

ka·nei·see | collective and CAT CALL CHOIR

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Pictured (Center): Madeline Matuska in *Nevertheless*. Photo by Robbie Sweeny

KA·NEI·SEE | COLLECTIVE and CAT CALL CHOIR

in association with Z Space

Present

NEVERTHELESS

A marriage of song and dance, comedy and horror.

MARCH 7-10, 2019

Box Office: www.zspace.org/nevertheless or 415-626-0453 ext.104

Tickets: \$25-\$40

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - December 12, 2018 - ka·nei·see | collective and Cat Call Choir in association with Z Space, today announce the March 2019 performances of the highly successful evening-length work *Nevertheless* (2018), featuring new songs, a larger cast and newly choreographed sections. Drawing

inspiration from the feminist battle cry, “Nevertheless, she persisted,” this new iteration of **Nevertheless** surveys the field of gender-based harassment from the subtle to the violent, in a marriage of song and dance, comedy and horror. *Nevertheless* interweaves the companies of **Cat Call Choir** and **ka-nei-see | collective** in explorations of topics that will feel familiar to some and frightening to others, ranging from being told to smile to being followed home at night. Garnering the recognition of Senator Elizabeth Warren in 2018, this reprise of *Nevertheless* features an expanded cast of 25 singers and dancers, performing 17 vignettes with new material and new voices exploring gender discrimination, harassment and sexual violence. *Nevertheless* also will feature a companion gallery installation from Bay Area and national artists who are exploring similar themes in their work. **Nevertheless runs for four performances only, Thursday, March 7, Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9 at 8pm, and a matinee on Sunday, March 10 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$25-\$40 and are available at www.zpace.org/nevertheless or 415-626-0453 ext.104.** The gallery installation is open two hours prior to every performance and is free to the public.

The frequency and implied normalcy of gender-based harassment and violence was the impetus for creating *Nevertheless*. At the start **ka-nei-see | collective Artistic Director Tanya Chianese** -- named one of *Dance Magazine's* “25 to Watch” (January 2019) and among 100 Artists Putting the East Bay on the Map by *San Francisco Magazine* -- asked her dancers, “What is the most vivid, memorable sexual harassment or discrimination experience you have personally gone through?” While her all-female cast was a group of close friends, committed to her intimate dance-making process, Chianese says that for some, it was the first time they had shared their stories. “What struck me was how each story was unnecessarily filled with shame and guilt,” she says.

Performing alongside ka-nei-see | collective is **Cat Call Choir** delivering uncensored experiences to the tune of nursery rhymes and other widely recognizable songs -- all of Cat Call Choir lyrics are derived entirely from real life stories -- and possessed of a growing repertoire that includes all forms of gender-based harassment, including sextortion, revenge porn and cross-genders body shaming. Cat Call Choir, which describes itself as “a somewhat sardonic, slightly scornful, but non-violent, songful response to gender-based harassment,” is led by **Heather Arnett** who began documenting her own experiences of street harassment in 2014. “People didn’t believe me when I told them how frequently it was happening,” she says. What to do with her volumes of documentation came in the answer of song. Audiences and performers alike report that the result is a cathartic combination of laughter and shock. Arnett adds, “The Choir and these songs give people armor and help them heal.”

Nevertheless is performed by dancers of ka-nei-see | collective: Allegra Bautista, Clarissa Dyas, Kelsey Gerber, Kalani Hicks, Mallory Markham, Madeline Matuska, Rebecca Morris and Vera Schwegler. Cat Call Choir singers are Mika Banks, Chelsea Brown, Lydia Clinton, Maggie Connard, Emily Deckert, Greta Hadley, Alexa Manalansan, Jennifer Minore, Sheena Miraftebi, Amelia Nommensen, Bhumi Patel, Sarah Stephen, Ali Toia, Lucca Troutman, Jenna Valez and Jordan Wanderer.

GALLERY INSTALLATION FEATURED ARTISTS

SAREYTALES

Combining art and design with a portfolio of online dating fiascos that would rival most, *Sareytales* transforms the creepy, cruel and more often than not obscene real-life messages received on dating apps into works of art. Created by Detroit artist **Sarey Ruden**, *Sareytales* has since evolved into a platform which empowers other women to stand up to the online bullying, anti-semitism and cyber-sexual harassment culture of online-dating.

Website: <http://www.sareytales.com>

WAX THAT ASS

Wax That Ass is a series of interactive butt sculptures, molded from actual women's butts, that combat and comment on sexual harassment. Created by Bay Area artist **Allison Bouganim**, the wax and plaster sculptures are placed in typical places of harassment towards women. The sculptures incorporate technology and have buttons and sensors on them, that once touched project different sounds and phrases.

Website: <https://www.allisonbouganim.com>

NEVERTHELESS VIDEO TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/303583840>

ABOUT KA·NEI·SEE | COLLECTIVE

Hailed as an "important player in the emerging contemporary dance scene" (Critical Dance), ka·nei·see | collective is a San Francisco Bay Area performing arts ensemble directed by Tanya Chianese. Named after the phonetic combination of "can I see?" and Tanya's Italian last name, the company creates vitalizing and accessible contemporary dance that promotes finding humor, appreciation, compassion, awareness, and most importantly perspective in our increasingly technological existence. Since its inception in 2014, ka·nei·see | collective has received two audience choice awards (Luna Dance Institute, ODC/Dance), four tours (Seattle, WA; Aspen, CO; Los Angeles, CA; Denver, CO), five residencies (including Shawl-Anderson Dance Center and SAFEhouse Arts), twelve festival invitations (including local SF International Arts Fest, RAWdance's Concept Series and West Wave Dance Festival), seven critic's choice/picks (such as SF/Arts, SF Chronicle), and four commissions (including San Francisco State University). ka·nei·see | collective has been featured and reviewed in over 32 media outlets, and has received funding from the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, CA\$H Grant, Lighting Artists in Dance, and individual donors.

One of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" of 2019, Artistic Director Tanya Chianese was also recently named by San Francisco magazine as "100 Artists Putting the East Bay on the Map" alongside such individuals as Daveed Diggs from Broadway's *Hamilton* and Ryan Coogler, the director of *Black Panther*. She was guest speaker at San Francisco State University's 2017 Graduation Ceremony, as well as guest choreographer in 2018 with JUNTOS Collective in Guatemala. In addition to her work as a choreographer, Chianese has performed professionally throughout the United States and parts of China. She currently teaches throughout the Bay Area. She holds a BFA in Modern Dance and BA in Art History from the University of Oklahoma. "Chianese draws you along a story arc with a sense of theatrical composition that's rare among choreographers more than twice her age," hails *Dance Magazine*.

Website: <https://www.kaneisee.org>

ABOUT CAT CALL CHOIR

Founded in San Francisco in 2016 by dancer and choreographer Heather Arnett, Cat Call Choir is a group of irreverent but hopeful women who sing about gender-based harassment to the tune of nursery rhymes and other widely recognizable songs. They perform in theaters and in public spaces for marches, protests, and special events. Cat Call Choir lyrics are derived from real-life harassers words, actions and mannerisms and their goal is to create space for women to share and process their unique experiences of harassment in a creative and productive way. Choir members and audiences alike report feeling empowered, relieved, and affirmed by participating in open rehearsals and attending live performances. Cat Call Choir is fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas, and has received funding from Zellerbach Family Foundation and individual donors.

Artistic Director **Heather Arnett** studied modern dance at Illinois State University while pursuing her BS in Chemistry. She earned an MS in Kinesiology from Western Illinois University before moving to Salt Lake City in 2005 on a graduate teaching scholarship for the Modern Dance Department at the University of Utah and with a full scholarship for the Laban/Bartenieff Movement Analyst Certification program. She relocated to the Bay Area in 2010 where she teaches Pilates full-time. Heather choreographed and performed solos in 2012 and 2015 at Dance Mission Theater, and choreographed and directed the dance film, *Parting Soles*, which was selected for Tiny Dance Film Festival and Austin Spotlight Festival in 2017. In addition to directing and performing with Cat Call Choir, Heather dances with Kristin Damrow & Company. She has also performed with Bianca Cabrera, Twisted Oak Dance Theater, Bodigram, Human Creature Dance Theater, Jennifer Meek, Number9 and Deborah Slater Dance Theater.

Website: <https://www.catcallchoir.com>

These performances of *Nevertheless* are supported in part by Zellerbach Family Foundation, CA\$H Grant, a program of Dancers' Group, and generous individuals.

Tickets for *Nevertheless* are priced at \$25-\$40 and are available online at www.zpace.org/nevertheless or by phoning 415-626-0453 ext.104

***Nevertheless* Video Trailer:**<https://vimeo.com/303583840>

Hi-Res Photos are available for download at: <https://www.kaneisee.org/press>

Websites:

<https://www.kaneisee.org>

<https://www.catcallchoir.com>

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"Accessible and provocative, as well as unafraid to meld innovation with time-honored dance conventions." -- *San Francisco Chronicle*

Many try, but few succeed like Chianese." - *San Francisco Magazine*

CALENDAR LISTING

DANCE, THEATER, MUSIC, PERFORMING ARTS

- WHAT:** ***Nevertheless* (2018)**
Conceived and Created by Tanya Chianese and Heather Arnett
Choreographed by Tanya Chianese, ka·nei·see | collective
Cat Call Choir Directed by Heather Arnett
Lighting Design by Linda Baumgardner
Costume Design by Carol Salmon
ka·nei·see | collective Dancers: Allegra Bautista, Clarissa Dyas, Kelsey Gerber, Kalani Hicks, Mallory Markham, Madeline Matuska, Rebecca Morris, Vera Schwegler
Cat Call Choir Singers: Mika Banks, Chelsea Brown, Lydia Clinton, Maggie Connard, Emily Deckert, Greta Hadley, Alexa Manalansan, Jennifer Minore, Sheena Miraftabi, Amelia Nommensen, Bhumi Patel, Sarah Stephen, Ali Toia, Lucca Troutman, Jenna Valez, Jordan Wanderer
- WHEN:** Thursday, March 7 at 8pm; *Pre-show gallery and bar open at 6pm.*
Friday, March 8 at 8pm; *Pre-show gallery and bar open at 6pm.*
Saturday, March 9 at 8 pm; *Pre-show gallery and bar open at 6pm.*
Sunday, March 10 at 2pm; *Pre-show gallery and bar open at 12 noon.*
- WHERE:** Z Space
450 Florida Street
San Francisco, CA, 94110
- TICKETS:** \$25-\$40
- BOX OFFICE:** www.zpace.org/nevertheless or 415-626-0453 ext.104
- WEBSITE:** <https://www.kaneisee.org/nevertheless>
- PRESS CONTACT:** Mary Carbonara, marycarbonara@gmail.com or 415-845-9994