

ABRONS
ARTS HENRY STREET
CENTER SETTLEMENT

MAY 20 - 22, 2021

Gloria

Molly Lieber and Eleanor Smith

MOLLY LIEBER AND ELEANOR SMITH **GLORIA**

CHOREOGRAPHED
AND PERFORMED BY
**MOLLY LIEBER AND
ELEANOR SMITH**

LIGHTING DESIGN BY
THOMAS DUNN

SOUND DESIGN BY
JAMES LO

***Gloria* is choreographed and performed by Molly Lieber and Eleanor Smith. This piece was made amidst the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020.**

Gloria is a feminist work continuing Lieber and Smith's fifteen-year choreographic partnership in using abstract dance as a means to break down patriarchal systems of female degradation through physical objectification. As objects of this work, the artists position themselves as recognizable images of female objectification, only to deconstruct and reconstitute these forms through embodied movement and connection. Within this arena of deeply understood femininity and friendship, images dissolve as feelings communicate viscerally. *Gloria* is explicit, speaking through the voice of women forced to identify with society's framing as "already been f*#cked." Dance, however, provides these women a different narrative, sculpted by them through the potentiality of their own bodies and as authors of their own work. In an age of grief, this performance focuses on the glory of survival, shining through tits and ass to show spine and uterus.

ABOUT **Gloria**

Molly Lieber and Eleanor Smith have been making dances in New York since 2006. Recent works include: *Gloria* (Abrons Arts Center, 2021), *Body Comes Apart* (New York Live Arts, 2019, Documented by The New York Public Library, Jerome Robbins Dance Division and remounted for Live Artery, January 2020), *Basketball* (PS122 and Baryshnikov Arts Center for COIL 2017), *Rude World* (PS122 and The Chocolate Factory Theater for COIL 2015), *Tulip* (Roulette, 2013; Judson Now at Danspace Project, 2012), and *Beautiful Bone* (The Chocolate Factory Theater, 2012). Residencies and awards: 2021 Jerome Hill Fellowship Finalists, 2021/2022 Artists in Residence at Movement Research, 2020/2021 Jerome Foundation AIRSpace Residency at Abrons Art Center, FCA Emergency Grant for *Basketball* 2019, 2019 BACSpace Residency at Baryshnikov Art Center, 2018 Family Residency at Mt. Tremper Arts, 2018 Bessie Schonberg Fellows at The Yard, 2018 DiP Residency Artists at Gibney, Featured as one of Alastair Macaulay's "Best Dance of 2017" in The New York Times for *Basketball*, 2016 LMCC Process Space Residency, 2015 Rosas Summer Studios Recipient, PS122's 2014/2015 RAMP Artist, 2014 BACSpace Residency at Baryshnikov Art Center, 2013 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award Nomination for Emerging Choreographer, and the 2013 NYFA Fellow Finalist Award. Molly and Eleanor were Guest Artists at Connecticut College in 2015, co-taught at Sarah Lawrence in the Spring of 2018, and at The New School in Fall of 2019. Look for their next piece, commissioned by Baryshnikov Arts Center in December. mollyandleanor.com

Molly Lieber performed recently in works by luciana achugar, Oren Barnoy, Wally Cardona, Keely Garfield, Neil Greenberg, Maria Hassabi, Jennifer Lacey, Juliette Mapp, Melinda Ring, Brian Rogers, and Donna Uchizono. Some of these artists she has worked for extensively--luciana achugar since 2012, Keely Garfield since 2013, and Donna Uchizono since 2014. Molly received a 2016 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Performance and is pictured on the March 2016 cover of Dance Magazine's Issue on "New York's Freelance Dance Stars." She teaches at Movement Research and is a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC), working with new parents in NYC. Molly has two daughters, Ruby, 3 years, and Gloria, 3 months.

ABOUT **Gloria**

Eleanor Smith is a choreographer, freelance dancer, and Authentic Movement practitioner. She has performed in the works of Ivy Baldwin Dance since 2009, Molly Poerstel since 2013, and Katie Workum Dance since 2013. Eleanor has also performed in the works of Vanessa Anspaugh, Anna Azrieli, Levi Gonzalez, Juliana F. May, and robbinschilds. She is a founding member of the Authentic Movement collective DUVET and has been improvising all her life.

Thomas Dunn designs lighting throughout US and abroad. Gloria is Thomas' third production with Molly and Eleanor, previously Body Comes Apart and Basketball. Other selected design credits includes works with; Wally Cardona, Steve Cosson, Annie Dorsen, DD Dorvillier, Daniel Fish, Beth Gill, Trajal Harrell, Jennifer Lacey, Noémie Lafrance, David Levine, Tina Satter, Ong Keng Sen, and Jay Scheib. Thomas is the recipient of a Kevin Kline Award for Outstanding Lighting Design, The Little Dog Laughed, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis as well as a Bessie Design Award, Nottthing Is Importanttt, DD Dorvillier/human future dance corps.

James Lo (sound design) is a product of suburban Detroit, the New England Conservatory, and Columbia University. He has created scores for choreographers Oren Barnoy, Neil Greenberg, Elena Demyanenko, Katie Workum, Heather Olson, Mei-Yin Ng, Sarah Michelson, Maria Hassabi, Jennifer Monson, Levi Gonzalez, Ralph Lemon, RoseAnne Spradlin, and Lucy Guerin among others. As a younger man, he received New York Dance and Performance (BESSIE) Awards for John Jasperse's furnished/unfurnished and for Donna Uchizono's State of Heads, and was named one of Treblezine.com's 50 favorite drummers for his work with the bands Chavez and Live Skull. In addition to sound design, Lo has worked as an embedded systems engineer for Robert Ashley, Elizabeth Streb, and David Behrman, and as an enterprise software consultant for many major financial services and life sciences companies.

Gloria FUNDING

Gloria is commissioned by the Abrons Arts Center through the Performance AIRspace Residency, which is supported by the Jerome Foundation.

The 2020-2021 Season at Abrons Arts Center is supported, in part, by generous grants from the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Jerome Foundation, the Scherman Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, 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 and support from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Gloria was supported by a residency at Mount Tremper Arts.

Gloria SPECIAL THANKS

Molly and Eleanor would like to thank the following people:

Our amazing crew of Patrick, Griffyd, and Sarazina for making the show actually happen.

James Lo thank you for all you do, and maybe this is your piece.

Thomas Dunn for doing such beautiful work.

Oren Barnoy, for making it all possible. And from Molly: for being my family, I love you.

Board Members Justin Ternullo, Tricia Kayiatos-Smith, Kelly Washburn, Katie Workum—thank you for your input and support.

Fran Kirmser for helping us start a non-profit.

Craig, Ali, Violet, Jon, and the rest of the Abrons Staff for staying with us this year and having the bravery to put on a live show.

Paul Hamilton for watching and feedback and being a wonderful friend.

Rena, mayfield, and Tess for your camaraderie.

Katie Workum for the use of space.

Carter and the rest of the Mt. Tremper staff for making the residency happen.

The individuals who have donated to our organization over the past year, we are incredibly grateful, thank you.

And finally, to all the audience for showing up. Thank you for being here with us. We are grateful.

MOLLY LIEBER AND ELEANOR SMITH **GLORIA**

Gloria CONNECT

<https://www.mollyandeleonor.com/>

From Molly and Eleanor

Thank you so much for making the effort to come to our show tonight.
We are grateful to you and for being together again after such a long time.

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, housing status, 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

466 Grand Street, New York City 10002
212.598.0400 • abronsartscenter.org
Social: [@abronsartscenter](https://twitter.com/abronsartscenter) & [#AbronsArtsCenter](https://twitter.com/AbronsArtsCenter)
Email: audienceservices@abronsartscenter

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