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***MINOTAUR***

Tek Box at the Cowles Center

July 14-17, 2022

***Scene List***

1 – Prologue

2 - The Last Minotaur

3 - A Celebration

4 - A Beach

5 - A Fight

7 - A Bedroom

8 - The Middle Chamber

9 - Another Bedroom

10 - Another Beach

11 - Another Fight

12 - Epilogue

**The Team**

**Performing Ensemble:** Nieya Amezquita, Gabby Garcia, Jennifer Ilse, Jesse Schmitz-Boyd, and Joey Wurm

**Direction, Choreographer: Jennifer Ilse**

**Music: Dameum Strange**

**Live Animated Projection Design, Set, Masks: Paul Herwig**

**Lighting Design:** Mike Grogan

**Costume Design: Kym Longhi**

**Assistant Costume Design: Kathy Miller**

**Box Office:** Jon Skaalen

**Off-Leash Area Artistic Directors**

Jennifer Ilse – Paul Herwig

**Off-Leash Area Board of Directors**

Ann Williams, Chris Hoppe

Jennifer Ilse, Paul Herwig

*We’re looking to increase our Board.*

*Interested? Contact Jennifer or Paul at offleash@offleasharea.org*

**Artist Bios**

**Nieya Amezquita (Ensemble Performer)** is a Minnesota-based professional dancer with Threads Dance Project. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from the University of Georgia where she practiced ballet, contemporary, different branches of African movements and debuted as a contemporary choreographer. She also had the opportunity to perform nationally and internationally with founding company CADE:NCE before studying in Portugal with the Addo Platform after graduation. Most recently, Nieya was a featured artist in the Blackness Is Arts festival produced by the Guthrie Theater and is currently a selected choreographer for Threads Dance Project's Tapestries production.

**Gabrielle Garcia (Ensemble Performer)** is a modern dancer who graduated as a dancer from the Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists in 2015, and Beloit College in 2019 as a Dance and Environmental Geology double major. They have danced internationally at the World Dance alliance, and professionally in and out of the Twin Cities. This is Gabrielle’s first local show after graduating college.

**Mike Grogan (Lighting Design)** has been active in the Twin Cities theater scene since 1990. In that time he has designed for groups spanning dance, theater and music. In addition to previous works with Off Leash Area, Mike has designed for such local theater groups as Theater Mu, Mixed Blood Theater Company, Artistry MN, and Pangea World Theater. Mike was a 2012 and 2014 SAGE Dance Award recipient for outstanding lighting design. Mike is currently a Freelance Lighting Designer in the Twin Cities area.

**Paul Herwig (Live Animated Projection Design, Set Design, Masks)** Paul is a McKnight Theater Fellow, and with Jennifer a one-time City Pages Artist of the Year. His set designs have received awards, and have been listed in the local press Best of the Year lists numerous times. Paul is a graduate of the internationally renowned Lecoq School of Movement and Theater in Paris (1981-1983), where he trained in mask performance. In the 1980’s Paul performed throughout rural France, at the Szkene Theater in Budapest, and to festivals in Avignon, France and Edinburgh, Scotland, and with touring companies travelling across 25 US States. In the 1990’s he worked in Toronto as a freelance actor, at the Teatre Francais de Toronto, and the Great Canadian Theater Company in Ottawa, among others. Paul’s new digital design for events company is Future Projections. **www.futureprojections.net**

**Jennifer Ilse (Director, Choreographer, Ensemble Performer)**grew up in northern Wisconsin, began her professional dance career with the Dance Theater of Oregon while studying at the Eugene Ballet and Musical Feet school of tap, and moved to Minneapolis in 1998 where she joined Paul Herwig to launch Off-Leash Area. She was City Pages 2005 Artist of the Year, has been featured on TPT’s MN Original, received 5 Arts Board Artist Initiative grants, and received 2 Ivey Awards through Off-Leash Area. She is also a dance educator, currently teaching ballet and modern dance for young people and adults, and brings her unique style of meshing floor work and inversions to her class work.

**Kym Longhi (Costume Design)** is a multi-disciplinary artist whohas designed costumes, masks, puppets and set pieces for CTC, Margolis Brown ADAPTORS, Off-Leash Area, Penny Freeh Dances, Ann Carlson, and her own performance work. Her bead sculpture has been exhibited nationally and internationally, includingthe Museum of Art and Design in New York and Hakone’s prestigious open-air museum in Japan.  She has worked with OLA both as an actor/collaborator and as a designer for eleven of their productions.

**Kathy Miller (Assistant Costume Design)** is the director and owner of Adelheid Designs.  She began sewing under her mother’s tutelage at the age of 7, and at 13 her career began when she won the Singer Sewing contest.  She studied fabric and design at University of Wisconsin Stout and continues her love of sewing from her Hudson studio.

**Jesse Schmitz-Boyd (Ensemble Performer)** (he/him) is a Twin Cities based performer, choreographer and arts educator. Jesse is a Company member with Alternative Motion Project, previously he has worked with RE|Dance & Erinn Liebhard.

Jesse’s choreography has been presented at The Minnesota Fringe Festival, Off-Leash Area ArtBox, Zenon Dance Zone, The Ritz Theatre, and Movement Arts Day (Eau Claire, WI).  In 2017 he presented 35 Different Angles From Which to Hate Yourself at the Minnesota Fringe Festival with his newly formed performance group Rogue & Rabble Dance. Currently he is on faculty at Children’s Theater Company Theater Arts Training, and Ballare Teatro Performing Arts Center.

**Dameum Strange (Composer, Live Music)** is a sound explorer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and sound designer whose conceptual electronic and improvised electro-acoustic works focus on stories and themes of the African diaspora, often exploring surrealist and afro-futurist ideas with unique impressionism. He expresses the beauty and resilience of the Black experience, digging into a pantheon of ancestors to tell stories of triumph, connecting the past, present, and future. He currently lives in the Frogtown Community of Saint Paul, MN with his wife, Corina, and their child, Ezra.

**Joey Wurm (Ensemble Performer)** is an actor turned dancer after years performing in dozens of musicals and plays with big and small community theaters in southeast Wisconsin and Minneapolis. Since graduating from the University of Minnesota in the fall of 2019, Joey has been exploring ways to continue a performing arts career while in the midst of a global pandemic, just as so many artists around the world have been doing. Since the Fall of 2021, Joey has finally begun to reenter the worlds of dance and theater, and sees much hope and promise for the future of the arts here in the Twin Cities.

***About Off-Leash Area:***

**Off-Leash Area**was founded in 1999 as a collaboration between dance artist Jennifer Ilse and visual-theater artist Paul Herwig. We recently closed our space, the Art Box, because of the pandemic, but clearly we have not stopped in our mission to create and present original crossdisciplinary and risk-taking productions and programming. With over 30 productions, our work has included the family-friendly, community-based Neighborhood Garage Tours, our experimental Microstage works in our

home studio Our Garage, and our Mainstage works at a range of venues from the Cowles Center to non-traditional spaces like Caponi Art Park. This year we launched a new program to highlight and support artists with disabilities, called Off-Kilter, which made its debut cabaret-style performance in June.

**Off-Leash Area is sustained by generous supporters like you!**

While grants fund a significant portion of our production work, we rely on individual donors to close the gap. You are a vital part of making groundbreaking interdisciplinary work come alive. Your contribution supports a network of performers, collaborators, and designers, and this thriving arts community.

**Donate today at www.offleasharea.org**

Become a monthly sustainer or give a one-time gift.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.