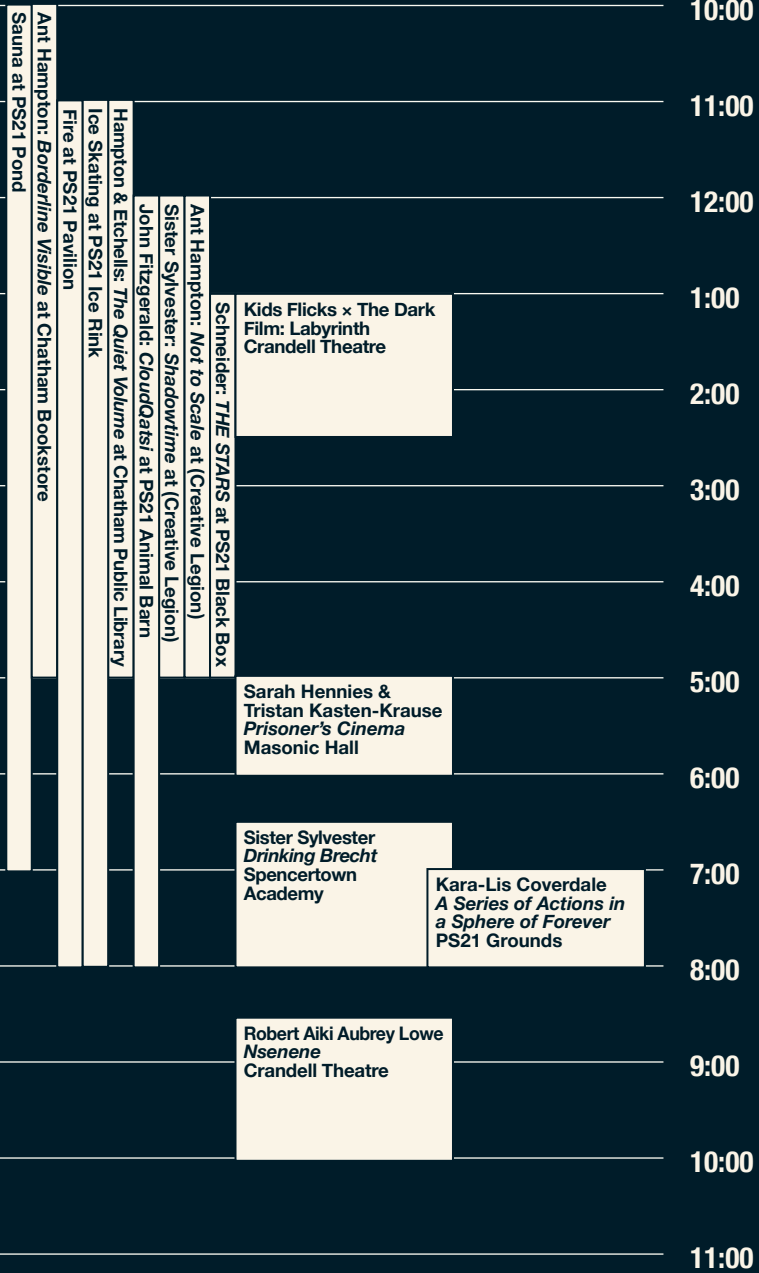


Tuesday
Feb 17



Discover more about PS21 and explore The Dark with our free digital guide on Bloomberg Connects.

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to get started.



Bloomberg
Connects

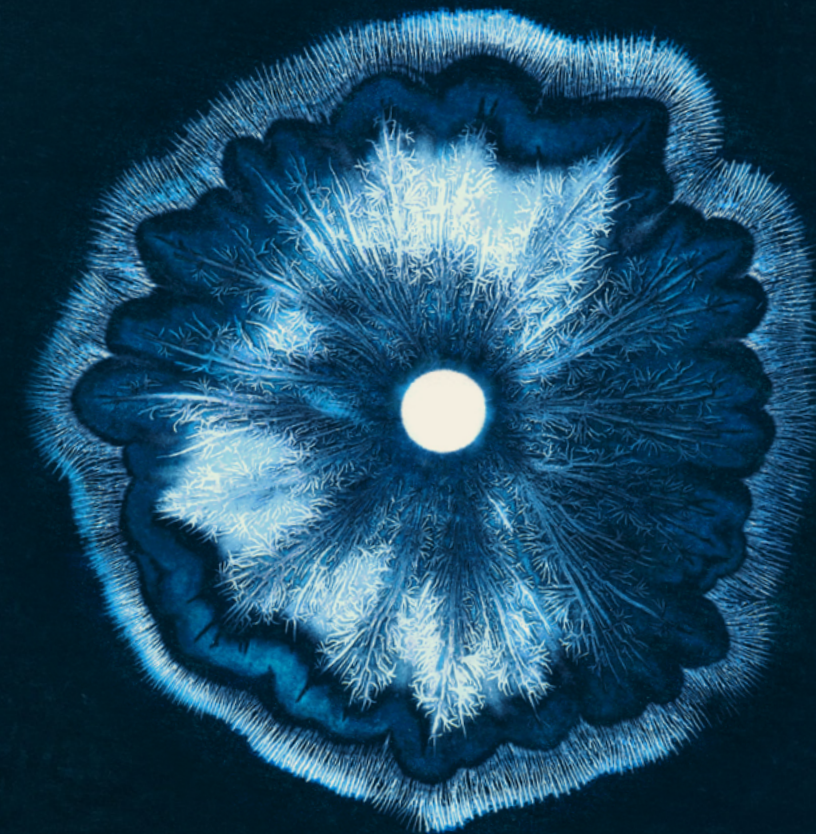
This program is supported by a grant awarded to PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance from New York State's Empire State Development and the I LOVE NY Division of Tourism.



PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance
2980 Route 66
Chatham, NY 12037
518 392 6121
ps21chatham.org
info@ps21chatham.org

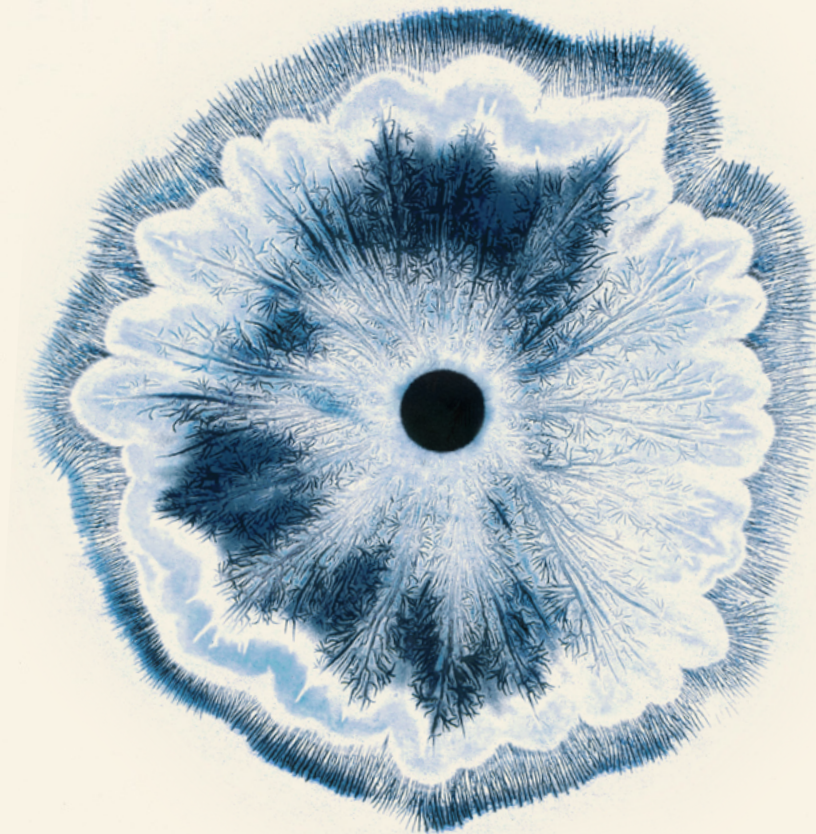
THE DARK

FEBRUARY 16-22, 2026

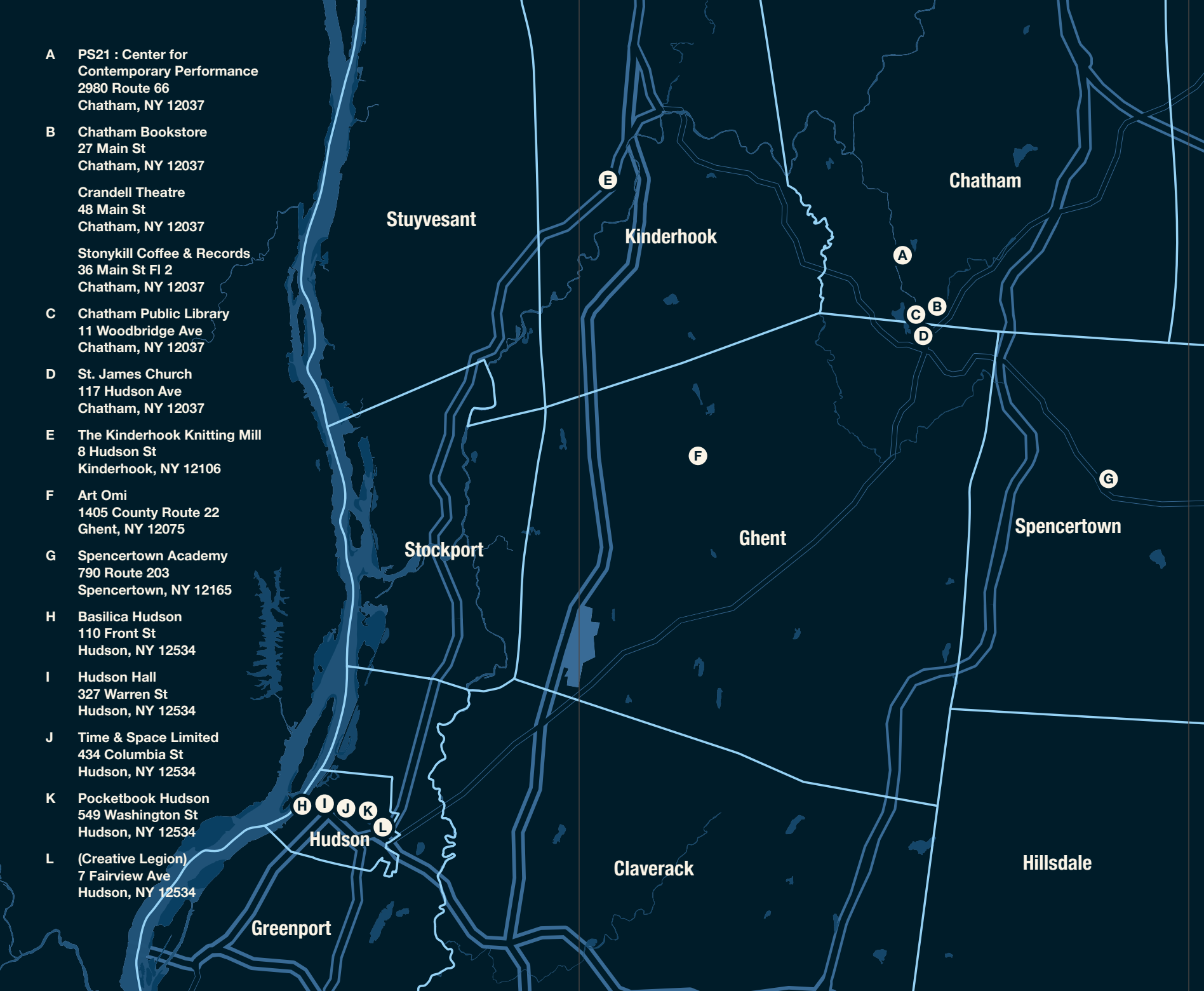


PS21 CENTER FOR
CONTEMPORARY
PERFORMANCE

...is the light



A fearless winter festival of live performance
radiating across Columbia County



- A PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance
2980 Route 66
Chatham, NY 12037
- B Chatham Bookstore
27 Main St
Chatham, NY 12037
- C Chatham Public Library
11 Woodbridge Ave
Chatham, NY 12037
- D St. James Church
117 Hudson Ave
Chatham, NY 12037
- E The Kinderhook Knitting Mill
8 Hudson St
Kinderhook, NY 12106
- F Art Omi
1405 County Route 22
Ghent, NY 12075
- G Spencertown Academy
790 Route 203
Spencertown, NY 12165
- H Basilica Hudson
110 Front St
Hudson, NY 12534
- I Hudson Hall
327 Warren St
Hudson, NY 12534
- J Time & Space Limited
434 Columbia St
Hudson, NY 12534
- K Pocketbook Hudson
549 Washington St
Hudson, NY 12534
- L (Creative Legion)
7 Fairview Ave
Hudson, NY 12534

Saturday Feb 21												Sunday Feb 22											
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												Sauna at PS21 Pond											
												John Fitzgerald: <i>CloudGatsi</i> at PS21 Animal Barn											
												Sylvester: <i>Shadowtime</i> at (Creative Legion)											
												Ice Skating at PS21 Ice Rink											
												Andrew Schneider: <i>THE STARS (Open Universe)</i> at PS21 Black Box											
												Fire at PS21 Pavilion											
												Hampton: <i>Not to Scale</i> at (Creative Legion)											
												Sylvester: <i>Shadowtime</i> at (Creative Legion)											
												Hampton & Etchells: <i>The Quiet Volume</i> at Chatham Library											

THE DARK

The Dark is a new annual festival from PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance that celebrates and elevates the depths of winter. Taking place February 16–22, 2026, the festival will unfold at PS21 and across Columbia County—in theatres, restaurants, libraries, saunas, and outdoor public spaces. Featuring more than 60 international artists and over 80 performances, *The Dark* offers a packed week of world-class contemporary performance, installation, music, dance, and theatre—all exploring winter as a time of community and solitude, fire and ice cold, darkness and light. A major new attraction for the region, the festival positions Columbia County as a year-round cultural destination—not just a summer one.

It is a light in the dark—and *The Dark* is the light.

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light.
To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight,
and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings,
and is travelled by dark feet and dark wings.

—Wendell Berry, *To Know the Dark*

This snow-fed fever dream of a festival is an opportunity for us to gather together. It is a marker of our belief in the power of the arts to act as a potent catalyst for the region—across snow, ice, towns, creeks, meadows, and ponds.

With this intervention into our typical upstate calendar, PS21 inverts our received seasonal narrative, embracing and charging into the cold winter with a program of contemporary performance, film, music, installation, theatre, dance, and activities for all ages. Artistic experiences that speak to the season and the times. For locals and visitors alike, this intense and eccentric week will be an offering unlike any other.

The Dark includes world premiere music in procession with Phil Kline and in lullaby with Sophia Brous, new dance from sweat variant, LaJuné McMillan, and site-inflected repertoire from the iconic Trisha Brown Dance Company. Screen and sound merge at Chatham's Crandell Theatre and Hudson's Basilica with Lee Ranaldo and Leah Singer, David Lang and Bill Morrison, Peni Candra Rini and Garin Nugroho, Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe and Daniel McCabe while concerts are offered in churches, theatres and saunas from Ben Lamar Gay, Arone Dyer, Natural Information Society, Kara-Lis Coverdale, Sarah Hennies and Tristan Kasten-Krause, and Thomas Feng.

Theatre's ever-evolving fluidity of form and idea represented through work by Julian Brave Noisecat, Ant Hampton, Tim Etchells, Bert & Nasi, Andrew Schneider, Autumn Knight, and Alex Harvey. Provocations around economics, identity, technology, microbiology, capitalism, and aging weave through the work of Sister Sylvester, John Fitzgerald, and Walid Raad.

We invite you to skate, sweat, and warm up with us on our campus, no matter the weather. We hope *The Dark* also offers you an opportunity to visit local spaces both familiar and new—we're proud to be partnering and collaborating with so many venues, funders, artists, participants, and the towns around us.

Our most important collaborator, of course, is the season itself. Together with you in February, we'll find that *The Dark* is perhaps just the light we need...



Vallejo Gantner
PS21 Artistic & Executive Director



PROGRAM



sweat variant OKWUI OKPOKWASILI & PETER BORN *my tongue is a blade*

U.S. PREMIERE
Dance

my tongue is a blade is a three-hour movement performance-practice that is a work with relation, memory, and reflection. It asks: What are the limits of our attention and how does that test the strength of our bonds? Four performers commit to remembering each other, holding each other, bearing each other, and sustaining the world that contains them. This rich visual and sonic landscape is an invitation to the audience to witness this practice and resonate within it.

sweat variant is the collaborative practice of artists Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born, partners in their work and their lives. Since 1996, they have been working at the intersection of dance, theatre, and visual art to make challenging and rigorous work that reaffirms that which has been deemed marginal as the true center through the exploration of Black interiority. Okpokwasili and Born have created the Bessie Award-winning *pent up: a revenge dance* and *Bronx Gothic*, and their work has been presented worldwide. Okpokwasili has earned numerous accolades, including a Doris Duke Artist Award and a MacArthur Fellowship.

my tongue is a blade will be performed by Okwui Okpokwasili, Briia Bacon, Kris Lee, and AJ Wilmore.

Commissioned by the Irish Museum of Modern Art as part of Take a Breath, with support from the Sam Gilliam Foundation. Support for sweat variant is provided in part by the Mellon and Howard Gilman Foundations.

Hudson Hall

Saturday, Feb 21
1:00PM

Sunday, Feb 22
1:00PM

180 minutes

We encourage audiences to come and go throughout the piece. Entry is rolling through the duration of the installation, and space is available on a first-come, first-served basis.



BEN LAMAR GAY *Cold Was the Ground*

Music

Ben LaMar Gay is a composer and cornetist who moves sound, color, and space through folkloric filters to produce electro-acoustic collages. A Chicago native, Ben's true technique is giving life to an idea while exploring and expanding on the term 'Americana.' With his band, the Ben LaMar Gay Quartet, he will dive into the hypnotism of their cosmopolitan blues, with old and new tales as well as selections from their latest release *Yowzers* via International Anthem. This work represents a leap forward in the lexicon of Gay's recorded output and a veritable masterwork of ancient inner-body rhythms and intuitive melodic storytelling. The quartet consists of Ben LaMar Gay on cornet, electronics, and vocals; Tommaso Moretti on drums; Edinho Gerber on guitar; and Royce Harrington Turner on tuba.

"A tuba solo kicks in, and suddenly we're in three places at once: New Orleans jazz, Alabama work songs, and Chicago hip-hop all converging around Gay. This is who he is..." —Matthew Blackwell, *Pitchfork*

Crandell Theatre

Wednesday, Feb 18
8:30PM

100 minutes





Photo: Christophe Raynaud-Delage

BERT & NASI L'Addition

U.S. PREMIERE
Theatre

L'Addition plays out like a deranged game of telephone, except that the message being passed is a single scene on an increasingly distorted loop: A man at a café orders a drink. A waiter pours the drink. And a waiter pours the drink. And he cannot stop pouring the drink. Each escalation of the otherwise everyday scenario introduces a more outlandish set of circumstances.

Directed by Forced Entertainment Artistic Director Tim Etchells, one of the most influential forces in European theatre in recent decades, and created with the brilliant physical theatre duo Bert and Nasi, *L'Addition* orchestrates a complex, hilarious, and explosive performance from simple materials. Together, the three of them play with the mechanisms of theatre as much as with power relationships. In the end, someone has to pay the bill.

Directed by Tim Etchells
Devised and performed by Bertrand Lesca and Nasi Voutsas

Commissioned by Festival d'Avignon. Co-produced by Grrranit Scène nationale de Belfort, Centre culturel André Malraux, Scène nationale de Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, Théâtre de la Manufacture CDN Nancy Lorraine, CCAS, Théâtre Silvia Monfort (Paris), La Vignette Scène conventionnée Université Paul-Valéry (Montpellier), Théâtre du Bois de l'Aune (Aix-en-Provence), Théâtre de Choisy-le-Roi, and Théâtre Alibi (Bastia). Residencies at Centre social Espace Pluriel-salle de la Barbière (Avignon), The Coronet Theatre (London), Battersea Arts Centre (London), and Toynbee Studios (London).

Time & Space Limited

Wednesday, Feb 18
6:00PM

Thursday, Feb 19
6:00PM

60 minutes



LEE RANALDO & LEAH SINGER ContreJour

Video and music

Adapting the French name for contralight, *ContreJour* is a project in evolution for more than thirty years, bringing together the artistic vision of Canadian photographer and multimedia artist Leah Singer with American composer, guitarist, and producer Lee Ranaldo, a founding member of Sonic Youth.

Singer and Ranaldo break traditional dynamics between performer and audience to examine how live image and sound might interact. Using a diverse array of acoustic and electric guitars and digital instruments, they create an immersive sound experience where the techniques and materials that the historic artist Lourdes Castro developed are reinterpreted in a bucolic and reflective journey that reflects on her lasting impact on the international artistic avant-garde.

"There's a deep commitment (to art) that goes beyond music movements and trends or eras." —Anurag Tagat, *Rolling Stone*

Basilica Hudson

Monday, Feb 16
6:30PM

50 minutes





SOPHIA BROUS

Songs for the Dark

WORLD PREMIERE
Music / Performance

Songs for the Dark is a new performance exploring the ritual of song that holds us.

Devised by Australian interdisciplinary artist/composer Sophia Brous with collaborating performers from the Hudson Valley and Berkshires region, and Latvian dramaturg Gundega Laiviņa, the performance examines the global repertoire of lullabies that help us through the dark.

Bringing together song and personal storytelling, this show is a testimony to our universal need to be soothed and secure. Part immersive performance, concert nocturne, and public testimonial, it is an invitation to witness each other's humanity together.

Brous is a resident artist at The Brooklyn Academy of Music/BAM, New York, and previously resident of National Sawdust New York, The Watermill Centre, Curator at Large of Brooklyn not-for-profit Pioneer Works. Brous' work has been presented at international spaces including The Barbican, Southbank Centre, Paris Philharmonie, Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Oslo Opera House, Royal Danish Playhouse, DOCUMENTA Athens, Sydney Opera House, Dublin Concert Hall, Dark MOFO and the Adelaide, Sydney, Perth and Melbourne Festivals.

Commissioned by PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance.

Art Omi Barn

Saturday, Feb 21
5:30PM

Sunday, Feb 22
5:30PM



Photo: Pablo Macías

TRISHA BROWN DANCE COMPANY

In Plain Site

Dance

In Plain Site sees Trisha Brown Dance Company and PS21 working together for the first time to bring a bespoke collection from the company's repertoire into Chatham's newly restored Masonic Hall at dusk, amplifying Brown's endless affinity for naturalizing movement to the physical environment.

For decades Brown's work has fearlessly explored different relationships to space and site for dance. Never frozen, her work adapts profoundly to its environment, its time and condition, allowing patterns of relationship, body, light, and space to play, repeat, and iterate.

"Brown felt sorry for spaces that weren't centerstage—the ceiling, walls, corners, and wing space. Not to mention trees, lakes, and firehouses."
—Wendy Perron, *Dance Magazine*

Masonic Hall

Wednesday, Feb 18
5:30PM

Thursday, Feb 19
5:30PM

60 minutes



Photo: Andrew Schneider

ANDREW SCHNEIDER *NOWISWHENWEARE* (the stars)

Immersive experience

Every point in space occurs once at each moment of time. *NOWISWHENWEARE* (the stars) is a new interactive theatrical installation that pushes this idea to its literal extreme.

An unseen narrator guides each participant through an individualized journey into a precisely programmed matrix of light—and the cosmos of themselves. *the stars* traces every decision that you have ever made as a contributing factor to being 'here' and being 'now.' With nearly 4,000 reactive LED lights and a 496-channel soundscape, Andrew Schneider's powerful installation draws you into a contemplative and deeply personal encounter with time, memory, and presence. Part-meditation, part-exploration, this dazzling fusion of tech and theatre is a rare chance to get lost in the stars.

Two distinct experiences are offered in *The Dark*—Open Universe and Guided—each unique and compelling in different ways.

Please refer to the PS21 website to reserve. Capacity for each session is limited.

NOWISWHENWEARE (the stars) was originally produced by Miranda Wright + Los Angeles Performance Practice. Development was made possible with support from The Brown Arts Institute, Carleton College Arts and Technology Initiative, The Simons Foundation and Science Sandbox, The Voxel, The Onassis Foundation, The Sundance Institute Interdisciplinary Program, and Eliko Industries.

PS21 Black Box Theater

Monday, Feb 16
1:00PM–8:00PM

Tuesday, Feb 17
1:00PM–4:30PM

Wednesday, Feb 18
1:00PM–8:00PM

Thursday, Feb 19
1:00PM–3:00PM
3:30PM–6:00PM*

Friday, Feb 20
11:00AM–5:00PM*

Saturday, Feb 21
11:00AM–3:00PM
3:30 PM–6:30PM*

Sunday, Feb 22
11:00AM–6:00PM

Open Universe: 30-min loop, but you may remain as long as you wish

*Guided experience: 50 min

EMAHOY TSEGUÉ-MARYAM GUÈBROU *Night Prayers*, piano by Thomas Feng

Music

As a musician, and as a nun, Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou found peace in the night. At times she composed and played the piano into the early hours of the morning or woke as early as two o'clock to pray: "Everything is silent, quiet," she explained, "so you are more close to God."

In *Night Prayers*, pianist Thomas Feng performs compositions by Guèbrou alongside beloved works by Beethoven and Chopin that she kept in her room until her passing. Set amongst an immersive starscape installation by Andrew Schneider, this program conjures the rarefied stillness and spirituality of Guèbrou's nights.

PS21 Black Box Theater

Friday, Feb 20
7:30PM

60 minutes





Photo: Ant Hampton

ANT HAMPTON & TIME BASED EDITIONS Borderline Visible

Audio & reading experience

Borderline Visible begins as a journey from Lausanne to Izmir in 2022 by two artist friends, one of whom must stop. As the other continues towards Turkey, suddenly alone, the narration grows into a moving and troubled psychogeography as it shifts between 'we' and 'I,' present and past, piecing together value and meaning from the very human ruins of aspiration, history, and language.

Ant Hampton's careful, at times miraculous, process of reconnection gradually lights up a constellation: voices and earthquakes, the Sephardic diaspora, tourism and forced movement, breakdowns and dementia, the end of the Ottoman Empire, swifts and swallows, Eliot's *The Waste Land* and an urgent insight into hidden atrocities at the edge of Europe being funded from its centre.

Ant Hampton is co-director of the Time Based Editions series, publisher of *Borderline Visible*. As with all Time Based Editions, an audio track combines narration, soundscape, and instructions that guide you over a given time through the book. Ticket price includes a copy of the book, which can be experienced again individually at any point in multiple languages.

Co-production with Kanal Centre Pompidou, Vidy Theatre Lausanne, 0090 Platform, Resonance Foundation, and Bimeras.

Chatham Bookstore

Monday, Feb 16
11:00AM–5:00PM

**Tuesday, Feb 17–
Saturday, Feb 21**
10:00AM–5:00PM

Sunday, Feb 22
10:00AM–3:30PM

77 minutes

Please refer to the PS21 website for reservations/individual session times. Capacity very limited.

with TIM ETHELLES Not to Scale

U.S. PREMIERE

Audio-guided collective creation

Not to Scale is a full-length 'autoteatro' performance which draws two participants into shared experiments and intertwined processes of drawing, erasing, and listening. Guided by a binaural soundtrack, participants create a shared journey using pencil on blank sheets of paper. Crude doodles soon come to life in a comical and unsettling picture book narrative that plays constantly with the tension between creation and destruction, life and death, energy and entropy. By simply following the prompts as best you can, things start to happen: performance is triggered from even the smallest movement.

Co-production with Access Point, Dublin Theatre Festival, Teatro do Bairro Alto, and Noorderzon Festival.

(Creative Legion)

**Tuesday, Feb 17–
Friday, Feb 20**
12:00PM–5:00PM

**Saturday, Feb 21–
Sunday, Feb 22**
11:00AM–3:00PM

60 minutes

Please refer to the PS21 website for reservations/individual session times. Capacity very limited.

with TIM ETHELLES The Quiet Volume

Audio & reading experience

The Quiet Volume is a whispered, self-generated and 'automatic' performance for two at a time, exploiting the particular tension common to any library worldwide; a combination of silence and concentration within which different people's experiences of reading unfold. Two audience members sit side-by-side taking cues from words both written and whispered—via an iPod and headphones—and find themselves burrowing an unlikely path through a pile of books. The piece exposes the strange magic at the heart of the reading experience, allowing aspects of it we think of as deeply internal to lean out into the surrounding space, and to leak from one reader's sphere into another's.

"This now of the page is what grips me—the present moment, this one, summoned here with this arrangement of marks/code, ink/pixels, letters and words." — Tim Etchells

Co-production with Vooruit Arts Centre, Ciudades Paralelas, Schauspielhaus Zürich, Nowy Teatr, HAU Berlin, ProHelvetia, and the Goethe Institut.

Chatham Public Library

**Tuesday, Feb 17–
Friday, Feb 20**
11:00AM–5:00PM

Saturday, Feb 21
11:00AM–4:00PM

55 minutes

Please refer to the PS21 website for reservations/individual session times. Capacity very limited.





AUTUMN KNIGHT Nothing #62: a bluff

Theatre / Performance

Nothing #62: a bluff is the third part of Autumn Knight's investigation into the Italian concept of "dolce far niente"—the sweetness of nothingness. Knight is alone, responding spontaneously to a space, its features, and its audience. *a bluff* is a deliberation on our economies of time, attention, and survival, and the creative role within those realms. It works within the inexhaustible possibilities each audience member brings.

At once compelling, confronting, perhaps funny, and awkward, this is a masterwork of new performance. Drawing from her training in theatre and the psychology of group dynamics, Knight makes performances that reshape our perceptions of race, gender, and authority.

"Autumn leads with humor and curiosities in really incredible ways, ...[a]t the end, seems like you have been cared for, even if you have gone through a few layers of complexity." —Ryan Dennis, *ARTnews*

Nothing #62: a bluff is a National Performance Network Creation and Development Fund Project co-commissioned by Performance Space New York, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, and REDCAT; LA.

Pocketbook Hudson

Wednesday, Feb 18
7:30PM

Thursday, Feb 19
7:30PM

60 minutes



PHIL KLINE Force of Nature (February)

WORLD PREMIERE Music

Force of Nature (February) is a mobile, living sound sculpture performed by the audience participants, which roams the contours of PS21 as darkness falls, playing the music on cassette players, portable speakers, and cell phones.

This night is February in full regalia, fierce and unflinching, beautiful in its icy indifference.

Commissioned by PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance.

PS21 Grounds

**Assemble at PS21
Pavilion Theater**

Monday, Feb 16
4:30PM assembly for
5:00PM commence

50 minutes





SISTER SYLVESTER Constantinopoliad

U.S. PREMIERE Installation

A response to the archive of the poet Constantine Cavafy, Sister Sylvester's *Constantinopoliad* is a handmade book, read collectively by the audience inside of a sound installation. The work is Inspired by the blank and torn-out pages in "Constantinopoliad, an epic," the journal the teenage Cavafy began when he and his family fled Alexandria; by lost and missing archives through time; and by the ghosts, both erotic and historical, that visit the older Cavafy in his poems.

Commissioned by the Onassis Foundation, supported by residencies at Onassis Air, and with the support of the Cavafy Archive, Athens.

Kinderhook Knitting Mill

**Thursday, Feb 19–
Saturday, Feb 21**
11:00AM–6:30PM

Sunday, Feb 22
10:00AM–6:00PM

Please refer to the PS21
website for reservations/
individual session times.

Drinking Brecht

Theatre

Performance artist and filmmaker (and occasional amateur microbiologist) Sister Sylvester works with new technologies to make cross-species collaborations, essay films, and lecture performances. Using DNA extracted from a hat worn by actors in Bertolt Brecht's Berliner Ensemble, *Drinking Brecht* is a live, illustrated essay that explores the past and present of genetics, synthetic biology, economics, and theatre history.

A documentary that you can drink, the work ingests worn-out scientific narratives and turns them into a new ritual for our future, and a celebration of science for the people.

Spencertown Academy

Tuesday, Feb 17
6:30PM

Thursday, Feb 19
6:30PM

Friday, Feb 20
6:30PM

75 minutes

Shadowtime

Virtual reality

'Shadowtime' is a word drawn from a new lexicon for the anthropocene. It is the feeling of occupying two irreconcilable times simultaneously. Making breakfast for a child, while knowing that in that child's lifetime a species of flower that has existed for millennia has gone extinct. Driving to try and make work on time it occurs to you that the gas in your engine is the compressed bones of prehistoric creatures.

Shadowtime takes these temporal incompatibilities and explores them in the realm of virtual reality and simulation theory. To exist in the virtual world is to have two bodies, four hands, two hearts—to exist in two worlds at the same time. Alma, a mysterious guide to this double world, leads you through questions around climate crisis, grief, and the provocation of the virtual as a retreat or shelter, or as a place from which to come to learn how to be in two places, two times, simultaneously.

(Creative Legion)

**Tuesday, Feb 17–
Friday, Feb 20**
12:00PM–5:00PM

**Saturday, Feb 21–
Sunday, Feb 22**
11:00AM–3:00PM

20 minutes

Please refer to the PS21
website for reservations/
individual session times.
Capacity very limited.





Photo: Lucy Bohnsack

ARONE DYER/DRONECHOIR Lode*

Music

Arone Dyer's Dronechoir is a boundary-blurring, ever-evolving, highly interactive musical experience that aims to provide new or deeper connections between participants and audience members alike since 2015.

A curated group of vocalists from diverse backgrounds perform an unrehearsed a capella piece in which musical cues and venue-specific movement directions are fed to them through earphones, physically foregrounding specific singers or creating positional unity at different points in the piece. As a result, the singers may move closer to each other and members of the audience than is typical or expected, bringing depth to the experience by challenging comfort barriers and introducing a heightened sense of engagement with the performance.

Masonic Hall

Monday, Feb 16
3:00PM

60 minutes



SARAH HENNIES & TRISTAN KASTEN-KRAUSE Prisoner's Cinema

Music

Prisoner's Cinema is a collaboratively-composed and performed work by Sarah Hennies and Tristan Kasten-Krause for double bass, percussion, and a single candle flame.

This piece explores the links between sight, hearing, and perception and is partly inspired by "trataka," a style of yogi purification meditation that involves staring at a single point (such as a candle flame) for extended durations. The instruments are closely tuned to one another to produce beating effects and psychoacoustic phenomena such as "three-dimensional" sound, where it feels as though the music is moving through space.

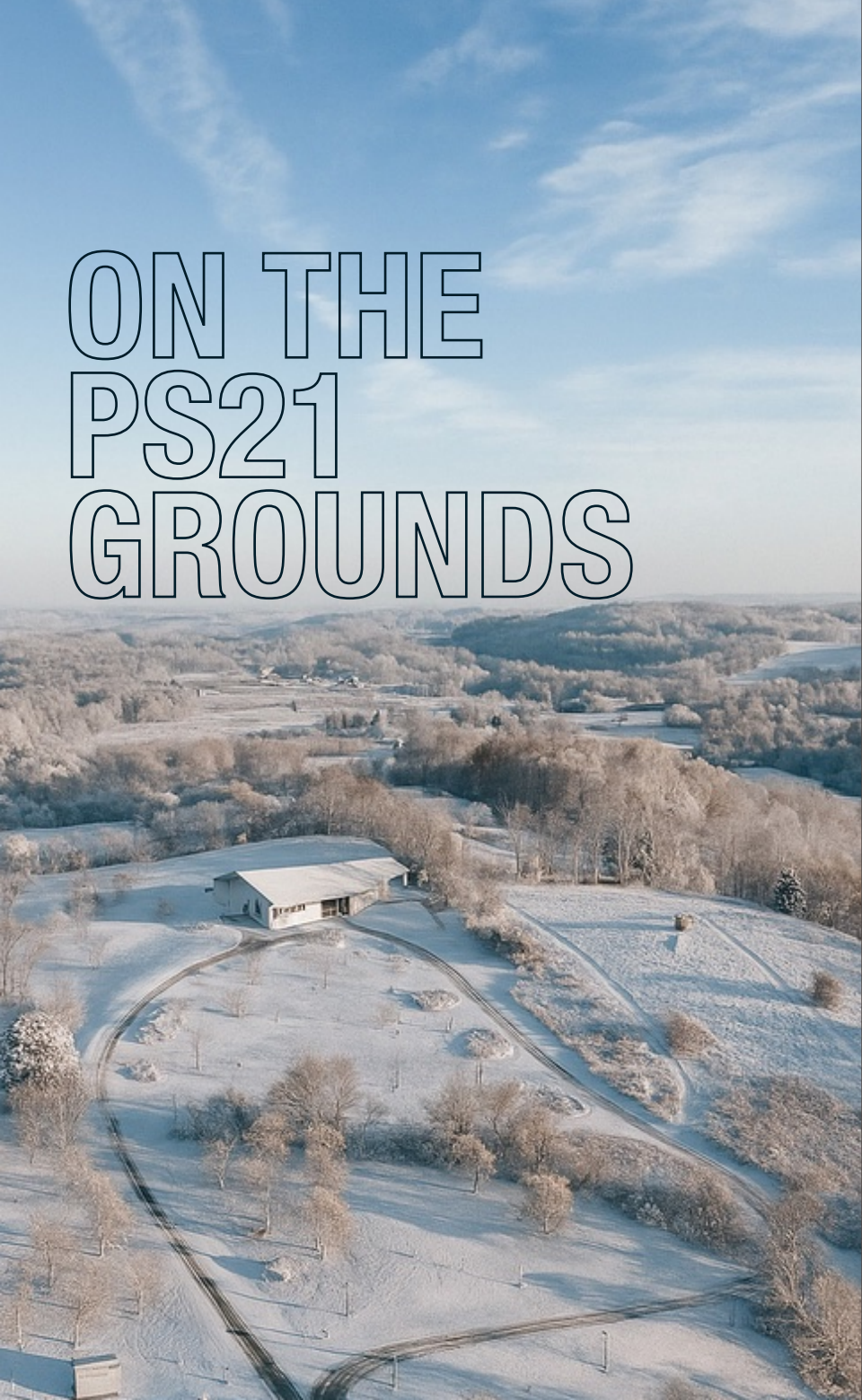
Hennies and Kasten-Krause believe in a style of adventurous music that is both challenging and accessible and that offers any potential audience member an experience that may change and broaden their experience of music, sound, the world, and themselves.

Masonic Hall

Tuesday, Feb 17
5:00PM

60 minutes





ON THE PS21 GROUNDS

Saunas

Sauna sound installation by Kara-Lis Coverdale

The restorative potential of music and sound is an essential tenet of Kara-Lis Coverdale's driving instinct in her work. She has a series of durational immersion works written specifically in consideration of sauna architectures, and her original compositions for saunas can be experienced on PS21's grounds throughout the festival.

PS21 Pond

**Monday, Feb 16–
Sunday, Feb 22**
10:00AM–7:00PM

Please refer to the PS21 website for reservations/individual session times.

Ice Skating

Enjoy ice skating on the grounds at PS21, with nature and community.

Skates are available on a first-come basis, and you're welcome to bring your own.

Note: Rink will be closed during LaJuné McMillian's *Constellations* performance (see following page for scheduled times)

PS21 Ice Rink

**Monday, Feb 16–
Saturday, Feb 21**
11:00AM–8:00PM

Sunday, Feb 22
11:00AM–4:00PM

Please refer to the PS21 website for reservations/individual session times.

Community Bonfires, Food, and Beverages

Our Pavilion Theater becomes a warming hut of sorts: cozy around a bonfire with family, friends, and other festival attendees and grab a warm beverage and snacks between skate sessions, saunas, and celestial visitation in *THE STARS*.

PS21 Pavilion Theater

Monday, Feb 16
6:00PM–8:00PM

**Tuesday, Feb 17–
Saturday, Feb 21**
11:00AM–8:00PM

Sunday, Feb 22
11:00AM–6:00PM

Please refer to the PS21 website for reservations/individual session times.





LAJUNÉ MCMILLIAN Constellations

WORLD PREMIERE
Dance

Constellations is a performance from LaJuné that weaves figure skating, movement, and projected light into a study of connection, memory, and renewal. Skaters appear as moving stars whose paths intersect, separate, and return to one another in a shifting constellation of shared experience. The work highlights detailed movement and close formation patterns: light, shadow, and motion create a cosmic landscape where moments of solitude blend with moments of collective strength, while sound and color shape an environment that feels expansive and grounded at the same time.

Constellations offers a portrait of community forming through movement. The performance centers care, curiosity, and the brilliance of embodied presence. The experience invites audiences into a world filled with resonance, wonder, and celestial energy.

PS21 Ice Rink

Thursday, Feb 19
5:30PM

Friday, Feb 20
5:30PM

Saturday, Feb 21
5:30PM

Sunday, Feb 22
5:30PM

30 minutes

Free
No reservation required

Photo: Pinelopi Gerasimou



JOHN FITZGERALD The Vivid Unknown: CloudQatsi

U.S. PREMIERE
Video installation

An ephemeral installation of projected light and water vapor which reimagines Godfrey Reggio's seminal 1982 film *Koyaanisqatsi* via a generative AI model trained on the filmmaker's archive.

Computer vision takes over an immersive projection space to explore the violent nexus of nature, humans, and technology. Projected onto a veil of mist, clouds of light converge into fleeting apparitions, housed within a cavernous, resonant chamber. The visuals breathe with the elements, dissolving the boundaries between image and environment, technology and nature, presence and absence.

As the very ground beneath us shifts from terra firma to techno firma, the installation invites viewers to stand inside the flux. Inseparable from its surroundings—reshaped and eroded by the winds of time—we are asked, which age is this, the sunset or the dawn?

Co-produced by Onassis ONX, Agog, and Godfrey Reggio Foundation.

PS21 Animal Barn

Monday, Feb 16–
Sunday, Feb 22
12:00PM–8:00PM

Free
No reservation required





DAVID LANG & BILL MORRISON *darker*

Film with live score

Performed by Ensemble Contemporaneous

David Lang and Bill Morrison have collaborated for nearly 25 years and *darker* is their tenth collaboration.

Lang and Morrison drew inspiration from a minimal score to create a film that, like the music, can exist both before and under the viewer's eyelids: a slowly, lilting depiction of the sublime, where actors, dancers, and acrobats reappear and then disappear back into a bubbling morass of time.

The film score is performed live by Contemporaneous.

"In many ways *darker* is more like an object than a piece of music. An extreme exploration of emotional restraint, *darker* is both highly detailed and relentlessly restrained, requiring an almost superhuman focus in order to keep it moving, inexorably, towards its end." —David Lang

Crandell Theatre

Saturday, Feb 21
8:30PM

70 minutes



ROBERT AIKI AUBREY LOWE *Nsenene*

Film with live score

Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe weaves together voice and modular synthesis for *Nsenene*, a live interpretation of the score to the film *Grasshopper Republic*. Filmed over three years in Uganda and directed by Daniel McCabe, this documentary follows a team of grasshopper trappers as they try 'to catch the swarm.'

Lowe's live score—shifting between falsetto incantations, resonant horns, and trembling electronics—creates a charged sonic ecosystem where sound mirrors survival and the precarious interdependence between humans and the natural world.

This live performance is the furthering of the *Grasshopper Republic* film collaboration between Lowe and McCabe. Unused footage and stems from the film's score manifest as an A/V performance conceptualized by Lowe in which he investigates the elements of the score to create a new landscape.

Photo: Desdemona Dallas

Crandell Theatre

Tuesday, Feb 17
8:30PM

95 minutes





PENI CANDRA RINI & GARIN NUGROHO

Setan Jawa

Film with live score

Setio, a young poor man, falls in love with Asih, a beautiful aristocrat, but the woman's family rejects his marriage proposal... Despairing, he makes a deal with the devil so he can spend the rest of his life with the woman he loves, but his pact comes at a price.

Nugroho's *Setan Jawa* is a silent film with live score created by celebrated Indonesian composer and singer, Peni Candra Rini. The film explores Indonesia's pre-orthodox Islamic stories of the seven deals man makes with the devil in order to gain wealth, and the live score dramatically underpins the mysticism and sensuality of Nugroho's tale of love and sacrifice.

Setan Jawa evokes Javanese mythology through a lens of contemporary horror, inspired by the perennial silent film classic, Murnau's *Nosferatu*. Peni Candra Rini is an extraordinary singer, master of several traditional forms, and regarded as one of Indonesia's most daring young composers. Nugroho is a pioneer of Indonesian cinema represented in Cannes, Berlin, Venice, and beyond.

Commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Singapore Esplanade for Asia TOPA. (Turning World)

Crandell Theatre

Friday, Feb 20
8:30PM

70 minutes



NATURAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

Perseverance Flow

Music

Natural Information Society (NIS) is a band led by composer and multi-instrumentalist Joshua Abrams. The group's music is grounded in Abrams' hypnotic and interwoven writing.

Performing with Lisa Alvarado's free hanging paintings as mobile sets, NIS creates environments at once meditative and propulsive, which navigate forms that emphasize simultaneous differences, rhythm, and collective listening. NIS tours as a quartet with Abrams on guimbri, Alvarado on harmonium, Mikel Patrick Avery on drums, and Jason Stein on bass clarinet.

They will perform music from their recent album *Perseverance Flow*, which refracts the band's signature mesmerizing chains of overlapping rhythmic patterns through the sonic funhouse of dub.

This engagement of Natural Information Society is made possible in part through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid-Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Crandell Theatre

Thursday, Feb 19
8:30PM

90 minutes





WALID RAAD Artist Talk

Talks

In this *Artist Talk*, Walid Raad presents images, stories, and concepts from his three ongoing long-term projects: *The Atlas Group* (1989–2004), *Scratching on things I could disavow*, and *Sweet Talk: Commissions (Beirut)*. Raad's focus remains on how extreme forms of violence affect bodies, minds, culture, art, and tradition.

Raad's presentation will also engage the work of artist, writer, and thinker Jalal Toufic whose book *The Collected Writings (1991–2024) of a Mortal to Death* was recently released by No Place Press.

Walid Raad is an _____ and an _____ (_____, _____).

Raad's works to date include _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Raad's recent works include _____, and _____.

Raad's works have been shown at _____ (_____, _____), The _____ Biennale (_____, _____), The _____ (_____, _____), The Museum _____ (_____, _____), _____ (_____, _____) and numerous other museums and venues in _____, _____, and _____.

His books include _____, _____, _____, and _____.

Walid Raad is also a member of _____ (_____, _____, www._____.org).

Raad currently lives and works in _____ (_____, _____).

Crandell Theatre

Sunday, Feb 22
3:00PM

60 minutes



JULIAN BRAVE NOISECAT We Survived the Night: A Coyote Story in Four Parts

WORLD PREMIERE Theatre

Across his genre-defying work, NoiseCat often turns to the narrative arts of his people who tell stories about mythic ancestors like the trickster Coyote to make sense of the world and themselves, cutting through colonial fictions while pushing the boundaries of nonfiction to illuminate vital truths. The "Coyote Story," an artform once practiced by Indigenous peoples from Central America to Western Canada, is one of the oldest and most significant oral traditions in human history. In this one-man show, NoiseCat brings this dying art off the page and onto the stage through song, dance, and oratory.

Julian Brave NoiseCat—writer, filmmaker, and champion powwow dancer, is a multi-hyphenate storyteller and artist from the Secwépemc and St'at'imc nations. His documentary, *Sugarcane*, directed alongside Emily Kassie was nominated for an Oscar in 2025. NoiseCat's best selling book, *We Survived the Night*, grounds and is the source for this work.

Spencertown Academy

Saturday, Feb 21
7:00PM

Sunday, Feb 22
4:00PM

50 minutes



Photo: Kasia Zacharko

KARA-LIS COVERDALE

Music for Organ

Music

Pipe organ is a connective tissue throughout Kara-Lis Coverdale's opus, underpinning her spectral understanding of sound and harmony. After a hiatus from the instrument for strict focus on electronic touring from 2016–2018, she began to explore solo pipe organ performance internationally. Underlying these works is a spectral sensitivity tempered with animism and weavings of harmonic interjections, described by New York Times writer Jon Pareles as "elevated, disembodied contemplation, patiently celestial." As part of *The Dark*, Coverdale presents a program of newly created works for the organ at St. James Church in Chatham along with previously composed material.

St. James Church

Monday, Feb 16
12:00PM

60 minutes

A Series of Actions in a Sphere of Forever

Music

PS21 Black Box Theater

Tuesday, Feb 17
7:00PM

60 minutes

Kara-Lis Coverdale presents a program of solo piano works, *A Series of Actions in a Sphere of Forever*, in PS21's Black Box Theater. Taken from her recent album of the same name, the works are in a way classic nocturnes (i.e. inspired by night), but also evoke tangential, abstract associations: an animation of melodic webs; moving through a thick substance; sound objects in space. Written and recorded during winter in a small rural studio in Ontario, they also reflect Coverdale's retreat from maximal sound and a return to acoustic fundamentals.

A Series of Actions in a Sphere of Forever is slow and focuses as much on the decay of piano melody as on its attack. Mood emerges from deceleration and restraint; emerging melodies, inspired by modal influences from the late Renaissance, post-war minimalism, and Coverdale's idiosyncratic sense of musical ecology, bloom at their own pace.

In her own words: "This [music] is an exploration of harmony in space, music as an antithesis to silence. A silence that does not exist."





Photo: Keith Forman

RAVEN CHACON & DAVID LANG

Voiceless Mass and the little match girl passion

Music

Williams College ensembles perform music of transcendence in St. James Church.

Raven Chacon's *Voiceless Mass* is a large ensemble work to be performed in any gathering space of worship with high ceilings and pipe organ. Though 'mass' is referenced in the title, the piece contains no audible singing voices, instead using the openness of the large space to intone the constricted intervals of the wind and string instruments.

In exploiting the architecture of the cathedral, *Voiceless Mass* considers the futility of giving voice to the voiceless, when providing space is never an option.

David Lang's *the little match girl passion* sets Hans Christian Andersen's story 'The Little Match Girl' in the format of Bach's Saint Matthew Passion, interspersing Andersen's narrative with Lang's versions of the crowd and character responses from Bach's Passion.

St. James Church

Monday, Feb 16
1:00PM

90 minutes



ALEX HARVEY

The Willows

Theatre

A hallucination in sound and voice, Alex Harvey's adaptation of Algernon Blackwood's *The Willows* exploits a tension between dream-time and clock-time through Victoria Finney's lamplit one-woman recitation.

Drawing on Blackwood's entanglement with the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, occult modernism and early 20th-century mystical experimentation, Harvey and Finney's interpretation treats the text not merely as fiction but as an incantation— a deliberate shaping of inner experience through rhythm, cadence, breath, and a phantasmic sound design. Blackwood and his esoteric contemporaries believed that words, spoken in the right order, could open the mind, expand perception, even shift reality. This adaptation approaches the story in exactly that way.

What emerges is both intimate and mythic—a fire-lit encounter with a text that links 19th-century gothic nature writing to the birth of 20th-century psychological horror.

Written by Algernon Blackwood
Adapted and Directed by Alex Harvey
Performed by Victoria Finney

Stonykill Coffee & Records

Sunday, Feb 22
5:30PM

90 minutes





MAMMALIAN DIVING REFLEX

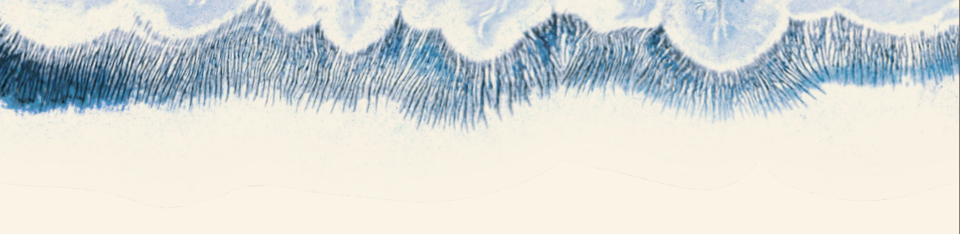
Community

Throughout the festival

As part of a longer-term collaboration between PS21 and renowned Canadian theatre company, Mammalian Diving Reflex, a group of teens will be invited to participate in the Festival as our VIP guests—seeing all the works, participating in workshops, providing critical feedback, and—we hope—truly becoming part of the fabric of PS21's community.

Mammalian creates performances by looking for contradictions to whip into aesthetically scintillating experiences. They create site and social-specific performance events, theatre, gallery installations, videos, and texts to foster dialogue and dismantle barriers between individuals of all backgrounds.

FAMILY GUIDE



Activities for Kids

Kid Flicks × The Dark at Crandell Theatre
Ice skating at PS21 Ice Rink
Andrew Schneider's *THE STARS* at PS21 Black Box Theater
LaJuné McMillian's *Constellations* at PS21 Ice Rink
John Fitzgerald's *CloudQatsi* at PS21 Animal Barn
Sophia Brous's *Songs for the Dark* at Art Omi

Activities for Teens

Kid Flicks × The Dark at Crandell Theatre
Ice skating at PS21 Ice Rink
Andrew Schneider's *THE STARS* at PS21 Black Box Theater
LaJuné McMillian's *Constellations* at PS21 Ice Rink
John Fitzgerald's *CloudQatsi* at PS21 Animal Barn
Sophia Brous's *Songs for the Dark* at Art Omi
Arone Dyer's *Dronechoir* at Masonic Hall
Phil Kline's *Force of Nature (February)* at PS21 Pavilion Theater
ContreJour by Lee Ranaldo & Leah Singer at Basilica Hudson
Nsenene at Crandell Theatre
Programs by Ant Hampton
Programs by Sister Sylvester

Kid Flicks × The Dark

Crandell Theatre at 1:00PM

Monday, February 16: Flow
Tuesday, February 17: Labyrinth
Wednesday, February 18: Spirited Away
Thursday, February 19: Where the Wild Things Are
Friday, February 20: Frankenweenie

ABOUT PS21

Who We Are

A vibrant center for contemporary performance in the Hudson Valley, PS21 “presents work that challenges and invites” (*The New York Times*). Our adventurous productions by leading and emerging American and international artists showcase what’s new and thought-provoking in music, dance, theatre—and in entirely new and boundary-defying genres. Largely supported by our generous donors, we’re a must-see, must-experience destination for arts-interested people of all ages and stripes—at ticket prices that welcome all.

What We Do

PERFORMANCES

We present ambitious, unexpected productions that you won’t find anywhere else from groundbreaking artists across disciplines—in our open-air Pavilion Theater, throughout our campus, and across our community.

RESIDENCIES

Our year-round residency program supports the creation and development of new work—nurturing artists by providing onsite housing, technical resources, and an environment conducive to creativity.

COMMUNITY

We bring world-class artists directly into our community through free and low-cost performances, workshops, classes, and artist talks—and through participatory productions that invite community members to be part of art-making.

NATURE

Across our 100-acre campus of meadows, fields, streams, and trails—open to the public every day—we honor our commitment to environmental stewardship

History

Founded in 1999 by visionary philanthropist Judy Grunberg, PS21 has evolved from a summer-only arts presenter into a nationally recognized, year-round center for contemporary performance in Chatham, NY. The opening of our open-air theatre in 2019 marked a major milestone, and the following year, we presented a full season in the heart of the pandemic. Since then, PS21 has expanded its programming, earned national acclaim, and presented major international works. In 2025, under Artistic & Executive Director Vallejo Gantner, PS21 achieved record attendance and revenue, launched two new festivals, and entered a new era of ambitious, participatory, year-round programming.

Why It Matters

As a not-for-profit arts presenter, we believe in the transformative power of performance—to confront the challenges of our time, foster connection, open new perspectives, and spark wonder. Our mission is to make these experiences accessible to all, not just to those with means. We’re proud to collaborate with the growing network of Hudson Valley arts and cultural organizations to build a vibrant, inclusive upstate cultural ecosystem.

You Make It Possible

PS21 is growing rapidly: our 2025 budget was \$1.5 million, up 20% over 2024. With ticket sales generating less than 10% of our revenue, we are proudly sustained by our broad base of contributed support, including hundreds of individual donors and dozens of institutional partners. You make the magic possible.

Thank you for your support.



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The PS21 staff team's partners and kids old and new...
Assorted dogs, cats, and other support animals

We couldn't have done it without you

PS21 COMING SOON

7 Commissioning residencies

CommonGround

GroundTone

Spectacle

Ideas & Humanities

Theatre

Dance

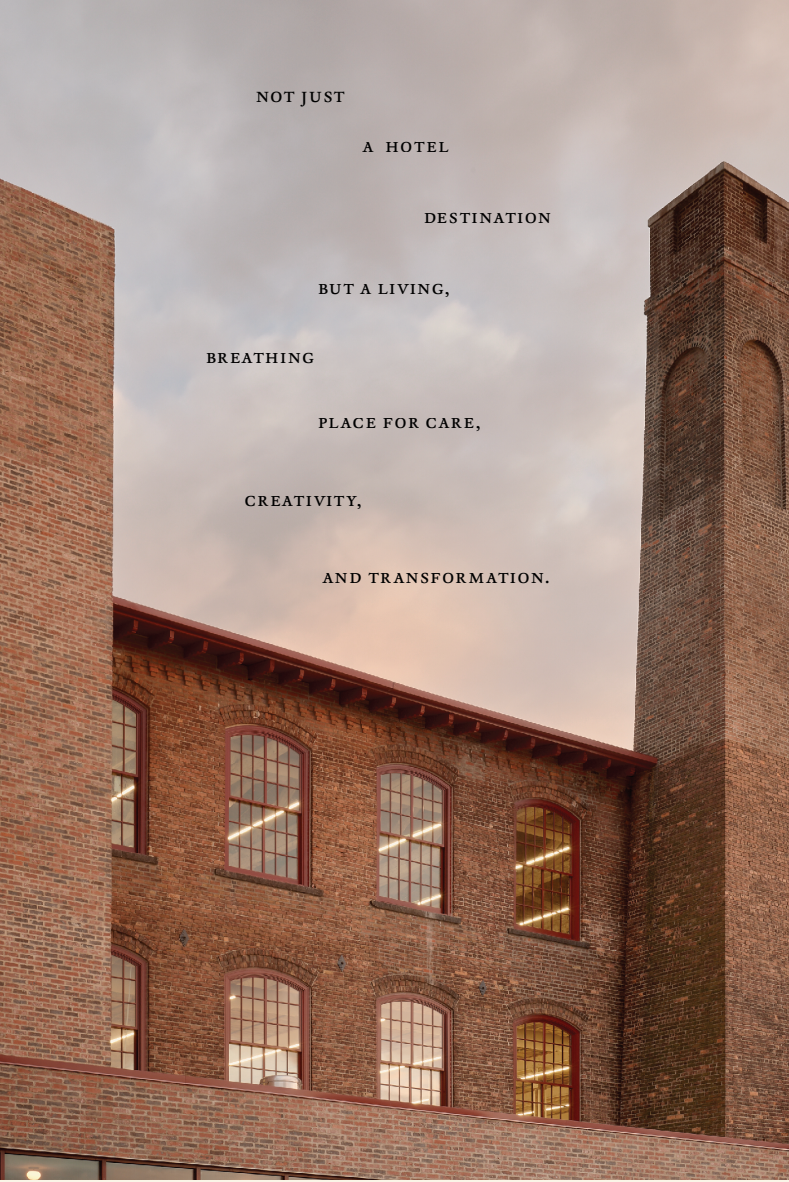
Technology

Music



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& THE JAYBIRDS

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Photo courtesy of the artist

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have a plaque on the wall”

– Bluegrass Unlimited

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Sunday
Feb 15

Monday
Feb 16

10:00

11:00

12:00

1:00

2:00

3:00

4:00

5:00

6:00

7:00

8:00

9:00

10:00

11:00

Sauna at PS21 Pond

Ice Skating at PS21 Ice Rink

Ant Hampton: *Borderline Visible* at Chatham Bookstore

John Fitzgerald: *CloudGats!* at PS21 Animal Barn

Andrew Schneider: *THE STARS (Open Universe)* at PS21 Black Box

Kara-Lis Coverdale
Music for Organ
St. James Church

Raven Chacon &
David Lang
*Voiceless Mass &
the little match girl
passion*
St. James Church

Arone Dyer/Dronechoir
*Lode**
Masonic Hall

Phil Kline
*Force of Nature
(February)*
PS21 Pavilion

Lighting of the Fire
PS21 Pavilion

Kids Flicks x The Dark
Film: *Flow*
Crandell Theatre

Lee Ranaldo &
Leah Singer
ContreJour
Basilica Hudson

[illegible]

Tuesday
Feb 17

	10:00
	11:00
	12:00
Kids Flicks x The Dark Film: Labyrinth Crandell Theatre	1:00
	2:00
	3:00
	4:00
Sarah Hennies & Tristan Kasten-Krause <i>Prisoner's Cinema</i> Masonic Hall	5:00
	6:00
Sister Sylvester <i>Drinking Brecht</i> Spencertown Academy	7:00
Kara-Lis Coverdale <i>A Series of Actions in a Sphere of Forever</i> PS21 Grounds	7:00
	8:00
	9:00
Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe <i>Nsenene</i> Crandell Theatre	9:00
	10:00
	11:00