

Clarice Presents

DEEPE DARKNESSE

by Lisa Fagan & Lena Engelstein



Thursday, February 6 &
Friday, February 7, 2025 • 8PM

KOGOD THEATRE

AT THE CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

DEEPE DARKNESSE

by Lisa Fagan & Lena Engelstein

"So I being in this fearful perplexity, could not forbear laughing"

-Apuleius

Created and Performed by..... Lisa Fagan & Lena Engelstein
With Performance by Hannah Mitchell
Understudy Kirsten Harvey
Lighting Design Masha Tsimring & Christina Tang
Sound Design Tei Blow
Songs Stasera by Cocki Mazzetti,
All Knowing Big God by Mother Cell,
Tango Italiano by Cocki Mazzetti
Stage Manager Bailey Bossow
Props and Art Direction..... Lily Guerin
Dramaturgical Support Alex Tatarsky, Morgan Green, Max Dana

Produced in association with New York Live Arts, and Immediate Medium. A dynamic platform featuring new and recent works by Live Arts resident commissioned artists and curated guests, Live Artery provides a space for artists to network and share their work with the general public and presenters from around the world alike, which leads to commissions, tours and the building of long-term relationships. Learn more at NewYorkLiveArts.org.

This project was made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, and Immediate Medium's AGENCY program. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant.

This performance is also supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.



THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN
CAFritz FOUNDATION

ENGAGEMENT ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT:

Lisa Fagan and Lena Engelstein taught in two classes in the UMD School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. Because of the genre-bending nature of their work, they visited a creative process class for dance students and an acting and performance class for theatre students. **Join us for a Post-Show Q&A following the Thu. Feb 6 performance.**

LISA FAGAN

LISA FAGAN is a choreographer, performer and theater maker based in New York City whose work has been dubbed “The High Weird” by critics. She is the director/choreographer and a practicing member of the experimental performance collective CHILD, a company of 14 multidisciplinary artists. Recent: *Nature Theater of Oklahomas’s No President* (dancer), *HILMA* (choreographer), *June 2024* at Tony-award winning theater The Wilma, *Open Throat* (choreographer) at Little Island. Upcoming: *Friday Night Rat Catchers*, with collaborative partner Lena Engelstein, premiering Spring 2025 at New York Live Arts. Fagan’s work has been presented in New York City by: New York Live Arts (Live Artery 2024), Baryshnikov Arts Center (BAC Open, Fall 2023), Prelude Festival, Immediate Medium, Mercury Store, LifeWorld, Target Margin (2019-20 Artist in Residence with Catherine Brookman), HERE Arts, Bard College (Choreographer: *Promenade* by Maria Irene Fornes, Dir. Morgan Green), Exponential Festival (2019-20 Exponential Fellow), Mabou Mines, Ars Nova, Movement Research, Gibney, Roulette, The 92nd Street Y and others. She collaborates with artists across disciplines supporting their shows choreographically and as movement director, including Alex Tatarsky’s *Sad Boys in Harpy Land* (Abrons) and Lisa Clair’s *Willa’s Authentic Self* (Mitu580). She has taught physical practice, choreography and dance related forms at Barnard College, The Celebration Barn, Gibney and others. On-screen choreography credits include the TV pilot *THESE DAYS*, premiering at Sundance 2021.

LENA ENGELSTEIN

LENA ENGELSTEIN is a dancer, performer and choreographer. Her work has been dubbed “The High Weird” by critics and lauded as “subtly campy and hilariously queer” by the Brooklyn Rail. Recent Choreography/Direction: *Friday Night Rat Catchers* at New York Live Arts (forthcoming March 2025) and *Deepe Darknesse* at New York Live Arts’ Live Artery 2024 with collaborator Lisa Fagan. Engelstein is a member of the interdisciplinary collective CHILD whose performance 1-800-3592-113592, directed by Fagan, was described as a “hypnotic dance-theater acid trip” (Helen Shaw, *The New Yorker*: Best Theater of 2024). Engelstein currently works with choreographer Joanna Kotze and musician Teeny Liberson’s band Lou Tides. Recent Performance credits: Alexa West, Barnett Cohen, Brendan Drake, Faye Driscoll, Falcon Dance, Isa Spector, Jo Warren, Owen Prum + Lili Dekker, Miguel Alejandro Castillo and Third Rail Company’s *Then She Fell* (company member, 2019-2020). She has taught at SUNY Brockport, Colorado Mesa University and The Field Center. Lena holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Colorado College.

HANNAH MITCHELL

HANNAH MITCHELL is an actor, theater-maker and educator whose work springs from the improvisational arts of clown and bouffon. She is a founding member of the experimental performance collective CHILD, whose creative output “so insistently defies human logic (Helen Shaw, *The New Yorker*),” and of the clown company WüfPak. Her projects take inspiration from auctioneer chant, consciousness alteration, garlic, country music, local news, Greek tragedy, cyborgs and trad wives to explore sincerity, open-ended forms, family systems and gender roles under capitalism/patriarchy. Hannah has performed at many venues around New York City including The Public Theater, The Brick Theater, Park Ave Armory, Collapsable Hole, Lincoln Center, Life World, New Ohio Theatre, HERE Arts Center, Target Margin Theater and Brooklyn Comedy Collective, among others. Regionally her work has been seen at The Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Princeton University and abroad at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

CLARICE PRESENTS 24/25 SEASON

*at The Clarice Smith
Performing Arts Center*

COMING UP IN DANCE!



Thu, Mar 5 & Fri, Mar 6 • 8PM

A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

The New York Times calls Kyle Abraham's A.I.M "one of the most consistently excellent troupes working today."



Thu, May 1 • 7:30PM

The Center Will Not Hold **A Dorrance Dance Production**

Created by Ephrat Asherie and Michelle Dorrance

Live percussion and a cast of performers deeply rooted in street, club and vernacular dances