



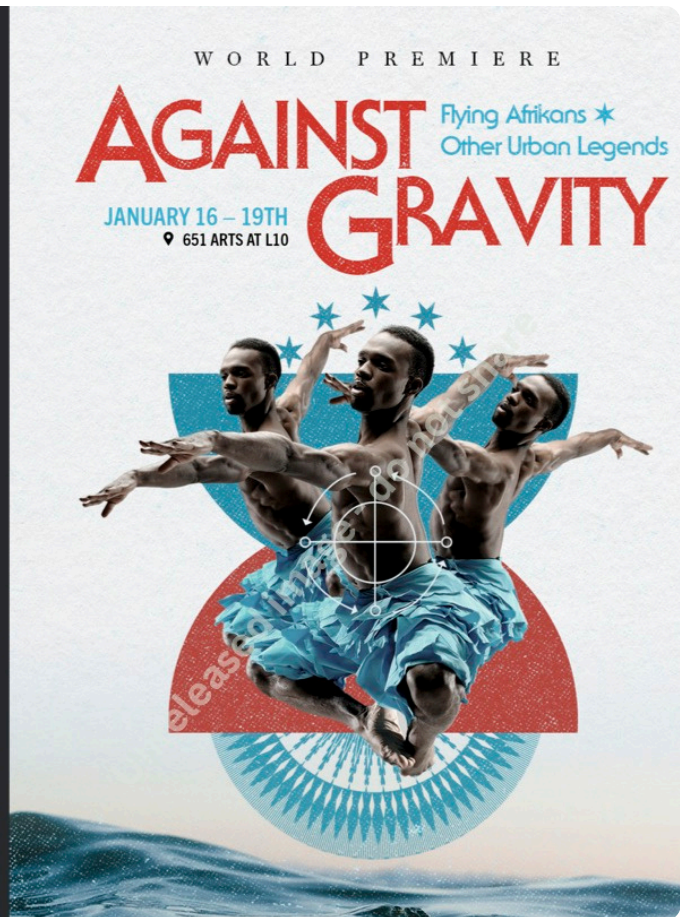
## About the work

### World Premiere

André M Zachery's solo memoir unpacks the expectations and pressures he navigated coming of age in a Chicago marked by mythologies of three legendary Black men: Fred Hampton, Harold Washington and Ben Wilson.

Guided in part by the oracular voice of Chicago ancestor Gwendolyn Brooks, the performer grapples with the wake of these three men --respectively a revolutionary, an athletic phenom and a post-Civil Rights era politician, all felt, in their moments as messiahs.

Against Gravity is a chance to unpack how the expectations and pressures left by their lives, deaths and pursuant mythologies shaped Black men who came of age in the city they left.





# Community Fly Zone Workshops

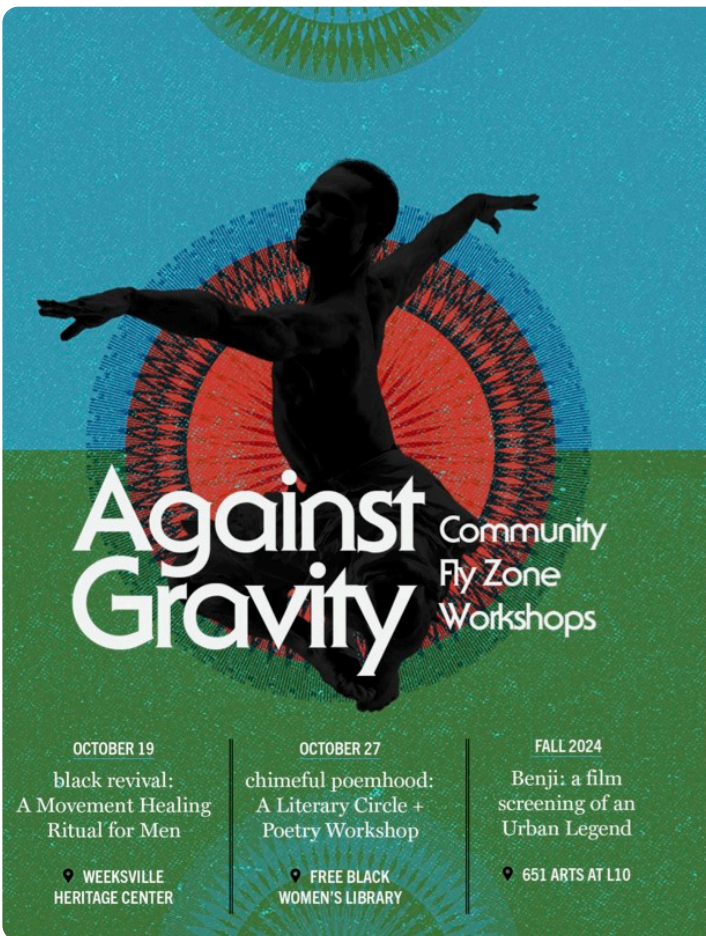
## An Against Gravity series

651 ARTS' 2024-25 season centered around the world premiere of *Against Gravity* in January 2025, André M Zachery's solo memoir and choreographic self-examination of Black masculinity through history, memory, text, poetry and geography.

Renegade Performance Group (RPG) has curated a series of three workshops, each providing a unique exploration of the themes presented in *Against Gravity*.

Each workshop has been designed to stand alone or work in concert with one another. They are an opportunity to engage with the work beyond spectatorship, but rather an invitation for intimate, intentional and immersive participation.

If there is any interest in including these workshops, Renegade is happy to offer a combination of these (at additional cost) in tandem with the performance of *Against Gravity*.



## Engagements with RPG

Renegade Performance Group is excited to offer this performance as a standalone engagement, in addition to facilitated workshop(s) and conversation series of **Community Fly Zone** workshops.

In addition to the performance of **Against Gravity**, Andre's company, **Renegade Performance Group**, has curated a series of workshops providing participants with a deeper exploration of the themes presented in the work. Some of the questions raised in *Against Gravity* include:

- In what ways do we still hold our histories in our bodies?
- What & where are the limitations of iconography & hagiography created to respond to oppression
- How can Black life shift into actualization when there is so much Black blood in the soil?
- Where is our harvest?

**Estimated run time of Against Gravity:** 1 hour (approximately 60 min.)

**Workshop length:** 2-3 hours (can be adjusted)

**Compensation:** **To be negotiated upon confirmed interest**

Thanks again for your consideration. Please send inquiries and questions directly to:

**Rhizome Consulting**, Kristopher McDowell & Francine Sheffield

**Email:** kristopher@rhizomearts.com & francine@rhizomearts.com

Learn more about Renegade Performance group at our website, [renegadepg.com](http://renegadepg.com).