

**BRIC** presents

# ***Brothers in Arms***

(Work-in-Progress)

Written, Directed and Performed by  
John Maria Gutierrez and James Clements

## **Dramaturgy and Assistant Direction**

Irisdelia Garcia

## **Lighting Design**

Alexandra Vasquez Dheming

## **Stage Managment**

Jo Wiegandt

## **Project Mentor**

Andrew Schneider

## **PROGRAM NOTE**

“To know love, men must be able to let go the will to dominate. They must be able to choose life over death. They must be willing to change.”

- bell hooks

“Brothers in Arms” is a devised theatre piece exploring isolation, survival, connection, violence and intimacy between male-identifying folks, co-created and performed by Clements and Gutierrez. Set in an undefined space during a moment of conflict and crisis, the piece, built from the wildly varied experiences of its Dominican-American and Scottish creators, unpacks shifting ideas about masculinity, memory, camaraderie and communication. The piece has been developed at La Mama E.T.C., and through the Emergence Residency at Culture Lab, where it was recognized by the Queens Arts Fund with a 2022 Arts Access Grant.

Featuring excerpts from interviews with Devante Lawrence, José Rivera Jr., AJ Picado, Paul Langland and Richard Hoelher.

Additional text from “Homage to Catalonia” by George Orwell.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**JOHN MARIA GUTIERREZ** [he/they] (creator/performer) is a multidisciplinary actor, mover, maker, and educator originally from Washington Heights, NY also known as “Little Dominican Republic”. As the first person in his family born in the US, John is carving out and balancing their own identity within his family, cultural history, and artistic expression. Their work combines theater, movement, and original music ranging from artistic expressions based in everything from hip hop to postmodern and has been presented at The Rubin Museum, Gibney, La Mama, New York Live Arts, and HERE Arts to name a few. His work, typically collaborative based, often deals with current and historical interpersonal and systemic sociopolitical issues. John is currently faculty at the Terry Knickerbocker Studio which offers a two year acting conservatory in the Meisner technique/method. Recent credits. 1001, Focus Features/Warner Bros., Law & Order: SVU, NBC Universal, Rockefeller And I, Luminaria Festival, New York Live Arts (2022 Fresh Tracks Artist), La Mama ETC. (2021 Artist In Residence).

**JAMES CLEMENTS** [he/him] (creator/performer) is a Scottish writer, performer, theatermaker and arts educator based between New York and Scotland. Clements has performed at venues including La Mama E.T.C., HERE and MITU580, and has been on the creative team for projects at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Lincoln Centre LCT3 and the 92nd Street Y. His source-based experimental plays include “The Diana Tapes” (2016), “Four Sisters” (2017), “Beauty Freak” (2018), “MEDEA/BRITNEY” (2019), “Ellis Island” (2021) and “Brothers in Arms” (2022). These plays have been described by critics as “magnifying” (TimeOut), “intricate” (BroadwayWorld), “compelling” (The Guardian), “affecting” (Playbill) and “intellectual” (Theatre is Easy), and have been performed in cities across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. He has taught at CUNY Queens College and the Wuhan Institute of Design and Science and is an Affiliated Instructor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He is Co-Founding Artistic Director of What Will the Neighbours Say? and an Artist-in-Residence with the Brooklyn Arts Council.

## **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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