

9/11 A Village Gathering: To Honor and Remember

New York City AIDS Memorial Park - 5pm



Images courtesy of Meredith Jacobson Marciano and Carole Teller from Village Preservation's Historic Image Archive



NEW YORK CITY
AIDS MEMORIAL
REMEMBER • REFLECT • RENEW

Land Acknowledgment

The land of the five boroughs that make up New York City, including the land on which the New York City AIDS Memorial sits, is the traditional homeland of the Lenape, Merrick, Canarsie, Rockaway, Matinecock and Haudenosaunee Peoples. These lands are also the inter-tribal trade lands, and are under the stewardship of many more indigenous nations today. New York City is home to the largest populations of Inter-tribal Native American, First Nations, and Indigenous individuals out of any urban city across Turtle Island (the United States). We acknowledge the systematic erasure of many Nations and recognize those still among us today. We acknowledge the Peoples of these Nations - their cultures, their communities, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations - and their resilience throughout history. We acknowledge and offer deep gratitude to Mannahatta - the land and waters on which we stand.

Courtesy of American Indian Community House

Performances

“Meditation 20 for Percussion and Cello”

Composed by: N. Scott Johnson

Drums: Victor Caccese

Cello: N. Scott Johnson

Welcome

Troy Anthony, Emcee

“Severe Clear”

Written and Performed by James Scruggs

“Eleven Reflections on September”

Written and Performed by Andrea Assaf

“20 Years Later”

Based on interviews, autobiographical experiences, and personal testimonies.

Created and performed by: Kyla Jeanne, Ciela Elliott, Kristen Hoffman,

Bryan Moreno, Marielle Parra, Jason Wang

Directed by: Ash Marinaccio

Assistant Director: Melissa Ingle

“Affirmation”

By Assata Shakur

(Full text on next page)

Videographer

Kacey Stamats

Story Recorders

Elise Goldin and Lauren Larocca

“Affirmation”

By Assata Shakur

I believe in living.
I believe in the spectrum
of Beta days and Gamma people.
I believe in sunshine.
In windmills and waterfalls,
tricycles and rocking chairs.
And i believe that seeds grow into sprouts.
And sprouts grow into trees.
I believe in the magic of the hands.
And in the wisdom of the eyes.
I believe in rain and tears.
And in the blood of infinity.

I believe in life.
And I have seen the death parade
march through the torso of the earth,
sculpting mud bodies in its path.
I have seen the destruction of the daylight,
and seen bloodthirsty maggots
prayed to and saluted.

I have seen the kind become the blind
and the blind become the bind
in one easy lesson.
I have walked on cut glass.
I have eaten crow and blunder bread
and breathed the stench of indifference.

I have been locked by the lawless.
Handcuffed by the haters.
Gagged by the greedy.
And, if I know any thing at all,
it's that a wall is just a wall
and nothing more at all.
It can be broken down.

I believe in living.
I believe in birth.
I believe in the sweat of love
and in the fire of truth.

And I believe that a lost ship,
steered by tired, seasick sailors,
can still be guided home
to port.

Artist Bios



Troy Anthony is a composer, actor, and director based in NYC. He has presented work at Joe's Pub, 54 Below, Prospect Theater Company, and the Musical Theater Factory (MTF). Commissions include the Atlantic Theater Company, The Civilians, and The Shed. Troy has been seen in the Public Theater's *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It*, as well as Prospect Theater Company's *Tamar of the River*. He leads the Public Theater's Public Works Community Choir and focuses on the intersection between art and social justice at the DreamYard Art Center. He's also a 2019-2020 MTF Maker.



Andrea Assaf (Playwright, *Eleven Reflections on September*), is the founding Artistic & Executive Director of Art2Action, Inc. She is a writer, director, performer, and cultural organizer. Andrea has a Master's degree in Performance Studies and BFA in Acting, both from NYU. Awards include: 2021 Best Experimental Feature, Silk Road Film Awards Cannes; 2017 Freedom Plow Award for Poetry & Activism Finalist, *Split This Rock* Poetry Festival; 2010 Princess Grace Award for Directing. She is a co-founder of the MENA Theatre-Makers Alliance and CAATA, and a member of Alternate ROOTS and RAWI (Radius of Arab American Writers).



Victor Caccese is a founding member of the Brooklyn-based percussion quartet, Sandbox Percussion. As a member of Sandbox, Victor has performed over 150 concerts worldwide. In the Fall of 2021, along with Sandbox Percussion, Victor will give the world premiere of an evening-length work by Andy Akiho entitled *Seven Pillars*. Victor holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory and the Yale School of Music. Victor serves on faculty at the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory as a percussion instructor and ensemble-in-residence with Sandbox Percussion. Victor endorses PearlAdams instruments, Vic Firth drumsticks, Remo drumheads, Zildjian Cymbals, and Black Swamp accessories.



N. Scott Johnson is an architect, artist, and musician whose work explores public space, performance, and memory. As a cellist and composer, Johnson collaborated with experimental filmmaker Barbara Hammer, performing his *Duet for Cello and Film* at the Berlin Film Festival in 2018. Subsequently, Johnson's work has been featured at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. He recently composed and performed music featured in the film *9/11's Unsettled Dust*, which premiered on PBS on September 10, 2021.



Ash Marinaccio is a multidisciplinary documentarian working in theatre, film, and photography. She is dedicated to storytelling that highlights the socio-political issues defining our times with a particular investment in telling queer and working-class stories. For her work, Ash has: received a Lucille Lortel Visionary Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women, been listed as one of Culture Trip's "50 Women in Theatre You Should Know," received a Drama League Residency, been named a NY Public Humanities Fellow, and been a TED Speaker. Ash is a Ph.D. Candidate in Theatre and Performance at the CUNY Graduate Center where her research investigates documentary theatre, theatre in war/conflict zones, and precarity. Ash is the founding

artistic director of the United Nations recognized NGO Girl Be Heard, a founding director of the theatre collective Co-Op Theatre East, and creator of the digital documentary series Stage Left, which is currently being screened in film festivals across the United States.



James Scruggs is a writer, performer, and producer, who creates screenplays and large scale topical, theatrical, multi-media work focused on inequity and gender politics. His solo theater piece, *A Voluptuary Life*, received a MAP Grant. It explored the hetero-washing of LGBTQ+ history. It was presented at HERE Arts Center, 2019. In 2018, he created a site specific immersive, interactive, satirical work for *The High Line*, *MELT!* He was awarded a 2015 *MAP Grant* and a 2016 *Creative Capital Grant*, to create *3/Fifths*. Performed in May 2017, it was a fully immersive, interactive ethno-theme park, exploring race and racism called SupremacyLand. It got "4 stars in *Timeout NY*". His *3/Fifths Trapped in a Traveling*

Minstrel Show, a piece about how in 2017 unarmed black men are often feared and legally killed. It was awarded an *Elliot Norton Award* for Outstanding Fringe Production, shown at BCA in Boston. Other grants include a 2016 New Jersey state grant *NJSCA Fellowship* for artistic excellence. Currently he's working with Rattlestick Theater to create a solo piece, Dark Bravado, which will be a trans-media piece about the virus of hatred and his intimate connection to 9/11. James Scruggs has a BFA in Film from School of Visual Arts.

A Note and Moment of Thanks

This event has been organized by a coalition of West Village community and arts organizations.

Today we share the work of artists who have been personally impacted by 9/11 and have committed their work to this event over the past twenty years. We invite you to join us in this communal act of remembrance, reflection, and expression by sharing your own stories with our story recorders.

This anniversary finds our city in yet another moment of mourning and recovery. We hope this event creates space to remember those we lost and honor the resilient spirit that will enable us to move forward.

We would like to thank our partners: Art2Action, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Greenwich House Music School, Village Preservation, and The New York City AIDS Memorial.

Special thanks to Lourdes Perez-Berkeley,
Mary Fetchet, Frank Fetchet, and Voices of September 11th.