

PS1

MoMA PS1 PRESENTS US PREMIERE PERFORMANCE BY MICHELE RIZZO ON MAY 18 AND 19

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, April 11, 2024— On May 18 and 19, MoMA PS1 presents the US museum premiere of *HIGHER xtn.*, a performance by artist and choreographer Michele Rizzo (Italian, b. 1984) featuring eight dancers whose minimal gestures coalesce into a unified flow. Underscoring nightclubs as spaces for communion and catharsis, Rizzo connects collective movement in social spaces to rituals of quasi-religious worship. Ushering spiritual transcendence through rhythmic dance, the artist consecrates PS1 with an open-floor set synchronized to a soundtrack by electronic musician Lorenzo Senni.

With a renewed appreciation for nightclubs as paramount gathering spaces for many communities in the wake of the pandemic, *HIGHER xtn.* (2019) has taken on new meaning after touring extensively in museums and dance venues in Europe. The piece addresses the primacy of electronic dance music and the legacies of the social spaces it engenders today. Rizzo draws on theorist Julia Kristeva's understanding of dance as a transcendent language and builds on Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's concept of "flow" as a heightened mental state. Bridging social and artistic spaces through choreography, Rizzo explains: "I started putting into dialogue these two ways of dealing with dance: dance as an art form, which I studied in school, and dance as a nightlife experience, a social dance, an ecstatic state." Accentuating the club as a microcosm, the premiere continues MoMA PS1's commitment to music, performance, and the vibrant cultures of nightlife communities.

Michele Rizzo is a choreographer and visual artist based in Amsterdam. Trained in visual arts as well as dance, Rizzo studied at the Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam and at the School for New Dance Development in Amsterdam, where he often teaches choreography and movement research. Rizzo has participated in residencies at the International Choreographic Arts Centre in Amsterdam, Q21 Museum Quarter in Vienna, and Live Works Centrale Fies in Trento. His work has been presented and performed at venues and festivals including URB Festival, Helsinki; Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis; La Briqueterie, Paris; Santarcangelo Festival, Rimini; Short Theater, Rome; Festival DDD, Porto; CAMPO, Ghent; Triennale Teatro dell'Arte, Milan; and Actoral, Montreal.

Michele Rizzo: HIGHER xtn. is organized by Ruba Katrib, Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, MoMA PS1.

ABOUT MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 champions art and artists at the intersection of the social, cultural, and political issues of our time. Providing audiences with the agency to ask questions, access to knowledge, and a forum for public debate, PS1 has offered insight into artists' diverse worldviews for more than 40 years. Founded in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

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Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Monday, and 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 suggested admission; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York State residents and MoMA members. Free admission for New York State residents is made possible by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. Tickets may be reserved online at mo.ma/ps1tickets.

Visitor Guide: Discover even more from MoMA PS1 with the Bloomberg Connects app. Read wall text, hear directly from artists, and uncover the building's history with this multimedia visitor guide. This digital experience is made possible through the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2086 or visit moma.org/ps1.

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