

Leonard Cruz Tanztheater

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 4pm

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc.
55-03 39th Avenue, Woodside, NY



photo by: Nina Alexis Padilla

Amihan: Moon Warrior of Miracles

Solo Performance by Leonard Cruz

Leonard Cruz Tanztheater presents a new work at TOPAZ ARTS with creative residency time during May 2022, culminating in a performance of "Amihan: Moon Warrior of Miracles". Dr. Leonard Cruz (PhD in Urban Education with a focus on the Performing and Creative Arts) was born in Pampanga, the Philippines, raised in San Antonio, Texas (USA), and has lived in Germany the past 25 years. He started dancing at the age of four learning Filipino and Hawaiian Folk Dances. He successfully defended his PhD dissertation on, "Laban Movement Analysis as a Methodology for Promoting Creativity and the Arts Across the Curriculum," in 2013 from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Cruz has performed for internationally renowned choreographers like: Robert Wilson, Kei Takei's Moving Earth, Shapiro and Smith Dance, Sally Silvers, and five years with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane and Co. In Germany, he was a guest with Pina Bausch in Wuppertal and a member of the Folkwang Tanz Studio in Essen Werden. From 1994-2001 he was a soloist at the Bremer Stadttheater under the Directorship of Susanne Linke and Urs Dietrich. He has directed his own dance company, "Leonard Cruz Tanztheater" the past 20 years. Leonard specializes in Civic and Community Engagement through the creative and expressive arts and believes in life long performing and learning. www.leonard-cruz.com

In the Gallery

TOPAZ ARTS features *Memory of Smoke* - works by Cambodian artist **Bandaul Srey**, honoring the life of the artist who passed away from Covid-19 in 2021. Developing a technique of applying smoke on paper by using actual smoke from an oil lamp, Srey transferred personal memory in creating an art form that conveys human experience. Srey was the founder of [Phare Ponleu Selpak](http://www.phareps.org) - a Cambodian non-profit arts school located in Battambang, offering support to children, youth and the surrounding communities through artistic, educational, social and community outreach and engagement programs. www.phareps.org

Three Trees by **Todd B. Richmond**: The large-scale paintings are a contemporary view of the impact the subjects have culturally and environmentally. Such as in featuring Central Park's Sheep's Meadow Plain Tree planted in what once was a sheep's pasture which became a Civil War training area that today is a place of rest and contemplation with nature – the rings of the tree are highlighted alluding to the tree's knowledge as well as similarity to a human fingerprint.



Support TOPAZ ARTS' 21st Year!
Help us #keepTOPAZrunning

<http://www.topazarts.org/donate/>

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization founded in 2000 by Todd B. Richmond (visual artist/composer) and Paz Tanjuaquio (choreographer/dancer) to support the creative process and foster new works in contemporary performance and visual arts. Celebrating 21 years, our programs seek to support the artistic process while engaging creative and cultural exchange with audiences. Since our inception in 2000, TOPAZ has been a vital presence, making an impact on the lives of artists and local community, largely supporting immigrant and BIPOC artists. Through artistic explorations, our vision is to bring works that reveal and inspire new ideas, making cultural connections within NYC.

TOPAZ ARTS public programs are made possible, in part, with support from NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs; Cultural Immigrant Initiative in partnership with City Council; NYS Council on the Arts, a state agency. Foundation support from Howard Gilman Foundation; Foundation of Contemporary Arts Covid Relief. TOPAZ ARTS Dance Program is made possible with support from Dance/NYC with funds from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; New York State DanceForce with funds from NYSCA Dance Program; and by the generosity of private individuals. www.topazarts.org

