

November, 12-20, 2022

Betsy

Company: Neil Greenberg / Dance

Venue: The Downstairs

Location: New York, NY

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Photo by Frank Mullaney

A proper noun; a subject that does and performs; a new dance exploring the phenomenon of performance itself. Betsy is a new work by Neil Greenberg, made in collaboration with dancers Paul Hamilton, Opal Ingle and Owen Prum. The music is a joint creation by composers Zeena Parkins and James Lo, and Michael Stiller is contributing the lighting design.

Betsy will engage with the phenomenon of performance itself, in a play with the multiple relational possibilities between performers and spectators, and between a work and its spectators. Betsy will be presented with the audience surrounding the performance arena, each viewer necessarily experiencing the performance materials differently due to their distinct vantage point, enabling spectators to watch the dance, themselves, and each other as they watch the dance together.

Betsy is the latest iteration of Greenberg's ongoing exploration into the construction of meaning-making and meaningfulness, a project he began with his first La Mama production in 1987, MacGuffin or How Meanings Get Lost. Betsy makes use of projected written text that situates the dance within a two-pandemic landscape of COVID and AIDS, and within the also-ongoing crisis of racism and white supremacy. Betsy seeks to expose the cultural rootedness of any performance material in the conditions of its production. The use of text simultaneously gestures toward the kind of meaning-making encouraged by language while also intervening to allow for other perceptual possibilities.

Neil Greenberg / Dance

66 East 4th Street, basement level

New York, NY, 10003

646-430-5374

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Schedule

November 12, 2022: 8:00pm

November 13, 2022: 4:00pm

November 14, 2022: 8:00pm

November 16, 2022: 8:00pm

November 17, 2022: 8:00pm

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