

FRINGEARTS

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For Immediate Release

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Images available upon request

FringeArts explores the politics of movement in Kate Watson-Wallace's *Mash Up Body*

Part runway, part club, part experimental remix.

PHILADELPHIA – FringeArts favorite Kate-Watson Wallace returns with *Mash Up Body*, a contemporary dance piece that examines the evolution and destruction of identity. This haunting and thrilling performance runs June 4th-6th at 8:00pm. All performances are at FringeArts' waterfront headquarters, 140 N Columbus Blvd. (at Race St.). Tickets cost \$15-25 and are available by phone at 215-413-1318 or online at FringeArts.com.

What happens when an artist creates, and then invites other artists to destroy their creation? The structure of *Mash Up Body* is a result of this kind of artistic process. "When I got into the room with the dancers, there was a moment when they had very clear ideas about what they wanted to explore that I hadn't gotten to," says choreographer Kate Watson Wallace. "So we went there. It was messy and uncomfortable and amazing. So it became the structure of the piece."

Mash Up Body is comprised of two parts. First, a dance that embodies the value systems of the choreographer is imposed on the ensemble. Dancers adorned in black hoods and masks mimic and elaborate on movement, remaining inside the strict boundaries that have been set out for them. Second, the cast remixes and destroys the systems of the original dance. The channel changes from black and white to a Technicolor acid trip, and all rules go out the window, demonstrating a dancer's ability to declare the autonomy of their own body. By doing so, the piece uses performance to reflect larger cultural and political power structures.

"I always think it is deeply political for a woman to be in charge," says Watson-Wallace. "This is a female and trans cast because there was something I was trying to get at about these experiences in particular. I also keep trying to understand for myself what a feminist rehearsal room looks and feels like. I think straight white men could learn a lot from this process."

Watson-Wallace directs a dynamic all-female and trans cast of four dancers in this remix: Jasmine Hearn, Cori Olinghouse, devynn emory, Haylee Nichell, and Melanie Cotton. Electronic music tastemaker Hprizm, High Priest formerly of the legendary hip hop trio Antipop Consortium, will be mixing a live improvisational score onstage, providing a sonic landscape inspired by hip-hop, experimental jazz, and ambient electronica.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Kate Watson-Wallace is a choreographer, director, and visual artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She creates experimental performance for the stage, site-based locations, and music videos. Works include *HOUSE*, a performance for 15 audience members inside an abandoned row home; *CAR*, a performance for 4 audience members who sit inside a moving vehicle; *STORE*, a performance installation inside an abandoned mega-store; and *Everywhere*, a participatory online dance experience and contest. Her interactive and site-based performance work has been funded by The Map Fund, Doris Duke Foundation through Creative Capital, Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, Independence Foundation, The Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and PA Council on the Arts. She is a 2007 Pew Fellow in the Arts in Choreography. She works extensively in the music world as an art-director and choreographer. Current projects include curating an interdisciplinary music series with her partner King Britt at Fringe Arts in Philadelphia, and directing and choreographing a new performance in collaboration with future beat-maker Ryat that integrates electronic music, mapped video, interactive media and choreography, premiering at Central Park Summerstage in 2015. As a performer, she toured with Headlong from 2003 to 2011, and is currently an incubator artist with the company. She has worked as a facilitator for Artists U, a professional development program for artists.

ABOUT ANONYMOUS BODIES

anonymous bodies art collective is an interdisciplinary performance company that aims to create spaces for intellectual curiosity, healing, and new futures. Kate Watson-Wallace co-directs anonymous bodies with her art partner, Jaamil Kosoko. As a collective, the co-directors create work independently and collaboratively, creating an array of art projects that range from solo performances in gallery settings to larger performance installations on-site. It is a project-based company that collaborates with a diverse group of artists. It draws upon the traditions of visual art, post-modern dance, site-specific study, conceptual and performance art, audience participation and public spectacle.

ABOUT FRINGEARTS

FringeArts is one of the country's foremost centers for contemporary performing arts, showcasing arts innovators from around the globe and cultivating world-class Philadelphia-based artists. FringeArts plays a vital role in Philadelphia's vibrant artistic community by presenting a year-round programming series of cutting-edge dance, theater, and music performances presented at its striking venue on the Delaware waterfront; the annual Fringe Festival which takes over Philadelphia with hundreds of artistically daring and socially engaging performances; and by providing opportunities for Philadelphia artists to develop and showcase new work. FringeArts believes in art-making that tests boundaries - inspiring new ideas, passionate discussion and conceptual thinking, all essential for a healthy and vibrant society.

FACT SHEET FOR *MASH UP BODY*

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Thu, June 4 at 8pm

Fri, June 5 at 8pm

Sat, June 6 at 8pm

CREDITS

Direction & Choreography: Kate Watson-Wallace

Conceptual Collaborator and Music Composition: Christopher Sean Powell

Visual and Costume Design: Kate Watson-Wallace

Live Electronics: HPrizm

Dramaturgy: Jaamil Olawale Kosoko

Outside Eye/Spirit Guide: Miguel Gutierrez

Dancers: Jasmine Hearn, Cori Olinghouse, devynn emory, Haylee Nichell, Melanie Cotton

Mash Up Body was started in a developmental residency at the Yard, under an invitation from David R. White. *Mash Up Body* was created with generous support by the PEW Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance, a commissioning residency at Kelly Strayhorn Theater, and anonymous bodies individual donors.

TICKET INFORMATION

\$25/Student and 25-and-under \$15/Members save 30%

Call 215-413-1318 or visit www.fringearts.com to purchase tickets.

CALENDAR LISTING (+/- 100 WORDS)

What happens when an artist creates, and then invites other artists to destroy their creation? In *Mash Up Body*, a dance is imposed on the ensemble who, adorned in black hoods and masks, mimic and elaborate on movement, remaining inside the strict boundaries that have been set out for them. Next, the cast remixes and destroys the systems of the original dance. The channel changes from black and white to a Technicolor acid trip, and all rules go out the window, demonstrating a dancer's ability to declare the autonomy of their own body.

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To request photos, interviews and more information please contact:

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