**Intersections v3**

**April 19 +20, 2024**

**Livestream and live from the Multicultural Arts Center in Cambridge, MA**

**Notes from founder/executive and artistic director Ellice Patterson**

Thank you to all who are joining us in person or live to witness Intersections v3 magic at work. This is a series near and dear to myself and Director of Music Andrew Choe as it highlights those of us who live at the intersections of race and disability. We are often erased in either space, so to have a show that proudly celebrates both is phenomenal.

Time for thank yous. Thank you to our dancers who tried a new shift in our creative process as we practice with audio descriptions before music and let that be the beat that guides us. And they dove right into research, new movement practices, and being their best selves on stage. Thank you to Andrew Choe and the musicians providing original live music that complements the movement and narrative on stage. Thank you to the Loop Lab and Multicultural Arts Center team who are doing online and in person background work to bring this show to life. Thanks to Disability Policy Consortium and Easterseals who provided much needed advocacy education and community outreach. Thanks to our community partners who shared this work widely! With no press this show, we’re relying on the community to get the word out and it has been a beautiful thing.

Special thank you to our honorees, living and ancestral, who shared their life arcs through conversations, writings, and more. I appreciate you and hope to uplift all the transformative work you.

Intersections v3 program

Choreography (with dancers’ collaboration), audio descriptions, and overall artistic direction by Ellice Patterson

Music composed by Director of Music Andrew Choe

Audio descriptions edited by Amber Pearcy; CART by Teri Gibson

ASL Friday: Samantha Bachand and Christopher Robinson

ASL Saturday: Christopher Robinson

Live music by Cimone Phillips, Greg Savino, and Christopher Hernandez

Videography by Loop Lab

Community Partners: Disability Policy Consortium and Easterseals

(\* is the bill connected with the performance piece)

“Christopher Unpezverde Núñez”

Danced by Carmen Rizzo

\*estate recovery bill and supported discrimination bill

“Jerron Herman”

Danced by Kylie Kean and Kate O’Day

“Alicia Alonso”

Danced by Abigail Ripin

\*spouse as caregiver bill

“Stacey Park Milbern”

Danced by Linda Lin

\*wheelchair warranty bill, pharmaceutical bill, and preventing healthcare discrimination bill

INTERMISSION

“Kayla Hamilton”

Danced by Kylie Kean and Kate O’Day

“Alice Sheppard”

Danced by Ellice Patterson

“Yaffa”

Danced by Dara Capley, Cassandre Charles, and Claire Lane

\*estate recovery bill and preventing healthcare discrimination bill

See dancer bios on our website at <https://abilitiesdanceboston.org/company>

Thank you to our funders for which NONE of this would exist:

Event sponsored in part by Rockland Trust

Org funders providing much needed year round support:

* Barr Foundation
* Brookline Community Foundation
* Foley Hoag
* Liberty Mutual
* Boston Women’s Fund
* Borealis Disability Inclusion Fund
* Adelard & Vadela Roy Foundation
* Boston Cultural Council
* Mass Cultural Council

These funders are critical for support but we still rely on donor support from audiences like you. You can find out various ways to donate at <https://abilitiesdanceboston.org/donate>

**Honoree Bios:**

Christopher “Unpezverde” Núñez

Christopher “Unpezverde” Núñez is a Visually Impaired choreographer based in NYC. Núñez is a Princeton University Arts Fellow 22’, a Jerome Hill Fellow 22’, a Dance/USA Fellow 22’, and a Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art Fellow 18’. His performances have been presented by The Joyce Theater, The Brooklyn Museum, The Kitchen, Danspace Project, Movement Research at The Judson Church, The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art, among others. In 2023, Unpezverde was selected by the magazine Art In America as one of the New Talent artists and was nominated for A Bessie, The New York Dance and Performance Awards.

Jerron Herman

Jerron Herman is an artist who is compelled to create images of freedom. His own freedom stems from the joyful interplay with forms that create a “soloist who isn’t siloed”. Herman has premiered works at Danspace Project, Performance Space New York, and The Whitney Museum with tours to the Baltimore Museum of Art, ODC SF, and digital releases for Lincoln Center. His latest, Lax, was commissioned by Stephen Petronio Company and premiered at Battery Dance Festival and has activated museums like The Met and Guggenheim.

Alicia Alonso

Alicia Alonso (born December 21, 1920—died October 17, 2019) was a blind Cuban ballerina highly regarded for her convincing portrayals of leading roles in the great works of classical and Romantic ballet in the American Ballet Theatre and Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. In 1959, Alonso returned home and formed a new ballet company, Ballet Nacional de Cuba (National Ballet of Cuba). In addition to serving as its director, she continued to dance until her death in 2019. UNESCO awarded her the Pablo Picasso Medal, its award for notable contributions to arts or culture, in 1999.

Stacey Park Milbern

Stacey, a resident of Oakland, California had a long history as a leader and activist. At the age of 16, she was an influential leader within the North Carolina Youth Leadership Network. Thanks to her work (in partnership with other NC advocates) the state began including disability history as part of its high school curriculum. She was appointed by the Governor of North Carolina to the Statewide Independent Living Council from 2004 to 2010 and to the North Carolina Commission for the Blind from 2006 to 2008 Since then, her leadership and advocacy continued to grow into national prominence and national movements. In 2014, she was appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Stacey was also a co-author of Bernie Sander's Disability Rights platform and an Impact Producer for NETFLIX's acclaimed documentary "Crip Camp". Her unexpected passing in 2020 was felt by all in the community.

Kayla Hamilton

Kayla Hamilton is a Texas born, Bronx based performance maker, dancer, educator, and consultant. Kayla is currently a Jerome Hill and Pina Bausch Fellow and a NEFA National Dance Production Project Grant recipient. Her past shows have been presented at Gibney, Performance Space NY, New York Live Arts and Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance. Kayla danced with Bessie award winning skeleton architecture; and for Maria Bauman, Sydnie L. Mosley and Gesel Mason. Kayla has developed/designed disability centered programming for the Mellon Foundation,Movement Research and DanceNYC.

Alice Sheppard

Living into the outcome of a dare, dancer and choreographer Alice Sheppard resigned her tenured professorship to train with Kitty Lunn and Infinity Dance Theater. Alice has dance with Axis Dance Company, Ballet Cymru/GDance, and Marc Brew Company in the United Kingdom. In the United States, she performed with Full Radius Dance, Marjani Forté, MBDance, Infinity Dance Theater, and Steve Paxton.A USA Artist, Creative Capital grantee and Bessie Award winner, Alice is the founder and artistic lead for Kinetic Light, a disability arts organization, working at the intersections of disability, dance, design, identity, and technology to create transformative art and advance the intersectional disability arts movement.

Yaffa A.S

Mx. Yaffa is an acclaimed disabled, autistic, trans, queer, Muslim, and indigenous Palestinian individual who has received multiple awards for their transformative work around displacement, decolonization, equity, and centering the lived experiences of individuals most impacted by injustice. Mx. Yaffa is the Executive Director of Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity (MASGD), as well as the founder of several non-profits and community projects. Yaffa is also a visual artist and writer. Their artwork has been featured at various art events, and their debut poetry collection, "Blood Orange," is currently available. Their writings explore themes of home, belonging, mental health, queerness, transness, and other aspects of marginalization, all while dreaming of utopia against the backdrop of ongoing displacement and genocide of indigenous Palestinians.