



Ghost Town



MaMa Project 2023

"This is my letter to the World
That never wrote to Me—
The simple News that Nature told—
With tender Majesty

Her Message is committed
To Hands I cannot see—
For love of Her—Sweet—countrymen—
Judge tenderly—of Me"

-Emily Dickinson

This project explores the ever-growing sense of disconnection and lack of community we feel in this age of dissociation. We use ghosts to represent how it feels to navigate relationships, our pasts, and our futures with an underlying sense of detachment from reality. It also demonstrates how genuine human connection can make reality bearable, and how it takes work to feel tethered to the earth in this day and age. We cannot pretend to feel numb if we are suffering, so I hope this show reminds you to seek connectedness to others and yourself.

This show means a lot to me. Creating it was like picking apart the different pieces of my brain and setting them to music and giving them movement. If you had told me at the start of my college experience that I'd be able to choreograph my own full length dance show before I graduate, I wouldn't have believed you because this is truly one of my wildest dreams come true. This performance could not have happened without the help of my lovely friends Kelly and Anya and I can't thank them enough for their support. The MaMa Project was created to be a collaborative process and I couldn't ask for more talented and inspiring dancers to work with. My heart is so full of love for this cast and their hard work. It's as much their show as it is mine. Judge it tenderly.

-Maya Puri

THE CAST

ANNIKA VOORHEIS

Annika is a Junior at Barnard majoring in Dance and Information Science. When she is not dancing as a silly ghost in MaMA she can be found doing more dancing in Dance Department, CUPAL Special Project, and CoLab! Annika has been enjoying finding the comedy in her ghost persona #minorspoileralert! A quote that stuck out to her from the MaMa readings is about how poetry is not an illusion but "the only reality, the moment when we are completely alive.". Speaking of being alive, when it comes to ghosts Annika doesn't think they are real. But just in case they are, she would like to be known as a ghost enthusiast so they will be nice to her!



ANYA TRUMBACH



Anya is a sophomore at SEAS. She is an Electrical Engineering Major(which is awesome) and Dance Minor. Other than MaMa, Anya gives so much of her wonderful self to Orchesis. Live Love Orchesis! For Anya, there is nothing like the rush of trying to get to early morning rehearsals on time as well as the variety of movements we've ventured into this year, all while getting to dance with all of her favorite people. If you want to read a poem that slays, Anya would recommend "Meditation on Form and Measure" by Charles Wright! Getting involved in ghostly situations apparently runs in Anya's family. Her grandma went to high school in one of the most haunted hotels in New Orleans. Spooookkyyyy! This is probably a tourist trap claim but hey, a ghost story is a ghost story?

ATHENA PAGON

Athena is in her senior year at SEAS finishing up her BME major on the pre-med track and minoring in dance! Around campus you can find Athena involved in the Engineering Recruitment Committee, Orchesis (ofc!), Engineering Student Council, Reformed University Fellowship, and Research (and tik toks lol) for the Cellular Engineering Lab :)Athena is a huge fan of the Ghost photoshoot! Everyone looked so magical-cottagecore-slay but then the sheets came out and the vibes went up from a 10 to an 11! Athena feels more connected to others post pandemic from her classmates and friends to family and even her pets! Athena would like to add that she loves MaMaMaya with her whole heart!



THE CAST

BROOKE CULLEN



Brooke is a sophomore at Columbia College majoring in Biology (on the Pre-Med track) and Dance. When she is not slaying the day as a spooky witch in MaMa (#minorspoileralert) she can be found at Orchesis Board Meetings, performing for the Dance Department, being an officer for Columbia Best Buddies, and giving campus tours! Even with all these extracurriculars she has found time to go to the cast bonding events which have been the highlight of her MaMa experience. While she makes for quite the believable ghost, she does not believe in their existence herself. Maybe this show will change that... or maybe it won't!

ELIZA VOORHEIS

Eliza is a sophomore at Barnard majoring in cartography with a special interest in medieval jesters and architecture. When she isn't chanting as a whimsical witch (#minorspoileralert) she can be found dancing in Orchesis and the Dance Department as well as volunteering with Ballet for Books. She is a firm believer in ghosts. She saw many as a child. However out of courtesy to our common IG follower she won't be sharing her stories as they are far far too scary.



ELIZA RUDALEVIGE



Eliza Rudalevige is in the final year of her English and Sociology double major. Outside of choreographing for Orchesis and dancing in MaMa, she is a writer and editor for the Blue and White and is working on a thesis about queer translations of Old English poetry (how ghostly!). Eliza has loved meeting new friends and getting closer to old ones during her time in MaMa. When it comes to connecting with people, she's learned how to give her all to maintaining connections that she values, and has lost patience for those who don't return the favor. "Late Summer After a Panic Attack" by Ada Simon is her favorite MaMa related poem, but only maybe/sometimes believes in ghosts. She lives in a house that was built in the early 1800s, and there is a baby grave in her backyard. She hasn't seen any ghosts lurking, but she's sure they're there.

THE CAST

GRACE PETRUSEK

Grace is a sophomore at Barnard majoring in Neuroscience & Behavior and Dance! (What a cast of steminists!) When she is not spooking spaces with her hauntingly awesome dancing skills Grace can be found at Orchesis rehearsal and taking part in the Columbia University Breast Cancer Awareness Club. Her favorite part of MaMa is learning the choreography from MaMa Maya and our guest choreographers! Grace has found that through dance and quality time she can work on her connections with others. Her connections extend even to ghosts as she has experienced one's presence. Her dance studio in high school was in an old manor known to be haunted and was even a spot on a city ghost tour! Her encounter with a ghost happened in the basement of that studio... stay wary of basements my friends! Wait... our show takes place... in a basement...Oh Grace ... Ohhhh Grace



HALEY SCULL



Haley is a Barnard sophomore majoring in psychology and minoring in women and gender studies. Halye is the producer of Orchesis and her favorite part of MaMa has been finding her people on campus and having a safe space to always return to. Lately, Haley's outlook on making connections with people is more focused on strong and natural connections rather than try to force a lot of superficial friendships. COVID definitely made her more cognizant of who was important to her and who she is! As far as ghost's stories go, a few years ago she got home from dance late at night and as she was walking up her driveway she heard someone from ~the shadows~ say "Hello" so clearly and distinctly but no one was there. She's not sure what or who it was, but she could maybe believe it was a ghost!

HOLLY SULLIVAN

Holly is a one year senior at SIPA getting her MPA in Environmental Science and Policy. Being a part of MaMa is exciting because she gets to dance in college again and meet new people! Holly is a ghost believer! Her brother swears that her childhood home is haunted by a woman, but really she just tries to mind her business as much as she can. Perhaps Holly will summon her childhood home ghost in the performance...



THE CAST

KASSANDRA GIBBS



Kassie is a senior at GS studying Human Rights with a concentration in Art History. Other than being a wonderful dancer in MaMa you can also find Kassie volunteering and dancing with other groups on campus! When thinking about connection and how our relationship to it has changed over time, Kassie realizes that now that she is older she relies more on her close friends and notices the ways in which they can lean on each other, which are important relationships to have especially when feeling overwhelmed by her busy schedule!

KELLY PETERSON

Kelly is a senior at Barnard majoring in Neuroscience & Behavior with a minor in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. They really do it all on campus! From being this year's MaMa project producer to Orchesis, GYNECA, Access Barnard Peer Mentorship, advocacy intern for Fertility Within Reach, and on top of that also does neuropsychology research at CUMC. Being part of the MaMa project the past 3 years has been one of the best parts of their college experiences. She truly loves the connections she has made with the wonderful people she's met :) Her favorite MaMa-related poem is "One need not be a Chamber — to be Haunted" by Emily Dickinson. Does she believe in ghosts...? Maybe...Sometimes... She is conflicted... When she was little, she and her brother used to hunt for ghosts with their friends in their basement (You should ask her about her experience with a ghost named Hannah)! She is also a huge fan of horror movies and the TV show "The Haunted." They are very appreciative of Maya and the entire MaMa community xoxo



LILA CHAFE



Lila is a Junior at Barnard studying American Studies and Urban Teaching! Outside of MaMa she is involved in the Orchesis board, Ballet and Books and Barnard Babysitting. Throughout this process Lila loved being with wonderful people, dancing to great music, and trying new kinds of movement! She finds herself returning to the Yumi Sakugawa poem that is about being awake to your present reality. Letting go of her perception of how events unfold and soaking in the present moment is quite grounding. And much easier said than done! Lila is questioning whether she believes in ghosts or not. When Lila and her brother were kids, they had very similar recurring dreams with different outcomes and that feels a bit unsettling and ghostly. She wonders if a recurring dream could represent a ghost-like character?

THE CAST

MARGARET TILLEY

Margaret is a senior at Barnard Majoring in History and minoring in Art History! Off campus she works part time at Ellis Island! Other than that and MaMa she has been naturally spending a lot of time lately finishing up her thesis:) She loves Maya's music choices(shoutout MaMa!) and coming up with ghost vignettes! Margaret is not completely positive that she believes in ghosts but as a kid she was much more of an alien believer than a ghost believer... so Margaret has plenty of stories of convincing herself there were aliens around. Maybe she'll convince you too if you come to the show!



MAYA PURI



Maya is the director and choreographer of this year's MaMa Project. She is a senior in SEAS studying Mechanical Engineering. She has been a part of Orchesis for her entire Columbia career. It brings them so much joy to see such talented and wonderful people perform their choreography. It never gets old. Every single person involved has made such beautiful contributions and this show has a little piece of all of us. Lately they are trying to adopt the mindset that we are all a lot more alike than we are different. "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain" by Emily Dickinson is one of her favorite poems that have inspired some of the pieces in this show. Maya is a hardcore ghost believer (obviously) and has even tried to contact them but she has no ghost stories of her own. She would love to be a part of one someday.

Molly is a Barnard Junior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Dance! Around campus this semester you can also find Molly writing for the Blue and White and choreographing for Orchesis! Her favorite part of MaMa has been getting to know all of the wonderful dancers and helping MaMa Maya bring her vision to life! In MaMa we have been thinking about how our connections with others have changed over time. Molly finds that now that she's older, she is able to empathize with people on a much more meaningful level. For her, connection has always been grounded in reciprocal care, interest, and thoughtfulness with another person. Molly wonderfully put that laughing with people is the best way to foster connection. Shared joy creates camaraderie like nothing else!

MOLLY LEAHY



THE CAST

ROMANE LAVANDIER



Romane is a Junior at Barnard majoring in dance and Minor in Urban Teaching. Outside of MaMa she choreographs for Orchesis and is one of their PR chairs, is President of a self-love club at Barnard called WinkMe, and is performing in the Dance Department Showcase this semester! Romane's favorite part of MaMa so far has been being surrounded by such amazing dancers and humans and feeling like she's always entering a safe space when in rehearsal or at other MaMa events! A line from a show inspiring poem that stuck out to her is "ourselves behind ourselves, concealed, should startle most" because it speaks to how we don't always show our full selves to others and, sometimes, that can make it hard to fully connect with people. We talked about ghosts a lot but Romane definitely does not believe in ghosts. She says that the idea of ghosts existing freaks her out a tad, so she prefers to live in ignorance :))

SOFIA COVARRUBIAS

Sofia is getting a double major in economics and political science, and you can find her working on research in the political science department with professor Eduardo Moncada. She is also the Alianza Barnard chair, works as an Access Barnard Student Ambassador and writes for the Columbia Economic Review! Go Sofia! On top of all this she is a valued member of MaMa and her favorite part about being in it so far has been getting to know the whole cast. She has also loved exploring new dance boundaries through different choreographies and styles. A line of a poem that stuck with her is "memory is a cemetery I've visited once or twice", not because she resonates with it but because she believes more that our memories are like a library full of books and experiences to recount, yet they are not "dead". They are well kept and organized in case we want to open the pages again and relive an experience and our own personal story. As far as believing in ghosts, her family is very connected with them. Her mom and sister have a special way of communicating with people who have



GUEST DANCERS- DO THEY BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?



PIMPRENELLE BEHEAGEL
(YES)

ABBY MANKIN
(YES)

KATIE SPONENBERG
(YES)

Act One

“GHOSTING”

SONG: “GHOSTING”

MUSICIAN: MOTHER MOTHER

DANCERS: ANNIKA VOORHEIS, ANYA TRUMBACH, ATHENA PAGON, BROOKE CULLEN, ELIZA RUDALEVIGE, ELIZA VOORHEIS, GRACE PETRUSEK, HALEY SCULL, HOLLY SULLIVAN, KASSIE GIBBS, KELLY PETERSON, LILA CHAFE, MARGARET TILLEY, MOLLY LEAHY, PIMPRENELLE BEHEAGEL, ROMANE LAVANDIER, & SOFIA COVARRUBIAS.

“KINDRED SPIRITS”

SONG: “TWO HAUNTED HOUSES”

MUSICIAN: CHARLIE HICKEY

DANCERS: ABBY MANKIN, ANNIKA VOORHEIS, ELIZA VOORHEIS, HALEY SCULL, KELLY PETERSON, & ROMANE LAVANDIER.

“REVENANT”

SONG: “WASTELAND, BABY!”

MUSICIAN: HOZIER

DANCERS: ANYA TRUMBACH, BROOKE CULLEN, GRACE PETRUSEK, HOLLY SULLIVAN, KASSIE GIBBS, & MARGARET TILLEY.

“GHOSTIES”

SONG: “GHOST DUET”

MUSICIAN: LOUIE ZONG

DANCERS: ATHENA PAGON & MAYA PURI

“APPARITION”

SONG: “GHOST TO ME”

MUSICIAN: YOUTH LAGOON

DANCERS: ANNIKA VOORHEIS, ATHENA PAGON, ELIZA RUDALEVIGE, ELIZA VOORHEIS, LILA CHAFE, MOLLY LEAHY, & SOFIA COVARRUBIAS.

“BOGEY”

SONG: “GHOST TOWN”

MUSICIAN: DON CHERRY, RAY CONNIFF

DANCERS: KATIE SPONENBERG

“WRAITH”

SONG: “PUNISHER-COPYCAT KILLER VERSION”

MUSICIANS: PHOEBE BRIDGERS, ROB MOOSE

DANCERS: ANYA TRUMBACH, BROOKE CULLEN, ELIZA RUDALEVIGE, ELIZA VOORHEIS, HALEY SCULL, HOLLY SULLIVAN, KELLY PETERSON, LILA CHAFE, MOLLY LEAHY, ROMANE LAVANDIER, & SOFIA COVARRUBIAS

Act Two

“SPECTRE”

SONG: “WHICH WITCH”

MUSICIAN: FLORENCE + THE MACHINE

DANCERS: ANNIKA VOORHEIS, ATHENA PAGON, BROOKE CULLEN, ELIZA RUDALEVIDGE, ELIZA VOORHEIS, GRACE PETRUSEK, HALEY SCULL, KASSIE GIBBS, MARGARET TILLEY, MOLLY LEAHY, PIMPRENELLE BEHEAGEL, & ROMANE LAVANDIER.

“UNDEAD”

SONG: “PRESUMABLY DEAD ARM”

MUSICIAN: SIDNEY GISH

DANCERS: ABBY MANKIN, ANNIKA VOORHEIS, KELLY PETERSON, MOLLY LEAHY, & PIMPRENELLE BEHEAGEL.

“SHADOWS”

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER: LAUREN WILKINS

SONG: “HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN”

MUSICIAN: ALT-J

DANCERS: ANYA TRUMBACH, ATHENA PAGON, BROOKE CULLEN, HOLLY SULLIVAN, KASSIE GIBBS, & ROMANE LAVANDIER.

“GHOST SIGHTINGS”

SONG: “GHOST CHOIR”

MUSICIAN: LOUIE ZONG

DANCERS: ATHENA PAGON, KATIE SPONENBERG, KELLY PETERSON, MAYA PURI, & PIMPRENELLE BEHEAGEL.

“ETH”

SONG: “LILAC WINE”

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHER: ABBY MANKIN

MUSICIAN: NINA SIMONE

DANCERS: ANNIKA VOORHEIS, ANYA TRUMBACH, ATHENA PAGON, BROOKE CULLEN, ELIZA RUDALEVIGE, ELIZA VOORHEIS, GRACE PETRUSEK, HALEY SCULL, HOLLY SULLIVAN, KASSIE GIBBS, KELLY PETERSON, LILA CHAFE, MARGARET TILLEY, MAYA PURI, MOLLY LEAHY, PIMPRENELLE BEHEAGEL, ROMANE LAVANDIER, & SOFIA COVARRUBIAS.

“PHANTOMS”

SONG: “COOL AND REFRESHING”

MUSICIAN: FLORIST

DANCERS: ANYA TRUMBACH, ELIZA VOORHEIS, LILA CHAFE, & SOFIA COVARRUBIAS.

“WILIS”

SONG: “MY MOTHER & I”

MUSICIAN: LUCY DACUS

DANCERS: ATHENA PAGON, ELIZA RUDALEVIGE, HOLLY SULLIVAN, KASSIE GIBBS, KELLY PETERSON, MARGARET TILLEY, & MAYA PURI.

“GEIST”

SONG: “LAST WORDS OF A SHOOTING STAR”

MUSICIAN: MITSKI

DANCERS: ABBY MANKIN, ANNIKA VOORHEIS, ANYA TRUMBACH, ATHENA PAGON, BROOKE CULLEN, ELIZA RUDALEVIGE, ELIZA VOORHEIS, GRACE PETRUSEK, HALEY SCULL, HOLLY SULLIVAN, KASSIE GIBBS, KELLY PETERSON, LILA CHAFE, MARGARET TILLEY, MAYA PURI, MOLLY LEAHY, PIMPRENELLE BEHEAGEL, ROMANE LAVANDIER, & SOFIA COVARRUBIAS.

BOARD

CHOREOGRAPHER/DIRECTOR: MAYA PURI

PRODUCERS: KELLY PETERSON, ANYA TRUMBACH

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS: ABBY MANKIN, LAUREN WILKINS

PUBLIC RELATIONS CO-CHAIRS: ATHENA PAGON, ANNIKA VOORHEIS

PHOTOGRAPHERS: SOLO DZHAMAN, JANE MOK, SHIVANI PATEL, AND
LILA CHAFE

COSTUMER: ELIZA RUDALEVIGE

SOCIAL CHAIR: HALEY SCULL

TREASURER: ABBY MANKIN

STAGE MANAGER: JENNA EVERARD

SPECIALS THANKS TO...

LHANA ORMENYI AND THE GMT STAFF

JULIA DOOLEY AT COLUMBIA ADVISING

ALLIE EMMERICH AT BARNARD ADVISING

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PERFORMING ARTS LEAGUE

THE CUARTS TICKET AND INFORMATION CENTER

PAUL SCOLIERI, TRICIA TOLIVER, AND THE BARNARD DANCE
DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL BANTA AND THE BARNARD THEATRE DEPARTMENT

THE ACTIVITIES BOARD AT COLUMBIA

THE GOVERNING BOARD AT BARNARD

UNIVERSITY EVENTS MANAGEMENT

THE ARTS INITIATIVE

COLUMBIA FACILITIES

THE 2022 AND 2023 ORCHESIS BOARDS

MARIANNE FITCHTEL AND MAYA ESCUETA FOR STARTING THIS
PROJECT IN 2002

**SUPPORT THE MAMA PROJECT: A SATELLITE PROJECT OF
ORCHESIS**

VENMO: @CUORCHESISTREASURER

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM:

@MAMAPROJECTCU