

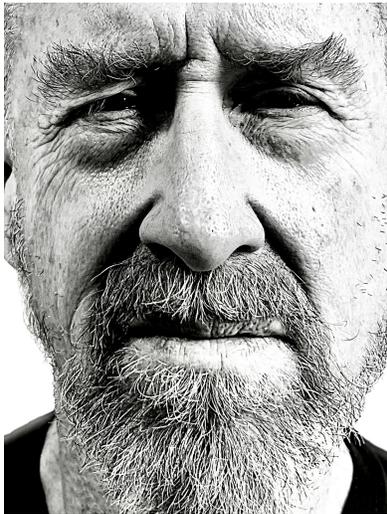


890 BROADWAY
FIFTH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10003
TEL: 212 677 8560

280 BROADWAY
ENTER 53A CHAMBERS
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: 646 837 6809

**GIBNEY COMPANY ANNUAL UP CLOSE SEASON RETURNS
TO NEW YORK LIVE ARTS FEATURING WORKS BY
WILLIAM FORSYTHE, EMILIE LERICHE, AND MTHUTHUZELI NOVEMBER**

December 10-14, 2024



NEW YORK, NY, October 28, 2024—Gibney Company announces its fall 2024 season in New York City with a powerful program of works by the internationally recognized choreographer **William Forsythe**, and the dynamic voices of **Emilie Leriche** and **Mthuthuzeli November**, December 10 through 14. UP CLOSE, this year held at New York Live Arts, is Gibney Company's annual series offering an intimate look at the company's newest works. This year the series features an important restaging alongside world and east coast premieres with a range of contemporary choreographic styles and compositions. Works on the program present a bold take on classical technique, a reflection on fleeing and the longing to return, and a search for guidance from our elders. UP CLOSE marks the newly expanded Gibney Company's fourth New York City season, following a successful run at The Joyce Theater last May.

Led by Gibney Founder, Artistic Director, and CEO **Gina Gibney** and Gibney Company Director **Gilbert T Small II**, Gibney Company is a creation-based repertory company that commissions work from internationally renowned and emerging choreographers committed to exploring connections between the rigorous physicality of contemporary dance and responsive, humanistic storytelling.

"As a contemporary repertory company, Gibney Company's unique contribution to the dance field lies in the alchemy of bringing together our talented Artistic Associates with the superb artistry of renowned and rising choreographic voices, supported by the insightful creative direction of Company Director Gilbert T Small II," said Gina Gibney. "This fall marks three years of building a fresh and

resilient iteration of Gibney Company while staying true to our founding values, and we're thrilled to present another season of extraordinary works to New York City audiences."

Gilbert T Small II said, "During our annual *UP CLOSE* season, the Artistic Associates engage with some of the foremost voices in contemporary dance today, tackling each piece with exceptional artistry and poetic determination. The choreographic language of each choreographer challenges each performer physically and mentally, compelling them to bring their most genuine and honest selves to the forefront of the work."

William Forsythe's *Trio* premiered in Frankfurt in 1996 and Gibney Company's production will mark the work's first North American performances. In Forsythe's compact dance, the Allegro movement of Beethoven's String Quartet No. 15 provides the rapidly shifting, tilting ground for the lively interplay of the three dancers. They examine the weight of the body and set it loose to the music in a virtuosic, flying tangle of limbs. *Trio* is staged by **Thomas McManus**, lighting design by **Brandon Stirling Baker** and costume design by **Stephen Galloway**.

Beck/Call by choreographer and performer **Emilie Leriche** grew out of the idea of *runaways* sparked by the choreographer's relationship to home in the U.S.: leaving when very young and then, as most dancers, moving farther and farther away. Interested in the desire of humans to long for something else and to run towards it with reckless, careening energy, this work explores the fantasy of what lies beyond the present, whether it's a place or ourselves, and then once we have fled, feeling the undeniable pull to return to these places, or people or times in our life, ultimately mining the tension between going back and staying gone. The work includes original lighting by designer **Burke Brown**, costumes by **Victoria Bek**, and original score by **Wolff Bergen**.

The unique choreographic language of South African choreographer **Mthuthuzeli November** is informed by both traditional South African (Xhosa) dance and street dance as well as with the Western traditions of ballet and contemporary movement styles. *Vukani*, the new work created for Gibney Company, means to awaken and explores communion with the elders, a search for guidance, provoking the spirit to take over the body, and showing the way. November says of the work, "In my culture growing up, one of my fondest memories was of the elders sitting inside a hut around a fire. They would play the drums and start singing and dancing. I remember the relentless beat that would always send me to a plane of existence that felt so blissful. I am trying to evoke that feeling, within myself and the dancers." The work features original music by the choreographer, lighting by **Asami Morita** and costume design by **Victoria Bek**.

UP CLOSE, an annual Gibney Company performance series presented in New York City, will feature Gibney Company dancers, known as Artistic Associates, Graham Feeny, Madison Goodman, Tiare Keeno, Lounes Landri, Andrew McShea, Jie-Hung Connie Shiau, Zack Sommer and Madi Tanguay. More information about Gibney Company Artistic Associates can be found [here](#).

Institutional Support

Gibney is grateful for generous support from Andrew A. Davis and the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, Joan & Jerry Lozinski, Richard Feldman and The SHS Foundation, the Altman Foundation, Jody & John Arnhold and the Arnhold Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Booth Ferris Foundation, the Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, Dance/NYC, The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Dextra Baldwin McGonagle, the Ford Foundation, the Gaea Foundation, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation,

the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Harold I. & Faye B. Liss Foundation, the Lester & Grace Maslow Foundation, The Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, Mid Atlantic Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Council and Council Member Carlina Rivera, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York Community Trust, the New York State Council on the Arts, New York University Community Trust, The Ready Foundation, the Jerome Robbins Foundation, the Billy Rose Foundation, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, the Simons Foundation, the Seth Sprague Educational & Charitable Foundation, the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, and numerous individual supporters. *As of October 24, 2024.*

Listings Details

Gibney Company

UP CLOSE

New York Live Arts

December 10-14, 2024

Performance Tickets: \$5-\$80

Opening Night Party: + \$30

Tickets available for purchase at newyorklivearts.org

Credits

NORTH AMERICAN & COMPANY PREMIERE

Trio

Choreography: William Forsythe

Stager: Thomas McManus

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

Lighting Design: Brandon Stirling Baker

Costume Design: Stephen Galloway

Costume Construction: Victoria Bek

World premiere: January 20, 1996, Ballett Frankfurt, Opera House Frankfurt, Germany

WORLD PREMIERE

Beck/Call

Choreography: Emilie Leriche

Music: Wolff Bergen

Lighting Design: Burke Brown

Costume Design: Victoria Bek

EAST COAST PREMIERE

Vukani

Choreography: Mthuthuzeli November

Music: Mthuthuzeli November

Lighting Design: Asami Morita

Costume Design: Victoria Bek

About William Forsythe

Raised in New York and initially trained in Florida with Nolan Dingman and Christa Long, Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. Over the next seven years, he created new works for the Stuttgart ensemble and other ballet companies worldwide. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt, where he created works such as *Artifact*(1984), *Impressing the Czar* (1988), *Limb's Theorem* (1990), *The Loss of Small Detail* (1991), *Eidos:Telos* (1995), *Kammer/Kammer* (2000) and *Decreation* (2003).

After the closure of the Ballet Frankfurt in 2004, Forsythe established a new, more independent ensemble, The Forsythe Company, which he directed from 2005 to 2015. Works produced by this ensemble include *Three Atmospheric Studies* (2005), *Human Writes* (2005), *Heterotopia* (2006), *I don't believe in outer space* (2008) and *Sider* (2011). Forsythe's works developed during this time were performed exclusively by The Forsythe Company, while his earlier pieces are prominently featured in the repertoire of virtually every major ballet company in the world. More recently Forsythe has created original works for the Paris Opera Ballet, English National Ballet, Boston Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, La Scala Ballet Company, as well as *A Quiet Evening of Dance* produced by Sadler's Wells Theatre (London) and *The Barre Project (Blake Works II)* created for the digital stage.

Forsythe has been commissioned to produce architectural and performance installations. These *Choreographic Objects*, as he calls these works, have been presented in numerous museums and exhibitions, including the Whitney Biennial (New York, 1997), the Louvre Museum (2006), 21_21 Design Sight (Tokyo, 2007), the Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, 2009), Tate Modern (London, 2009), MoMA (New York 2010) and the Venice Biennale (2005, 2009, 2012, 2014), ICA Boston (2018), Museum Folkwang (2019), Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2020) and Kunsthaus Zürich (2021).

In collaboration with media specialists and educators, Forsythe has developed new approaches to dance documentation, research, and education. Core elements of his CD-ROM *Improvisation Technologies: A Tool for the Analytical Dance Eye*, published in 1999 and developed with the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, are now accessible online via the website *Improvisation Technologies – The Lectures* as of June 30, 2023.

In 2002, Forsythe was chosen as the founding Dance Mentor for The Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. Forsythe is an Honorary Fellow at the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance in London and holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Juilliard School in New York.

About Emilie Leriche

Emilie Leriche is a freelance performer and creator based between Göteborg, Sweden and Paris, France. She has danced with GöteborgsOperans Danskompani and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, where in 2015 she was awarded a Princess Grace Foundation fellowship in dance. She has created work on Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, Nederlands Dans Theater II, Whim W'Him in Seattle, and in the winter of 2023 she was a guest choreographer for Nuova X's professional dance program in Torino, Italy. In May of 2024 she premiered her latest work 'Property Identity Report' -a creation for the tanzensemble of Theater St. Gallen.

In 2021, her project *On Mending*, a collaboration with Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, was selected for Orsolina 28's "Call for Creation" fellowship where the work was originally developed for film. In 2022, with the support of a "Work-in-Progress" grant from the Princess Grace Foundation, *On Mending* was further developed and performed as a live production at Baryshnikov Arts Center. In 2023, Leriche and Ahern were commissioned by BAC to direct their next film, *One & One Other*; which premiered on BAC's digital platform in April of 2023.

About Mthuthuzeli November

Mthuthuzeli November is an award-winning choreographer and dancer born in Cape Town, South Africa. He started dancing at the age 15. He has made multiple award winning/nominated works for since 2016, include the Laurence Olivier Award for INGOMA. Mthuthuzeli has made works for British Grime artist, Stormzy at Glastonbury Festival in 2019, Ballet Black, Royal Ballet, Ballet Zurich, The Washington Ballet, Northern Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, Luzerner Theatre, Cape Town City Ballet, Cape Town Opera, *Fall For Dance North* Nominated for best soloist In a production (Black British Theatre Award). In 2022 he was nominated for Best Classical Choreography by the Critics Circle National Dance Awards, for his work *The Waiting Game*. 2023 winning best choreography for his work *Nina- By Whatever Means* at the Black British Theatre Awards.

About Gibney Company

Gibney Company, led by Artistic Director Gina Gibney and Director Gilbert T Small II, is Gibney's resident dance ensemble. Gibney Company is a creation-based repertory company commissioning work from both internationally renowned and emerging choreographers who are committed to exploring connections between the rigorous, often superhuman physicality of contemporary dance alongside responsive, humanistic storytelling.

About Gibney

Founded by Gina Gibney in 1991, Gibney is a New York City-based performing arts and social justice organization that taps into the vast potential of movement, creativity, and performance to effect social change and personal transformation. Gibney deploys resources through three strategic and interwoven program areas: Gibney Center, a meeting ground for New York City's artistic community comprising 23 studios and 5 performance spaces that provide critical space for training, rehearsal, professional development, performances, and convenings; Gibney Community, programs that use movement to help address a range of social issues with a focus on gender-based violence and its prevention; and Gibney Company. Gibney supports movement-based artists in every aspect of their creative development: classes, residencies, low-cost rental space, entrepreneurial training and incubation, presentation opportunities, commissioning, and operating a professional dance company.

Image Credits: William Forsythe by Julian Gabriel Richter (left), Emilie Leriche by Allina Yang (center), Mthuthuzeli November (right)

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Karen Kitchen

karen@gibneydance.org

Anastasia Gudkova

anastasia@gibneydance.org