



AUGUST 14

Street Dance Activism: BEARING DOWN

Session Description:

As we arrive at the 5th Month of #quarantine, living 5 to 6 generations since the legal abolishment of slavery, and nearly 8 generations since the first European Pirates on Indigenous soil, we find ourselves at the precipice of momentous change. A moment that has already claimed too many of our lives.

And yet, we have an opportunity, unlike any other, to shape this future. We posit, the labor of manifesting a liberated future, is poetically and fundamentally parallel to the labor of bringing forth new life. Diverse in its path, all birthing demands intimate rigor, endurance, strategy, and surrendering.

Join us in an embodied meditation that invites us to practice rigorous states of endurance, strategy, and surrendering. We hope to inspire corporal reminders of our collective and individual capacities to survive/thrive as we forge a new and revolutionary path forward!

Marjani Forté-Saunders is a Mother, choreographer, performer, and community organizer. Her work as an artist and organizer is informed by years in anti-racist organizer training with the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond and as a lead facilitator with Urban Bush Women's Builders Organizers and Leaders through Dance. Humbly, she defines her work by its lineage stemming from culturally rich, vibrant, historic, loving, irreverent conjurers! As a choreographer and performing artist, Marjani is a 2020 recipient of the Foundation of Contemporary Arts Grants for Artists Award and an inaugural fellow of the UBW Choreographic Center, the Jerome Artist Fellowship, and the DanceUSA Fellowship. She is a 2x Princess Grace Foundation awardee and a 2018 Bessie Award winner for her latest work *Memoirs of a... Unicorn*. She is also proudly, one of 21 Black Womyn and Gender Non-Conforming artists curated by Eva Yaa Asantewaa, now operating as the collective *Skeleton Architecture*. The collective was awarded a 2017 Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance.

Anchored in a steady collaboration with partner and composer Everett Asis Saunders (New Music USA Awardee), the duo are now identified as 7NMS. They've begun research and development on 7NMS|A Prophet's Tale (premiering 2022), tracing the mystic pilgrimage of Emcees/Lyricists, seen through the hallmarks of Everett's biographical story. 7NMS are also founding directors of the emerging platform **ART & POWER, dedicated to Black Purpose and Innovation**. Noting resistance, endurance, and dreaming as critical to #BlackFuturity, in this onslaught of viral pandemic and revolution, they are piloting a "*Satellite Residency Initiative*" to support Artists, radically experimenting at the intersections of art, philosophy, spirituality, and culture.

Marjani is deeply honored to have joined the team of creative cultural organizers of Street Dance Activism in a 28 day Global Dance Meditation.