

June, 16-18, 2016

## BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance & Bryn Cohn + Artists present HOME

Company: BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance and Bryn Cohn and Artists

Venue: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center, Gibney Dance Center

Location: New York, NY

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Jaqlin Medlock

BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance and Bryn Cohn + Artists (BC+A) present HOME in a collaborative evening at Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center, 280 Broadway, Gibney Dance Center NYC, from June 16-18, 2016 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$15 advanced sales online and \$20 at the door. They will be available in late April at [www.gibneydance.org/calendar/](http://www.gibneydance.org/calendar/) or by calling the Gibney Dance Center box office at 646.837.6809.

HOME draws upon ritualistic and traditional processes to elucidate the concept of home through interpersonal encounters, environments and the pursuit of self and collective understanding. In these two NYC premieres, BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance and BC+A incorporate interactive set pieces in a pre-show exhibition and mid-show interlude as well as in two distinct works, enabling our image of home to become amorphous while also serving as a thematic thread upon which we establish community. Scenic design elements, such as commonly seen furniture, supported frames, and micro-sanctuaries, are interwoven into kinetic movement languages to portray the loss, challenge and celebration that occur within individuals and family. Through continuously evolving structures that transform the space and the complex relationships developed amongst the performers, we come to understand that our concept of home is constantly shifting as we move through life. By examining utopian models of the "picture perfect" family in contrast to human realities, the work provides a lens into a universal concept that we can all access to reimagine and define our own notion of what it means to find home.

"An apartment, an island, a hospital, a subway station, a prison, a freshly mowed lawn with a stack of bricks, and anything and everything in between. Home is not solely a place to call your own, it is universally binding regardless of its form - it is the intimate place where life, in all its beauty, pain and messiness, happens. In crafting this world with my BC + A family, we have mirrored, reimagined and morphed our personal narratives to build an experience that encapsulates the avid desire of belonging that binds us all together." -Bryn Cohn

"I have found home in people, places, and chosen families in a one-stoplight, rural Massachusetts town, Cameroon, New York City, and several points along the way. My longest journey, however, has been a quest towards self-actualization. I am continually searching for home within myself: asking questions, navigating boundaries, finding freedom, hoping to feel at peace. Realizing home, freedom, and peace is found by BodyStories dancers in this work, and deserved by all individuals." -Teresa Fellion

HOME will feature dancers Iman Barnes, Zachary Bergfelt, Mia DeWeese, Alex Jenkins, and Audrey Rachelle of BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance, and Rachel Abrahams, Nicholas Grubbs, Jessica Malat, Yuliya Romanskaya and Will Tomaskovic of BC + A; lighting design by Timothy Cryan; original compositions by John Yannelli and Kevin Keller, with live music by John Yannelli and Trilogy: featuring Dominic Boyle and Emily Cardwell. Costuming by Nina Katan and Sebastian Arango.

"The 'W' in the title stands for 'world,' and Ms. Fellion and her colleagues do succeed in creating one... John Yannelli and members of the SLC Experimental Music Ensemble contribute a richly textured, partly live score of drones, strings plucked and strummed, swelling distortion, and high hums. The choreography is action-packed with a strong flow, a current that is sometimes tidal, washing the dancers back and forth across St. Mark's Church, turning the terrarium into an aquarium," said Brian Seibert of The New York Times of The Mantises Are Flipping W.3.

"Cohn's choreography possessed immaculate shifts of texture and mood that were enthralling to watch...The smallest movement seemed to garner the greatest impact... What made the work so powerful was Cohn's choreography paired with her performers' highly responsive bodies, susceptible to these new twists and turns at any second," said Tara Sheena of DIY Dancer of Into the Dark.

## ABOUT BODYSTORIES: TERESA FELLION DANCE

BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance is a contemporary dance company that captures and communicates universal human encounters through dynamic, purposeful movement. We are a multifaceted, highly physical company laced with provocative, emotional, political and humorous edges. Our mission is to examine depths of society in their darkest and brightest moments and to inspire audiences to physically sense emotional and psychological aspects of the human condition on stage. Our work is intellectual and highly choreographed in every moment. It is intricately technical and controlled in every nuance, with a look that is not controlled. Live music is an important factor in many of our works. We also consistently work via in-depth collaborations in lighting, costume, video and set design. In addition to creating and performing innovative works, our company is committed to reaching diverse populations through outreach and education and maintaining a stable business model to sustain our work. Valuing international exchange, we collectively speak nine languages and research, perform, and collaborate with artists from five continents.

BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance has shown work at Baryshnikov Arts Center, Jacob's Pillow, The Public Theater, Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, University of Florida, ENTPE University (Lyon, France), NYU, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Ailey Citigroup Theater, Bryant Park Summer Stage, BDF Edinburgh at EICC, Dixon Place, UME, ICA Boston, 92nd St. Y, Naropa University, Franco-American Cultural Center, CPR-Center for Performance Research, 14th St. Y, Merce Cunningham Theatre, MMAC, Ashawagh Hall, Triskelion Arts, GAP, and in concerts with Phish, among others. Collaborations on original music under the direction of our Musical Director, John Yannelli, are vitally integrated into our productions. Music collaborators include Yannelli, Trey Anastasio, Phish, Ryan Lott, Ryan Edwards, Kevin Keller, and Carver Audain. We have also enjoyed in-depth collaborations with costume designers Nina Katan, Ljupka Arsovska, and Elena Comendador, set designer, Robert Gould, and video artists Nel Shelby, Jacob Hiss, and Charles Dennis.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Teresa Fellion founded BodyStories in late 2011, after working as an independent choreographer since 2004. Fellion's work has been positively reviewed by The New York Times, NPR, The Huffington Post, The Scotsman, Oberon's Grove, NYTheatre.com, The Skinny Magazine, World Dance Reviews, Edinburgh Festivals Magazine, Edinburgh Spotlight, Southampton Press, Stage Buddy, East Hampton Press, Maine Sun Journal, and Earth Press, among others. She has received the Choreographic Fellowship from SummerStages Dance Festival and ICA Boston and the American Dance Guild Fellowship for Jacob's Pillow's Choreographers' Lab. Teresa has received grants for her work from The National Endowment for the Arts Window Award, Brooklyn Arts Council Community Arts Fund Grant, and space grants from ITE-Inception to Exhibition, MANA Arts/Armitage Gone! Dance, Mount Tremper Arts, Field FAR Space, and at Triskelion Arts and Mark Morris Dance Center through the Mellon Foundation. Teresa's choreography has been commissioned by NYC Department of Transportation's Summer Streets, chashama at 4 Times Square, Anita's Way, and The Hudson River Museum via the Jordan Matter Dancers Among Us exhibit. She has led workshops and master classes, and been commissioned to set work at University of Florida, Gainesville, NYU, Pace University, Castleton State College, University of Maine, Farmington, Jacob's Pillow, Moving Target Series in Cambridge, MA, and at several NYC and national performing arts schools. She has taught regularly at The Ailey School, Sarah Lawrence College, DreamYard Project, and Marquis Studios, and she is a faculty member and director of the Summer Dance Program at The Ross School.

Teresa was named Artistic Liaison between Cameroon & U.S. by president Paul Biya, while performing with National Ballet du Cameroun and at the National Soccer Cup Finals. She has performed for Lucinda Childs, Sarah Skaggs, Kimberly Young, M'Bewe Escobar, Skip Costa, and Martha Bowers, and she has performed works by Twyla Tharp, Deganit Shemy, Liz Lerman, and Megan Boyd, among others. Teresa completed a Dance MFA from Sarah Lawrence under Bessie Schonberg Scholarship, Certificate from the Ailey School under scholarship, and BA in French & English Literature, with a minor in dance from NYU as a merit scholar. More information at [www.bodystoriesfellion.org](http://www.bodystoriesfellion.org)

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Link to Press Kit: [http://bodystoriesfellion.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/BodyStories\\_EPK\\_web.pdf](http://bodystoriesfellion.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/BodyStories_EPK_web.pdf)

Link to Reviews: <http://bodystoriesfellion.org/press-booking/>

BodyStories: HOME Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/161775939>

## ABOUT BRYN COHN + ARTISTS

Bryn Cohn + Artists' mission is to produce dance that constructs worlds of abstraction, risk and reality by investigating the edges of physical and imaginative boundaries. Movement vocabulary rooted in emotional dynamism serves as a way to recognize each person within the performer, and to feel the intimacy that unfolds from the company's commitment to a rich, multifaceted experience. Cohn's work integrates technical clarity with recklessness, deep insight from gesture, and an understanding of how the body can speak in the most authentic ways. Collaborations in scenic design, costuming, lighting, and original score inspire Cohn to build a multifaceted universe onstage. BC+A positions itself at the forefront of an honest dialogue about how human beings interact with, connect to, and isolate themselves amidst the complexity of our world. The building of a theatrical movement vocabulary, in conjunction with honest and emotionally charged relationships, fluidly guide the dancers into a compelling exchange of movement and narrative concepts.

BC + A has gained notable recognition for their educational and charitable initiatives within communities and organizations across the country. The company has brought their teaching programs to institutions including California Institute of the Arts, Peridance Capezio Center, City

Ballet of Los Angeles, Velocity Dance Center, Nazareth College, California State University, Los Angeles, Chop Shop Dance Festival and Renaissance Arts Academy. BC + A annually collaborates on site – specific immersive experiences with art galleries and fashion organizations including Foley Gallery, Castle Fitzjohns and Bene Rialto as a means of making dance more accessible within the public sphere.

Founded in 2012, Bryn Cohn + Artists is a New York-based contemporary dance company comprised of diverse collaborative artists from a variety of geographical and ethnic backgrounds. The company has been met with acclaim amongst artists, press and audiences through New York, New Jersey, California, Boston, Michigan and Seattle. Hailed as "groundbreaking, primal, graceful, flowing effortlessly, surreal and supernatural" (Brooklyn Buzz), BC+ A has performed in premiere venues including Danspace Project, The 92nd Street Y, The 14th Street Y, Ailey Citigroup Theater, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Symphony Space, The Boston University Theater, Nazareth College, Dixon Place, The Martha Graham Theater, Judson Memorial Church, The Center for Performance Research, The Theatre at Meydenbauer, Abrons Arts Center, Baruch Performing Arts Center, Salvatore Capezio Theater, Manhattan Movement and Arts Center, Triskelion Arts and Brooklyn Arts Exchange among others. BC + A has received awards and funding including The Alfred Z Solomon Charitable Trust, SILO Residency through DanceNOW, The Far Space Residency through The Field, and most recently was named Inception to Exhibition's Fan Favorite and won a fully produced performance in March 2016. The company was represented in The Gallery Roster at Pentacle Danceworks Inc.

#### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Described as a "dancemaker who does not shy away from much" (DIY Dancer), Bryn Cohn founded and assumed the position of artistic director of Bryn Cohn + Artists in 2012. She has been commissioned to create original works for Missouri Contemporary Ballet, Billy Bell's Lunge Dance Collective (formerly of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet), Grand Valley State University, California State University, Fullerton, The Pushing Progress Contemporary Training Program, the fashion designer Betsey Johnson on a site-specific installation, The Youth America Grand Prix and Bayonne High School. Cohn is on permanent faculty at Peridance Capezio Center and for the Pushing Progress Contemporary Training Program where she teaches composition, improvisation and contemporary techniques. She directs the modern department at Greenwich Ballet Academy.

As a sought after educator and lecturer, Cohn has participated in master educational engagements at Gibney Dance (NYC), Loyola Marymount University (CA), California State University, Fullerton (CA), Broadway Dance Center (NYC), CAPAS (NYC) and for the Michael Susten Dance Company (NYC). She will receive a full feature profile in Dance Teacher Magazine in July 2016. Cohn created C.O.N.N.E.C.T a goal-setting forum for dance artists, hosted at Gibney Dance. She was one of twenty international artists invited to participate in The New Aesthetics Performance Intensive in a dance theatre collaboration conducted by Crystal Pite and Pol Hayvaert in Vancouver, B.C. Cohn was selected to serve on The Massachusetts Cultural Council Choreography Fellowship Panel. She has received scholarships to Bridge: Choreographic Dialogues at the Suzanne Dellal Centre in Tel Aviv, the Bessie Schoenberg Choreographic Lab at New York Live Arts and Systems for Understanding Movement and Choreography, led by Susan Marshall. Cohn has performed in works by Ohad Naharin, Alex Ketley, Colin Connor and Barak Marshall, and in self choreographed solos Leak and Au Revoir Love. She graduated with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts from California Institute of the Arts in dance performance and composition under the direction of Stephan Koplowitz.

More information at [www.bryncohnandartists.com](http://www.bryncohnandartists.com).

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Link to Press Kit: <http://www.bryncohnandartists.com/press-kit/>

Link to Reviews: <http://www.bryncohnandartists.com/press/>

Vimeo: Bryn Cohn + Artists Vimeo Channel

YouTube: Bryn Cohn + Artists YouTube Channel

HOME Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KegdMIMe5pO>

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BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance and Bryn Cohn and Artists  
280 Broadway  
New York, NY, 10007  
(646) 837- 6809  
<http://gibneydance.org/calendar/>

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Schedule  
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