



In July 2023 [Bates Dance Festival](#) will host community workshops with Austin-based choreographer [Gesel Mason](#). These workshops and this participation will dovetail into a presentation of Gesel's *Yes, And* which will be presented at the 2024 Bates Dance Festival.

*Yes, And* is a collection of performance experiments that place an expanded vision of Black womanhood at the center of its creative process. *Yes, And* asks: *"Who would you be and what would you do if, as a Black woman, you had nothing to worry about? What would you create and how might you be in community with others?"*

Gesel Mason Performance Projects invites self-identified Black women (cisgender, transgender, and gender non-conforming) of all ages to investigate these questions through a series of workshops and activities.

#### How to get involved:

July 19, 6:30-8:30pm: Break bread/Story gathering: Come together to share experiences and lean into pleasure, joy, and nourishment. Hosted by Nico Chin and CoLab Create.

July 23, 2-4pm: In this creative workshop, open to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, we will provide an opportunity to share stories, connect to the body, and imagine new realities. Be prepared to move, draw, nibble, reflect and kiki. All ages and abilities are welcome. Location: Trinity Episcopal Church

July 25, 6:30-8:30pm: Dancers are invited to this 2 hour movement workshop to learn phrases from Gesel's solo *No Less Black* and to get a deeper look into the *Yes, And* process. Location: Trinity Episcopal Church

We welcome dancers/movers, singers/vocalists, actors/storytellers, filmmakers, poets, musicians/DJ's, visual artists, activists/community organizers, mothers, daughters, elders and healers of all kinds.

Please contact Marin at [mday.bdf@gmail.com](mailto:mday.bdf@gmail.com) to RSVP to these events. Capacity is limited, please plan to RSVP in advance!

#### Meet Gesel Mason

Gesel Mason is a choreographer, performer, educator, and arts facilitator. She is Artistic



Director for Gesel Mason Performance Projects and Associate Professor of Dance and Choreography at the University of Texas at Austin. Her company, Gesel Mason Performance Projects (GMPP),

serves as a medium for her creative work. GMPP is a project based dance company that seeks to create meaningful, relevant, and compelling art events as a way to encourage compassion and inquiry. In her work, Mason utilizes dance, theater, humor, and storytelling to bring visibility to voices unheard, situations neglected, or perspectives considered taboo.

Want to know more?

[Jacob's Pillow Residency](#)

[Women and Their Work Residency](#)

[Dance Place Alan M. Kriegsman Residency](#)

*Yes, And* performances:

Austin, TX: [Yes, And ATX trailer](#)

Washington, DC: [Yes, And Hillwood trailer](#)