

D.I.R.T. Festival 2019: *storm SURGE*  
March 9-17, 2019  
<https://dancemissiontheater.org/>

**DANCE  
MISSION  
THEATER**  
3316 24<sup>th</sup> Street-SF

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**Krissy Keefer, D.I.R.T. Curator**, is the founder and Artistic Director of Dance Brigade and Grrrl Brigade. She is an award-winning dancer/choreographer with 40 years of experience and has built Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater into a thriving professional dance/arts center with a range of programs serving multicultural adult and youth students, artists and audiences. She is a long-time Mission resident.

**Stella Adelman, D.I.R.T. Curator**, is a Mission District native and current resident. She has extensive experience producing Festivals such as the CubaCaribe Festival of Dance and Music, works with Carnaval SF, is a dancer with a Cuban folklore focus, and is a dance studio and former classroom teacher. She holds a Bachelors in World Arts and Cultures from UCLA and a Masters in Education from Pace University.

### PROGRAM A - March 9-10

**Tigre Bailando** is a multi-disciplinary artist born and raised in Philadelphia, now based in Oakland, California. Bailando's installation work has been featured at art and music festivals across the globe, including [Lightning in a Bottle](#), Envision Festival, [Electric Forest Festival](#) and [Rainbow Serpent Festival](#). He performs interactive mask theater on city streets across the world and teaches mask-making and performance techniques to students from pre-school to adulthood. Bailando is also a core member of the butoh inspired performance company [Bad Unkl Sista](#).

**BoomShake Music** is a multicultural music and storytelling program for all ages run by a collective of community-oriented artists. BoomShake changes the world one drum beat and song breath at a time by training women, trans and gender nonconforming folks to drum in the streets for our collective healing, survival and resistance; supporting fatigued parents to sing long-forgotten songs in their mother tongue with their children; and exploring stories and imagination with young people while playing funky beats as an ensemble.  
<http://www.boomshakemusic.com>

**Danza Contacto Puerto Rico** started January 2014 and is a collaboration between Maidelise Ríos Medina, Rosa Lina Lima and Verónica E. Rodríguez Ojeda. In cooperation with other artists, they organize and facilitate contact improvisations workshops with a pedagogical, technical and artistic focus.

**Sammay Dizon** is a choreographer/producer and interdisciplinary performing artist of Kapampangan, Ilokano and Bikol descent who envisions a future in which our indigenous traditions co-exist with(in) our urban landscapes. Founding Artistic Director of URBAN x INDIGENOUS, she has been featured in Dance Mission Theater's D.I.R.T. Dance In Revolt(ing) Times Festival, Blessed Unrest: Arts and Social Justice Festival, Red Poppy Art House and A/P/A Institute at NYU, among others. She recently returned from an inter-island tour through Hawai'i with intercultural contemporary artist collective, I Moving Lab, and a solo immersion tour through her ancestral land, the Philippines. SAMMAY is a three-time recipient of the "Presented by APICC" Artist award, APAture 2016: Performing Arts Featured Artist, and Performing Diaspora 2016 Artist-in-Residence at CounterPulse. [www.sammaydizon.com](http://www.sammaydizon.com).

**Hien Huynh** was born in Da Nang, Vietnam. Through embodied practices, Hien endeavors to seek understanding of the inner self to deepen awareness and open the heart for human compassion. He has performed in the works of Lenora Lee Dance, Kim Epifano, Robert Moses' Kin, Kinetech Arts, PUSH Dance Company, Deborah Slater Dance Theater, The MoveMessenger(s) and punkkiCo.

**Halau 'O Kawainuhi** was established in 2002 by Kumu (teacher) Kau'i Peralto to protect and perpetuate the integrity of Hawaiian cultural traditions. Kumu Kau'i is a native Hawaiian traditionalist and cultural practitioner whose primary focus is teaching and sharing the culture through hula, which includes *mele* (songs, poetry), *oli* (chant), *mo'olelo* (storytelling), *'lelo* (language), *mo'oku'auhau* (genealogy), and *hana no'eau* (arts & crafts).

**Patrick Makuakāne**, director of Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu, is a creative force in the hula world, and is well known for his innovative choreography. His work is grounded in the traditions and fundamentals of hula, and he labors to keep traditional dances intact as they have been for generations. He has also developed a unique style of hula (called hula mua) that uses modern music to provide a whole new dimension to the poetry of hula. Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i, Makuakāne studied with some of Hawai'i's most recognized hula masters, including John Keola Lake and Robert Cazimero. In 2000, he began intensive traditional studies with hula master Mae Kamāmalu Klein in Hawai'i and, after three years, achieved the recognized status of kumu hula (hula master). This achievement culminated in a traditional 'uniki 'ailolo graduation ceremony and connects Makuakāne to a hula lineage stretching back for generations. Makuakāne has received numerous awards for his choreography, including several Isadora Duncan Dance Awards, a lifetime achievement award from the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival in 2006 and the 2018 Artistic Legacy Grant from the San Francisco Arts Commission. <http://naleihulu.org/dance-company/>

Based in Riverside, CA, **Primera Generación Dance Collective**, formed by Alfonso Cervera, Rosa Rodriguez-Frazier, Irvin Manuel Gonzalez and Patricia Huerta, focuses on the visibilization of Mexican American corporeality through movement-based exploration, process and performance. Educated and trained through graduate studies at the University of California Riverside, the Collective finds its roots in experimental choreography and research focussing on Mexican American identity and its many marginalized connections. Utilizing a pastiche quality of text, satire, song and movement (comprised of improvisation, postmodern, contemporary and Mexican social/folk forms) the Collective fuses together their eclectic aesthetics to expose *e/ desmadre*, or messiness, that is their first generation, Mexican American experience. Primera Generación has recently performed at REDCAT Theatre in Los Angeles, HomeLA, Bootleg Theatre, Human Resources Center in Chinatown, CMDC's 3rd Anniversary Showcase at

Brocckus Space, BEHOLD Queer Fest at Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica and Berkeley Art Museum. <https://www.facebook.com/primerageneraciondance/>

**Yayoi Kambara**, Director of KAMBARA + DANCERS, was born in Japan and has been a Bay Area Artist since 2000. She was a company member with ODC/Dance under the direction of Brenda Way and KT Nelson for 12 years before forming KAMBARA + DANCERS in 2015. <http://www.kambaraplus.org/home>

## **PROGRAM B - March 16-17**

**Chris Babingui** was born in Enyelle in Congo. At the age of five, he learned the ndombolo and other traditional dances of Congo through the imitation of his elders. After completing his secondary education in 2006, Babingui started his artistic career dancing hip-hop with the group, Boom Danger of Massamba Brunel (aka "Flash"). He has worked and toured internationally in Africa and Europe after joining the Studio Maho, directed by choreographer Florent Mahoukou. He co-directs the Mbongui Square Festival.

**bananarama** is a movement-based art collective with a focus on collaboration and the disruption of Western dance norms. Bananarama is four culturally diverse and queer movers who value social justice-based art making above all else. Their work discusses race, gender, sexuality, and sex. They enjoy movement that derives from "taboo" places on the body, such as the breasts and genitals, with an aim to destigmatize these places. Lately they have been leaning towards movement that is highly sexual, jarring, and confrontational.

**Kerensa DeMars** is a San Francisco based flamenco dancer, choreographer and instructor. Known for her unique synthesis of flamenco and Middle Eastern dance, she has performed internationally at venues including London's Royal Festival Hall, Teatro Calderón of Madrid, Tivoli Theater in Barcelona and San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts. DeMars is the artistic director of the San Francisco Flamenco Dance Company which presented the premiere of *5xLorca* at the San Francisco International Arts Festival in May 2018. <http://www.kerensademars.com>

**Krissy Keefer** is the Founder and Artistic Director of Dance Brigade and Grrrl Brigade and Co-curator with Stella Adelman of D.I.R.T. Keefer explores the intersection between art and social issues with fierce inventiveness and a deft comic touch. Coming out of the legendary Wallflower Order (founded in 1975), she has honed her craft over the last 40 years by creating content driven choreographies that are a high-energy blend of ballet, modern dance, jazz, song, text, sign language and explosive Taiko drumming.

**Kyle Limin** is a Bay Area based instructor, choreographer and dancer who contributes to schools, studios and outreach programs. His teaching methods (for any age or level) incorporate a balance of playful exercises and focused study of composition in order to encourage a student's creativity under the challenge of structure. Limin's classes uses movement as a medium to build listening skills, confidence, creativity and teamwork. He teaches at Nor Cal Dance Arts, City Dance, and LINES Ballet.

**Charlotte Moraga, Artistic Director of Chitresh Das Institute**, began her study of kathak with Pandit Chitresh Das in 1992 and joined the Chitresh Das Dance Company in 1996. She has

been a principal dancer and solo artist in his award-winning works and she performed her first kathak solo in 2002. Moraga has performed internationally; some of her most notable performances include the Bali Arts Festival in Denpasar, Bali, the American Dance Festival, and Shaniwarwada Festival in Pune, India. <https://www.chitreshdasinstitute.org>

**Javier Stell-Fresquez** (Piru and Tigua Pueblo Native American) studied at Stanford University. Stell-Fresquez's dance training ranges from vogue to flamenco, ballet folklórico Mexicano to contemporary. For the last six years he has performed with Dancing Earth Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations. He has also trained/performed with Cherrie Moraga and Guillermo Gomez-Peña. Stell-Fresquez works with the Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits Powwow and with The Cultural Conservancy's Guardians of the Water Youth Internship.

Performer, choreographer, organizer, and creative change-maker, **Keisha Turner** has Chicago and Brooklyn roots, and is based in Oakland, CA. She is a former touring company member with critically acclaimed dance company, Urban Bush Women, and has performed with Deep Waters Dance Theater, ABD Productions, Notoriety Variety and many others. She is thrilled to now make soul-stirring magick as a performer with Embodiment Project. Turner's artistic practice activates ancient Afro-diasporic cultural wisdom and reimagines it in a contemporary context to conjure radical liberation. Her creative enterprise, EarthChild, is a collection of love-offerings comprised of performance, yoga classes and body care products to celebrate, heal and uplift those at the margins. <http://www.iamearthchild.com>

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