

# SPLIT MY SOUL

CREATURE WORKS



SATURDAY  
**JUNE 13**

**8:00PM**

doors @ 7:30



**MECHANICS' HALL**

519 congress st. portland, me

**\$20**  
mechanics'  
members

**\$25**  
general  
admission

# **SPLIT MY SOUL**

## **AT MECHANICS' HALL**

**DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER: KELSIE STEIL**

**ORIGINAL SCORE: MICHAEL WALL**

**STAGE MANAGER: VANESSA LAROCHE**

**SET DESIGN: MICHAEL BEAGAN, MATTHEW SLEEPER**

**COSTUMING: KATIE CAVACCO, CAROL CADORETTE, JENA EATON-BURKE**

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: JEN HOFFER**

**SHOW POSTER IMAGE: MAX AUGER**

**LIGHTING DESIGN AND TECHNICIAN: NICK MYERS**

**SOUND TECHNICIAN: KATIE PAGE**

**DANCE ARTISTS:**

**NATE NICHOLS, MYSTERY MAN**

**EMILY PLEADWELL, THE KID**

**SHAROAN COHEN, TWISTED MISTRESS**

**HANNAH HAINES, YOUR INEVITABLE DEATH**

**LAURA FAHERTY, LADY MARTYRE**

**HANNAH RANCO, THE PEOPLE'S JESTER**

**NANCY SALMON, FIZZY HEAD**

**UNDERSTUDY: JACQUI DEFRANÇA**

**CREATOR OF RED JESTER MASK: VANESSA LAROCHE**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MECHANICS' HALL, NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, THE HAINES FAMILY, CASCO BAY MOVERS, KITTENINSTRINGS ATELIER, SAMUDRA YOGA STUDIO, ALL WHO HELPED WITH LOAD IN/LOAD OUT, AND ALL WHO HAVE DONATED THUS FAR TO OUR NYC CAMPAIGN!**

# BIOGRAPHIES

SPLIT MY SOUL



# THE KID

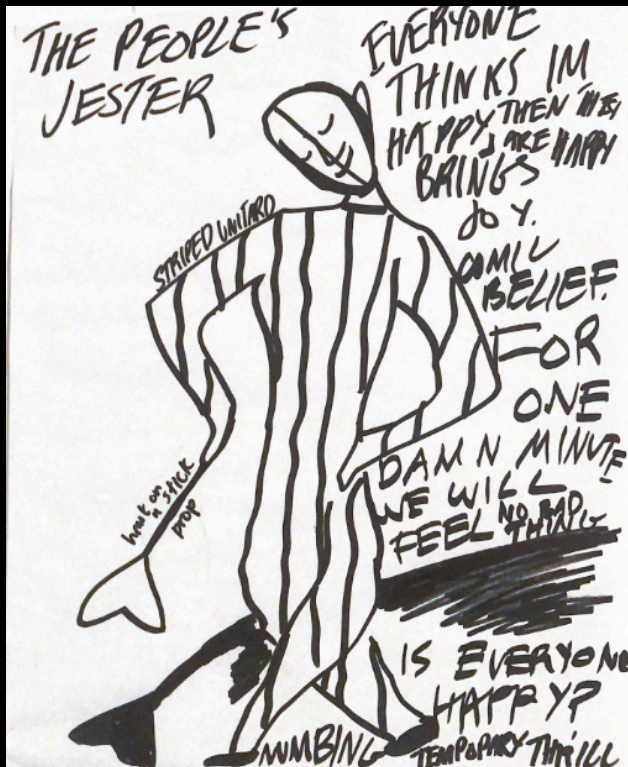
EMILY PLEADWELL



Emily Pleadwell (she/her) is a dancer and Registered Dietitian in the New England Seacoast area. She began her dance training at the American Academy of Ballet in Buffalo, NY under direction of Maris Battaglia and Carol Klocke-Murphy. She attended summer intensive programs including Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, and Chautauqua Dance. Emily continued training at the University of New Hampshire with Assaf Benchetrit and Susan Endrizzi, performing originally choreographed ballet and contemporary works with the UNH Ballet Company. After graduating with degrees in Dance and Nutritional Sciences, Emily has had the opportunity to perform diverse works with choreographers from New England and abroad through the Lila Dance Festival, Annex Contemporary Dance Company, Ballet Lighthouse, and guest-performing in local studio productions of classical ballets. She is currently performing, teaching dance, and working as a Clinical Dietitian. Emily is immensely grateful for the opportunity to explore and present this impactful piece with Kelsie and the outstanding cast of *Split My Soul*.

# THE PEOPLE'S JESTER

HANNAH RANCO



Hannah Ranco (*she/her*) is a New England based dancer, choreographer, and educator. Hannah earned her BFA in dance studies from Dean College in 2021. After graduating, Hannah danced as a professional NBA dancer with the Boston Celtics. Hannah has also danced in several music videos and live performances with artists such as DJ Kool, Montell Jordan, Sydney the Singer, and Spose (dancer & choreographer). Hannah has also worked in the concert dance world with choreographers such as Ilya Vidrin, Jessi Stegall, and Kelsie Steil. Hannah performed in Jessi Stegall's *Theremin Vignettes* at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston this March, and performed as a guest artist in *Edge of Aquarius* by The Click–A Boston based dance company. Hannah's work has been featured at the Dance Complex's Starlight Theatre, Salem Arts Festival, and Acadia Dance Festival. Hannah has also choreographed for numerous college and high school dance programs. These programs include Thornton Academy, Casco Bay High School PATHS program, Dean College, and Endicott College.

# MYSTERY MAN

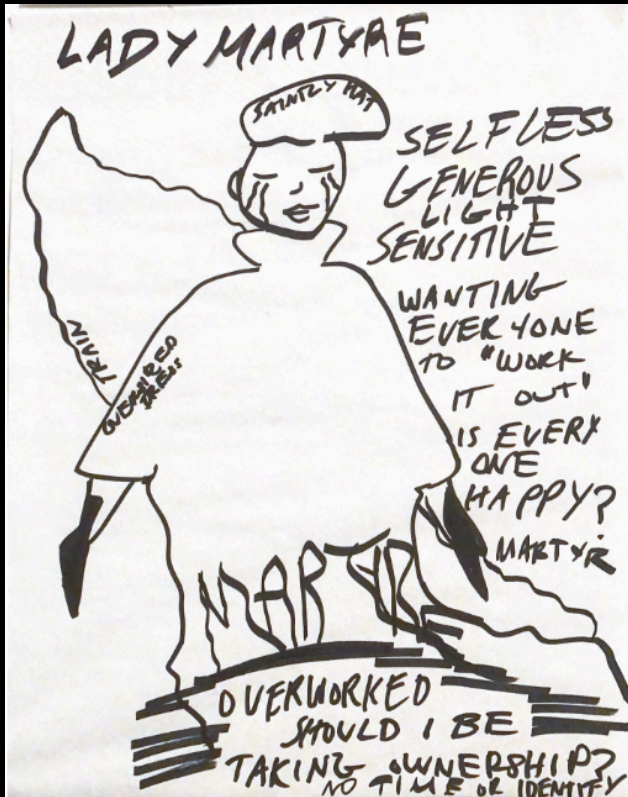
NATE NICHOLS



Nate Nichols (*he/she/they*) discovered his love for dance in the mid-90s rave scene and became passionate about developing his craft in the mid 2010s. Over the past decade, Nate has explored a broad range of styles and modalities, attending countless workshops, drop-in classes, social dances, parties, raves, ecstatic dances, dance clubs, and jams. Following an unconventional path, Nate has developed a unique, emotive, and personal contemporary style that draws on the variety of forms he has studied, including hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, contra, salsa, bachata, afro-beat, swing, blues fusion, five rhythms, and contact improv. When not dancing, Nate spends time working as a software engineer, building community, and helping raise his two teenage children. Nate is thrilled to be working with Kelsie Steil again on *Split My Soul*.

# LADY MARTYRE

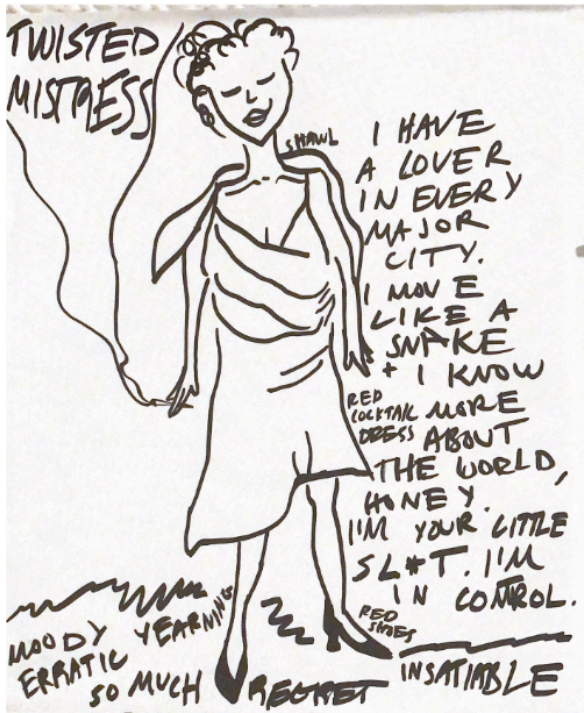
LAURA FAHERTY



Laura Faherty (*she/her*) has had the pleasure of performing in Atlanta (with Gathering Wild), Buenos Aires (with La Compañía de Danzas Karina Roldán), as a founding member of the San Francisco-based company, RAWdance, and most recently here in Portland with Liz Mulkey and with Rose Hutchins' Ballet Bloom Project. She graduated from Princeton University with degrees in History and Dance. There, she studied with Jessica Lang, Rebecca Lazier, Ze'eva Cohen, and David Dorfman, and was a member of a student-run hip-hop and contemporary dance company. A public health researcher and pediatrician, Laura lives in the Portland area with her husband (whom she met in that college dance company!) and two daughters.

# TWISTED MISTRESS

SHAROAN COHEN

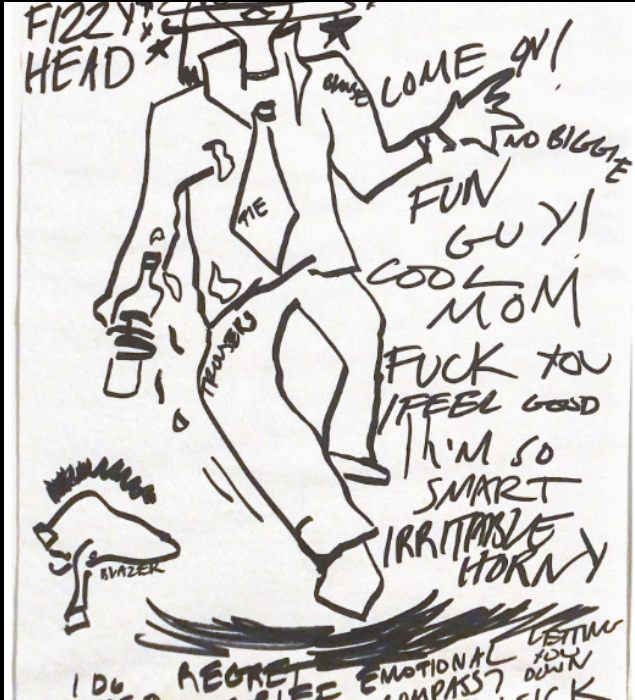


Sharoan Cohen (*she/her*) is a Maine based dance and performance artist, Artistic Director of The Peaks Island Lions Club Variety Show, one of ten Elected Directors of The Casco Baylines Island Transit Board and an Early Childhood Educator.

Professional movement teaching combined with her exceptional ability to integrate and include all is fundamental to her work. Her life experience adds even more to her ongoing investigation of dance as a means to connect through non verbal communication. Sharoan strives to create fully inclusive and accessible spaces for every body to experiment with movement and dance in and out of formal studio environments. She continues to research the endless dance of everyday life.

# FIZZY HEAD

NANCY SALMON



Nancy Salmon (*she/her*) acknowledges her privilege. She has a home, enough food, heat in the winter, good health, a loving husband, friends and family both near and far, white skin, and now the privilege of performing in this compelling work by Kelsie Steil, with this amazing and generous cast of dancers. From NC, Nancy arrived in Maine 47 years ago after a decade in NYC where she studied, performed, and choreographed while typing really fast to pay for rent and groceries. Honored teachers include Judy Balin and Miss Dorminy (early NC), Pauline Koner, Duncan Noble, and Gyula Pandi (UNCSA), Merce Cunningham, Finis Jhung, David Howard, Doug Varone, Alex Springer, David Dorfman, Kay Cummings, Walter Stump, Liz Lerman (NYC and Maine). In addition to her own choreography Nancy has performed in works by Senta Driver, Paul Taylor, Doug Varone, Sara Pearson/Patrik Widrig, Stephan Koplowitz, Brian Crabtree, Mary Griffin, and Betsy Dunphy. Nancy has worked and volunteered as an arts/education administrator and advocate - Maine Arts Commission, Bates Dance Festival; has choreographed musicals for community, professional, and high school productions (love those musicals!); developed USM's dance program, taught at Bates College; helped create Meetinghouse Arts in Freeport (performing/visual arts organization/facility). My heart is full. Thank you for being here.

# YOUR INEVITABLE DEATH

HANNAH HAINES



Hannah Haines (*she/her*) is a dancer and choreographer based in Southern Maine. Hannah received her early training at Jose Mateo Ballet Theater, and under Trinidad Vives and Parren Ballard at The Brookline Ballet. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in Anthropology, and Dance with a concentration in performance and choreography from Skidmore College. While at Skidmore Hannah had the opportunity to perform works by Skidmore faculty as well as repertory by Earl Mosley, Ohad Naharin, Paul Taylor, Danny Grossman, and Isadora Duncan. She has studied as an Apprentice with Lori Belilove and the Isadora Duncan Dance Company, and has performed throughout New England in works by Rose Hutchins, Kelsie Steil, Holly Stone, and Amanda Whitworth. Hannah has presented her own choreography in film and live performances at venues throughout the East Coast including Engine Gallery, The Frances Tang Teaching Museum, the Boston Dance Film Festival, SPACE Gallery, The Hill Arts, and the American Dance Festival's Movies by Movers film festival. For more information on Hannah's work visit her website: [hthaines.com](http://hthaines.com).

# KELSIE STEIL

CHOREOGRAPHER

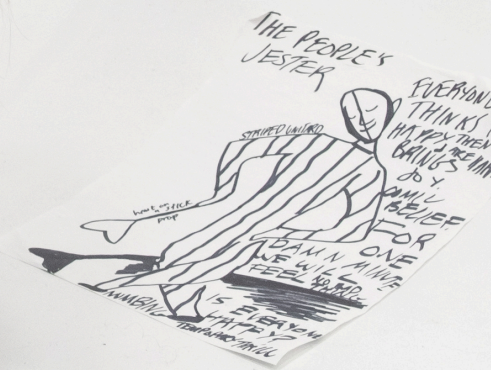
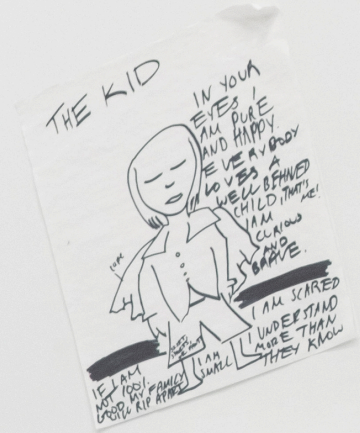
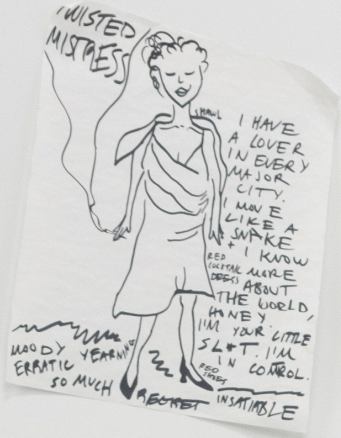


PHOTO: MAX AUGER, SKETCHES: KELSIE STEIL

**KELSIE STEIL (*she/they*) is a New England–based choreographer, director, and dance artist whose work blends dance and character to create emotionally resonant, story-driven performance. She explores mental health, domestic scenarios, and human archetypes through character profiles drawn from lived or observed experiences. Her choreography seeks the moments where movement and message collide, often leaning into dissonance and a sense of unreality to deepen impact.**

**Kelsie’s creative process is collaborative and grounded in care. She builds safe, communicative environments for performers, combining rigorous rehearsal with dialogue, group exercises, and playful experimentation that foster trust and emotional risk. Her practice spans live performance, dance film, and interdisciplinary collaboration, often working with composers, filmmakers, and other artists to develop original scores and multimedia elements.**

**Prior to the founding of Creature Works in 2026, all of Kelsie’s work was presented under her own name. In 2025, she premiered *Split My Soul*, an evening-length, character-driven work refined through an immersive study of Commedia dell’Arte. The piece demonstrates her signature approach to choreography, blending theatricality, emotional depth, and movement invention. Her collaborative projects include *CRAVING THE MYSTIC*, adapted into an award-winning film by Jennifer Hoffer, and *Rummage Lane*, a full-length duet co-created with choreographer Hannah Haines.**

**Kelsie earned the Contemporary Dance Award at Plymouth State University for her achievements and choreography, recognizing her early commitment to innovation, storytelling, and emotional resonance in dance. Her work has been presented across New England at venues including SPACE Gallery, Lila Dance Festival, Engine, Franco Center, Dance Annex, and City Theater.**

**Learn more: [creatureworksdance.com](http://creatureworksdance.com)**

# COMPOSER OF THE SCORE

**MICHAEL WALL**



**Michael Wall is a highly innovative and impactful figure in the world of music and dance. With diverse influences ranging from Nils Frahm to Nina Simone, he has been distributing music since 1999 and has an extensive library of 53 albums with over 500 tracks. Michael is an in-demand composer who writes approximately 200 new commissions per year for internationally renowned dance companies and choreographers. After 15 years of teaching and accompanying in higher education, he turned his attention and resources to developing his company Sound for Movement. The company focuses on accessible licensing, music distribution and remote collaborations with dance and film makers. Michael is currently developing an industry-first: online educational resources that teach composing for dance, accompanying dance classes, and teaching music for dance to dance educators. These resources are available on his website at [www.soundformovement.com](http://www.soundformovement.com).**

**NEXT**

***SPLIT MY SOUL***

**SHOWING:**

**JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH, NYC**

**JUDSON**  
MEMORIAL CHURCH

**DEC 5, 2026 | TICKETS**



**THANK YOU  
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TO THE SHOW!**



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@MAINE.MECHANICS**