

CAL STATE UNIVERSITY EAST BAY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH DANDELION DANCETHEATER
PRESENTS

Wandering in the Wildernes

Year 1 of 40



Public Sharings
CSUEB Outside Theatre,
4/16, 4/17, 4/23 & 4/24 @ 7:30pm

Acknowledgement

We, the Walks-Between Wandering Ensemble give thanks for the guidance and collaboration of our wise and supportive ancestors behind us and ahead of us and within us, and those ancestors of these lands we work with, whose blood and bones have become the lands. We honor the people of these unceded lands, the Yrgin/Chochenyo/Ohlone people, the Bay Miwok people, the Tongva people, the Southern Pomo people, and all the indigenous peoples of this sacred planet.

We give thanks to our collaborators: humans, trees, four-legged, two-legged, winged, and water-breathing people, and the wind, fire, water, earth...and the star ancestors overhead, and all the others who identify in infinitely divergent ways.

We acknowledge the beautiful, evolving, chosen circles we move in, and all those forms of life that inter-are with us... known and unknown. We especially acknowledge and welcome all those who have ever felt that they didn't fit in: outsiders, outcasts, weirdos, queerdoes, divergers, experimenters, artists, border-blurbers, mystics, dorks, nerds, rebels, visionaries, truth-tellers, and all lovers of life's infinite and ever-evolving diversity.

We feel collective sorrow and remorse for the suffering caused by human people towards each other and all beings. And we apologize for harms we have caused through our actions, both conscious and unconscious.

May our collaboration here today, between artists and witnesses, givers and receivers, seen and unseen beings, the living and the dead and those still to come...May this collaboration bring healing to each of us, and our intersecting spirals of relations.

Like the uncontrollable, mysterious spreading of dandelion seeds in the wind, may our efforts somehow help all beings to blossom, to feel safe, and to fully and passionately inhabit their entire bodies in freedom, joy, and loving-awareness.

Director's Note

I'm experiencing this time we're all moving through as huge, complex, and transformative. As I honor the suffering and grief present, I'm also in touch with a sense of expanded possibility, the likes of which I haven't felt before. I'm resonating with the Tibetan Buddhist concept of "Bardo," which I understand to be the space between incarnations, but also the space between each moment, and each life cycle, and each relationship, and each historical shift.

In this Pandemic Bardo, I feel called to give more and more of my energy over to experimenting with fresh ways of engaging with all of life, and especially with performance. Wandering in the Wilderness is a major part of this experimentation. The original spark for the project was the Torah story of the Ancient Jews escaping slavery from Mitzrayim (the narrow place), crossing the Red Sea and wandering in the wilderness for 40 years before entering the "promised land." We've decided to take 40 years to complete this project, to allow for deep, slow-moving, and lasting transformation of our bodies, minds, spirits, and artistic perspectives. So please save the date for our World Premiere: April 8th, 2061. In the meantime, we'll be exploring all sorts of new and adapted artistic realms and presentation modalities-- to learn, grow, and evolve together. If you'd like to participate in some way, please email me: eric.kupers@csueastbay.edu

One of the things that has felt most important to me to stay connected to during this time is the "live" aspect of performance. Our whole production is happening in real time, both in-person and online. I love the thrill of never knowing exactly how each performance will unfold—including all the ways we'll need to improvise to help each other through and the danger we face that any number of things might "fall apart." I love connecting with others in this electrified present moment and have been surprised to find that I'm feeling the same amount of intimacy and energy exchange over zoom that I feel in-person, just in different ways.

I view Wandering in the Wilderness as an exploration of collaborative prayer. May it bring blessing and benefit to you and all of your relations. - Eric Kupers

Logistical Notes

Like all performances with the Wandering Ensemble, the Inclusive Interdisciplinary Ensemble, and Dandelion Dancetheater, we view this project as an ongoing creative research experiment. We are researching how to come together in ways that feel alive, healing, connecting, rejuvenative, and transformational. There will be lots of bumps and unexpected challenges along the way. We regard these as “grist for the mill” in our lifelong growth. We will be working with whatever arises as best we can in the moment, and we encourage you to do the same. In this spirit, we offer the following:

- This performance includes sexual images, adult language, flashing lights, flying metal objects, loud sounds, and large doses of subversion, surrealism and abstraction;
- Chapter One takes place in-person in the CSUEB University Theatre courtyard and, is streamed live through Zoom. Chapter Two takes place live on Zoom. The full program is between 90 and 120 minutes long, with a 10-minute intermission;
- The pre-show performance installation is a collaboration between the Wandering Ensemble, the CSUEB Music Department’s Wind Symphony (directed by Professor Danielle Gaudry,) and Evangel King’s Elders and Trees project;
- Since everyone attending virtually is likely to be on different kinds of devices for experiencing the sharing, using different versions of Zoom, and have different internet connection capabilities, it is hard to generalize about how best to take in the performance. We encourage you to experiment with different approaches to see what works best for you;
- If you are watching online, sometimes the shared-screen-videos can translate at a low resolution, making them blurry or pixelated. You might try going to “View Options” during these moments and clicking on “Original Size”.

Logistical Notes (continued)

- If technical difficulties prevent you from experiencing the performance in the ways that you want to, and you'd like to try again, please come back for a second evening and/or contact us for information on accessing recordings: eric.kupers@csueastbay.edu;
- Because each of us process information in different ways, we're making the full script for this public sharing available in case you'd like to read along or just check things now and then. Every time we finalize a draft of the script, it becomes out of date, because the piece is always evolving. But we think this will be "close enough" to what is said and sung. If you're joining us virtually, a link to the script can be found here: <http://www.dandeliondancetheater.org/wandering-in-the-wilderness/>
- In addition to all that is mentioned here, there will likely be many more glitches in our blending of in-person and online real time performance. You might think about all the challenging things that happen in online meetings with mics, sonic feedback, internet connection variables, computer malfunctions, time-delays, and the like. Then multiply them by a big number to get a sense of what we're attempting to juggle here with online zoom performing. We encounter different challenges every time we run the piece, and we work with them as best we can. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and willingness to not always know what's going on.
- For experimental, surreal, and abstracted performance like this, we recommend multiple viewings. There are many layers here and lots of structured improvisation. The work is designed to reveal different things each time someone witnesses it. Come back as many times as you want, in-person and/or online.

Creative Credits

Wandering in the Wilderness is being developed by the Wandering Ensemble: Alex Barbour, Megan Briceno, Abigail Brown, Amy Marie, Bonnie Baskin, Bri Martin, Carmen Wong, Chantel Burrell, Corissa "Reese" Johnson, Deborah Trudell, Gabrielle Lochar, Gabriela Teodora, Eric Ray Kupers, Ina Gonzalez-Valenzuela, Latoya Carter, Lisa Tenorio, Melissa Rosales, Raven Malouf-Renning, Rebekah Enderle, Slytherin Prince Saul Galdamez, Scott Duane, Emily McKaigg-Trudell, and Suelyn Pewitt.

Direction/Choreography: Eric Ray Kupers

Assistant Directors: Raven Malouf-Renning and Amy Marie

Music: Dandelion, Ultrasonic Current, and Eric Ray Kupers

Video: Eric Ray Kupers

Text: Eric Ray Kupers with additional stories by Elias Ramer

Scenic Design: Richard Olmsted

Lighting Design: David Juarez

Costume Design: Ulises Alcala

Stage Manager: Christian Honerlah

Special Thanks for Additional Collaboration: CSUEB Theatre and Dance Department, Dandelion Dancetheater, RAPT Productions (final scene video footage,) Artist Felix d'Eon for most of the Queer-Positive paintings and drawings, Kristoph Klover and Flowinglass Recording Studio, Catherine Cyr and Courtney Flores, the Dandelion Seeds, all of our wise and loving ancestors, and the land where we gather, which has been ancestrally tended for thousands of years by the Yrgin/Chochenyo/Ohlone people.

Collaborating Performers from the first year (and change) of our exploration, that are appearing only on recorded videos for this round include: Bonnie Baskin, Nathan Brinkley, Patrick Cress, Monica Doherty, Dorine Hoeksema, Evangel King, Emily McKaigg-Trudell, Angelo Salvador, Max Sovine, Deborah Trudell, Steven Watkins and many members of the extended Dandelion and IIE family.

Performer/ Collaborator Bios

Eric Ray Kupers' people are Ashkenazi Jews who come from lands now called Russia and Ukraine, who came to the United States to flee pogroms and other oppression in the early 1900's. He is also of the Walks-Between people, including Queer folks, Artists, Activists, Outsiders, Rebels, Mystics, Wizards, Witches, Healers, Visionaries, Weirdos, Queerdos, and Divergent people from throughout human history.

He has co-directed, choreographed, and performed with Dandelion Dancetheater since its inception in 1996. Eric is a Professor of Dance and Inclusive Performance at Cal State University East Bay and the chair of the Theatre and Dance Department. He is the director of Bandelion (his core research collaboration within Dandelion, founded in 2006,) and the IIE (the CSUEB Inclusive Interdisciplinary Ensemble, also founded in 2006,) which brings together students, alumni, community members and professional performers with and without disabilities and from diverse cultures to create original performance works. Recently Eric initiated Mandolion, a queer men's performance research ensemble, as well as the Wandering Ensemble, a collaboration between Dandelion and IIE. He is a founding member of the band Ultrasonic Current. He lives with his husband and three rescue poodles on the ancestral land of the Chochenyo Ohlone people, AKA Oakland.

Alex Barbour is a CSUEB Alumni, excited to embark on the next chapter of his life. He's honored to continue to work with DanceSing Drum to develop Wandering in the Wilderness. Alex was a part of every dance show during his time at CSUEB - Refuge, Melt, Wandering in the Wilderness, and even experimented with acting in Blood at the Root. He loves spending his down time with his family, especially his nephew.

Chantel Burrell is a recent graduate of CSU, Eastbay, where she obtained her BA in the Theater Arts program. She enjoys taking on the challenges of performing by ZOOM or live on stage. In 2019, Chantel was cast in "1984" as the old lady. This was her first time performing in front of a live audience. Her next role was in "Footloose" as the principal. She also performed in the "Vagina Monologue," and in "Blood at the root," and Songs in Time of the Pandemic. Chantel has also worked behind the scenes for the play "Little Shop of Horror. She is really excited about the part she will be performing in "Wandering in the Wilderness." Chantel hopes to have continuous experiences in the theater world. She would also like to continue to grow her craft both on stage and behind the scenes.

Performer/ Collaborator Bios

Scott Duane took his first modern dance class in 2017 and has been hooked ever since. He has performed in works by Nol Simonse, Garrett & Moulton Productions, and Dandelion Dance Theater. In 2020, Scott began an ongoing collaboration with the avant garde tricycle with which he appears in *Wandering in the Wilderness*. Scott is also a writer, a trans activist, and a mathematician. His first book, *Nonbinary: Memoirs of Gender and Identity*, was recognized as a 2019 Lambda Literary Awards finalist.

Rebekah Enderle is a San Francisco-based contemporary dancer, performing artist, choreographer and filmmaker. Enderle moved to San Francisco from New York City after graduating with a Master of Arts degree from New York University, where her studies focused on colonization, Africa, and socio-economic history at the Institute of French Studies. Her education in the humanities informs much of her artistic work. In her work, Enderle seeks to create beauty, share perspective and document culture through the language of dance. Creative process is more important than the final piece. Most recently, Enderle has performed and presented work at the New York Lift Off Film Festival, Jacob Jonas The Company Digital Film Festival, Joe Goode Annex Virtual Open House 3.0 and SAFEhouse for the Performing Arts.

Ina Gonzalez is a senior at California State University East Bay, double majoring in Psychology and Dance. As an artist, Ina explores movement through improvisation. She enjoys the idea of challenging traditional dance forms and expresses herself through the elements of various movement styles and textures. She has performed in two university dance productions in the past years; *"This Too Shall Pass"* and *"Refuge"*. She is excited to begin the 40-year journey of *Wandering in the Wilderness* with an inspiring and courageous group of artists. Ina would like to thank her family, the Theater and Dance Department, fellow dancers and artists for the love, support, and opportunities they provided that helped her grow into the artist she is and is becoming.

Dorine Hoeksema danced her way from the Netherlands to San Francisco in 2005. She enjoys many forms of dance including improv, dance theatre, hula and butoh — she loves moving about in general. Dorine has wandered from California to New York and is currently in Wisconsin, but she has continued dancing with Bandelion/Dandelion since 2006.

Performer/ Collaborator Bios

Corissa “Reese” Johnson is a 2008 graduate from California State University East Bay where she obtained a B.A in Theatre Arts-Dance. She has been teaching, training, studying and performing dance for over 20 years. She teaches in the Bay Area and works predominantly with the youth at pre-professional & recreational dance studios as a director, choreographer & instructor. Reese also works for the City of Oakland and OUSD teaching arts & dance programs in the summer. She loves performing and sharing her love for art in any way she can. For Reese being artistic is transformative, creating & sharing work is important and having a message is vital. We all have a voice and through art we can always express that voice. She has been a member of the Bandelion ensemble since 2010.

Isabella (Bella) Marseline is a graduating senior at Cal State East Bay and will be receiving her BA in Musical Theatre. She has been cast in 5 shows with the CSUEB Theatre Department, including Little Shop of Horrors as Audrey, Footloose as Ariel, and most recently, Blood at the Root as Toria. She has enjoyed learning various aspects of theatre arts- from costume and makeup design, to lighting and set design, to assistant directing and acting. She is grateful to be part of this loving ensemble for her last hurrah here at East Bay. She would like to thank Eric, Raven, Miss Chantel, and everyone involved in this therapeutic journey. She hopes you enjoy wandering in the wilderness with her!

Melissa began dancing at age 5 and has loved it ever since. As a child she trained in ballet, tap and jazz and then, as an adult, in Russian classical ballet in Dallas, TX. Melissa danced with the contemporary/classical ballet company millermuller Ballet for 6 years, before beginning her own dance company named Tangled Beauty. She enjoys working with kids, teaching ballet and tap, and choreographed musical theater pieces for White Rock Theater Project, and The Linden Grove Children’s Theater. Since moving to the Bay Area, she has choreographed for Theater of the Blue Moon and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. She is so excited to be part of the Wandering ensemble, and has found this project to be a joy-filled bright spot during the pandemic.

Suelyn Pewitt has been dancing for at least 10 years and has had her training done in many different styles of dance ranging from breakdance, poppin’ and lockin’, to ballet, lyrical, jazz and more. She was a competitive dancer growing up and choir singer and has taught dance in styles of Ballet, Ballroom, Hip Hop and more.

Performer/ Collaborator Bios

Gabriela Teodora Popadic is a senior at Cal State East Bay, majoring in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Dance Performance. In her artistic journey that started in Croatia, her home country, she traveled across the Atlantic Ocean in the search of something that is yet to be found. She is currently passing through the Bay Area and is grateful to have found an ensemble of beautiful souls with whom she will be performing in this piece as a fellow wanderer. She hopes to spread some joy and curiosity with this performance. She is also crazy about Argentine Tango.

Elias Ramer, who is published under the name Andrew Ramer, is the author of several books including *Queering the Text*, *Torah Told Different*, *Fragments of the Brooklyn Talmud*, and *Two Flutes Playing*. Born in Elm/hurst, New York, across the street from an amusement park called Fairyland, he now lives in Oak/land, California, up the street from an amusement park called Fairyland. For more information on his work: andrewramer.com

Raven Malouf-Renning received their BA from UC Santa Cruz in 1997, where they studied extensively with Mel Wong and Silvia Martins. Over the past 24 years, Raven has performed with SpectorDance, Big Moves Mass Movement, emFatic dance, and numerous local choreographers including Chris Black, Jesse Bie, Dawn Frank Holtan, and most recently, Eric Kupers. Raven has been a member of IIE & DanceSingDrum Company since 2016 and became Assistant Director in 2019. Past CSUEB productions include *This Little Light*, *This Too Shall Pass: 49 Experiments in Impermanence*, and multiple years of ICE-X, MELT, and FLOW. Raven is also a vocalist and harmonium player in the band Ultrasonic Current. In addition to their work in the Theater and Dance Department, Raven is a Lead Artist at SAFEHouse for the Performing Arts, where they created five solo dance films for the organization's Online Digital Showcase series, which they also co-host. Creating inclusive interdisciplinary art and helping others find their voice to do the same is at the core of Raven's spiritual practice.

Lisa Tenorio is a dancer, choreographer, yogi, equestrian and native of Guam. She holds an MFA in Dance from St. Mary's College of CA, presenting her thesis performance as a site-specific work at Montara State Beach. She enjoys experiencing dance in its infinite expressions and collaborating through the power of movement and the creative process. Current themes in her work include exploring ancient wisdom and the interconnection of the human self with all of nature.

Performer/ Collaborator Bios

The Avant Garde Tricycle took a nontraditional path into the world of performing arts. A.g. Tricycle is somewhat secretive, but from all we can gather, we believe it began its life as a beloved companion to a San Leandro toddler, but eventually yearned for more. After an extensive journey through many of the Bay Area's premiere second-hand shops, it eventually found its way to the CSU East Bay Theater Department in 2008 through collaborator Mickey Kay. Since then, A.g. tricycle has performed in Dandelion Dancetheater's Mutt, This Little Light, and many experimental performance happenings. A.g. tricycle's most recent work is a creative collaboration with Scott Duane in which the pair explore the world from the unique vantage point of one man and one tricycle. They are also mentoring young tricycles that are interested in pursuing avant garde performance.

Carmen Wong is a CSU East Bay alumni and creative liaison, who works with creatives from all walks of life to help bring their visions alive. She has worked in event and film production since 2012, and currently practices in mental and emotional development by implementing various techniques from around the world in healing arts. Carmen met Eric in 2019, where she was instantly drawn to the inclusiveness of his teachings, and process of allowing each artist the creative freedom in being themselves.

Megan Briceno, Abigail Brown, Amy Marie, Bonnie Baskin, Bri Martin, Deborah Trudell, Gabrielle Lochard, Latoya Carter, and Emily McKaigg-Trudell, are all fabulous human beings, and very valuable members of this ensemble. However, if you'd like to know more about them, you're on your own, as they didn't submit written bios for the program. We recommend embracing the mystery here!

CSU East Bay Department of Theatre and Dance

The CSU East Bay Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to:

Creativity

Performance

Reflection

Passion

Inclusion & Diversity

Mentorship

Collaboration

and

Social Justice

in all of our teaching, productions, advocacy, contributions to the CSUEB campus, and our work with communities locally and nationally.

Find out more about how to study, train, create, collaborate and perform with us at:

www.csueastbay.edu/theatre

Wandering in the Wilderness is part of the First Annual CSUEB Inclusive Performance Festival.

Please join us for more IPF events:

<http://www.dandeliondancetheater.org/inclusive-performance-festival/>

Music from Wandering is available for use in creative projects.

Please let us know if you'd like to work with any of it:

Bandelion's Stories of Our People

<http://www.dandeliondancetheater.org/bandelion-music/>

Ultrasonic Current's Collabyrinth of Souls

<http://www.dandeliondancetheater.org/ultrasonic-current/>

Eric Kupers' Open Source Musical Offerings:

<http://www.dandeliondancetheater.org/music-offerings/>