

January, 24-25, 2020

Take Root Presents: Drastic Action and Nicole Y. McClam

Company: Valerie Green/Dance Entropy
 Venue: Green Space
 Location: Queens, NY

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TAKE ROOT, now in its 11th season, nurtures dance artists at established stages in their careers, pairing them in a split bill or full evening-length program. This monthly series supports dance makers' experimentation and growth by providing our venue, Green Space, along with full technical and marketing support to present their work to the NYC public.

January 24th and 25th

8pm

Advance sale tickets: \$17 online at www.GreenSpaceStudio.org/January

Tickets purchased at door: \$20 cash, \$22 credit card

About the Work

Drastic Action will present four new and recent works by Aviva Geismar that explore multiple survival strategies for this moment of overwhelming national and global tension. In "Pressure/Vapor," performers boil with extreme anxiety. "Up End" is the first solo Geismar has performed in 6 years, and is about coping with the unexpected. Desire and repression drive the characters in an excerpt of "Urge," while the dancers in "The Bind" strain for an elusive sense of true connection. The program includes performer/collaborators Randy Burd, Jenni Hong, Mengying Lin and Kendra Ross. Original music is by Annabelle Chvostek and additional music is by Jonah Parzen-Johnson and Laura Sheeran. Costumes design is by Daye Hwang and Mandarin Wu. This work is supported by the PSC-CUNY Research Foundation.

Nicole Y. McClam's *It's All Good Hair* began in homogeneous and predominately white Lubbock, Texas and Potsdam, New York. This conversation between a black woman and her hair choreographed and performed by Nicole Y. McClam examines how black women are socialized to value Eurocentric beauty standards as she learns to care for her natural hair. Featuring music by Mariah Carey and Just for Me Hair Care Relaxer and interviews with Imani James, Luisanna Marte Olivo, Andrea Kpelapuae, *It's All Good Hair* confronts internalized racism and questions what wisdom the straightening processes erase. The discovery and (re)definition of "good hair" mirrors a black woman's self-discovery.

About the Artists

Drastic Action is a contemporary dance company under the direction of Aviva Geismar. Geismar's thought-provoking dances stem from her fascination with the nuances and paradoxes of everyday behavior. Geismar and her collaborators develop innovative movement languages, as they explore the ambiguity of interpersonal relationships and the effects of disintegrating social systems. From 2006-2010, Drastic Action led a dance performance and education program in Germany in partnership with Battery Dance Company. The project, "Dancing to Connect," focused on tolerance within the context and legacy of the Holocaust. Geismar's dances have been performed in prominent venues including *Inside/Out* at Jacob's Pillow, *Danspace Project*, *Dance Theater Workshop*, *Dance New Amsterdam*, *Wilhelma Theater (Stuttgart)* and *Haus der Berliner Festspiele*. Drastic Action has received support from the PSC-CUNY Research Foundation, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the NYC-Department of Cultural Affairs, Bay and Paul Foundations, Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, Jody and John Arnhold Foundation and others. Geismar is an Assistant Professor in the Dance Program at Queensborough Community College-CUNY.

A tour de force of performing, twisting in on itself endlessly but settling into a semblance of tranquility and even hopeful purpose for miraculous moments... --Jennifer Dunning, *The New York Times*

Nicole Y. McClam, MFA, CMA enjoys exploring the awesomeness of dance with her students at Queensborough Community College and bouncing to and fro as a founding member of B3W Performance Group plus performing with Keith Thompson/danceTactics and Kayla Hamilton. Nicole's work has been presented in Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD and Brooklyn, NY, Potsdam, NY, and Lubbock, TX. A DC native, she was a long-time member of Deborah Riley Dance Projects. Before that, she apprenticed with Pennsylvania Dance Theater for their 2000-2001 season where she had the pleasure of performing works by Ben Munisteri and Claire Porter. She received her MFA in Dance while also pursuing her studies in the Laban Certification Program at the University of Maryland, a BFA in Dance Performance and a BA in Chemistry from East Carolina University. Nicole enjoys knitting, vegan cupcakes, and researching zombies.

Tenderly engaging...softly weaving movements together and then apart, almost effortlessly. --Barbara Allen, *Washington Post*

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<https://www.greenspacestudio.org/january>

Schedule

January 24, 2020: 8:00pm
 January 25, 2020: 8:00pm

