

mecca vazie andrews & WIFE

17 November 2011 | 7:30 - 9:00 PM

curated by Dino Dinco



mecca vazie andrews and the members of performance / dance collective **WIFE (Jasmine Albuquerque, Kristen Leahy & Nina McNeely)** have been choreographing, performing and teaching dance and movement for years. Collectively, their bold and unique performative work has been seen locally and internationally on the stages of the Grammy Awards, in myriad television commercials, music videos, museums and galleries to underground nightclubs, a Hollywood sushi bar and even a laundromat.

As with most freelance artists, there's a certain hustle that's part of the territory, a need to both create and survive. For many, this includes a day job that may or may not be related to one's art. For Los Angeles choreographers, part of creating / surviving often includes working with the most visible stars in the entertainment industry, as Los Angeles and particularly Hollywood (the geographic neighborhood, the cinema, music and advertising factories) continue to comprise the epicenter of English-language pop culture and entertainment. What is "local" in Los Angeles is often instantly and also "international," not only because of the film and TV production, advertising and media embedded in the day-to-day culture(s) of the city, but also as so many globally recognized entertainers, like Prince, for example, reside here.

After the performances, we'll talk to mecca and WIFE about their individual approaches to dance and movement, as well as how they navigate art and commerce, living and working in Los Angeles.

-Dino Dinco

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

mecca vazie andrews is a choreographer, dance instructor, performance artist and Artist Director of The MOVEMENT movement.
a lions den where nonsense is accompanied by a long line of dignitaries.

*sometimes a school with the Ubsurd
occasionally sleeping with the Romantic
Relentlessly behind Social Action*

*Sharing the simple word of Please and Thank You and MOVEMENT movement, all kinds thereof.
Communication on a big rig sized scale.*

Projects include Glee for Chevrolet, 2011 Grammys, Lady Gaga, LACE, Center Theatre Group, Hammer Museum, Santa Monica Museum of Art. Director for The Standard Hotel Los Angeles event, The Series. Choreography for Prince Poppycock, MEN, The Submarines, The Slits, Astra Ballet Company, LA Contemporary Dance Company, Hollywood Bowl, Bess, Toro y Moi, Basement Jaxx, among others. Featured in Paper Magazine, Rolling Stone, LA Record, LA Times. mecca vazie andrews has taught at Loyola Marymount University, Contemporary Dance Conservatory, Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts, Nashville School of the Arts, Broadway Dance Center, LA Contemporary Dance Company and Edge Performing Arts Center. Follow her on twitter.com/meccava or find out more at meccavazieandrews.tumblr.com

WIFE : Jasmine Albuquerque, Kristen Leahy & Nina McNeely

*She will only be seen in the dark.
She is a magician of picture and light.
She exists in many dimensions.
She is visceral contemporary dance.*

She is studying the subtleties of your behavior.

She is eternally bound to archetype, myth, lore, alchemy, and dreams.

She is metamorphosis. She is the daughter of Jim Henson, Chris Cunningham, Akira Kurosawa, Kathy Rose, Wendy Carlos, Yayoi Kusama, Plannintorock, Aleister Crowley, her friends, and you.

WIFE is dance interacting with original projected animations, music, light, and costumes. She has been seen at Pieter, at the El Portal Theatre, and as part of the Bootleg Dance Festival 2011. WIFE's "The Grey Ones" was presented at the Long Beach TEDx SoCal event, and is also featured on the electronic music artist Amon Tobin's box set DVD. Currently, WIFE is creating a full-length dance/projection work to be performed at Human Resources and featured in Native Strategies, a biannual journal and platform for performance art in Los Angeles, and has been invited to perform in the Forum Lounge at Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum in May 2012. She was born of three Los Angeles based artists:

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Dino Dinco was raised by a family of fighting chickens in rural Pennsylvania before moving to Los Angeles as a child. He is an independent curator, filmmaker and artist. His work has been exhibited in solo exhibitions in Paris (2005, 2001), Los Angeles (2001), and San Francisco (2009, 2004), as well as in group shows in London, Paris, Antwerp, Hasselt (Belgium), Mexicali, New York and Hamburg. Selections from his photographic series "Chico" were featured at Salon Paris Photo at The Louvre, Paris (2001 - 2002). His work has appeared in publications such as i-D (UK), Dutch (France), Revista Espacio (Mexico), V (US), Vogue Brasil (Brazil), Tokion (Japan), BIG (US), Studio Voice (Japan), Zoo (France) and BUTT (Holland). Dinco's award-winning short film -- "El Abuelo" -- premiered at the Tate Modern in London, May 2008 and continues to screen in festivals and schools. His first feature length documentary film -- "Homeboy" -- profiles gay Latino men who were in gangs and premiered at the 2011 Mardi Gras Film Festival in Sydney. Dinco's recent exhibition of photographs, installation, and objects, "Todos Somos Putos" (with Julio Torres) was favorably reviewed by novelist and Semiotext(e) co-editor, Chris Kraus, in the December 2010 edition of Artforum. His favorite superhero has always been Underdog.

In addition to his year long residency at LACE as Performance Art Curator (2011 - 2012), Dinco also curated the last two annual LACE winter fundraising events, *GUTTED* 2010 and 2011, focusing on how multiple generations of performance artists speak from, about and to the body. www.dinodinco.com www.contemporaryperformance.org/profile/DNODNCO