



## Try This

*di Mossa and guests from the wild*

November 4

2023

# Program

*Inspired by the Immersion Process with Eddie Martinez*

## Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville

INK

choreographer/costumes: Jen-Jen Lin

dancers: Tracy Collins, Pegah Kadivar, Jen-Jen Lin, Anne Oppenheimer

music by Satomi Saeki, Dhyāna, and Uno, Manongo Mujica, Mariano Zuzunaga Trio



The nature of creativity is always taking risks, satisfying an artist's curiosity by experimenting, exploring possibilities, and continually trying.

I am from Taiwan, trained in Chinese Opera dance and modern/contemporary dance, with training both in Taiwan and the US.

I am fascinated by the movements, strokes, and energy of Chinese calligraphy, and have tried to capture the essence Chinese calligraphy with this dance. Fabric – a key element of INK -- has been one of my favorite extensions of the body, one I often explore. I really appreciate INK dancers hop on this creative journey with me.

We also are creating a digital background to go with this dance, working with MTSU visiting professor Jianhua Yang from Qingdao, China. Digital image production is another experiment in this dance.

My next project is choreographing a dance to celebrate Chinese New Year at Schermerhorn Hall on February 7 at 7:30 PM with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. The dance with recorded music will be repeated at the Chinese New Year Celebration at Musicians Corner, Centennial Park on Feb 10 at 1 PM.

## Questions

### **Starry Night**

Ashlyn Hall, Allison Hardee, Molly Haslag, Marisa Pace, Matthew Robinson

Music: Asteroid City

## Phylicia Roybal



I have been working on tools for processing loss, identity, and memories. Saying yes to “try this” gave me a purpose to workshop these things into a new perspective and to begin the conversation on how to convert my ideas into something more tangible. I have been using journal writings to create context for improvised movements as well as a springboard for ideas to come to life. I will be showing a solo from the longer work in progress of this project. I will be continuing the research on this and will be working towards creating a longer and more realized iteration of these ideas.

## **Fall to Pieces**

Ashlyn Hall & Allison Hardee      Molly Haslag & Matthew Robinson

Muisc: Streets of Laredo by Bing Crosby

## **Sarah Atenhan**



I said yes to “try this” because I’ve been a fan of di Mossa since I moved here from Chicago in 2017 – so I am thrilled to collaborate finally! Before the invitation, I was experimenting with a solo to the theme from Asteroid City, and its' persistent ringing reminded me of an alarm going off in the morning. I thought this solo was a clear choice for the prompt, “Wake Up Call.” As I continued exploring the movement with the prompt, I started unpeeling layers of what “Wake Up Call” could mean: awakening the body, discovering something might not be what it seems, and the exhaustion one might feel when awoken in the literal and figurative senses. I have enjoyed experimenting with the interplay of these layers, and I’m looking forward to expanding on the movement beyond tonight's performance.

Muisc: Asteroid City

## **Wake UP**

Ashlyn, Allison, Molly, Marisa, Matthew & Sarah  
Voice Memo: Eddie Martinez

Muisc: Beethoven

## **Jamison Sevits**



As an artist, I am interested in exploring how specific prompts lead to certain movement, and how both of those can then inform choices around character, narrative, music, etc. I said “yes” to this experience because I’m excited at the idea of connecting live music performance with movement.

I’ve really enjoyed taking some classes with di Mossa as an amateur dancer, and I’m curious to find the ways in which I can bring my experience as a musician and actor deeper into dance and movement arenas.

I’m currently hosting a monthly mask-work experience called the Wild Way Workshop in which participants explore play, improvisation, character and connection through inhabiting wild animal masks. I am also helping to bring the improvisational theatre form of Playback Theatre here to Nashville. I continue to seek out avenues in which I can make deeper connections with music, movement and theatre.

## **Can’t Touch**

Marisa Pace with Matthew, Ashlyn, Molly

Music: Jamison Sevits

## **Nothing Left**

Sarah Atenhan & Allison Hardee

Music: Jamison Sevits

## **Trio**

Marisa, Molly, Matthew

Music: Unchained Melody by Norah Jones

## Rae Balmuth



Rae is a dancer and Drama Therapist focused on the use of somatic expression for healing and growth. While her movement practices are often oriented toward the integration of trauma stories, Rae believes too in the healing power of play and collaboration. Joining Try This has been a wonderful opportunity to explore the intersection of play and therapeutics and the inspiration that can be sparked through spontaneity. Rae is currently returning to freelance choreography after relocating to Nashville two years ago. She also serves as therapeutic advisor to grant funded community service projects with Fall Dance, has volunteered on the arts program expansion council for Friends Life Community, and offers trauma-informed arts-based healing workshops in residential treatment centers and for independent contract.

Music: Heaven Weeps With You



## **Gesange**

Ashlyn, Allison, Molly, Marisa, Matthew

Music: Brahams

Choreography & Movement: Lisa Valeri

## **Starry Nights**

Full Cast

Dedicated to Pat Gunter - friend, supporter, fellow artist

Notes from the company....

**Ashlyn Hall**



Ashlyn has been trying this, that, and all sorts of projects with Lisa for over a decade. This fall, Ashlyn is reflecting on the inter-generational bunch of women who've influenced her dancing and teaching - among them, Lisa, of course! Grateful for the warmth and sparkle she brings to the work and our lives. Ashlyn is inspired by the creativity of her di Mossa colleagues and our broader dance community. And she's looking forward to the next attempt at imbuing meaning into movement, and the next, and the next.  
pc: Ben Hoback

## **Molly Haslag**



I am thrilled, as always, to be performing with di Mossa in Try This! I feel this performance will be especially exciting given its focus on process, play, community, and each artist's unique interpretations. There are so many things that went through my head when creating movement phrases in response to the the given prompts: what the stars and the cities look like from above, a couple gazing toward the sky from the grass below, a moment in my life when I realized I needed to make a change, a struggle between wanting to go but not being ready to leave, whether the pieces of ourselves can work when others are missing, a conversation happening out of order, what it means to be together... I love that the simple prompts we were given sparked so much meaning in each of us, and I hope that our audience can find their own connection to both our personal and collective creation.

## **Olivia Blanchard**

Nashville based artist and Independent Curator



Olivia Blanchard is an artist and independent curator living and creating in Nashville Tennessee. She has a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and has exhibited in the South and Midwest United States.

She works with many different concepts within the realm of painting, and drawing. A common theme in her work is the idea of renewal by applying paint on a surface, whether a new coat or a textile inspired pattern.

At “Try This “ you will be seeing mostly works on paper from Blanchard. This installation will be a curation of past figurative and decorative works, and one new piece that responds to the prompt “ Fall to Pieces “. The piece is a Kintsugi-inspired collage of works on paper with gold leaf to encapsulate the concept behind the Japanese art of embracing damage through repairing pottery with lacquer and gold leaf. The piece itself represents the importance of acknowledging growth and grief and its importance in moving on from losing love.