

BAM and Performa 17 present

Buffer

Conceived and directed by
Xavier Cha

DATES: NOV 1—4 at 7:30pm

LOCATION: BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

RUN TIME: Approx 50 mins

#BAMNextWave

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*Xavier Cha is the recipient of
The Harkness Dance Residency
at the BAM Fisher in 2017.*

*Major support provided by
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*Support for dance at the BAM Fisher
provided by
the Mertz Gilmore Foundation.*

Buffer

Conception and direction

Xavier Cha

Choreographer

Xavier Cha

in collaboration with

**Dylan Crossman, Stanley Gambucci,
Nicholas Grubbs, Cori Kresge,
Joshua Tuason**

Music and sound designer

Aaron David Ross

Libretto

Juliana Huxtable

Stage designer

**Michael Bullock, Felix Burrichter,
Paul Kopkau**

Screenplay

Xavier Cha with Robert Moulthrop

Lighting designer

Joe Levasseur

Costume designer & Stylist

Avena Gallagher

Hair and make-up

Yuko Mizuno

Produced in association with 47 Canal
and Metro Pictures. With support from
the AHL Foundation.

Special thanks to 47 Canal Gallery and
Rafael Reynoso.

Featuring

**Cassandra Freeman
Babs Olusanmoku**

Singer

Michael Maniaci

Dancers

**Dylan Crossman
Stanley Gambucci
Nicholas Grubbs
Cori Kresge
Joshua Tuason**

Lovers

**Cutler X
Cory Koons**

Sofa generously provided by Vitra.

ABOUT *Buffer*

Buffer hones in on the emotional and psychological states evolved and shaped by our interactions with digital content—the frustration or boredom triggered when a video being streamed from wifi keeps freezing every few seconds; the intimacy established by a personal screen or viewing device; the perception of oneself and others mediated via digital personas and social media platforms; and the experience of altering the simulated time and space of film and video. *Buffer* is also an experiment of sorts—a test to see how the delays and loops, suspensions, repetitions, and reversals transmute within the constructs and confines of a theatrical environment. It is also an attempt to highlight how our perception, patience, and emotional gauges have adapted or been “trained” by our digital experience—our tolerance and attention spans modified. Xavier Cha is interested in folding this back onto itself by layering and manipulating this mode of viewing onto an analogue experience. Similarly, emotional, psychological, even physiological reactions typically engendered through cinematography and digital production are magnified, distorted, and transmuted through this process, resulting in a near-psychedelic contemporary viewing experience.

Program Note

“Buffer” is a puffy fluid filled sac
between you and me.

—Xavier Cha

Who's Who

XAVIER CHA

Conception/Direction/ Choreography/
Screenplay

Xavier Cha's performance-based works and videos grapple with architectures of subjectivity, illusions of agency, what it means to be human with a physical body in a capitalistic-digital age where we exist as both consumer and product. Collaboration is central to the work. Specialized participants, generally performers in fields outside of the contemporary art world, play prominent roles in extracting the sublimated and magnifying an estranged or alienated human experience within inescapable systems of exchange, consumption, and communication. Cha directs actors, dancers, or other professionals through focused, controlled scenarios, where the challenged expression of their expertise— often pushing performers to extremes— reveals the body as an enigmatic conduit, a malleable corporeal/psycho/social system. Attuned to ways in which the body is watched and conveyed, immersed within heightened circuits of surveillance, marketing, voyeurism, and self-spectatorship, she examines how mediating frames— screens, sets, and the omnipotent lens of the camera—shape behaviors and refine gesture. Cha was born in Los Angeles and lives in New York. She received

her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and MFA from UCLA. She has had recent solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (2016); 47 Canal, New York (2015, 2012); Aspect/Ratio, Chicago (2013); the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2011); and has staged performance works at the Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland (2017); Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara (2015); INOVA, Milwaukee (2015); Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (2014); and the New Museum (2013), among many other international institutions. Cha received a Frieze Film Commission in 2015, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in 2012, and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2014.

MICHAEL BULLOCK

Stage designer

Michael Bullock is a New York-based writer and publishing consultant specializing in independent culture, design, and fashion titles such as *Fantastic Man*, *Gagosian*, *PIN-UP*, and *The Gentlewoman*. At 22-years old, Bullock became the advertising director of Peter Halley's *Index* magazine. For 10 years he was the US publisher of the now iconic *BUTT* magazine and currently holds the title of associate publisher of *PIN-UP*. He is the contributing editor to the Spanish "everyday life interiors" magazine *Apartamento*. In 2013 he published his first novella *Roman Catholic Jacuzzi* (Karma).

FELIX BURRICHTER

Stage designer

Felix Burrichter is a German-born creative director, curator, writer, and editor based in New York. Originally trained as an architect in Paris and New York, in 2006 Burrichter founded the architecture and design magazine *PIN-UP*. In addition to publishing *PIN-UP*, Burrichter curates exhibitions (Haus der Kunst, Munich; Swiss Institute, New York), edits design books (*Cassina*, Rafael de Cárdenas), and consults on design and architecture projects for various design brands. He also contributes to a number of publications including *Departures*, *W Magazine*, *Fantastic Man*, and *The Gentlewoman*.

DYLAN CROSSMAN

Dancer

Dylan Crossman grew up in France, received his BA from the Laban Centre (UK), and studied at Burklyn Ballet Theatre (VT). He moved to New York 11 years ago and has worked with many choreographers including Brian Brooks, Wally Cardona, Ellen Cornfield, and Seán Curran. Crossman is a founding member of Peter Kyle Dance. He joined the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in 2009 and danced in the Legacy Tour. Now freelance, he works with Pam Tanowitz, Kimberly Bartosik, Sally Silvers, and Ryan McNamara. He is a faculty member for the Cunningham Trust, SUNY Purchase, Sarah Lawrence College, and is a NYLA associate artist. Dylan Crossman Dans(c)e looks at human behavior in formalism and has shown work at

Roulette, La MaMa, Abrons Arts Center, The Yard (MA), and Gibney Dance as well as venues in Montpellier (France) and Montreal.
dylancrossman.org

CUTLER X

Lover

Cutler Xavier: Passionate & Strong is a man of many talents. He is one of the most popular gay porn stars of our time. His abilities are instantly recognized and he has worked as a fashion model appearing on the pages of *Vogue*. In addition, he served our nation in a long and successful military career and was even one of America's most popular fitness instructors.

CASSANDRA FREEMAN

Featured performer

Cassandra Freeman, a Brooklyn resident, is originally from Florida. She is best known for her starring roles as Denzel Washington's love interest in Spike Lee's *Inside Man*, Chris Rock's *I Think I Love My Wife*, the 2011 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award-winning movie *Kinyarwanda*, her off-Broadway performance in August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* directed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson, and in the worldwide phenomenon *Vagina Monologues* alongside Jane Fonda and Rosie Perez.

Freeman, a graduate of NYU's Tisch graduate acting program, has also appeared in several TV shows including *Atlanta*, Marvel Comic's *Luke Cage*, *The Good Wife*, *Blue Bloods*, and her

recurring role as Morgan on the first-ever VH1 scripted hit series *Single Ladies* (Queen Latifah, executive producer). Freeman is also known for her role as Angela in the Sundance Selects film, *Blue Caprice*, based on the true story of the Beltway sniper shootings of John Muhammad and Lee Malvo starring Isaiah Washington. Freeman is also known for the Queen Latifa-produced Lifetime biopic, *The Real MVP: The Wanda Durant Story*, as Wanda Durant, a single mom who struggled and sacrificed to raise her two sons, Tony and NBA star Kevin Durant.

AVENA GALLAGHER
Costume designer/Stylist

Avena Gallagher is an observer and stylist living in New York City. Her work skirts the line between art and fashion, her interests lying in the function of dress in social space as a mode of expression, concealment, and accident. She has a long working relationship conceptualizing and styling with designers Telfar Clemens and Eckhaus Latte.

STANLEY GAMBUCCI
Dancer

Stanley Gambucci is a black queer rising femme making it in New York. They will be showing work at Judson Church on December 18, 2017. To the ones I love and to those who have loved me, thank you.

NICHOLAS GRUBBS
Dancer

Nicholas Grubbs is a Brooklyn-based dancer, choreographer, and teacher. He holds a BFA in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is a certified yoga teacher through the Perri Institute for Mind and Body. Grubbs has performed as a company member for LoudHound-Movement, Bryn Cohn + Artists, and era Dance Collective, and his work has been performed at the Ailey Citigroup Theatre, NARS Foundation, Harlem Repertory Theatre, and NYU's Jack Crystal Theater. He has had the privilege of performing works by choreographers including Bill T. Jones, Merce Cunningham, Shannon Gillen, Deborah Jowitz, and Seán Curran, and training under renowned instructors Gus Solomons jr, Pamela Pietro, Phyllis Lamhut, and Rashaun Mitchell. He also trained at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance and Springboard Danse Montréal, where he collaborated with Maxine and Conor Doyle of Punchdrunk and Banning Bouldin of New Dialect.

JULIANA HUXTABLE
Libretto

Juliana Huxtable is an artist and writer who lives and works in NYC. A book of her writing, *Mucus in My Pineal Gland*, is currently available through Capricious publishing.

CORY KOONS
Lover

Cory Koons' work in the adult entertainment industry began in 2004 as a stripper at the Nob Hill Theatre in San Francisco. Shortly thereafter he was discovered by a pornographer while handing out flyers at a circuit party and was in LA meeting with Chi Chi LaRue within a week. One of the first Asian-American gay porn models to become a mainstream studio exclusive, Koons would be nominated for the GayVN Award as best newcomer and win a Hookie for best ass. In 2010 he signed an exclusive contract with Treasure Island Media, a studio notorious for its controversial portrayal of bareback sex in a post-AIDS, pre-PrEP world, combatting misinformation in a time when fear of transmission from the most mundane of sex acts served to ostracize an entire population. The former *Playgirl* model's titles include *Party in the Rear*, *Butt Hurt*, *Eat Pray Load*, *Up the Gut*, and *Camp Freshman*. To date he remains the most successful Asian gay porn model on the market. Due to his continued experiences with racial discrimination both personally and professionally, Koons is driven by his desire to resexualize the desexualized Asian male, an ugly hangover from colonialism, and how it has been internalized by Asian men. Due to the glaring lack of Asian male representation in the gay community, he has found himself as a default role model for gay Asian men of all ages all over the world. Taking his name as the fictional love child of Yoko Ono and Jeff Koons, Cory Koons' work has lent itself to crossover into other media, including fashion, art, and publishing.

PAUL KOPKAU
Stage designer

Paul Kopkau is an artist living and working in Brooklyn. Kopkau's work has been included in exhibitions at Swiss Institute, 321 Gallery, the Perez Art Museum Miami, Rutgers University, and elsewhere. He is a co-founder of the artist group Yemenwed, a multi-disciplinary collective active between 2006—14. About *Palm Crest & Suites*, Kopkau's most recent solo show at Company Gallery, *Frieze* magazine wrote: "Kopkau's play with the semiotics of luxury mimics our futile grasping at the trappings of wealth and power."

CORI KRESGE
Dancer

Cori Kresge is a NYC-based dancer and teacher. Since graduating from SUNY Purchase with a BFA in dance and the Dean's Award, she has been a member of the Merce Cunningham Repertory Understudy Group, José Navas/Compagnie Flak, and Stephen Petronio Company. She currently freelances and performs with various artists including Rashaun Mitchell+Silas Riener, Rebecca Lazier, Esmé Boyce, Bill Young, Sarah Skaggs, Ellen Cornfield, Wendy Osserman, multimedia artist Liz Magic Laser, and filmmakers Zuzka Kurtz and Charles Atlas. She is thrilled to be a part of the creation and premier of *Buffer* with Xavier Cha and cast.



Photo: Stanley Gambucci and Nicholas Grubbs by Christine Hahn

JOE LEVASSEUR
Lighting designer

Joe Levasseur has collaborated with many dance and performance artists, including Big Dance Theater, Jennifer Monson, John Jasperse, Sarah Michelson, Neil Greenberg, David Dorfman, Donna Uchizono, RoseAnne Spradlin, Maria Hassabi, Ishmael Houston-Jones, and Amanda Loulaki. His lighting design work has been seen throughout the US, Europe, and South America, and has received two Besse awards. In 2009, his *Drop Clock* installation was featured in the lobby of Dance Theater Workshop (now New York Live Arts). In 2010 he showed a collection of original paintings at Performance Space 122, and in 2013 was commissioned to paint an original mural for *AUNTS*. Ongoing projects include lighting work for Brian Brooks/Wendy Whelan, Jodi Melnick, and Palissimo. joelevasseur.com

MICHAEL MANIACI
Singer

Michael Maniaci's credits include roles with the Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, New York City Opera, Odyssey Opera, Teatro La Fenice, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Royal Danish Opera, and L'Opera Montpellier. His concert work includes appearances with the LA Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall, Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra, Oregon Symphony, Apollo's Fire, Boston Baroque Ensemble Matheus, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Tempesta di Mare, and the

Shanghai Opera Orchestra. He has appeared at the Beijing International Music Festival, Vancouver and Montreal Baroque Festivals, and at the Prototype Festival at National Sawdust. Maniaci created the role of Xiao Qing in Zhou Long and Cerise Lim Jacob's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera, *Madame White Snake*, which was revived last season at the Cutler Majestic in Boston with Beth Morrison Projects. Maniaci recorded an album of Mozart Arias with the Boston Baroque Orchestra (TELARC), and can be seen on DVD in the title role of Meyerbeer's *Il Crociato in Egitto* with Teatro La Fenice (DYNAMIC), and as Nireno in *Giulio Cesare* with the Royal Danish Opera (DYNAMIC).

ROBERT MOULTHROP
Screenplay

Robert Moulthrop is an award-winning playwright, fiction writer, and translator. In 2016, Enchanted Lion Books published his 2017 ALA Batchelder Award-winning translation of the critically acclaimed Danish children's picture book *Cry, Heart, But Never Break*, written by Glenn Ringtved and illustrated by Charlotte Pardi. His plays have been short-listed at Humana, have won awards for writing and performance at the New York International Fringe Festival, and received festival production by New York University, Brooklyn's Gallery Players, and the Boog City Poet's Theater. His plays also have received developmental readings with Urban Stages, Abingdon Theatre Company, and Active Theater. Moulthrop's short fiction has been published in journals and publications including *Tahoma Literary Review*, *Reed*, *Berkeley Fiction Review*, and

Confrontation, and has been awarded prizes by *Helen* magazine, *Literal Latte*, and others. He received a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for prose fiction. Moulthrop has worked in marketing, copywriting, and communications roles for non-profits, financial services organizations, and theatrical producers. He lives and works in New York City.

BABS OLUSANMOKUN
Featured performer

Babs Olusanmokun is a New York-based actor. Last seen on stage in *A Year with 13 Moons* (Yale Rep, directed by Robert Woodruff) and *Ruined* (Arena Stage, directed by Charles Randolph-Wright), screen credits include A&E's *Roots*, *The Night Of*, and *The Defenders*. Upcoming credits include *Black Mirror* and *Sneaky Pete*. He lives in Brooklyn.

AARON DAVID ROSS
Music/Sound designer

Aaron David Ross (ADR) is a composer, producer, and artist preoccupied with music's affective potentiality. In addition to his work as one half of the critically acclaimed duo Gatekeeper, ADR releases solo recordings, hosts an array of ongoing collaborations, composes for film, and maintains a practice of live performance and sound installation.

JOSHUA TUASON
Dancer

Joshua Tuason is a freelance dance artist originally from San Francisco, where he began his training at the San Francisco Ballet and later obtained a BFA from Marymount Manhattan College. He was a member of the Martha Graham Ensemble and has participated in various reconstructions of Merce Cunningham's work through the Cunningham Trust. A former member of the Stephen Petronio Company (2009—17), he has also worked with Ian Spencer Bell, Ellen Cornfield, Wendy Osserman, Pat Catterson, and Pam Tanowitz.

BUFFER

Libretto by Juliana Huxtable

BUFFER X1

TUNDRA RILL ON LOVERS TORSO VESTIGE
OF ECHOS IN I - CE
ENNUI OR CONTENTNESS
FRAIL MY WILL
THREADBARE TWILL CLINGING
WHEN NAMES FILL A CARVED OUT
SPACE IN THE CUSHION
OF THE PLATEAU OF MEMORIES SAVED IN
CAPRICE
A SUDDEN PAN OUT TO THE SPREAD OF
OUR AMBIT
AND ALL I HAVE IS PULLING YOU IN - TO
ME... PULLING YOU IN - TO ME

ETHER ARE THE NATAL
REVELATIONS IN
SPOTS ON SKIN
NOW LIMPID, FORMER MY-STERI-ES
I SEE THE WALL AT THE BACK OF YOUR MI
-ND
REAL, IN SPITE OF THIS
SUFFOCATED BY EXPANSE

WHEN MONOLOGUE MUTTERS AS
SCRATCHES ON SKU - - - LL
TEST THE DUCTILITY OF A STRETCHING
BOND
SCREAMS AS SCREEN TESTS OF VALI- DI-TY
FAIL TO CIRCUMVENT WHAT HAS BEEN
SPAWNED

PURITY OR LACK
DIVE INTO AXES
DISAPPEAR- ED AT ENCOUNTER
PARALLEL OR NEVER THERE

A REACH UNRETURNED
LOCKED OR NEVER RELEASED
CRUMBLES INTO FOLDED PLANES
STUTTERS

BUFFER X2-A

I- I- IF YOU ARE..
CAN YOU H- H- H- HE - - AR

A WINDOW FROSTED; BORDERLESS
OR FROZEN INFINITY POOL

FULL BLEED LOST TO PERIPHERAL E - NDS
IF IT NEVER BREAKS IT'S REAL
IF IT NEVER BREAKS IT'S RE - AL

GLASS-LIKE UNDULATES
PULLED THEN CAST REAL GA-ZE
AGAINST COLD OF ABSENCE

WH-WH-WHERE WERE...
WH-WH-WHEN SUDDENLY
QUICK SNAP DEATH;

AURICLE TINGLES
NEVER TACTILE, I CAN'T SMELL

SILENTLY HEAR SCRATCH LINES
ON GARDEN PROMENADE SEEN THROUGH
A SCREEN

THE OTHER SIDE; A 2-WAY
EDGE OF PO - SSI - B - LE TO TOUCH

BUFFER X2-B

I TRACE MY SIDE A-ND LICK SPLAYED SPACE

A-A-AM I ...
B-B-BUT I KNOW YOU D-...

BLIND SPOTS ECLIPSE INWARD
NECK TWISTS CATCH VIBRATIONS
RETRENCHING

PRECIOUS STUTTERED WILTING
TABLEAU
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

BEFORE I LOSE MY SIGNAL
AFTER IT'S ALL OFFLINE

3 SCREEDS FROM A SCREENPLAY
A-CTED OUT; "AGAIN!"
THEN I

GET YOUR SHIT AND GET OUT!
STOPPED-A-BIT, LEANING
BONSAI-TWIST TO YOUR LIGHT
THEN I
ROLL UNDER AGAIN

I MASTERED-THE-ACT HUGELY, NO?
MOTION-PICTURE PRESAGE?
WE'RE IN TIGHT ORB - IT, IT TASTES LIKE
TRA - SH!

QUEASY AS THE BIG CRUNCH
CATACLYSMIC CONVULSES

LIGHT THAT'S SMUGGLED-OFF-SET
OFF-SET

BUFFER X2-C

LIGHT THAT'S SMUGGLED-OFF-SET

PRETTY DIFFICULT DIALOGUE
THAT CONVEYOR BELT SCENE
I'M SURE THEY'LL FIND IT ON THEIR
OWN, LETS GO!
CLAVICLES CAJOLE, I TWITCH BREATHE
OUT
BUT
THEIR LUSTER IS BLOCKING MY VIEW
SO VIVID IM HIDDEN FROM YOU
BY A BAG TAG BARCODE
CUT!

BUFFER X3

ORB FORMING FORM
JUST ENOUGH MATTER TO
APPEAR LIKE
RECOGNIZING SOMETHING IN VAIN AS THE
SHAPE OF SHAPELESSNESS
BIOLOGY'S ABSTRACTIONS
OF A FIRST
ENCOUNTER WITH
RECOGNITIONS REFLECTION JUMPS
SCURRIES AWAY TO UNVEIL
A PALIMPSEST OF LIMBER LIGAMENTS
STREACHES AND BOUNCES ECHOING
.....NOT MINE
COAGULATE SHADOWS BY
CRASHING INTO POWDERED LIGHT
WEAK NEARLY FULLY DRIED

CELLULAR PASTE
HAS ME UNDER ITS AMBIT

BUFFER X4

LUKEWARM TREMBLING PASSAGE
SWEET STATIC THRASH SUBDUED
ON FLAT OPEN SPLAY
WEAKENED FOR BLANK
COLD TOUCH RECOGNITION
WHERE VOICE LEFT ITS TRAILS
IN MY CLAVICLE TINGLI - I - NG -,
TINGLING

PLACEBO MEMORIES WON'T LET ME RELEASE
AGAINST A WHITE NOISE MORE
TORTUROUS THAN SILENCE - SILENCE

SLOWLY DESATURATE TO JUST LESS
THAN PEACE
VOLUPTUOUS VERDURE
IN PROMISES
IN NUDE,

THEN FRAIL, WITHERING PLASMA
INDETECTABLE, CLOAKED
RE-AL, IN SPITE OF THIS
SUFFOCATED BY EXPANSE

WHERE JOY BROKE
CURVES TO A CONTENT BEAMING
CRESCENT
DIMINISHING RETURN
NOW TARNISHES DISSONANCE JARS TO
CONFUSED AND DESPERATE SEARCH

(HOLLOW SPACE STRETCHED IN VARNISH)
(RIPPLES IN PLUNGING ASYMPOTOTE)

PURITY OR LACK
DIVE INTO AXES
DISAPPEAR- ED AT ENCOUNTER
PARALLEL OR NEVER THERE

A REACH UNRETURNED
LOCKED OR NEVER RELEASED
CRUMBLES INTO FOLDED PLANES
STUTTERS

NOV 14—18

17c

Big Dance Theater

Conceived and choreographed by Annie-B Parson
Directed by Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar

Photo: Ian Douglas



Fracturing the diaries of a
famed English philanderer.

BAM

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LEAVE YOUR LEGACY TO PIONEERING ART.

A black and white portrait of Laurie Anderson, looking slightly to the left of the camera. She is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white collared shirt and a dark tie. The portrait is framed by a thin yellow border.

LEAVE IT TO
LAURIE ANDERSON
TO SING OUR STORIES
IN BOLD NEW KEYS.

Leave it to
BAM

Photo: courtesy of BAM Hamm Archives

For more information on how to include BAM in your estate plans, contact William Lynch at wlynch@BAM.org or 718.636.4186.

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