



FORT MASON CENTER
FOR ARTS & CULTURE

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Immersive World of "Shipwrecks, Sirens, Techno, and Spades" Transforms Fort Mason Center's Pier 3 in RUPTURE's Summer Performance Series
Bay Area Premiere of DIASPORADICA Offers Interactive Odyssey Through Black Kinship and Artistic Embodiment



Members of the RUPTURE Collective in Fort Mason Center's Festival Pavilion. Photo: RUPTURE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (June 20, 2025) – Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) presents the late-summer [world premiere of *DIASPORADICA*](#), a 3-hour immersive performance by experimental collective RUPTURE, running from August 22 to 30, 2025, at the Pier 3 Festival Pavilion. This theatrical experience transforms Fort Mason's waterfront venue into a multisensory space where audiences become part of an "interactive odyssey of mutiny and belonging." The production features five Bay Area and New York-based artists who have created what they describe as a world of "shipwrecks, sirens, techno, and Spades."

"Fort Mason Center has always been committed to supporting artists who push boundaries and reimagine what performance can be," says Frank Smigiel, Chief Curator & Director of Arts Programming at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture. "RUPTURE's vision for *DIASPORADICA* perfectly embodies our mission to present work that reflects the innovation and diversity of Bay Area artists. This isn't just a show you watch – it's a communal experience that transforms our space and everyone in it."

A Three-Act Journey Through Contemporary Black Experience

DIASPORADICA unfolds as a journey through three distinct acts, each offering a different mode of engagement. The experience begins with "Kickback" – an invitation to leisure and gameplay that



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establishes intimacy between performers and audience. The energy then shifts dramatically during "Performance," featuring collective choreography and improvisation drawn from diasporic storytelling traditions. The evening culminates in "Function," where the performance space transforms into a club environment, positioning dance as what the collective calls "a communal, spiritual technology."

The work combines contemporary dance, immersive installation, ritual practices, and community engagement to explore themes of Black kinship, belonging, and artistic embodiment in ways that challenge traditional boundaries. "DIASPORADICA represents everything we believe about the power of collective creation," says Clarissa Rivera Dyas, RUPTURE founding member. "We're not just presenting a performance – we're creating a space where the audience becomes part of the ritual, where the boundaries between performer and community dissolve. This work asks: What happens when we center Black joy, Black imagination, and Black futurity in ways that invite everyone into that vision?"

Extended Programming

Complementing the main performances, FMCAC will host related programming from Sunday, August 24, through Thursday, August 28, featuring conversations between RUPTURE's creators and artists, including Beatrice Thomas, Ishmael Houston-Jones, Joanna Haigood, Maurya Kerr, mayfield brooks, and taisha paggett.

Transforming Immersive Theater on the Bay

DIASPORADICA offers audiences an opportunity to experience performance that is simultaneously "ethereal and explosive." By transforming the Pier 3 Festival Pavilion into a world of their own making, RUPTURE continues the Bay Area's tradition of experimental art while centering voices and experiences often marginalized in traditional theater spaces.

The production promises to challenge audiences' expectations about the role of spectator versus participant, creating what the artists describe as "layered encounters only possible when artists assemble, converse, build something together."

"Our times require us to go dark. Dive deep. DIASPORADICA is fundamentally tasking us all with recouping gathering as a technology for fomenting resistance," adds Gabriele Christian, RUPTURE founding member.

Performance Details:

- Friday, August 22, 2025
- Saturday, August 23, 2025
- Friday, August 29, 2025
- Saturday, August 30, 2025

Performances begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at fortmason.org.



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Meet the Artists Behind [RUPTURE](#)

Founded by five Bay Area and New York artists, RUPTURE brings together expertise in dance, visual arts, sound design, and community engagement:

josé e. abad (they/them) is an Afro-Caribbean Filipinx multidisciplinary choreographer, Vertical Dancer, DJ, and curator whose work explores identity intersections through collaboration and improvisation as tools of resistance and liberation.

Stephanie Hewett (she/they) experiments with sonic frequencies to uncover ancestral vestiges in the body while exploring polyrhythmic potentialities of intergenerational healing. She also produces electronic music under the moniker Madre Guía.

Clarissa "Lars" Rivera-Dyas (they/she/he), a Black, Filipinx dancer and choreographer recently named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" in 2024, centers her practice around movement as spiritual practice and catalyst for change.

[Gabriele Christian](#) (they/them) is an Oakland-based conceptual artist experimenting with somatic practices, language, and performance composition to center Black and Queer experience as wellsprings for radical futurity.

Styles Alexander (they/them), a Boston Conservatory graduate and movement artist, creates choreographic work that reimagines and communicates with history through fantasy, afro-futurism, and fugitivity.

About Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture

A decommissioned military installation converted into a nonprofit cultural center, FMCAC hosts a lively mix of arts, educational, and cultural programming. Each year, FMCAC provides more than \$2 million to support local arts organizations, enabling groups to produce diverse and innovative artworks at the historic waterfront campus. With a four-decade history as an arts and culture destination, FMCAC is now focused on reinvigorating its programming and amenities to better engage the evolving Bay Area creative community. Central to this new vision is the commissioning and presentation of adventurous and unconventional artworks best realized in nontraditional or historical settings.

Photos: [here](#)

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