



**Media Contact:**

Mariclare Hulbert, Publicist

585.278.2302

[mariclare.hulbert@gmail.com](mailto:mariclare.hulbert@gmail.com)

**AKRON COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO AUDITION FOR THE ENCOUNTER: AKRON  
A Physical Theater Work by Kimberly Bartosik, developed in partnership with Rubber  
City Theatre, NCCAkron, and CDS Creative Productions**



L to R: *The Encounter: Buffalo* at Torn Space Theater 2022 (photo Mark Duggan) and Kimberly Bartosik (photo Maria Baranova)

AKRON, Ohio (May 03, 2023) — Kimberly Bartosik/daela (Brooklyn, NY) invites interested professional, pre-professional, and non-professional performers to participate in her upcoming project, *The Encounter: Akron*, a live physical theater performance work developed in partnership with Rubber City Theatre (RCT) and the National Center for Choreography-Akron (NCCAkron). Auditions will take place on May 25 at NCCAkron.

*The Encounter: Akron* is an expansive performance project created by choreographer/director Kimberly Bartosik. Working with communities worldwide and merging professional, pre-professional, and non-professional performers, she has been creating unique *Encounter* projects, exploring intergenerational cross-geographic, global conversation about the ferocious power of the body as a form of communication. The work is an encounter with oneself, pulling from what people currently carry in their bodies—grief, hope, fear, desire, newfound power—pulsing through and between generations.

Bartosik's past *Encounter* projects include *The Encounter: Buffalo*, created in partnership with Torn Space Theater; *The Encounter: Italia*, supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture; *The Encounter: Rockland* (2023), created in partnership with The Strand Theater; and *The Encounter* in NYC, which had its world premiere as part of French Institute/Alliance Francaise

*Crossing the Line Festival*, with performances in FIAF's Le Skyroom. For more information on the work, visit [daela.org/the-encounter](http://daela.org/the-encounter).

This engagement marks Kimberly Bartosik's third visit to Akron. NCCAkron hosted her as a Dancing Lab: Female Choreographers participant in September 2017 and for a Technical Residency in August 2018.

"*The Encounter* is exactly what its title suggests: an encounter between distinct people, and one that could only happen between these people in this place in the way that it does the specific time it happens. *The Encounter* is a chance made alive." - cast member, *The Encounter: Buffalo*

### ***Audition Details***

When: Thursday, May 25, 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Where: NCCAkron – The University of Akron, Guzzetta Hall, Studio 391  
228 E Buchtel Ave, Akron, OH

Register in advance to audition by **Sunday May 21, 11:59 PM**, using this [form](#) or visit: [www.nccakron.org/theencounter](http://www.nccakron.org/theencounter).

Participants do not need formal dance training or performance experience but should be prepared to engage in strenuous physical and athletic activity. The process will also require collaborative engagement from the performers.

Participants ages 12 and up of all body types, gender identities, races, ethnicities, and abilities are welcome. Guzzetta Hall is ADA compliant and organizers will make all reasonable accommodations in order to cast performers. Email [connect@nccakron.org](mailto:connect@nccakron.org) with any questions.

### ***Rehearsal & Performance Requirements***

Schedule Availability: Participants must be available for all rehearsals and performances which will be held at the University of Akron's Guzzetta Hall, including:

**July 5-15 (evenings & weekends):** Creative Development

**August 7-10 (evenings):** Development & Tech week

**August 10-12 (evenings):** Live Performances

Rehearsal and tech schedules are TBD; participants must be available for no less than 4 hours per day/evening. The company will work with participants' schedules; full-time students and employees are encouraged to apply. Transportation assistance is available from RCT.

COVID-19 Protocols: Due to the indoor, unmasked rehearsal and performance process, heavily physical nature of the project, and to protect the health and safety of participants, artists, and staff, RCT requires proof of vaccination for all involved in *The Encounter: Akron*.

All participants over the age of 18 will receive a stipend for their work on this performance. Any participant under the age of 18 will receive a scholarship for their participation.

*The Encounter: Akron* is made possible by lead support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

### **About Kimberly Bartosik/daela**

Kimberly Bartosik is an NYC-based choreographer, performer, educator, and essayist who creates viscerally provocative, ferociously intimate choreographic projects that dramatically illuminate the ephemeral nature of performance while critically, tenderly, and violently etching away at deeply distressing threads of our society.

Bartosik is a 2020 Bessie Award Honoree for Outstanding Performance & Outstanding Performer (Burr Johnson) for her work *through the mirror of their eyes* (New York Live Arts). She is a 2023 Ragdale Fellowship Residency Artist; a 2021 recipient of a Doris Duke Foundation Performing Artist Recovery Fund in the New York Community Trust; a 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography; and a 2020 Virginia B. Toulmin Women Leaders in Dance Fellowship at Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU. She was a 2017 Dancing Lab Artist at NCCAkron.

Bartosik's work has been commissioned and presented by BAM Next Wave Festival, New York Live Arts, LUMBERYARD, The Chocolate Factory Theater (2025), American Realness, FIAF's Crossing the Line Festival, Abrons Art Center, Danspace Project, The Kitchen, La Mama, and others. She has toured to Supersense: Festival of the Ecstatic (Melbourne, Australia), Bratislava in Movement, WexnerArts Center, Dance Place, American Dance Festival, The Yard, MASS MoCA/Jacob's Pillow, FlynnSpace, Bates Dance Festival, Columbia College, and others.

Select awards include National Dance Project (NDP) Production & Touring Grant and Community Engagement Fund; MAP Fund; Jerome Foundation; FUSED (French-US Exchange in Dance); Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, USArtists International; Creative Arts Initiative (CAI); New Music USA, Live Music for Dance; and Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Grants to Artists and Emergency Grants.

A member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company for nine years, Bartosik received a Bessie Award for Exceptional Artistry in his work. For more information on Kimberly's work, visit [daela.org](http://daela.org) or follow [@kimberlybartosik\\_daela](https://www.instagram.com/kimberlybartosik_daela).

### **About CDS Creative Productions**

Carlos Diaz Stoop (he/him/his) is a full-time Associate Producer at Beth Morrison Projects (BMP), a Brooklyn based opera and music theatre production company. In 2022 Carlos was also the Associate Director of BMP: Producer Academy - an 8-week nuts and bolts course designed to prepare the next generation of Creative Producers. Previously he was employed as the Program Associate at The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, a multi-disciplinary grantmaker in the arts in Philadelphia, where he supported the Performance program, cross-program functions, and served as the coordinator and founding member of the Center's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

As an Independent Creative Producer and Artist Advocate Carlos supports theatre, music, dance, opera, community engagement, and social justice projects with various organizations and individual artists along the East Coast including: Girard College (Be Holding), Philadelphia Contemporary (Convalescence and The Re-Emancipation of Social Dance), Raja Feather Kelly, Yarn/Wire, Tyshawn Sorey, Ross Gay, Kimberly Bartosik/Daela.

Carlos is also a member of CIPA (The Creative Independent Producer Alliance), a group of over 300 Independent Creative Producers worldwide where he sits on the Organizing Team aiding in the oversight and strategic planning of CIPA's continued growth as a hub for Community, Mentorship, and Advocacy for Independent Creative Producers in the performing arts sector.

***About Rubber City Theatre***

Rubber City Theatre's mission is to bring affordable and professional theatre to the Akron area. Its intimate and innovative productions aim to open the eyes and the hearts of audiences in an intentionally accessible, inclusive, and safe space. [rubbercitytheatre.com](http://rubbercitytheatre.com)

***About NCCAkron***

The National Center for Choreography at The University of Akron supports the research and development of new work in dance by exploring the full potential of the creative process. In addition to offering studio and technical residencies to make new work, activities focus on catalyzing dialogue and experimentation; creating proximity among artists and dance thinkers; and aggregating resources around dance making. For more information, visit [nccakron.org](http://nccakron.org).

The establishment and general operation of NCCAkron are made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

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