

“Flux Capacity”

Choreographed by Sarah R. Mauney

The intention of this piece, titled “Flux Capacity”, is to examine the extent to which a new mother is capable of and willing to change in response to the fluctuating circumstances of her life. I have drawn on my own life experience of surviving pregnancy, childbirth, and the first two years of motherhood and the immense resistance to change I felt in the face of these life events. This dance piece serves as the vehicle through which I examine my own ability to change in the face of great personal shift, my desire to maintain an illusion of control over my life while at the same time surrendering to the fact that I am simply a passenger of this existence. Ultimately I seek to probe the question “Does my desire to maintain a sense of ‘self’ make me a bad mother?”

The piece utilizes the phrase work developed in studio with my daughter in three phases of change; One, without any physical hindrance, danced to its fullest, a representation of my pre-baby self; Two is with my partner standing on my hips and my back pinned to the floor but still attempting the phrase, resisting my partner’s presence and my need to adapt to her; Three shifts to my surrendering to my partner’s presence, and I adapt the phrase to move around her and with her weight. The phrase becomes something different, effortful but ultimately more manageable and still recognizable as the material from the beginning of the piece.

My research utilizes the lens of Motherhood to examine issues of representation, consent, gender performativity, body dysmorphia, and illusions of control versus freedom as experienced by the human body. My research brings to light the multitude of ways in which conceptions of Motherhood have been constructed and curated by people who are not mothers themselves, and explicates the scope of mothering experiences and expressions which are deemed “good” rather than “bad.” Through my multidisciplinary studies in dance, somatics, and social theory, I hope to encourage audiences to consider how these issues apply to a range of human experiences, not just mothers.

“Flux Capacity” can be viewed at this link: <https://vimeo.com/349324718>

The Artist
Performing
‘The Nelken Line’
By Pina Bausch
While wearing
7-week old daughter,
Hazel

