

ABRONS  
ARTS HENRY STREET  
CENTER SETTLEMENT



December 14 – 15, 2018

GEORGE EMILIO SANCHEZ  
***BANG BANG GUN AMOK II***

GEORGE EMILIO SANCHEZ

## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

### NOTES FROM A JOURNEY

As we begin *Bang Bang Gun Amok II* I want to welcome everyone into this space where for the next 24 hours where we are all involved with a specific act of will, a creative action, where we come together as a group, a community, to express through words, dance, song, ideas, reactions, hopes and dreams how the world, cities and communities we inhabit and share is one we need to transform if Life is to be genuinely valued, respected and honored.

I stood here a year ago full of anxiety for what I had gotten myself into and unable to visualize what would happen in 24 hours. What happened a year ago is something I will never forget. A year later, we launch this year's performance filibuster on the sixth anniversary of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Although this event is not specifically dedicated to the Sandy Hook tragedy, it is completely intentional that we are holding space this year on this sixth year anniversary. It is critically important if we ever hope to authentically transform gun culture and violence in this country we need to remember. We need to remember Sandy Hook, we need to remember each and every gun death, suicides and mass shootings, Parkland and the Tree of Life synagogue, and the other 327 mass shootings of 2018, in order to honor and respect our lost loved ones, but also to acknowledge how we have not yet done enough.

February 14, 2018 we all found out about Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School when 17 people were shot and killed, 14 students and 3 staff members, at Parkland, Florida. In the days and weeks that followed the nation witnessed how a group of impassioned and courageous students began to speak out and address how guns and mass shootings were no longer acceptable. They called on elected leaders and challenged those who accept support from the NRA, called on the administration for stricter gun regulations and gun reform. There was an energy and newfound engagement around gun violence that gave people hope. Many of our children left their schools to participate in non-violent actions where a new generation found power in mass protests. And yet, here we are December 14, 2018 on the 6th-year anniversary of Sandy Hook and what do we have?

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### NOTES FROM A JOURNEY

We have us. We have our will and determination. We have artists, activists, survivors all coming together in peaceful assembly. The history of social movements in this country have consistently been initiated in anonymity and in silence. Little to no fanfare. The authentic seeds of a new consciousness circling around a social injustice or blind spot takes years, if not decades to substantially change. But the unimaginable has always been a source for a new definition and understanding of how we perceive Justice. The injustice of gun violence, with over 30,000 gun deaths per year, cannot continue to be a fact we accept. Gun violence at the core is a matter of Public Health. Security, yes, to a point, but it falls under the umbrella of Public Health because of how gun deaths, and the related trauma, affects us all. You and me. Our nation may be united in governmental structure, but we as a people are not safe. We may be a nation of rights, but where do our responsibilities lie? The health of our nation is a call for us to re-imagine how we can live together, in unity or conflict, without the threat and pain of gun violence.

We need to remember because historical amnesia and individual denial go hand-in-hand, and this is a lethal combination. Truth-telling and ideology do not go hand-in-hand and this is also lethal. To say gun culture is embedded in our society is another way of acknowledging we choose not to act, we opt out of feeling, we elect to look away, and we've learned to live with the normalizing of gun violence and gun deaths as a reality that affects "other people", "other neighborhoods", something that does not reside in our midst. Nothing could be further from the reality we share. Gun violence lives and breathes in our lives. It is no accident, it is not circumstantial, and it forms a core part of our Settler Colonialism that has taken lives and cultures from those who were here first, and from those who remain nameless and invisible.

James Baldwin wrote, *"The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions hidden by the answers."* Questions like, *are we living out a self-fulfilling prophecy that protects the elite and kills off the innocents? What is the correlation of institutionalized violence and the political power of marginalized groups in this country?*

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*Why guns? Why kill? And how does the historical trauma of gun violence color our lens and our ability to feel compassion even towards our oppressors?*

So, I offer up this is the launching of a social movement tonight. A movement that reflects how the arc of the universe bends towards Justice, even in the face of mounting evidence otherwise. This is a new consciousness bending that arc. My hope is we support one another in all our creative endeavors to keep our eyes on the prize in all its non-violence glory.

A gun death anywhere is a threat to life everywhere.

—George Emilio Sanchez

GEORGE EMILIO SANCHEZ

## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

This event is created by

### **Abrons Social Practice Artist-in-Residence**

George Emilio Sanchez

### **Technical Director**

Emma Rivera

### **Production Assistants**

Elena Light

Rebecca Rad

**BANG BANG GUN AMOK II** is a 24-hour “performance filibuster” on gun violence and gun culture. The event will bring together artists, activists and survivors to create a public space where the trauma around gun violence is acknowledged, and through a healing arts environment, explore how a community can nurture compassion and envision new ways to transform gun culture.

GEORGE EMILIO SANCHEZ

## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

ABOUT

## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II Lineup**

6-6:15pm	George Emilio Sanchez
6:15-6:22	David Wheeler
6:22-6:37pm	Ella Wylde
6:40-6:55pm	Peggy Shaw
7:00-7:15pm	Pamela Sneed
7:20-7:35pm	Anthony Collins and friend
7:40-7:55pm	It's Showtime NYC
8:00-8:15pm	Marjani Forte-Saunders
8:40-8:55pm	David Thomson
9:00-9:15pm	Maria Bauman
9:40-9:55pm	Karen Finley
10:00-10:15pm	Kyle Dacuyan
10:20-10:35pm	David King
10:40-10:55pm	Modesto Flako Jimenez
11:20-11:35pm	Heather Robles + Edith Boucher
11:40-11:55pm	Eric Taylor
MIDNIGHT- 12:15am	movie
12:15- 12:30am	movie
12:35-12:50am	movie
2:00-6:00am	DJ DREEEMY
6:20-6:35am	David Wheeler
7:00-7:15pm	Alex Vitale
8:00-8:15am	Damion Saunders
9:00-9:15am	Chirag Menon
10:00-10:15am	Sita Frederick
10:20-10:35am	Maura Donohue

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ABOUT

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10:55-11:10am	Jennifer Miller & Jonathan Kinzel
11:10-11:25am	Nate Shaw
11:45-NOON	Jumatatu Poe
NOON-12:15pm	Jonathan Gonzalez
1:00-1:15pm	Suzanne Gardinier
1:20-1:35pm	Eva Yaa Asantewaa
1:40-1:55pm	Luciana Achugar
2:00-2:15pm	Sydney Mosley
3:00-3:15pm	Aaron Landsman
4:00-4:15pm	Jumping for Justice/Leigh Whitney
4:20-4:35pm	Charmaine Warren + Tony Turner
4:40-4:55pm	Nicole Goodwin
5:00-5:15pm	Tatyana Santana
5:15-5:30pm	Julieta Hoffbauer-Sanchez
5:30-5:45pm	David Wheeler
5:45-6:00pm	George Emilio Sanchez

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## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

# **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

## FUNDING

*BANG BANG GUN AMOK II* is funded by University Settlement, Abrons Arts Center, and a Kickstarter that met its goal!

We are thankful to the following Kickstarter contributors that could make this performance possible:

Kathy Westwater, Gerry Milligan, Sean O, Andrew Hsiao, Jonathan Cope, Andrea Hicks, Jenny Taylor, Jane Cho, Michael Batson, Alexandra Spencer, Alia Tyner, Jane Holzka, Peggy Cheng, Shelley Fidler, Trent Raynard, Raúl Martínez, Kristen Leonard, Kim Chan, John Lawrence, Mirella Alvarez-Raynard, Carissa Johnson, Peter & Jane Schneider, Jay Wallace + Myra Chow, Blanca Vazquez, Luke Elliott, Kyle Bergman, Anne Simons, Justin Raynard, Michelle Boulé, Jack Tilney, Brett, Diana Taylor, Leslie Weber, Jules Skloot, Rico Blancaflor, Barr Seitz, Vanessa Adato, Isabella Sazak, Bill Fraser, Alex Spieth, Shiela Dietz, Terry Nelidov, Lizette Colon, Marya Warshaw, Theodora Skipitares, Natalie Johnson, Nicholas Dimmitt, Ken Iwama, 888ism.e, Lynn Nottage, Jito Coleman, Caleb Hammond, Laura Doll, N. Bruce Duthu, Meryl Weinsaft Cooper, Chris Verene, Eli Janney, Penelope Lewis, Josh Christianson, Jamilyn Bailey, and Dede Hapner.

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## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

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## SPECIAL THANKS

George Emilio Sanchez wishes to thank **University Settlement** for housing and hosting this year's **Bang Bang Gun Amok II**. It is deeply meaningful to know there are institutions like University Settlement that understand and support endeavors such as this one. The 130 year history of the transformative practice and commitment of University Settlement only makes our performance filibuster feel right at home! It is an honor for us to be here.

I want to thank Alison Fleminger for her passionate commitment to support this project from the first mention. Alison is someone who knows all too well why artists, activists and community people need to foster working relationships to garner the collaborative practice called for in social justice and people sustainability.

I want to thank Emma Rivera for all her patience and detailed know-how in order to make this the kind of event everyone can truly enjoy to the fullest extent!

I want to thank Craig T. Peterson, Ali Rosa-Salas and everyone at Abrons Arts Center. Abrons has become my artistic home-within-a-home that has changed my vida loca. Craig is the first person who said, "*Let's do this!*" when I presented my 24-hour filibuster.

I want to thank Paul Deykerhoff of Penguin Random House-Putnam Books, Katie O'Donnell of Nation Books, and Jasmine Carlson of Graywolf Press for donating the book rewards for our Kickstarter.

I want to enthusiastically THANK all the Kickstarter supporters!!!! I detailed list of the supporters will follow.

I want to thank Reem Abdou for her DJ mixing and most especially for her unabashed support for this project.

I want to thank Mon Iker for her vision and inspiration in designing and installing the "*Gun Amok*" backdrop you see on the wall.

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## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

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## SPECIAL THANKS

I want to especially thank David Cole Wheeler from Newtown, Connecticut. His belief and support are beyond meaningful and his words never stop resonating.

I want to thank Karen Finley for asking me all her questions!

I want to deeply thank Elena Light and Rebecca Rad for Everything!!!! I simply could not have done this without their incredible skills, patience and shared commitment. No matter what I faced and how I felt, having these two artistic/creative colleagues and friends literally saved my life! I am forever grateful.

I want to sincerely thank all the participants for sharing their art, activism, experience and vision during this 24-hour performance filibuster. My vision is to create community space where people from all backgrounds and experiences, artists, activists, survivors, scholars, writers, and cultural and social justice workers can all share time and space to acknowledge trauma, grieve together, and dare to imagine how to cultivate compassion and a society that needs to honor and respect each individual in the name of peace and restorative justice.

— *George Emilio Sanchez*

GEORGE EMILIO SANCHEZ

## **BANG BANG GUN AMOK II**

# **ABOUT**

## THE PERFORMANCE PROJECT @ UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT

### **A Home for the Next Generation of Citizen Artists About The Performance Project @ University Settlement**

The Performance Project Since 2007, The Performance Project has been offering local young artists and professional emerging artists opportunities to connect, create and publicly present new work. We support artists who are interested in how live art can heal, empower and activate. The artists we work with commit to organizational and creative practices that promote trust, imagination and power-sharing. Our incubator for the next generation of citizen artists is fueled by our distinct, yet connected, cohorts: the Artist-in-Residency for Professional Emerging Artists and The Play Tank Fellowship for Young Adult Artists. We also host other community programs and dynamic guest artists seeking an affordable and supportive opportunity to self-produce their work.

To learn more about The Performance Project, please visit: [www.universitysettlement.org](http://www.universitysettlement.org)

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### **About the University Settlement A Smart Idea Can Make all the Difference**

More than 130 years ago, University Settlement launched an innovative movement that changed New York City and the country. With University Settlement leading, settlement houses established the idea that immigrants and low-income families deserve basic services like quality education, decent housing, access to open space for exercise and health, and support for the aging. They proved that with a little help, these families could get a foothold on the American dream. Providing social services that give families a helping hand has become part of our national fabric. University Settlement has continued to set the standard and invent best practices for others to follow in America.

Today, University Settlement has remained true to its first principle: to strengthen a community, you must strengthen families. And to strengthen a family, you must provide a range of services and support. Not just childcare. Not just after-school programs. Not just education for adults or meals for seniors. Providing integrated services that strengthen a whole family makes all the difference.

**University Settlement's approach to tackling poverty transforms families. One by one.**

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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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## Abrons Arts Center Henry Street Settlement

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# ABRONS FUNDING

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