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**COUNTERPULSE AND GERALDCASELDANCE ANNOUNCE THE WORLD PREMIERE OF
NOT ABOUT RACE DANCE
– A Performance Response to the Racial Politics of Postmodern Dance –**



Photo of Gerald Casel by Crystal Birns

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, October 29, 2021 – In association with CounterPulse, **GERALDCASELDANCE** is pleased to announce the world premiere of *Not About Race Dance*. This evening-length work is a collaborative, choreographic response to the unacknowledged racial politics in U.S. postmodern dance.

Not About Race Dance features an all-BIPOC ensemble of five dancers that includes **Styles Alexander, Gerald Casel, Audrey Johnson, Karla Quintero, and Cauveri Suresh**, with an original score performed live by sound designer **Tim Russell**. Additional collaborators include **Aron Altmark** (lighting and media design) and **Rebecca Chaleff** (dramaturgy).

Not About Race Dance

December 2-4 & 9-11, 2021

Thu/Fri/Sat 7:30p & Sat 2p

CounterPulse, 80 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Tickets: \$15-35 (Thursdays are pay-what-you-can; Fridays include a post-show discussion)

counterpulse.org/event/notaboutrace

Casel is a Bay Area-based Pilipinx dance artist, equity activator, and antiracist educator. *Not About Race Dance* continues his research into the racial dynamics of postmodern dance — a form developed in the 1960s whose tropes and aesthetics (abstraction, ordinary or pedestrian movement, “the white cube”) have endured in the dance field. Despite postmodernism’s popularity, its racial dynamics have gone largely unacknowledged. In *Not About Race Dance*, Casel and his collaborators occupy a space that has been historically defined by white artists to present a contrasting vision of where Black and Brown bodies belong.

“Postmodernism’s claims — that the body is always free from narrative or metaphor, and that ‘pure movement’ or ‘neutrality’ is possible — don’t function equally for all people,” says Casel. “They were developed by a cohort of white artists, working in a specific time with specific privileges. Among other intersectional factors (such as age, gender, class, etc.), dancing by Brown and Black bodies is read differently than dancing by white bodies. In *Not About Race Dance*, we’re allowing the cultural markers that identify us to be central, rather than subsumed.”

In November 2021, Casel and his collaborators will travel to Tallahassee, Florida for a residency at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC), located at Florida State University. This will be the second time that *Not About Race Dance* has been supported by a national choreographic center in the United States; Casel went to The National Center for Choreography - Akron in 2018. *Not About Race Dance* has also been supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Dance Project, the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, UCSC Arts Research Institute, and The Bogliasco Foundation.

“We’re honored and excited to host Gerald and his collaborators at MANCC as they prepare for their world premiere at Counterpulse”, says Carla Peterson, Director. “*Not About Race Dance* is a critically important catalyst for and contribution to a necessary dialogue around postmodernism and racial identity. It affirms the possibility of difference.”

On Tuesday, December 7, the company invites audiences to **Dancing Around Race**, a free participatory gathering around racial equity in dance and in the Bay Area. Casel has been developing Dancing Around Race since 2018 and has held events across the country. Each event takes the form of a Long Table discussion, where everyone is invited to contribute to the conversation in a non-hierarchical way. Casel says, “I want to ask questions regarding racial equity in the dance ecology of the Bay Area and so I am bringing people together to be in dialogue about the harmful effects of systemic racism, especially for people of color.” **Dancing Around Race will take place on Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 pm** at CounterPulse’s Main Stage Theater and is free of charge.

On-demand streaming of the performance will be available for online viewing from December 15-31, 2021.

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About GERALDCASELDANCE

Since 1998, GERALDCASELDANCE has been creating and presenting experimental dance that combines social practice with creative and collaborative explorations. Each dance provokes reflection and implants its imagery into the viewer's psyche by combining movement and spatial composition with metaphor. Dropping hints of narrative while inviting space for contemplation, the dances deliver multiple levels of interpretation and meaning. GERALDCASELDANCE has been presented at KuanDu Arts Festival Taiwan, Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, Movement Research at Judson Church, Dance New Amsterdam, Dance Theater Workshop (Fresh Tracks and SplitStream), Joyce SoHo, Dixon Place, Dancenow NYC, Aaron Davis Hall, 92nd Street Y, The Yard, Jacob's Pillow (Inside/Out), Danceworks Milwaukee, ODC Theater and throughout Scotland following a company residency at Dancebase Edinburgh. Casel has been an artist in residence at ODC Theater, Movement Research, and has been awarded fellowships through the Hellman Foundation, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (Freedom Fellow), National Center for Choreography Akron, Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography, and The Bogliasco Foundation.

For more information about GERALDCASELDANCE visit geraldcasel.com.

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