Jesse Bedirian brings together her various areas of education and life passion in this concert. She received a BA in Dance from the University of Washington and an MED in Counseling Psychology from Washington State University and played for 10 years as a dance educator. She studies Authentic Movement with Zoë Avstreih, Director of the Dance Movement Therapy Department at Naropa University. This concert explores how movement, community and self come together using Authentic Movement and improvisation.

Jesse is deeply grateful for the brave-hearted commitment of her dancers. They have generously plumbed movement from their own depths and been willing to invite an audience to join the circle. She acknowledges that without the foundational support of her family and her partner Tim, she couldn’t be in this moment. She sends out tremendous gratitude for the wonderful dance faculty and staff and the eyes, ears and hearts of her readers Nada Diachenko, Toby Hankin and Kim Nelson. Thank you Dave and Farrell for completing our space perfectly and thank you, Bob Shannon, for so much!

Jessica Damon is a performer, choreographer, and teacher. She has danced with Mel Wong Dance Company, Dance Brazil, Huckabay McAllister Dance, RAW Dance, and Anne Bluethenthal & Dancers, and teaches dance and the Pilates method. In her choreography, Jessica is exploring theatricalized expressions of the hyperreal set against the intimacy and universality of our internal landscapes (today, at least). Along with her love for somatic therapies, she is passionate about dance for the camera.

Jessica is thankful for the support of the generous and brilliant dance faculty at CU, especially Toby Hankin, Michelle Ellsworth, Bob Shannon and Beth Osnes; she thanks Elizabeth Jochum, Jeanine McCain, Leslie Merrill and Nicole Predki for their feedback and inspiration; her many inspirational dance mentors, including Mel Wong, Connie Kreemer and Silvia Martins; the world’s greatest choreographer, Pina Bausch; her numerous fabulous and talented dancing colleagues, both at CU and her home by the sea; and her lovely love, Peter.

Choreographer Biographies:

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**The University of Colorado at Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance presents:**

**THE WHAT-SO OF (HER) INEVITABILITY**

**(HER) INEVITABILITY**

What does it mean to exist in a reflected reality? What is the relationship between one's image and one's truth? If your sense of self is formed by the perceptions of others, is it an imposed identity, reflective only of the perceiver? "(Her) Inevitability" asks you to question the truth of the reflection. Looking deeper, you might like what you see.

Choreography: Jessica Damon

Dancers: Jessica Damon, Evan Dean, Sarah Ficken, Heather Gray, Kelsey Kempfer, Josselyn Levinson, Courtney McGuire, Christie Mondalve, Julie Murphy, Hayley Muth, Michael Richman

Special Thanks to Anna Stern for her time and collaborative contributions to the process. Heal quickly!


Male Commentator: Jason Bisping

Video Editor: Brian Vernor

Video Editing: Jessica Damon

Text: BBC, Jessica Damon, Bill Harley, CMuir

Costumes: Jessica Damon

Altered by Toby Hankin

Set Design: Bob Shannon & Jessica Damon

Additional Vocals: Jeanine McCain

--INTERMISSION--

**What Is So**

Join us in an entirely improvised exploration. . . What does it mean to be seen? What does it mean to truly look? What does it take to give attention fully? Conversely, how do we take attention in just the way we need it most?

Process: Jesse Bedirian

Holding the Space: Jesse Bedirian and You

Movement: Jessica Damon, Stephanie Kobes, Jeanine McCain, Leslie Merrill

Music: Farrell Lowe, David Wille

Lighting: Joy French

Costumes: Jesse Bedirian

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Please

Turn off cell phones and pagers during the performance. Remember no food, drinks, and/or flash photography.