

LA MAMA

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB
PRESENTS

La MaMa's Squirts

Curated and Directed by
Paris Alexander



The Club
74a East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
June 6-8, 2025

La MaMa's Squirts

Curated and Directed by Paris Alexander

Produced by Buffy Sierra

Production Managed by Gloria Gomez

Set Design by Devante Melton

Lighting Design by Kate McGee

Imagery by MTHR TRSA and Paris

Modeled by Gloria and Buffy

Starring:

Joey Arias

Tyler Ashley

Garrett Allen

S T A R R busby

Maxi Hawkeye Canion

Cynthia Carr

God Complex

Kay Gabriel

Lola Flash

Slant Rhyme

Heather Glynis

Sarah Schulman

RuAfza

VaLeria

Abyss X

Sophie Yuqing Nie: Sound Board Op

WhimZee Hanna: Lighting Board Op

FRIDAY JUNE 6, 7:30PM

Slant Rhyme and Lola Flash

S T A R R busby

Tyler Ashley

RuAfza

Abyss X

SATURDAY JUNE 7, 7:30PM

Sarah Schulman and Heather Glynis

Garrett Allen

Tyler Ashley

Maxi Hawkeye Canion

SUNDAY JUNE 8, 5:30PM

Cynthia Carr and Kay Gabriel

VaLeria

God Complex

Tyler Ashley

S T A R R busby

and Joey Arias

Each evening will have two acts and running time is approximately 2 hours, followed by an after party with refreshments in the lobby.

This year's theme, disintegration and respair, draws inspiration from the late dramaturg and La MaMa family member Morgan Jenness, who invoked the word "respair" in their final days —a nearly forgotten word meaning the return of hope after a period of great hardship. The explored themes take homage from a talk at SQUIRTS last year between Journey Streams and Jack Halberstam- where it was noted that queer utopianism often centers around world building- but the way for us to get to those new worlds is not through the build, but the collapse of the structures we inhabit now. Set within a white paper landscape that evokes purity, limbo, and void, the space will visually and physically unravel over the course of the festival, through the interventions of performers, making way for new visions of queer futures.

Funded in part by The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust and the
American LGBTQ+ Museum

Paris Alexander – (they/them) the curator and art director of La MaMa's SQUIRTS since 2020- is a black/white American (West African by way of the Atlantic Slave Trade and Scotch Irish) multidisciplinary performance artist and producer with emphases in the experimental, creating visual landscapes/world building, storytelling, homage, invocation, and cross-pollinating. June 2025 marks their 10 year anniversary of living and working as an artist of many forms in Brooklyn and downtown NYC. They have operated as a visual artist, actor, playwright, stand up comic, and drag artist- with all named mediums deemed by their peers as "performance art." Their work often explores retrofuturism and means of calling forth queer ancestry and their matriarchal lineage. They are an avid lover and researcher of B-sides, music sample origins, queer artists and untold legacies. Since 2021 they have hosted and produced an all black experimental drag variety show with Julie J and Voxigma Lo at Purgatory, BK called Sylvester- named after the eponymous disco legend and Cockette. Some of their favorite projects: with Jeremy O. Harris ("Watersports"/Insignificant White Boys", BOFFO 2019), Jeff Weiss ("And That's How The Rent Gets Paid" revival, The Kitchen, 2015), Charlotte Brathwaite ("No More Water, The Fire Next Time", Park Avenue Armory), MTHR TRSA's "Hole Pics" Sophie tribute shows- 2024 + 2025, BLACKLIPS QUENCHED, at SQUIRTS 2023- in collaboration with The Haus of Quench and former members of The Blacklips Performance Cult, an archival research of Hattie Hathaway's work at HOWL, commissioned by Visual AIDS in collaboration with Buffy Sierra, performed as an interpolated homage at the VAVA Awards in 2024, and "With You in Spirit" an installation of artifacts and ephemera by their late mother and grandmother, exhibited by Forest For Trees Collective on Governor's Island. Their plays have been presented at Ars Nova, The Wild Project, Dixon Place, and La MaMa Galleria. They have had art residencies on Governor's Island, at Movement Research, and La MaMa Umbria in Italy. They have been in fellowships by Clubbed Thumb, NYCQT, and the Performance Project at University Settlement. One of their favorite reviews comes from Deepali Gupta: "Paris speaks with the dead."

ABYSS X Evangelia VS aka Abyss X is an artist, composer, songstress, director, choreographer, creative director and curator from Crete with an academic background in computer science and the performing arts, including a Central St Martins MA. She has released albums on acclaimed music labels AD 93, Halcyon Veil and Danse Noire and her music has appeared in fashion for the likes of Mugler, Luis de Javier, Anna Bolina, Julius and more. Former and ongoing collaborators include Grammy-nominated producers Rabbit and SOPHIE, Chinese-American filmmaker and visual artist Andrew Thomas Huang, New York artist and writer Juliana Huxtable and visual artist and lighting designer Theresa Baumgartner. Evangelia VS has contributed choreography, movement direction and video design to theatre productions by the Athens and Epidauros Festival, the National Theatre of Greece, the Mediterranean Biennale and more. Her personal cross-disciplinary work traverses a range of themes including the feminine body, eco-grief, surveillance, monetization of the feminine, the erotic, and post internet life. She has performed and toured her work in Europe, Mexico, USA, Asia and Australia at numerous festivals, art and music spaces including National Sawdust, Tanzquartier Wien, Performance Space New York, Phoenix Central Park, 3537org, La Gaité Lyrique, ICA Miami, Miami Art Basel, Southbank Centre (Royal Festival Hall, Purcell Room), La Casa Encendida, Vooruit, the Biennale of Moving Image (Geneva), Small Epidauros Theatre, HAU2, DOKUFEST, MONOM (Funkhaus), Wysing Arts Centre, Tai Kwun (Hong Kong), Inkonst and more. Evangelia VS is also the founder and curator of Nature Loves Courage Festival taking place in Crete since 2019

Garrett Allen is an artist and director currently residing in Brooklyn, NY. They primarily work through live performance and experiences. Garrett has shown, shared, and directed work with the School of Drama at Yale, Ars Nova, Prelude Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Knockdown Center, Public Assistants, Yale Dramat, The Invisible Dog, Laguardia Performing Arts Center, Jupiter Disco, Spectrum NYC, School for Visual Arts NY, NXTHVN, University for the Arts Philadelphia, and more. www.garrett-allen.com

S T A R R busby (all pronouns said with respect) is a Black experimental artist who sings, acts, composes, educates, and is committed to the liberation of all people. S T A R R leads a music project under their name and is the lead singer of dance&b band People's Champs (www.peopleschampsnyc.com). S T A R R has also supported and collaborated with artists such as Gorillaz, Esperanza Spalding, Son Lux, X Ambassadors, Kimbra, Alice Smith, and Quelle Chris. Selected credits: Between Wave and Water (Composer and "Ghost", Alethea Pace, The Metropolitan Museum of Art); If You Unfolded Us (Sable Elyse Smith, MoMA); (pray) (Ars Nova and National Black Theatre, A Singer, Composer, and Music Director) *Lucille Lortel Award Winner and NYT Critic's Pick; The Beautiful Lady (La MaMa, Boris) *NYT Critic's Pick; Octet (Signature Theatre, Paula) *Drama Desk Award Winner. [www.https://linktr.ee/S_T_A_R_R](https://linktr.ee/S_T_A_R_R)

Maxi Hawkeye Canion (they/she) is a Brooklyn based Performance Artist. Through their lens as a Black Queer artist, they distill their life experiences through performance, sculpture, sound, and garment. Their work illustrates the nuances of intimacy, failure, the grotesque, and ephemerality, centering on non-linear, autobiographical narratives that focus on intricate personas that serve as metaphorical embodiments of their socio-political stances. As a creator, they are currently a 2024/2025 Fresh Tracks artist, and have held residences at Chocolate Factory Theater, Art OMI, BOFFO Performance Festival 2022, Otion Front Studio, the Galim Moving Artist Residency 2023, to name a few. Their work has recently been presented for the 2024 Les Urbaines Festival in Lausanne, Switzerland, Black Aesthetics at Judson Memorial Church and SFX Festival 2024. As a performer, Maxi has collaborated with notable artists such as Buffy Sierra, MTHR TRSA, Nifemi Ogunro, Dominica Greene, Ella W-S, Akira Uchida, Theo Triantafyllidis, Eve Tagny, Alexandra Waierstall, Ryan Ponder McNamara, Miles Greenberg, Sigrid Lauren, J. Bouey, slowdanger, Shikeith, Monica Mirabile, Richard Kennedy, Young Boy Dancing Group, and Sidra Bell, among others.

Maxi Canion's Team:

Choreography/Performer/Text/Sound Collage/Sculpture: Maxi Hawkeye Canion

Garment design/redesign: Kate Williams, original top/bottom: DJ Chappel

Prosthetics: Nina Carelli

Camcorder footage/ video art: Laura Carella

Video Footage: Florence Woolley

Music: "Grindhouse" by Machine Girl

Kay Gabriel is a writer and organizer. She's the author of A Queen in Bucks County and Kissing Other People or the House of Fame, and the co-editor of We Want It All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics, all from Nightboat. Kay is the editorial director at the Poetry Project, where she edits the Poetry Project Newsletter. Her next book, Perverts, is forthcoming from Nightboat in fall 2025.

Cynthia Carr is the author, most recently, of *Candy Darling: Dreamer, Icon, Superstar*, winner of the National Book Critics Award for biography. Her previous books are *Fire in the Belly: The Life and Times of David Wojnarowicz*, winner of a Lambda Literary Award and finalist for the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize; *Our Town: A Heartland Lynching, a Haunted Town, and the Hidden History of White America*; and *On Edge: Performance at the End of the Twentieth Century*. Once a staff writer at *The Village Voice* (using the byline C.Carr), her work has also appeared in *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *TDR: The Drama Review*, and other publications.

God Complex (also known as Aeon Andreas) is a transexual, transdisciplinary director and performer working in the fields of drag, theater, film, and dance. Both in and out of drag, God Complex crafts wild, glittering, pseudo-mystical, atmospheric landscapes about transgender euphoria and joy through the collision of genre and form. Aeon is a member of the dance-theater company Witness Relocation, the sideshow theater company, The No Ring Circus, and he is a resident artist at the nightclub House of Yes. He has performed across the world as a dance artist and drag performer in iconic places such as Lincoln Center, BAM, The Chelsea Hotel, LaMama, Bonnaroo Arts festival, New Orleans' Civic Theater, Detroit's Masonic Temple, the Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theater, and Berlin's Mahalla. Aeon taught contact improv, composition, choreography, and drag practicums at Tisch Drama's Playwrights Horizons Theater School for eight years, and has guest taught at colleges like MIT and Montclair State University. His dance-theater work has been shown at TV Eye, Center for Performance Research, Greenwood Cemetery, God Complex's work straddles drag and performance art and often centers his transexual body in conversation with "the void," whatever that may mean. He is a warped reflection of his host body's reality. IG: @gOd.cOmplex.

A New Jersey native and long-time figure in New York's downtown scene, **Lola Flash** is an activist documenting themes of race, age, and gender. Flash was an active ACT UP member during the AIDS epidemic in New York City and featured in the 1989 "Kissing Doesn't Kill" poster. Their art and activism are deeply connected, fueling a life-long commitment to visibility and preserving the legacy of LGBTQIA+ and communities of color. Flash works primarily in portraiture with a 4x5 film camera and a digital medium format camera, engaging those often deemed invisible. With numerous international exhibitions and commissions, their work is included in collections such as MoMA, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the George Eastman Museum. Flash is also a Kamoinge Collective member and President of the Queer Art board. A committed artist, Flash uses photography to provide "new ways of seeing." They create visually alluring images while initiating change and progress. Their work invites viewers to not only look but see.

Heather Glynis is a writer, performer, and all around transsexual-about-town. She is interested in the ways sex and celebrity both free and confine us, the asymptotic friction of trans identity, jokes, Language poetry, and apocalypse as an opportunity for a vaudevillian coming together. She approaches her work through the lens of a poet, but sees poetry not as an end, but an engine for something more expansive that can integrate drag, narrative, music, and performance into an alternative mosaic theater — though she does occasionally just write poems. She's written and

performed for The Poetry Project, Wonder Press, No, Dear, Parkside Lounge, La Mama, and more. She is from fair Verona, New Jersey and lives in Bushwick.

Slant Rhyme (b.1996) is a research-based artist and anti-disciplinary writer and performer from Southern Louisiana. Their work explores posthumous poetics, object orientations, non-hierarchical systems of interconnectedness, and the body as a site to critique violence within the built environment and the black imaginary. Their words have been featured in Spike Art Magazine, The Whitney Review of New Writing, Writing on Raving, and Transgender Studies Quarterly. They have been commissioned by the Idea Fund, Trans Justice Funding Project, and received support from the The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts, UNO gallery and the Blaffer Museum.

RuAfza (b. Siddhant Talwar) is a multidisciplinary artist and designer based in Brooklyn, specializing in drag performance and visual arts. As a queer immigrant from India, their work explores themes of gender, immigration, and consumption through lenticular imagery and immersive installations. Their practice balances artistic innovation with accessibility, creating emotionally resonant work that combines humor with introspection. Drawing from community organizing and labor union collaborations in India, RuAfza has performed at the Paramount Theater in Boston and The Flea in NYC, and held workshops and participated in panels at Tufts, Yale, SFSU, Northeastern, and Williams College about performance and collective resistance. RuAfza holds a BFA in Studio Art and BA in New Media from Tufts University, graduating Magna cum Laude with thesis honors. She has produced shows at 3 Dollar Bill, C'mon Everybody, Herbert Von King Cultural Center and more.

Sarah Schulman is an award-winning novelist, playwright, nonfiction writer, screenwriter, and AIDS historian. She holds an endowed chair in Creative Writing at Northwestern University and is on the Advisory Board of Jewish Voice for Peace. She is the author of over 20 books, including the groundbreaking *Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987–1993*, and acclaimed novels like *After Delores* and *The Cosmopolitans*. Schulman was the original creator of the concept and first draft that inspired *Rent*, drawing from her novel *People in Trouble*—a fact she has discussed widely in exploring issues of appropriation and credit in the arts—more extensively in her nonfiction book *Stagestruck: Theater, AIDS, and the Marketing of Gay America*. A longtime activist, she is a co-founder of MIX NYC, the Queer Experimental Film Festival, and a key member of ACT UP. Schulman's work champions justice, queer life, and radical imagination.

VaLeria is a trans multidisciplinary artist born and raised in the Philippines. Their work explores the intersections of sexuality, race, gender, and spirituality, investigating the role of spiritual traditions in family and broader cultural relationships. They emphasize the theatricality and psychological impact of these traditions, drawing upon a deep appreciation for Pilipino culture and an avant-garde trans creative energy. Honoring ancestral, trans, two-spirit, and siya heritage, Valeria's work fuses traditional techniques with influences from the Tausug Region and Ballroom-vogue scenes. Through their artistry, they push the boundaries of trans visibility, fashion innovation, and performance.

Buffy Sierra (she/her) is an artist and writer producing work about living horrors and dying beauties. Buffy's fixation on living horrors and dying beauties is an inverted obsession with life. She produces art to unravel how we live through this world's horrors, always with a retaliatory affirmation of beauty and its heartbreaking ephemerality. Her work slips promiscuously between sensuousness and severity: erotic live performance and its documents, stark technical design for stage and screen, unrelenting electronic music, and volatile choreographies that turn bodies inside-out. Her performances live in the gothic, gore-geous, and grotesque spaces between sex work, burlesque, drag, synthesized sound, tragic theater, and histories of transsexual futurity. She composes discordant music from open-source software, performance scores from metabolic memories implanted by medicalized technologies, operatic theater from the social engine of queer nightlife, dance from the felt dimensions of her synthetic biology's chronic pains, and rapturous events where audiences converge for exhilarating, unsettling, and transformative intimacies. Recent La MaMa credits include her performance art pop concert EXAM in the Ellen Stewart Theatre this past May.

Joey Arias is a Downtown star; performance artist, singer, and drag icon whose career spans music, theater, and cabaret. Rising to fame in the 1980s New York avant-garde scene, Arias performed alongside David Bowie with his love Klaus Nomi on Saturday Night Live singing Boys Keep Swinging and TVC15. He has had longstanding collaborations with Sherry Vine, Jackie Beat and Raven O At Bar d'O. With a signature blend of jazz vocals, sharp wit, and daring theatricality, Arias has captivated audiences at venues like Carnegie Hall, Joe's Pub, and the Soho Theatre in London. Notable works include Arias With a Twist, a surreal collaboration with puppeteer Basil Twist, and his long-running Las Vegas show Zumanity with Cirque du Soleil. Film credits include Elvira, Mistress of the Dark and To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar. Arias is most known for embodying and channeling the vocal stylings and essence of Billie Holiday- performing her songs at Lincoln Center- adorned in her clothes and jewelry for her centennial celebration. Arias recently released a short film directed by Aaron Maurer with the accompanying singles "Ooh What A Feeling/No One Knows/Whatever" and the album that features them: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE- on Beige Records. A transcendent innovator, Joey Arias continues to dazzle and mesmerize with performances that defy genre.

Tyler Ashley is a Dance, Drag and Performance Artist. Ashley has performed for Elizabeth Streb, DANCENOISE, Larissa Velez-Jackson, Sean Donovan, Katy Pyle, and Charles Atlas among others. She is also known as The Dauphine – a nightlife personality, performer, producer, and emcee. Her dance art and/or drag performances have been presented by Performa, The High Line, Times Square Alliance, NADA, BOFFO, and seen at Brooklyn Museum, Bard College, Art Basel, BAM, FIAR, The Kitchen, MANA, New York Live Arts, The Public Theater, Jacob's Pillow, Triskelion Arts, Knockdown Center, The Chocolate Factory, Movement Research, Danspace Project and more.

KIDNAP ME AGAIN PERFORMER BIOS:

Sean Donovan is an actor, singer, dancer, and choreographer. Recent original works include Cabin (The Bushwick Starr, NYC), The Reception (HERE Arts, NYC), and 18 1/2 Minutes (JACK, NYC). His work has also been presented in The Under the Radar

Festival (NYC), CUNY's Prelude Festival (NYC), FAE Festival in Panama, Stanford University (CA), New York University (NYC), and others. Beyond his own work he has choreographed works for acclaimed theater companies, The Talking Band and The Civilians. As a performer, Sean won a 2022 Lortel Award for his performance in Heather Christian's Oratorio for Living Things at Ars Nova. He's worked with Taylor Mac, Jason Robert Brown, Lee Sunday Evans, Tina Satter, Heather Christian, Faye Driscoll, Miguel Gutierrez, Jane Comfort, The Builders Association, Witness Relocation, and many others. Recent theater and dance credits: Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (The Goodman), Bark of Millions (BAM and World Tour), The Trees (Playwrights Horizons), Elements of OZ (Skirball Center), Thank You for Coming (BAM and World Tour). Television and Film: Law & Order: Organized Crime, Feast of the Epiphany. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Theater department at NYU: Tisch School of the Arts.

Arantxa Araujo is a queer Mexican artist whose central axis is performance art and branches into a multidisciplinary practice that unfold as 2D/3D visual works, meditative, multisensory experiences and movement pieces that awaken awareness to facilitate introspection. The works are deeply influenced by her background in neuroscience. Their work has been showcased at esteemed venues like the Brooklyn Museum, Leslie-Lohman Museum, and the Queens Museum, as well as internationally at festivals such as the Illuminus Festival in Boston and Nuit Blanche Festival in Canada, among others. A disciplined researcher and experimenter, Arantxa has garnered recognition through awards like the Franklin Furnace Fund and grants from the Brooklyn Arts Council and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, along with several prestigious residencies and fellowships. @ArantxaAraujo www.arantxaaraujo.com

A native of Detroit, MI, **Rakia Seaborn** is a writer, choreographer, educator and performer whose work has appeared at JACK, Dixon Place, La Mama E.T.C., The Tank, AUNTS, chashama and Brooklyn Studios for Dance. Seaborn has worked with Kathy Westwater, Dianne McIntyre, Rashaun Mitchell, Jodi Melnick, and Tyler Ashley, PMMDC & Meta-Phys Ed. She graduated from Oberlin College in 2007, earning a Bachelors of Art in Dance with a concentration in Choreography, and in 2014, she gained an MFA in Dance from Sarah Lawrence College. Seaborn teaches Movement for Trinity College's Experimental Performing Arts Program at La Mama, Etc as well as Dance History Through A Political Lens & MFA Thesis Writing at Sarah Lawrence College. She is a 2018 Mertz Gilmore Late Stage Creative Stipend recipient. Rakia is excited to revisit Kidnap Me with Tyler!

Brandon Washington is a Brooklyn-based dancer, model, choreographer and performance artist. He holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Florida and has been on faculty at NYU Tisch's Experimental Theater Wing since 2020. His performance and teaching practice explore the intersections of technique, fashion, sound, and physical storytelling. Brandon has collaborated with artists and companies including Ryan McNamara, Faye Driscoll Dance Group, Sean Donovan, Jane Comfort, Burr Johnson, Adam Weinert, Mark Dendy, Orange Grove Dance, Adidas, Vogue, JW Anderson, Hermès, Radiohead, LogoTV, Eartheater, Dana Dentata, and Sigrid Lauren. His work has brought him to international stages and festivals across the globe. Thank you Tyler for bringing me in to kidnap you again! @branwashed

A full program with information on this
production can be found on the
La MaMa's Squirts
page of the La MaMa website.

In addition you can scan the
QR code Poster located in the theatre
lobby for access to the digital program.

LA MAMA



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

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 Kenneth Silverman
 Moira Smith / M&T Bank
 NYSCA / TDF Tap PlusSpiderwoman Theater
 The Acción Cultural Española
 Teal Pond Foundation
 Zishan Ugurlu
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 Michael Witkin
 Bon Yagi / T.I.C. Restaurant Group

*A very special THANK YOU! to all who contributed to
 La MaMa's Capital Campaign to restore and rebuild our
 landmark building at 74A East 4th Street

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