

**LA MAMA**  
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB  
PRESENTS

# POETRY ELECTRIC: REFLECTIONS OF HISTORY

Poetry Electric Directed by William Electric Black  
Event Curated by Lavern Williams

Part of the  
400 Years of Inequity and Protest  
Events at La MaMa



Ellen Stewart Theatre  
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003  
October 14, 2019

# ***Poetry Electric: Reflections of History***

Levern Williams will team with SENIORS representing the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn, through songs of struggle and poems, spoken words of Langston Hughes. The special evening will celebrate the African Americans' struggle in America over the past 400 years, yet our existence exceeds 400 years. We invite all seniors, families, clergy, politicians and leaders to join us!

Curated by  
**Levern Williams**

Featuring  
**Dr. Melissa Freeman  
Joe Dell Hutcheson**

**Poetry Electric fuses music, movement, sound, and dance with the spoken word and presents artists working in a wide range of styles including beatboxing, jazz and hip-hop theatre. This series has presented over 200 emerging poets from diverse cultural backgrounds. Poetry Electric is presented monthly at La MaMa.**

**Curated and Directed by Willam Electric Black**

**Levern Williams**, known as Levern “the Entertainer” Williams, a versatile performing artist/Jazz stylist; has been compared to Nat King Cole. Levern flaunts a unique, exuberant style that is undoubtedly his own which energizes and captures his audience. As a humanitarian, Levern finds time to develop and instruct creative arts programs to New York City seniors and youth by using creative arts as alternative education. Levern continues to dedicate time, towards his first love, performing songs by the great balladers of Jazz. Levern often found his way to the clubs of Harlem, where his exposure to the music of Nat King Cole, Johnny Hartman and Lou Rawls started. During his college years Levern worked with Madame Leon Tyne Price & Leonard Bernstein, at the Metropolitan Opera House, as well as, the late Dr. Billy Taylor one of the founders of the Jazzmobile. Additionally, making his Broadway debut with Ms. Katheline Battle at the Palace Theater in New York City. Levern’s performance repertoire includes: appearances at Symphony Space Thalia Theater NYC, Jazz at the Crypt Church of the Intercession NYC, Cleopatra’s Needle-NYC, St.Stephen’s United Methodist Church (Wednesday noon time Jazz & the Word), Londel’s Restaurant and super Club-NYC and La MaMa; and, toured internationally with stops in Western Africa (inter-continental Hotels); Paris, France (Inter-continental Hotels); South America, México, Panamá and Brazil.

**Dr. Melissa M. Freeman** is a 93-year-old medical doctor who is on the front lines in the fight against the opioid epidemic. Freeman finished medical school in 1955 and has practiced medicine since 1961. The Bronx native is also the granddaughter of a slave in Virginia. Her maternal grandfather, Albert B. Walker, was separated from his mother at the age of 7. When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, he was told he could return to his mother. Her grandfather later moved north to New York City, where Dr. Freeman’s parents eventually bought the home she where grew up in the Willamsbridge section of the Bronx.

**Joe Dell Hutcheson** is an American singer, actress, model and dancer who has appeared in numerous productions within the United States and abroad. Two of the most noted productions were, *In the Mood* with LeVern and Joe and Langston Hughes Montage, a two man show performed with LeVern Williams. Ms. Hutcheson has also performed in various presentations On and Off Broadway throughout the years. Answering the call from God she became the Founder/Director of Praise Movement Dance Dramatization, which has impacted many lives through the ministry of dance. Ms. Hutcheson believes through it all ministering for God’s honor and glory to this dying and lost world is the most important gift.

# LA MAMA



## RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



*Rendering: 74 East 4th St.*

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street is undergoing an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit [www.lamama.org/remakeaworld](http://www.lamama.org/remakeaworld)

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**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

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## NOW PLAYING

### All My Fathers

October 3 - 20, 2019  
The Downstairs

### La MaMa Kids: Tomte

October 6 - 20, 2019  
The Downstairs

### Everyday Murder

October 8 - 11, 2019  
On Street in Front of La MaMa  
66 East 4th Street

### ReEntry: Actors Playing Jazz

Part of 400 Years  
of Inequity and Protest  
October 12, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

HISTORY/OURSTORY  
Part of 400 Years  
of Inequity and Protest  
October 13, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

## COMING SOON

Poetry Electric  
Reflections of History  
Part of 400 Years  
of Inequity and Protest  
October 14, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Casting the Vote:  
A Call To A Count  
Part of 400 Years  
of Inequity and Protest  
October 16, 2019  
Ellen Stewart Theatre

La MaMa Puppet Slam  
October 25 - 27, 2019  
The Downstairs

Experiments Play Reading:  
Suzanne  
October 28, 2019  
La Galleria  
47 Great Jones