

**Performing  
Identities Across  
Cultures  
Presents:  
Recharging  
Home**

**4/18/22**

**10am-2pm Schine Center  
4-7pm SU Quad**

## Live Performances

### TSA

A married woman on the way to Cabo is stopped for a TSA pat-down. A routine search blooms into an emotionally intimate connection as she reflects on life, relationships, and agency. This English monologue is written and performed by senior Erin Sheffield.

### Before Tomorrow

Bob Blondel hosts the TV game show “Before and Now”, and tonight the final couple will have to answer categories about Home. Realities are changing very fast and categories can't keep up with them. The participants Victor and Aroa become too aware of this. Is it time for the participants to take control of both reality and the game?

Cast:

Bob Blondel/Writer/Director: Milton Loayza

Victor Gonzalez: Ronald Lamothe

Aroa Gonzalez: Elena Rodriguez Guridi

Warm-up Comedian/Cameraman: Ana Guerrero

### IGBO: my home, my identity, my spirit

An Igbo Chant Performance act, sprinkled with English poetry in celebration of the mother land of a young woman in America.

This performance by Amarachi Attamah is dominant in her indigenous language, (the Igbo Language). It is of an ancient art of the Igbo people called 'Mbem' which is translated to mean Chanting.

Amarachi Attamah is a Graduate student in the Department of Museum Studies and Cultural Heritage Preservation at Syracuse University, New York State.

Amarachi Attamah is a Chant Performer, Poet, Broadcaster, and a Mother-Tongue Advocate. Her core interests are indigenous language sustainability, culture curation, and intangible heritage preservation.

She has performed in Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, the United Kingdom (where she recently completed a four-month performance fellowship with the British Royal National Theatre), and many performances in the USA, one of the most recent is, Gendering Africa Symposium, an annual Africa Women Conference at Columbia University.

### Entre silencios

This short play presented by Teatrotaller (Cornell/Ithaca) speaks to the experience of the traumatized refugees who are often retraumatized in legal processing. It is inspired by work like Valeria Luiselli's “Tell me how it ends”, reflecting her experience with unaccompanied minors in New York, and Warshan Shire's famous poem, “Home,” which begins: “no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.” In the play, two members of a legal team question a silent woman about her immigration journey and status. The play is accompanied by original live music, composed and performed by Ana Florencia López Ulloa. Bilingual: Spanish-English.

Director: Debra A. Castillo

Guitar/Vocals: Ana Florencia López Ulloa

Translator: Federico Giordana Perla

Interviewer: Jenny Zwigard

Detainee: Carolina Osorio Gil

## **Germanican**

This performance tells the story what it means to be German and American and where to locate oneself as a "Germanican". Mona Eikel-Pohen shares her story through a scrapbook narration. Spectators are welcome to pluck a quotation and take it home and to leave a note in a guest book. The performance is in English with additional German voice-under. Spectators with auditive impairment can scan a QR code to receive a written version of the texts.

## **Sojourner**

Sojourner, is a collage of memories, the hopes and dreams of a Motswana woman in the process of reuniting with her son to end a six-month wait to return home amid the COVID-19 pandemic. After spending four days on transit across four countries to make it through the only point of entry into Botswana, Mmakgosi challenges the meaning of home, and rediscovers what it means for migrants travelling through a Global Crisis while being separated from their loved ones. This Poem is a prayer, a meditation in process, and a longing to find home again in the heart of a child, in the midst of chaos. Sojourner is a bilingual piece performed by Mmakgosi Anita Tau in Setswana and English.

## **Home es dónde está el coeur**

A solo performance by Dr. Gerardo Tonatiuh Cummings Rendón, from Onondaga Community College, where he revisits his formative years while living in Canada, Detroit and Mexico. Replaying the memory of his first French-Canadian nanny, of life between Canada and Detroit and finally, the memory of his first friend in Mexico, an Afro-Mexican boy named "Chucho." This performance is multilingual (Spanish-French-English).

## **Lo santo era dejarse caer**

A performance by Juliana Torres Forero (writer, teacher, performer), dedicated with love to Mariela

"This house is not empty, and if it is empty, I am myself the emptiness of the house" - "Páramo Diary", Colombia, 2021

In her relationship with different objects -- a seashell, a domestic plant, a family photograph -- the performer seeks to create multiple presents as poetic invocations of memory and its different layers: childhood, the voice of plants, the earth that sustains and receives, the writing that shelters the pleats of the voice and the void. In this way, the performer creates her home, understanding it as the process of inhabiting herself in a voyage towards de-personalization when she surrenders to greater, non-human forces. I speak of consciousness, I speak of desire, I speak of the edges where the skin ends and the world begins. The performance is in Spanish.

## Digital Performances

### I Love NY

#### Episode Title: Homecoming (Season 1 Finale)

6 MFA acting students forced their way off campus to live in the big city and gain real industry experience. The actors left their safety net and are experiencing the hardest year of their lives, while their diplomas and scholarships sit idle at the University. At the best possible time, Artistic Director Dr. John Carver invites the 6 back to campus for this year's Homecoming football game. They were told to meet in the presidential suite for an "official yet informal" goodbye and completion of the program.

Created by Brandon Dion Gregory, former guest performer at Syracuse Stage's production of, "Thoughts of a Colored Man" by Keenan Scott II which recently made its Broadway debut at the Golden Theatre.

Cast: Steve Hauck, Jordan Cooper, Ricki Lynée, Julie Chereson, Gabriel Peña, Zuhdi Boueri, and Brandon Dion Gregory

#### Wahey watan, Ushken dhaar

Bramsh Khan

This video shows what home means to the subaltern identities of a society; who are a minority within a minority. I (ethnically a part of a larger nation; Baloch), my homeland is situated in the most underdeveloped region of Pakistan, Balochistan which makes people like me alienated from basic facilities like clean drinking water, electricity and especially internet facilities. Yet, without all these facilities, in terms of home, we never take ourselves as victims. Of course, like any other citizen of a country, we strive and demand our fundamental rights but we have also created a

home for ourselves where we rely mostly on nature, and folk stories and are connected in terms of reciprocity. This piece uses a famous folk story within Baloch to narrate what home means to us. This piece is mostly in English but only the famous proverb related to home is used in Balochi language: Wahey Watan, Ushken Dhar (Oh my motherland, though a dry trunk)

### Our Home in Hillel (2022)

Fresh off the success of his debut film, *The Musical Magician* (2021), Jeremy Todd Shinder is proud to present *Our Home in Hillel* (2022): a short observational documentary centered around a Christian campus police officer – Sergeant Joe Shanley – and his unique perspective as he protects a Jewish student center at Syracuse University. As a second year VPA film major, the project began as an assignment given during Shinder's Documentary/Experimental Production Class [instructed by Associate Professor Logan R. Dandridge]. But the more invested and fascinated Shinder became with Shanley's story, he realized the message demanded a larger audience. Contrary to the negative portrayals of law enforcement that have become a staple of contemporary media, the film is shot through a different lens: highlighting the personal interactions and relationships fostered by one kindhearted man-in-uniform – accurately nicknamed 'Officer Friendly' – Shinder documents how a former outsider can protect, serve, and become part of a new family. [Director/Editor: Jeremy Todd Shinder, Cinematographer: Max Cohen; A Jere Bear Films Production]

## **Humanity Over Mind Eeriness**

An Art Video/Performance piece that navigates the concept of seclusion as experienced in both a physical and mental space.

A person is seen laying on their couch in an unnatural face down position, watching the news's updates on the COVID-19 spread in Greece. The person sings a song on longing to have a life outside their home. Given through this surrealistic aesthetic, it is stated that "Home isn't always the familiar place we inhabit but the inner sanctuary we build for ourselves or (up for interpretation) the one we want to escape from but can't". Especially during COVID where the lines between private-isolated-present-protected and absent are blurrier than ever, the sense of Home and reality becomes a concept up for re-evaluation and reconstruction.

Furthermore, the lens of the entire piece is not American for the most part and as a reflection of that, the language spoken is primarily Greek and secondarily English. The Greek language and perspective haven't been as visibly represented as others when it comes to Art Video and Film. Therefore, the team behind H.O.M.E would like to offer that cultural perspective.

Created by Stefanos Schultz. Camera work by Sarah Aristi and Ghazal Yousefi. Animation by Evan Bode.

## **Compañeras**

A dance film that showcases Laredo, Texas and provides a warning against the impending threat of the border wall. This film was created by Katherine Serna, a senior at the University of Rochester who grew up in Laredo and comes from a family of immigrants. Using dance, poetry and an interview with the film-maker's great-grandfather, this film advocates for the protection of a community. The creator lets us into her home and tells the story of a set of communities, sister-cities, that are inherently and inevitably connected. Through the lenses of home and family, the audience is taught why Laredo, and all border towns, is worth saving. This film was originally created for the University of Rochester Program of Dance and Movement's spring show "Opening the Frame" in 2021. Performance includes Spanish.

## **Seeing Home**

In 2018, Anna Evtushenko was about to leave Russia to go study at Cornell and wondered what that meant for her connection with her hometown. The result is a personal and poetic take on things. "I'll always come back," she concludes. But in 2022, things are different, and there are more questions than answers.

## **Un Hogar Bailando**

The Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble has served as a home away from home for many students at Cornell University since 1992. Their vibrant performances incorporating music and dance have brought the Cornell and Ithaca community together, especially during these trying times. Through this piece, various Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble members had the opportunity to share their stories, their definition of home, and their culture. Their diverse voices will bring awareness to the importance of embracing different cultures while enjoying their energetic performances. The Sabor Latino Dance Ensemble has contributed to 30 years of representation for the Latinx community, and their impact continues through this piece.



## **Our Journey Home**

Lourdes Morales, Catherine Piñón-Juárez

When you leave home-the place, person, space, country that has been home to you- a strange and complex process of re-imagining that notion begins. Slowly, as the years pass by and your bed starts feeling more like yours, answering the question "where is home for you?" becomes harder. Home is where my mamá makes tamales every Friday or where your childhood best friend is living the life you left behind. However, home is also the new place that you carefully decorated and the pantry stocked with carefully managed food items your dad sent in the last care package. Still, home is here (where I am) or home is there (where I come from) is not enough: so, what is home? Home is .... Me. The one constant between both 'places' has always been me: me and my bags, me and my dreams. Home is the strength that I had to start a life from 0, my persistence, and the love I have given myself to overcome the rough days. Home is all the

decisions I've taken, friends I've chosen, home I've built, dog I take care of, achievements that can only be attributed to me- because home, is me.

### **Lamento Borincano**

Gabriela C. Rodríguez-Lebrón

This performance is inspired by the plays *Tejas verdes* (2001), by Fermín Cabal, and *Combate de ciegos* (2000), by Jerónimo López Mozo. My performance is based on present-day Puerto Rico and focuses on the suppressed memory of the Puerto Rican nationalist movement in the 20th Century. I use nativism, local references, and the voice of Don Pedro Albizu Campos (1891-1965), "el maestro" and leader of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, who was tortured with radiation while in jail in Atlanta. My protagonist, Penélope, is a character who lives in captivity and "madness," remembering the past as a symbol of the oppressed memory. Penélope also represents multiple voices throughout her childhood, including the memory of her mother's fight and the dissenting voice of Campos. My goal is to reiterate the importance of remembering history and how it shapes the relationship between home and identity. Performance in Spanish and some Spanglish.

### **Supongamos**

Victor Nino

This performance is inspired on the plays *Nuestra Señora de las Nubes* (1998), by Arístides Vargas, and *El olvido está lleno de memoria* (2002), by Jerónimo López Mozo. My reflection, in the form of an interior and poetic monologue, presents the challenges of political, economic, and cultural exile among communities who are displaced. Therefore, I focus on the consequences of displacement, such as nostalgia and alienation. I also intend to raise the question of belonging and the symbolism between the real and abstract concept of "home." Performance in Spanish.

### **Mi casa es también tu hogar**

In this performance, a group of old classmates try out a virtual happy hour to replace the in-person reunion they had planned. Throughout their conversations we see a little piece of each of their lives and how covid has affected their routines for worse or for better. The performance takes place online, in each of the actor's respective houses and is in Spanish, reflecting the language that brought them all together for their degrees in the first place. In a short amount of time this work evokes many of the emotions we all felt at the start of the pandemic all the way until the world began to get accustomed and even appreciate some of the changes that came about.

Directed by Jhon González Lindarte

Cast: Dayana Maso, Andrea Arriaga, Héctor Prieto, Giovanni Minicucci, Amanda Arriaga. Translation and subtitles: Andy Dowling. Editing: Caitlin Johnston.