

**For Immediate Release:
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Sasha Okshteyn
E: sokshiteyn@gmail.com
M: 917-523-2786**

**Beach Sessions Dance Series returns to Rockaway Beach, Queens
for its 7th season of free beach-front performances on August 29, 2021
with a new live site-specific performance by choreographer Moriah Evans**

**Performers: Toni Carlson, Yve Laris Cohen, Maggie Cloud, Marc Crousillat, Brittany Engel-Adams, Moriah Evans, Daria Fain, Lizzie Feidelson, Melanie Greene, Kennis Hawkins, Iréne Hultman, Shayla-Vie Jenkins, Burr Johnson, Niall Jones, Sarah Beth Percival, Jess Pretty, Antonio Ramos, Alex Rodabaugh, Carlo Villanueva, Anh Vo, Kota Yamazaki
Music: David Watson**

New York, NY - Beach Sessions Dance Series is proud to return to Rockaway Beach, Queens for its seventh season of free beach-front outdoor performances with a new live site-specific work by New York choreographer Moriah Evans entitled *REPOSE*. This season's programming continues to support Beach Sessions' commitment to presenting free public performances in the Rockaways as well as offering beachgoers and Rockaway locals a unique cultural experience at the City's popular summertime retreat.

On Sunday, August 29th from 1pm-7pm, Evans's *REPOSE* travels the 1.4 mile shoreline between Beach 86th Street and Beach 110th Street. *REPOSE* borrows from the social and physical choreographies inherent to the beach—from the sun-bathing bodies lying in repose, to the posturing of the self in forms of commercialized leisure sanctioned by the Parks Department that police and maintain the shoreline. By mirroring these actions, *REPOSE* both imposes on, and blends into, the beach's elemental composition, landscape, and communities. As the work travels with an evolving cohort of 21 (or more!) dancers, the public is invited, wittingly and unwittingly, to participate. Various instructions and scores for participation will be released online www.beachsessionsdanceseries.com and in print prior to and available on August 29th. At 6pm at Beach 110th Street, experimental musician/composer David Watson will create a new composition activating the beach through sound including live performance and processed field recordings. The beach-as-stage that *REPOSE* has made use of throughout the day will conclude with a sonic sunset.

REPOSE is a continuation of Evans's ongoing research into the unseen, yet felt, world of bodily interiors (physically and emotionally) and her insistence on dance and the dancing body as mechanisms to propose new social possibilities. Considering the renewed relevance of outdoor happenings, *REPOSE* is a piece that pays tribute to the communal space of the Atlantic shore and magnifies the materiality of the individual body within this uncontainable, environmental site. The beach is a theater of the flesh. And, like a theater, it can act as a frame to renew the always already existent actions of the everyday with potential to catalyze social possibilities.



Details:

Sunday, August 29 | 1pm - 7pm

Free and open to the public

Begins on the sand at Beach 86th St; Ends on the sand at Beach 110th St

More information and downloadable score: www.beachsessionsdanceseries.com

Directions:

Take the “Far Rockaway” bound A train to Broad Channel, transfer to the S-shuttle one stop to Beach 90th street. Walk down Beach 90th to the beach.

Landmark: Beach 86th Street Food Concession on the Boardwalk

Beach Sessions Dance Series is curated and organized by Sasha Okshteyn

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Composer: David Watson with Live Music Contributions TBA

Dramaturgy: Josh Lubin Levy

Choreographic Assistance and Studio Management: Lydia Okrent

Costumes: The Bureau for the Future of Choreography and Amber Evans

Beach Sessions Funders and Partners

The project is supported by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, with additional support from Black & White Project Space, City Parks Department, NYPOpsUp, The Rockaway Retreat House, The Castle, Rockaway, and private donors.

Social Media

Facebook: [@BeachSessionsRockawayBeach](https://www.facebook.com/BeachSessionsRockawayBeach)

Instagram: [@beachsessions_rockaway](https://www.instagram.com/beachsessions_rockaway)

Twitter: [@sessionsbeach](https://twitter.com/sessionsbeach)

About Moriah Evans

Moriah Evans is an artist working in and on the form of dance. Her choreography employs a speculative relationship to the dancing body and choreography itself. Her works explore the physical interiority of the human body in order to re-script how bodies occupy themselves and the stages that present them. Notable works include *BASTARDS: We are All Illegitimate Children* (NYU Skirball, New York, 2019); *Configure* (The Kitchen, New York, 2018); *Figuring* (SculptureCenter, New York, 2018); *Be my Muse* (Villa Empain, Brussels, 2016; FD13, Minneapolis, 2017; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC, 2018 and permanent collection); *Social Dance 9-12: Encounter* (Danspace Project, New York, 2015); *Social Dance 1-8: Index* (ISSUE Project Room, New York, 2015); *Another Performance* (Danspace Project, New York, 2013); and *Out of and Into (8/8): STUFF* (Theatre de l'Usine, Geneva, 2012). Her choreographies have been commissioned throughout New York and internationally at Kampnagel (Hamburg); Theatre de l'Usine (Geneva); Villa Empain (Brussels); Atelier de Paris (Paris); and Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai).

Evans was Editor-in-Chief of the *Movement Research Performance Journal* 2013-2020 and continues on as Editorial Director. In 2019 she worked as Curatorial Advisor for Tanzkongress and simultaneously was Co-Artistic Director and Editor of Goethe's Institut's Tanzsalons project and the accompanying online publication <http://2019.tanzkongress.de/salons/introduction>. In 2011 she initiated The Bureau for the Future of Choreography—a collective that explores choreographic systems. She is a co-curator of the Kitchen's Dance and Process series.

She has been a visiting professor in the Institute for Applied Theater Studies at the University of Giessen, Germany and teaches dance and choreographic workshops internationally. Evans has been an artist-in-residence at Movement Research, The New Museum, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Issue Project Room, Studio Series at New York Live Arts, ImPulsTanz, MoMA/PS1, MANA Contemporary, Onassis AiR. She was awarded the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award to Artists (2017) and a Bessie Award nomination for Emerging Choreographer (2015). Originally from Ohio, Evans received B.A. in Art History & English from Wellesley College and M.A. in Art History, Theory & Criticism (20thC. Art) from UCSD's Visual Arts Department. She lives in New York.

About David Watson

David Watson is an experimental musician. He has been an integral figure in NYC's downtown scene since the 1980s—originally as a guitarist and then as a maker of experimental music for bagpipes. He has created public works for brass and pipe bands, taking them outside their standard contexts including using the outdoors. In New Zealand, he founded Braille Records (1984). He has curated international festivals of experimental music and recently started the New York experimental performance series WoRK.
<https://davidwatsonmusic.net>

About Beach Sessions Dance Series

Founded in 2015, and inspired by Creative Time's Art on the Beach program from the late 70s/early 80s, Beach Sessions Dance Series was established by Rockaway resident and performance producer Sasha Okshteyn to support a unique vision for the presentation of dance works in public spaces, and bring the popular outdoor dance festival model to New York City's public beach. Beach Sessions' mission is to facilitate public engagement with free arts on the peninsula, support creativity in the Rockaways, and inspire sustained investment in the natural beauty of the Rockaway shoreline.

Since its inaugural season, Beach Sessions has built a reputation for bringing New York audiences non-traditional and multi-sensory live performance programming. Each summer invited artists have the opportunity to present site-specific work on the shorelines of the beach with the ocean as their backdrop. The programming footprint spans twenty blocks, from Beach 86th to Beach 106th, and is free to the public. A popular destination, this area of the beach is dense with locals and daily beach goers. The series has introduced the Rockaways as a promising place for artmaking and cultural events.

Over the past six editions, the series has offered a unique venue for New York choreographers like no other anywhere in the city. The site has enabled them, and challenged them, to think of their practice and processes through different lenses than would be required by a proscenium stage. Beach Sessions has presented more than 40 established to emerging choreographers to an audience of more than 5,000 people.