

**pioneers go east collective
public + virtual connections
2021 + 2022**



HISTORY

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

Since 2010, Pioneers Go East Collective has created and presented immersive contemporary performance, dance, imagery and video documentary for social change.

Pioneers Go East Collective uses live art to theatricalize queer art and the entanglements of gender, race, and sexuality. With a humorous camp aesthetic, the collective uses interview and found text, dance, and media narratives into performances and film installation structures. Reimagining the creative lineage that informs Pioneers Collective's work, including queer and feminist theory, conceptual art, pop culture, institutional critique, and community-based activism.

PRESS

CULTUREBOT review “Lucky Star is a meta-meditation about making art and self. Set within rich, plastic-draped magenta walls that are just transparent enough to reveal the rough brick behind, Breeden choreographs fabulous dances in futuristic sequined costumes using disco balls as mirrors. And when Breeden looks into the camera, the result is an arresting bit of fourth-wall-breaking worthy of the best of the old in-person plays. The performances are undeniably digital yet still emotionally full and risky, like a good piece of theatre should be.”
-Patrick Scorese (April 2021)

THE NEW YORKER highlights Lucky Star (0.3) by Pioneers Go East Collective at Judson Church (July 2021)

Lucky Star (0.3) at Judson Church (July 2021) is a **Dance Enthusiast and ALL ARTS Pick!**

CULTUREBOT “Lucky Star: superstar by Pioneers Go East Collective 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. Slow down and watch the air sparkle.” Dot Armstrong (2021)

The New York Times : 5 things to do this weekend! Features Lucky Star's production photo at The Exponential Festival (2021)

Crossroads curated series is **The Dance Enthusiast's Top Picks!** (November 2021)

2021

With 12 public events at Judson Church and 15 virtual events, Pioneers Go East Collective created two films, a live art installation, and empowered 44 thought-provoking artists!

Pioneers presented 8 Curated Series: Crossroads + Out-Front!

Pioneers produced 5 NEXT! Workshops free, welcoming, open to all!

Pioneers created 2 films streamed digitally and 1 original performance offered during 9 public events at Judson Church!

2022

BRIC Arts Media residency (April 4-15)

Center for Performance Research Artists-in-residence (Spring-Fall)

New York Public Library public engagement workshops (Spring-Fall)

Judson Church public events (Spring-Fall)

Digital Community in-Motion (Spring-Fall)

Pioneers! Public! Collective!

Pioneers continue to empower artists who tell authentic, brave stories to connect LGBTQ and Feminist arts communities. In 2022 we continue to adapt & sustain artists in response to the community's shifting needs.



BAIRA: Shaina and Bryan Baira in Lucky Star



Lydia Mokdessi in Crossroads 2021 phot by Daniel Young

my name'sound

my name'sound by Pioneers Go East Collective is a multimedia performance and video-art installation inspired by thought-provoking literary icon James Baldwin's Artist Manifesto. My name'sound investigates our role as artists on a journey towards a Queer futurity and how our everyday struggles affect our creative paths. Baldwin's Manifesto on the artist's responsibility and the intimacy and sensuality of "Giovanni's Room" will launch a passionate exploration of the history, empowerment, and visibility of the LGBTQ experience in pursuit of artistic freedom.

Developed in 2021/22 at:

BRIC MEDIA ARTS (BRICLab Residency)

647 Fulton St, Brooklyn, NY

Center for Performance Research (AiR residency)

361 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn, NY

The Collective:

Daniel Diaz, Joey Kipp, Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte, Agosto Machado, Bryan Baira, Vanessa Rappa, Mark Tambella, Philip Treviño, Annie Wang, Kryssy Wright, Richard Morales, Azmi Mert Erdem, syd island

ALL! (Art Like Love!)

ALL! (Art Like Love!) is a film created by Pioneers Go East Collective.

ALL! is a meditation on age, queerness, and the struggle of making art. This investigation triggers the questions: Where is the 'us' inside our art? When and how do we make work that is honest about us? Are we presenting ourselves or being represented in our work?



Filmed at La MaMa and Exponential Festival (2021):

Kathleen Kelley (filmmaker), Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte (writer/director), Agosto Machado (writer/performance artist), Philip Treviño (production designer), Janessa Clark (production associate), Daniel Diaz (performance artist), Beth Graczyk (performance artist), Bree Breedon (performance artist)

CROSSROADS: CROSSWINDS, CROSSCURRENTS, CROSSFIRES

CROSSROADS. Performance + art + poetry + music + dance + community. A curated series presented by Pioneers Go East Collective. Crossroads Series features artists who explore new genres and known performance and art-making modes to share their creative practices with other artists and 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

55 Washington Square South, New York, NY

Center for Performance Research

361 Manhattan Ave, Brooklyn, NY

Fall 2021: November 4, December 9 & 16 **Spring 2022:** May 26-28

Curators:

Anabella Lenzu, Hilary Brown-Istrefi, Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte, Philip Treviño

Featured artists:

Ani Taj, Janessa Clark, Kathleen Kelley, Anabella Lenzu, Parijat Desai, Doron Perk, gorno (Glenn Potter-Takata), evan ray suzuki, Kimiko Tanabe, Lydia Mokdessi, syd island, Jason Bartell, Valerie Green, Yoshiko Chuma, Dane Terry, Yuan Liu, ALEXA GRAE, Amanda Loulaki, Arien Wilkerson, Sheree V Campbell, Paz Tanjuaquio, Molly and Nola



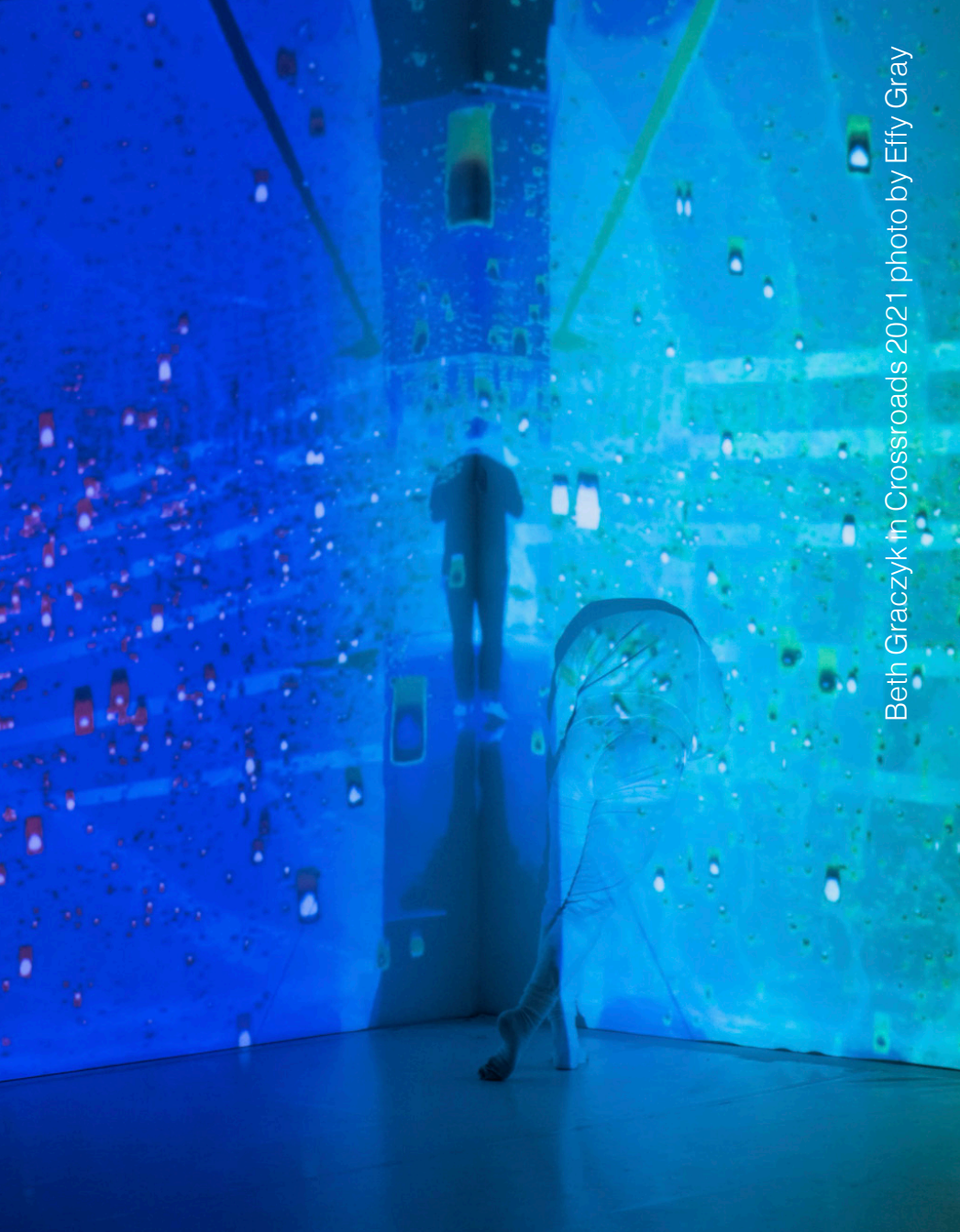
Arien Wilkerson in Crossroads 2021 photo by Adrian Martinez Chavez



gorno (Glenn Potter-Takata), evan ray suzuki, and Kimiko Tanabe in Crossroads 2021



Yasmeen Enahora and Ori Flomin in Crossroads 2021



Beth Graczyk in Crossroads 2021 photo by Effy Gray

Digital Community-in-MOTION

Digital Community-in-MOTION allows us to connect with artists and communities on the virtual platform. We believe the arts are essential to understanding the unique yet universal struggles of human experience.

During the isolation we felt during the pandemic, we decided to host a series of filmed dance experiments featuring thought-provoking artists, choreographers & performance artists engaged with our community. We filmed new works in-venue and shared them on our free and accessible online platform. We broadcast the films on Zoom, followed by talkback discussions with the featured artists & the films are now available on our Vimeo channel. Conceived as an interim response, Digital Community-in-MOTION now complements our live curated programming, CROSSROADS, and OUT-FRONT!

Online Events: Spring 2021 - Fall 2022

Featured artists:

Annie Wang, Symara Johnson, Kalliope Piersol, Same As Sister, Briana Brown-Tipley, Hilary Brown-Istrefi, Anabella Lenzu, Shaina and Bryan Baira, Marija Krtolica



Amanda Loulaki in Crossroads 2021 photo by Scott Shaw



Future Becomes Past (film) - Director Janessa Clark
Cinematographer Kathleen Kelley Featuring Courtney Drasher in Crossroads 2021

NEXT! PIONEERS Educational Series



NEXT! PIONEERS Educational Series is a community building 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 15 workshops, mentorships, and internships to youth and young adults in creative practice and producing art-making. FREE and open to the general public at **New York Public Library** and **Judson Church**- 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 250 participants!

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.



Council on the Arts

NYC Cultural Affairs



FCA

Staff

Gian Marco Riccardo Lo Forte (artistic director, writer)
Daniel Diaz (resident artist, writer)
Anabella Lenzu (resident artist, educator, curator)
Philip Treviño (resident designer, curator)
Anna Hayman (development consultant)
Hilary Brown-Istrefi (development consultant, curator)
Agosto Machado (resident artist, writer)
Kathleen Kelley (resident cinematographer)
Azmi Mert Erdem (cinematographer)
Jon Burklund (resident cinematographer)
Joey Kipp (resident artist)
Shaina and Bryan Baira (resident artists)
Annie Wang (resident choreographer)
Angel Acuña (social media consultant)
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Board

Daniel Barry - president
Margaret Browne - secretary
Barry Ghirija Ranganathan - treasurer
Jean Carbain - board member
Sergio D'Auria - board member
Rhoda Cosme - board member

Honorary Board

Annina Nosei
Nicky Paraiso
Joyce Isabelle
Mark Tambella

**Empowering LGBTQ & Feminist Artists and Communities:
Inspiring a lively exchange of Queer Art and Pop Culture
by connecting people to ideas and experiences.**



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