



ARTIST BIO

SuperGroup is the 10-year performance collaboration of Erin Search-Wells, Sam Johnson, and Jeffrey Wells. At the center of our work is an interest in the complexity of the human body in relation, context, and history. To us the body is movement, but it is also sound and emotion; abstraction and story; conversation and comedy; the virtuosic and the mundane. We want it all. We make performance to grapple with uncertain aspects of reality; to remake the world as we want it to be; to surprise ourselves and our audiences into imagining new possibilities. SuperGroup's work has been supported in MN by the Jerome Foundation, The Walker Art Center, the Red Eye Theater, Public Functionary, among others, and nationally thru the Joyce Theater/Invisible Dog and the SCUBA Touring Network (Velocity Dance, ODC, and Philadelphia Dance Projects).

REPERTOIRE AVAILABLE FOR TOURING

The Painted Factory

Influenced by conceptions of "reality" in postmodern dance and mid-twentieth century dramatic realism, *The Painted Factory* is an uncertain world, where simple actions and banal language, dissonantly aligned, implicate a space beyond the quotidian. The show simultaneously unfolds an increasingly complex unison movement pattern and a vocally delivered original living room drama, expanding our research into multitasking, duplicitous action, and how meaning is constructed.

Touring Personnel: 3 touring performers, 1 local performer, 1 crew

The Tent Has Been Pulled Down

Using a wide range of tools, including precise choreography, singing, and humorous characters *The Tent Has Been Pulled Down* is simultaneously a rigorous exploration of performative multitasking, an earnest attempt to grapple with generational feminisms, and a quick-witted satire. Staged inside a white paper, screen printed cube on a hot pink floor with seating on three sides *The Tent* envelopes the audience, initiating a generous experience of cognitive dissonance.

Touring Personnel: 3 main performers + those performers' mothers, 1 crew

Tech: Ideally a way to install or paint a pink floor, and rigging for the paper set

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?



We are in the very early, conceptual stages of a new, multi-year work that we're calling *Council*. We are in a gathering phase, seeking ideas, questions, and process possibilities to be sorted and synthesized down the line. A few of these that make us most excited are:

- Concepts of Meeting: performance as a meeting place of live bodies, investigating the value of this aside from restating the fact of it over and over.
- Meeting structures as a way to develop, over time, a set of rules, norms, and procedures that will guide the navigation of the performance, evolving into a unique ecology of processes.
- Attractor states in complex systems as they relate to individual human bodies and the ways humans group.
- Continuing research into multi-tasking and multi-world performance and how it relates to an increasingly visual/digital world.

Council will be created with support from a MANCC residency in 2019. We are looking for other residency opportunities and presenting partners for an anticipated early 2020 premiere.

MCKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

The McKnight Fellowships for Choreographers awards Minnesota choreographers whose work is of exceptional artistic merit, who have created a substantial body of work over a period of time, and who are at a career stage that is beyond emerging. Three fellows are selected each year to receive a substantial unrestricted cash award, as well as additional support for career and artistic development.

The McKnight Fellowships for Choreographers is a program of The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts and is funded by the McKnight Foundation. Support for individual artists has been a cornerstone of The McKnight Foundation's Arts program since it began in 1981. The foundation recognizes that the arts cannot flourish or enhance community life without the ideas, energy, and drive of individual artists, and that artists cannot make these contributions without unfettered creative time. Awards are made in 10 disciplines through nine arts organizations and presenters.

THE COWLES CENTER

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts is the flagship institution for dance in Minnesota. Centrally located in Downtown Minneapolis, The Cowles Center includes the 500-seat Goodale Theater, a historic Shubert building and the oldest theater in Downtown; the former Hennepin Center for the Arts, home to 20 leading dance and performing arts organizations; the state-of-the-art Target Education Studio, housing The Cowles Center's innovative distance learning program; the Illusion Theater; the James Sewell Ballet TEK Box; and the U.S. Bank Atrium. The Cowles Center is a catalyst for the creation, presentation, education, enjoyment, and celebration of dance and the performing arts in the Twin Cities.