

Flyaway Productions
Presents

Sorry/Please/No

*An afternoon of performance and social practice investigating new layers
of consent, accountability and the justice process*

February 19 and 26, 2022



PROGRAM

- I. ***Grounding***
- II. ***Introductions***
- III. ***The Artists / Dissolving Shame***
- IV. ***The Dance***
- V. ***Returning Citizens / Dissolving Shame***
- VI. ***Break***
- VII. ***The Audience Joins In Conversation***
- VIII. ***Closing Ritual***

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This afternoon is an experiment, a delight, a sorrow, a risk and a wiliness to invite vulnerability in. The project embraces the question, well stated by activist Adrienne Maree Brown, "How do we believe survivors and still be abolitionist? And still practice transformative justice?" Today we offer our stories, our bodies and voices as tools for transformation. We offer hope that via dialogue, those who have survived harm, those who have caused harm, and those who live both sides of that equation can all find repair. I believe that lasting accountability depends on it.

- Jo Kreiter

PARTICIPANTS

Artistic Direction: Jo Kreiter

Performance: Sonsherée Giles

Music, Lyrics, and Arrangement: Maddy "MADlines" Clifford

Composition: Maddy "MADlines" Clifford and Charles Burchell

Engineering and Mixing: Orion Drake

Set Design: Sean Riley

Restorative Justice Practitioner: Kevin Martin from Community Works

Speakers: Leverett Grissom and Betty McKay

ABOUT FLYAWAY

Flyaway Productions makes dances in unlikely places, activating the sides of buildings above bleak city streets. Our site-specific dances impact neighborhoods because they unfold at the very place where conflict lives. For us, a building is a witness. Flyaway's tools include coalition building, an intersectional feminist lens, and a body-based push against the constraints of gravity. We've spent 25 years building coalitions with women marginalized by race, class, gender, and workplace inequities. Noted partners include Essie Justice Group, Prison Renaissance, Tenderloin Museum, Code Tenderloin, Au Co Vietnamese Cultural Center, MoAD, and Tradeswomen, Inc. Flyaway has been supported by Guggenheim and Rauschenberg Fellowships, the Creative Work Fund, Rainin Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, CA Arts Council, Early Family Fund and the SF Art Commission.

BIOGRAPHIES

Maddy "MADlines" Clifford is a writer, master of ceremony (rapper), digital creator, and activist from Seattle. She has spent over a decade planting roots in Oakland. She's taught free poetry workshops to hundreds of Bay Area youth and has written for publications such as 48 Hills and KQED. Musically, MADlines has had the honor of collaborating with the late great Zumbi of Zion I. She was also featured on the Grammy nominated album, "The Love" by Alphabet Rockers, and produced a single called "God Talk feat. Xiomara." This is her second collaboration with Flyaway Productions.

Sonsherée Giles is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and costume designer. Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, she moved to the Bay Area to attend Mills College and received an MFA in performance/choreography. She enjoys making dances based on observations of animals, landscapes, art

history, and daily life experiences. From 2005-2015, she was a performing/teaching artist and associate director with AXIS Dance Company. In 2019, Sonsherée returned to AXIS Dance Company as the Artistic Advisor and Rehearsal Director as well as a teaching/performing artist. Sonsherée formed a container for her choreography called This Sweet Nothing and has been generously supported by Zellerbach Family Foundation, CLOROX Company Foundation, CA\$H grant, and East Bay Fund for Individual Artists. She presented an evening length duet with dance partner Sebastian Grubb called *Fabric Animal* that premiered in June 2019 in San Francisco. Sonsherée received an Isadora Duncan Award for ensemble performance, and a Homer Avila Award for Excellence in the field of integrated dance. She has shared her choreography, taught dance, and performed for audiences in the United States, Germany, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Russia, Scotland, Canada, China, and Japan. She has been commissioned to make dances on physically integrated dance companies Slow Label in Japan and Propeller in Canada. She is honored to have been working with Flyaway Productions since 2015. To see current and past projects please visit sonsheree.com

Leverett Grissom is a country boy by birth, from the Appalachian mountains where wild horses roamed the streets freely. As a rambunctious kid, he has always been adventurous, doing things like jumping out of abandoned two story buildings into mattresses, jumping from tree branches onto a rope hanging from another part of the tree, and riding his "mini-big wheel" down a long winding freeway on ramps just for the thrill and excitement. He was raised in the streets of South Central Los Angeles, California where the gang culture and violence were prevalent from the age of 10 years old until age 20, when he went to prison.

Jo Kreither is a San Francisco based choreographer and site artist with a background in political science. Through dance, she engages physical innovation and the political conflicts we live within. Jo's work is part of an intersectional feminist discourse on the body and the transformation of women's images in the public domain. At its core, her work explores the female body's tumultuous expressions of strength and fragility. Jo's work springs from the traditions of aerial and site-specific performance that are deeply rooted in the San Francisco Bay Area. She's part of a lineage learned from aerial dance innovator Joanna Haigood, with whom she danced 1989-2002, and with whom she continues to teach for; as well as Terry Sendgraff, and Master Lui Yee. To this lineage Jo brings new ways to ride space, using a defiance of gravity to claim public space as a proving ground for women.

Kevin Martin serves as Community Development Specialist and Circle Keeper with Community Works. His work helps reduce citizen's contact with the criminal legal system and supports alternative justice programs using restorative and transformational justice models. Kevin serves as a bridge builder, initiating collaborative environments between the organization's numerous teams. He also holds weekly Restorative Justice circles with recently incarcerated individuals. In his reentry circles, he co-creates spaces of healing and exploration with community members that fosters honest examination of behavioral impacts on family and community, recognizing the interconnectedness of everyone. Kevin holds a graduate degree in Intercultural Relations from the University of the Pacific and a Criminal Justice degree from California State University, Sacramento.

Betty McKay was incarcerated for 27 years. During that time she learned what it meant to be unseen, unheard, and considered less than human—not worthy of a name, simply a number. She chose to stand then, and she chooses to stand now for women and justice. Today she is an Organizer for Essie Justice Group, a motivational speaker, a consultant, a certified policy organizer, and a healing to advocacy facilitator. Her mission in life is to shine the brightest light on the truth about the carceral system and end mass incarceration aka "the new slavery."

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

ASL interpretation (2/26): Debby Kajiyama and Shawn Merriman-Roberts, supported by Urban Jazz

Event Managers: Brechin Flournoy and Monica Herbert

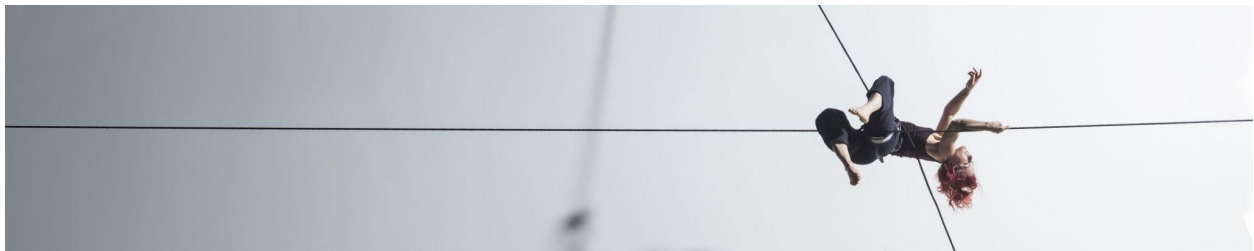
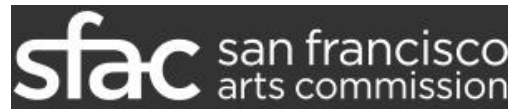
Evaluations: Anna Kimmel

Special Thanks: ZACCHO Studio, Ruth Morgan, Scenic Design, Dave Freitag, RAPT, and Flyaway's wise and generous Board of Directors.

Sorry. Please. No was created in support of and leading up to the final dance of **The Decarceration Trilogy**. Initiated by Flyaway in 2017, The Trilogy is part of a national wave of ongoing political action to expose the devastating effects of prison on American citizens. The Trilogy engages organizations and people directly impacted by incarceration across three site-specific performances over 6 years.

APPARATUS OF REPAIR is the culminating work of the Trilogy and will premiere in September, 2022.

Sorry. Please. No is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the SFAC Individual Artist Grant Program.



FLYAWAY UPCOMING

April 18-23, 2022:

Company in Residence

Bethany Arts Community
Ossining, NY

July 5-29, 2022

GIRLFLY summer artist as activist training for
girls/GNC youth age 14-19 in San Francisco, CA
Apply at flyawayproductions.com/youth

May 27-29, 2022

The Wait Room performances

Presented by the Contemporary Arts Center
New Orleans, LA

September 16-25, 2022

Apparatus of Repair Premiere

UC Hastings College of the Law
San Francisco, CA

www.flyawayproductions.com

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