

BETH GRACZYK PRODUCTIONS

2023 Year-In-Review & Current Projects

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

What an incredible 2023! It was filled with community, collaboration, and celebration as we served over 500 audience members in-person and online and employed 30 artists in NYC, Minneapolis, Seattle, and New Orleans. We continued connecting with established collaborators in these communities as well as forming new partnerships and friendships that deepen our commitment to sustainable growth as a company. This year we partnered with Center for Performance Research (NYC), Peridance Center (NYC), BAIRA (Detroit) and Wayward Music Series (Seattle). This was made possible through the generosity of the Sewell Family Fund, The Headlee Family, and our community of donors.

Now more than ever, BGP understands the importance of sharing art with each other - creating and exploring ideas that inspire, challenge, and provoke deeper inquiry into how we wish to live our lives within our immediate communities and the larger world. We are thrilled to continue this journey with you and share what we have done and where we are going in 2024.

Thank you for your continued support, presence, and creative energy as we expand our curiosity & connectivity through art!

*In Gratitude,
Beth*

BGP creates intersections in arts and science through contemporary dance-based projects celebrating LGBTQIA+ and neurodiverse communities.

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

BGP continued to partner with NYC-based Peridance for the series Sunday Sessions, which provides a platform for artists working inside of improvisational practices to share their work with the public in an experiential class. In 2023, we featured award-winning artists Symara Johnson and Marion Spencer. The success of this program has allowed us to expand our educational programming for 2024 to include 6 artists in the series.

*Connect with our 2024 Sunday Sessions programming:
bethgraczykproductions.com/resources/sunday-sessions*



*Beth Graczyk Productions,
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bethgraczykproductions.com*



Desire Motor is a 12-year project that began in 2016 and seeks to crack open the relationship between humans and nature and examine it through the often-dissonant lenses of scientific scholarship, daily practices, and rituals of engagement. Performance research and public sharings provide audiences opportunities to challenge their perceptions of sensory experiences in the physical world - from the momentary to the expanse of evolutionary time.

Our most recent work for this series, 'Decay Delay: Cycles of Formation', premiered at Center for Performance Research in NYC in March 2023. The movement and sound scores were derived from tactile explorations of bio-based materials that use detritus and other transformed raw materials to be employed in each performance - for instance, skins made from charcoal, spines made from eggshells, and translucent sculptures made from pine needles. The work was supported by a national team of artists including New York-based dancers Emily Cattán, Rachel Sigrid Freeburg and Bree Breeden, composer Aaron Gabriel (Minneapolis) in collaboration with vocalists Zena Moses (New Orleans) and Thomasina Petrus (Minneapolis) and included liquid charcoal drawings by visual artist Cristina de Miguel (NYC).

For 2024, we will continue this performance research and expand into sharing with different communities including Minneapolis, New Orleans, Detroit, and beyond.



CPR Performance March 2023, Bree Breedan, Emily Cattán, Rachel Sigrid Freeburg, photo by Effy Grey

Link for Decay Delay:

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/802298312>

Excerpt: <https://vimeo.com/822399863>

DESIRE MOTOR

Thresholds is a collaborative science & art project exploring the diversity of sensory processing in humans. Through performances and education, we aim to engage audiences in understanding the neurodiversity of perceptions in ourselves and others.

Our collaborative team is composed of Artistic Director Beth Graczyk, composer Aaron Gabriel, performer Michael Wolfe and neuroscientist Guadalupe L. Astorga.

In 2023, we expanded our team of collaborators to create our first short film, which included film-makers Effy Grey and Mohammed Yabdri. "Waiting for the Bus" features Michael Wolfe, who identifies as "a black, queer, performance artist with autism", offering insight into his daily life and inner world through movement, text, and song. Through Michael's narration, the seemingly mundane task of waiting for the bus unfolds into a labyrinth of feelings, sensations, and physical expressions of his body. We filmed on location in the twin cities, Minneapolis & St. Paul worked with Emmy-award winning editor Hanne Vaughn to complete the film. We will share 'Waiting for the Bus' alongside other work in Minneapolis in the Spring 2024.

We also began working on envisioning a larger installation piece that will feature dialogue between neuroscientist Guadalupe Astorga and Michael Wolfe and incorporate sensory experiences which will give an audience an opportunity to observe their own unique sensory perception. This installation will utilize the principles of Astorga and Graczyk's clinical study engaging visual perception, completed at the Rockefeller University. To help us envision and design the installation experience we have invited onto our team celebrated designers Amy Matthews and Kate Sutton-Johnson.

Please enjoy the film!

Links for "Waiting for the Bus":

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/870489568>

Full film: <https://vimeo.com/866881167/f65116bbd5>

Filming on location at TU Dance in Minneapolis, Aaron Gabriel, Effy Grey, Beth Graczyk, Mohammed Yabdri, Michael Wolfe, photo by Effy Grey



THRESHOLDS



NIGHT MUSIC

In 2023, we produced and curated an evening supporting 6 original works created by sound & movement artists who were inspired by specific phases of the night. 12 artists shared original work at the Chapel Performance Space in Seattle Nov 4, 2023. We collaborated with musician and palliative care doctor Hope Wechkin who received a grant from 4 Culture and partnered with Seattle's Wayward Music Series. Artists featured: Jason E Anderson, Corrie Befort, Alina To, Paige Barnes, Chari Glogovac-Smith, Nia-Amina Minor, Leanna Keith, Moonyeka, Hope Wechkin, Beth Graczyk, Tom Baker, and Alia Swersky.

Our sold-out show was celebrated by the community and proved to be a moment of potent connection between the audience and the artists. Several of the featured artists hadn't shared work since before the pandemic; equally, many audience members hadn't attended a live performance since that time. In 2024, we look forward to continuing the momentum created by this successful collaboration.

Check out more about this project:
bethgraczykproductions.com/night-music



Chari Glogovac-Smith, photo by Tony Contini
Nia-Amina Minor, photo by Devin Muñoz
Leanna Keith & Moonyeka, photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis

Alia Swersky, photo by Michelle Smith-Lewis