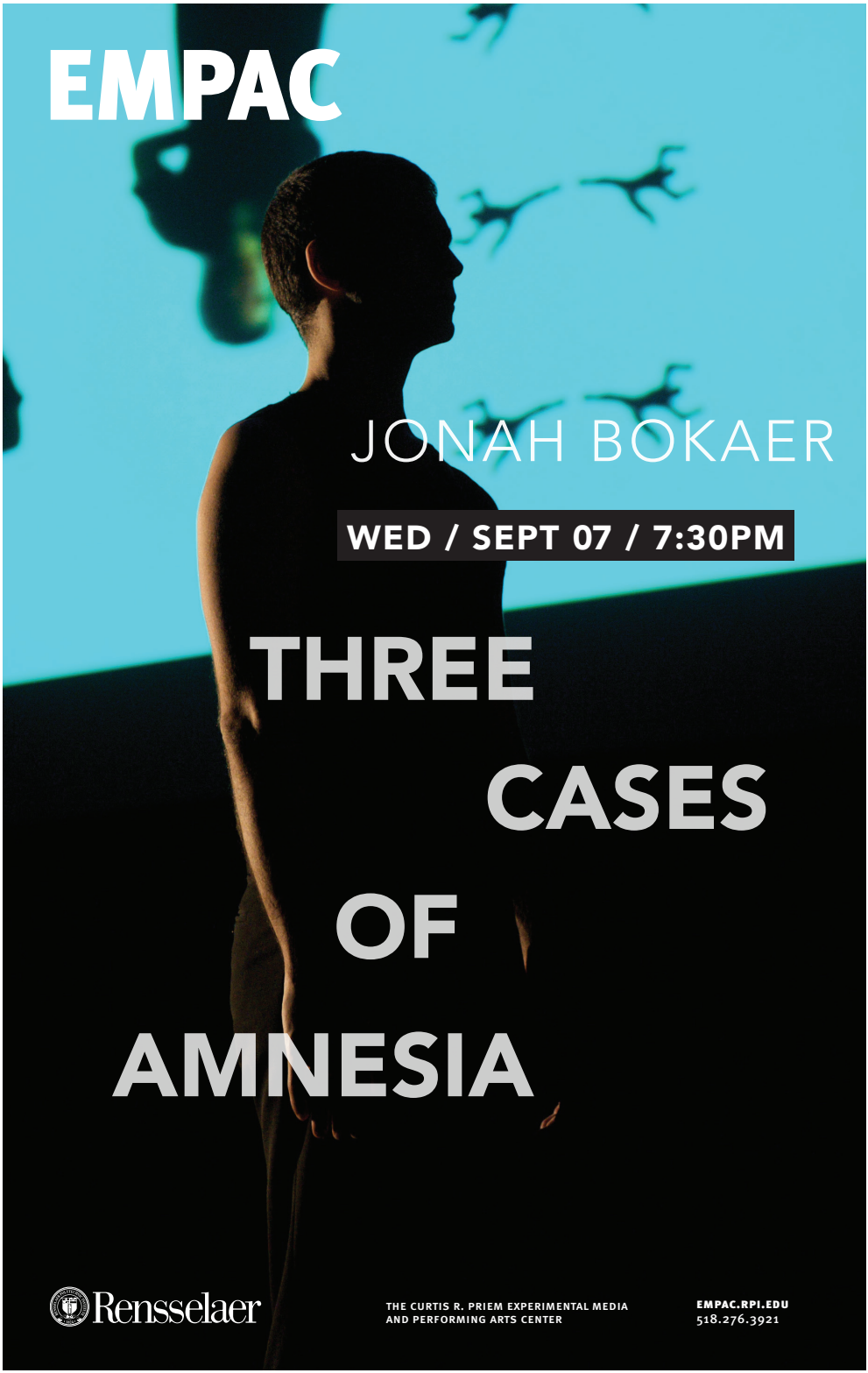
EMPAC
JONAH BOKAER
WED / SEPT 07 / 7:30PM
THREE CASES OF AMNESIA
Rensselaer
THE CURTIS R. PRIEM EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
EMPAC.RPI.EDU
518.276.3921

Three Cases Of Amnesia
Jonah Bokaer

—

An evening consisting of three technology-influenced solo dance and media works. *False Start*, *Charade*, and *Nudedescendance* are choreographed and performed by Jonah Bokaer through the use of digital choreographic software and 3D animation.

False Start (2007)
"self description is a calamity."
– *Jasper Johns*

Charade (2006)
"an empty canvas is full."
– *Robert Rauschenberg*

Nudedescendance (2005)
"I have forced myself to contradict myself in order to avoid conforming to my own taste."
– *Marcel Duchamp*

Duration: 60 minutes

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CHOREOGRAPHY & PERFORMANCE: JONAH BOKAER
VIDEO & ANIMATION: JONAH BOKAER
MUSIC/SOUND: APHEX TWIN, JONAH BOKAER, CHRISTIAN MARCLAY, PEACHES & HERB
LIGHTING DESIGN: JOHN TORRES
STAGE MANAGEMENT: JACKIE MULLEN
DIRECTION OF DOCUMENTATION AND CINEMATOGRAPHY: MARISELA LA GRAVE
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT: NATASHA KATERINOPOULOS

A dancer, choreographer, and media artist, Jonah Bokaer is one of this generation's most important dance innovators, pursuing the relationship between choreography and technology. His keen sense for choreography has always seamlessly looped innovative technologies like animation software into conceptually rich dances that push the formal boundaries of performance. I couldn't be more excited to introduce our audience to Jonah's sensitivity and intellect, not only as an artist but also as a person. Both are evident in the way that he seriously, yet humorously, approaches *Three Cases Of Amnesia*.

In this work, Jonah combines three of his iconic solos—*False Start, Charade*, and *Nudedescendance*. Rarely performed in the United States, the program showcases the choreographer's pioneering work with 3D animations. Where does a movement begin? Where does it end? What, and who, does it leave behind? Jonah uses a digital avatar to compose body movements that he might not discover working with a physical person, and he then transposes that choreography onto his own body for live performance. He and his animated double dance together and apart, the uncanny precision of each movement building upon the last. There are fast-paced and complex phrases coupled with everyday movements like walking and sitting; both highlight Jonah's physical precision and virtuosity. The result is a portrait of an artist and the various media he comes in contact with—not just a computer, its software and projections, but also a chair, a ladder, an apple, and clothing.

It's exciting to have the opportunity to show *Three Cases Of Amnesia* at EMPAC, as it provides an important context for Jonah's more recent works like *Recess* and *Why Patterns*, which are collaborations with visual artist Daniel Arsham and tour more often in the US. This earlier work is a rare look at Jonah's relationship to the choreographic process and those tools that first inspired his lasting interest in design, memory, play, ephemerality, and disappearance.

ASHLEY FERRO-MURRAY, ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF THEATER AND DANCE

JONAH BOKAER

CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION

Jonah Bokaer has cultivated a new form of choreography with a structure that relies on visual art and design. His aim is to transform notions of how the public views and understands dance. Bokaer's approach to art making has been acknowledged by museums such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, MoMA PS1, MAC Marseille, IVAM Valencia, Palazzo Delle Arti Napoli, Kunsthalle St. Gallen, SCAD Museum of Art, Ludwig Museum of Budapest, MUDAM Luxembourg, along with many others.

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Bokaer was born to Tunisian and American parents, and has been active as a choreographer since 2002. He has created over 55 works in a wide range of mediums, such as film, opera, applications, and installation, in a variety of venues, ranging from stages, to museums and galleries. He works internationally, exhibiting and touring worldwide.

Bokaer has created works within museum spaces that live between choreography, visual art, and moving images. This approach to art making has been acknowledged by museums such as the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, PS1 MoMA, The New Museum, The Museum of Arts & Design, MASS MoCA, Miami MOCA, MAC Marseille, IVAM Valencia, Palazzo Delle Arti Napoli, Kunsthalle St. Gallen, SCAD Museum of Art, Ludwig Museum of Budapest, MUDAM Luxembourg, along with many others.

A few of Bokaer's frequent collaborators are Daniel Arsham (2007-Present), Anne Carson, Richard Chai, Merce Cunningham, Anthony McCall, Abbott Miller, Tino Sehgal, Robert Wilson (2007-Present), along with other leading innovators in mediums such as performance, visual art, literature, and design.

Recent awards include the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in Choreography (USA 2015), the Prix Nouveau Talent Chorégraphie (Paris 2011), the Jerome Robbins Special Prize Fellowship in Choreography from the Bogliasco Foundation (Italy, 2011), and Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011), and from the United States Artists (2015).

JOHN TORRES

LIGHTING DESIGN

John Torres' work includes designs for dance, theatre, music, fashion and print. In collaboration with Robert Wilson, productions have included *Einstein on the Beach* (2013-2015 World Tour), *Cheek to Cheek Live! With Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga* (PBS Great Performances), *La Traviata* (Landestheatre Linz), and *Hermes: Here/Elsewhere* (Cedar Lake, NYC). In dance, *...Toss* and *Rogues* Choreographed by Trisha Brown, (Theatre National de Chaillot, Paris), *Available Light* Choreographed by Lucinda Childs, (Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles). In fashion, *Givenchy S/S 2015* (New York), *Yeezy 3* by Kanye West at Madison Square Garden. John is a frequent collaborator with fashion photographer Steven Klein.

JACKIE MULLEN

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Jackie Mullen is a frequent collaborator of Jonah Bokaer and Chez Bushwick, and has worked with the team on productions at Lightbox, CPR, and Lincoln Center. Jackie is a 2nd year MFA student in Stage Management at the University of California in San Diego, and currently splits her time between San Diego and New York City as a freelance stage and production manager. She spent two years as the Technical Director for the Center for Performance Research. Jackie is also the production manager of Critical Point Theatre, an ensemble devising company of Virginia Tech alumni, and illustrates The Grayscale podcast.

MARISELA LA GRAVE

DIRECTION OF DOCUMENTATION AND CINEMATOGRAPHY

New York-based media artist Marisela LaGrave's work is based on photography, video art installation, multidisciplinary site-specific performance art works for camera, sound track design, experimental scripts, and works on paper. She is a co-founder and artistic director at Magnetic Laboratorium (2001), a New York and Paris based media art group (magneticlaboratorium.com). La Grave's original concepts and performance works for camera, as well as her works in photography and video art, have been screened, exhibited, presented, and published internationally and housed in private collections and museums around the world; e.g. The Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA; The Whitney Museum of American Art, Live Series, New York, NY; Paris Underground Film Festival, Paris France; The Watermill Center, South Hampton, NY; Art Miami Basel Video Lounge, Miami Florida; Hamptons International Film Festival, New York; Scotiabank Nuit Blanche in Toronto, Canada; Dance Theater Workshop, Movement Research, New

York, NY; Dance Space Saint Marks church, New York, NY; PS1-22, New York, NY; 98 Bowery Gallery, New York, Museo de Bellas Artes & Museo Jacobo Borges, in Caracas, Venezuela; Nikki Dianne Marquardt Gallery in Paris, France. She currently lives and works between Hudson, NY, and New York City.

NATASHA KATERINOPOULOS
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
Natasha Katerinopoulos is a New York-based performing arts manager, raised on the island of Crete, Greece. Since 2011 she has worked with Jonah Bokaer Choreography, the Martha Graham Dance Company, and various independent artists. Projects that Natasha has managed have been presented at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Onassis Cultural Center, the Winspear Opera House, Dallas, the Hudson Opera House, SummerStage Festival, CounterCurrent Festival, the Pérez Art Museum Miami, the Parrish Art Musem, The Storefront for Art and Architecture, HAU 2—Hebbel am Ufer Theater Berlin and other venues in the United States and Europe. Her artistic work has been seen at Aperture Gallery, The Kimmel Center, the Press Office of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations, and other performance venues in Europe. Natasha holds a BA in Theater Studies from the University of Patras, Greece, and an MA in Arts Politics from the Department of Art and Public Policy, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU.

JONAH BOKAER CHOREOGRAPHY

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