

curated by Maranda Barry  
presented by SMUSH Gallery 2/19-2/20 2021

# DREAMLIFE

a zine-program for an evening of dance film inspired by dreams

**What's a place you have visited, or returned to, in a dream?**

I call it Éa, I think it's my dream-life home space. There are these cascading garden beds surrounded by wildflowers and butterflies, a little dome shaped cottage shrouded in vines, and a vast and colorful water/sky horizon where I take off in flight.

my home town - 3,000 miles away, my parents don't live there anymore.

the house I grew up in

A Target store under construction  
-TJ

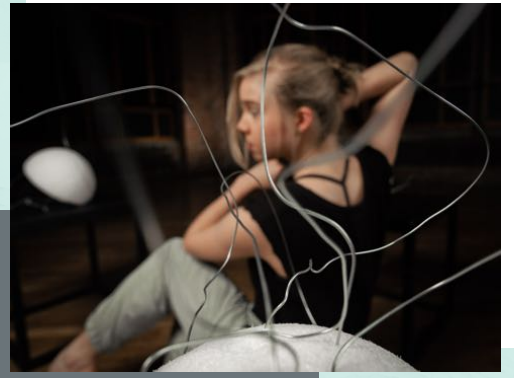
**Is there something you have dreamed that you wish would happen in your waking life?**

An on-going state of grace

everything i have ever lost, broken or misplaced has come back to me in perfect condition in one dream or another

kissing and having sexy time with specific people...





***Wisteria***  
Alaina Wilson

*Wisteria*, a choreographic work created for film, layers sound, visual imagery, and dance to replicate and explore the space and experience of dreams. The work takes inspiration from a specific dream experienced by the artist – a dream characterized by travel, changing landscapes, multifarious storylines, and fleeting encounters with numerous *vaguely familiar* figures. The work attempts to distill overarching sensations felt throughout the dream, while translating content from the dream into an abstract visual language. Captured through the active lens of the camera, *Wisteria* presents a contemplative space where tone and sensation take the place of narrative—attempting to bring the audience into realms of the subliminal.

**Who, or what, has appeared in your dreams and surprised you?**

defrosting meat: ground pork, chuck roast, Ziploc bags, between books on a shelf

Uncontrollable hedgehog multiplication

A cat that is part real cat and part made out of funky craft and seed beads

-Risa

old friends-- former best friends

I'm more surprised by what *\*isn't\** in my dreams. There are lines that my unconscious refuses to cross.

-Tris



## Do you look to your dreams for truth?

Yes  
-Risa

Maybe about my true feelings, or  
parts of my feelings I'm not recognizing

I would never disrespect my dreams by confusing them with the truth.

-Tris

Yes  
-TJ

*...sound waves...*

Tushrik Fredericks

When I spend time pondering on the past I dream at night in vivid ways about those thoughts. These dreams create a sense of longing for an experience or a moment lived in the past. I escape in my sleep only to visit an experience that I've encountered before. This time I invite myself and you to encounter a dream that is virtual, a dream that is artificial yet so real.

A dream that penetrates like sound that penetrates through your body.

A dream where I will dance.

A dream where I will dance until the day I die.



yes and no.. for patterns,  
recurrences, universal truths  
perhaps.



### ***Lucidity***

Kareem Woods

Lucidity is a work that explores the concept of self-awareness, specifically while dreaming. Lucid dreaming...the act of realizing that you are mid-dream and gaining the ability to control the events that transpire. This has always been a very intriguing concept for me and I was very excited by the dream based prompt. Lucidity has a theme change, about halfway through the piece. Initially, the focus is on the surge of wonder that comes with the realization that you are in a sandbox of your own creation. The music and movement texture help highlight the energized freedom that comes with lucid dreaming. Eventually, there is the unsettling feeling that you don't have as much control as you initially thought. Despite the ability to manipulate this dreamscape, suppressed motifs from the subconscious still manage to creep in. This feeling of dissonance creates an opportunity for growth but only with enough courage to grasp it.

*lucid* // showing the ability to think clearly, especially in the intervals between periods of confusion or insanity.

**What would you change about your dreamlife, if you could?**

I'd like to have a clearer sense of colors  
-Risa

i am working toward lucid dreaming, being able to control/guide my actions in a dream... (though i wouldn't change where i'm at)!



More dreams!!!  
-TJ

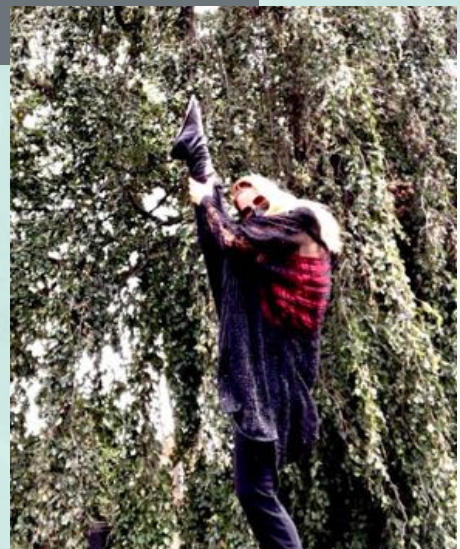
nothing! dreamlife is a wealth of knowledge about how i relate to the world. not good or bad ~ just a teacher. would never want to change it.



### *Siftings*

Maranda Barry, Jes Wittig, Rosy Gentle

*Siftings* finds three people in a place that exists under dream logic. In this world things bend and shift. Characters surface in the malleable sand of thought material. Everything is very much itself, but that doesn't mean it won't change, disappear, or disintegrate. Debris from the waking hours collects there, and clings. You might encounter someone as a reflection of yourself. And all of this will be hard, if not impossible, to hold onto upon leaving. So enjoy it while it lasts!



## MORE ON THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

**ALAINA WILSON** is a choreographer, dancer, and visual artist. She holds a BA in Classics and Art History from Vassar College, and an MFA in Dance from Sarah Lawrence College. Her work has been presented at Venues across the NYC area including the Actors Fund Arts Center, Access Theater, Chez Bushwick, Dixon Place, Gibney Dance, Green Space, Triskelion Arts, and SMUSH Gallery, and she was a 2019 fall Artist-In-Residence at Chez Bushwick in Brooklyn, NY. Her choreography combines movement with elements of visual art to explore phenomena of perception within dance performance.

**TUSHRIK FREDERICKS** is originally from Johannesburg, South Africa but is currently living in NYC. Growing up he specifically found himself drawn towards the style 'KRUMP'. He graduated from the Peridance Capezio Center Certificate Program in NYC in June 2015 where he received most of his formal training. He has had the opportunity to work with Ate9 dANCEcOMPANY (Danielle Agami, Artistic Director) and Sidra Bell Dance New York (July 2015 - June 2018). He is now working with TRIBE (artistic director/founder Shamel Pitts). Tushrik was an assistant lecturer to Sidra Bell at The University of the Arts Philadelphia for Sophomore students(2016-2018).

**KAREEM WOODS** is a Hip-Hop dancer based out of Brooklyn, NY. Kareem was born & raised in Springfield, MA. He moved to NYC to pursue his dream of becoming a professional dancer. Kareem specializes in improvisation, commonly in unconventional settings. When choreographing, he tries to embody the same raw energy found in freestyle dancing. Kareem was trained in Hip-Hop technique by the dance crew Paradox Institute. He blends various dance techniques to create his own unique style. Kareem is currently a company member of Dancers Unlimited. He has been performing with DU for the past 3 years.

**MARANDA BARRY** is a contemporary dance artist from California, now based in Brooklyn. She earned a B.A. in Embodied Cognition and Dance from Vassar College in 2016, also training for a semester at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. She has been creating independent projects and freelancing for the past four years. She likes using dance to blur the line between thinking and moving, between internal mystical experience and performance. She views dancemaking as a vital practice in trust, risk, and communication, and she is honored to pursue it.

**JES WITTIG** (she/he/goblin king) is an artist using dance, theater, and performance art to interrogate and indict an array of psychological, epistemological, and fantastical matters, particularly in the realms of sexuality, death, ritual, and mythology. As a dancer, she has had the pleasure of studying with and performing the works of Adam Barruch, Bill Young, Alexandra Beller, Lar Lubovitch, Robin Becker, and Karla Wolfangle, among others, at venues including Symphony Space, Gibney, American Airlines Theater, and the National Mall. Her work has been presented at venues including the Davenport Theater, Kraine Theater, ShapeShifter Lab, and the Arts On Site Residency and Retreat Center. Jes is a Reiki Master, tarotmancer, Kripalu yoga teacher, and Continuum practitioner. She currently dances for Golden Hour Dance and Gabrielle Schutz Performance Works, and works as the Facilities and HR Coordinator at Gibney. Her poetry has been published in Venefica Magazine. Her favorite animal is the octopus.

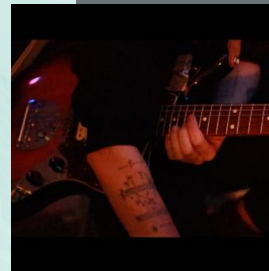
**ROSY GENTLE** is a dance artist from Spokane, WA. She began dancing at a young age focusing on ballet, modern, and Irish step dance and later graduated with a B.A. in Dance and Environmental Studies from the University of Washington. While in school she had the pleasure of working with Rachael Lincoln, Bruce McCormick, Jennifer Salk, Julia Burrer, and many others. Rosy has performed in New York with The Edward Morgan Ballet, Douglas Dunn and Dancers, Heidi Latsky Dance, Cross Move Lab, and is currently a member of Dances we Dance performing ensemble.

Thank you for sharing  
your dreams with us!

## COLLABORATORS

**CLAIRE deLASZLO** (film)

Claire's affair with video started with a close reading of the dance festival *guelaguetza* toward her honors thesis in decolonial anthropology. Having recovered from an earth-shattering breakup with classical ballet, Claire and video have been going steady for five years in a happy partnership grounded in social study, visual listening, and community building. Claire and video are currently based in Brooklyn and available for hire.



**ANNIE MURNIGHAN** (music)

Annie makes music by herself and with the band Obstacle. She's currently based in Brooklyn.



**EMMA KING** (costumes, sets, props)  
Emma is a person in flux like us all. I was lucky enough to provide costume/sculpture support for Maranda and friends on this beautiful project. I was inspired by Maranda's overarching theme of dreamworlds to consider how my inner world has become muddled by the media detritus I am inundated with everyday, all within the context of environmental and political terror. To create art with peers was a reminder that we are still here and that our ability to feel is what we have in common and that art can give us wings.