

IRONDALE

PRESENTS

the world premiere of Joanna Kotze's

'lectric Eye

FEB 9 -12

An evening of dance
highlighting the human
body's potential for
persistence, resistance,
and power

Performer: Wendell Gray II.
Photo by: Chris Cameron



THE SPACE AT
IRONDALE

“Over the last few years, it has become clear to me how important it is to recognize and reflect on our connections to each other. It’s also really clear to me how much strength and value we can offer, as individuals, to a group, and to a greater good. With *’lectric Eye*, *BIG BEATS*, and *Nothing’s changed except for everything*, I ask: How do we look at and experience effort, labor, humor, violence, unpredictability, and beauty? and more broadly, how do we continue?”

JOANNA KOTZE

Joanna Kotze. Photo by Chris Cameron.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Joanna Kotze is a Brooklyn-based choreographer, dancer and educator who has been part of the New York dance community since 1998. She creates highly physical dance performances through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary process, presenting ways to look at effort, labor, humor, violence, unpredictability, and beauty through movement as well as the body's relationship to sound, light, and space. Joanna received the 2013 New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and her evening-length work, *What will we be like when we get there*, was nominated for a 2018 Bessie Award for Outstanding Music Composition and Sound Design by collaborator Ryan Seaton. Her work has been supported by the Nathan M. Clark Foundation, City Artist Corps Grant, New Music USA, Jerome Foundation, Mertz-Gilmore, Harkness Foundation, NYFA BUILD, Brooklyn Arts Council, Yellowhouse, and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. Her choreography has been presented at The Yard, Bates Dance Festival, Stonington Opera House, New York Live Arts, The Wexner Center, Velocity Dance Center, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Danspace Project, American Dance Institute, Bard College, Industry City, Show Room Gowanus, Lu Magnus gallery, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Dance New Amsterdam, Roulette, Dixon Place, 92nd Street Y, WAXworks, Soho20 gallery, and Movement Research at the Judson Church. Joanna has had residencies through the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, Dance Place, Mount Tremper Arts, Dance Program Malmö, Loghaven, The Bogliasco Foundation, The Yard, New York Live Arts, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Exploring the Metropolis, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Movement Research, The 92nd Street Y, Milvus Artistic Research Center, Jacob's Pillow, Bennington College, Sedona Arts Center, Marble House Project, The Camargo Foundation, and Djerassi. She has had commissions to create new works on Gibney Dance Company, Toronto Dance Theatre, Ririe-Woodbury, Zenon Dance, and the James Sewell Ballet, and has created or is creating original works on students at University of the Arts, Ailey/Fordham, Barnard, The New School, Purchase, Long Island University, Ohio University, Southern Utah University and Miami

University. Joanna danced with Wally Cardona from 2000-2010 and again in 2018. She currently dances for Kimberly Bartosik/daela (2009-present), and has worked with Kota Yamazaki, Stacy Spence, Netta Yerushalmy, Sam Kim, Sarah Skaggs, Christopher Williams, the Metropolitan Opera ballet, Daniel Charon, Nina Winthrop and others. Joanna is on faculty at Movement Research and has taught at Amherst College, Melbourne University, Toronto Dance Theatre, Gibney Dance, Sarah Lawrence College, Barnard College, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, The New School, LIU, Southern Utah University, Ohio University, Miami University, Bates Dance Festival, Salt Dance Fest and the American Dance Festival. She is originally from South Africa and has a BA in Architecture from Miami University.
joannakotze.com IG: [@jrktotze](https://www.instagram.com/jrktotze)

Wendell Gray II is a dancer, choreographer, and educator currently based in New York City. He is a BFA graduate of the University of the Arts (15') under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. He has worked with choreographers such as Joanna Kotze, Tere O'Connor, Pavel Zustiak, Maria Bauman, Jonah Bokaer, Jordan Demetrius Lloyd, I-Ling Liu, Christal Brown, Esther Baker-Tarpaga, J Bouey and more. In late fall of 2021 he received the STUFFED Artist in Residence at Judson Memorial Church. He was also a Work Up 6.0 Artist at Gibney Dance in Spring 2020. Additionally, he has shown work at the University of the Arts, Movement Research at Judson Church, Center for Performance Research, Chez Bushwick, La Mama Galleria, Capezio ACE Awards, and Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance. He has set work on companies such as Michiyaya Dance, Pennsylvania Ballet II + Philadanco II, and Periapsis Music and Dance. Wendell was raised in Atlanta, GA.

Molly Heller is an Assistant Professor within the School of Dance at the University of Utah. She is also the Director of Heartland, a multi-disciplinary collective centralized in Salt Lake City. Her choreography has been presented by the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, Urban Lounge (SLC), Eccles Regent Street Blackbox Theater (SLC), Kingsbury Hall for TEDx Salt Lake City, Gowanus Art + Production, Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Green Space, DUMBO Dance Festival, The Mahaney Center for the Arts (Middlebury, VT), and the Ladies'

Literary Club (SLC). Molly has had commissions to create new works by the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Repertory Dance Theatre, Shawl-Anderson Dance Center (Berkeley), Balance Dance Company (Boise, ID), Boise State University, Westminster College (SLC), and Sugar Space Studio for the Arts (SLC). Molly holds an M.F.A. in Modern Dance from the University of Utah and has certifications in Pilates and Reiki. As a performer, she has worked with Joanna Kotze, Katie Faulkner, Naganuma Dance, Netta Yerushalmy, Stephen Koester, and Satu Hummasti.

Symara Johnson, a Portland Oregon native, currently residing in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, has immersed herself in interdisciplinary and choreographic studies globally. Her work varies due to the different influences she's embraced throughout her life. She is a recipient of the Dai Ailian Foundation Scholarship based in Trinidad and Tobago. The scholarship led her to Beijing, China where she spent two years gaining an associate in modern choreography at the renowned Beijing Dance Academy. Symara is a graduate of SUNY Purchase's Conservatory of Dance program. She was a resident artist for Bearnstow, Gibney 6.2 Work Up, and currently is a CPR 2022 AIR. She has had film works commissioned by Berlin based choreographer, Christoph Winkler. Johnson has presented work at the WIP Showing at Bates Dance Festival, Smush Gallery, The Craft, BAAD, CreateArtXGallim, WIM Salon, Mount Vernon Community Theatre, ACMA, The Forum Art Space, Moving Art Exchange, Chez Bushwick, The Beijing Dance Academy Theatre and venues throughout NYC and Germany. She has danced works most notably by & for Kevin Wynn, Ogemdi Ude, Rena Butler, Jasmine Hearn, Hannah Garner, Nattie Trogdon+Hollis Bartlett, Slowdanger, Marion Spencer, Joanna Kotze, Netta Yerushalmy and more.

Ryan Seaton is a Bessie nominated, New York-based composer and multi-instrumentalist. Seaton has created sound design, horn arrangements, vocal works and electronic compositions for many acclaimed recording and performing artists, including Joanna Kotze, Lingua Ignota, Grey Reverend, Zsuzsa Rozsavolgyi, Lance Gries, Zenon Dance Company, Ririe Woodbury, Dark Sky, Ictus, Beth Gill, Vision Control and Mara Hoffman. His work has been featured at BAM, New York Live Arts, Baryshnikov Arts Center, the

Kitchen and Danspace among many other venues. Seaton also composes for film and TV. He recently composed the score for David Peter Hansen's *Militiaman*, which is a finalist for a Student Academy Award. His band, *Callers*, released three critically acclaimed albums and toured internationally with *Dirty Projectors*, *Here We Go Magic*, and *Wye Oak*, among others. Dubbed "stark in execution, dazzling in effect" by Pitchfork, *Callers* have often been featured on NPR and have appeared in various local and international festivals including *Primavera*, *Tanned Tin*, and the *Ottawa Blues Fest*. Seaton is also a founding member of *Open House* along with Steven Reker (*People Get Ready*), Eliot Krimsky (*Glass Ghost*) and Matt Evans (*Tigue*).

Mary Lyn Graves is a dancer and teacher based in Brooklyn, NY. She currently performs with Megan Williams, Elizabeth Dishman, and as a guest with the Mark Morris Dance Group. From 2012-2018, Mary Lyn was a member of Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company in Salt Lake City, UT. While with Ririe-Woodbury, she originated roles in over 25 new works and toured across the United States, France, South Korea, and Mongolia. As an independent artist, she has also worked extensively with Molly Heller, Cheyla Chandler, and the Nikolais/Louis Foundation. A sixth-generation Oklahoman, Mary Lyn was born and raised in Tulsa, OK.

Ani Javian is a movement artist whose research is rooted in her views about humans as story-tellers, story-holders, and story-makers. Her choreography has been supported by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Dance New Jersey, and the Ohio Arts Council, and she will present a new installation work in Yerevan, Armenia in Spring 2022. Ani dances with choreographer Paige Phillips and collaborates with composer Aaron Michael Butler. She is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Rutgers University, with an MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University and a BA in Dance and English from Connecticut College. anijavian.com

Ariel Lembeck is a dance artist and dance maker based in Lenapehoking (Brooklyn, NY) whose artistic practice incorporates materials, performance scores and video. Her work has been presented by Triskelion Arts,

WaxWorks, Judson Church (STUFFED), The Jack Crystal Theater (SWELL 2.0), The Footlight, Ruth Page Center for the Arts (Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival), The Floor on Atlantic (Artist in Residence Fall Festival Showing) and The Wild Project (IHRAFestival). Since graduating from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, she has worked with artists Meredith Monk, Stefanie Nelson, Douglas Dunn, Celia Rowilson-Hall, Eva Dean, Mari Meade Montoya, Steeledance, Nattie Trogdon and Hollis Bartlett, Elisabeth Motley, and Jessica Gaynor. Ariel is currently an arts worker with Creating New Futures Phase 2 and Creative Producer for a canary torsi.
ariellebeck.com / IG: [@ariellebeck](https://www.instagram.com/ariellebeck)

Jordan Demetrius Lloyd is a dance artist based in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from The College at Brockport and grew up in Albany, NY. He has collaborated with and performed for Karl Rogers, Beth Gill, Netta Yerushalmy, Tere O'Connor, David Dorfman Dance, Joanna Kotze, Catherine Galasso, Monica Bill Barnes, and Ambika Raina. He currently teaches at New York University, Sarah Lawrence College, and The American Dance Festival. His work has been produced by: Baryshnikov Arts Center, New York Live Arts, ISSUE Project Room, Danspace Project's Draftwork Series, Movement Research and more. Head to jordandlloyd.com for more.

Ani Javian is a movement artist whose research is rooted in her views about humans as story-tellers, story-holders, and story-makers. Her choreography has been supported by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Dance New Jersey, and the Ohio Arts Council, and she will present a new installation work in Yerevan, Armenia in Spring 2022. Ani dances with choreographer Paige Phillips and collaborates with composer Aaron Michael Butler. She is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Rutgers University, with an MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University and a BA in Dance and English from Connecticut College. anijavian.com

Jennifer Nugent has been performing in NYC since 1999, most notably with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company from (2009-2014), David Dorfman Dance from (1999-2007), and Paul Matteson (2002-2020). Her practices are profoundly inspired by Linda Rogers Albritton, Ann Cummings, Patricia

Cummings, Beatrice LaVerne, Bambi Anderson, Dale Andree, Gerri Houlihan, Daniel Lepkoff, Wendell Beavers, Lisa Race, David Dorfman, Patty Townsend, Thomas F. DeFrantz, Paul Matteson, and Janet Wong, Nugent is a teaching artist at Sarah Lawrence College, Gibney Dance NYC, and the virtual platform [freeskewl](http://freeskewl.com). Jennifernugent.com

Devin Oshiro, originally from Los Angeles, CA, is a Brooklyn-based dancer, teacher, choreographer, and arts administrator. She earned a BA in Dance from California State University of Fullerton. Since moving to New York, Devin has had the pleasure of working with Edisa Weeks, Mike Esperanza, Sumi Clements, Joanna Kotze, Reggie Wilson, Maija Garcia, Patrick Corbin, and more. Devin works as the Senior Community Action Artistic Manager at Gibney in utilizing the arts for social justice, specifically gender-based violence. She teaches movement workshops that promote self-care and well-being and engages young people in conversations around healthy relationships across NYC. IG: [@devinoshiro](https://www.instagram.com/devinoshiro)

Ambika Raina is a choreographer and dance director. Bharatanatyam-trained, she makes cinematic fantasies that flirt with pop sensibility rooted in an experimental foundation. Her work has been presented by NYU Skirball, The Chocolate Factory, Issue Project Room, Movement Research at the Judson Church, and more. She has earned two Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation fellowships and the 2022 BAX Space Grant. She most recently choreographed the workshop musical production "The Jury." As a dancer, Ambika has performed in work by Bill T. Jones, Joanna Kotze, David Gordon, Jordan Demetrius Lloyd, Maya Lee Parritz, Netta Yerushalmy, and Catherine Galasso. IG: [@ambika.raina](https://www.instagram.com/ambika.raina)

Ariana Speight (she/her/hers), a graduate of Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Africana Studies, is a contemporary dance artist invested in researching the curiosities of life through various mediums. Originally from Los Angeles, she had the opportunity to dance abroad at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance where she studied Gaga technique and repertory from Batsheva company members and Vertigo Dance Company. Currently based in Brooklyn, she has

performed with a number of artists, most recently including Joanna Kotze, Jordan Lloyd, Kyle Marshall, and Jessie Young. She is also certified as a Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT) and Pilates instructor where she continues to nurture + grow her teaching practice. IG: [@arianamariespeight](#)

marion spencer (she/her/hers) is an artist living on the unceded land of the Munsee Lenape and Canarsie people. Her work has been presented by Danspace Project, Gibney, CPR, Movement Research at Judson Church, BKSD and New Dance Alliance, among others. She has held residencies at The Chocolate Factory Theater, The Field Center, Mana Contemporary and Amherst College, among others. As a performer, she has had the pleasure of collaborating with BAND|portier, Laura Peterson, Larissa Velez-Jackson, Michelle Boulé, Athena Kokoronis, Tyler Rai and Joanna Kotze. She dances and makes dances to dream and make dreams alive, inviting potential for transformation/s.

Hsiao-Jou Tang was born and raised in Taiwan. In 2008, she graduated summa cum laude from SUNY Purchase with a BFA in Dance. Hsiao-Jou was a company member of Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion (2010-2012) and Doug Varone and Dancers (2012-2019). As a freelance dancer, Hsiao-Jou has had the pleasure of working with Netta Yerushalmy, John Jasperse, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Shen Wei Dance Arts, The Metropolitan Opera Ballet, 2nd Best Dance Company, Nancy Bannon, Xan Burley+Alex Springer, Luke Murphy- Attic Projects, and The Pharmacy Project, among others.

Kathy Kaufmann is a New York City native, two time Bessie recipient, and was nominated for Rebecca Davis's Bloowst Windku. She has been a resident designer at the Danspace Project at St. Marks Church for over 20 years and has toured extensively throughout the world. She designs regularly for Dorrance Dance (Blues Project with Toshi Reagon, ETM, SoundSpace, Myelination, Elemental, All Good Things Come to an End, Harlequin and Pantalone with Bill Irwin, Jungle Blues, Three to One, Basses Loaded), Joanna Kotze (What will we be like when we get there, Find Yourself Here, It Happened....), David Parker (NutCracked, Slap Stuck, Critical Mass, Hind Legs), Rebecca Stenn (Elusive Bird Trilogy), Mariana Valencia (Album,

Yugoslavia, Bouquet, Air), Leonardo Sandoval (Partido) and Ephrat Asherie (Odeon, UnderScored, Riff This Riff That). Ms. Kaufmann has had the good fortune to collaborate with many choreographers including Eiko and Koma, Roseanne Spradlin, Christopher Williams, Meredith Monk, Heidi Latsky, Moriah Evans, Jasmine Hearn, Yvonne Meier, Tatyana Tennenbaum, Reggie Wilson, Kota Yamazaki, Ben Munisteri, Jacques D'Amboise, Sally Silvers, Ursula Eagly, Gina Gibney, Larissa Velez-Jackson, Larry Goldhuber, Maura Donahue, Vicky Shick, Amanda Loulaki, Keely Garfield, Jillian Peña, Jon Kinzel, Cori Olinghouse, Jody Oberfelder, Risa Jaraslow, Patricia Hoffbauer, Tendayi Kuumba and Mina Nishamura. She has lit parties and special events for the FoodNetwork for over 15 years and was honored to be included in Curtain Call: Celebrating 100 Years of Women in Design at the New York Performing Arts Library.

Christian Joy is a costume designer and artist living and working in New York City. Christian has created performance looks for artists such as Karen O, Brittany Howard and Childish Gambino. Her designs have appeared on stage at the Oscars and Grammy Awards as well as music festivals around the world. Christian's work has been exhibited in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Mode Museum in Hasselt Belgium as well as galleries in New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

Lauren Ree Slone (writer-in-residence) is an internationally recognized expert in grant making systems design, cultural equity strategy, and programmatic leadership. To date at MAP Fund , she has overseen the distribution of \$10M+ dollars to 502 multidisciplinary performance projects. Most recently, she was proud to serve on the program team that operationalized Artist Relief , which distributed close to \$23.4 million in emergency grants to 4,680 artists over 15 months, and was appointed to Grantmakers in the Arts Support for Individual Artist Committee. She is also a Live in America Festival Support Team member and an advisor to Creative and Independent Producer Alliance (CIPA). As a lifelong student of dance, she has created education curricula, youth mentorship programs, presentation platforms, and performance projects that democratize access to the art form throughout the United States. She holds a B.A. in Religious

Studies with a minor in Philosophy from West Virginia University, and an M.F.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography from Florida State University School of Dance where she was the first Andrew W. Mellon Arts Administration Fellow at Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, a Ballet Pedagogy Fellow, and pursued choreographic research in Israel, Spain, and France. Lauren is grateful to be surrounded by exquisite guides, the energy of New York City, and waking dreams.



Molly Heller, Ryan Seaton and Wendell Gray II. Photo by Chris Cameron.

The development of *'lectric Eye* has been made possible by The Bogliasco Foundation, The Yard, EtM Choreographer + Composer Residency, Loghaven Artist Residency, Dance Programme Malmö, the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, Mount Tremper Arts through funding from the Alan M. Kriegsman Creative Residency at Dance Place, and the Resident Artist Program at Movement Research supported by the Rosin Fund, and The Nathan M. Clark Foundation.

Thank you to our Kickstarter backers: Anonymous, Ben Allen, Clyde and Lila Allen, Kimberly Allen, Jonathan Allen, Andrea Allez, Claire Alrich, Alyse Ardell, Melissa Arra, Sheri B., Lily Baldwin, Ivy Baldwin, Julian Barnett, Kimberly Bartosik, Kevin Bay, Christine Beardmore, John and Tricia de Beer, Alexandra Berger, Anselm Berrigan, Zeljka Blaksic, Paula Bomer, Joseph Boone, Sarah Boren-Rao, Sharon Brownfield and Rick Lent, Annelise Broussard, Lee Buford, Jean Butler, Joe Cairo, Amber Lucia Chabus, Peggy Cheng, Janessa Clark, Eric Clough and Kate Fenner, Lynn Cornelison, Donna Costello, The Creative Fund by BackerKit, Nicholas Croft, Camille Delany, John Denham, Sid Ryan Eilers, Lindy Fines, Kate Folsom, Meghan Frederick, Sage Geyer, David Gould, Jamie Graham, Mary Lyn Graves, PABLITO GRECO, Brian Hamilton, Carey Hamilton, Patton Hindle, Charlotte Jacobs, Ani Javian, Jiggs2U, Burr Johnson, Danny Johnston, Emma Judkins, Ingrid Kapteyn, Collin Kelly, Raja Feather Kelly + the feath3r theory, Emily Kessler, Brendan Kiely, Benjamin Akio Kimitich, Cynthia Koppe, Derek and Judy Kotze, Stephen Kotze, Megan Kotze, Jaye Kotze, Jenny Kotze, Andy Kuncl, Stephanie Land, Denise Latimer, Maya Lee-Parritz, Ariel Lembeck, Kristen Leonard, Cara Liguri, Cindy List, Jackie Livingston, Sara Lucas, Debbie Mausner, Julie Mayo, Toni Melaas, Roarke Menzies, Will Miller, Greg Miller, Ryutaro Mishima, Milan Misko, Suzanne Modica, Arielle Moreau, Cyd Morgan, MOtiVE Brooklyn, Patricia Mullany, Jessica Nance, Laura K. Nicoll, Tere O'Connor, Mary Ellen Obias, Megan Ojala, Okwui Okpokwasili, Sarah Beth Oppenheim, Jessi Patz, Nicholas Perkins, Sandy Petrey, Pamela Pietro, Molly Poerstel, Nate Powell, Alicia Jo Rabins, Jill Homan Randall, Michael Remboulis, Tamara Riewe-Moskovitz, Brandon Rigoli, John Robinson, Lana Kay and Jerry Rosenberg, Rudie, Andrew Rumpler, Mary Rynasko, Tony S, Kathryn Sanders, Julie Schafer, Perry Sheffield, Lauren Slone, Gus Solomons Jr, Stacy Spence, marion spencer, Anna Sperber, James Taft, David Thomson, Lexie Thrash, Sara and Channing Wagg, Jeffrey Walkowiak, Charmaine Warren, Sally Whaling, Megan Williams, Matthew Winheld, Anna Witenberg, Elisabeth Wolf, wolf, Kota Yamazaki, Netta Yerushalmy, Kristen Yeung, Jesse Zaritt, Abby Zbikowski.

Symara Johnson. Photo by Chris Cameron.





Molly Heller. Photo by Chris Cameron.

Special thanks to Ken Rothchild, Terry Greiss, Renata Soares, Kimberly Giannelli, Max Cerci, Roni Sipp, and everyone at Irondale. Thank you to my amazing collaborators Wendell, Molly, Symara, and Ryan who have given so much to this process and project over the last several years. I love you all very much. Thank you to Ani, Ariel, Jordan, Jenn, Devin, Ambika, Ariana, marion, Hsiao-Jou, and Mary Lyn for first being part of BIG BEATS and now an integral part of 'lectric Eye. Thank you to Kathy and Christian for your amazing designs. Thank you to Lauren for your observations, writing, guidance and friendship. Thank you to Laura for WAY too many things to list here. Thank you to Audrey for jumping in to help so graciously. Thank you to Maria Baranova and Milan Misko for catching this moment in time through photos and video. Thank you to Maya Lee-Parritz, Leslie Cuyjet, and Anna Witenberg for being a part of the earlier stages of this process. Thank you to all of the incredible residencies and funders that helped make this work possible. Thank you to Gina Gibney/Gibney Dance for the additional marley. Thank you always to my family for their undying support. And to Jon, for keeping me up whenever I'm down, for encouraging me to keep moving forward, and for loving me no matter what.