

MFA Thesis

Concert

This Could Be A Portal

By Ella-Gabriel Mason

*Sponsored by the Rose Vernick Fund and the
Temple University General Activities Fund*

Friday, November 18, 2022 • 7:30 PM
Also livestreamed at [youtube.com/boyercollege](https://www.youtube.com/boyercollege)
Conwell Dance Theater, 5th Floor
1801 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Program

This Could Be a Portal

Choreographed by Ella-Gabriel Mason in collaboration with the performers
Performed by Yuying Chen, Connor Cook, Malcolm Ellis, Emma Sue

Ewing, and CJ Whitmire

Original music by Hannah Selin, slowdanger, and Miles Wilder

Projections by Ella-Gabriel Mason with additional videography by Lamont
Gibson, Abigail Rodriguez, and Eva Steinmetz

Original Text by Ella-Gabriel Mason, Ardon Shorr, Nancy Wygant,

Bronwen Mullin, Yoni Rivka Cohen, Jessie Medvan, and the performers

Additional Text excerpts from the work of Eduardo Galeano and Rebecca
Solnit

Vocal performances by Ora Gourarie, Hannah Selin, Ardon Shorr, Arielle
Shorr, Udi Shorr, and the performers

Lighting Design by Laurie Benoit

Costumes by Ella-Gabriel Mason and the performers

“You come to realize that people often do best when they’re not following a script or a score but when they’re improvising and coming up with new riffs, and I see this tremendous creativity in disaster responses both on the part of the community residents and on the part of good emergency personnel - seeing them become more flexible, seeing them break rules, seeing them use their ingenuity in the moment to help restore the community and to protect life, human life, and care for victims. It is when people deviate from the script that exciting things happen.”

- From *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster* by Rebecca Solnit

The use of photographic, audio, and video recording is not permitted.

Please turn off all electronic devices.

One-hundred-twentieth performance of the 2022-2023 season.

About the Artist

ELLA-GABRIEL MASON (they/them), an artmaker, educator and bodyworker, combines rigorous academic research with lived experience, words with dance, brain with body, living in the tension between ways of knowing and methods of being. Over the past decade Mason has created 9 evening-length performance works and a number of installations, video pieces, and short movement works. They have been granted residencies at Future Tenant Gallery (PGH) and Pearlarths Studios (PGH), and their works have been presented at the New Hazlett Theater (PGH), Kelly-Strayhorn Theater (PGH), vox populi (PHL), wild project (NYC), WOW Café Theater (NYC), and BAAD! (NYC). Mason has received grants from the Heinz Endowments, PA Council on the Arts, the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, and the Kelly-Strayhorn Theater. As an MFA candidate at Temple University they received the competitive Thesis Completion Grant, the Vice Provost Student Research & Creativity Grant, and the Dance Department Film Award. Mason is currently an instructor at Temple University where they have taught composition, improvisation, and dance science and somatics. In addition to their work as a creator and performer, Mason is a licensed massage therapist specializing in trauma-sensitive bodywork. Learn more about their work at www.moriahellamason.com.

Conwell Dance Theater Crew

Stage Manager: Nadia Ureña

Assistant Stage Manager: Olivia Danni

Backstage Crew: Michaela Delaney Guthrie, Courtney Friskco, Shaelyn

Kaiser, Connor McKean, Angelina Moors, Cristina Negron, Franny

Owoh

House Crew: N'Dea Price, Brianna Dupree, Zhaisia Lessey

Boyer College of Music and Dance

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

boyer.temple.edu

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

arts.temple.edu

Temple University

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

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