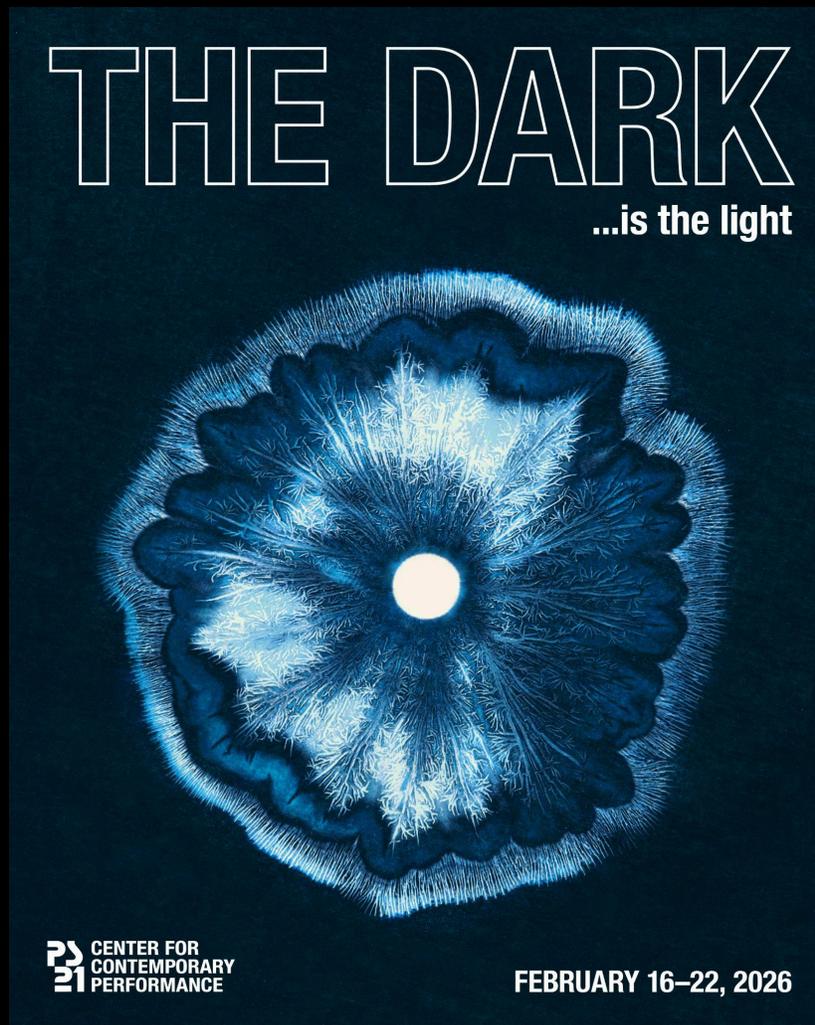


PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance Announces *The Dark* A New Winter Festival

February 16-22, 2026 | PS21 | Columbia County, New York



PS21 : Center for Contemporary Performance is proud to announce *The Dark*, a new annual festival that celebrates the depths of winter. Taking place from February 16–22, 2026, the festival will unfold at PS21 and across Columbia County—in theatres, restaurants, libraries, saunas and outdoor public spaces. *The Dark* offers a packed week of world-class contemporary performance, installation, music, dance and theatre—all exploring winter as a time of community and solitude, fire and ice, darkness and light. A major new attraction for the region, the festival positions Columbia County as a year-round cultural destination. It's a light in the dark—and *The Dark is the light*.

The Dark is a new expression of PS21's commitment to partner and collaborate with its neighboring communities, venues and institutions, signaling a long-term investment in reestablishing the region as a year-round destination while leveraging under-utilized creative infrastructure. Embedded in this process is the transformation of PS21 itself from an innovative and impactful spring and summer venue into one that retains its gravitational pull as temperatures drop and the nights grow longer.

"This festival and this program is a snow-fed fever dream," said Vallejo Ganter, Artistic & Executive Director of PS21. "It's a vision created by the incredible PS21 team, the artists whose work we serve and the collaborating venues across the county, all adding up to create a thrilling contradiction with the common expectation that winter comprises fallow months. This is what organizations like us should and need to be doing—creating moments for the community around them that simply can't happen otherwise. This is why the arts exist: to bring us together in dialogue, debate and communion, in ways that we didn't know were possible."

With a full program set to be revealed in January 2026, PS21 is excited to announce the following festival preview:

Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born: my tongue is a blade

(US Premiere)

The artists **Okwui Okpokwasili** and **Peter Born** are partners in their work and lives. Since 1996, as **sweat variant**, they have been working at the intersection of dance, theatre and visual art to make challenging and rigorous work, reaffirming that which has been deemed marginal as the true center. Through the exploration of Black interiority, story, duration and site, their work can be simultaneously violent and hypnotic and is invariably compelling. *My Tongue is a Blade* is a three-hour durational movement practice that functions as a work with relation, memory and reflection. It asks: What are the limits of our attention and how does that test the strength of our bonds? Three performers commit to remembering each other, holding each other, bearing each other and sustaining the world that contains them. *My Tongue is a Blade* will be performed by **Okwui Okpokwasili**, New York based performer **Bria Bacon** and Dublin-based performer **Alessandra Azeviche**. The work made its world premiere at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, in 2025.

Tim Etchells and Bert and Nasi: L'Addition

(US Premiere)

L'Addition plays out like a deranged game of telephone, except that the message being passed is a single scene on an increasingly distorted loop: A man at a café orders a drink. A waiter pours the drink. And a waiter pours the drink. And he cannot stop pouring the drink. Each escalation of the otherwise everyday scenario introduces a more outlandish set of circumstances. Co-created by the Artistic Director of pioneering, Ibsen Award winning company, Forced Entertainment **Tim Etchells** with the brilliant physical performance duo **Bert and Nasi**, *L'Addition* orchestrates a complex, hilarious and explosive performance from simple materials. Together, the three of them play with the mechanisms of theatre as much as with power relationships—but in the end, someone has to pay the bill.

Lee Ranaldo and Leah Singer: ContreJour

Adapting the French name for contralight, *ContreJour* is a project that's been in evolution for more than thirty years, bringing together the artistic vision of American composer, guitarist and producer **Lee Ranaldo**, a founding member of Sonic Youth, with Canadian photographer and multimedia artist **Leah Singer**. In their projects in this field, Ranaldo and Singer break with the traditional dynamic between performer and audience to examine how image and sound interact live. This performance was born out of a visit to Lourdes Castro's studio in 2011. Using a

diverse range of acoustic and electric guitars and digital instruments, Ranaldo and Singer create an immersive sound experience where the techniques and materials that Castro developed are reinterpreted in a bucolic and reflective journey that reflects on her lasting impact on the international artistic avant-garde.

Trisha Brown Dance Company: In Plain Site

In Plain Site sees **Trisha Brown Dance Company** bringing a bespoke collection from the company's repertory to be restaged into Chatham's historic and newly restored Masonic Hall at dusk, amplifying Brown's bottomless affinity for naturalizing movement to the physical environment. For decades Brown's work has fearlessly explored different relationships to space and site for dance. Never frozen, her work adapts profoundly to its environment, its time and condition, allowing patterns of relationship, body, light and space to play, repeat and iterate.

Andrew Schneider: NO WIS WHEN WE ARE (the stars)

Every point in space occurs once at each moment of time. *NO WIS WHEN WE ARE (the stars)* is an interactive theatrical installation that pushes this idea to its literal extreme. An unseen narrator guides each participant through an individualized journey into a precisely programmed matrix of light—and the cosmos of themselves. *(The stars)* traces every decision that you have ever made as a contributing factor to being 'here' and being 'now.' With nearly 4,000 reactive LED lights and a 496-channel soundscape, **Andrew Schneider's** powerful installation draws you into a contemplative and deeply personal encounter with time, memory and presence. Part meditation, part exploration, this dazzling fusion of tech and theatre is a rare chance to get lost in the stars. Both the *Open Universe* and *Guided Tour* variants of the project will be offered, with a full schedule to follow.

About PS21

A vibrant center for contemporary performance in the Hudson Valley, PS21 presents adventurous productions by leading and emerging American and international artists, showcasing what is new and thought-provoking in music, contemporary circus, dance, theatre and in entirely new genres.