



Bickling Photography

Raphael Xavier

Point of Interest

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.

Saturday, November 4 @ 2 PM

Saturday, November 4 @ 8 PM

Harold Prince Theatre



The presentation of *Point of Interest* by Raphael Xavier was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

PROGRAM NOTES

Don't want to be anyone else

Poetry by Leigh Mrlei Nelson, Performed by Raphael Xavier

Dancers: Raphael Xavier, Josh Culbreath, Ricky Romo, Jerry Valme, Chris LaPlante

Assembly line

Music by Raphael Xavier

Poetry by Leigh Mrlei Nelson, Performed by Raphael Xavier

Dancers: Raphael Xavier, Josh Culbreath, Ricky Romo, Jerry Valme, Chris LaPlante

Untitled

Music by Raphael Xavier

Dancer: Raphael Xavier

Nick of Time

Music by Portico Quartet

Dancers: Raphael Xavier, Josh Culbreath, Ricky Romo, Jerry Valme, Chris LaPlante

Duet Choreography by Josh Culbreath & Jerry Valme

Crunch

Mixed/edited by Raphael Xavier

Dancer/Choreographer: Ricky Stunt Man Romo

Still

Written/Music by Raphael Xavier

Dancers: Jerry Valme, Raphael Xavier

Interlude/Breather

Music by Raphael Xavier

Dancer: Imagine them

Wonderful World

Music by Davie Sylvian

Dancers: Raphael Xavier, Josh Culbreath, Jerry Valme, Chris LaPlante

Silence

Poetry by Leigh Mrlei Nelson, Performed by Raphael Xavier

Dancer/Choreography by: Ricky Stunt Man Romo

Point of Interest

Music by Raphael Xavier, System of a Down, SOHN

Dancers: Raphael Xavier, Josh Culbreath, Jerry Valme, Chris LaPlante

All choreography by Raphael Xavier except duet in *Nick of Time*

Solos choreographed by the dancers with some direction by Raphael Xavier

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Raphael Xavier (Choreographer, Dancer)

Xavier is known as an innovative movement conceptualist. As a practitioner since 1983, he has made his career in dance theatre as a breaker from the hip hop dance genre. Brenda Dixon Gottschild deemed Xavier as a “fine rhythm technician who transforms a bravado dance style into an introspective meditation.” His dismantling technique to the breaking form creates a one-of-a-kind accessibility for any movement enthusiasts.

Xavier’s dance work is created solely with the breaking vocabulary juxtaposed with elements of non-traditional sounds, music and narratives. In 2011, his autobiographical performance of *The Unofficial Guide to Audience Watching* (overseen by Ralph Lemon) combined many of Xavier’s creative skills including music, rap lyrics, storytelling and visual arts. This production was the impetus for RAPHSTRAVAGANZA in 2016, an outdoor urban circus narrative that took place in Philadelphia’s City Hall Courtyard, funded by the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. In his newest work, *Point of Interest*, Xavier tackles the natural, humorous and, at times, painful change of the maturing breaker dancer.

Xavier was recently awarded the Pew Fellowship, The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in choreography and the United States Artist Fellowship. Currently, he is a professor teaching an introduction to hip hop styles and traditions, and an improvisational approach to hip hop practices at Princeton University.

Christopher LaPlante (Dancer)

LaPlante was born and raised near St Paul, MN. Growing up dancing, he received his formal training from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis where he danced in works by Tricia Brown, Nathan Trice, Anna Sokolow and Uri Sands, among others. During his time in Minnesota, he danced with ARENA Dances, Minnesota Opera, Zenon Dance and TU Dance. Now residing in New York, LaPlante has danced with Kyle Abraham and Yoshito Sakuraba, and has made his own works.

Jerry Valme (Dancer)

Valme is a dance artist from Queens, New York. As a practitioner of the form since 2004, he has been breaking with Full Circle Dance Company since 2009. Valme has also worked with Raphael Xavier in the autobiographical *The Unofficial Guide to Audience Watching Performance*, which has been performed at Columbia College, Chicago Dance Center, Flynn Center VT and the Painted Bride Art Center. Valme continues to practice the movement of breaking to take it into new places and challenge himself for the longevity of the form. He’s also begun working on his own dance works for the theatre stage. Some of his choreography can be seen in *Nick of Time* in *Point of Interest*.

Josh Culbreath (Dancer)

Culbreath was born September 19, 1990. Influenced by his mother, Culbreath started dancing at the age of five and his breaking journey began after watching the movies *Breakin* and *Beat Street*. In middle school, Culbreath was involved with the dance group KRS Ent, crediting them for introducing him to theatre where he learned how to perform on stage. In high school, he met Joe Son, who helped further his breaking. Culbreath joined Rennie Harris’ second dance company RHAW in 2009. Shortly after, he met Raphael Xavier. In 2014, after performing in one of Xavier’s works called *The Unofficial Guide to Audience Watching Performance*, Culbreath wanted to work with Xavier more due to the direction he was taking the breaking movement. Culbreath continues to perform with both Raphael Xavier and Rennie Harris, all while learning the ropes so he can create his own work and expand the possibilities of the breaking movement.

Ricky RocAny (Dancer)

Ricky “Stuntman” RocAny began dancing in January 1993. Starting out as a hobby, it quickly developed into a lifelong passion. In 1995, he was introduced to the word B-Boy (the correct terminology for “breakdancer”) and the knowledge of the dance. For the next couple of years, he practiced hard and began to pay dues. He developed his own individual style, experimenting with ideas and concepts that pushed the boundaries of creativity in the dance. Through the late 1990’s, RocAny traveled the U.S. competing, performing, judging and making guest appearances. Perhaps the hallmark of his style was his strong emphasis on musicality and dancing, often channeling not only the instruments of a song but the lyrics, as well. His unique character and originality gained him notoriety among both pioneers and contemporaries.

In 2000, RocAny officially joined Style Elements. He has also been chosen to dance in various USA All-Star teams competing both in Paris and London, as well as performances in Mexico, Canada, Sweden, Spain, Holland and Switzerland. In 2004, he began to do various classes in Phoenix, through the Furious Styles Crew. He also became a staff member of “Let’s Dance” dance camp at Arizona State University.

Other credits include: articles and prints in magazines such as *The Source*, *Dancers Delight* (Japan), *Show and Prove* (SP), and *Vibe*; his very own B-Boy trading card; various music videos; a feature in *The Wade Robson Project* pilot; and an appearance on the TV show *Dancing with the Stars*. Currently, RocAny is an active member of Style Elements Crew, the California President of Furious Styles Crew and Associate Director of One Step Ahead Dance Company.

Bob Steineck (Lighting Designer, Production Manager)

Steineck has design credits spanning over 30 years that include concerts, ballet, modern dance, opera and theatre. He is currently resident lighting designer for Texture Contemporary Ballet, Pgh Playwright’s Theatre, Mercyhurst University Dance Dept., Morgantown Dance Theatre, Rennie Harris Pure Movement, RHAW and Raphael Xavier Company. Steineck has toured throughout the US and abroad with such companies as Rennie Harris Puremovement, RHAW, Reed Dance, Squonk Opera, the Lyon Opera Ballet, Sankai Juku, Phoenix Dance Company, Kirov Ballet Academy and the America Tour for *Stars on Ice*. Television/video/DVD credits include the Dizzy Gillespie Allstar Big Band for A&E Cable, the Spyro Gyra concert for PBS, Lindy Loon for Maria Del Rey and Johnny A Trio by Warner Bros. Publications. He has designed for several corporate events and fundraisers. His most recent lighting designs include: RDA-NE Dance Festival, Texture Contemporary Ballet’s *Interfusion*, *The Unofficial Guide to Audience Watching Performance* at FringeArts, *The Piano Lesson* for Pgh. Playwright’s Theatre and *Carmen*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Julius Caesar* for Opera Theater of Pgh. Upcoming projects include *My Good Side* with Teena Marie Custer and *JH: Mechanics of a Legend* with Hiawatha Project.