

BRIC presents

Veles / TiHi

By EYIBRA

Performer

EYIBRA

**Virtual scenography and
3D holographic visuals**

Oswaldo Erréve

Sound design

EYIBRA

Creative advisor

Mariana Sadovska

Associated Partner

Ukraine Pride

Masks

Tenzin Sia

Movement Direction

Liana Zhen-Ai Kleinman

VJ

Bruno Cornejo

Costume designers

DZHUS conceptual wear and
Weijing Xiao

Costume designer in video

Vanebon

Art direction video

Cremance

Specials thanks to Ukraine Pride, Colector Gallery México,
Yuri Yosifovych, Iryna Klimenko, Darian Donovan Thomas

Donate to Ukrainian queer people affected by the war

www.ukrainepride.org/donate

The audience is encouraged to move around the space. Think installation more than ‘concert’, as the performers will also be moving. There will be DJ sets following and you are welcome to stay with us in the space.

PROGRAM NOTE

Veles / Tihi (Lithuanian and Ukrainian for ‘souls of ancestors/shadows’) is an immersive performance and multimedia installation for solo performer, digital avatars, and visual projections. ‘*Veles/Tihi*’ explores queer identity in Ukraine and Lithuania from pagan times up to the present, including during the current war. It combines 3D video technologies with ancient ritual songs, experimental electronic music, movement, and queer techno.

Structurally the piece originates in the ritual and the ancestral, with EYIBRA performing pre-christian songs and movements. It then moves to more contemporary/electronic soundscapes and movement, including a sound installation constructed of voice notes sent from Queer Ukrainians fighting on the front line.

The final part of the piece is a funeral ritual, emulating the pagan goddess of death, rebirth, and dreams Mara/Morena, who now has been retaken as a symbol of Ukrainian resilience and rebirth.

According to EYIBRA, the piece was created as a direct response to the current Russian invasion of Ukraine - ‘I felt this existential threat to my culture, to my roots, to an ancient tradition that predates Russia itself, that predates the patriarchy and the church... these ritual songs are connected to a divine femininity, traditionally sung only by women they represent a different vision of the world - one that is a polar opposite to the current toxic masculinity represented by the leader of Russia.’

EYIBRA wanted to connect to their roots through their identity as queer person in a way that felt organic, and the project has involved a deep investigation into Ukrainian (and Lithuanian) traditions: ‘For me this piece is about looking at Eastern Europe through a Queer lens, about reflecting on the possibility of a parallel or futuristic society that has the potential to be non-patriarchal, gender fluid, and open - originating with pre-christian songs and rituals I move through to more experimental, electronic soundscapes where I bend and stretch my voice to its limits. With 3D visuals by my collaborator Oswaldo Erréve, we explore a futuristic vision of a genderless being that embody the polyphonic nature of these songs.’

EYIBRA is no stranger to pushing limits and *Veles/Tihi* follows in a similar vein to previous work - their collective, MUXX, was commissioned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2022 to create a performance and multimedia piece which explored non-binary gender and post-colonialism through the lens of the *Muxe* (Lukas Avendaño), an Indigenous third gender from the Zapotec nation of Mexico.

Veles/Tihi is accompanied by a video installation with EYIBRA represented as the aforementioned deity Mara/Morena, exploring a gender-fluid being as defender of modern Ukraine.

BIOGRAPHIES

EYIBRA (fka Abraham Brody), is a multimedia artist, performer, producer, and musician. Recently commissioned by LACMA Los Angeles with their collective MUXX, EYIBRA has also collaborated with artist Marina Abramovic, and has been artist in residence at the Barbican Centre London, National Sawdust NYC, and has shown their work at the Kennedy Center Washington D.C., the Public Theatre NYC, London Jazz Festival, Southbank Centre London, Sziget Festival Budapest, Reykjavik Arts Festival, Pace Gallery, LA Dance Project, among many others. Their work has been featured in such platforms as the LA Times, Harper's Bazaar, the Independent, NPR, BBC Radio, Kaltblut Magazine, and the New Yorker Magazine. [@eyibra](#) | linktr.ee/eyibra

OSWALDO ERRÉVE creates a visual synergy with technology through multimedia tools to create projects with a transdisciplinary aura. With tools such as AR, VR, AI and 3D design, under a supernatural vision, Erréve's graphic production imagines alternative worlds and identities.

His project speech explores the idea of queer transhumanism and the mutations/adaptations that the nature, the organisms, and the ecosystems should undergo in a utopian future on symbiosis with science and technology.

He's currently a resident of the Art + Technology Lab 2021-2022 at LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art) with MUXX Collective. His work has also been shown at LA Dance Project, Trinidad Gallery Oaxaca, Galeria Municipal de Querétaro (México), and has an upcoming solo show as part of MUXX Collective at the Laboratorio de Arte Alameda in Mexico City. Erréve has been published by *Fashion Week México*, *Vogue Italia*, *TimeOut México*, *Warp Magazine*. [@oswaldoeerreve](#)

LIANA ZHEN-AI (movement director) is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist and dancer from Los Angeles, CA. Her work uses the frameworks of new materialism and object oriented ontology to examine relationships to the more-than-living world, the changing landscape of narrative in the Anthropocene, and the aesthetics of wellness. She has danced for *Hivewild*, *Holly Blakey* for Puma's New York Fashion Week Show, and *Andrea Miller* for *Beautiful Destinations* Panama, and created work for *Opera Notre Dame*, *PROMPTUS Collective* and *The Angel's Share* at Green-Wood Cemetery in collaboration with *The New York Philharmonic*. She received her BFA in Modern Dance with minors in Biology and Chemistry from *Marymount Manhattan College* in 2018, and completed her Master's in Contemporary Dance Performance at *London Contemporary Dance School*, *University of Kent* in 2021.

CONCRETE HUSBAND (multidisciplinary artist, flutist) is a producer based in Brooklyn, NYC, who began his musical career as a professional flutist. His music productions have now been played globally, predominantly within the international underground queer community. As a DJ, his sound is driven by undulating syncopations, buoyant kicks and a fiery energy throughout. He plays from industrial techno to hard groove and original tracks and remixes.

As a DJ, he has performed at notable clubs such as *Bossa Nova Civic Club*, *Function*, and *Club Libido*, amongst others. He was a featured artist in December 2022 on *Williamsburg's The Lot Radio*. He is a resident of Brooklyn's hard techno collective, *DGN8S*, who introduced themselves to the NYC Brooklyn scene with their underground raves straight out of a *Bushwick* residence.

As a composer and improviser, he has most recently been the music producer/DJ for the first choral rave (Pix11 NYC). Choral Chameleon's cutting edge performance piece involves 9 original remixes by Concrete Husband from the choir's original work, live flute performance and a full 90-minute techno set. He has also contributed his original flute improvisations for the upcoming a24 film Beau is Afraid in addition to recent work by Robert Oyung.

He has worked with artists such as, Claire Chase, International Contemporary Ensemble, Alvin Lucier, Tyshawn Sorey, Marcos Balter, Ash Fure and George Lewis, among others.

ABOUT BRICLAB: PERFORMING ARTS

BRIClab: Performing Arts is a commissioning and residency development program for emerging and established local artists to explore and expand the possibilities of their work in music, dance, theater and multi-disciplinary performance. Free exploration and rigorous commitment to process, with the support of the staff and resources that BRIC offers, are at the heart of the BRIClab program. Artists receive stipends and an exclusive 12-day intensive residency in the multi-purpose Artist Studio with development time, artistic mentoring, and work-in-process performances.

ABOUT BRIC

BRIC is a leading arts and media institution anchored in Downtown Brooklyn whose work spans contemporary visual and performing arts, media, and civic action. For over forty years, BRIC has shaped Brooklyn's cultural and media landscape by presenting and incubating artists, creators, students, and media makers. As a creative catalyst for our community, we ignite learning in people of all ages and centralize diverse voices that take risks and drive culture forward. BRIC is building Brooklyn's creative future.

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ABOUT UKRAINE PRIDE

UKRAINEPRIDE is a pro patriotic queer movement. We nurture our cultural identity and defend it to share it with our soulmates from various countries, who belong to different nationalities and ethnicities, who have diverse complexions or practice varied religions. We preserve and protect our culture to tell the entire world about it.

Due to the opposite direction from imperial Russia chosen 8 years ago, currently we have the opportunity to attain equal rights for the LGBTQ community as well as all discriminated groups. We are not afraid of anything. We are defending our land. Glory to Ukraine, Glory to our Heroes!

@ukraine.pride