

**resilience +
connections**

2020 + 2021

**PIONEERS GO EAST
COLLECTIVE**



Be Pioneers! Be Collective! Be Community!

In 2020 Pioneers Go East Collective empowered 33 thought-provoking artists!

Pioneers presented 7 Curated Series: Crossroads + Out-Front!

Pioneers curated 7 NEXT! Workshops FREE and open to all!

Pioneers created 2 original multimedia performances + 7 events.

Pioneers continue to empower artists who tell authentic, brave stories to connect LGBTQ and Feminist arts communities. In 2021 we continue to adapt & sustain artists, in response to the community's shifting needs.

HISTORY

Pioneers Go East Collective empowers LGBTQ and Feminist performing artists who explore stories of vulnerability and courage. Built on the principles of inclusion, justice, and visibility, the collective creates a lively exchange of queer art and pop culture. The collective promotes these values to advance communal meaning and to support cross-cultural artists, storytellers, immigrants, and people of color who reflect on personal experiences, memory, marginalization, and intersectionality.

Since 2010, Pioneers Go East Collective empowers a collective of LGBTQ and Feminist Artists. Immersive Contemporary Performance, Dance, Imagery and Video Documentary for Social Change.

The Collective has been an incubator of 15 theatre and dance works, produced 10 arts series and festivals, created 5 video-art projects, and presented more than 450 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.

PRESS

“Pioneers Go East Collective harnesses a very successful experience that’s equal parts wondrous and strange. A strong gesture about collective queer yearning on a deeply microcosmic, personal level. Agosto’s personal histories are enrapturing, but his recorded stories feel most alive when in direct juxtaposition to the younger performers’ personal accounts of lust, love, dating, and intimacy.”

Culturebot (2018)

“Blacklight Burlesque, Queer Cowboys, Space-Age Late Night”

NY Magazine’s Bedford + Bowery highlights Virgo Star as a Theatre Pick! (2019)

“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 (Lindsay Barenz - podcast 2019)

The New York Times - 5 Things to Do This Weekend - Our critics and writers have selected noteworthy cultural events to experience virtually. THEATER: Now Streaming: Anything but Mainstream - New York Times features Pioneers Go East Collective’s photo from Lucky Star Film (January 2021)

“Lucky Star: superstar works like a time capsule. The film holds past, future, and present in an intimate, luscious spacetime loop. Fact and fiction, inseparable, blur and tease. Cut to disco ball, still swinging. Slow down and watch the air sparkle.”

Culturebot (2021)

LUCKY STAR - Anabella Lenzu - Photo by Todd Carroll

Bree Breedan - Photo by Gian Marco Lo Forte



Michael Wilson - Photo by Azmi Mert Erdem

LUCKY STAR: superstar

(super powerful, supernatural, superhuman)

What does it take to be a star? A Meta creative journey.

Part underground club inspired by the famed Club 57, part performance art installation, LUCKY STAR: superstar is a project devised via zoom by the Collective during the pandemic. Borrowing superstardom fabulousness to celebrate queer bodies, the objectification, creative endurance, and pursuit of artistic fame. Performance artists Bree Breedan, Daniel Diaz, Anabella Lenzu, Beth Graczyk, Shaina and Bryan Baira, and guest artist Agosto Machado, bring their unique combination of cosmic and queer performance and intimate storytelling to the virtual space.

The LGBT Center

(Nov 14, 2020 New Masculinities Festival; May 6, 2021)

The Brick in association with Out of an Abundance of Caution

(Nov 22, Dec 6, 2020; Jan 17, 2021)

The Exponential Festival

(January 21, 2021)

The Brick (NYC Premiere)

(June 4 - 27, 2021)

Creative Team:

Bree Breedan, Danie Diaz, Beth Graczyk, Shaina and Bryan Baira, Anabella Lenzu, cameo appearance by downtown icon and Stonewall witness Agosto Machado (narrator), Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte, Philip Treviño, Ryan William Downey, Todd Carroll, Jon Burklund, Kathleen Kelley



LUCKY STAR - Bree Breedan - Photo by Jon Burklund

CROSSROADS: CROSSWINDS, CROSSCURRENTS, CROSSFIRES

Crossroads is a curated series that features thought-provoking, cross-cultural artists over multiple generations who explore new genres and known performance and art-making modes to share their creative practices with other artists and their audiences. Each evening we witness different generations of artists dealing with actual, day-to-day, contemporary challenges to further discussion between artists, and to activate a network of exchange and inclusion with social and artistic intervention.

Judson Church (virtual)

55 Washington Square Park
New York, NY

2020

June 17
September 20
October 28
November 14

Center for Performance Research (virtual)

361 Manhattan Ave
Brooklyn, NY

Spring 2021

April 16 - 17
May 1 - 2

Featured Artists:

Fana Fraser, Kathleen Kelley, Federico Restrepo, Denise Greber, Anabella Lenzu, William Isaac, Parijat Desai, Beth Graczyk, Shaina and Bryan Baira, Allie Hankins, Lu Yim, Annie Wang, Symara Johnson, Kalliope Piersol, Physical Education, Keyon Gaskin, Takahiro Yamamoto, Jon Gutierrez, Proteo Media + Performance, Bree Breedon



Shaina and Bryan Baira - BAIRA - MVMNT PHLOSPHY - Photo by Effy Grey

Parijat Desai - Photo by Kathryn Butler



William Isaac - Photo by Richard Termine





Fana Fraser - Photo by Cameron Kelly McLeod

NEW WORKS OUT-FRONT!

A series dedicated to LGBTQ and Feminist cross-disciplinary artists, choreographers and video-makers. Exploring new performance modes, Out-Front presents new works curated by Pioneers Go East Collective. The series brings together contemporary dance-makers, and movement-based cross-disciplinary artists to share their performances in a safe space. The intent is to share less-known stories, encourage artists to experiment with new performance modes, and to build a nurturing environment with like-minded artists.

April 18, 2021

Center for Performance Research

(virtual)

361 Manhattan Ave

Brooklyn, NY

Featured Artists:

Annie Wang, Symara Johnson, Kalliope Piersol, Same As Sister, Briana Brown-Tipley, Hilary Brown-Istrefi

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, 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



Proteo Media + Performance - Photo by Kathleen Kelley



Same as Sister - Kristina Hay - Photo by Karla Carballar

NEXT! PIONEERS

NEXT! Workshop led by Anabella Lenzu



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.

Each season Pioneers Go East Collective offers 8 NEXT! Workshops, 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 Online, our programs are intended to create intergenerational dialogues on social issues; to nurture the next generation of underserved artists and communities – serving over 200 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, The Brick, Chashama, Goethe Institute, 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 in 2021.



Staff

- Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte (artistic director/ writer)
- Anna Hayman + Hilary Brown-Istrefi (development consultants)
- Philip Treviño (resident artist/ designer/ curator)
- Daniel Diaz (resident writer/ performer/ educator)
- Beth Graczyk (resident choreographer/ curator/ educator)
- Anabella Lenzu (resident artist/ choreographer/ educator)
- Bree Breedan (resident artist)
- Parijat Desai (resident artist)
- Agosto Machado (resident artist)
- Hao Bai (resident designer)
- Jon Burklund (cinematographer)
- Paolo Verzani (graphic designer)
- José Rivéra Jr. (social media)

Board

- Daniel Barry- president
- Margaret Browne- secretary
- Barry Ranganathan- treasurer
- Jean Carbain
- Rhoda Cosme

Honorary Board

- Beverly Petty
- Mark Tambella
- Annina Nosei
- Nick Paraiso
- Joyce Isabelle



@pioneersgoeast
pioneersgoeast.org

Back Cover - Lu Yim - Photo by Christa Holka
Front Cover - LUCKY STAR - Daniel Diaz - Photo by Jon Burklund



Pioneers Go East Collective

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