

ÉCART

Aisha Sasha John with Devon Snell (Tkaronto / Toronto)

DIANA ROSS DREAM

Wednesday 16.10.24 — 7pm

Écart

In the 1978 film *The Wiz*, Diana Ross plays Dorothy to Michael Jackson's scarecrow. In 2015, Aisha Sasha John dreams of Diana Ross dancing in the center of a sea of Black dancers – everyone dressed in various textures of rose gold. This is a dream of belonging, and the kind of expression only a sense of belonging makes possible—a dream of the exquisiteness of trance, of being danced. A dream whose vividness announced itself as instruction, as a call.

DIANA ROSS DREAM is Aisha and Devon and all of our people and God.

We dance a prayer of listening: our movement motivated by the energy of encounter— with each other and uncertainty itself. Our vesselhood, both ancient and ordinary, connects us to each past for which we are the dreamt-of future. In *DIANA ROSS DREAM*, the sanctuary of kinship is a laboratory of and for devotion.

Aisha Sasha John is interested in performance as a site of rehearsing being and in the power of reception as creative methodology. Her first full-length solo work debuted as the *aisha of oz* at the Whitney Museum in 2017. She's the 2023-2035 Toronto Dance Theatre Affiliate Artist. John presented her work accross Canada and the United States. A celebrated poet, her fourth collection, *total*, will be published in spring 2025.

Devon Snell is a Black queer dance artist in Tkaronto/Toronto. He was a company dancer with Toronto Dance Theatre for six seasons. He was trained predominantly in western dance traditions, but recently has begun training and performing in Black dance vocabularies. These experiences have allowed him to recognize the viability of a creative practice centring Black communities and exploring African expressive technologies.

CREDITS

choreography and concept Aisha Sasha John
performance Aisha Sasha John and Devon Snell
lighting design Karine Gauthier
music Amy Manusov
costumes Garçonnne and Nyda Kwasowsky
outside eye Ellen Furey

co-produced by Danse-cité and Dancemakers
first presented by Danse-cité (2022)