

# *of this body*

PAULA JOSA-JONES/performance works



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<http://www.paulajosajones.org>

**OF THIS BODY** is an interdisciplinary dance theater project conceived, choreographed and performed by Paula Josa-Jones in collaboration with her design team. **OF THIS BODY** integrates projection, lighting set and costume design to create visual/sensory worlds that draw the audience deeply into the physical and emotional worlds of the dance. The dances explore liminal states of being - disorienting moments when we find ourselves poised on a threshold between one world and another - times of being caught in a maelstrom of events outside our control, evoking primal questions of identity, expression and place in the world.

The projections are a seamless element of the choreography, another character in the space. The digital world weaves through the piece alongside the performer acting as another guide. It transports the audience to various settings, in and out of literal space, shifting the perception of time. The content ranges from rugged landscapes to unique structures, metaphorical imagery to a distinctly present secondary character. The world of the video illustrates the inner reality of the performer on stage. The two bodies dance with each other. The figure in the video fades into and out of the various settings in constant conversation with the live performer.

- Projection Design: Katherine Freer <http://www.katherinefreer.com/>
- Lighting Design: Susan Hamburger <http://www.susanhamburger.com/>
- Photography: Pam White <http://www.pamwhiteart.com>
- Video Editing: Paula Josa-Jones & Katherine Freer
- Costume Design: Paula Josa-Jones and Christine Joly De Lotbiniere <http://cjdldesign.com>
- Set Design: Christine Joly de Lotbiniere and Paula Josa-Jones
- Music: Tchavolo et Dorado, Lee Bannon; Hugues le Bars; Dakha Braka; Fred Firth; Port Mone
- Direction/Outside eye: Paola Styron

## OF THIS BODY Team Bios

**PAULA JOSA-JONES** (Choreographer, performer, sound and set design, videography) is a dancer, choreographer, writer, visual artist and movement educator known for her visually rich, emotionally charged dance theater. Her passion is for movement that springs from an unpredictable, limitless aliveness and curiosity in the body. Her work includes choreography for humans; inter-species work with horses, film and video. Josa-Jones has been called "one of the country's leading choreographic conceptualists" by the Boston Globe and the Village Voice describes her work as "powerful, eccentric, and surreal." Her dances have been produced in Russia, Europe, Mexico and throughout the United States. She has taught in the dance programs at Tufts University, Boston University and at universities, colleges and dance festivals nationally and internationally. Paula's writings on movement and dance have been published in *Contact Quarterly*. Her book, ***The Common Body: How Horses, Movement and Awareness Awaken Our Essential Humanity***, will be published in 2016.

Josa-Jones is a 2013 recipient of a Connecticut Artist's Fellowship, and a 2014 Bogliasco Fellow. She has received two Choreography Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, an NEA US/Mexico Cultural Exchange Fellowship and an Artist's Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She is the recipient of two New Forms grants from the New England Foundation for the Arts, an Artist's Foundation Fellowship in Interarts for her video dance collaborations with Vin Grabill, and two finalist awards in choreography from the Massachusetts Council for the Arts. She has been in residence at Yaddo (1995, 1996, 2015) and at the Djerassi Foundation in Woodside, California. **Paula Josa-Jones/ Performance Works** has received support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the New England Foundation for the Arts, the Arts Lottery, Creative Time, the Dakota Foundation, LEF Foundation, the Claneil Foundation and the Polaroid Foundation. The company's work in Mexico was supported by the US/Mexico Fund for Culture, and they received two grants from the Trust for Mutual Understanding for choreographic projects in Russia. Josa-Jones has received commissions from the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow, Dance Umbrella, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, and nuArts at Northeastern University, among others.

<http://www.paulajosajones.org>

**KATHERINE FREER** (Projection Design) is a multimedia designer working in theater, film, and installation. Her work is driven by the love of storytelling and the desire to turn her wildest imaginings into reality. Her background in film and computer science combine to generate work that is not only aesthetically beautiful, but pushes the boundaries of conventional theatrical video. Frequent collaborators include Tim Bond, Liz Lerman, Ping Chong, Kamilah Forbes, Stein | Holum Projects, Andrew Scoville, and Tamilla Woodard. Katherine is a Helen Hayes nominee and an Innovative Theater Award nominee. In addition to designing video for the stage, her installation work has been presented nationally and internationally. Venues include the National Building Museum, the Hammond Museum, 3LD Art & Technology Center, Front Room Gallery, and the World Wide Words Festival (Denmark). Her early video work includes Beatbox Flute Inspector Gadget Remix, a simple yet popular video with over 28 million views on YouTube and People's Choice Award nomination. Kate has taught master classes at Harvard University, Syracuse University, New York University, University of Iowa, and Albany High School. Katherine is a founding member of **Imaginary Media**.

<http://www.katherinefreer.com>

**SUSAN HAMBURGER** (Lighting Design) is thrilled to be part of the creative team for *Of This Body*. Susan has designed for Urban Bush Women for over 11 years and has worked with such notable artists as Craig Harris, Lucinda Childs, Mark Rucker and Mark Morris. Other notable dance companies she has designed for include Bessie winner Nora Chipaumire, Troika Ranch, Ellis Wood, Urban Tap and Alice Farley. She has also designed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *On The Town*, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Suddenly Last Summer*, *The Great Highway*, *West Side Story*, *The Cryptogram*, *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Waiting for Godot* as well as other plays and performance pieces. Susan is an adjunct professor at New York University and The Juilliard School and received her MFA from Yale School of Drama. <http://www.susanhamburger.com>

**CHRISTINE JOLY DE LOTBINIERE** (Costume and Set Design) has collaborated with Paula Josa-Jones for the past twenty-five years. She is a designer who brings experience and creativity to her work for the fashion industry and for the costumes she has designed for Theater, Dance, Opera, Television and print advertising in Europe, Asia, the United States and Canada. Her design work is known for its innovation, color and fit. She is an experienced textile dyer, painter and colorist as well as an accomplished illustrator and graphic designer. Inspired, resourceful and detail-oriented, with an excellent intuition for production and marketing, her aesthetics reveal her Swiss and Canadian roots – clean, elegant design solutions combined with a creative and passionate design sense. <http://www.cjldesign.com>

**PAOLA STYRON** (Director/Outside Eye) is an aerialist, dancer, choreographer and director. She has been a leading performer and collaborator with choreographer/ director Martha Clarke for over twenty years. From 1990-2000 she was also Associate Artistic Director of the critically acclaimed *Faustwork Mask Theater*. With renowned Canadian soloist Margie Gillis, Ms. Styron is a frequent guest artist for both stage and film. She is engaged with numerous ensembles for her work in both dance and theater. Paola previously collaborated with Paula Josa-Jones/Performance Works as an aerialist and dancer on *Flight*, a work for humans and horses.

**PAM WHITE** (Photography, videography, painting) is a painter and photographer who has been drawing, painting and photographing since she could hold a pencil. Her work has been shown nationally in galleries, private collections and media journals including the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the Pentimenti Gallery in Philadelphia, Sodarco in Montreal, the Atrium Gallery in St. Louis, Missouri and in solo and group shows throughout the US. She has primarily worked in cross-disciplinary projects during her career. A free-lance photographer since the 1970's, her collaborations have included images for set design, portraits for dancers, poets and writers. She has traveled internationally to document the work of writers and dancers as well as visioning the images used on books and CD covers (Pauline Oliveros), and for posters and outreach on numerous projects. She has collaborated with the dancer/choreographer Paula Josa-Jones in design, documentation and life since 1986. <http://www.pamwhiteart.com>





## The Traveler (terra incognita)

*"I say to my breath once again, little breath come in from in front of me, go away behind me, row me quietly now, as far as you can, for I am an abyss that I am trying to cross."* W.S. Merwin, "The Abyss," The Book of Fables

**The Traveler**, set in a turbulent landscape of crumpled and suspended archival maps, explores how unpredictable, volatile life changes can fracture and reshape our psyches, changing our bodies and disrupting our sense of self in relation to the world. Inspired in part by W.S. Merwin's surreal Book of Fables, it asks what it means to be lost, to be set adrift and to find oneself in "terra incognita," not once or twice, but throughout our lives. How do we re-map ourselves in the face of events completely out of our control?

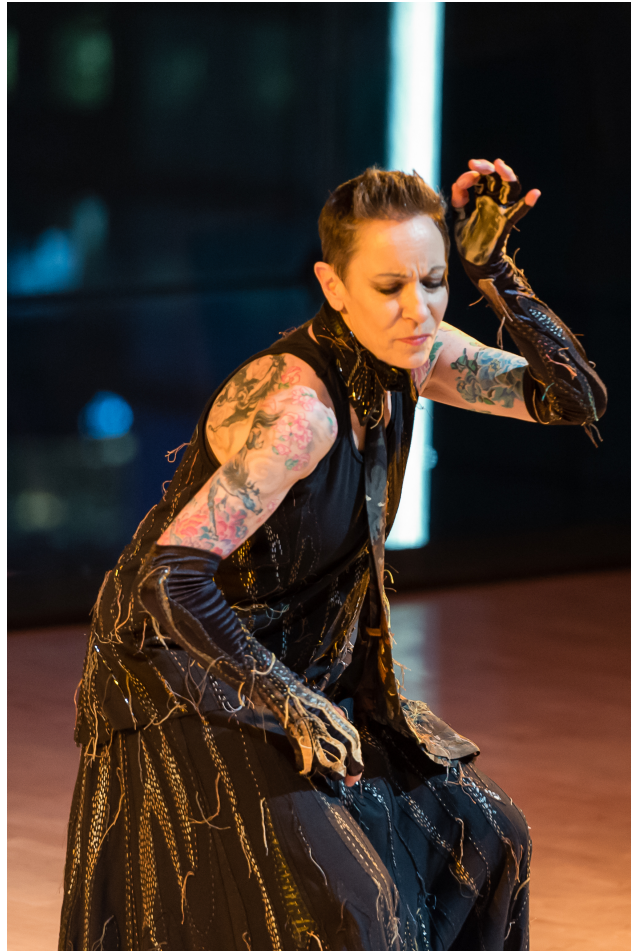
Set to a sound score created by Paula Josa-Jones and video projection by Katherine Freer, the traveler – a Chaplinesque character - navigates perilous topographies, finding and losing balance as the physical and dream terrains shift and buckle.

Two of the videos integrated into the projection design of **The Traveler**:

**Trains:** <https://vimeo.com/111049954> (password: Bogliasco)

**Doorway:** <https://vimeo.com/108127885>





## Mammal

*"People are frightened by what they don't understand."*

John Merrick, The Elephant Man

*"That is the kind of poetry I bring to your attention today: poetry that does not try to find an idea in the animal, that is not about the animal, but is instead a record of an engagement with him."*

The Lives of Animals, J. M. Coetzee

**Mammal** questions the ways in which we experience and express our primal selves - moving beyond binary gender and human/non-human distinctions toward a more fluid, ambiguous identity. A "shape-shifting" dance, **Mammal** is a cellular, poetic echolocation that viscerally connects male and female, human and non-human, self and other at the porous borderland where they intersect and blend.

In the words of Elizabeth Costello in Coetzee's *The Lives of Animals*, "There is no limit to the extent to which we can think [feel] ourselves into the being of another." The costume is by Christine Joly de Lotbiniere. Music by Fred Firth and Dakha Brakha.



## Speak

*"and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency not only in its words but in the silent lines of its lips and face and between the lashes of your eyes and in every motion and joint of your body."*

Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass

**Speak** springs from my questions about language and the absence of language in its usual form. It is about obsession and excavating meaning from the body when words cannot be shaped. **Speak** is inspired by thirteen years of working with my profoundly autistic godson and physical research into aphasia, apraxia and synesthesia.

Excerpts: <https://vimeo.com/119650191>

ABOUT JOSA-JONES' SOLO WORK:

[http://www.paulajosajones.org/the\\_human\\_dances/the\\_solos.html](http://www.paulajosajones.org/the_human_dances/the_solos.html)

PRESS KIT: [http://www.paulajosajones.org/pdfs/Paula\\_Josa-Jones\\_PressKit\\_.pdf](http://www.paulajosajones.org/pdfs/Paula_Josa-Jones_PressKit_.pdf)