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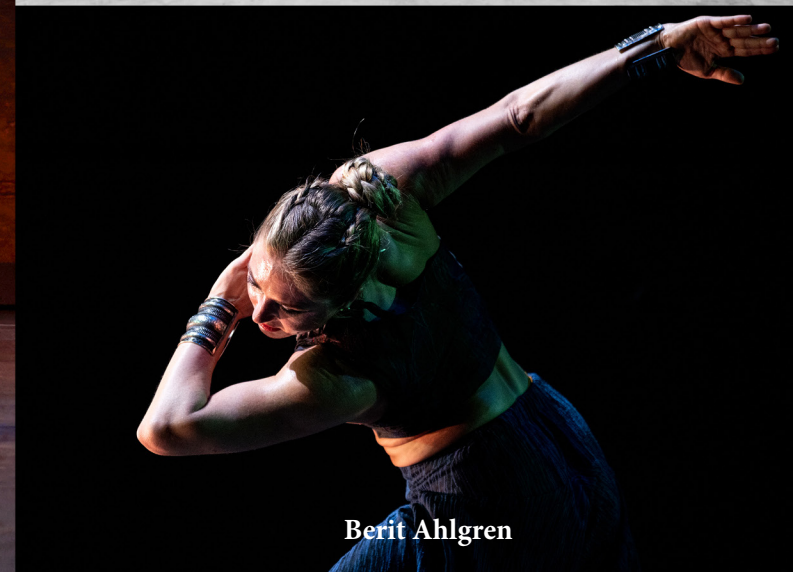
Ashwini Ramaswamy



Alanna Morris



Joseph Tran



Berit Ahlgren

INVISIBLE CITIES

**World premiere: The Great Northern Festival, Minneapolis
January 27-29, 2023**

“to grow, don’t most of us need a splash of rebellion?

Or, at the very least, a sprinkle of daring?

*Ramaswamy achieves something of both, with one foot planted in the present
and the other in tradition...magnetic...arresting”*

—The New York Times

Bharatanatyam choreographer Ashwini Ramaswamy’s *Invisible Cities* reimagines Italo Calvino’s metaphysical/philosophical novel of the same name through interwoven cultural perspectives. As a South Indian artist, Ramaswamy synthesizes myth, spirituality, and texts from her homeland to resurrect a relationship with the past and reprocess that past into the present. Her work is aimed at second and third generation immigrants longing to make connections between the ancestral and the current. With *Invisible Cities*, she deepens a unique choreographic methodology anchored in South Indian classical dance and collaboratively reinterpreted by choreographers of four distinct cultural backgrounds/dance lineages (Ashwini Ramaswamy, Bharatanatyam; Berit Ahlgren, Gaga technique; Alanna Morris, Modern/African Diasporic, and Joseph Tran, Breaking), each working with groups of 2-4 dancers.

Invisible Cities extends beyond the kinetic realm with live, interactive projections created by internationally renowned artist [Kevork Mourad](#), a long-time admirer of Calvino’s book. Mourad employs his technique of live drawing and animation projected onto multiple scrims throughout the 60-minute work. Both haunting and hopeful, ethereal and full of depth, Mourad’s visual architectures provide a dynamic and unpredictable dimension to the artists’ examination of the way the built environment and human life interact.

Ashwini is applying for funding from the National Presenters Network (NPN) to help support the creation of *Invisible Cities*. Interested presenting organizations agree to commit to a \$2,000-\$3,000 commissioning fee which goes towards the work’s creation. If awarded, NPN will match the total amount of committed funds up to \$15,000. The presenter must also commit to a paid presentation - in-person or virtual - within three years of the award date.

VIDEOS:

Work-in-progress solo excerpts from *Invisible Cities* - created during the pandemic - featuring Ashwini Ramaswamy (Bharatanatyam), Joseph Tran (Breaking) and Berit Ahlgren (Gaga technique), with original animation by Kevork Mourad:

vimeo.com/user/21023984/folder/6637889