

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**PERIAPSIS MUSIC AND DANCE PRESENTS "EPOCH"
at Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts May 10 & 12**

NEW YORK CITY— Periapsis Music and Dance presents *Epoch*, a new work by resident choreographer **Erin Dillon** and composer **Jonathan Howard Katz**, on May 10 at 8:00 pm and May 12 at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm at Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts at LIU Brooklyn, 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (on Flatbush Ave between DeKalb Ave and Willoughby St). Tickets are \$24 through May 8, then \$30, with special pricing for students and artists of \$15 through May 8 and \$20 thereafter, available at: <http://kumbletheater.org/>

Also on the program are premieres of two commissioned works, *she was not needing to be changing*, by choreographer **Janis Brenner** and composer **Leah Asher**, utilizing text by **Gertrude Stein**; and *Sinking*, by choreographer **Wendell Gray II** and composer **Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti**. The latter work was developed during Periapsis Music and Dance's Emerging Artist Residencies in June, 2017, where it was workshopped and presented in a studio showing.

The company's work emphasizes collaboration between choreographer and composer, which sometimes extends to intense interaction between musicians and dancers on stage. *Epoch* is a work for five dancers and three musicians, but all performers are part of the movement. Said Katz, who in addition to being the composer also performs in the work as pianist, "The connection between the dancers and [musicians] is there immediately. Erin created a beautiful opening for the piece that allows these relationships to exist but doesn't project an outcome. And then as the piece goes on, she takes these relationships to unexpected places. We've done some similar things before, but it's never been as intricate or challenging."

Veteran choreographer Janis Brenner joins emerging composer Leah Asher in a new collaboration for their commissioned work, *she was not needing to be changing*. "The first conversation we had was that we wanted to include a woman's text," said Brenner. "We narrowed it down to Gertrude . . . and we picked out particular paragraphs that were resonant for both of us. 'She was one,' starting with that, the myriad ways that that text can have meaning." The work is for three female dancers and two female musicians (cello and percussion), with vocalizations from all performers.

Several guests will perform as part of the **Periapsis Open Series** service program: **konverjdans** with composers **Jim Robertson** and **Hank Mason** (Thursday evening and Saturday matinee);

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Rovaco Dance/Rohan Bhargava with composer **Fernando Acevedo** (Thursday and Saturday evenings); and **Megan Sipe** with composer **Moira Lo Bianco** (Saturday shows).

*This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the City Council.*

*Epoch and she was not needing to be changing were made possible by a commissioning grant from the **O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation**. The latter work was also made possible by support from the **Harkness Foundation for Dance**.*

*The music for she was not needing to be changing was commissioned by the **Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation**.*

ABOUT PERIAPSIS MUSIC AND DANCE

Periapsis Music and Dance is a Brooklyn-based organization dedicated to cultivating a new collaborative repertoire between choreographers and composers, and bringing dancers and musicians together in live performance. We create and perform new work with our resident artistic ensemble, commission guests, and develop resources to facilitate collaborations in the artistic community (such as free information on our website to help connect composers and choreographers, plus performance and workshop opportunities). We've performed at the Inside/Out Series at Jacob's Pillow Dance, Symphony Space, Roulette, GK ArtsCenter, Kumble Theater, Spectrum, Peridance Capezio Center, Steps on Broadway, Dixon Place, and other venues, and we've developed a wide range of work, from one dancer and one musician to twelve dancers and eight musicians. The current ensemble includes six dancers and six musicians, with resident choreographers Erin Dillon and Hannah Weber, and composer-in-residence (and artistic director) Jonathan Howard Katz.

The **Periapsis Open Series** is a performance opportunity, curated by Katz and open to application, for New York City-area choreographers working with composers and/or performing with live music. Some of these artists are invited to perform as guests on company shows, and some have been presented on dedicated Open Series events.

ABOUT RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER ERIN DILLON

Choreographer Erin Dillon has presented her work in Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation's 2017 Choreography Showcase, Emotions Physical Theater's 2016 Spring Performance, the American Dance Guild Festival, Steps Performance Lab Series, the Moving Beauty Series, the Provincetown Dance Festival, Sans Limites Dance, the 2013 Composers Now Festival's *Music in Motion* concert,

and other festivals and venues. An experienced performer, she joins Company XIV this spring for two productions and has worked with choreographers such as Seán Curran (through Periapsis Music and Dance), Yoshito Sakuraba (as a company member of Abarukas), Manuel Vignouille, Charlotte Griffin, Stephen Pier, and Emery LeCrone. She has performed at Jacob's Pillow Dance, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Dance Gallery Festival (TX), GK ArtsCenter, Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts, and many others. Erin graduated *magna cum laude* from The Hartt School/University of Hartford and attended Northwest Dance Project's *Launch 8*, Julidans, and other intensives. Resident choreographer and dancer with Periapsis Music and Dance, she also maintains her own ensemble, Erin Dillon and Dancers.

ABOUT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JONATHAN HOWARD KATZ

Composer and pianist Jonathan Howard Katz is building a unique body of work that combines an intuitive grasp of communication with a rigorous technical command. Current commissions include a new piano 4-hand work for Ursula Oppens and Jerome Lowenthal, and a new string quartet for Sarah Berges Dance and the Mivos Quartet. As artistic director and co-founder of Periapsis Music and Dance, he's worked with numerous choreographers, including Seán Curran, Katarzyna Skarpetowska, and Manuel Vignouille, and he continues to develop close collaborations in the dance world. His music has been performed by the Da Capo Chamber Players, Cygnus Ensemble, Ensemble Pi, pianists Daria Rabotkina and Winston Choi, violinist Ari Streisfeld, soprano Mary Mackenzie, and many others. He's received commissions from the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation, New Music USA, and Concert Artists Guild, and is a recipient of the Robert Helps Prize and a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship. He holds degrees in piano performance from Northwestern University, New England Conservatory, and Indiana University, and studied composition with Jason Eckardt and Tania León.

ABOUT THE GUEST ARTISTS

Janis Brenner: <http://www.janisbrenner.com/janis-brenner>

Leah Asher: <https://www.leahasher.com/>

Wendell Gray II: <https://vimeo.com/user15527791>

Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti: <http://annelanzilotti.com/>

konverjdans: <http://konverjdans.com/>

Rovaco Dance/Rohan Bhargava: <http://www.rovacodance.com/>

Megan Sipe: <http://www.chocolatedances.com/>

Moira Lo Bianco: <https://moiralobianco.com/>