

RIPENING

PRESENTS

Dawn of the Wylding

CREATED, CHOREOGRAPHED & DIRECTED BY

VANESSA WALTERS

Actor's script co-written by Vanessa Walters, Tara O'Con and Trevor Vaughn
Choreography created in collaboration with the performers

Alexandra Berger, Alicia Dellimore, Gwendolyn Gussman, Joey Kipp, Tara O'Con, Trevor Vaughn, Vanessa Walters, Michelle Yard, Lucy Struever York, and Omar Zubair.

Video by Brian Gonzalez/TAXIPLASM

Costumes by David Quinn

Makeup design by Jodi King

Sound design by Omar Zubair

Lighting design by Alex Taylor

Live feed video by George Del Barrio

Installation by Nicholas Papadakis with Valentina Gallup,

Maggie Heath & Ava Handley

Props by Valentina Gallup

Dramaturgy by Kyle McCarthy

Stage Managed by Bleu Zephra Santiago

Production Consultant: Caitlin Scranton

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

Dawn of the Wylding is my ode to the natural world, to wild animals, and to the wildness within us. It is also a call for the recognition of sovereignty among all marginalized beings.

PROGRAM

Pre-show Installation features works by Nicholas Papadakis, with collected items.
Additional works by Valentina Gallup and Ava Handley
Props + Scenics by Valentina Gallup with Maggie Heath
Installation arrangement and lighting by Maggie Heath
Art direction and creation of the installation placards by Ava Handley

Opening Video - ***Venom & Vine***

Music by Ryan Soper

Libretto by Vanessa Walters, the dancers, and dramaturg Kyle McCarthy, recorded by Madison Krekel with additional Wyld Womyn voices Alicia Dellimore, Gwendolyn Gussman, Michelle Yard, and Vanessa Walters.

*Special thanks to Omar Zubair for mixing/arranging the libretto and Peter Fox for recording additional voices

Dawn of the Wylding

Sound Design and Composition by Omar Zubair

Additional music: Sila by Halluci Nation with Tanya Tagaq and Uja by Tanya Tagaq

Video interlude - ***The Midwife***

Music by Peter Salett

Narration written by Vanessa Walters with Kyle McCarthy, recording and voice by Brian Gonzalez/TAXIPLASM.

Top Story Broadcast written by Elizabeth Larison, recorded by Max Samuels

CREATIVE TEAM

VANESSA WALTERS is a Brooklyn-based choreographer, director, filmmaker, and performing artist making work since 2001. Her ongoing multimedia project *Ripening* has been featured at Lincoln Center, Tribeca Film Festival, Triskelion Arts, NADA Art Fair/Art Basel, Galapagos Art Space, FLICfest Dance Festival, and others.

Vanessa was the show choreographer for all three seasons of TruTV's "At Home with Amy Sedaris." She choreographed and performed in several films and videos with artist/director Marcel Dzama, most notably "Une Danse des Bouffons" and NYCB video installation at Lincoln Center (2016); and recently, "Trip to the Moon (For Lorca)". Throughout 2016 and 2017, Walters performed on tour with gypsy punk band Gogol Bordello.

From 2001 to 2012, Walters was lead choreographer/dancer for Fischerspooner, a performance group combining pop entertainment with high art, performing at London's Royal Festival Hall, Hammerstein Ballroom, NYC's Deitch Projects, MOCA LA, and the Pompidou Center, amongst others, with TV appearances on Top of the Pops, The Jimmy Kimmel Show, and The Carson Daly Show. The Fischerspooner production *Between Worlds* was created in collaboration with The Wooster Group and toured internationally.

Other choreography and performance credits include collaborations with Kate Mueth and the Neopolitical Cowgirls, Wendy Osserman, Sarah Small, Andrew Schneider, and Nicole Wolcott in addition to commercial work for MTV promo spots and national commercials.

BRIAN C. GONZALEZ is a Queer Chicano filmmaker, interdisciplinary artist, and educator working in a variety of mediums including video art, immersive installation, and performance, all under the artistic pseudonym TAXIPLASM.

His film and video work has shown in Times Square (Midnight Moment), Sundance Film Festival, Fotografiska Museum, Gasteig München, United Nations, Art Basel Miami Beach, NADA Art Fair, Dubai Design Week, Dance On Camera, The David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, along with residencies

for multimedia performance at The Robert Wilson Watermill Center, The Standard, and the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. He has most recently been awarded the Queer!Art Fellowship for Film developing his first narrative feature film, entitled "Where The Fire Follows".

He has taught internationally at Princeton University, The New School, Stanford University and more. Currently he is a professor in Storytelling and Narrative Arts at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and at the Berklee College of Music in Live Experience Design.

JODI KING has been transforming characters in film and television for the last ten years. She has collaborated with Vanessa on the diverse range of characters of Ripening since the beginning. www.jodikingmakeup.com

DAVID QUINN is a fashion and costume designer working in a variety of mediums from theatre, dance, and film to burlesque and red carpets. Quinn's theatre work has appeared in numerous traditional and non-traditional venues across America and internationally. In 2017 his work on *Jack* was described as "jaw dropping" (*Travelance*) and "glorious" (*Time Out NY*). In 2022 his costumes for *Dick Rivington* were hailed as "brilliantly inventive" by the *NY Times*. Quinn has designed dance costumes in collaboration with NYC based choreographers and soloists including The Martha Graham Company, Merce Cunningham, and Stanley Love. *Dance View Times* said, "Quinn is cutting and draping and colouring the most beautiful dance costumes to be found in New York."

Quinn's wide-ranging group of collaborators has recently included artists such as the iconic drag queen The Lady Bunny. Music legend Debbie Harry - creating her mirrored shroud for Coachella. Many red carpet and press event looks for Bridget Everett (HBO - *Somebody Somewhere*). Also, several incredible pieces for performance artist Darrel Thorne. Quinn's work has appeared in a variety of publications and has been immortalized in several books and films.

Recently, Quinn designed the costumes for the Heartbeat Opera's production of *The Golden Cock*. His designs will also be featured in the Panto production of *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Abrons Art Center opening December 2nd. Quinn is

thrilled to be collaborating once again with Vanessa on her epic journey with her epic vision. Follow on Instagram @quinindustry

After writing his first book *Disorientation Therapy* in 2007, **OMAR ZUBAIR** found that the closer to the core of being he looked, the more blurry it became; so, he began to listen to it, instead. And ever since, listening has become his primary compositional technique — whether creating a theatrical score with The Wooster Group or building a sound installation for a national historic landmark, whether sound designing for a blind choreographer so that she can continually orient toward the audience or improvising with a dance class at Julliard to coax authentic movement out of each student, whether making music to help people grieve at a funeral or celebrate at a wedding. He lets the ear hear twice before acting once. He has helped found composer collectives across multiple countries in order to promote radical empathy and empower active listening. Some places his work has been presented are Le Grand Palais & Le Centre Pompidou in Paris, The Guggenheim and Lincoln Center in New York, The Disney Concert Hall and Young Projects in Los Angeles, SESC Pompeia in Brazil, and DeSingel Art City in Belgium.

ALEX TAYLOR has worked as a lighting designer and lighting supervisor in New York and abroad since 2008. As lighting designer his recent projects include *when the blossom passes, what remains?* (Holdtight), *Warriors* (Johnny Butler), and *Get Back! Summer Concert Series* (St. Ann's Warehouse). Alex was the lighting supervisor for numerous productions including *Monsoon Wedding*, *Oklahoma!*, *A 24-Decade History of Popular Music*, *Hamilton*, *Fun Home*, and *Shakespeare in The Park*. Alex is currently the lighting designer for the Seawell Ballroom in Denver, Colorado. He is thrilled to be a part of this amazingly Wyld team!

Born 1976 in New York City and raised with the global immigrant community of Queens, **GEORGE DEL BARRIO** is the Founding Creative Director × Executive Producer of [The Vanderbilt Republic](#) (est. 2008) & [MIDHEAVEN Network + Studio](#) (est. 2020), as well as Creative Director × Executive Producer at [Universe City NYC](#) (2021-present) & [Space for Arts](#) (2023-).

As a 1st-generation American and all-media Creative/ Technical Director deeply versed in photographic physics, immersive curatorial design, and all phases of production, Del Barrio's practice is concentrated on archetype expansion. Every site response is architected by a resolute humanism; every invention, design, & transformation is in search of duende — meaning is not a discovery, it is a creation. Clients include The Keith Haring Foundation, Rutgers University, Textile Arts Center, MADERA, On The Revel, PALISSIMO Company, Cardistry-Con & the dawning sunlight of an awakened mind.

AVA HANDLEY, Ava's lifelong practice lies at the nexus of art and natural science. A forever student of her surroundings, she works in a variety of mediums and subjects that comfortably include concept art, comics, ecological advocacy, taxidermy, skeleton cleaning and science visibility. Her primary passions are exploring comparative anatomy, designing creatures, and the development of the study of natural history, guiding her to a BFA in Illustration at Rhode Island School of Design with a concentration in Nature, Culture and Sustainability Studies. She is happiest researching intensely obscure topics, cooking foraged goods and indulging in horror movies.

MAGGIE HEATH is a production designer and manager located in NYC. They received a BFA from Portland State University, focusing in sculpture; though found a creative home in theaters and with dancers. Recent designs include: Will Rawls, [siccer] (2023); Marcel Dzama, To Live on the Moon (For Lorca) (2023); Portland Experimental Theatre Ensemble, Cardiac Organ (2023); SUN HAN GUILD, EARTH IRIDESCENCE / SORROW CHURN; Linda Austin + Allie Hankins, ll /ə 'sɪŋgəl pɪŋk klaʊd/ (2022).

NICHOLAS PAPADAKIS is a Brooklyn-based artist and designer. He received a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design where he pursued an interdisciplinary fine arts education (steeped in a family tradition of science, engineering, art restoration, and antique dealing). His artworks have been exhibited in galleries, museums, and site-specific locations internationally. Nicholas's primary passion is in the never-ending pursuit of experimental, process-oriented paintings. He has developed a unique painting style that exposes the fractal qualities of rare, powdered pigments - through which he explores the language of Earth's physical and organic properties - and expresses

the elegant, self-organizing principles of nature. His current artworks explore concepts of extinction, regeneration, and sustainability of the human experience.

Nicholas's skills as a multi-faceted arts professional have earned the attention of diverse commercial and collaborative interests as well, including: designer of experiential spaces, curator of art exhibitions & publications, designer of luxury products, commissions for national ad campaigns, graphic branding for start-ups, co-creator of in-house design studios, and user-interface consultant for Adobe After Effects.

Nicholas has been collaborating with Vanessa Walters on RIPENING since its inception: providing artwork, art direction, and prop sourcing for many of its incarnations.

KYLE MCCARTHY is the author of the novel *Everyone Knows How Much I Love You*. She teaches in the creative writing program at Oberlin College.

PERFORMERS

As a dancer, **ALEXANDRA BERGER** has worked professionally in New York since completing her BFA at The New School in 2003. She has had the privilege of dancing for and with, among others, Pat Catterson, Ellen Cornfield, Merce Cunningham (RUG 2007), Douglas Dunn, Rachel Monosov (Venice Biennale 2017), Roz Newman, Sally Silvers, Dásan Týnek, Vanessa Walters, and Matthew Westerby. *Huffington Post* named her performance in Týnek's *Logbook* as one of the best performances of 2016, and she has had the privilege of touring to myriad venues throughout the U.S. and abroad. She has been a member of the faculty for adult classes at the Mark Morris Dance Center since 2007 and is also an authorized teacher of Cunningham Technique® with the Cunningham Trust. A certified practitioner of the **Gyrotonic Expansion System®** since 2005, Alexandra earned her MSW from Fordham GSS in 2023 and is licensed in New York State. Her time at Fordham included internships with AHRC/NYC and the United Nations. With interests varying from military and indigenous populations to dancers and elite athletes, as well as the many-layered impacts of climate change, Alexandra is most drawn to our shared human experience. She

continues to investigate how the arts can intersect with other fields to improve our systems for a healthier and more inclusive society. www.fullcirclebk.com

GWENDOLYN GUSSMAN is a performing artist, choreographer, teacher, and creative producer based between New York City and Denver. She is the founder and artistic director of interdisciplinary performance company, HOLDTIGHT. Her performance career has spanned contracts and collaborations with artists/companies including Shen Wei Dance Arts, Sean Curran, Cherylyn Lavagnino, dir. Daniel Fish, comedian Amy Sedaris, Vanessa Walters/RIPENING, Control Group Productions, Roger C. Jeffrey, Heidi Latsky, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, and others. Gussman's work has been presented by The Cell Theatre (NY), National Sawdust (NY), The Gallery Players (NY), Carroll Hall (NY), Seaside Dance Festival (FL), Nimbus DanceWorks Offline Series (NJ), Denver School of the Arts, and others. Gussman holds a BFA in Dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Gwendolyn has worked with Ripening since 2018 and she is thrilled to be part of Dawn of the Wylding!

JOEY KIPP (he/him/his) is an Afro-Brazilian, Latinx, Asian, and Queer dance artist, writer, actor, born in Brazil and raised in Bay Area, California. He received a BA in both Biology and Dance from Marymount Manhattan College and was a scholarship student at The Merce Cunningham School. As a dancer, actor, and singer Joey has worked in opera, downtown dance, experimental theater, commercial theater, and TV/FILM. Joey is a collaborator with Pioneers Go East as a performer, writer, and curator. He has worked with Heather Kravas, Heidi Latsky Dance, Steven Hoggett, Yasmine Lee, David Byrne, David Neumann, Bill T. Jones, Cat Galasso, Hollis Bartlett, and Syamara Johnson. Joey choreographed *The Three Penny Opera* at NYU Tisch w/ direction by Ash Tata and worked on the pre-production for the *SWEENEY TODD* 2023 BWAY revival w/ Steven Hoggett, Chelsea Arce, and Thomas Kail. He recently performed in the forgotten opera *THE SILENT WOMAN* at SUMMERCAP. Joey has been featured in *The NY Times* and their online project *Speaking in Dance* for his work with Biba Bell, Stacy Grossfield, and Jody Oberfelder. Joey has been featured in *DANCE* magazine and will be showing a solo work based on his relationship with Lorraine Hansberry's ghost at The CENTER in Chelsea this January as a part of the OUT-FRONT! FESTIVAL. To all the Wyld Womxn/anyone

who has been othered/outraged/outcast/too tired to be outraged we dance this piece in honor of you.

Brooklyn native **MICHELLE YARD** stands firmly on her Caribbean foundation. Ms. Yard began working with Vanessa Walters in 2017. To date, Yard has collaborated on several Ripening projects: RIPENING: The Gate 2017 VR film, RIPENING: Seedlings 2018 performed at Triskelion Arts, RIPENING: Ancient Fury 2019. She is thrilled to be collaborating on Vanessa's latest work, RIPENING: Dawn of the Wylding. Before becoming a part of the Ripening universe, Ms. Yard was a member of the Mark Morris Dance Group, where she enjoyed an illustrious twenty-year career. Yard also dances for Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group, starting in 2017 and continuing to the present. When not dancing, she is supporting artists administratively as a Program Manager with NCCAkron, and works with Pomegranate Arts and The Blanket on a freelance basis. a mis padres, gracias.

ALICIA C. DELIMORE is a "Diluted Vincy" dance and healing artist. Dance serves Alicia as an anchor- the grounding medium that blossomed the passions of yoga, fitness, nutrition, energetic healing, and massage therapy. Alicia found her artistic voice through dance improvisation and composition. Once concerned about performing the "right" way, for the "right" reasons and "right" people, Alicia practices letting go of others' limitations & truths by listening to her inner voice. In both career and life, she's guided by following her desires and excitement. Her work in both dance and wellness intends to share and/or shift perspective: aliciadellimore.com.

Raised in Baltimore, **LUCY YORK STRUEVER** was an original cast member of Sleep No More in NYC; performed in the Tony-winning Broadway revival of "Angels in America" directed by Marianne Elliot; and performed in Lin-Manuel Miranda's directorial debut "Tick Tick...Boom". She co-wrote and co-directed the animated short film "Death and the Lady" which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and was selected for the New Yorker's Screening Room series. She has a BA in Economics and beyond writing/performing has worked as a graduate admissions tutor and in real estate.

TARA O'CON is an actor, director, and dancer with well over a decade of experience in immersive and site-specific theater- including original cast collaborations with Third Rail Projects, *Then She Fell* (Alice), *The Grand Paradise* (Aqua Twin Girl), and *Ghost Light* (Victorian Woman); and Alexander Wright's, *The Great Gatsby Immersive Show* (Off- Broadway, Resident Director). She is also a proud graduate of the Terry Knickerbocker Studio Meisner Acting Conservatory Program. She sends huge love and gratitude to Vanessa and her Wyld creative team. taracon.com

TREVOR VAUGHN is an actor, musician, regenerative entrepreneur and proud University of North Carolina School of The Arts BFA Acting graduate. Singer/Songwriter with Reserved For Rondee, Lost Dog Constellation, 3 Sativas and creative recording studio The Brooklyn Pearl in DUMBO. He has the profound privilege of being creative + life partner of Vanessa Walters. In this ongoing multimedia RIPENING endeavor Trevor has played Big Hap/Mercury in *She-Yeti's Dream* (2016), as well as SnugglePot in *Ripening-Seedlings* (2018). Now it's 3x's the charm as research scientist, Matty Attenforough. When not plotting breakthrough whole systems feasibility studies for Regenerative Agriculture, Trevor has been seen square dancing and waddling as a penguin in "At Home With Amy Sedaris" or parading about masked or hooded in Marcel Dzama's past 2 films. To know Vanessa is joy, to work with her- wyld adventure, to love her-profound. This performance is dedicated to the Sargent John Kaleb Cherry- A Purple Heart and life long friend..

PRODUCTION

BLEU ZEPHRA SANTIAGO (pronouns: they/them) is a Jack of All Trades in the theater and very excited to be joining Dawn of The Wylding. Some of their credits include: Boombbox Burlesque: a Hip Hop Burlesque Festival, SM (Signature Theater, 2023); Dia Y Noche, ASM (Labyrinth, 2023); Share Sentences, ASM (HOTM, 2022); high functioning x.0, SM (HERE, 2022); GUMIHO, SM (moxiearts, 2022); Micro-face: a podcast musical, SM (Planet Money x NPR, 2022); In the Name of the Mother Tree, PSM (Double Edge Theater, 2021); Mad Deep BK: QPOC Drag Kings and Burlesque show, SM (The

Cell Theater, 2021); *Girl of Glass*, SM (American Theatre of Actors, 2018); *Jack of Cups*, PSM (The Flea, 2018); *Infinite Love Party*, SM (The Bushwick Starr, 2018).

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All donations are *greatly* appreciated, thank you for supporting the arts!

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ripeningnyc.com