

# BAM

## 2017 NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

### **Cynthia Oliver's *Virago-Man Dem* explores the multiplicities of black masculinity through movement and spoken word, Oct 25—28**

**Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor**

#### ***Virago-Man Dem***

Cynthia Oliver

Music by Jason Finkelman

Visual art by Black Kirby (John Jennings and Stacey Robinson)

Projections and animations by John Boesche

Costume design by Susan Becker

Lighting design by Amanda K. Ringger

**BAM Fisher** (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Pl

Oct 25—28 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$25

#### **Talk: Examining Black Masculinity**

With Cynthia Oliver and Nora Chipaumire

Moderated by Jaamil Olawale Kosoko

Oct 27 at 6pm

Wendy's Subway Reading Room, BAM Fisher (Sharp Lower Lobby), 321 Ashland Pl

Free

**Sep 14, 2017/Brooklyn, NY**—Cynthia Oliver's world-premiere dance work *Virago-Man Dem* explores both the overt and unspoken expressions of black masculinity through movement, spoken word, and original visual projections from the collaborative entity Black Kirby. Reflecting on the term "virago" and its definition of characteristically male behaviors and female cultural transgressions, the work is driven by a core query: "How can a woman choreograph masculinity, without resorting to stereotypes?" Oliver tackles this challenge with a nuanced study in the multiplicities of masculinity, within Caribbean and African-American cultures. The work is based on the lives of its African-American and Afro-Caribbean performers Duane Cyrus, Jonathan Gonzalez, Niall Noel Jones, and Ni'Ja Whitson, and shifts from their specific experiences to broader cultural perspectives.

**Cynthia Oliver** is a Bronx-born, Virgin Island-reared performer who has danced with Theatre Dance Inc.; Caribbean Dance Company of St. Croix, Virgin Islands; Ronald K. Brown/Evidence; Bebe Miller Company; and Tere O'Connor Dance. Influenced by the black avant-garde, Oliver creates multi-genre performance collages, incorporating Caribbean, African, and American aesthetic sensibilities. She has been awarded and/or commissioned by The Jerome Foundation, The National Performance Network's Creation Fund, The Doris Duke Multi Arts Production

(MAP)Fund, New York Live Arts, among many others. Her work has been performed in festivals and venues around the US and the Caribbean. In 2012, she was invited to Oagadougou, Burkina Faso, via the Suitcase Fund, to work with a group of 16 women dance artists, creating a choreography which spoke to their empowerment as artists negotiating complex traditions that may impede their art. In addition to Cynthia's performance work, she holds a Ph.D. in performance studies from New York University. Her scholarly work has focused on performance in the Anglophone Caribbean. She has taught at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, The Newcomb Summer Dance Intensive at Tulane University, Florida State University, Bennington College, Bates Dance Festival, and the University of Utah. She is Professor of Dance at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Oliver was last at BAM as a performer in Tere O'Connor's *BLEED* (NWF 13).

**For press information, contact Christian Barclay at [cbarclay@bam.org](mailto:cbarclay@bam.org) or 718.724.8044.**

Credits:

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor.

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Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

General Information:

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a dinner menu prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)  
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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