



Photo Credit: Judy Stuart Boroson

## JANIS BRENNER IN "INHERITANCE: A LITANY"

Created by acclaimed interdisciplinary artist Janis Brenner, "Inheritance: A Litany" is a personal narrative, dance-opera, non-linear play, and comic drama. The 45-minute interdisciplinary tour-de-force honors the parent-child relationship, its psychologies, and its histories—comedic, deeply intimate, and yet also universal. The text material is based on lists Ms. Brenner began making, noting rather profoundly how she had become them—and how we inherit not only parts of our parent's physical, psychological, behavioral, emotional traits, but also their objects, belongings, even thoughts and ways of being in the world.

Long-time Artistic Director of Janis Brenner & Dancers in NYC, Ms. Brenner is reintroduced in this solo project as the acclaimed dancer-choreographer-vocalist and comedic actress for which she has been widely known.

"Inheritance: A Litany" premiered Off-Broadway at the United Solo Theatre Festival this fall, winning multiple awards.

### AT A GLANCE:

- 3 sold-out performances
- 3 5-star "Critics' Choice" reviews
- 3 United Solo Theatre Festival Awards: Best Production, Best Composer, Best Lighting Designer
- Audience ranged from 18-90+ including students, industry legends, professors, festival attendees, seniors, etc.

### CREATIVE TEAM:

- Janis Brenner: Creator, Director, and Solo Performer
- Jerome Begin: Composer
- Mitchell Bogard: Lighting Designer
- Aaron Selissen: Cameo Appearance

**I inherited:** My father nose. My mother's skin. My father's impatience. My mother's singing voice. My mother's shoe size. My father's insomnia. My father's sense of humor. My mother's teeth. My father's wavy hair. My mother's face. My father's righteous indignation. My mother's expressions. My mother's giggling. My father's athleticism. My mother's fragile bones. My father's sarcasm. My mother's weepiness. My mother's empathy. My father's sarcasm—did I say?. My mother's quiet strength. My father's unquiet strength. My parent's lack of height. My parent's sense of justice. My parent's bickering. My parent's activism. My parent's secularism. My parent's sense of adventure. My parent's love of musicals. My parent's depressions...

## INHERITANCE: and the critics

There's truly nothing like it. Personal through it may be, it's hard not to empathize with 'Inheritance' and think of one's own parents as Brenner explores her relationship to hers. Funny, clever, tragic, and honest, 'Inheritance' is an absolute triumph. Don't miss it.  
*James Bartholomew, "All About Solo"*

Ms. Brenner made our experience light yet emotional. The physical performance was...like a cloud. Beautiful and meaningful, but also fleeting and intangible. As soon as the performance was over, I wanted to call my parents. To hear their voices and remember all they have given me. Janis Brenner showed us how we inherit colors and strokes from our parents. But how we implement those colors and strokes is what makes us individual pieces of art.  
*Mehr Gunawardena, "All About Solo"*

The disbursement of music is unlike any I've ever heard. It evokes the mood of each scene so well...and if that weren't enough, Ms. Brenner herself, achieving an almost-operatic level of vocal gymnastics, lulls us into a trance through her voice over the loudspeaker and her voice onstage. This piece is truly an experience, and I strongly encourage you to add Ms. Brenner's memories to your litany of life events.  
*Alex Miller, "All About Solo"*

Janis Brenner is an award-winning dancer/choreographer/singer/teacher and Artistic Director of Janis Brenner & Dancers. Her work has been commissioned and restaged on more than 50 companies and colleges worldwide. She is on faculty at the prestigious Juilliard School serving as Artistic Mentor for the Composer/Choreographer Collaboration course and teaching "Creative Process." Brenner has received numerous honors and awards, including a 1997 Bessie Award for her performance with Meredith Monk, a Lester Horton Award, a 2017 Best Choreography Award and 2018 Best Production Award from the United Solo Theatre Festival.

Celebrating more than 30 years, Janis Brenner & Dancers is an acclaimed NY company known for its "meticulous artistry" (Deborah Jowitz, *The Village Voice*). Repertory encompasses work from Ms. Brenner's expansive choreographic journey as well as works of major creative forces and mentors such as Murray Louis, Meredith Monk, and collaborators Svjetlana Bukvich, Jerome Begin, Richard Siegal, Theo Bleckmann and Michael Moschen.

JB&D has performed nationally and internationally, touring 36 countries including Russia, Indonesia, Bosnia, West Africa, Korea, Germany, Taiwan, Siberia, Switzerland, and France. The company has also been seen on iconic stages such as The Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow, American Dance Festival, Whitney Museum, among others. JB&D premiered A "Peace" For Women at Madison Square Garden Theater for 5,600 people on the "Celebration for Peace" Concert in honor of the United Nations Millennium Summit Conference in New York.

JB&D is known for its wide range of residency activities in dance technique, composition, improvisation, repertory, yoga, and personal fitness training. See website for current touring repertory.

## INHERITANCE: and the audiences

Bold, brave, brilliant. A personal tour-de-force. I cried and laughed. Everyone so identified with your performance and because of your incredible personalization and naked honesty you created this universal portrait for everyone to watch. My wife is a psychoanalyst and she was so moved. She told all of her colleagues. Will you do it again please?  
*James Sappho, Playwright*

Janis!!! Oh my, what a show! I can't begin to tell you how much I enjoyed it. I have to say that I was virtually to the point of tears most of the way through... It's really amazing how personal and yet universal it is, and it hit home for me as I am now beginning the journey of having aging parents myself... Beyond the emotional impact, it (you!) really were phenomenal. It's so well paced and crafted and I'm so glad I got to be there.  
*Daniel Ott, Composer & Music Faculty, The Juilliard School*

I feel blessed to have seen this fine work—your beautiful, authentic artistry, talent, and work honoring your parents. Receiving the "Best Production Award" is so deserved. And Mitchell Bogard and Jerome Begin's awards—such a gorgeous collaboration of all your talents! I hope others might have the opportunity to see this work in the future. With deep admiration.

*Donna Murphy,  
2-Time Tony Award Winner*