

**WOMANLAND**ROSALYNDE LEBLANC

LAUNCH:LA 5 IS SUPPORTED, IN PART, BY
THE DANNY KAYE AND SYLVIA FINE KAYE FOUNDATION.



SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025 2245 E. WASHINGTON BLVD. DTLA, 90021

# LAUNCH:LA 5 PROGRAM

## SIMULACRA MEGAN PARADOWSKI

CHOREOGRAPHER: Megan Paradowski

SCULPTOR/ARTIST: Heidi Ross

COMPOSER: Ian Wellman

COSTUME DESIGNER: Gabrielle Kraus LIGHTING DESIGNER: Caleb Wildman

DANCERS: Jessy Crist, Maddie Lacambra

Travis Lim, Nadia Maryam, Jonah Tran, Marco Vega

25 Minutes

#### **INTERMISSION**

## WOMANLAND ROSALYNDE LEBLANC

CHOREOGRAPHER: Rosalynde LeBlanc

VIDEO DÉCOR: Michael Cole

SOUND DESIGNER: Eric Mason

COSTUME DESIGNER: Dione Lebhar LIGHTING DESIGNER: Caleb Wildman

**DANCERS**:

*Principals* - Camila Aran, Marissa Brown, Rosalynde LeBlanc, Eliza Loran, Chelsea Roquero.

Chorus - Kevin Carpio, Madeleine Crowle, Sadie Crystal, Jordan Diamond, Emily Keller, Sydney Latimer, Camilla Machado, Kristine Pohle

30 Minutes

#### **CONTENT NOTE**

Rosalynde LeBlanc's work *Womanland* engages with complex emotional themes that may include references to trauma, loss, and identity. While the performance does not depict graphic content, it may evoke strong responses for some audience members. The piece also includes a brief moment of full nudity near its conclusion.

L.A. DANCE PROJECT @LADANCEPROJECT





About MEGAN PARADOWSKI Choreographer

Megan Paradowski is an LA-based choreographer and founder of Empara, an experiential dance company. Under her direction, Empara creates non-traditional contemporary performances and films, often site-specific and immersive. Megan holds a BFA in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and has choreographed and performed across the U.S., Europe, and Mexico in venues including The Aster, Soho House, 2220 Arts + Archives, the Museum of Neon Art, NAVEL LA, and Hosek Contemporary Berlin.

Her work has been featured in publications such as the *LA Times*, *Autre Magazine*, *LA Dance Chronicle*, and *Fjord Review*, and she has received grants from the German Consulate General in Los Angeles and the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus.

Megan's choreography explores theatricality and risk-driven movement, breaking boundaries between mediums to craft visceral, transformative experiences.



About ROSALYNDE LEBLANC Choreographer

Rosalynde LeBlanc (she/her) is a dancer, choreographer, producer, and educator. She has been actively performing for 30 years, beginning her performance career with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company and Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project. She has worked with independent choreographers like Keith Johnson and Taryn Vander Hoop, and recent leading roles for stage and screen include light and desire by Colleen Thomas, A Torch into Fog by Janessa Clark, Exploration of Feminine Range by Charissa Kroeger, and KIARI album-release promo for the rapper Offset. Roz produced and co-directed the Peabody award winning documentary Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters. She is an honorary inductee in the Jesuit honor society, Alpha Sigma Nu and a recipient of the 2025 Exemplary Women in Dance in L.A. award. Roz is a professor at Loyola Marymount University and holds dance degrees from SUNY Purchase (BFA) and Hollins University (MFA). She is represented by Bloc L.A.







#### **PROGRAM NOTE**

Simulacra, choreographed by Megan Paradowski in collaboration with artist Heidi Ross and composer Ian Wellman, draws from Jean Baudrillard's concept of the simulacrum to investigate how control, violence, and tenderness are endlessly staged, cycled, and consumed.

At its center is an ice sculpture made of beet juice, suspended from the rafters and slowly melting onto the white stage below. Embedded microphones channeled the sounds of its dissolution into Wellman's immersive drone score, turning dripping into sonic rhythm, ritual, and temporal witness. Six dancers, draped in handwoven garments, move through cycles of stillness, rupture, and fragile cooperation — enacting and resisting patterns of power, care, and survival.

Simulacra situates the body as both battleground and archive, a site where trauma, rhythm, breath, and care converge. The work is a metaphor and mirror for our time, exploring the endurance of truth, the reclamation of consciousness, and the possibilities for collective care amidst systemic collapse. In a world where suffering is both televised and ignored, and where control is maintained by disorientation, Simulacra insists on embodied memory.

Because the body may be the last site of reality.

Because consciousness is an act of rebellion.

-Megan Paradowski

#### Music

Original score by Ian Wellman, created with field recordings of the ice sculpture



#### **MEGAN PARADOWSKI**



**HEIDI ROSS** - Sculptor/Artist

Heidi Ross is a private chef and multidisciplinary performing artist who plays at the intersection of taste, movement, and sound. Using food as her primary medium, Ross creates immersive and sensuous performances that center curiosity and embodiment. Her conceptual and somatic approach to cooking emphasizes the ritualistic and communal nature of eating while working to dissolve hierarchies of experience, organically weaving together multiple creative modalities into potent moments of collective world-building.





IAN WELLMAN - Composer

Ian Wellman is a sound artist and composer based in Pasadena, CA. Informed by study of bioacoustics, his work uses field sound and tape-loop compositions to create introspective narratives that emphasize vibrational overlaps between natural and built environments.

Wellman's recordings have been published by Room40, Ash International, Dragon's Eye Recordings, Luminous Drift, and Industrial Coast. Wellman's work has been mentioned in Bandcamp Daily, The Wire, A Closer Listen, and Foxy Digitalis. He has performed at 2220 Arts and Archives, The Broad, Zebulon, Human Resources, Land and Sea (Oakland), The Chapel (Seattle), and High Water Mark (Portland, OR). He has contributed to recordings from Deru and Xiu Xiu, and he is currently a resident DJ on dublab.



#### **MEGAN PARADOWSKI**



GABRIELLE KRAUS - Costume Designer

Gabrielle Kraus is a Chicago-based designer with a current emphasis on knitwear. A craft that she explores through various fibers and textural techniques. A formal education in design has allowed for the experimentation of textile art as a medium. Working on projects such as costume design for Tyla's BET Award performance and having work printed in publications such as Flaunt Magazine. Gabrielle works to combine technical practices with innovative and conceptual ideas through her design.

#### MEGAN PARADOWSKI



CALEB WILDMAN - Lighting Designer for both Simulacra and Womanland

Caleb Wildman is a lighting designer and programmer working all over California and beyond. He enjoys working on all types of live entertainment, including theatre, dance, and themed experiences. His design credits include Congress X at LA Dance Project, The International Women's Day Dance Festival 2025 with Mashup Dance (Los Angeles, CA), Grease with Cabrillo Stage (Aptos, CA), The Mortician's Wife with OC-Centric New Play Festival (Orange, CA), Killing Game with Cal State Northridge's Theater Department (Northridge, CA), and every single LAUNCH:LA with LA Dance Project since 2022! Current: master electrician/programmer for the Five Nights at Freddy's maze at Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Hollywood. For more: calebwildman.com

#### **MEGAN PARADOWSKI**



**JESSY CRIST - Dancer** 

Jessy Crist (she/they), from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, began her formal dance training at the age of 15 at Capital Area School for the Arts. Jessy graduated Cum Laude with a BFA in Dance Performance from Montclair State University in 2019. Jessy has worked professionally with Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Shcraiber, Alan Lucien Øyen, Dimitri Chamblas, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance Company (Las Cruces, NM), and VOID Movement Project (Turkey). They joined LA Dance Project in 2022 as a guest artist. As a freelance artist, Jessy premiered her solo work VAMP for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, and has been an artist in residence at Moulin/Belle (France), and Keshet Dance Center (Albuquerque, NM).



### MEGAN PARADOWSKI



**MADDIE LACAMBRA - Dancer** 

Maddie Lacambra is a Los Angeles-based multi-disciplinary artist whose work spans performance, choreography, and education. With a BFA in Dance Performance from Chapman University, Maddie brings a rich, experimental approach to every creative endeavor. As a triple threat performer and creator, Maddie consistently pushes artistic boundaries through a lens of curiosity and playful experimentation. Her work spans stage and screen, from musical theater to contemporary dance, commercial entertainment to avant-garde performance.

Her diverse performance background includes work with innovative contemporary companies such as Micaela Taylor's TL Collective, Empara, MashUp Contemporary Dance, and Justin Giles' SoulEscape. She has collaborated with visionary choreographers including Jon, Rua, Dana Wilson, Monika Smith, Cedric Dodd, and Riley Roberts, while developing her own creative voice through choreography and direction. Her international training experiences in Israel with Batsheva Dance Company, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance, and Vertigo Dance Company have deeply influenced her artistic perspective.

When not in the studio, you'll find her outside in nature, treasure hunting for vintage gems, or sharing a meal with friends. Maddie is currently represented by Go 2 Talent Agency.





**TRAVIS LIM** - Dancer

Born and raised in Vancouver, Canada, Travis Lim's passion for dance led him to various avenues of artistic expression as a dancer, choreographer, and educator. Starting his journey as a competitive Hip Hop dancer, Travis's early career was highlighted with TV appearances on NBC's World of Dance, Canada's Got Talent, and hosting his own 13 episode show Hip Hop with Travis Lim on Canadian Broadcasting Networks. Since then, Travis has graduated with a B.A in Dance from UCLA and has pursued dance professionally in Los Angeles working on projects in Film & Television, Live Performances, and Music Videos. His latest projects include live performances at the Rose Parade and Kids Choice Awards, as well as credits on projects like A Week Away: The Series, and Lego's newest live action musical.



#### **MEGAN PARADOWSKI**



**NADIA MARYAM - Dancer** 

Nadia Maryam is a 2020 graduate of CalArts. Under the umbrella of commercial and concert work alike, she works as a performer, choreographer, filmmaker and collaborator in order to fulfill her interest in exploring the use of the body as a personal archive.

Nadia has 18+ years of professional dance training & work. She has performed in LA Opera's rendition of *Tannhauser* choreographed by Aszure Barton, and has enjoyed performing works by renowned artists Alvin Ailey, Ohad Naharin & Jiri Kylian. In 2019, Nadia developed & produced her first choreographic work in collaboration with Kayla Aguila that's since been awarded by The Hammer Museum for its quality. In 2022, Nadia concluded her first international tour as a background dancer for Latin musician, Kali Uchis. In 2023, Nadia was featured in Halle Bailey's music video *Angel*. And most recently, Nadia was featured as Odette in LA Phil's 2024 rendition of Swan Lake.



#### **MEGAN PARADOWSKI**



**JONAH TRAN - Dancer** 

Originally from Mustang, Oklahoma, Jonah Tran is a queer, Vietnamese American artist whose love for dance was born out of finding joy in watching his family members dance and finding his own fulfillment in movement.

Jonah, a current freelance artist, recently earned his BFA in Dance at the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, which provided him the opportunity to create true relationships with peers and learn from a variety of rich perspectives. While at USC Kaufman, he had the privilege of performing works by acclaimed choreographers such as Kyle Abraham, Peter Chu, Bret Easterling, Roderick George, d. Sabela grimes, Jiří Kylián, and Micaela Taylor.

Looking ahead, he strives to create a space for artists to come together and create work that is free of judgment and pressure to display a product. Rather, he hopes to focus on communal sharing, enjoying the process of creation rooted in pure joy.



#### **MEGAN PARADOWSKI**



**MARCO VEGA - Dancer** 

Marco Vega is a freelance dancer based out of New York City. He received a BFA in Dance Performance and a BA in Education Sciences from the University of California, Irvine. Additional training includes the Whim W'him Summer and Winter Intensives under the direction of Olivier Wevers and Karl Watson, the GALLIM Summer Intensive as an Emerging Artist Scholar under the direction of Andrea Miller, and the BEMOVING Summer Dance Program under the direction of Bret Easterling. In Fall 2021, he joined Backhausdance, completing three seasons, and had the opportunity to originate roles in works by Ching Ching Wong, Alice Klock and Florian Lochner, Peter Chu, and Amanda Kay White. Most recently, he was a Guest Artist with Boca Tuya under the direction of Omar Román de Jesús. Marco is humbled and elated to be working Empara this fall.



### **Special Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to fabricator Ryan Ross for helping us hang the sculpture safely, and to the LADP team for providing such a supportive and empowering residency experience.





#### **PROGRAM NOTE**

Womanland is a rumination on the land(scape) of woman(hood), from the political and public to the personal and private. The roots of the piece go back many years to my research of the term, "tomboy" - a term I was called throughout my childhood, at times feeling to me like an empowering identity and at other times like a pejorative that denied me a place as a feminine being. My research of "tomboy," led me to the works of feminist writers like Lisa Selin Davis, Adrienne Marie Brown, Iris Marion Young, Irene Claremont de Castilleja, Katherine McKittrick, Angela Davis, and bell hooks, and eventually deeply into the life of abolitionist, soldier, spy, and suffragist, Harriet Tubman. The themes in "Womanland" are especially influenced by bell hooks' views on love as an antidote to domination, by Angela Davis's ideas about the similarities between the artist and the abolitionist, and by Adrienne Marie Brown's ideas that women's political equality begins in the depths of intimate relationships.



### WOMANLAND

#### **ROSALYNDE LEBLANC**

#### **RUN OF SHOW**

#### **Prologue**

Performed by: Kevin Carpio, Madeleine Crowley, Sadie Crystal, Jordan Diamond, Emily Keller, Sydney Latimer, Camilla Machado, Kristine Pohle

Music: #bfbfbf (12:20:00pm - 05:07:53pm) by Jun Futamata

#### Chapter I: Jungle

Performed by: Kevin Carpio, Madeleine Crowley, Sadie Crystal, Jordan Diamond, Emily Keller, Sydney Latimer, Camilla Machado, Kristine Pohle Music: Fireman by Ruth Barrett & Jon Wygens

#### Chapter II: Hill

Performed by: Rosalynde LeBlanc Music: Opening by Essie Jain Movement material for Hill was developed with McNair Scholar, Carlin McQueen, class of '27, as part of LMU's Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

#### Chapter III: Delta

Performed by: Camila Arana, Marissa Brown, Eliza Loran, Chelsea Roquero

Music: Drumline Cadences by the LSU Tiger Marching Band

### Chapter IV: Desert

Performed by: Camila Arana, Eliza Loran, Chelsea Roquero Music: Walking and Falling and It Tango by Laurie Anderson

### Chapter V: Archipelago

Performed by: Marissa Brown, Rosalynde LeBlanc Sound score by Eric Mason



### WOMANLAND

#### **ROSALYNDE LEBLANC**

#### Chapter VI: Volcano

For T.S.

Performed by: Camila Arana, Marissa Brown, Eliza Loran,

Chelsea Roquero

Music: Bone Music by Pamela Z

Voiceover written by: Rosalynde LeBlanc Voiceover performed by: Andrea Odinov

#### Chapter VII: Cove

Performed by: Camila Arana, Marissa Brown, Eliza Loran,

Chelsea Roquero

Music: Bright Red by Laurie Anderson

### **Epilogue**

Performed by: Rosalynde LeBlanc Music: Heliopause by Anne Müller Prop Construction: Johnny Burton

#### **Additional Bibliography:**

Bradford, Sarah Hopkins. Scenes in the Life of Harriet Tubman. Auburn, N.Y., 1869

Clinton, Catherine. Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom. Little, Brown and Co., 2004

Hartman, Saidiya. "The Anarchy of Colored Girls Assembled in a Riotous Manner." The South Atlantic Quarterly. Duke University Press, 2018

Lee, Joseph; Marchiano, Lisa; Stewart, Deb hosts. "Humanizing the Hero." This Jungian Life (podcast). Nov 10, 2021.

National Museum of African American History and Culture: United States Colored Troops during the Civil War, Smithsonian

Ott, Tanya; Lantham, Tanner. Following Harriet (podcast)



#### MICHAEL COLE - Video Décor

Michael Cole is a motion designer, choreographer, and AI filmmaker whose work explores the intersection of memory, rhythm, and identity. A longtime senior designer at NBC News and former performer with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Cole now channels his creative curiosity into hybrid works that fuse human movement with machinegenerated imagery. *My Science Fiction Twin* is his latest experiment in emotionally driven, visually experimental storytelling.





**CAMILLA ARANA - Principal Dancer** 

Camila Arana (she/her) is a queer, Cuban-American choreographer, movement director, and dancer originally from Miami, FL where she graduated from New World School of the Arts/ University of Florida with a BFA in Dance Performance. She's worked on tours, music videos and editorial shoots, helping bring creative ideas to life while incorporating abstract and dynamic movement. Camila has worked with dance companies like Ate9 Dance Company, Mike Tyus & Co., Clairobscur Dance Company, and Acts of Matter. Some examples of music artists she's worked with are Grammy-winning, Miley Cyrus and Kali Uchis, Foster the People, and Alessia Cara. She's modeled and movement directed for brands such as Ralph Lauren, Bowflex, Apple, and Adidas. Aside from her dance career, she's a certified personal trainer, pilates instructor and stretch therapist.





MARISSA BROWN - Principal Dancer

Marissa Brown is a multidisciplinary artist whose primary language comes from movement of the body. She has her BFA in performance and choreography from University of California Irvine and MFA from California Institute of the Arts. Brown currently performs with Dimitri Chamblas. In the past she was a dancer with LA Dance Project, Benjamin Millipied's company, and before that she performed in Ivo Van Hove's rendition of West Side Story Broadway. She has had the pleasure to work with choreographers and companies such as Donald Mckayle, Benjamin Levy, Brice Mousset, Randy James, Sharp & Fine, The Park Avenue Armory, Phantom Limb Company, Alexandra Pirici, Patricia Norowol Dance Theatre, Xu Zhen, Madeline Hollander and Alexis Blake.





**ELIZA LORAN** - Principal Dancer

Eliza Loran is a performer, movement artist, and choreographer in Los Angeles, CA with a focus in improvisation. Born and raised in the California Bay Area, Eliza started her training as a part of the ODC Dance youth company in San Francisco. She continued her artistic journey at California State University Long Beach, where she graduated with a BFA in Dance in the Spring of 2023. In May 2024, Eliza, alongside Scout Nankin, co-founded GĒR Collective, a queer, movement based collective. GĒR premiered their first multimedia evening length work, *Gasket*, at Highways Performance Space is October of 2024.



**CHELSEA ROQUERO - Principal Dancer** 

Chelsea Roquero (she/her), born in Escondido, CA, is a second generation Filipina-American dance artist & choreographer based in LA. She received her dance training from San Diego Mesa College & her BA in Dance from CSULB (2019).

She has worked with companies such as Whyteberg, Invertigo Dance Theatre, Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Company & Rosanna Gamson World Wide Dance. As well as Independent choreographers Jessie Lee Thorne for Austin P. Mckenzie, Cody Potter for AJ Lambert, JM Rodriguez for The Marias, Jay Carlon, Melissa Schade, Camila Arana, Genna Moroni, Charissa Kroeger, & Kate Mason. She later cofounded hasten dance (2022-2025), a dance theatre duo.

You can find Chelsea most of her days at Stomping Ground L.A., where she is a founding member of the team & the Youth Scholarship Mentor!



#### **CHORUS - Dancers**

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, **Jordan Diamond** is a dancer, choreographer, and creative based in Los Angeles.

**Kristine Pohle**, originally from Seattle, is a versatile performer, choreographer, and teacher.

From South San Francisco, **Kev** is a movement director, choreographer, and dancer based in Los Angeles.

Originally from Los Angeles, **Camilla** is a performer, choreographer, and marketing creative in L.A.

**Madeleine**, originally from Bloomington, Indiana, is a dancer, choreographer, and performer pursuing her career as an artist in Los Angeles.

**Sadie** is a lover of the arts, performer and aspiring dance educator based in Los Angeles.

**Emily Keller** is a Los Angeles based dancer and yoga instructor.

Originally from Las Vegas, **Sydney Latimer** is a dancer and choreographer from L.A.



#### **Special Acknowledgements**

Womanland was supported, in part, by the College of Communication & Fine Arts, Loyola Marymount University.

Special thanks to Dr. Bryant Keith Alexander, Charissa Kroeger, Taryn Vander Hoop, Leon Wiebers, Juliet Szatko, Carlin McQueen, the LMU Dance Department, Tammie Merhab-Chavez and the LMU Costume Department, Pamela Z, Starkland, and Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, specifically Angel, Oscar, and Guillermo.

Special thanks to the staff of L.A. Dance Project for making this work possible.

Thank you to Dr. Barry Miller for the ideas and emotional fortitude.

Thank you to my sons, Rio and Mateo, for always putting up with the odd and consuming life of the artist-parent.





### LAUNCH:LA

#### **About LAUNCH:LA**

Founded in 2021, LAUNCH:LA is a residency program aimed at supporting Los Angeles's emerging dance makers by lifting the economic burden that goes into the creation of a new work. Our selected artists are provided the space, time, monetary support, and platform to have their work seen and celebrated by a wider audience. Designed for early-career, L.A.-based dance-centered artists, applicants from all backgrounds, disciplines, and abilities are encouraged to apply, particularly those from groups historically underrepresented in the space.

Each LAUNCH:LA artist receives three weeks of rehearsal space to create new dance-centered work on their own dancers and collaborators that is presented to audiences in LADP's performance theater at the culmination of the residency.

LAUNCH:LA Program Director, Rachelle Rafailedes Mucha

All photography Skye Schmidt Varga for L.A. Dance Project



### L.A. DANCE PROJECT

#### **LAUNCH: LA Production Crew**

LADP STAFF | Rachelle Rafailedes Mucha + Chris Tynan +
Alisa Wyman + Alice Mathis
STAGE MANAGER | Zaira Paredes-Villegas
LIGHTING DESIGNER + TECHNICAL DIRECTOR | Caleb Wildman
PRODUCTION CREW | Alexander Lemus
SECURITY | Matthew Tiu
FRONT OF HOUSE | Hope Spears, Mia Moraru, Audrey Sides

#### L.A. DANCE PROJECT Team

Artistic Director Benjamin Millepied

Associate Artistic Director Sebastien Marcovici

Director of Legal & Business Affairs Christopher Macdougall

Interim Director of Development Peter Forbes McDowell

Director of Foundation & Government Grants Rachelle Rafailedes Mucha

Director of Communications Alice Mathis

Director of Operations & Technology Chris Tynan

Director of Production Nathan Shreeve-Moon

Production & Tour Manager Alisa Wyman

Director of Artist Residency Program Rachelle Rafailedes Mucha



### L.A. DANCE PROJECT

#### **About L.A. DANCE PROJECT**

L.A. Dance Project is a non-profit dance company under the Artistic Direction of Benjamin Millepied. Founded in 2012, we opened the doors to our studio and performance space in Los Angeles' downtown arts district in 2017.

L.A Dance Project is dedicated to the pursuit of artistic innovation and excellence in the realm of contemporary dance. Our mission is to explore the boundaries of movement, creativity, and expression. Through experimentation and collaboration, we strive to create captivating performances that challenge, provoke, and inspire audiences worldwide. Grounded in a commitment to artistic integrity and authenticity, we aim to cultivate a culture of curiosity, openness, and growth within our company and beyond. With humility and passion, we seek to contribute to the evolution of dance as a dynamic and transformative art form, enriching lives and fostering connections across cultures and communities.

As a non-profit, philanthropic contributions account for a significant portion of our annual operating budget. When you join our community of supporters, your gift helps us to commission new work and remount choreographic masterpieces, foster local emerging artists, and educate young dancers from LA's most economically underresourced communities.

## We couldn't do it without you, make your 100% tax deductible donation today!

Want to get more for your gift? **Sign up as an LADP member** or join our Director's Circle and receive exclusive discounts, invitations to special events, advance ticket sales, insider news, and more.