

THEM

Conceived by Chris Cochrane, Dennis Cooper, and Ishmael Houston-Jones

Directed by Ishmael Houston-Jones

Choreography improvised by the performers after a score by Houston-Jones

Music by Chris Cochrane

Text by Dennis Cooper

Lighting by Joe Levasseur

Advisor to the Production Jonathan Walker

Performed by Joey Cannizzaro, Felix Cruz, Niall Noel, Jeremy Pheiffer, Jacob

Slominski, Arturo Vidich and Enrico D. Wey

Management: Ben Pryor / tbspMGMT

THEM was conceived by Ishmael Houston-Jones, Chris Cochrane and Dennis Cooper with the collaboration of Donald Fleming and Jonathan Walker who did a first work-in-progress showing at Performance Space 122, May 10, 1985.

The complete version premiered at PS 122 in November 1986 with Cochrane/Cooper/Houston-Jones and Barry Crooks, Donald Fleming, Julyen Hamilton, Daniel McIntosh, and David Zambrano.

THEM toured to the Harbourfront Festival in Toronto in 1987 with Cochrane/Cooper/Houston-Jones and Barry Crooks, Almon Grimstead, Benoît Lachambre, Daniel McIntosh, and Brian Moran.

THEM is supported in part by TestPerformanceTest and developed through the RE:NEW RE:PLAY residency series at the New Museum. Additional support for THEM has been provided by Tides Foundation and Foundation for Contemporary Arts.

After moving to New York from Philadelphia in 1979, **Ishmael Houston-Jones** joined a band of like-minded art rebels and formed the early informal core of what became Performance Space 122. As a choreographer Houston-Jones' early work used movement and text to address issues of race, politics, sexuality, and the AIDS crisis. In 1984 Houston-Jones and Fred Holland shared a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie Award." Works Houston-Jones premiered at PS 122 include two collaborations with novelist Dennis Cooper, *THEM* and *Knife/Tape/Rope*. He also appeared here in the work of Holland, Yvonne Meier, John Bernd (RIP), Cathy Weis, DD Dorvillier, Terry Fox, Rotozaza, DANCENOISE and as part of *Unsafe/Unsuited*. ishmaelhj.com

Chris Cochrane is a guitarist who has been composing and playing music in NYC for 28 years. Chris has played with Zeena Parkins, John Zorn, Marc Ribot, Eszter Balint, Mike Patton, Annie Gosfield, Tim Hodgkinson, Richard Buckner, Jim Pugliese and many others. He has composed music for John Jasperse, Nayland Blake, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Jennifer Monson, Circus Amok and others. He was in the bands No Safety and Curlew. Is currently in two bands, one called Chris Cochrane and the Natalie Merchant with Mike Duclos and Hanna Fox (from Babe the Blue Ox) and the other is Kato Hideki's Plastic Spoon.

Dennis Cooper is the author of ten books of fiction, most recently 'Ugly Man' (Harper Perennial), 'God Jr.' (Grove Press), and 'The Sluts' (Carroll & Graf). 'Smothered in Hugs', a collection of his journalism, was published by Harper Perennial this past summer. He has collaborated with the French director Gisele Vienne on six theater works, including 'Jerk', which was performed at PS122 earlier this year. He lives in Paris and Los Angeles. His blog is denniscooper-theweaklings.blogspot.com.

Joe Levasseur has worked closely on lighting and production with many contemporary dance artists, including John Jasperse, RoseAnne Spradlin, David Dorfman, Beth Gill, Maria Hassabi, Ashleigh Leite, Jodi Melnick, Jennifer Monson, LeeSaar the Company, Anna Sperber, Megan Sprenger and Pavel Zustiak. He also lit theater pieces at the Chocolate Factory and Brick theaters, and designed the Off-Broadway play "Edge". Levasseur is a recipient of two New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Awards, first for his body of work for the 2007–08 season, and this year for "Cumme Toujours Here I Stand" by Big Dance Theater. For more information visit www.joelevasseur.com.

Arturo Vidich is an artist from New York. He was a 2008-2010 Movement Research AIR. Vidich co-directs Culture Push, a non-profit arts organization. He received a Bessie for his collaboration on *Stolen*. Vidich is currently a master's candidate at ITP, NYU Tisch.

Niall Noel makes dances and occasionally appears in dances made by close friends, is a member of TheClassReunion, is a child of Virginia, is also Niall Jones.

Joey Cannizzaro is a conceptual artist. His most celebrated work to date is *Avant Garde Patty Cakes*. The piece consists of one or more people with hands—either static or in motion-- within any proximity of each other. The piece premiered in 2010, in the program for the revival of *Them* at the New Museum and PS 122.

Felix Cruz is a dancer and choreographer who is new to the city. He loves dancing, choreographing, teaching, music and you. If you love him too, email him at felix.luis.cruz.jr@gmail.com or find him on facebook to see more of his work.

Enrico D Wey makes stuff. Worked extensively with Team Djordjevich. Commissioned by Danspace in 2009. Received SwingSpace and Fresh Tracks residencies. Tours with Handspring/William Kentridge's *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse*. Headed to Trajal Harrell/Sarah Sze's residency (ICA-Boston.) Appearing in *War Horse* (Lincoln Center.)

Brooklyn native **Jeremy Pheiffer** has had the pleasure of working with Jon Kinzel, Ashley Byler, Kathy Westwater, Anneke Hansen and more. He is a founding member and choreographer for JerKiLaNa, creating collaboratively and individually around New York City. jerkilana.wordpress.com

Jacob Slominski graduated from Cornell University in 2007. He grew up in Southern California. He recently performed in Faye Driscoll's show *There is so much mad in me* at Dance Theatre Workshop. He also makes his own work.

tbspMGMT is an experiment in new models of management, curation and presentation of contemporary dance and performance. Thomas Benjamin Snapp Pryor has also worked as Director of Operations for Center for Performance Research, as an Artist Representative at Pentacle, and at Brooklyn Academy of Music. He is the curator and producer of AMERICAN REALNESS, a festival of contemporary performance. tbspMGMT.com

THEM (2010) was developed through a partnership with the New Museum as part of the RE:NEW RE:PLAY residency series curated by Travis Chamberlain. Open rehearsals at the New Museum culminated in a series of programs collectively titled THEM AND NOW, including a dance performance of young male improvisers curated by Ishmael Houston-Jones; a concert with Chris Cochrane and his musical collaborators from the past three decades; an evening of provocative readings with Dennis Cooper and three twenty-something queer zine writers; plus a panel discussion considering Ishmael Houston-Jones' career and his many innovations as a choreographer and dancer. These programs further contextualized the artistic impulses that propelled the creation of this "aggressive and vital" (Village Voice) performance work and its reconstruction twenty-five years later. The nature of the residency also provided an unprecedented opportunity for museum audiences to contribute to the rehearsal and reconstruction process, forging a deeper appreciation of the work and the artists' practices.

Thanks: Fred Holland, Yvonne Meier, Jonathan Walker, Steven Craig Paxton, Christy Pessagno, Anne Delaney, Linda Stein & Paul Vidich, Emma Hoette, Ben van Buren, Andrew Champlin, Moriah Evans, Travis Chamberlain and the staff at the New Museum, Vallejo Gantner and the staff at PS 122, and Ben Pryor of tbspMGMT. This past summer was an amazing journey, more thank-yous than I can count.

Music recorded and mixed by Kato Hideki, with occasional bass, string, percussion and inspiration. Thank Hanna Fox and Edward Francis Gormley for free instrumental rental, Richard Dworkin for his ceaseless ears and critique and every other musician that played at Soundchek '86.

Performance Space 122 is New York's ultimate destination for cutting-edge theatre, dance, music, live art and multi-media. PS122 is dedicated to supporting and presenting artists who explore innovative form and provocative content and who rigorously challenge the boundaries contemporary performance; PS122 is committed to a steadfast search for pioneering artists from a diversity of cultures, nations and beliefs.

For thirty years, Performance Space 122 has been a hub for contemporary performance and an active member of the East Village, as well as the wider cultural community in N.Y.C. and across the globe. In just the past 4 years, under the curatorial vision of Artistic Director Vallejo Gantner, PS122 has opened the curtain on more than 2,100 performances, welcomed more than 100,000 visitors, and supported the work of more than 1,800 artists, performers, choreographers, playwrights, directors and designers.

Performance Space 122 passionately advocates for U.S. artists in New York and across globe. Our organization and the artists we present are reclaiming their relevance to wider social discourse by engaging artists, audiences and other community leaders in cultural, economic, and environmental debates about what it means to live in contemporary society. Please join us.

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