

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For general inquiries:

Sydney Anderson (*she/her*)
Founder & Creative Director, *The Why Collective*
thewhycollective@gmail.com

For inquiries about PR/Marketing:

Brian Reager (*he/him, they/them*)
Associate Artistic Director, *the cell theatre*
brianpatrickreager@gmail.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON ARTISTS HEAD TO NEW YORK TO PRESENT
THE WOMEN HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY:
A NEW COLLECTION OF PERSONAL MONOLOGUES AND
SONGS BY FEMALE-IDENTIFYING ARTISTS

Houston-based Intersection Arts joins NYC's The Why Collective to showcase stories of 13 women exploring their voices through the lens of their womanhood through monologues, music, and movement.

NEW YORK - The Why Collective presents a revised remounting of **The Women Have Something To Say**, in co-production with Intersection Arts of Houston, May 12-14, 2023, marking the fourth and final project in the collective's four-show series while in residence at Nancy Manocherian's the cell theatre. This genre-bending theatrical work tells the true stories of 13 women/female-identifying artists as they recount moments of discovering their own unique voice, as well as the shattering moments when their voices were silenced. This collection of personal stories is told through spoken monologues, visual art, chamber music, and dance/movement. Each monologue and accompanying song text is written and performed by the artist herself, including music composed specifically for this project, by **Madeline Styskal** (Houston Grand Opera Co.), and projected graphics by **Janine Dworin**.

Too often in the world of classical music, female musicians are required to interpret the words and music of dead, white, European men. Rarely are they invited into the conversation beyond being performance vessels. **The Women Have Something To Say** creates a space for women to write and perform their own lived experiences and to authentically explore their voices and identities. Guided by Director [Nicole Kenley-Miller](#) (University of Houston, Opera in the Heights) and Houston Poet Laureate Emeritus, [Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton](#), these women of diverse backgrounds (ages, ethnicities, nationalities, sexual orientations, artistic disciplines) are able to openly share their intensely personal stories of womanhood to become not only the performers, but the subjects themselves.

Intersection Arts' Artistic Director, Nicole Kenley-Miller, had previously commissioned a song cycle setting her own text, and found the performance of such personal text to be transcendent in a way performing other people's text is not. "I had never known the power of singing my own words," Kenley-Miller shares. Having experienced this for herself, she was eager to give other musicians a taste of it too, particularly other female musicians.

This New York Premiere will be presented with more layers of narrative story-telling, with body actors and dancers creating a thread of connectivity between each individual vignette.

Choreographer, **Laura Dearman** (UNC Charlotte, Neville Dance Theater), said that when she first watched the Houston presentation, she felt that her experience with womanhood was represented in a uniquely authentic way. "My hope is that others will see themselves in these monologues," Dearman says, "or perhaps they'll see their friends, loved ones, coworkers, etc. and they'll be able to engage with the work of honoring & amplifying women's voices with renewed motivation."

Founder and Artistic Director of The Why Collective, [Sydney Anderson](#), says she was blown away by how aligned this project was with her new collective's mission of creating truth-seeking, vulnerable, interdisciplinary art. "By placing ourselves in the role of a character, it somehow feels safer to tell our most vulnerable truths to an audience," says Anderson. "I immediately thought about how the interdisciplinary model could widen the access points to this style of creative sharing." The New York premiere will feature a cast of emerging and established artists, including Anderson, Kenley-Miller, and Dearman, as well as Houston artists **Gwen Alfred**, [Jessica Blau](#), [Cynthia Clayton](#), [Isabelle Ganz](#), [Ingrid Gerling](#), **Shannon Hesse**, **Gracie Ibemere**, **Tali Morgulis**, **Marianna Morgulis**, **Lisa Vickers**, and New York artists [Newsha Farahani](#), [Mary-Angela Granberry](#), **Uila Marx** (she/they), and [Manatsu Tanaka](#) (they/them). All music, projections, and graphics were commissioned by Intersection Arts in collaboration with The Why Collective.

TICKETS

Tickets range from \$25-\$50 with limited availability.

Select performances will be Livestreamed for \$20, and virtual ticket holders can access the video on-demand for one month afterward.

WORKSHOP

On Sunday, May 14th, the creative team also invites locals to attend a special Mother's Day Event: "**What Do YOU Have to Say?**": A Creative Workshop Exploring Our Inner Voices. (All genders welcome!)

Tickets for the show, the workshop, or both can be purchased [here](#).

LOCATION

Nancy Manocherian's the cell theatre
338 W 23rd Street
New York, NY 10011



More information about *The Women Have Something to Say* and the rest of The Why Collective's 2023 Festival-in-Residence can be found at thewhycollective.art, by following [@the_why_collective](https://www.instagram.com/the_why_collective) on Instagram, or [@thewhycollectiv](https://www.facebook.com/thewhycollectiv) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thewhycollectiv).

Multimedia: Promotional material for *The Women Have Something to Say* is [available here](#).

About the Artistic Director/Creator

[Nicole Kenley-Miller](#) is the founder of [Intersection Arts](#) in Houston, an organization exploring points of convergence between art forms to speak truth about the times in which we live. She is known for her stage direction of colorful opera and music theatre productions, both on stage and film. As a performer, she explores the analog of the “singer-

songwriter” tradition in classical music, singing her own poetry and lyrics set by contemporary composers.

About The Why Collective

[The Why Collective](#) was established in 2021 by Creative Director, [Sydney Anderson](#), as a rotating roster of artists and thinkers dedicated to a roundtable style of artistic inception and creation. Collective artists are invited to work together without the traditional hierarchy of leadership roles. It is the collective's mission to create nuanced and layered works of interdisciplinary theatre that encourage artists and audiences to seek deeper truths together through the art of questioning.

About the cell theatre

[Nancy Manocherian's the cell theatre](#) (Artistic Director, Kira Simring) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit dedicated to the incubation and presentation of new work across all artistic disciplines that mine the mind, pierce and awaken the soul. Founded in 2006, the cell has provided a developmental home in the heart of Chelsea for works in progress by artists ranging from early careers to established staples of the New York community. Originally established as a theatre space, the cell has gradually restructured into a cultural hub for food artists, cyborg theatre artists, musicians, installation artists, choreographers and more.

###