



A contemporary artist residency, dance and performance center,
for Martha's Vineyard and beyond
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For press images, click [here](#) to access the online photo gallery

FOR IMMEDIATE LISTING and RELEASE

July 2, 2021

Raphael Xavier In Residence at The Yard

**Performing at Featherstone Center for the Arts
July 10, 2021**

[July 2, 2021] — (Chilmark, Massachusetts) Philadelphia's Raphael Xavier returns to The Yard for a two week residency from June 29 - July 12. He completes his residency with a work-in-process performance of *XAVIER'S: The Musician and The Mover*, held outdoors at Featherstone Center for the Arts on July 10 at 6:00pm. The audience is invited to bring a picnic to the performance.

Distilling the art of Breaking to its purest form, Raphael Xavier (pronounced ZAH-vee-ay) takes this movement vocabulary to uncharted territory. For the past 20+ years, Xavier has explored Breaking as social, physical, and mental "movement." He has forged an exceptional approach to improvisation—expanding both dancer and audience expectations—and cleared the path for those interested in Breaking as an artform. Xavier is a multifaceted creator who draws inspiration from his many talents in dance, music, photography, and writing. His original works are a transcendent mix of poetry, precision, and spontaneity.

"The most exciting thing about the residency is getting back to what we THINK will be normal," Xavier says. "Having the opportunity to focus on the creation of a work means more now than it ever has. I'm sure this residency will re-fuel me. I'm looking forward to being in the space with the performers and musicians to really build with each other. And being at The Yard means a lot by itself."

"We have been eagerly awaiting Raphael Xavier's return to Martha's Vineyard," says Yard Executive Director Chloe Jones. "An innovator and a veteran Breaker, Raphael leverages his extensive knowledge about the form to continually create new possibilities."

XAVIER'S: The Musician and The Mover highlights the traditions of freestyle and improvisation in both Breaking and Jazz. His collaborators for this residency include a saxophonist, bassist, pianist, percussionist, and dancers.

To purchase tickets and learn more, visit dancetheyard.org.

Performance Information:

Raphael Xavier
XAVIER'S: The Musician and The Mover

Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 6:00pm

Location: Featherstone Center for the Arts
30 Featherstone Ln, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Tickets: \$30 Adult / \$25 Senior(65+)/Military / \$5 Youth Under 18

A new program, Yard Access, offers \$10 tickets to anyone for whom The Yard's normal ticket prices are prohibitively expensive due to economic hardship. Applications to the program and more information can be found [here](#).

Please note: *this performance takes place outdoors on the Art Barn lawn at Featherstone Center for the Arts. Seating will not be provided. We ask that you bring your own chairs, blankets, towels, or something comfortable to sit on! We also invite you to bring food and drinks to the event. You are welcome to enjoy "dinner and a show" outdoors under the sunset!*

The presentation of Raphael Xavier was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Yard is a Partner of the National Performance Network (NPN). This project is made possible in part by support from the NPN Artist Engagement Fund. Major contributors include the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). For more information visit www.npnweb.org.



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The Yard is a creation and performance platform for artists from around the globe. We offer exhilarating, wide-ranging, and educational arts experiences through performances, residencies, and community programs for all ages including in Martha's Vineyard schools. With programs on our campus in Chilmark and in partner locations across the island, we provide year-round opportunities for the Martha's Vineyard community to come together and be inspired. Please visit www.dancetheyard.org for more information.

SEED. GROW. REAP. REPEAT: THE NATURE OF THE YARD.

