

## THANK YOU FROM AXIS

AXIS would like to thank its co-presenters Dancers Group & Yerba Buena Gardens Festival for their generous support and staff investment in making this project a success. We are grateful for the many collaborators from the beautiful cast of 20 dancers, to the artistic leadership team of Stephan, Pamela Z, & Callie and the production and support team that is holding all the pieces together. This project would not have been possible without the commitment our funders are making to artistry and building community. We are grateful to launch our 30th with this stunning work by Stephan Koplowitz!

## THANK YOU FROM STEPHAN

Stephan Koplowitz would like to thank Judy Smith for her vision, tenacity and invitation to make this work with AXIS: Marc Brew for his full hearted embrace of this project as the new Artistic Director of AXIS: Robin Anderson for her sensitive and thoughtful approach to producing and navigating different problems and opportunities throughout our process. The AXIS team: Breeana Lee, Hannah Rogge, Erika Evarrit and Maximilian Urruzmendi for their hard work and attention to all details! My thoughtful and caring rehearsal director Gregory Dorado, Pamela Z for her artistry and trust, Callie Floor for her keen mind and eye and Jamie Doublet for her generosity of spirit. The wonderful staff of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, especially Linda Lucero, Steve Cho, Marcelo Aviles for their partnership and support. Wayne Hazzard and the Dancers Group for giving Occupy a nurturing second home and my wonderful dancers/collaborators who have modeled grace, full hearted physicality, a sense of play, creativity and joy during our time together. This is the work of many hearts and minds. Thank you all.

## PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

Dancers' Group  
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#Occupy #sitespecific

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dance company

AXIS Dance Company, Dancers' Group,  
& Yerba Buena Gardens Festival present

## Occupy

A site-specific journey through an urban garden

**Conception, Direction & Choreography:** Stephan Koplowitz

**Music:** Original Score & Performance by Pamela Z

**Costume Design:** Callie Floor **Costume Assistant:** Victoria Mortimer

**Rehearsal Director:** Gregory Dorado

**AXIS Company Dancers:** James Bowen, Julie Crothers, Lani Dickinson, Carina Ho, Liv Shaffer, Dwayne Scheuneman, Kimberly Ocampo (Apprentice, supported by the Craig H. Nielsen Foundation)

**Core Company Dancers:** Lydia Clinton, Elena Martins, Hannah Pierce, Hannah Westbrook

**Ensemble Dancers:** Colette Bakke, Stephanie Bastos, Keanu Brady, Roxanne Black, Haley Brown, Sarah Cook, Scotty Hardwig, Hannah McNany, Robin Nasatir.

*Learn more about this the performers and collaborators for Occupy at [axisdance.org/occupy](http://axisdance.org/occupy)*

### AXIS Company Staff

Marc Brew, *Artistic Director*

Judith Smith, *Founder and Director*

Robin Anderson, *Engagement Director and Event Producer*

Erika Evaritt, *Development Associate*

Breanna Lee, *Company Administrator and Production Coordinator*

Hannah Rogge, *Marketing Associate*

Maximilian Urruzmendi, *Technical Production Manager*

Jamie Doublet, *Production Assistant*

### Notes on Viewing the Production:

Occupy takes place in six sections throughout the Gardens. Guides will usher you to each site. Please be mindful of not blocking the view of those audience who require wheelchair or other chair access.

Occupy is a site-specific work where the creative content of the work originates from the very site it is performed: Yerba Buena Gardens. The history, the design and current use of the Gardens all contribute to this creation as does the unique make-up of the cast of dancers with and without disabilities. Occupy looks at how these specific bodies are affected by and affect the spaces they inhabit. The work mines the notion of space and its connection to our personal, domestic, physical and spiritual bodies. The six sections of Occupy are knit together by collective bodies embodying and activating these chosen specific environments.

– Stephan Koplowitz, Director & Choreographer of Occupy



Thank you for joining us for *Occupy*, a site-specific journey through an urban garden. I've had the desire for an AXIS and Stephan Koplowitz collaboration since 2003 when I first saw Stephan's work at the Bates Dance Festival. I was amazed at the way Stephan orchestrated a huge cast in a multi-location performance. It's been quite a journey to make this work a reality. Luckily, Dancers' Group joined in the endeavor along with Yerba Buena Gardens Festival and these partnerships have made the magic happen. With the support of several funders, three organizations, three collaborating artists, a cast of twenty dancers, a large production staff and many volunteers, we animate the Gardens in a way that only AXIS can. Enjoy the journey!

– Judith Smith, Founder & Director of AXIS Dance Company

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## PRINCIPAL COLLABORATORS

**Stephan Koplowitz (Director & Choreographer)** is an award-winning director/choreographer/media artist known for his work on stage, film and site. His site work aims to alter people's perspectives of place, site, and scale, all infused with a sense of the human condition and is concerned with the intersection of natural, social and cultural ecologies within urban and natural environments. Since 1984, he has created 87 works and has been awarded 60 commissions performed in the US, Europe and Asia. He is the recipient of an Alpert Award in the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Bessie Award for in Choreography, six NEA Choreography Fellowships (1988-97) and two distinguished alumni awards from his alma maters Wesleyan University (BA Music Composition) and the University of Utah (MFA Choreography). Recent works have premiered in San Diego; Spoleto, Italy; and Columbus, Ohio. In August, Mill Town, a large-scale media/performance installation for the Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, Maine will premiere. Koplowitz is a contributor to the first book on site-specific choreography, *Site Dance*, (Florida University Press). After living in New York City for 23 years, he was appointed dean and faculty of Dance at the California Institute of the Arts and served in that capacity for ten years (2006-2016). To see examples of his work, visit:

[www.youtube.com/c/StephanKoplowitz](http://www.youtube.com/c/StephanKoplowitz) & [www.stephankoplowitz.com](http://www.stephankoplowitz.com)

**Pamela Z (Composer and Performer)** is a composer/performer and media artist who works primarily with voice, live electronic processing, sampled sound, and video. A pioneer of live digital looping techniques, she processes her voice to create complex sonic layers. Her solo works, which she has toured internationally and throughout the US, combine experimental vocal techniques, operatic bel canto, found objects, text, and sampled sounds – using custom MIDI controllers that allow her to manipulate sound and image with physical gestures. She has composed, recorded and performed original scores for choreographers and for film/video artists, and has had chamber music commissions from ensembles including Kronos Quartet,

Bang On A Can All Stars, Ethel String Quartet, and Del Sol String Quartet. She has collaborated with a wide range of artists including Joan La Barbara, Joan Jeanrenaud, Brenda Way (ODC Dance), Vijay Iyer, John Sanborn, Shinichi Iova Koga (Inkboat), Jo Kreiter (Flyaway Productions), and Luciano Chessa. For more information visit: [www.pamelaz.com](http://www.pamelaz.com)

**Callie Floor (Costume Designer)** is delighted to work for AXIS Dance Company and Stephan Koplowitz. Since coming to the Bay Area in 1987, she has designed for theaters, including ACT, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, Magic Theatre, San Francisco Mime Troupe, California Shakespeare Theatre, West Bay Opera, Zaccho Dance Theatre, Word for Word and Theater of Yugen. Recent projects include *Smut* for Word for Word, *Temple* for The Aurora Theatre. Ms. Floor earned her BFA from the University of Utah and her Higher Diploma in Theatre Design from the Slade School of Fine Art, University College, London. She is the Costume Rentals Supervisor for ACT and resident designer for California Revels.

**Gregory Dorado (AXIS Rehearsal Director)** is a dancer, choreographer, actor, writer and director of new original performance works and films. He is a graduate of the California Institute of the Arts and founder of SHIFT, a performance collective. He has performed for choreographers Natalie Metzger, Stephanie Nugent, Daniel Sharon, Meryl Murman and Zoe Scofield. His film credits include an adaptation of Natalie Metzger's *Sacrament* as well as starring alongside performer Jordon Waters in an adaptation of Meryl Murman's *Le Pain*. Gregory's performance and film work include several concert dance pieces as well as non-traditional immersive theatrical experiences that blur the line between dance, film, theater and performance art. His work investigates universal human experience, community engagement, and his own identity as a queer artist of color.

**AXIS Dance Company:** changing the face of dance and disability through Artistry, Engagement and Advocacy. Based in Oakland since 1987, AXIS is the nation's most acclaimed ensemble of performers with and without disabilities. Nearing its 30th year, AXIS is thrilled to announce the appointment of internationally renowned choreographer Marc Brew as its new Artistic Director.

**Dancers' Group** promotes the visibility and viability of dance. It is the primary dance service organization of the San Francisco Bay Area, home to one of the largest and most diverse dance communities in the US. For more information visit: [www.dancersgroup.org](http://www.dancersgroup.org)

**Yerba Buena Gardens Festival** is the independent presenting organization dedicated to enhancing the vitality and quality of life in the parks and open spaces of Yerba Buena Gardens and other public sites of San Francisco through the curated presentation of free artistic, community, and cultural programs. To learn more about YBG Festival visit: [www.ybgfestival.org](http://www.ybgfestival.org)

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