

SMUSH GALLERY PRESENTS

# MUTANT GIFTS: I AM HERE JUST BECOMING SOME STRANGE KIND OF LOVE

*a virtual event by ALISON CLANCY*



June 24, 2021

9pm EST

## WELCOME

"Every Time It Rains" "The Possibility of Joy"

Alison Clancy - vocals, guitar

Mastered by Adam Haggar at Mount Olympia Mastering

## MUTANT GIFTS

Alison Clancy - creative director, vocals, guitar

Brent Arnold - cello

Esteban Haga - director

Nicholas Motyka - assistant director

Mastered by Adam Haggar at Mount Olympia Mastering

Filmed at St. John's in the Village

## BLUE

Alison Clancy - creative director, vocals, guitar

Albert Esquilin Jr. aka GHOST - dancer

Max Louis Miller - director

Testu Collective - projections

Isaac Alexander - gaffer

Allison Jones - synth, bass, backing vocals

Brent Arnold - cello

PA's : Jonathan Matthews, Anne Tantuico, Maranda Barry

Mastered by Adam Haggar at Mount Olympia Mastering

Filmed at Ideal Glass Studios

## MORNING TIME

Alison Clancy - creative director, vocals, lighting design

Albert Esquilin Jr. aka GHOST - dancer

Max Louis Miller - director

Isaac Alexander - gaffer

Jonathan Matthews - lighting operator

Esben "Es" Thornhal - beats, bass, mix, master

Aske Thornhal - guitar

Chris Lancaster - cello

Marco Evaristti - lyrics

PA's : Anne Tantuico, Maranda Barry

Filmed at Ideal Glass Studios

## Q & A

Katelyn Halpern - moderator /SMUSH Artistic Director

## KIDZ OF THE NIGHT

Albert Esquilin Jr. aka GHOST - dancer, director, editor

Xavier Luciano - DP, lighting design

Elley Duhé - "Kids of the Night"

# MUTATIONS: WE CHANGE TO SURVIVE, WE CHANGE TO EVOLVE, WE CHANGE TO DESTROY, WE CHANGE TO LOVE.

Alison Clancy is an artist in pursuit of beauty and catharsis. Most days start with ballet and end with electric guitar. Clancy directs experimental projects bridging between the worlds of dance, music, film, photography, installation and somatic study. She works with eclectically beautiful collaborators to create otherworldly environments: lost intersections where we search for ourselves in the shadows. Clancy is a principal dance soloist with The Metropolitan Opera and company member of Zvi Dance. She's been the front woman for several bands and her music underscores film/theater and tours internationally. Clancy is currently a SMUSH Gallery Curatorial Fellow.

Brent Arnold is a cellist and composer. His music incorporates minimalism, improvisation, and experimental sonics to create a cinematic beauty. He studied with violinist Michael White (Pharoah Sanders, John Handy) and cellist Walter Grey (Kronos Quartet), and is a founding member of Ghost Quartet with Dave Malloy, Gelsey Bell, and Brittain Ashford.

Albert Esquilin Jr aka The Ghost of New York is a pioneer & king of freeform Brukup dancing. Creator of the possession style. Known for his signature move the Ghostwalk and pivot stepping (Brukup footwork). As a child Albert was in a tragic accident that crushed his leg. He grew up with a leg brace and went through the normal teasing of a handicapped child, but it served a greater purpose in his future. He eventually overcame the injury, an even more, was blessed with abnormal strength, control and balance. Later as a young man during his jr high school days his cousin Shawn (poba) Brown was very popular in school and center of attention at most house party's doing the dance called "the Bruk up". Albert didn't have much knowledge of the style but as a childhood fan of Micheal Jackson, an footwork/gliding, he was able to teach himself the basics pop, frame etc on the beat. Through the understanding in his feet he progressed at a wild rate, dancing to full songs using his footwork to express the pace of lyrics as if his feet were speaking a new approach to musicality. His love for occult movies like *Innocent Blood* and *The Lost Boys* with characters like spirits, wraiths, vampires, supernatural types and comic book heroes fueled the inspiration for his dance character. His signature move called "The Ghostwalk" looks like a traveling spirit and he soon after was known to fellow dancers as "The Ghost of New York".

**Esteban Haga.** Photographer/Videographer. Originally from Lima-Peru. Grandchildren of Japanese-born immigrants. Moved to Japan in 2000 and Graduated from Toho Gakuen Film College, Tokyo. He uses digital and manually manipulated video/photo and is based in Tokyo.

**Max Louis Miller** is a visualist living in NYC. For the last decade he's focused on a pursuit of photography, digital art, design, and most recently the moving image. Despite navigating stylistically through multiple mediums a consistent aesthetic and style inarguably shows through in his work.

**Testu Collective** are an NYC-based art group founded by Dan Tesene and Serena Stucke in 2017. They create performances to shift the audience's perspectives through the use of concepts from expanded cinema and intermedia. Their work reimagines visual systems and sonic environments through a combination of custom-made videos, experimental soundworlds, architectural elements, and sculptural movement. Testu Collective's approach to creating performances is to challenge the traditional hierarchical relationship between the audience and performer/stage. Specifically during Covid, they foster community and connect visual and sonic artists from around the globe through their curations and live streamed performances.

**Allison Jones** - a native of Laurel Canyon, LA's famed music neighborhood of the hippie era - is a classically-trained pianist. She's performed with Alison Clancy at numerous venues in NYC and BK, and co-writes and performs with CITYGIRL. Her influences span everything from stonegaze/doom metal to minimalist ambient/drone, from 90s alternative rock to medieval-era vocal polyphony, from impressionist classical suites to trip-hop. Allison also holds a Certificate in Sound Healing from the NY Open Center's Sound and Music Institute.

**Adam Haggar** is a mastering specialist, and the owner of Mount Olympia Mastering - a full-service boutique outboard mastering studio in Lambertville, NJ. He recently mastered the Rob Ellis-produced (of PJ Harvey and Bat For Lashes fame) debut record for UK band, Blue Violet. Adam has 18 years of audio experience, beginning with his days tracking and mixing punk rock records to 2-inch tape at Big Blue Meenie Studios in Jersey City. Later, he earned engineering credits on Julie Taymor's "Across the Universe Soundtrack," and served as studio mixing assistant on the Scissor Sisters 2006 hit LP, "Ta-Dah," ft. Elton John. Those legacy studio engineering chops eventually merged with contemporary electronic music production as he was brought on to innovate and teach mixing & mastering at Icon Collective, the premier school for electronic dance music in Los Angeles. He has mastered projects for Migos, Ancestors, Good Talk, Supertask, Robert Francis + The End Times, Brent Arnold, and many more.

**Katelyn Halpern** is a multidisciplinary artist from Austin, Texas living in Jersey City, NJ. Her eclectic body of work is frequently constructed around the idea clusters of interiority/ intimacy/ reflection, strangeness/humor/freedom, and the lived experience of moving through the world in a feminine body. Major works include evening length danceworks JUICE and Loose Heart, the immersive visual art installation Heartstrung created with Talita Cabral, and public artwork Labyrinth for Reflection and the Generation of Love [No. 9]. She is the founding Artistic Director of SMUSH Gallery, an art space dedicated to creative and community work in Jersey City.

**Iman Rose Louis-Jeune** (she/her/hers) is an interdisciplinary artist from Brooklyn, NY. Her work is inspired by science fiction, current events, and familial relationships. Through movement, lens-based media, design and production she is focused on creating dance films, photo prints, and design work exploring mental health, racial inequities, and her diverse cultural upbringing.

**Jame Louis-Jeune** (he/him/his) is a Haitian-American IT Specialist from Brooklyn, NY with interests in delving into Visual Arts, an aptitude for consumer interaction and all around "Tech guy". Other points of interest are a heavy inspiration in the varying artistic styles of Marvel and DC comics, Music and a healthy dose of Video-Gaming.

**Anne Tantuico** is a NJ based artist pursuing a BFA in Dance (2022) at Mason Gross School of the Arts. She is currently researching text based work that explores sensations of nostalgia, memory, and the "in between".

**Jonathan Matthews** is a Memphis-born and New York-based performer, creator, curator, writer, and educator. He holds a BFA in Dance from NYU, where he currently accompanies technique classes, directs the Tisch Dance Alumni Choreographic Mentorship, and mentors the students of Future Dancers and Dancemakers on musical collaboration. His work and studies have taken him abroad to Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance, Springboard Danse Montréal, the International Theatre Festival of Kerala, and Toscana Dance HUB (now WADE), where he studied accompaniment with Robert Boston. He dances with Darrah Carr Dance and Valerie Green/Dance Entropy, and, with Holly Sass, co-founded and co-directs BREAKTIME, a performance duo. Musically, Jonathan sings tenor with the Cecilia Chorus of New York, music directs for Queens Shakespeare Inc./What Dreams May Co., and has composed original scores for Giada Ferrone, Patrick Corbin, and Rashaun Mitchell. He additionally accompanies Ballet classes at Gibney Dance and youth classes at Mark Morris Dance Center. Jonathan is one of four inaugural Curatorial Fellows in Dance through SMUSH Gallery. He reviews regularly for Eye on Dance and the Arts, and has additionally contributed writing to The Dance Enthusiast, Dance Magazine, Dance Teacher Magazine, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Time Out NY, Dancegeist, and The Journal of Dance Education.

SMUSH Gallery Since 2018, SMUSH Gallery has brought vibrant, accessible visual and performing art to the Journal Square neighborhood of Jersey City, NJ. Conceived as a space for creative and community work, our calendar includes artist workshops, residencies, civic activations, and community conversations alongside a full roster of performance events and visual art exhibitions.

Live Stream Operations Managers: Iman Rose Louis-Jeune and Jame Louis-Jeune

Additional Video Editing: Erinn Clancy

Foreward: Jonathan Matthews

Program Photo: Tobias Walka, hair/makeup by Felicia Henriksson

Special thanks: Father Graeme Napier, Willard Morgan, Kurt McVey, Dan Safer, Evan Sinicin

