Dancing Through Prison Walls Performance by Claremont Colleges Students, Choreographed inside Norco Prison

(Scripps Dance Tent Jaqua Quadrangle)

Richie's Disappearing Acts

Written in March 2020, inside the Norco prison during COVID lockdown, as part of Undanced Dances Through Prison Walls During a Pandemic

Inspired by The Prison Renaissance’ “Ways of Disappearing Project” at San Quentin Prison.

Richie's Reappearance

Written In November 2020, three months after release from prison.

Choreographer and Narrator: Richie Martinez

Choreographic Facilitator: Suchi Branfman (in deep collaboration with the performers and Richie Martinez)

Music: Alexander Kay of akay.world and Zoe Keating

Dancers: Marley Evans, Kesi Jackson, Meadow Jones, Marissa Singh, Jenna Wu-Cardona (all Claremont Colleges students)

RICHIE MARTINEZ is a writer, voice-over artist and passionate dancer who started working with the Dancing Through Prison Walls project inside CRC Prison in 2019. His written work has been published by Sming Sming Books in Undanced Dances Through Prison Walls During a Pandemic. Richie is the father of four, a dedicated fitness and boxing coach, and longtime wrestler.

SUCHI BRANFMAN, choreographer/curator/performer/educator/activist, has worked from the war zones of Managua to Moscow’s Bolshoi Theatre and from Kampala’s Luzira Prison to NYC’s Joyce Theatre. Her work strives to create an embodied terrain grounded in storytelling, dialogue, listening and action. Branfman is currently in year six of a ten-year choreographic residency at the California Rehabilitation Center, a medium security state men’s prison in Norco, CA, is Artistic Director of the multi-faceted Dancing Through Prison Walls project, serves on faculty at Scripps College and Cal Poly Pomona, and is a community gardener and prison abolition activist.