



MEDIA CONTACT

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For Immediate Release:

NY-Based Award-Winning Choreographer Joanna Kotze Joins Rising Seattle Choreographer Kim Lusk For Guest Artist Series Performance at Velocity

SEATTLE—Velocity welcomes New York award-winning choreographer Joanna Kotze for a split-bill performance with rising choreographer and local favorite Kim Lusk at Velocity November 3-5, 2017. Velocity’s Guest Artist Series brings inter/national dance artists to the community for technique classes, workshops, and performances.

Kotze’s *It Happened It Had Happened It Is Happening It Will Happen* is a site-responsive piece drawing from Kotze’s background in architecture. The piece won her a prestigious New York Dance and Performance “Bessie” Award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer. Acclaimed trio Raja Feather Kelly (zoe | juniper, Princess Grace Awardee, 2017 Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation [SFDI] artist), Netta Yerushalmy (Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography), and Kotze will perform the piece in its West Coast Premiere at Velocity.

Kotze plays with ideas of performance, intimacy, and space in our digital age. The dancers’ physicality and vulnerability are viscerally felt, as they breathe, sweat, stomp, clap, and dance in close proximity to the audience. *It Happened It Had Happened It Is Happening It Will Happen* confronts the seductiveness of classifying, ordering, and structuring, while attempting to hold onto the character of the unnamable, vulnerable, and imaginable.

Lusk, Velocity’s 2018 Made in Seattle artist, shares Kotze’s capacity for making approachable work that utilizes situational humor yet is rigorously abstract. This will be the first glimpse of Lusk’s first evening-length work, which will premiere in its entirety in the spring.

“Supporting the work of artists over many years to help progress their careers is the primary goal of Velocity,” says Tonya Lockyer, Velocity’s Artistic + Executive Director. “Over the past five years, Kim has developed much of her work here—from her very first solo to her larger group pieces—through our residency, production support, and mentorship programs. Made in Seattle is a culminating program where we aim to propel Seattle artists onto the national stage with tour-ready work. Presenting Kim alongside a nationally-recognized artist such as

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Joanna Kotze to build those relationships before her full premiere in March reflects this mission.”

In addition to the three performances, two master classes with Joanna Kotze and cast as well as a community discussion will be held over the course of the weekend. The discussion—Dancing About Architecture—will illuminate the ways in which architecture has influenced both Kotze and Lusk’s choreography.

Dates + Times:

- > Friday, November 3, 2017; 7:30PM
- > Saturday, November 4, 2017; 7:30PM
- > Sunday, November 5, 2017; 7:30PM

Location: Velocity; 1621 12th Ave, Seattle

Tickets: \$20 advance (\$25 at the door); \$17 MVP members; \$15 under 25 (w/ ID); \$50 Patron

velocitydancecenter.org [Event Page](#)

[Facebook Event Page](#)



SPECIAL EVENTS

Speakeasy—Dancing About Architecture

Dancing About Architecture will bring together audience, artists, and architects in a timely, interdisciplinary discussion in the face of Seattle’s fast-changing cityscape. This conversation will illuminate how we as humans are constantly affected by the surroundings we pass through and by the architecture we build, and how this relates to choreographers Joanna Kotze’s and Kim Lusk’s process and performance.

With:

- > Joanna Kotze (NY-based choreographer, whose BA in Architecture has influenced her choreography)
- > Kim Lusk (Seattle-based choreographer, whose upbringing with an architect father has also influenced her work)
- > Ben Maestas (Seattle-based dancer-turned-architect)

Velocity’s Speakeasy Series encourages cross-disciplinary dialogue, promotes civic engagement, and creates meaningful links between artists and communities, and supports initiatives at the cutting edge of change. All Speakeasy events are free or by suggested donation, and open to all.

Date + Time: Sunday, November 5, 2017; 5PM-6:30PM

Location: Velocity; 1621 12th Ave, Seattle

Tickets: FREE + open to all



Master Classes with Joanna Kotze + Cast

Contemporary Technique

Date + Time: Saturday, November 4, 2017; 12:15PM

Location: Velocity; 1621 12th Ave, Seattle

Drop-in Cost: (Drop-in) \$15; \$12 MVP members

Creative Process

Date + Time: Saturday, November 4, 2017; 2PM

Location: Velocity; 1621 12th Ave, Seattle

Drop-in Cost: (Drop-in) \$15; \$12 MVP members



ARTIST BIOS

Kim Lusk + Collaborators

Kim Lusk is descended from a hearty line of cowboys, homesteaders, and mountaineers, and is the choreographic assistant/performer for zoe | juniper. Since her choreographic debut commissioned by Velocity's Next Fest NW, she's gone on to be presented by Seattle International Dance Festival, On the Board's NorthwestNW, Vashon Center for the Arts, and Velocity's Bumbershoot Showcase.

Xssory / Ryan Hume (Sound Designer) is a daytime industrial designer and nocturnal music producer/media artist out of Seattle. Shuffling between the far limits of club music, cinematic sound design and pop structure, his sound refuses to stay in one place for long. Armed with technology, Ryan seeks to destroy your previous relationship with music, and replace it with an uneasy but enjoyable sense of freshness. Raw minimalism and confusion are core ingredients in Ryan's work, cut with a measure of familiarity to make it palatable.

Erin McCarthy (Dancer) received her formative training from the School of Oregon Ballet Theatre and holds a BFA in Dance from California Institute of the Arts. She has performed in works by artists such as Ohad Naharin (re-staged by Danielle Agami), Colin Connor, Daniel Charon, and Zoe Scofield. She currently works at Velocity as their Audience Services Coordinator and dances for numerous independent choreographers in Seattle.

Alexander Pham (Dancer), originally from Rosemount, MN, received his BFA in dance and BS in Human Resource Development from the University of Minnesota. He began his professional career dancing for Contempo Physical Dance in Minneapolis. Since moving to Seattle this past August, he has collaborated and performed with Kim Lusk, zoe | juniper, Anna Conner +CO, and Dylan Ward / Sleep Nod. Alexander is a company artist with Spectrum Dance Theater under the artistic direction of Donald Byrd.

Originally from Madison, Wisconsin, **Shane Donohue** (Dancer) graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with a BA in Dance and a minor in Psychology. At UWSP Shane received the Incoming Freshman Scholarship in Dance, the Bukolt Family Scholarship, the Chancellor's Leadership Award, and the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award. He currently works with Zoe Scofield, Elby Brosch, Alyssa Casey, Kate Wallich (YC2), and Kim Lusk.

Joanna Kotze + Collaborators

Joanna Kotze is a Brooklyn-based choreographer, dancer, and teacher. She is a 2016-2018 New York Live Arts Live Feed artist, premiering her next evening-length work, *What will we be like when we get there*, at NYLA March 28-31, 2018. She is currently a 92nd Street Y artist-in-residence and has upcoming residencies at The Bogliasco Foundation and The Yard.

Joanna received the 2013 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer. Her choreography has been presented at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Baryshnikov Arts Center, American Dance Institute (ADI), Bard College's Fisher Center, Danspace Project, New York Live Arts Studio Series, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Dance New Amsterdam, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Roulette, Dixon Place, 92nd Street Y, WAXworks, Lu Magnus gallery, Soho20 gallery, Show Room Gowanus gallery, Industry City, and the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts (WI).

Joanna has had commissions to create new works on Gibney Dance Company (NYC), Toronto Dance Theatre, Ririe-Woodbury (Salt Lake City), Zenon Dance (Minneapolis), and the James Sewell Ballet (Minneapolis). She has also created original works on students at Barnard College, Eugene Lang College (The New School), Purchase College, Long Island University, Ohio University, Southern Utah University, and Miami University (OH).

Joanna has received support from the Jerome Foundation, Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Harkness Foundation for Dance, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) BUILD, Brooklyn Arts Council, Yellowhouse, and two Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grants. She is a recipient of two *Process Space* residencies through Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) and was a 2013-2015 Movement Research Artist-in-Residence. She has had residencies at Milvus Artistic Research Center (Sweden), Jacob's Pillow, Bennington College, Sedona Arts Center, Marble House, The Camargo Foundation, Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Bogliasco Foundation, and Djerassi. Joanna was a 2012 Fellow for Ailey's New Directions Choreography Lab, a 2011 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Swing Space resident and has worked in residence at Mount Tremper Arts. She was the Fall 2012 *boo-koo* space grant recipient at Gibney Dance Center and has participated in Sarah Maxfield's *One-Shot*, a web-based solo performance relay.

Joanna danced with Wally Cardona from 2000-2010, performing throughout New York City (including twice at BAM's Next Wave Festival) the United States, Canada, Europe, and Mexico. She is currently dancing for Kimberly Bartosik/daela and Kota Yamazaki, and has worked with Stacy Spence, Netta Yerushalmy, Sam Kim, Sarah Skaggs, Christopher Williams, the Metropolitan Opera ballet, Daniel Charon, Nina Winthrop, and others.



Joanna is on teaching faculty at Movement Research and Gibney Dance. She has taught at Barnard College, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Eugene Lang College - The New School for Liberal Arts, Long Island University, Southern Utah University, Ohio University, Miami University Ohio, Salt Dance Fest, and the American Dance Festival. She is originally from South Africa and has a BA in Architecture from Miami University.

Raja Feather Kelly (Dancer) was born in Fort Hood, Texas. He has formerly been a company member with David Dorfman Dance, Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, Christopher Williams Dance, Zoe | Juniper, Colleen Thomas and Dancers. Kelly can be seen in the work of Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group, Keely Garfield, and Kota Yamazaki. Raja is the first and only choreographer to dedicate the entirety of his company's work to Andy Warhol and the development of popular culture over the last thirty years. Honors include a 2017 Princess Grace Award for a Fellowship in Choreography, a 2017 Bessie Schoenberg Fellowship at the Yard on Martha's Vineyard, a 2017-2018 Buran Theatre Carthorse Fellowship for Theatre, a 2016 NYFA Choreography Fellowship. Raja will be apart of Soho Repertory Theatre's 2017-2019 Writers and Directors Lab. He received his BA in both Dance and English from Connecticut College. Raja lives in Brooklyn, New York with loved ones and continues his quest for enlightenment through self-help books and memoirs.

Netta Yerushalmy (Dancer) was awarded a 2012 Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography, a Jerome Robbins Fellowship from the Bogliasco Foundation, and fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, and Six Points. Her work has been presented by Danspace Project, The Joyce Theater, American Dance Festival, HAU Hebbel am Ufer (Berlin), Harkness Festival, La Mama, Suzanne Dellal Center (Tel-Aviv), and others.

Her new project, *Paramodernities*, was awarded a 2018 National Dance Project grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts. *Paramodernities* is commissioned by Jacob's Pillow Dance, New York Live Arts, and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Extended Life program, and received development support from Movement Research AIR, Robert Wilson's Watermill Center, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Djerassi Art Program, and 92Y Harkness Dance Center AIR. Past residencies include DiP at Gibney Dance Center, Tribeca Performing Arts Center, the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (Berlin), and others.

Netta's work has been commissioned by repertory companies and universities around the country: Ririe Woodbury Dance Company (Salt Lake City), Juilliard School, University of Texas at Austin, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Zenon Dance Company (Minneapolis), American Dance Festival (NC), Same Planet Different World (Chicago), Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, University of the Arts (PA), Alvin Ailey school through the New Directions Lab, Rutgers University (NJ), University of Utah, SUNY Brockport (NY), and James Madison University (VA).

Netta danced with Doug Varone and Dancers from 2007-2012 and has collaborated and performed with Nancy Bannon, Mark Jarecki, Karinne Keithley, Ronit Ziv, and the Metropolitan

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Opera Ballet. She has worked with Joanna since 2009 and is currently working with Pam Tanowitz as well. She grew up in Israel and received her BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Dave Ruder (Composer) is a Brooklyn-based vocalist, clarinetist, guitarist, electronicist, composer, songwriter, writer/librettist, and interdisciplinary collaborator. Dave is a key member of the band Why Lie?, the ensembles Varispeed and thingNY, and the storytelling project Dave & Woody's Chicken Slaughtering LLC. He has worked extensively with composer Robert Ashley, premiering his opera *Crash* (2013) and the vocal work *World War III: Just the Highlights* (2010) in addition to interpreting his pieces *Perfect Lives*, *That Morning Thing*, *Trios (White on White)*, and *Public Opinion Descends Upon the Demonstrators*. Additionally, Dave has worked with Anthony Braxton, Aaron Siegel, Helado Negro, Andrew Lafkas (Eidolon), Kimberly Bartosik, Abigail Levine, Joanna Kotze, Dušan Týnek, and Panoply Performance Laboratory. For two years, Dave curated and ran the Flowering Inconsistencies performance series in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Since 2013, Dave has been the driving force behind Gold Bolus Recordings. As a composer, Dave wrote *The Gentleman Rests*, a meditation on the certification of the 2000 presidential election, with a commission from the Jerome Foundation and Roulette in 2014. Additionally, his work has been featured in *Experiments in Opera* and his WHY LIE? project, 100+ open scores, is available online. Dave holds degrees from Wesleyan University and Brooklyn College, and by day he works for the Make Music Alliance/Make Music NY.



ABOUT VELOCITY

Velocity is Seattle's forward-thinking laboratory and essential incubator for dance and emerging ideas. Velocity fosters new works, critical conversations, artists, community, and teachers. A national nexus for dance, Velocity is recognized as a leader in a new dance development in the US. With artist-driven, community-centered artistic and education programs, Velocity is instrumental in making Seattle a destination city with one of the most active dance communities in the nation. With artist-led classes and workshops daily, performances weekly, three annual dance festivals, and ongoing humanities programs that activate thoughtful conversations, Velocity is a portal for those new to dance and an important community resources. Home to hundreds of independent dance artists and renowned for producing innovative, cutting-edge work, Velocity has featured performers and master classes by art stars Tere O'Connor, Pat Graney, Reggie Watts, Miguel Gutierrez, Anouk van Dijk, Deborah Hay, Faye Driscoll, 33 Fainting Spells, KT Niehoff, Zoe Scofield/Juniper Shuey, Danielle Agami, Monica Bill Barnes & Co, and many more. Velocity is Seattle's only dedicated contemporary dance venue where groundbreaking work and disciplined practice coexist.

Velocity advances contemporary dance and movement-based art by fostering the creative explorations of artists and audiences through an invested commitment to education, creation, performance, inquiry, community participation, and inter/national exchange.



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