

Media contact: John-Mario Arcilla Sevilla, Director at Large  
[jmsevilla@lunadanceinstitute.org](mailto:jmsevilla@lunadanceinstitute.org) (510) 883.1118

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Luna Dance Institute presents Radical Research panel**

Berkeley, CA – Luna Dance Institute presents **Radical Research: deepening + disrupting dance practices**, a free virtual panel presentation on Saturday, June 24, 2023, 5:00pm (PT). The program will share the alternative artistic approaches among four distinguished BIPOC dance practitioners, Crystal U. Davis, John-Mario Arcilla Sevilla, Pei-Ling Kao and Rosy Simas.

Crystal U. Davis will share her research on implicit bias in Dance and how it pertains to matters of diversity and inclusion in the field. John-Mario Arcilla Sevilla will present the creative, political and environmental implications of his practice of hula as a child of Filipino settlers. Pei-Ling Kao will examine the dueling societal, racial and cultural issues involved in her dance education in Taiwan and the U.S. and in her choreography. Rosy Simas discusses her desire to decolonize her dance-making process by connecting with her ancestors, land, family and community and through a deep integration of the senses.

According to Co-Executive Director, Patricia Reedy, “Artists, like scientists, approach their work from a place of inquiry. Sometimes the research question is fully formed, but more often curiosity spurs intuition that leads to discovery through rigorous creative practice.”

By valuing, supporting and celebrating the inquiry of BIPOC artists, whose experiences are often neglected by traditional institutions of research and education, Luna seeks to legitimize and amplify the diverse ways embodied research can be conducted through dance creativity.

In addition to their presentation and conversation, the panelists will also address comments and questions from the live audience. To register, visit:  
<https://lunadanceinstitute.org/product/radical-research-panel-june-24-2023/>.

### **About the panelists**

Crystal U. Davis, MFA, CLMA is a dancer, educator, movement analyst, and critical race theorist. Her research explores implicit bias in dance and how privilege manifests in the body. Her work has been published in the Journal of Dance Education, Palgrave Handbook of Race and the Arts in Education, and in her book, Dance and Belonging: Implicit Bias and Inclusion in Dance Education. As an artist, her performances span

from Rajasthani folk dance to postmodern choreography examining incongruities between what we say, what we believe, and what we do. She is an Assistant Professor of Dance Performance and Scholarship at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she teaches anti-racist pedagogy for dance and theater, modern technique, somatics, and movement analysis.

John-Mario Arcilla Sevilla, Luna's Director at Large, formerly directed the 92Y Harkness Dance Center, Dance Education Laboratory and NYC Ballet's Education Department. He was a recent NYU Asia | Pacific | American Institute Visiting Scholar. His choreography has appeared at CounterPulse, The Met Museum, LaMaMa, NYU Steinhardt, Movement Research at Judson Church, 92Y Tisch Center, Dance Theatre Workshop, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, The Asia Society and Bronx Academy of Art and Dance. He performed with Pilobolus, Alison Chase, Nikolais/Louis, Anna Sokolow, Rebecca Stenn, Lisa Giobbi, Janis Brenner, Erid Dudley, Bill Cratty, Michael Moschen, Sherry Vine, John Unterecker and Walking Thunder. His modern dance mentors are Betty Jones and Fritz Ludin. He studied Philippine folkloric dance with Agrifina Cabebe, H. Wayne Mendoza and Hana G. Trinidad. From Maui, he is a hula student of Kumu Hula Hōkūlani Holt, June Ka'ililani Tanoue and Kawika Alfiche.

Pei-Ling Kao is a Taiwanese choreographer, dance educator, and performer. Since moving to the U.S. in 2007, she has been working with choreographers of different aesthetic frameworks, collaborating with interdisciplinary artists, performing and teaching nationally and internationally, as well as presenting original work via her company PEILING KAO DANCES. Pei-Ling's research and creative interests are focused on movement improvisation, choreography, bicultural movement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. She has received the Board of Regents Medal for Excellence in Teaching Award in 2022, Endowment for the Humanities Award in 2018, Junior Faculty Research Award in 2018 from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Pei-Ling was awarded one San Francisco Bay Area's Isadora Duncan Dance Awards in 2012 and nominated for another in 2013. She is also a recipient of the Lo Man-Fei Dance Fund from Cloud Gate Foundation in Taiwan in 2016 and the MAP fund in 2021.

Rosy Simas (She/Hers) Haudenosaunee (Seneca, Heron Clan), is a choreographer and film and visual artist based in Minneapolis. Her work investigates how culture, history and identity are stored in the body and expressed in movement. For more than twenty years she has created work that addresses a wide range of political, social and cultural subjects from a Native feminist perspective. She has received support from Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, First Peoples Fund, Guggenheim Foundation and McKnight Foundation, and she is a Dance USA Fellow as well as a Joyce Awardee.

## **About Luna**

Founded in 1992, Luna has become the most comprehensive dance education organization on the West Coast. Luna is a recognized arts leader and nationally acclaimed institution that supports families, artists, teachers, leaders, schools, community and cultural arts organizations through programs that promote creativity and

self-determination through the transformative power of dance. Locally, Luna serves children and families through partnerships with schools, social service agencies, and arts and culture organizations. Luna re-opens its new fully ADA-accessible dance studios in 202s3 for in-person dance learning. Discover more at [lunadanceinstitute.org](https://lunadanceinstitute.org).