

ABRONS
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SETTLEMENT
CENTER

NOV 14 - 16, 2019

What Time Is It?
It's Showtime NYC!

IT'S SHOWTIME NYC! **WHAT TIME IS IT?**

ARTISTIC DIRECTION
ADESOLA OSAKALUMI

CHOREOGRAPHY
**ADESOLA OSAKALUMI IN
COLLABORATION WITH
IT'S SHOWTIME NYC!**

VIDEO FOOTAGE
**ANTHONY "LAIDEN" JOHN
KASH GAINES**

VIDEO EDITING
KASH GAINES

DANCERS
**SHANGO "JUNGLE" BARTLEY
CHRISTOPHER "VENXM"
BRATHWAITE
QUINN "QU" BROWN
JOSEPH "KLASSIC" CARELLA
KESTER "FLEXX" ESTEPHANE
CHRISTIAN "VOLTAGE"
GOODMAN
ANTHONY "LAIDEN" JOHN
MARLON "QWESCHUN" JONES
ISRUEL "TALES" JULES
JONATHAN "SOHO"
MACDONALD
NAZIER "BLESS" MORALES
RHEANNA "WILDKARD" NANCE
AUBREY "SKI" PRIMUS
LETWAN "SMOOTH" RICKS
D'AMANI "MANO" SEALY
LUKE "ISO" VALLE
IBSAM "LOHSO" VELASQUEZ
DANA "LIONESS" WIENER**

PRODUCTION MANAGER,
WHAT TIME IS IT?
**CHRISTOPHER "VENXM"
BRATHWAITE**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
IT'S SHOWTIME NYC!
MAI LÊ HỒ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
DANCING IN THE STREETS
ERICA RUBEN

***What Time Is It?* features a collaboration between IST Dancers, videographer Kash Gaines and Artistic Director Adesola Osakalumi, inviting audiences to learn more about New York City through the embodiment of our city's own street dance culture.**

Brooklyn, Bronx, and Harlem-based dance forms such as flexN, hip hop and litefeet will serve as conduits to address themes of community, family, social justice as well as historical and emotional experiences. Equally raw, energetic and elegant, It's Showtime NYC's new production, will use video and street dance movement to share the voices and aesthetic innovations of New York City underground dancers in contemporary performance.

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CAST

Adesola Osakalumi

Adesola Osakalumi is an award-winning actor, choreographer, singer, and dancer whose talents have garnered him successes in film, television, and on Broadway. He is perhaps best recognized as lead in the National Tour & 2nd Broadway run of the Broadway hit musical *FELA!*, which won three Tony Awards. Additional Broadway credits: *Equus*. Off Broadway: *Syncing Ink* (*The Flea*), *In Your Arms* (*Old Globe*).

It was through dance that Ade made his first mark on the stage and has come to be regarded as a leader in the world of hip hop dance. He has the distinction of having Co-Created and Co-Directed the Off-Broadway hit *Jam on the Groove*, the first ever hip hop theater production. It received a Drama Desk Award nomination for Best Choreography. Ade is also Co-Founder of the legendary Ghetto Original Productions Dance Company. His work has earned him a Bessie Award and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Choreographic credits include the films *School of Rock* and *Marci X; Skeleton Crew* at Atlantic Theater, *Centrifugal Force* at Lincoln Center's *Out of Doors* (where he served as Artistic Director/Co-Choreographer); *Eyewitness Blues* for New York Theatre Workshop; *Mister* at the NY Fringe Festival and New York Theatre Workshop; and *Hip Hop Wonderland with Bill Irwin* at The New Victory Theatre. Adesola has also choreographed & danced in several commercials and upfronts for Target, American Express, Panasonic, PBS Kids, Old Navy, ESPN, Fox TV, Advil, Levi 501 Jeans, Halifax Bank, Merck, NV Energy, SAP, and several other companies worldwide.

Movement Director: *Cullud Wattah*, *Othello*. (The Public Theater) *Good Grief* (The Vineyard Theater): Off-Broadway: *runboyrun* & *In Old Age* (New York Theater Workshop). As an actor film: *The Cycle*, *Ibrahim*, *Sex and The City 2*, *Crazy Beats Strong*, *Enchanted*, *Across the Universe*, *Idlewild*, *School of Rock*. TV: "Ice." IG: @adesolaosakalumi.

Kash Gaines

Kash is a dancer, host, filmmaker and co-founder of YAK Films. He has been traveling the world filming street

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dance, studying new dance styles and hosting the “Yak Like You Know” show (YLYK) which features new dancers, original styles, fresh music and epic events. YAK Films is a media crew that covers street dance events worldwide, founded in East Oakland, California in 2008. The original crew met at the Youth UpRising Community Center, where they began working with a local street dance crew called the Turf Feinz. It started when one of their videos commemorating the loss of a dancer’s brother went viral online. They then went looking for other street dance styles and events where dancers would battle each other for money, respect and glory. YAK is dedicated to bringing together quality local visuals, up and coming music artists and the best street dance talent to serve a growing global audience. IG: kashofyak.

Shango “Jungle” Bartley

Shango Bartley, also known as Jungle, is a New York based dancer from North Carolina who specializes in house dance and hip-hop. Winner of Battles House of Exile 2018 at Terminal 5, Behind the Groove Times Square edition, Battle 101, and NYC Jacks to name a few. Using the knowledge he’s gained over the years he teaches house and hip hop at numerous domestic and international studios such as EXPG, Peridance, Global Studios, Vigo Studios, and Stylos Dance Academy. Bringing the street to the studio he beautifully combines movement with expression to create a unique and captivating experience.

IG: @jung.el.

Christopher “Venxm” Brathwaite, Tourism/Production Manager for It’s Showtime NYC!

Venxm is a 24 year old street dancer out of Brooklyn, New York. He started dancing at the age of 15 in his high school. Venxm has performed in plays under the program called The Possibility Project. He later began street performing with It’s Showtime NYC! in Battery Park. Soon after he began to perform with It’s Showtime NYC! members at venues such as Jacob’s Pillow, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Summerstage. Venxm also had the opportunity to teach in both New York and Paris (Lycée Turgot, Lax Studio, Jacob’s Pillow, PS10 and MS343). Venxm has appeared on TV and print media platforms, starring in commercials, music videos and international television shows (News 12, Pix 11, the New York Times, & Pizza Dance Commercial). IG:

@__Venxm__

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Quinn "Qu-Tip" Brown

Qu, 27, is a Litefeet dancer, who started dancing when he was at Martin Luther King Jr. High School in Manhattan. After school, he went to CityKids Foundation, a program for social services and the arts in TriBeCa. This is where Qu started taking dance seriously - litefeet and bonebreaking/contortion specifically. Other dancers taught him how to train, in the generous, sharing spirit that is part of the hip-hop community. Qu danced in battles and on the trains 20 to 30 hours a week, while studying graphic arts at the Borough of Manhattan Community College in TriBeCa for 1 ½ years. He joined Team Rocket, and the Breakfast Club, a Litefeet organization, where he met dancers he had first seen on YouTube, like Chrybaby, Esolo, Mr Jones, Swiss etc. A friend named Bad Day introduced him to It's Showtime NYC!, and for the past five years, Qu also teaches hip-hop classes to first through fifth-graders, as part of an after-school program under New York City's Department of Health. He also does catering, and is the father of a little girl, now 3. For Qu, dancing is a way of life. IG: @makaveli_qu.

Joseph "Klassic" Carella

Klassic grew up in the streets of Brooklyn, NY. He strives to make a difference within the community as well as the world. With the style formally known as "Flexn" (a Reggae/ Dancehall based style that was created in Brooklyn), he has premiered in shows such as So You Think You Can Dance, Showtime at the Apollo, Breakin Convention (2015 & 2017), Coachella: Beyonce, World Of Dance, Alvin Ailey, Park Avenue Armory, Circus du Soleil and many many more. Bringing this style to different platforms has enabled him to reach well beyond his limits. This is just the beginning for him as he plans to become greater at his craft & inspire "Flexn" around the world. IG: @klassiccarrellaofficial

Kester "Flexx" Estephane

Flexx is an all-styles freestyle dancer and hip-hop choreographer from Brooklyn, New York. He started his dance journey in 2008 at the age of 15 in high school. During the years of 2011-'14 Flexx used his skills

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and knowledge of dance to curate performances on his own and then with his dance crew Stylz Enuff (All Stars Talent Network, Brooklyn Museum First Saturdays). Flexx along with Stylz Enuff joined It's Showtime NYC! in 2015 as street dancers to the program. Since 2016, Flexx has been leading most of the practices for IST performances and speaking on behalf of It's Showtime NYC! as a representative of the worth of the program and the improvements it has made on his life. Some of his work since joining IST include a short film done by Brandon Bloch and Tim Sessler titled *Erosion*, has a mainstay with Little Cinema at the House of Yes, performed at Summerstage, El museo Del Barrio, NYC Supreme Court House, River to River Festival, Crossing the Lines Festival, Boogie on the Boulevard, Jacobs Pillow, FIAF and most recently The Metropolitan Museum of Art. IG: @Flexx_wit2x

Christian "Voltage" Goodman

Christian Goodman, also known as Voltage, 27 years old, was born in New Orleans, LA. Voltage has been a hip hop freestyle dancer for almost 15 years. He has performed in talent shows, dance battles, freestyle cyphers, and even applied his freestyle dance talent for company advertisements. Voltage also has creative choreographic experience from working with local music artists in cities such as Houston, Atlanta, and New York City. When performing, Voltage shows off a unique skill in speed and control, while alternating between the rhythm of lyrics and sounds that stand out in music. Giving audiences the impression that he is dancing the way electricity flows within music. IG: @Voltagegoodman.

Anthony "Laiden" John

Originating from Brooklyn, New York, Anthony John also known as "Laiden" is a multi-styled dancer with training in hip-hop, popping, and flexing. Laiden has been a dancer in It's Showtime NYC! since 2015. With the group, he has performed at SummerStage NYC, Times Squares Art Alliance as part of the Crossing The Line Festival, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Jacob's Pillow, the Barnes Foundation, Gibney, Weeksville Heritage Center with Faustin Linyekula & Moya Michael, The Kitchen with Nora Chipaumire, the NYS Civil Court, Roberto Clemente Plaza, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Museo Del Barrio, among others. Laiden had the opportunity to travel to Paris for a street dance exchange at La Place - Centre Hip-Hop in late 2017. He

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is also a member of the Brooklyn-based dance crew "StylzEnuff". IG: @Laiden_of_sedc.

Marlon "Qweschun" Jones

Qweschun is a 21 year old Brooklyn, New York native who has many styles capped by the main style of waving. He has danced with YouTube at Rockefeller Center, at Jacob's Pillow, the Barnes Foundation, SummerStage, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Weeksville Heritage Center with Faustin Linyekula & Moya Michael, The Kitchen with Nora Chipaumire, among other notable performances. He is an ICAT alum at Gibney Dance. IG: @Qweschun.

Isryel "Tales" Jules

Currently 24 years old, Tales started dancing in high school at age 16. During that time he performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC for 3 consecutive years for DC Capps choreographed by Shawn Cosby. He came to NYC when he was 18. Since then he has joined the dance company It's Showtime NYC! with which he has performed in festivals such as The Crossing the Line Festival, Jacob's Pillow, SummerStage. In 2017, he also performed with Faustin Linyekula for the royal family in Amsterdam at the "Prince Claus Awards." He also traveled to Paris to train and perform at Centre National de la Danse. With IST, Tales has performed at the NYS Civil Court, and has been an artist in residence at Gibney Dance Center and currently the Metropolitan Museum of Art. During this time he created his own dance style called "Spiritual Empathy" which is his own personal style of dance. IG: @Tales_ptg.

Jonathan "Soho" Macdonald, Social media manager for It's Showtime NYC!

Jonathan Macdonald, a flexN dancer also known as "Soho" began his dancing career 6 years ago. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY he was inspired by the many street dance styles and cultures. In his 6 years as a professional dancer, he has won over 20 battles, including 10 national battles (including World Of Dance 16', World Of Dance 18', Battlefest, Off The Grid, Round of flamez, Drip Boston tournament). He has also toured internationally, performing in four different countries (China, Japan, Trinidad and Brazil) where he has taught workshops and classes in his style, known as FlexN.

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Since joining It's Showtime NYC, Soho has danced at venues and festivals such as Jacob's Pillow, the Barnes Foundation, Gibney, Ocupacao Demistifique (Rio), Weeksville Heritage Center with Faustin Linyekula & Moya Michael. Soho's signature technique is characterized by tutting, gliding, body movement, and bone breaking. He has been influenced by dancers and friends such as Story Board P, Strobe, Intricate, Krow, Havoc, Bones, and Tee Dot. Push past your limits. IG: @Highlife_soho.

Nazier "Bless" Morales

For Bless, a 19 year-old Brooklyn native, dancing is profoundly personal. Bless first started dancing when he was 12, in a friend's backyard. He danced in middle school and began to find his style. He now specializes in the FlexN subgenre called Get Low. With IST, Bless has had the opportunity to perform at Jacob's Pillow, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, SummerStage, Madison Square Park, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Weeksville Heritage Center, Gibney, the Barnes Foundation. Lately you may have seen him on Times Square billboards for a NYC Marathon promotional video. IG: @world_of_bless.

Rheanna "Wiildkard" Nance

Rhea Nance, Associate Administrative Director of It's Showtime NYC!, also known as "WiildKard," grew up in Chicago where she attended school and began her foundation in boogaloo, Chicago house, New Jack Swing and juke. When she was 19, classic movies like "Beat Street" and "Breakin" inspired her to move to New York. Later she would join a street dance team 'hitting' in Union Square. She used the money to earned her Associates in Healthcare. In 2017, she put all her efforts into her dance career and serving the needs of "IST." Since then her resume has grown tremendously. Her most noteworthy accomplishments and performances were in Paris teaching and exchanging American Dance Culture at various events, Jacob's Pillow, Weeksville Heritage Center with Faustin Linyekula & Moya Michael, SummerStage, The Kitchen with Nora Chipaumire, DiP artist in residence at Gibney Dance Studio, and serving a key role as the sole female performer at "IST's" ongoing MET performances dancing in replica armor. IG: @_Wiildkard_

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Aubrey "Ski" Primus

Ski is not just a nickname. It signifies the way he wants to dance, with the effortless, gliding movements of a downhill skier or snowboarder. The Brooklyn-based dancer specializes in FlexN, a style derived from Jamaican bruk-up. Ski has been dancing ever since he was a boy, despite his parents' disapproval. His mother could not see how he could support himself dancing. He made money by doing demolition and construction, and now sells clothing, does online trading in currencies, and has had a few modeling gigs. Since joining It's Showtime NYC! In 2018, Ski has had the opportunity to perform at the Red Hook festival, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gibney, Abrons Arts Center, and has been seen on Times Square billboards for a New Balance collaboration with the NYC Marathon. Ski would like to see everyone dance: "If you can walk, if you can laugh, you can dance". IG: @k_zoe_prime.

Letwan "Smooth" Ricks

Letwan Ricks also known as Smooth was born in Manhattan and raised in Brooklyn NYC. He specializes in a Jamaica-inspired dance style called Flexin. Letwan did his first performance in Von King Park in 2012. In 2013 he decided to travel to dance competitions to test his skills against the best in the country. Soon after Letwan became a street performer. In 2016 he got introduced to It's Showtime NYC!, a program that provides professional development and performance opportunities to street and subway dancers. With them, he has performed as a dancer and emcee in free public performances in city parks, festivals, museums, schools, and community centers throughout New York City such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, SummerStage, FIAF, Madison Square Park, Bronx Museum of the Arts. In September 2017, he was in residency with Congolese and South African choreographers Faustin Linyekula and Moya Michael for performances at Weeksville Heritage Center and Roberto Clemente Plaza as part of **Crossing the Line Festival**. Letwan also teaches adults, and youth in detention centers around NYC. IG: @Smooth540.

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D'amani "Mano" Sealy

D'amani Sealy is a 21 year old member of It's Showtime NYC! He started taking dancing seriously at the age of 17. Before joining IST, D'amani performed with The Possibility Project, a program that brings together young people from all five boroughs of New York, to perform plays showcasing the side of teenagers lives that wasn't being spoken about in their own lives until they came to the stage, so that those unknown feelings could be expressed in a positive way. Being on stage became a new love that D'amani continued to nurture while being apart of IST, performing in festivals and venues all across New York (Bronx Museum of Arts, Times Square), in Philadelphia (Barnes Foundation), and in Massachusetts (Jacob's Pillow). He cherishes not only the performance opportunities but also the Q&A that sometimes take place after the show, as an additional way to connect with the audience with honesty and authenticity. IG: @dimthelightssss.

Luke "Iso" Valle

Luke Christopher Valle Aka (iso) is a dancer from Brooklyn NY with a variety of styles such as brukup, flexn, etc. He first started dancing when he was five years old. When Luke was thirteen years old he began watching Les Twins dance to learn the new style of hip hop. Luke then met up with some friends after a competition in Manhattan called NY LINK. A few months later Luke joined a company called It's Showtime NYC! in 2017, and he began his career with the style of flexN, which originates from the streets of East NY. Luke has performed in The Met Museum and has participated in many competitions such as the NY Link competition. IG: @Iso_the_gr8.

Ibsam "Lohso" Velasquez

LOHSO is a hip-hop dancer, and aspiring record producer. He was born and raised in the 'boogie down Bronx', as a result he was exposed early on in life to hip hop culture. He is now a veteran member of a "LiteFeet" dance crew known as 'BrotherHood'. Lohso has performed in various events and venues such as the "Harlem Eatup! Festival", the "Brooklyn Hiphop Festival", and performing numerous times at the "Exile Professional Gym" (EXPG). LOHSO is also a pioneer of the Harlem based dance style known as 'LiteFeet', and has been sharing knowledge of his culture with everyone he meets and has traveled around the US,

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performing and teaching classes in states such as: Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan. LOHSO has recently taken an interest in music production and is being taught by a culturally notable Litefeet producer 'BSNYEA'. Both are currently collaborating on new projects to prospectively produce numerous new litefeet tracks to add to the massive library of litefeet music being produced today. Today he is one of It's Showtime NYC's newest members as he continues working hard to make his dream a reality.

IG: @1ohso.

Dana "Lioness" Weiner

Dana "Lioness" Wiener is a New York City based dancer, choreographer, Creative & Movement Director. She has been passionate about dance all her life beginning training at a young & eventually leading her at fourteen to Joffrey Ballet School's Jazz & Contemporary Program & at seventeen to LA based company Dana Foglia Dance's three month mentorship program. She has intensity trained in a variety of classical, modern, post modern, jazz, improv & street styles as well as dance history, acting, & composition. Currently Lioness has been focusing her time on exploring her freestyle while training in a variety of street styles but primarily hip hop & krump, as well as battling. She has worked with the choreographic likes of Jonna Numata, Lauren Cox, Tweet Boogie, Soraya Lundy, & Frankie "Francoth3artist" Gordils to name a few. She has also assisted the likes of Lauren Cox, Emily Buffard, Joanna Numata, Miguel Zarate, Frankie "Francoth3artist" Gordils, & Brian Henry "Hallow Dreamz" to name a few. She has worked with artists such as Ariana & The Rose, A-Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, Lil Mo, Lion Babe, Trey Songz, & 50 Cent as well as brands like Swarovski, Golden Goose, & Foot Locker to name a few. She is also a member of Hallow Dreamz's Dreamz Fam (where she holds the title of "Lady Hallow") & of a new New York City based crew The VSCENDVNTS. Most recently, Lioness battled at Red Bull Dance Your Style Boston & the National Finals in Las Vegas. She hopes to inspire other young girls to krump & get into the battle scene. IG: @dana_lioness.

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CREW

Mai Lê Hô, Program Director, It's Showtime NYC!

Mai Lê is an arts educator, choreographer, dj, curator who relocated to Brooklyn in 2009. As a dancer in Rennie Harris PureMovement, Passion Fruit Dance Company and Theo Parrish Live Band, Mai Lê has performed and/or taught in Japan, Vietnam, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Canada and across Europe and the USA. In 2015 Mai Le founded LayeRhythm, a monthly jam session that brings live musicians to collaborate with street/club dancers (representing flexN, litefeet, house dance, Chicago footwork, Detroit jit, locking...). The NY Times says of LayeRhythm... "Imagine an improv comedy show where dancing, not laughs, is the currency. Then imagine a musicians' jam session where the band is compelled to keep the dancers' pace instead of the other way around...what's distinct about LayeRhythm is the way it bridges the two groups with crowd participation."

In 2012-2014 Mai Lê co-produced the USA division of Juste Debout, the international street dance competition that brings highly developed dancers to audiences worldwide. Currently, Mai Lê is the Program Director of It's Showtime NYC!, a program that celebrates NYC street culture and provides performance and professional development opportunities to street and subway dancers.

@MaiLeGrooves.

Erica Ruben, Executive Director, Dancing in the Streets

For 10 years Erica was the Executive Producer of Central Park SummerStage where she launched a dance commission program, global culture education and electronic music series. She produced hundreds of free public programs featuring modern and street dance forms, American and world music, opera, performance art, spoken word and children's programs to millions of New Yorkers. After SummerStage, Erica produced a multi award-winning nightclub party Deep Space, for 15 years which brought together dj's, live musicians, poets and dancers in a unique format. Currently, Erica is the Director of a new foundation in support of house music, dance and culture. She has lectured extensively worldwide, and recently completed a

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certificate in Creative Placemaking, with a focus on NYC's nightlife. She has a BA with honors from Vassar College with a major in Film/Drama.

It's Showtime NYC!

It's Showtime NYC! (IST) celebrates New York City street culture and provides performance and professional development opportunities to street and subway dancers as a legal alternative to dancing in subway cars.

It's Showtime NYC! in only its 4th year of activity with now more than 35 members, has become one of the largest street dance companies in New York City. A program of Dancing in the Streets to celebrate New York City street culture, the group provides performance and professional development opportunities to street and subway dancers as a legal alternative to dancing in subway cars. Led and managed by the dancers themselves, It's Showtime NYC! has created a number of pieces and commissioned major new works from international dance makers such as Anne Nguyen (Paris) and Faustin Linyekula (Congo). The group recently was resident at the MET Museum's 2018-2019 #MeLiveArts season, and has been invited to perform at Summerstage, Jacobs Pillow, The Civil Court of New York State, Crossing the Line Festival, Barnes Foundation, Madison Square Park, The South Bronx Culture Trail, Bronx Museum of the Arts, River to River Festival, Times Square, Weeksville Heritage Center and the Roberto Clemente Plaza. They performed the inaugural season of the Shed in August. Program members participated in cultural exchanges at La Place - Centre Culturel Hip-Hop and Centre National de la Danse (Paris), and in Rio de Janeiro for Ocupação Desmistificue. In 2018 dancers were Gibney's DiP Artist-in-residence.

What Time Is It? FUNDING

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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.

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. And get a discount when you bring this program!



Abrons Arts Center at Henry Street Settlement

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