Coordinator of Movement Research at the Judson Church series. Her work has been commissioned by New York Live Arts, and presented at Movement Research at Judson Church, New York Foundation for the Arts, HERE Art Center, The Lumen Festival, David & Dorothea Garfield Theater, Potiker Theater at UCSD, and site-specifics throughout NYC and Tijuana. Her alma mater, San Diego State University named her Outstanding Alumna of 2014 and she was selected for the Assets for Artist Mass MoCA program 2014-2016.

**Mx. Lillie De** lives in Brooklyn and works as a performer and technician/SM/PM. De has done production work for Yvonne Rainer, Faye Driscoll, Jen Rosenblit, Larissa Velez-Jackson, Yanira Castro, Yvonne Meier and others. Since 2008 De has danced for Sarah A.O. Rosner and has acted

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as company manager for The A.O. Movement Collective which has just begun work on a new project titled ( ). De also works with *Yackez* as a performer and with AORTA films as a performer and director.

**Gabriel Rivera** is a blurry figure who isn't attached to much but cares about most things.

**Myrna Badillo** retired six months ago and they are loving the second chapter of their life. Being part of the show makes them feel special. *Thank you Larissa for including me.*

**Lilian Bermudez** As a retiree she joined a Senior Sector and had the opportunity to meet Larissa at one of her dance lessons and was so so excited to be able to join a show where she is doing and loving it. One for my bucket list, thanks!

**Martha Burgos** Me encanta el teatro, la música y todo lo que tiene que ver con todo esto.

**Juan Garcia** Let the fun begin!

**Ana Gonzalez** The fun is tonight!

**Muñeca Sanchez** Me siento orgullosa de estar en este show con la maestra Larissa.

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## Zapatografía / Shoegrphy

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## FUNDING

*Zapatografía/Shoegrphy* is commissioned by Abrons Arts Center through the Abrons AIRspace Residency Program with generous grants from the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Scherman Foundation, and other generous Henry Street Settlement funders. This program is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. *Zapatografía/Shoegrphy* has received development through Henry Street Settlement's PATHS program, and funded in part with support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. This work was originally commissioned by The Bushwick Starr and supported by Larissa Velez-Jackson's Grant to Artists Award from Foundation for Contemporary Arts.



# Zapatografía / Shoegrphy

## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to the incredible staff and administrative team at Abrons Arts Center for making our residency and show weeks lovely experiences. Thanks to the Henry Street Senior Center and Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council for welcoming us into their vibrant world and connecting us with our inspiring cast of local performers. I am blessed to have worked with a fabulous team on this work; Martita, Lillie De, Gabriel and James. This has been a blast because of all the great people involved. Thank you to The Bushwick Starr for introducing this work to Brooklyn audiences and setting the stage what we created at Abrons. Special love and thanks to my husband Jon for the extra dog walks, meals, salt bath preparations and heavy lifting that made this show possible!

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# ABOUT ABRONS

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. A core program of the Henry Street Settlement, Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

Abrons Arts Center values freedom of expression and creativity, ever striving to provide creative communities with a space that celebrates diversity of thought and experience. Abrons aims to be an anti-oppressive home to people from all backgrounds and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, citizen status, ancestry, age, religion, disability, sex or gender identity. As definitions of expression and inclusion evolve, Abrons is committed to continually revising this statement in collaboration with our communities.

## Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

Abrons Arts Center is situated on the Lenape island of Manhahtaan (Mannahatta). We pay respect to Lenape peoples and ancestors past, present, and future, and acknowledge our reliance on the land and waters of Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland. We offer our care and gratitude to Lenapehoking, and are committed to resisting colonialism through the support of Indigenous-led programming and Indigenous artistic practices.

## You are welcome here.

For tickets and show times:

[abronsartscenter.org](https://abronsartscenter.org)

Support neighborhood businesses! As a thank you for supporting our programming, we're offering discounts to some of our favorite Lower East Side hangouts. For more information, click on

[abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions](https://abronsartscenter.org/plan-your-trip/dining-and-attractions)

And get a discount when you bring this program!

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