

2019



2020



Pioneers Go East Collective

PRESS

“*Virgo Star* explores the myth of the American cowboy, an exciting queer party, I enjoy the mood and the love they put into their shows” – *Maxamoo*

Pioneers Go East Collective is *TimeOut NY - Critics' Pick*

Pioneers Go East Collective is *Gothamist's Performance Pick*

Virgo Star is *NY Magazine's Bedford + Bowery Performance Pick*

Pioneers Go East Collective is *The Dance Enthusiast Top Pick*

“Pioneers Go East Collective harnesses... a strong gesture about collective queer yearning on a deeply microcosmic, personal level.” – *Culturebot*

“With charm, poignancy, enhanced by spirited, if easy-going, presentation.” – *InfiniteBody Dance Review Eva Yaa Asantewaa*

“Pioneers ‘knocks down the walls between expressive genres, amalgamating music, video and acting into an adrenalizing experience.’” – *Backstage NY*

“It’s Queer, and It’s Worth Seeing: *Virgo Star* Takes Us Back to the Wild West.” – *Thinking Theater NYC*

“An engaging and provocative extravaganza” – *Theater Scene*

ABOUT

Pioneers Go East Collective is a New York based award-winning collective of intergenerational thought-provoking artists and activists in residence at La MaMa and Judson Church. Since 2010, Pioneers Go East Collective empowers the voices of LGBTQ and Feminist artists for social change.

The Collective has been an incubator of 14 theatre and dance works, produced over 10 series and arts festivals, and presented more than 400 artists to date. We create platforms of inclusion that link audiences in all five boroughs and in communities of New York State, through personal storytelling that blends heartfelt, humorous experiences infused with joy and high-energy.

The Collective presents an annual season of immersive contemporary performances and video-art. STARS is a cycle of experiential performances. NEXT PIONEERS program offers workshops, mentoring, and internship opportunities. CROSSROADS SERIES and NEW WORKS: OUT-FRONT! are two ongoing curated series at Judson Church and The Exponential Festival.

PIONEERSGOEAST.ORG

VIRGO STAR at La MaMa - Anabella Lenzu - Photo by Jon Barklund



VIRGO STAR at La MaMa - Alessandro Magania - Photo by Jon Burkland



VIRGO STAR

Queering the cinematic tropes of the American Western, this kinetic ride through the Cowboy myth combines choreography, text, and live video into one fluid, hilarious and heartfelt evening set in a performance installation. Virgo Star, by the Collective, looks at Western Movies and historical context to examine same-sex bonding, romance, and survival out on the range. You've never seen the west this wild!

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

Toronto

(February 20-24, 2019)

Ars Nova/ ANT Fest

(June 14, 2019)

Bronx Academy of Arts & Dance (BAAD!)

(June 24- June 28, 2019 Residency)

Time Space Limited

Hudson, NY

(Oct. 2019)

The LGBT Center/ New Masculinities Festival

(October 19, 2019)

La MaMa (NYC PREMIERE)

(Nov. 14 to Dec. 1, 2019)

**Creative
Team**

Bree Breeden, Hao Bai, Jon Burklund, Daniel Diaz, Beth Graczyk, Anabella Lenzu, Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte, Agosto Machado, Alessandro Magania, Gerard Minaya, Gavin Price, Chris Riffle, Philip Treviño, Niko Tsocanos

VIRGO STAR at La MaMa - Daniel Diaz and Annabella Lenzu - Photo by Jon Burklund



LUCKY STAR

LUCKY STAR is an installation performance devised by the Collective. Borrowing drag fabulousness from new wave vaudeville to celebrate otherness, LUCKY STAR invites broad audiences to witness stories of queer vulnerability and resilience. In a provocative immersive setting with visual splendor and physical performance acts, Pioneers Go East Collective creates a participatory theatrical experience to encourage dialogue in a safe and joyous space.

Chez Bushwick

(January 17 and 18, 2020)

Green Space

Queens, NY

(June 12 & 13, 2020)

The LGBT Center New Masculinities Festival

(October 2020)

Center for Performance Research (CPR)

(Fall 2020)

The Brick (NYC PREMIERE)

(June 2021)

**Creative
Team**

Bree Breeden, Hao Bai, Jon Burklund, Daniel Diaz, Ryan Downy, Beth Graczyk, Joey Kipp, Anabella Lenzu, Agosto Machado, Chris Riffle, Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte, Kamala Sankaram, Philip Treviño



CROSSROADS: CROSSWINDS, CROSSCURRENTS, CROSSFIRES

Crossroads features thought-provoking, cross-cultural artists over multiple generations who explore new genres through various performance and art-making modes. Each evening we witness different artists dealing with actual, day-to-day, contemporary challenges to further discussion in the community to activate a network of exchange and inclusion through social and artistic intervention.

Judson Church

55 Washington Square South
New York, NY

2019

March 20, June 19, September 18, December 18

Spring 2020

April 15, June 17, see website for upcoming dates

Featured Artists

Nic Adams, Asheville Creative Artists, BAIRA, Breaking Time, Hilary Brown, Yanira Castro, Yoshiko Chuma, Danceable Projects/ Erick Montes, Parijat Desai, Brendan Drake, Rina Espiritu, Abby Felder, Ori Flomin, Fana Fraser, G² John Gutierrez, Nash Glynn, Beth Graczyk, Anabella Lenzu, Loco 7, Agosto Machado, Mersiha Mesihovic, Nicky Paraiso, Proteo Media + Performance/ Bree Breedan and Kathleen Kelley, Federico Restrepo, Chris Riffle, Stacey Robinson, Same As Sister (S.A.S.), George Emilio Sanchez, Dionne Slay, Paz Tajuaquio, Title:Point

CROSSROADS at Judson Memorial Church - BAIRA- Photo by Brendon Kirouac



CROSSROADS at Judson Church - Beth Graczyk



CROSSROADS at Judson Church - Stacey Robinson





NEW WORKS OUT -FRONT'! at The Exponential Festival - Symara Johnson

NEW WORKS OUT-FRONT!

A series dedicated to LGBTQ and Feminist new works curated by Pioneers Go East Collective. Each evening brings together 3 cross-disciplinary artists to share their radical dance and contemporary performances in a safe space. The intent for the series is to share underrepresented stories, encourage artists to experiment with new performance modes, and to build a nurturing environment with like-minded artists.

The Exponential Festival
January 17-19, 2020

Chez Bushwick
304 Boerum Street
Brooklyn, NY

2020
Artists

BAIRA, Brother(hood) Dance!, Dance Entropy/ Valerie Green, Daniel Diaz, Beth Graczyk, Symara Johnson, Joey Kipp, Anabella Lenzu, Mersiha Messiha, Proteo Media + Performance with Bree Breeden and Kathleen Kelley

Previous
Artists

AnnaKate BAND/ Anna Gothard and Kate Foster, Bombay Rickey/ Kamala Sankaram & Drew Fleming, Clint Borzoni, Theresa Buchheister, Paul Burke, Andrew R. Butler, CATFOX/ Catrin Lloyd-Bollard, Mike Cotayo, Kirsten Davis-Flores, Julia Dobner-Pereira Rina Espiritu, Ori Flomin, Kirsten Flores-Davis, Amy Gijsberg van Wijk, John Gutierrez, Erick Montes, Regina Nejman, The Popinjay/Anthony Johnston, Gavin Price and John Gasper and Jack Frederick, Jose Rivera Jr., Skullcapp550/ Adam Cuthbert and Jonathan Fulk, Julia Sirna-Frest, John Sully and Anastasia Krechet, Amy Surratt, Marisa Tornello

OUT- FRONT - at The Exponential Festival - Proteo Media + Performance



OUT FRONT at The Exponential Festival - Brother(hood) Dance!- Photo by Ryan Muir



NEXT PIONEERS



NEXT PIONEERS is a community building annual program that offers performers, movement-based artists, writers, and directors with professional opportunities along with production support to develop and energize their voices, to generate creative thinking, and gain experience in self-producing.

Pioneers Go East Collective offers 6 workshops, 2 mentorships, and internships to youth and young adults in creative practice and producing art-making. FREE and open to the general public at Judson Church and Vital Joint in Bushwick- these programs are intended to create intergenerational dialogues on social issues and to nurture the next generation of underserved artists and their communities – serving over 75 participants!

For inquiries email: pioneersgoeast@gmail.com

FOUNDATION

Pioneers Go East Collective has presented original works in NYC at LaMaMa, Judson Church, JACK, Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD!), Chez Bushwick, Center for Performance Research (CPR), Movement Research, Ars Nova, The Tank, Dixon Place, HERE at Performance Mix/New Dance Amsterdam, Astor Alive, Chashama, Goethe Institute, GreenSpaceNYC, The Brick, A.R.T./New York, Triskelion, Exponential Festival, St Ann's Warehouse, Governors Island/ Building 101, The LGBT Center, Wild Project; upstate at Time Space Limited (Hudson); and Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto. The collective's work has been developed through the generous support of La MaMa and Judson Church where the collective is company-in-residence; A.R.T./ New York Pilot Program; Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Process Space; New Vic LabWorks Artists Associates; St. Ann's/ Puppet Lab; Opera America L. T. Tobin Award.

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Pioneers Go East Collective, Inc. has a GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency.

STAFF

Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte (*artistic director/ writer/ educator*)

Daniel Diaz (*resident writer/ performer/ choreographer/ educator*)

Beth Graczyk (*resident artist/ choreographer/ curator/ educator*)

Annabelle Lenzu (*resident artist/ choreographer/ performer*)

Philip Treviño (*resident artist/ designer/ curator*)

Parijat Desai (*resident choreographer*)

Agosto Machado (*resident artist*)

Hao Bai (*resident designer*)

Jon Burklund (*cinematographer*)

Paolo Verzani (*graphic designer*)

Michelle Kariuki (*social media*)

Ann Marie Lonsdale (*development consultant/ grant writer*)

BOARD

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Margaret Browne- secretary

Barry Ranganathan- treasurer

Jean Carbain

Rhoda Cosme

Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte

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Beverly Petty

Mark Tambella

Annina Nosei

Nick Paraiso

Joyce Isabelle



Pioneers Go East Collective

Office: 140 2nd avenue, suite 502

Mail: 7 East 3rd Street, # 10

New York, New York, 10003

pioneersgoeast@gmail.com



[@pioneersgoeast](https://www.instagram.com/pioneersgoeast)

pioneersgoeast.org

Cover Photos by Jon Burkland

Virgo Star at La MaMa Etc. 2019

Front: Bree Breeden, Back: Gerard Minaya and Daniel Diaz