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Raja Feather Kelly by Kate Enman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ON THE BOARDS ANNOUNCES RAJA FEATHER KELLY'S
DANCE/THEATER PERFORMANCE *HYSTERIA*, AS A PART
OF A SUMMER INTERNATIONAL TOUR**

2019 – 2020 Randjelović/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist brings performs at On the Boards, Live Arts, Wexner Center for the Arts, Bates Dance Festival, ImpulsTanz: Vienna International Dance Festival, and Portland Institute for Contemporary Art

“an extravagant solo...” - The New York Times

SEATTLE, WA- (April 12, 2021)— New York Live Arts (Live Arts) and Live Arts' 2019–2020 Randjelović/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist (RCA) Raja Feather Kelly present *Raja Feather Kelly's Hysteria* Summer 2021 International Tour, kicking off with a socially distanced live remount in Live Arts' Ford Foundation Live Gallery April 8-10 2021. Commissioned by Live Arts, Kelly's solo dance, theater,

visual performance and installation will reach 7 cities in 7 months. **On the Boards will present a film screening and post-show artist conversation with Raja Feather Kelly and OtB Artistic Director, Rachel Cook, on May 6, 2021 at 6pm PT.**

Additional co-presenters and tour locations include: **Wexner Center for the Arts** in Columbus, OH (Film Screening), **Bates Dance Festival** in Lewiston, ME (Film Screening), **ImpulsTanz - Vienna International Dance Festival** in Vienna, Austria (Live), and **The Time-Based Art Festival at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art** in Portland, OR (Film Screening).

For more information and tickets to *HYSTERIA* at On the Boards on May 6, 2021:

<https://www.ontheboards.org/performances/raja-feather-kellys-hysteria>

For more information about the Live Arts' remount of *HYSTERIA*:

<https://newyorklivearts.org/event/hysteria/>

In *Raja Feather Kelly's Hysteria*, Kelly continues his study of pop culture and its displacement of queer Black subjectivity. Picking up where his 2018 performance, *UGLY*, left off, Kelly resituates himself as a glamorous, extraterrestrial entity—both alien to the world and wholly consuming its pop cultural byproducts. *HYSTERIA* marks the collapse of fiction into fact, tracking the subsequent inner turmoil, confusion, and mania that Kelly sets out to exorcise.

HYSTERIA is choreographed, directed and performed by Raja Feather Kelly, with video by **Laura Snow** with Kelly, photography by **Kate Enman**, sound by Raja Feather Kelly and **Remy Krus**, and cinematography by **Laura Snow with CJ Ferroni**. Set and prop design is by Kelly with Enman and lighting design is by **Tuce Yusak**. Corresponding interactive large scale installation created in December 2020 specifically for Live Arts' lobby wall under the same title remains on view anytime from outside and will be open to the public for indoor viewing prior to the April performances starting at 2pm EDT.

The RCA award artist receives two years of full-time salary, healthcare benefits, full-time access to dedicated office space during the entire residency period, creative funds, a technical theater residency and fully-produced production. Since its inception, the Randjelović/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist program has received lead support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and has been named for lead donors Jon Stryker and New York Live Arts Board of Directors Vice-Chair Slobodan Randjelović. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation continues to be instrumental in one of Live Arts' signature programs for artist development, and its ongoing support is vital to the continuation of the program.

Raja Feather Kelly's Hysteria
Summer 2021 International Tour

April 8, 9, and 10

New York Live Arts - Lobby, New York, NY

Socially distanced outdoor performance April 8 at 8pm ET, April 9 & 10 8:30pm ET

Lobby installation opens for indoor viewing at 2pm; Live Gallery Cafe at 6pm

Tickets \$25 - include drink and snack; Member presale March 19; General public March 25

Guests encouraged to wear pink

May 6, 2021

On the Boards, Seattle, WA

Film screening and online Q&A Thursday, May 6, 6pm PST

Tickets: <https://www.ontheboards.org/performances/raja-feather-kellys-hysteria>

More info: www.ontheboards.org

June 2, 2021

Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH

Film screening and online Q&A June 2, 5pm

Live introduction and Q&A with Raja Feather Kelly

Free

July 28, 2021

Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, ME

Film screening and online 7:30pm

Tickets on sale June 1, 2020

More info: batesdancefestival.org

September 2021

Time-Based Art Festival at Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland, OR

Film screening and online Q&A September 2021

More information available in summer 2021

pica.org

RAJA FEATHER KELLY

Choreographer/Director Raja Feather Kelly is the artistic director of New Brooklyn Theatre. In 2009, he founded the dance-theatre-media company the feath3r theory. The two companies merged in 2018. Raja has been awarded a Creative Capital Award (2019), a National Dance Project Production Grant (2019), a Breakout Award from the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation (2018), Dance Magazine's inaugural Harkness Promise Award (2018), the Solange MacArthur Award for New Choreography (2016), and is a three-time Princess Grace Award winner (2017, 2018, 2019). He was born in Fort Hood, Texas and holds a B.A. in Dance and English from Connecticut College.

Raja has been named as the 2019–2020 Randjelovic/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist at New York Live Arts and is an inaugural Jerome Hill Artist Fellow. Raja has also been awarded a New York Dance Performance "Bessie" Award, a Bessie Schonberg Fellowship at The Yard, a DanceWEB Scholarship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Choreography Fellowship, a HERE Arts Fellowship, 2018 Creator-in-Residence at Kickstarter, and a Choreography Fellowship at the Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU.

Over the past decade he has created fifteen evening-length works with his company the feath3r theory to critical acclaim. Most recently, *UGLY (Black Queer Zoo)* at The Bushwick Starr, and *We May Never Dance Again®* at The Invisible Dog in Brooklyn. Professionally, Raja has performed with Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group, David Dorfman Dance, Kyle Abraham|Abraham.In.Motion, and zoe | juniper. He has also managed a number of dance companies: Race Dance, Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, zoe | juniper, and Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group.

Since 2016, Raja has choreographed extensively for Off-Broadway theatre in New York City, most notably for Signature Theatre, Soho Rep, and New York Theatre Workshop and Playwrights Horizons. Frequent collaborators include: Lileana Blain-Cruz, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, Sarah Benson, and Lila

Neugebauer. Other theatre credits include choreography for *Skittles Commercial: The Musical* (Town Hall), *The Chronicles of Cardigan and Khente* (SohoRep), *Everyday Afroplay* (JACK), *GURLS* (Princeton University, Yale Repertory Theatre), *Electric Lucifer* (The Kitchen), *Lempicka* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *The House That Will Not Stand* (New York Theatre Workshop), *Fireflies* (Atlantic Theatre Company), *If Pretty Hurts Ugly Must Be a Muhfucka* (Playwrights Horizons, nominated for the 2019 Lucille Lortel Award and the 2019 Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Choreography), *The Good Swimmer* (BAM), and *Faust* (Opera Omaha). Most recent work: *A Strange Loop* (Playwrights Horizons), *Fairview* (Soho Rep, Berkeley Rep, TFANA and winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama).

NEW YORK LIVE ARTS

We acknowledge that New York Live Arts is located on the ancestral homeland of the Lenape people in New York City. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Lenape people and to all Indigenous people past, present and future, here and everywhere. New York Live Arts produces and presents dance, music and theater performances in its 20,000 square-foot home, including a 184-seat theater and two 1,200 square-foot studios. New York Live Arts offers an extensive range of participatory programs for adults and young people; it supports the continuing professional development of performing artists. New York Live Arts serves as home base for the **Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company**; it is the company's sole producer, providing support and the environment to originate innovative and challenging new work for the Company and New York's creative community.

On the Boards (OtB)

On the Boards is located on the unceded ancestral home of the Duwamish and many other Coast Salish peoples, recorded and unrecorded, who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. As settlers on this land, we extend our gratitude and respect. OtB invests in leading contemporary artists near and far, and connects them to a diverse range of audiences communities interested in forward-thinking art and ideas. We host performances, exhibitions, Artists-In-Residence, technical residencies, and offer affordable rehearsal and experimentation space for artists. Since its inception, in 1978, OtB has featured seminal performances by artists including Laurie Anderson, Bill T. Jones, The Wooster Group, Spalding Gray, Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker, Sankai Juku, Gisèle Vienne, Bruno Beltrão, Romeo Castellucci, John Jasperse, Back to Back Theatre, Faustin Linyekula, Mark Morris, Pat Graney, Dayna Hanson, Amy O'Neal, Reggie Watts, Zoe Scofield & Juniper Shuey, and Crystal Pite. Our building, The Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance, is a hub for the creative community, holding the 300-seat Merrill Wright Theater and a flexible Studio Theater.

PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (PICA)

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art. More information can be found at pica.org.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and education programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance the understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center

balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

FUNDING

Support for New York Live Arts is provided by the Arnhold Foundation, Blanchette Hooker Rockefeller Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Ed Bradley Family Foundation, The Brant Foundation, Inc., Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Dance/NYC, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Harkness Foundation for Dance, Marta Heflin Foundation, Alex Katz Foundation, Lambent Foundation, Alice Lawrence Foundation, Samuel M. Levy Family Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Performance Network, New England Foundation for the Arts, NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund in the New York Community Trust, The Poss Family Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Jerome Robbins Foundation, The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, The Semel Charitable Foundation, Scherman Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Tides Foundation

Corporate support for New York Live Arts includes Con Edison, Google, Otter AI, Tito's Handmade Vodka.

Public support for New York Live Arts is from Humanities New York, National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Correction, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

NEW YORK LIVE ARTS

219 West 19th Street, NYC (between Seventh and Eighth Avenue)

For more info visit us online
at newyorklivearts.org