



bLUr

KIMBERLY BARTOSIK / DAELA

Watching a loved one overdose haunts you in a way that will never leave your body.

bLUr is a highly physical, deeply visceral work that explores that haunting.

The work resists overt narratives around our culture's tragic opioid epidemic, but, as in all my work, proposes the body as the most potent site from which to grapple with a deeply distressing element in our society in the hopes of better understanding.

Created for five performers of exquisite humanity, *bLUr* is about urgent interventions, tender and brutal rescues, inside a space of howling hunger and deeply erotic tenderness.

Kimberly Bartosik







Just to love and
be loved is enough

bLUr



01:54



vimeo

[bLUr Trailer](#)

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreography and Direction by **Kimberly Bartosik**, created in close collaboration with the cast

Performers - **Burr Johnson, Joanna Kotze, Ashley Merker, Jacoby Pruitt, and Donovan Reed**

Original composition by **Sivan Jacobovitz**

Design by **Roderick Murray**

Lighting Design Assistants - **River Bartosik-Murray & Ari Barash**

Costume Design by **Harriet Jung**



KIMBERLY BARTOSIK

Choreographer, performer, educator, writer Kimberly Bartosik is a 2024 New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project Production Grant (NDP) recipient. She is a 2025 New York State Council on the Arts/NYSCA Support for Artists Award grantee with support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and a Harkness Foundation for Dance Project Grant recipient. Other recent awards include: the Doris Duke Foundation Performing Artist Recovery Fund in the New York Community Trust; Bessie Award Honoree for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Performer (Burr Johnson); Sybil Shearer Fellowship at the Ragdale Foundation; Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography; Virginia B. Toulmin Women Leaders in Dance Fellowship at Center for Ballet and the Arts (CBA) at NYU. She was an inaugural participant in the 2024 International Choreographers Retreat, organized by Montréal Danse and c.a.t.a.m.o.n Dance Group.

Bartosik's work has been commissioned and presented by BAM Next Wave Festival, Torn Space Theater, New York Live Arts, FIAF's Crossing the Line Festival, American Dance Festival, LUMBERYARD, American Realness, Abrons Art Center, Gibney, Danspace Project, The Kitchen, La Mama, and BEAT Festival. She has toured to Supersense: Festival of the Ecstatic (Melbourne, Australia), Bratislava in Movement Festival (Slovakia), Wexner Arts Center, Dance Place, American Dance Festival, The Yard, MASS MoCA/Jacob's Pillow, FlynnSpace, Bates Dance Festival, Columbia College, Centre Chorégraphique National de Franche-Comté à Belfort, Festival Rencontres Chorégraphique Internationales de Seine-Saint Denis, Artdanthe Festival, Church, Mount Tremper Arts, and others.

Bartosik has also received awards from National Dance Project (NDP) Production & Touring Grant and Community Engagement Fund from New England Foundation for the Arts; MAP Fund, Jerome Foundation; FUSED (French-US Exchange in Dance), a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts in partnership with The Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French American Cultural Exchange; Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, USArtists International; Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Grants to Artists and Emergency Grants; Creative Arts Initiative (CAI); American Dance Abroad; and New Music USA, Live Music for Dance; and a United States Artists Fellowship nomination. Her community focused Encounter projects have received funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts; the Nathan M. Clark Foundation; and New York State Council on the Arts.



A member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company for 9 years, Bartosik received a Bessie Award for Exceptional Artistry in his work. daela.org

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

bLUr is an evening-length work for 5 dancers and 2 on-stage light operators. The work is 45 minutes with no intermission.

Community Engagement Workshops built around themes of *bLUr* are available upon request.

Preliminary technical needs:

- Sprung floor with black marley covering. Stage dimensions: 40' wide x 35' deep
- Hand held lights provided by and operated by Company
- Sound controlled by Company
- 8-10 Speakers and 2-4 Subs for full and surround sound
- 11 voile curtains pending on venue size - provided by Company

bLUr can be adapted to different spaces. A full technical rider can be viewed by clicking the link below:

[bLUr Technical Rider](#)

Please direct any technical questions to the *bLUr* Production Manager **Emily Vizina** - vizina.emily@gmail.com

Direct video documentation inquiries to **Kimberly**: kimberlymbartosik@gmail.com

World Premiere
October 2025
NEW YORK LIVE ARTS

co-presented with
L'ALLIANCE New York's *Crossing the Line* Festival

Dance Place, Washington D.C
November 21 & 22, 2025

L'Alliance New York's Le Skyroom
January 9 @ 9pm & January 12 @ 7 pm

Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
May 15 & 16, 2026

American Dance Festival
June 27, 2026

MASS MoCA
December 2026

2027 U.S. and international dates announced soon!





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PRESS



Kimberly Bartosik in conversation with Bill T. Jones

"The person making this must be a badass. The person making this must be a very strong, clear person in themselves and a vulnerable person who has been there."

Bill T. Jones

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Kimberly Bartosik in conversation with Bill T. Jones

New York Live Arts, September 3, 2025

DAY IN THE LIFE OF DANCE: Kimberly Bartosik's "bLUr" at New York Live Arts

The Dance Enthusiast, September 24, 2025

"each section of bLUr plays out with remarkable clarity — Bartosik and the performers manage to close the gap between highly-charged emotional and psychological states and their physical manifestations"

Kimberly Bartosik's Latest Dance Confronts the Uncomfortable Feelings in All of Us

The Fordham Observer, January 21, 2026

"50 minutes of raw emotion and exceptional talent, both through the creative vision of Bartosik and the five dancers' technicality and emotional vulnerability"

The Panic Room

dancelog.nyc, January 14, 2026

"an outpouring of adrenaline and emotion"

Containing Emergency.

The Brooklyn Rail, November 2025

"Inside of the centrifuge, the dancers repeatedly place themselves in each other's space with a sense of gentleness and care. ...the universality of an emergency ... renders bLUr's urgency resonant and personal, beyond the action happening onstage. Bartosik offers a thoughtful exploration of emergent states, which left me wondering if we were all inside of the metaphorical ambulance together, after all."

Drawing the line

TandBOnTheAisle, October 3, 2025

"a highly original dance work"

9 Shows to add to your October Performance Slate

Dance Magazine, October 2025



From the audience:

“bLUr shakes one to the core, and yet, by sheer dint of the endurance you demand of us, we leave the theater with a strange, hard-won optimism: If I — if they — can survive such devastation, desire, and doubt, perhaps I am better equipped to muddle through the shitstorm that is our world right now.”

“It was a huge artistic triumph...We are living in fragile times. We shall move forward as a society because of your artistic contribution. ”

“Ephemeral, a cacophony of heat, feverish in organized and wild directions, foreground and background deeply connected, where seconds are long and minutes are quick.”

“You are my favorite working artist right now. I don’t know a single artist in any medium who manages to create an emotional space whereby audience, performer, and maker...ALL navigate an emotional landscape that simultaneously appears opaque yet shines with crystalline clarity.”

bLUR Funders

bLUR is a National Dance Project/NDP funded work.

bLUR is co-commissioned by L'Alliance New York's Crossing the Line Festival and by ADF/American Dance Festival with support from the Doris Duke/SHS Foundations Award for New Works. bLUR is co-presented by L'Alliance New York's Crossing the Line Festival and New York Live Arts. The work is also made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Foundation and The Mellon Foundation. General Operating Support was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project with funding from the Doris Duke Foundation. bLUR is also made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and with Project Support from The Harkness Foundation for Dance. The creation of the bLUR Community Engagement Workshop, made possible through NDP, was also developed with support from the 92Y Harkness Dance Center and in collaboration with Recanti-Caplan teen scholars. bLUR was developed in residency at Marble House Project, the Ragdale Foundation during a Sybil Shearer Fellowship, and as an Artist in Residency at Bates Dance Festival. bLUR is also supported through the generosity of individual donors, with major support by John Robinson.

