

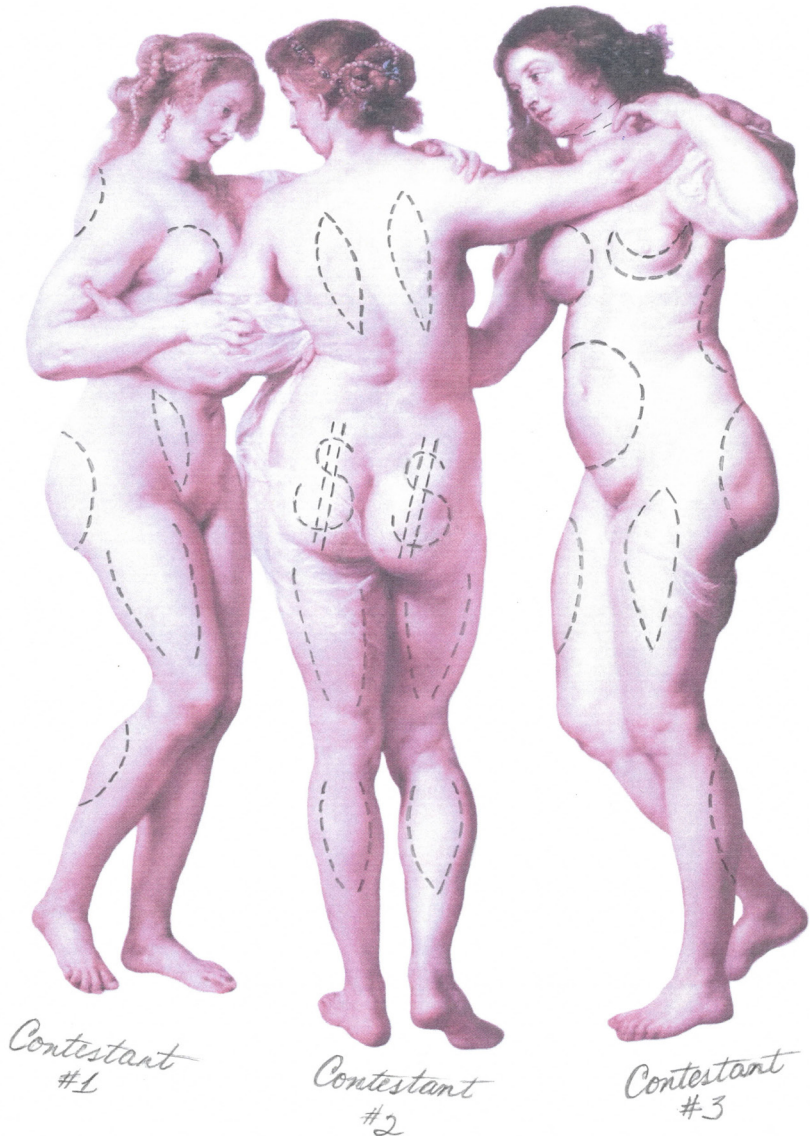
La MaMa

Experimental Theatre Club

presents

DROP DEAD... GORGEOUS

Choreographed and Directed by Tamar Rogoff



The Downstairs
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
October 17-November 2, 2025

DROP DEAD... GORGEOUS

Choreographed and Directed by Tamar Rogoff

Gardiner Comfort.....	GameMaster(GM)
Shaena Kate.....	Contestant #1
Gerlanda Di Stefano.....	Contestant #2
Gina Bonati.....	Contestant #3
Sara Gierc.....	Assistant Director
Rachel Stires.....	Company Manager
Lianne Arnold.....	Video and Scenic Design
Nicole Slaven.....	Costume Design
Philip Trevino.....	Lighting Design & Stage Manager
Hailey Redd.....	GM Wrangler
Cate Cameron.....	Contestant #1 Understudy
Julia Felippi.....	Contestant #2 Understudy
Jody Oberfelder.....	Contestant #3 Understudy
Kelly Ryan.....	Publicist
Ren Conger.....	Graphic Design
Harvey Wang.....	Photographer
David Bruin.....	Creative Consultant
Emily "Emla" La Rochelle and Serazina Joy Stein.....	Film Shoot Coordinators
Shachar Langlev.....	Cinematographer for Greek Chorus Film Shoot

Special Thanks

Mia Yoo and the whole wonderful gang at La MaMa;; Ilana Reich; Glen Heroy; Watson; Shawn Shafner; Cathy at Great Jones; Phil Hartman of Two Boots; Kyle at Paradise of Replica; Frank London and Tine Kinderman; Eric; Ines and Shoshi of Sandglass Theater; Ninoshka De Leon Gil

Special, special, thanks

Richard Heitler thanks for more than I can say
Rachel Stires for being with me from the beginning and arriving to help at all hours of the day and night. I so appreciate your partnership and friendship
Sara Gierc- Thank you for the love you brought to the work and to me. Your contributions are endless, as are your abilities. Amazing to work with you!

Dedication

To my grandchildren–Arlo, Lois, Finneas and Juliet–may you thrive in your bodies and over a lifetime learn to love them as the richest resource you have, one that is always looking out for you from a position of great knowledge and power. What an honor it has been to take from the past generations and now pass on and share DNA with you!

*Also...to Morgan Jeaness, for the first steps we took together.
You ignited the energy in me for Drop Dead...Gorgeous.
How I wish you and your positivity were here.
I treasure your memory.*

And...to Evi Blaikie, for supporting me in my work and our friendship. The gala will miss your tiramisu.

Choreographer's Statement

I loved my dancing body until it danced into adolescence and criticism from dance teachers landed deep, and I never fully recovered the innocence of my early childhood positivity. So, 65 years later I made Drop Dead...Gorgeous and the process has been transformative for me. I can now say I love every inch and curve every nerve ending. My beating heart, even my aches and pains. It's all perfect. I apologize to my body for all the lifetime of dissing it. I'm so sorry .

Music:

"Icarus Falling"

Performed by Avi-Fox Rosen

Written by Avi-Fox Rosen

"The Producers"

Performed by Avi-Fox Rosen

Written by Avi-Fox Rosen

"Au Revoir Theme"

Performed by Avi-Fox Rosen

Written by Avi-Fox Rosen

"Gimme Gimme Gimme"

Performed by Avi-Fox Rosen

Written by Avi-Fox Rosen

"Torreador"

Performed by Avi-Fox Rosen

Written by Avi-Fox Rosen

"Take Stock"

Performed by Avi-Fox Rosen

Written by Avi-Fox Rosen

"The Naked Truth"

Performed by Avi-Fox Rosen

Written by Avi-Fox Rosen

"100 Pounds of Clay"

Performed by Gary Lewis & the Playboys

From the album 'Everybody Loves a Clown / She's Just My Style (1966)

"If You Wanna Be Happy"

Performed by Jimmy Soul

Written by Rafael de Leon, Joseph Royster, Carmella Guida, Frank Guida

From the album "If You Wanna Be Happy" (1963)

"Les Sylphides"

Orchestrated by Alexander Glazunov

Composed by Frédéric Chopin

From the suite "Chopiniana, Op. 46" (1896)

"For All We Know"

Music written by J Fred Coots and Lyrics by Sam M. Lewis

Recorded by James Hal Kemp (1934)

“Arterial”

Performed by Rachel's

Written by Rachel Grimes and Christian Frederickson

From the album 'systems/layers' (2003)

Copyright 2003 Quarterstick Records - BMI

“Egon Edith and Wally Meet”

Performed by Rachel's

Written by Rachel Grimes

From the album 'Music for Egon Schiele' (1996)

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“Kentucky Nocturne”

Performed by Rachel's

Written by Jason Noble, Rachel Grimes and Christian Frederickson

From the album 'Selenography' (1999)

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“Letters Home”

Performed by Rachel's

Written by Jason Noble, Rachel Grimes and Christian Frederickson

From the album 'The Sea and the Bells' (1996)

Copyright 1996 Quarterstick Records - BMI

“Rhine and Courtesan”

Performed by Rachel's

Written by Jason Noble, Rachel Grimes and Christian Frederickson

From the album 'The Sea and the Bells' (1996)

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“Water From the Same Source”

Performed by Rachel's

Written by Jason Noble, Rachel Grimes and Christian Frederickson

From the album 'systems/layers' (2003)

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“Recent Alien Abductions #5”

Written and performed by Christian Frederickson

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“Islands of Light” (excerpt)

Written and performed by Christian Frederickson

Copyright 2018 - BMI

“Tempest”

Performed by The Young Scamels

From the album Tempest

Written by Jason Noble, Christian Frederickson, and Greg King

Copyright 2010 BMI



Tamar Rogoff is a choreographer and filmmaker who explores the outer limits of how people negotiate extreme circumstances. As artistic director of Tamar Rogoff Performance Projects, Rogoff creates inclusive, multidisciplinary, multigenerational, and site-specific performance and film as well as proscenium performance. Rogoff's subject matter is deeply personal and often autobiographical, but in the vast diversity of her casting, it finds its universality. Rogoff has been presented both nationally and internationally, at the

Kennedy Center, the Pompidou Center and the Estonian National Opera, and in venues as accessible as sidewalks and rooftops. The surprising juxtaposition of performers who are new to the stage and seasoned professionals taps into Rogoff's wish--to use the unexpected to spark curiosity and empathy. Rogoff's choreography has been seen at P.S. 122, St. Mark's Church, LaMama ETC, Dance Theater Workshop, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, and in venues worldwide.

Rogoff's documentary *Summer in Iyve* (2001) screened at The Jewish Film Festival at Lincoln Center and The Hamptons Film Festival. She was a Sundance Institute Documentary Film Fellow where she worked with Daisy Wright on the award-winning feature documentary *Enter the Faun* (2015), based on an earlier piece of choreography, *Diagnosis of a Faun* (2009). In the film, Rogoff's lifelong method, known as Body Scripting, explores release through unorthodox body practices to address protagonist Mozgala's cerebral palsy. *Enter the Faun* toured festivals globally--The Sarasota Film Festival, the Margaret Mead Film Festival, Dance on Camera, ReelAbilities Film Festival and the Extraordinary Film Festival in Belgium. It was broadcast on Belgium TV and on PBS America Reframed in 2018 and 2022. Rogoff's documentary about her dancers during lockdown, *A Plague on All Our Houses* (2021), screened at NYC Independent and Manhattan Film Festival (both June 2021). Rogoff's first short, *Wonder About Merri*, was at Dance on Camera (2019) and won the Most Daring Short at Dare to Dance in Public Film Festival (2019). During Covid she produced a dance-narrative short, *The Circles of Avenue C* in her Lower East side neighborhood. She is the founder of the Solar Powered Dance Festival at Solar One.

Rogoff works as a movement coach to actors, including Claire Danes for her Emmy award winning role in *Temple Grandin* (2010). She was an adjunct teacher at NYU's Experimental Theater Wing (1995-2010), Her experiential anatomy dance lab at La MaMa is ongoing. Rogoff is a recipient of grants from the NEA, NYFA, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Trust for Mutual Understanding, Association of Performing Arts Presenters and the Rockefeller MAP Grant. She is also a Guggenheim fellow.



Gina Bonati moved from San Francisco to NYC in 1981 to attend Juilliard where she earned a BFA in Dance in 1985. She then danced with known and unknown dance and dance theater companies: Errol Grimes, Kenneth King, Jane Comfort, Marcela Ortiz de Zarate, Patricia Cremins and so many others. She made her own work in dance/installation/theater/music and still does. Her bread and butter jobs included front of house at BAM (where she can still be found) and modeling for the city's amazing visual art schools. As a child she studied and lived in the arts (her father is Mouse Bonati the beloved bebop artist in alto sax and flute). She has always been an artist, trying a couple of unsuccessful times to be normal. She is a dancer and actress (yes, feminine endings) with international accomplishments. She teaches acting at The Strasberg Institute for NYU Tisch and Institute students. She is a member of the Actors Studio. She holds two MFAs in Performing Arts. One in Dance, the other in Experimental Music with Voice being her primary instrument. Both graduate degrees are from Mills College. She is always studying. These days, aside from ballet classes, she studies classical piano with Cheryl Seltzer and jazz piano and songs with Tardo Hammer. She has just begun to study with Tamar Rogoff and can't stop practicing....She adores her teachers and her students.



Gardiner Comfort is thrilled to join Tamar and the creative team to bring this wild story to life. Select acting credits: *The Marriage* (La MaMa and Gombrowicz Festival, Radom, Poland); *Fishmen* (INTAR); *Be The Death of Me* (Civilians); *Julius Caesar* (ART and multiple world tours); *Henry IV, part 1* (BAM and Hebbel Theatre, Berlin); *A Parsifal* (PS122); *The Elephant in Every Room I Enter* (original solo show: La MaMa and NYTW Next Door Series); *You're Not Tough* (original solo show: Dixon Place, HERE). Film/TV: *The Path* (Hulu); *Battle Rattle* (original short film: Manhattan Film Festival, Sky Arts Film Festival, Chain NYC film festival); MFA from ART; Gardiner is an advocate for the Tourette Syndrome community and serves on the board of the NYC Chapter of the Tourette Association of America; gardinercomfort.com; I love you Colleen.



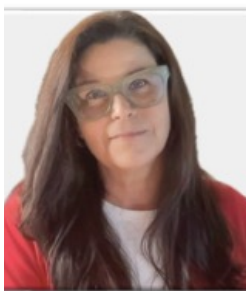
Gerlanda Di Stefano is a 20-year-old multidisciplinary artist with a passion for dance, acting, and visual art. She has been dancing for as long as she can remember, and performing has always felt like home to her. She recently starred in three short films and continues to explore how movement and storytelling connect across mediums. She feels so grateful to be part of this production and excited to keep growing through work she loves.



Shaena Kate is a dancer and actor based in NJ/NYC. From North Carolina, she was classically trained in Cecchetti ballet, and went on to earn her BFA in Dance from Montclair State. She has performed for creators such as Stefanie Batten Bland, Cate Cameron, Kierstyn Edore, Rush Johnston, Dennis Oliveira, Charlie Kellogg, and Amina Kolenc, among others. Some credits include: *Look Who's Coming to Dinner* at PEAK Performances; *Monstrous* at Nowadays; *Measure for Measure* at Lenfest Center for the Arts. In addition to her performance work, Shaena has been on the technical side of productions including: *Sleep No More* (The McKittrick Hotel), *Dungeons and Dragons The Twenty Sided Tavern* (Stage 42), *Cocktail Magique* (Company XIV), and *Shadowboxing* in Blue (Haven Boxing). She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support.



Sara Gierc is a writer and director. She studies directing and playwriting with Lyle Kessler's Master Class, Adult Film, and previously studied dramatic literature at New York University. Most recently, she served as stage manager under director Joe Batista and writer Michael Gorman for their *Moby Dick Blues* at the Ellen Stewart Theater. Other credits include assistant director for Briana Bartenieff's *Scammed into Love* at Theater for the New City, assistant director for Sean O'Leary's *The Escape* at The Tank under the direction of Mario Corry, and stage manager for writer and director Barry Primus's *Soup in the Second Act*. She is also a teaching artist at Theater for the New City. She is incredibly grateful to her family in Georgia, the artist communities that have fostered her here and abroad, and, most recently, to Tamar- for one of the most artistically nourishing and exciting projects of her career. She wants to thank La MaMa and all staff-past and present-for all they do to support artists and make every day here so full of joy and art so full of love and courage.



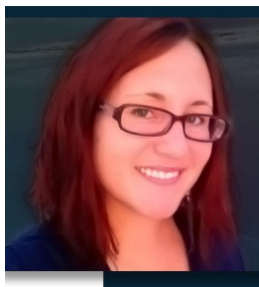
Rachel Stires is a native of the East Village. She began studying ballet at age three and migrated to acting during her junior year of high school. She has experience in acting, makeup, and set and costume design. She worked on films and commercials as a PA, assistant director, and producer. She later assisted with the design and build of sound systems and worked in event production. She took on the role of director of production at an event company in South Florida for many years. In addition, she helped design, build, and operate a 22,000 sq ft event space in Tampa with Aurateq Global, Inc. She worked for a trust with an extensive modern art collection and an international real estate portfolio to liquidate assets and managed the office of the trust's general partner. She continues to remotely work for the estate for the trusts and for Red Eye NY and Ice Palace. She is happy to have had the opportunity to work with her friend Tamar as her company manager for *Drop Dead... Gorgeous*.



Nicole Slaven is a costume designer based in Queens, NY. Credits include *Carmen* (Rose Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center), *10x10 New Play Festival* (Barrington Stage Company), *Rinse, Repeat* (Signature Theatre Company). She is a resident designer for Two Headed Rep. Nicole received a Drama Desk nomination and Lucille Lortel Award for her design of *Henry Vi: Shakespeare's Trilogy In Two Parts* (NAATCO). She would like to thank her partner Justin and baby Ocean Bliss for filling her life with laughter and joy.



Philip Treviño is a Queer Chicano from California who has worked in NYC for the past 23 years in Dance and Theater as Designer, Production Manager, Technical Director, and Stage Manager. Philip has been a grantee of New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) funding for FY2021 and FY2023 for his design work with Pioneers Go East Collective; which was a 2023 BAM Artist in Residence Company and produces the Out-FRONT! Festival. He is a 2010 recipient of a New York Dance and Performance Award (BESSIE) for his lighting and scenic design for Pam Tanowitz's *Be In The Gray With Me*. He is also the scenic designer for Camille A. Brown and Company's *Mr. Tol E. Rance*, which won a 2014 BESSIE for Outstanding Production. He has served as a subcommittee member for the New York Dance and Performance Awards (The Bessies). He is a proud alumnus of San Francisco State University (2000). At Marymount Manhattan College, Philip served as Technical Director for the Dance Department from 2006-2022 and taught Stagecraft for Dance. He is the Director of Production for the 14Y Theater. www.philipptrevino.com



Lianne Arnold is a video & scenic designer and inter-disciplinary artist working in performance, film & installation. Recent work: *Lolo's Boyfriend Show* [14th St Y], *Closing Ceremonies* [installation | Chapel St. Catherine, Auvillar, France], *Día Y Noche* [Labyrinth Theater], *Houses of Zodiac* [The Broad Museum], *Fidelio* [Austin Opera], *Lil Buck & Jon Boogz' Love Heals All Wounds* [featured in Netflix's MOVE], *The Lady and the Dale* [HBO], *The Hello Girls* [Prospect Theater], *Let Me Die* [Opera Philadelphia], *Train With No Midnight* [Prototype Festival]. Lianne teaches Creative Technologies at The New School and is a member of Wingspace Design Collective. MFA - CalArts. www.liannearnold.com

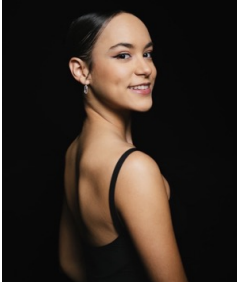


Shachar Langlev is a director and cinematographer whose films have screened around the country including at the Sundance Film Festival and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He was the director of photography on *ALIVE INSIDE*, which won the Audience Award at Sundance and was released in theaters nation-wide. Shachar directed and produced a series of high-profile short documentary films featuring notable subjects such as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Gloria Steinem, and Bryan Stevenson. Most recently, Shachar was the cinematographer on *Soul On Fire*, a feature film about Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Elie Wiesel; the film premiered at the Hamptons

International Film Festival, screened at the Telluride Film Festival, and opened in theaters in the fall of 2025. He is the cinematographer on a feature documentary currently in production, *Let No One Lose Heart*, which is supported by the Robert Redford Foundation and the Ford Foundation. Shachar is also director of photography on an upcoming fiction feature, *Thoughts&Prayers*, now in post, featuring Patrick Wilson, Margaret Cho, and Molly Ringwald, among others. The feature is based on the short film Shachar shot— the award winning, Oscar qualifying, Vimeo staff pick, *Run Amok*. Shachar is a professor at Brooklyn College in New York where he teaches cinematography and film production.



Cate Cameron is a dance artist and choreographer based in the New Jersey/NYC area. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Montclair State University in Spring 2024, graduating with honors. She has performed in works by Doug Varone, Mark Haim, Stefanie Batten Bland, Michelle Manzanale, and Christian von Howard. Her choreographic work has been featured in DanceMakers at Montclair State, Creative Collaborations with Arts by the People, and Finding Compassion at Arts on Site.



Julia Felippi is a Brazilian dancer from São Paulo whose journey began at the age of 10, when she earned a scholarship to the Bolshoi Theater School in Brazil. She graduated in 2022 and was awarded a scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. While at Joffrey, Julia spent two years in the Flight Path Dance Program, broadening her artistic voice through diverse movement languages. In her final year, she joined the Joffrey Concert Group, where she deepened her practice in contemporary ballet and contemporary dance through both performance and collaboration. Now based in New York City, Julia is in her first season with New York Theatre Ballet.



Gian-Murray Gianino: SITI Company: *The Medium, A Christmas Carol, Radio Play: WOW, The Bacchae, Steel Hammer, Trojan Women (After Euripides), bobrauschenbergamerica, theatre is a blank page, Hanjo, Persians, Café Variations, Radio Macbeth, systems/layers, and Freshwater*. New York: BAM, Second Stage (Euridyce), Signature Theatre, The Public Theater, Japan Society, WP Theater, SoHo Rep, Laurie Beechman, and HERE Arts. Regional/International: Guthrie, City Theatre Pittsburgh, Yale Rep, Arena Stage, Actors Theatre of Louisville (Humana Festival), Berkshire Theatre Festival, Arts and Ideas Festival, SUNY Purchase, Penguin Rep, Getty Villa (LA), The Court (Chicago), Krannert Center, Walker Art Center, Wexner Center, MC93 Bobigny (Paris, France), Bonn Biennale (Bonn, Germany), Dublin Theatre Festival (Dublin, Ireland), GIFT Festival (Tbilisi, Georgia), NYUAD (Abu Dhabi, UAE), Theatre Olympics (Toga-mura, Japan). TV: *L&O: Organized Crime, L&O, L&O: SVU, The Affair, Limitless, White Collar, All My Children*. FILM: *Little Audrey, The 190, Hospitality, Dead Canaries*. Guest Artist/Faculty: NYU, The New School, SUNY Purchase, Skidmore, Bennington, LIU.

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Talk Back Luminaries

Dr. Judith Brisman, Sunday, October 19th; Diana Byer, Saturday, October 25th; Linda Hamilton, Sunday, October, 26th; Chrysalix, Saturday, November 1st

Producer Voiceovers

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Women in raincoats:

Amy Schwartzman, Molly Sasso, Meredith Wright

A full program with information on this
production can be found on the
Drop Dead...Gorgeous
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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NOW PLAYING

**And Then We Were
No More**
Sept 19-Nov 2, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre

The (Un)Double
Oct 9-19, 2025
The Club

Drop Dead...Gorgeous
Oct 17-Nov 2, 2025
The Downstairs Theatre

**La MaMa Kids: Awaken The
Rhythms Of Nature**
Oct 18-19, 2025
Community Arts Space

COMING SOON

Creatures
Oct 23-Nov 2, 2025
Building 74a East 4th Street

**Ready For Company and Other
Family Tales**
Nov 6-23, 2025
The Downstairs Theatre

**ArtsLink Assembly 2025:
Defending Each Other**
Nov 6-7, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre

**The Reflections of Native Voices
Festival: The Feast of Ghosts**
Nov 6-9, 2025
The Club