

# BEACH SESSIONS DANCE SERIES ROCKAWAY BEACH, QUEENS



Edition 3 • Summer 2017

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Produced and curated by Sasha Okshteyn

Beach Sessions is a pioneering performance series supporting the presentation of site-responsive work by New York-based choreographers in Rockaway Beach, Queens. The series also provides environmental programs to inspire an ethic of care for our beaches.

This newspaper is the product of a collaborative project between the presenting choreographers and photographers of distinction to use untapped resources in Rockaway and create original visual content.

## 2017 PROGRAM:

### **JODI MELNICK/JON KINZEL** *AT NIGHT*

Choreographed and performed by Jodi Melnick and Jon Kinzel  
Music by Jon Kinzel  
Sculpture by Jon Kinzel

A meditation on nature. A duet made in darkness. Dumb luck. Flood insurance. Two solo artists, Jodi Melnick and Jon Kinzel, with decades devoted to defining their own practices, come together to perform *At Night* in the light of the day. The volatility of the beach will fortify – and disrupt – this collaboration.

Photography by Alex John Beck for Beach Sessions Dance Series

### **ANONYMOUS** *FUN YOUNG GOD*

Choreographed by anonymous choreographer  
Performed by Pierre Guilbault and Cori Kresge  
Music by David Lang  
Costumes by Andrew Jordan

*Fun Young God* tackles the phenomenology of the American rock/pop star as well as various global practices of worship. As a spectacle, two performers have been tasked with studying and exactly reproducing the movements of multiple rock and pop legends, while attempting to channel their own divine/charismatic powers. Through mimicry and infusion the movements of Mick Jagger, Beyonce and others becomes inherently ours; reabsorbed into our collective and individual psyches. *Fun Young God* is an anthem, a ritual, a placebo, a conjuring, a clinical study, and a blatant exploitation of society's obsession with fun, youth, and holiness. These themes are closely linked by their shared intersections of rigor, danger, innocence, delusion, and splendor.

As a comment on the intangibility of celebrity and faith, this work is presented anonymously.

Photography by Mavi Phillips for Beach Sessions Dance Series

### **MADELINE HOLLANDER** *ARENA*

Choreographed by Madeline Hollander  
Performed by Michael Sean Breeden, Neil Marshall, Evelyn Kocak, Madeline Hollander, Lauren Newman, Asami Tomida, Lloyd Knight  
Music by Celia Hollander

*Arena* is a new performance by Madeline Hollander composed of a series of duets featuring beach rake trucks and six dancers. The work presents a choreographic study of dissipative structures and autopoiesis, as well a homage to the contradictions inherent in the documentation of ephemeral art forms. The beach rakes clear pathways that become the stage for the dancers, whose movement patterns are recorded through their tracks in the newly combed sand. The first half of the performance presents dancers following in the wake of the trucks, leaving a legible trail of notation in the sand. The second half presents the reverse - the trucks follow close behind the dancers, erasing all footprints and traces of movement, or existence, as they go. This is repeated ad infinitum until the sun goes down.

Photography by Samantha Casolari; Film stills by Sam Fleischner for Beach Sessions Dance Series









Madeline Hollander, ARENA. Photography by Samantha Casolari, drone still by Sam Fleischner









Anonymous, FUN YOUNG GOD. Photography by Mavi Phillips









Jodi Melnick and Jon Kinzel, AT NIGHT. Photography by Alex John Beck



























**Beach Sessions Dance Series is proud to return to Rockaway Beach, Queens for its third season of free beachfront outdoor performances with New York's most sought-after choreographers. For two Saturdays in August, choreographers are invited to re-imagine their work on an outdoor stage situated in the sand with the ocean as the backdrop. The series offers beachgoers and Rockaway locals a unique cultural experience at the City's popular summertime retreat.**

**Beach Sessions' mission is to support creativity in the Rockaways, facilitate public engagement with contemporary dance on the peninsula, and inspire sustained investment in the natural beauty of the Rockaway shoreline. Beach Sessions is meant to show that dance has remarkable range of possibilities!**

*Beach Sessions Dance Series is curated and organized by Sasha Okshteyn.*

Beach Sessions is funded in part by the Queens Arts Fund with public funds from NYC DCA GNYADF and NYSCA DEC Community Arts; Partnership for Parks Capacity Fund Grant, made possible by the City Parks Foundation thanks to the Park Equity Initiative of the New York City Council under the leadership of speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Black & White Project Space, and Battery Hahrris.

Additional support is provided by Kassia+Surf, Surfrider Foundation, Rockaway Brewing Company, Caracas, Rockaway Retreat House, and City Parks Department.

[www.beachsessionsdanceseries.com](http://www.beachsessionsdanceseries.com)

IG: @beachsessions\_rockaway

F: @beachsessionsrockawaybeach

For more information contact  
Sasha Okshteyn, Director + Producer, [sokshteyn@gmail.com](mailto:sokshteyn@gmail.com)  
Newspaper designed by Emma Exley



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