



THISTLE
dance

UNBOUND Vol. II

THE

ART

OF

Sun

UNBOUND Vol. II

THE

ART OF

Sin

PRODUCED BY

LAWRYN
LACROIX

CREATED BY



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



New York
Public
Library

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

KRISTEN BROOKS SANDLER

COMPOSER

REBECCA NISCO

PLAYWRIGHT

KAITLYN SCHIRARD

ASSOCIATES

ERIN KEI
LUCAS MELFI

FOOD STYLIST

TIFFANY
SCHLEIGH

LIGHTING DESIGNER

ANDREW
GARVIS

CAST

GABBIE BALLESTEROS · KAILIN BROWN · ERIN KEI

MAYA KITAYAMA · AUBRIE KNAPP

MORGANA MAUNEY · MATTHEW VARVAR

LUCAS MELFI · EM KING · SHANY DAGAN · SARAH COLT

UNDERSTUDIES

DELANEY CHARLOTTE BURKE · BECCA CRAIG · SHANY DAGAN

ANGELA JOY · MAKENZIE MARTIN · LUCAS MELFI

JEANINE CHRISTINE · PETER WILLIAMS

CREW

STAGE MANAGER: EILEEN KIELTY

MAKENZIE MARTIN · KAITLYN SCHIRARD

STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ

THISTLE
dance
CAST

GREED



MAYA
KITAYAMA

PRIDE



MATTHEW
VARVAR

SLOTH



AUBRIE
KNAPP

WRATH



ERIN
KEI

GLUTTONY



MORGANA
MAUNEY

ENVY



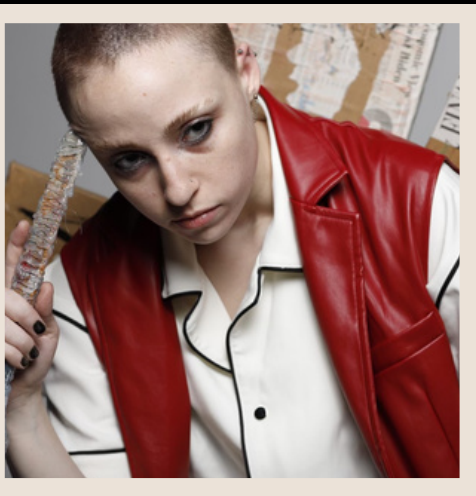
GABBIE
BALLESTEROS

LUST



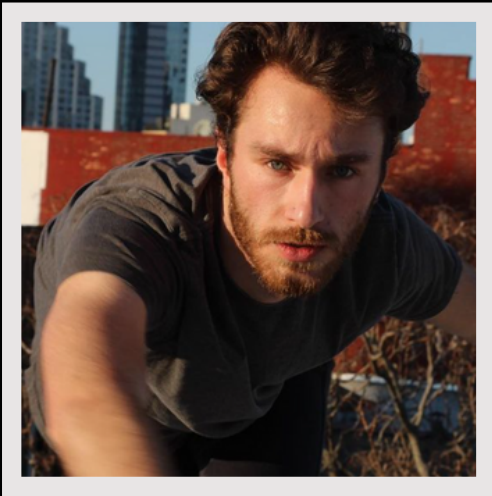
KAILIN
BROWN

ARTIST



EM
KING

BROKER



LUCAS
MELFI

MUSE



SHANY
DAGAN

DOCENT



SARAH
COLT

PHOTOS BY ANDREW MAUNEY
LUST PHOTO BY LEILANI P CARR



ABOUT CREATING THE ART OF *Sin*

SINS IN THEIR OWN SKIN

After the success of our initial Unbound performances last October, Thistle is thrilled to be returning to the Jefferson Market Library. This year, after discussing a few different options with our partners, we have set forth on an exploration of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Wading through lore and popular notions, this production gave us the opportunity to play with the sins in their varied faces and attitudes. Often alluded to in biblical settings or painted with sulfuric glaze in the pages of Dante, the sins can appear overly simplistic. Their base and intrinsic presence within us, however, should not be confused for lack of intricacy. These characteristics The Art of Sin views as characters.

So the new line of questions blooms: What tilts their singular focus from passion to obsession? Looking at the sins in context of the set of them and the roles they play in our lives makes one wonder...What are the sins like unfiltered, unfettered, and unjudged? Could there be softness? Could there be relationships that were actually restorative instead of toxic? Is sin just a twisting and tangling of impulse?

Thistle is proud to bring our lot of seven sins and their hosts to the library in their own skin, unapologetically themselves.


- *Thistle Team*

Kaitlyn, Erin & Kristen

ABOUT

Thistle Dance creates movement based storytelling for the stage and screen that celebrates the misunderstood, unexamined or overlooked.

We use movement as our primary language, conjuring wonderfully strange creations that challenge our codified perception of history and lore.



Now, more than ever before, our audiences and communities are calling out for stories that reflect the nuance and complexities in the world around us. The cannon is being re-evaluated for biases, and as we re-examine our facts, we should re-explore our fiction. Our work elevates characters over caricatures and explores the myriad of circumstances that lead to a moment of choice.

We tell stories you know, but have never heard before.

LEARN MORE

thistledanceinc.com

[Instagram](#) @thistle_dance

[TikTok](#) @thistle_dance



CREATIVE TEAM



LAWRYN LACROIX

Producer

Lawryn LaCroix (she/her) is a New York City/ London based producer. A resident producer at New York Theatre Workshop. A recipient of The Prince Fellowship and The Theater Leadership Project (TTLP) along with being in the inaugural group of resident producers for The Shubert Organization's Artistic Circle. And Broadway League fellowship recipient. A graduate of the MA Creative Producing program at The Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (London). And Marymount Manhattan College (NYC). Currently a Co-Producer on Mike Birbiglia's transfer of "THE OLD MAN & THE POOL" on

the West End at the Wyndham Theatre. Previously in NYC at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre Lincoln Center. Past credit: Associate Producer of "POTUS" on Broadway and Producing Assistant of Macbeth on Broadway. SHE/HER at Ps21 Chatham. Golden Globe winner Brian Cox's (HBO's Succession) directed play "Sinners" in London at the Playground Theatre. The Scranton Scratch Night, a digital playwright fest, hosted by SNL's Heidi Gardner. Lawryn started her production company Pinkhouse Productions in 2017 dedicated to producing meaningful, inspiring, personal work. Pinkhouse has worked with Tony, Emmy, and Golden Globe winners on original productions both domestically in the US and Internationally. Pinkhouse strives to empower in the arts and provide the means to which storytellers can assert their individual voices.



KRISTEN BROOKS SANDLER

Director & Choreographer Thistle Dance Founder & Artistic Director

Kristen (she/her) is an award winning director and choreographer whose work can be seen on screen and stage. Purple haired & proudly queer, Kristen is committed to physical storytelling, believing in movement as the universal language that bridges the gap between audience and artistry. By employing narrative in tandem with an avant-garde aesthetic, Kristen's hope is that our histories and lore can be refocused and re-centered for artists and audiences alike.

On stage, she has directed and choreographed musicals and original dance creations at regional and international theaters. Her screen credits include work on set with Nickelodeon, International Film Channel, and Hallmark, and her films have been featured in festivals in over 30 countries. Her first original creation, "Gilded", won the award for Best Dance and Physical Theater at the Capital Fringe Festival in Washington D.C., and she ehas since been nominated for and won many awards for her work. Before leading her own rehearsal rooms, Kristen worked as a performer alongside such creators as Andy Blankenbuehler, Savion Glover, Karma Camp & Connor Gallagher.

Select Credits: Magic To Do (Fredericia Theater, Denmark, with DDSKS), Shimmer & Shine (Nickelodeon), Your Alice (BAM, Edinburgh Fringe), Lysistrata Jones (NYITA Nom - Best Choreography), Gilded (BAM, Capital Fringe), Sunny Day (Nickelodeon Jr), Sweatsgiving (International Film Channel),. Associate: Hunchback of Notre Dame (Gothenburg Opera), Jesus Christ Superstar (Signature Theater. Helen Hayes Nomination). IG: [@KristenBrooks19](https://www.instagram.com/KristenBrooks19) / [KristenBrooksSandler.com](https://www.KristenBrooksSandler.com)



REBECCA NISCO

Composer

Rebecca Nisco (she/her) is a composer and music editor originally from Connecticut currently based in San Francisco, CA. At the core of all her work, whether for stage or screen, is a love of storytelling and collaboration.

Selected composition credits include original scores for the multi-award winning independent shorts “The Pigeon of Waterloo”, “Outside Chance”, and “Hit and Run”, as well as music for The Winter Show’s online content. Her music has been performed and recorded internationally at venues such as The Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage and Air-Edel Studios and with ensembles such as the Baltimore Choral Arts Society where she received the singers choice award for her choral piece “Ave Maria.” She is also a recipient of the CT Artists Respond grant that supported her multidisciplinary project “Hit the Sky” set to premiere Fall 2023.

Rebecca currently works at Pixar Animation Studios as an Assistant Music and Sound Editor. She holds a MMus in Composition for Screen with Distinction from Royal College of Music in London. Rebecca has enjoyed every minute of composing music for “The Art of Sin” and collaborating with Kristen in bringing this project to life!



KAITLYN SCHIRARD

Playwright Thistle’s Director of Development

Kaitlyn Schirard (she/her) is a New York based artist. The daughter of a farmer and a teacher, she hails from Florida and is dedicated to sharing her passion for storytelling in all its forms. For Thistle, Kaitlyn works as a wordsmith, grant writer, and creative collaborator, often from a dramaturgical capacity. When on stage, if she's not performing Shakespeare, she's part of developing new works and "next classics". Her work is passionate and playful with a penchant for language. She has worked as an actor in New York (BAM, Sheen Center, OTG),

regionally (Shakespeare Theater of NJ, Riverside Theater, SSF, OTGWest), and internationally (Edinburgh Fringe, Arcola Theatre). When not onstage, Kaitlyn works as a creative consultant and grant writer. She's had the pleasure of working and crafting text with such companies as Pinkhouse Productions and Scranton Shakespeare Festival as well as with individual artists.



ERIN KEI

Thistle’s Associate Artistic Director

Erin (She/Her/Hers) is a professional actor, creator, and teaching artist based in NYC. Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, she attended Syracuse University’s Musical Theater program. Erin has been incredibly fortunate to perform in New York at BAM, MMAC, and in the New York Musical Theater Festival. Some of her favorite regional theater credits include: Asolo Rep, Syracuse Stage, Dallas Theater Center, Phoenix Theatre and Casa Mañana. Film/TV/Commercial credits include:

The Path (Hulu), Olay Whips (Commercial), and the new short film SC7NARIO (available on BroadwayHD). Working both onstage as well as on creative teams. She currently serves as the Associate Artistic Director of Thistle Dance under the direction of Kristen Brooks Sandler. Erin enjoys bringing all aspects of a project together from inception to performance. She is a passionate storyteller who believes art has the power to invite new perspectives.

THE CAST



Gabbie Ballesteros (Envy)

Gabbie Ballesteros is a Filipino performer, choreographer, teaching artist, and arts administrator. She was a 2022-2023 recipient of the SDCF Professional Development Program, shadowing the choreography team for *HERE LIES LOVE* on Broadway and receiving her SDC Associate Membership. In addition to working as the Education Programs Manager at Manhattan Theatre Club, Gabbie's recent credits include multiple concerts at 54 Below, and choreography for *BREATHE* and *BANDSTAND* at NYU Tisch. She is thrilled to return to the library, and thankful to spook with the incredible Thistle team! Much gratitude to her family and friends for their love and support – mahal ko kayo. BFA in Drama at NYU Tisch's New Studio on Broadway, Minors in Education and Applied Theatre. www.gabbieballesteros.com, @gabbie.martina



Kailin Brown (Lust)

Kailin Brown (they/them) is so excited to be back with Thistle for another year of Unbound! A recent grad of Pace University's Musical Theatre and Commercial Dance program, Kailin kicked off their professional career by choreographing for a new off-Broadway play, *Egg Frame*. You can also catch Kailin as they embark as Velma Kelly on the national tour of *Chicago* this November! Love and gratitude to the friends, Grace, the fam jam, and mom.



Erin Kei (Wrath)

Erin (she/her) couldn't be more proud to be a part of this show. Erin serves as the Associate Artistic Director of Thistle Dance. New York Credits include: BAM, MMAC, NYMF, as well as last year's Unbound show at the Jefferson Market Library. National Tours: *Elf! The Musical*. Regional: Maltz-Jupiter Theatre, Asolo Rep, Phoenix Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Syracuse Stage, Casa Manana, Mill Mountain Theatre. Film/TV/Commercial: Olay Whips, *The Path* (Hulu), *Sc7nario* (Broadway HD). Erin is represented by Gregg Baker Management. Thank you for coming and Happy Spooking!



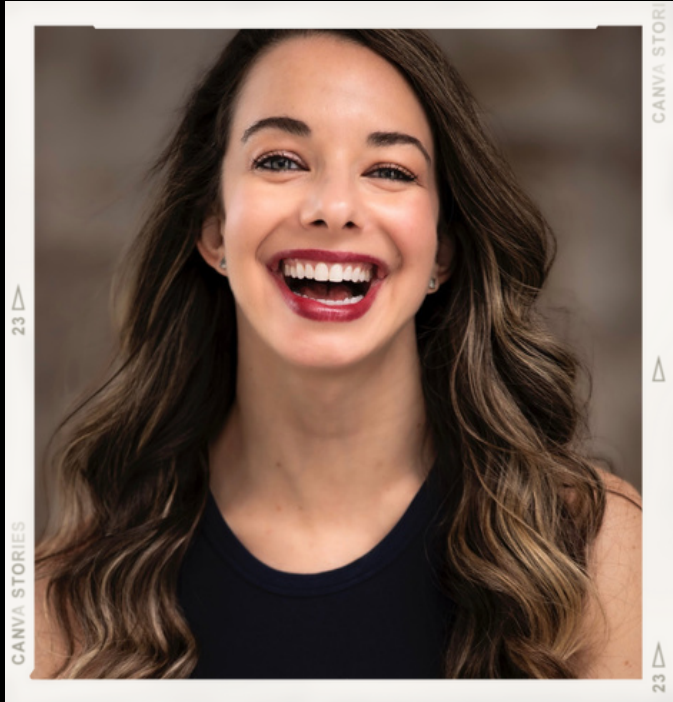
Maya Kitayama (Greed)

Maya Kitayama (she/her) is a dancer and performer originally from the Bay Area and currently based in NYC. Credits include Beauty and the Beast (Drury Lane), Cole Porter's Can-Can (Porchlight Music Theater), Love's Labour's Lost (Scranton Shakes), and Holiday Inn (Mill Mountain Theatre). Maya is currently in the cast of Hypnotique, a new, late-night immersive show hosted by The McKittrick Hotel. She earned a BFA in Dance & Political Science from Fordham University and is represented by LDC Artist Representation. Maya has been privileged to dance and collaborate with Thistle Dance on a number of projects, and sends endless thanks to Kristen and the whole Thistle team for helping find her way back to dance after the pandemic. @mayakitayama



Aubrie Knapp (Sloth)

Aubrie Knapp (they/them) is very grateful to be officially back for year two of Thistle Dance's Unbound: The Art of Sin! They are thrilled to be playing Sloth, after making a brief appearance in last year's show as a swing (you might've seen me in the basement). A lover of all things that have to do with movement, cats, and spooky season! Pace University BFA in Commercial Dance '22. Thank you to Kristen, Erin, Kailin, and the rest of my sinful siblings out there.



Morgana Mauney (Gluttony)

Morgana Mauney (she/her) is excited to snack and perform in The Art of Sin at the Jefferson Market Library!

Stage: Holiday Inn, Sweet Charity, Joseph, Awaited, Christmas on Broadway, and Le Grand Cirque. She has also freelanced with companies throughout NYC. Morgana is a principal dancer and spooky founding member of Thistle Dance. Outside of the arts, Morgana is a personal trainer, Pre/Post Natal specialist, Mat Pilates and Barre instructor as well as a health and nutrition coach. A huge hug and thanks to Andrew and family. Always spread kindness. More at morganamauney.com



Matthew Varvar (Pride)

Matthew (he/him) is over the moon to be performing with the Thistle Dance family again! He was most recently seen in the world premiere of “Water for Elephants” at the Alliance Theatre. Other credits include: Tour: Joseph...Dreamcoat, Elf:The Musical. Regional: The Who's Tommy (Kennedy Center), Kinky Boots (Hollywood Bowl), Cinderella/Matilda/Prince of Egypt (Tuacahn), Mamma Mia (Fulton Theatre). TV/Film: Dispatches From Elsewhere (AMC). Concert Dance: MM2 Modern Dance Company. Big thanks and all the love to his humans and his little Reggie man. @matthewvarvar



Sarah Colt (The Docent)

Sarah is elated to be spooking again with this incredible team at Thistle. Recent credits include The Wizard of Oz (Arizona Broadway), Jersey Boys and Holiday Inn (Mill Mountain Theatre) Sweet Charity (Scranton Shakespeare), South Pacific (Broadway Plaza), Beauty and the Beast (Moonlight Amphitheater), and many more. She holds a BFA in Acting from Marymount Manhattan College. Many thanks to her rep at FSE, Kristen, and the Jefferson Market Library for providing such a beautiful space for us to make art. Enjoy the show!



Shany Dagan (The Muse / US Greed)

Shany an Israeli-American performer and choreographer working in NYC, CA, and Israel. In 2012, she relocated to NYC following three years of service in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Shany is thrilled to join Thisle Dance and make her company debut in The Art Of Sin. She is an American Musical and Dance Academy NY graduate, a Broadway Dance Center Professional Semester Alumni, and a trained aerialist from the Warehouse Circus Intensive Program. Shany performed in "The Little Mermaid" (Fireside Theatre), "Christmas Wonderland" tour and "Le Grand Cirque" (Dublin Productions), RWS & Holland America Cruise Line, "Hope the Musical," Israel's Dancing With The Stars, and NBC. She is a Board member of the California-based SpectorDance Company under the direction of Fran Spector Atkins, where she performs for causes such as Sustainability, Climate Change, and Social Awareness. Thankful always to her Parents and Husband for supporting her artistic journey.



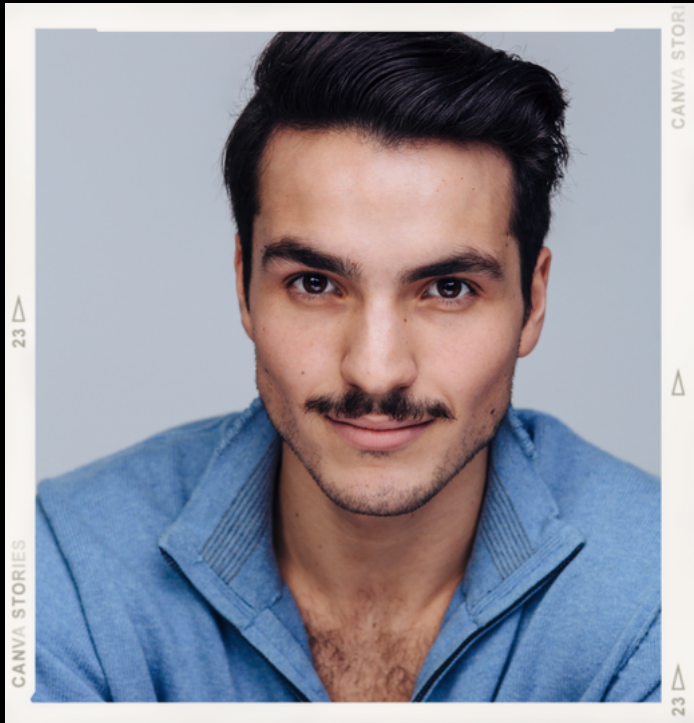
Em King (The Artist)

Em King (they/them) is a New York based artist. Originally from South Bend, IN, they graduated from Hope College with a BA in Dance Performance and Choreography. Em formed a love for the creative process from beginning to end through performing, choreographing, teaching, and working behind the scenes in multiple facets. Em has been working with Thistle Dance since 2021, and they are thrilled to be back for the second year of UNBOUND: The Art of Sin! They send endless love and thanks to everyone at Thistle, as well as all of their friends and family.



Lucas Melfi (The Broker / US Pride)

Lucas Melfi (he/him) is a New York based dancer and choreographer. He received his BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Elon University. He has performed as a company dancer for TERRANOVA Dance Theatre, Natalie Marrone & the Dance Cure, and Gerri Houlihan. He has danced in festivals throughout the country, including the American Dance Festival, The Austin Dance Festival, the Boston Contemporary Dance Festival, and the NC Dance Festival Tour. Lucas has also presented his own choreography at several festivals, including the American Dance Guild Festival in NYC and the EMERGENCE Choreography Showcase in North Carolina.



Peter Williams (U/S Wrath & Broker)

Peter (he/him) is so excited to be spooking with Thistle again this year! NATIONAL TOUR: A Charlie Brown Christmas, Live (Assoc. Dir/Choreo). REGIONAL THEATER: Jersey Boys (Male Swing), Christmas Wonderland (Featured Dancer), Bright Star (Daddy Cane/Assoc Dir.), Guys and Dolls (Ensemble), Chicago (Ensemble/Dance Captain), South Pacific (Ensemble / Dance Captain). TV: Say Yes To The Dress (Self, Season 21-22). Insta: @Pwill496. Happy Halloween!



Jeanine Christine (U/S Gluttony)

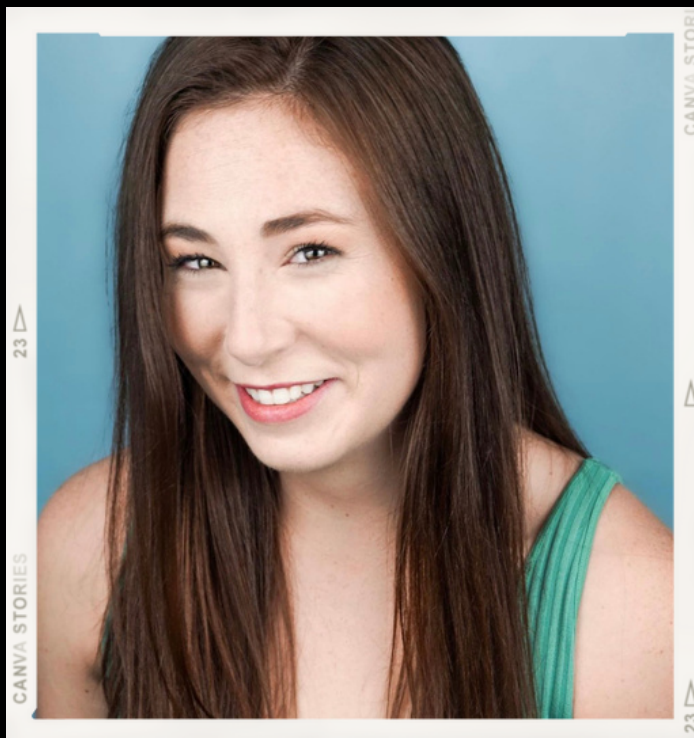
Jeanine Christine (she/her) is an artist from Chicago who has danced her way across the Midwest and now calls New York home. Some of her favorite NYC projects include the "VOTE" film and "Almost 35" benefit show choreographed by Katie Drablos, and Ariana Andretta's video and choreography work "Don't Lose Sight". When she is not dancing you can find her on the yoga mat, in the bookstore, or hiking with her beloved dog and husband. She loves being a part of the magic that Thistle creates, and collaborating with these beautiful artists.



Angela Joy (U/S Lust & Muse)

Angela Joy loves moving to music. In honor of sweet Norah Howard, please consider donating to Dell Children's Medical Center: [https://give.supportdellchildrens.org/give/f4925440/#!/donation/check out](https://give.supportdellchildrens.org/give/f4925440/#!/donation/check-out) .

Soli Deo Gloria.



Delaney Charlotte Burke (U/S Envy & Artist)

Delaney Charlotte Burke (she/her) is a NYC based dance and theatre artist. She's thrilled to be making a new family within Thistle Dance & wants to share her gratitude to everyone for being so welcoming!



Becca Craig (U/S Sloth)

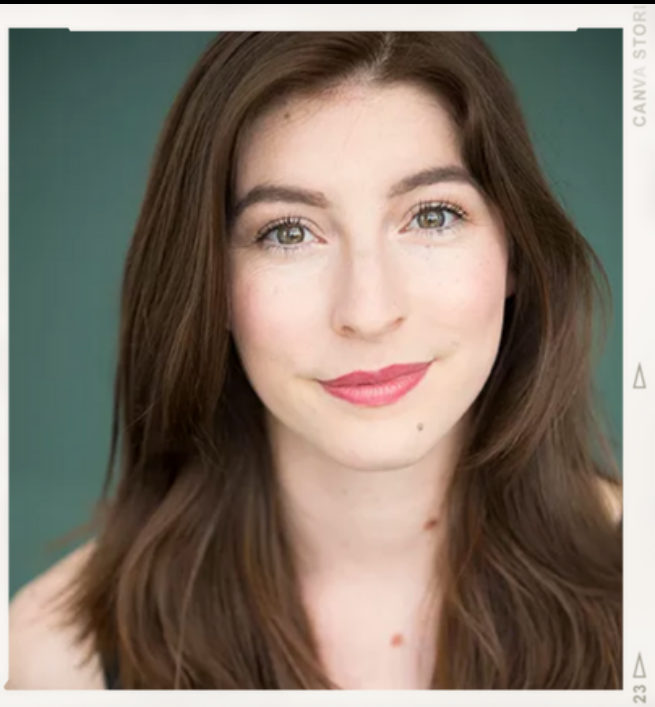
Becca Craig (she/her) is an NYC based dancer and creative. She graduated magna cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2021 with a dual degree in Dance and Politics & Human Rights. Upon graduation, Becca became an intern with Thistle Dance and now performs with the company regularly. Additionally, Becca is a 200 hr.-RYT yoga instructor and teaches yoga and group fitness classes all over NYC.



Makenzie Martin (U/S Docent)

Makenzie Martin (they/she) is a proud member of Thistle. They are thrilled to be working at Jefferson Market Library for a second year in a row with this insanely talented group of creatives! Since graduating with her BFA in Musical Theatre from Marymount Manhattan College, Makenzie has appeared in HBO Max's Gossip Girl, Mill Mountain Theatre's regional production of Jersey Boys, Columbia University's presentation of Miss Julie, and playwright Oded Gross' new musical True Love Conquers All which showcased at Columbia University in 2022. Makenzie offers their endless thanks to Kristen, Erin, and Kaitlyn for the opportunity to spook. All the love to my family, friends and Fin for the unwavering love and support. More at <https://www.makenziemartin.com>.

Voice Over Artists



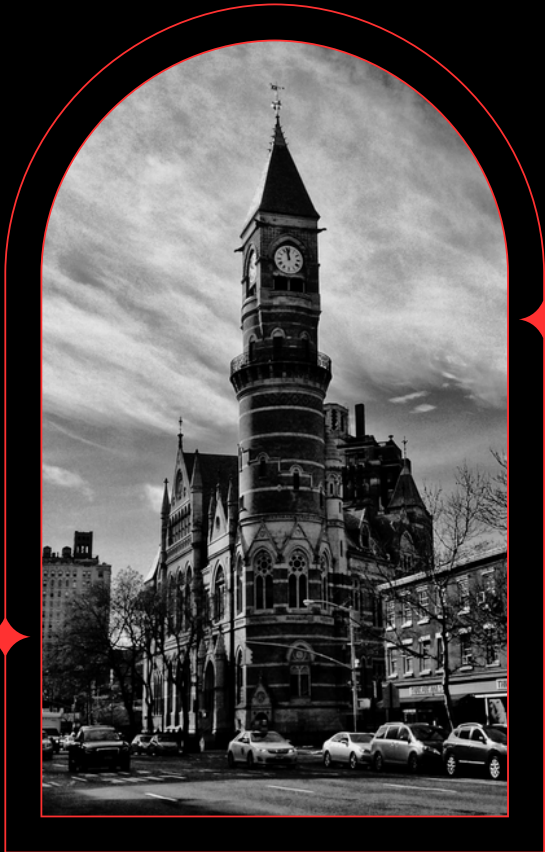
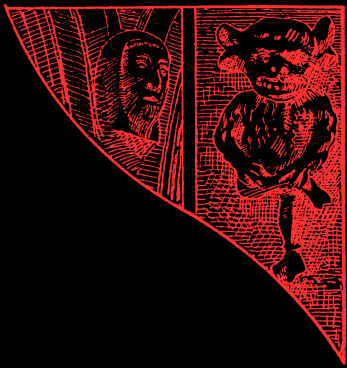
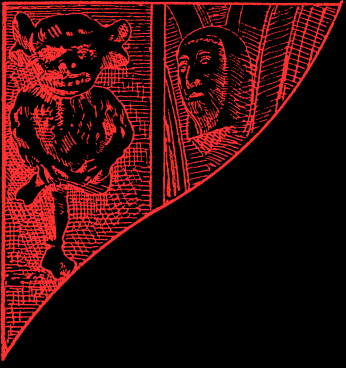
Kaitlyn
Schirard



Caitlin
Humphreys



Liam
Gerard



ABOUT OUR HOSTS

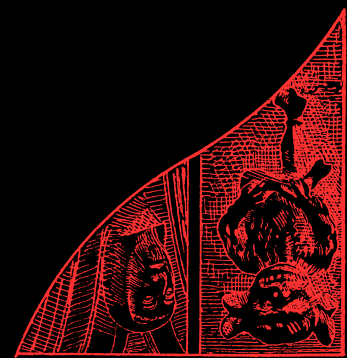
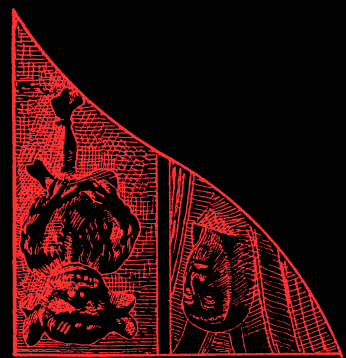
JEFFERSON MARKET PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Jefferson Market Library has served the Greenwich Village community for over forty years. The building, now a New York City landmark, was designed by architects Frederick Clark Withers and Calvert Vaux (who also assisted in the design of Central Park) in a Victorian Gothic style to be a courthouse. It was erected between 1875 and 1877.

What the city got for its money, in addition to an architectural gem (voted one of the ten most beautiful buildings in America by a poll of architects in the 1880s) was a civil court on the second floor, now the Adult Reading Room, and a police court, now the first-floor Children's Room. The beautiful brick-arched basement, now the Reference Room, was used as a holding area for prisoners on their way to jail or trial. Scattered about the building were offices and chambers, and looming a hundred feet above ground was the firewatcher's tower. The tower, still intact, commands an uninterrupted view of Greenwich Village, and houses the bell that would summon volunteer firemen.

In 1959, the city planned to knock it down, but Village community members, led by Margot Gayle and Philip Wittenberg, and including Lewis Mumford, E.E. Cummings (who lived across the street in Patchin Place) and actor Maurice Evans, rallied to save the building from the wrecking ball. In 1961, Mayor Robert F. Wagner announced that it would be preserved and converted into a public library. The task of converting the old courthouse to a modern library was undertaken by architect Giorgio Cavaglieri, who also adapted the Astor Library into the Public Theatre on Lafayette Street.

Since its re-opening in 1967, The Jefferson Market Regional Library has been collecting books on the history of New York City—and particularly, Greenwich Village. It has been and continues to be a beacon of community, often partnering with local artists to host their work or celebrate special events. Thistle Dance now has the pleasure of joining that tradition.





Special Thanks

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Aury Krebs

Jefferson Market Public Library

Ron & Pam Sandler

Allied Arts Foundation

Liam Gerard

MonoLisa Studios

Laura Stile

Jaid Green

Linda Hall

Ronald Clairmont

Kevin Coogan

Eric Walstedt

Vicky Green

Peter Marinaro

Matt Summers

Lara Lavi

Stevie Allen

Moxy Intimates

and everyone who has supported our work

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