

**Mariana Valencia: *Jacklean (in rehearsal)***  
**Artist, performer, and designer bios**

Choreographer and dancer **Mariana Valencia's** lyrical, witty, and transgressive performances are created from rigorously ordered sequences in which movement, song, and spoken text are improvised upon in front of audiences. Informed by the politics of a queer, Latina sensibility, she foregrounds personal experience against a broader social context, and is invested in the idea that improvisation carries emancipatory potential. Inserting cultural traditions into contemporary dance spaces, her movement lexicon draws on her ethnographic research, modern and postmodern vocabularies, and pedestrian movement.

Valencia has received several awards for her choreography, including a 2024 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, a 2023 Creative Capital Award, the 2018 Bessie Award for Outstanding "Breakout" Choreographer, and her work was included in the 2019 Whitney Biennial. She has received major commissions from Abrons Arts Center, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Chocolate Factory Theater, Danspace Project, Performance Space New York, and the Shed.

**Jazmin Romero** is an interdisciplinary artist from Los Angeles, California. Her work explores how memory is embodied through performance, video, sound, and sculpture. Romero's practice is concerned with how experimentation, improvisation, and collectivity allow for alternative forms of storytelling. She engages with the relationship between musical gesture and physical form to produce scores, assemblages, and compositions. She is also a member of various performance and music production collectives, such as COQUETA.

**Kathy Kaufmann** (lighting designer) is a New York City native, and a two-time Bessie Award recipient. She is resident designer at Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, has taught at Sarah Lawrence College and New York University, and has toured extensively throughout the world. She designs regularly for Dorrance Dance, Joanna Kotze, the Bang Group, Mariana Valencia, Rebecca Stenn, Ephrat Asherie Dance, Vicky Shick, Koma Otake, National Dance Institute, and Music from the Sole.