

Vervet Dance presents *In the Light*
PRESS RELEASE & CALENDAR LISTING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2018

WHO: Vervet Dance

WHAT: *In the Light*

WHEN: Saturday, June 16 5:31am-8:31pm

RUNTIME: 15 hours, audience encouraged to arrive and exit at will

WHERE: The Iron Factory, 118 Fontain Street, 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19122

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TICKETS: <https://www.artful.ly/store/events/15398>

\$25 general admission

\$10 underemployed/artist/student/senior

In the Light

for 15 hours Vervet Dance dances and plays all day

PHILADELPHIA, PA. May 30, 2018 - Vervet Dance presents *In the Light*, a semi-composed durational music and dance performance lasting from sunrise to sunset directed by Loren Groenendaal. Each season a large ensemble of skilled improvisers fill the space and the daylight hours with movement and acoustic sounds. The Summer edition of *In the Light* will be a 15 hour durational work on Saturday, June 16 from 5:31am to 8:31pm at The Iron Factory located in Kensington at 118 Fontain Street, 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19122. The audience is invited to arrive at any time and come and go throughout the performance. Tickets are available at the door or through <https://www.artful.ly/store/events/15398>. More information can be found at www.vervetdance.org and <https://www.facebook.com/events/1989961611225081/>

Vervet Dance's *In the Light* expands the duration of a typical performance into an astonishing length allowing for a deep exploration of rhythm within ourselves, nature, and our community. This long-form composition from sunrise to sunset is directed by Loren Groenendaal and broadens our senses of art, time, and humanity. The ensemble builds the composition from improvised movement and sound, enlisting repeating and patterned forms while recognizing there is no true repetition, shifting gradually and dramatically. While moving and sounding with breath, sensation, and awareness, the performers are composing in the moment and discovering new artistic territory.

Powered by humans and the sun, the music is acoustic, the dancing is live, and the lighting "design" is by the sky. The cast is only aware of time passing by their own experience and noticing the changes in the sunlight; they rest and eat when their bodies desire. Unlike most performances, the resting is not hidden from the audience as the ensemble is encouraged to

rest in the performance area creating a radical aesthetic that values action and recuperation. The audience may arrive, leave, and even return at any time in our day-long performance.

Artists for *In the Light* include Alpha_Alpha, Sean Thomas Boyt, Erica Corbo, Michael Bradford Forbes, Loren Groenendaal, Curt Haworth, Jen Kertis-Veit, Katherine Kiefer Stark, Eliot Klein, Margot Electra Steinberg, Schuyler Thum, and Mauri Walton.

The press has remarked about Loren Groenendaal's artistry:

"Rich interaction with a given space, inventing problems that need to be solved in the moment and solving them elegantly." -Ben Hersey, *Boston Hassle*

"wonderfully ambiguous roles of dancer/musicians" -Beau Hancock, *thINKingDance*

"I found the combination of elements of chance, improvisation, and structured composition to be a creative expression of the process of change." -Karl Surkan, *thINKingDance*

Artistic Director Biography

Loren Groenendaal was born in central Pennsylvania and raised on rural wooded mountains. Her childhood in this natural environment and the idea that humans are part of nature, informs her aesthetic and fuels the research for *In the Light*. Loren's work investigates the community-building possibilities of live art, the spectrum between improvisation and composition and dares to blur the lines between ritual and performance. She has a pattern of making dances about the patterns in nature. As an improviser, she explores free and structured improvisation, solo, in duos with musicians, and in larger groups. She is a proponent of complexity, adaptability, resilience, curiosity, and empathy.

Loren is the founder, artistic director, and choreographer for [Vervet Dance](#), a Philadelphia-based contemporary dance company. She has been actively creating, curating, and presenting work in Philadelphia and beyond since 2003. She earned an MFA in Choreography at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a BA in dance and visual arts from Oberlin College, and a Certificate in Laban Movement Analysis from the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies. Loren's work has been performed from Canada to Mexico in Baja, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Montreal, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia and has been supported by multiple venues and organizations. She has self and co-produced concerts and concert series of *colorFULL*, *Fresh Juice*, *Making the Rounds*, *Semi-Composed*, and *The H-O-T Series of Philadelphia*.

She is an educator focusing on [creative and somatic movement for children and adults](#). She serves as key member of the Contact Improvisation (CI) community in Philadelphia, organizing a monthly underscore, assisting with the organization, teaching, and facilitating of weekly classes and jams. She is a founding member, current board member, artist-in-residence, and

former program coordinator of the [Mascher Space Cooperative](#), an artist run space and organization that benefits the artists in residence and the broader community. She is a founding and current member and curator for the [Impermanent Society of Philadelphia](#), a group of Philadelphia-area arts practitioners and curators, who support freely improvised live performance.



Photo of Spring "In the Light" by JH Kertis of Chloe Newton, Sean Thomas Boyt, Margot Electra Steinberg, and Connor Przybyszewski.



Photo of Spring “In the Light” by Alan F DiBerio of (left to right) Alpha_Alpha, Eliot Klein, Andy Thierauf, JH Kertis, Michael Bradford Forbes, Wyman Brantley, and Loren Groenendaal



Photo Winter “In the Light” by JH Kertis of (left to right) Mauri Walton, Margot Electra Steinberg, Loren Groenendaal, Curt Haworth, Sean Thomas Boyt, Andy Thierauf, Katherine Kiefer Stark, Erica Corbo, and Jenny Sawyer.



Photo Winter "In the Light" by JH Kertis, pictured from top to bottom: Jenny Roe Sawyer, Andy Thierauf, Katherine Kiefer Stark, Sean Thomas Boyt, and (in the foreground) Erica Corbo.