



Taffety Punk
Theatre Company

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For Immediate Release:

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Taffety Punk Premieres New Dance with DC Legends

This Inherent Echo

Director and Choreographer: Erin Mitchell Nelson
Original Music: Amy Domingues and Amy Farina
Set Design: Rania Hassan

Where: Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (545 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003)
When: May 4 - 6, 2023, 8:00pm, with a 4pm matinee on Saturday May 6.
Price: \$15. Tickets available at www.taffetypunk.com.

Taffety Punk is thrilled to announce the world premiere of a new Dance Work by our very own Erin Mitchell Nelson. *This Inherent Echo* is the culmination of more than a year of collaborative composition that includes some of DC's finest artists. Nelson's choreography is known for her unique and collaborative style, and her history of creating visually stunning experiences.

Adding to the dynamism of the performance is live, original music provided by cellist Amy Domingues and drummer Amy Farina, that was written simultaneously and collaboratively with the development of the choreography. Both Farina and Domingues are beloved stalwarts of the DC punk community. Powerful and melodic, the music drives the action of the dance from subtle discoveries to heights of intensity.

Artist Rania Hassan has been a key contributor to the creation of this piece, which includes her artwork as partially a set piece and partially an apparatus which the dancers manipulate or respond to in concert with one another. Hassan's work, focusing on weaving sculptural stories about our connections, is the perfect material component for this new dance.

Nelson describes the work as a piece about stories, journeys, and intersecting narratives. "It's a piece about strength and connections, community and support. It's about the choices we make that become part of our narratives," she says. "These experiences echo through time and generations. What kind of shadows do we cast, and are shadows necessarily negative?"

Amy Farina says, "If more people communicated through dance, it might allow for a deeper connection to what is essential in our lives, or at least that connection might be more readily available to us. What at first seems abstract may reveal itself to be the clearest way from here to there; this has been my experience with *This Inherent Echo* thus far."

To honor their punk roots of inclusivity, diversity, and community each performance will showcase an opening act of original choreography from artists across the DC dance community. On May 4, Corina Iona Denzell opens; on May 5, Katie Sopoci Drake and Malcom Shute; and on May 6, Chloè Richier and Rae Grey.

Tickets are available now and can be purchased online or at the venue box office.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to experience the artistry of Erin Mitchell Nelson's direction of this incredibly creative ensemble. Get your tickets today at www.taffetypunk.com.

This Inherent Echo opens at the **Capitol Hill Arts Workshop** on Thursday, May 4 and runs through Saturday, May 6 (Thursday—Saturday nights at 8pm, with one matinee on Saturday, May 6 at 4:00pm. Featuring dance artists Katie Harris Banks, Paulina Guerrero, Safi Harriott, Katie Murphy, and Chloë Richier. Lighting design by Chris Curtis. Costume design by Elizabeth Morton. *This Inherent Echo* was partially developed during a Local Theatre Residency at the REACH at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The full program is estimated to occupy 90 minutes of show time. Give or take.

Taffety Punk Theatre Company is the resident company at Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (545 7th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003 – two blocks from Metro's Orange/Blue Line stop at Eastern Market.

For hi-res photos, go to: <https://www.taffetypunk.com/new/press/>

Taffety Punk Theatre Company won the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company at the 2008 Helen Hayes Awards. More recently, the company received two Helen Hayes nominations for original choreography in both *Phaeton* and *An Iliad*. The company was also a 2010 finalist for the D.C. Mayor's Arts Award for Innovation in the Arts. Taffety Punk's mission is to maintain a dynamic ensemble of actors, dancers and musicians who ignite a public passion for theatre by making the classical and the contemporary exciting, meaningful, and affordable.

Erin Mitchell Nelson (Director, Choreographer) Erin Mitchell Nelson has been a professional performing artist, choreographer and teacher for over 20 years. She is a cofounder of Taffety Punk Theatre Company, and has created original movement for many of their productions, including "Enter Ophelia, distracted", "suicide.chat.room", and dance films "Tulips", "The Surround", and "At a Loss". She has danced with the Latin Ballet of Virginia (Richmond) and Wellspring/ Cori Terry and Dancers (Michigan); faculty at Western Michigan University Department of Dance, Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell, and Experimental Film Virginia. Erin holds a BFA in Dance & Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University, and an MA in Arts Management from American University. She is a vocalist for the band Beauty Pill.

Amy Domingues (Composer) is a cellist, viola da gamba player, singer, historical music specialist, and composer residing in Washington, DC. She has released three cello-oriented rock albums under the name Garland of Hours and appears as a recording artist on over eighty rock, pop, and classical albums. Chesapeake Shakespeare Theatre: *Winter's Tale* (2018). Taffety Punk: *The Tempest* (2015) Live scoring for *Enter Ophelia, Distracted* (2014) and *Bootleg Shakespeare: Pericles* (2014), *Love's Labours Lost* (2013). Film: *The Weather Underground* (2002) Short Film: *Harmony* (2014). www.amydomingues.com

Amy Farina (Composer) has been an active drum set and orchestral percussionist, performing internationally, composing, and recording since the early 1990's. She is a dedicated student of the drums, and also a music and fine arts enrichment teacher at schools and studios throughout Washington, DC. In addition to the privilege of dance accompaniment, Amy has performed and recorded with numerous groups, including Coriky (with Ian MackKaye and Joe Lally, both formerly of Fugazi), The Evens, The Warmers, Ted Leo, and Lois Maffeo.

Rania Hassan (Artist): Rania Hassan creates site-specific installations that weave sculptural stories about our connections to time, place, and circumstance. The five main themes she works with embody ideas of community, synchronicity, identity, time, and memory. Her work is about levels of

interconnectedness. From a single strand of thread, we are all connected. Rania's artwork is included in the permanent collections of the National Institutes of Health (NIH, Bethesda, MD), Amazon Web Services (Herndon, VA), and the District of Columbia's Art Bank Collection (Washington, DC). Previous solo exhibitions include The Front (New Orleans, LA), Gormley Gallery (Baltimore, MD), and Artisphere (Rosslyn, VA). She has given presentations about her artwork at area Universities (George Mason University, 2014) and Museums (Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building, 2019; Textile Museum, Washington, DC, 2012, 2015), and her work has been featured in publications including the Washington Post, Washington City Paper, and Vogue Knitting. In 2009 she received a Craft Award of Excellence from the James Renwick Alliance and has been awarded multiple Artist Fellowship Program Grant Awards from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

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