

The word "Agora" is written in a large, black, serif font across the top of the page. The background is a photograph of a rooftop pool with concrete tiles and two circular drains. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights on the tiles.

Agora

"...Lafrance unveils a surreal world...exciting...her usual overflowing pot of imagination..."

Gia Kourlas - Dance Magazine

SENS / Noémie Lafrance Announces 2005 Gala Benefit

WHO: SENS / Noémie Lafrance

WHAT: 2005 Benefit Gala

WHEN: Thursday, June 16, 2005
7 pm Dinner
9 pm Cocktail
10 pm After-Party

WHERE: **Studio 450**
450 West 31st Street
(between 9th and 10th Ave.)

HOW MUCH: \$250 to \$10,000 + Dinner
\$125 Cocktail
\$30 - \$50 DJ After-Party

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SENS / Noémie Lafrance announces its Annual Gala Benefit to take place on **Thursday, June 16, 2005** at **Studio 450** including Dinner, Cocktails, DJ After-party, and three exclusive excerpts from performances of Lafrance's latest work **Migrations**, and upcoming work, **Agora**. Dress code for this sexy summery event at Studio 450, an elegant rooftop on the Hudson featuring a 360 degree view of the city, is flamboyant, transparent and iridescent. Honorary Committee Members include **Laurie Anderson, Robert Wilson, David R. White, Schuyler Chapin, Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez,** and **New York City Council Members Diana Reyna and David Yassky**. Sponsors include **Biche de Bere, Monkey Town, Quebec House, Altria Group Inc., Vino,** and **Studio 450**; **Agora** is made possible, in part, by public funds from **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The New York State Council on the Arts,** a state agency, and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

SENS / Noémie Lafrance is an award-winning non-profit experimental arts organization founded in 2000. SENS' mission is to create and produce innovative site-specific dance performances that both engage audiences in spatial participation and explore the dynamic of movement in public spaces by integrating choreography into urban architecture. Since inception, **SENS** has produced the acclaimed **Descent** (2 Bessie Awards, 10 Best Dance Performances (2 of 2002 by the NY Times), **Melt** and **Noir** (2004 Whitney Biennial). Recent commissions include Neuberger Museum of Art, **Unseen : Landscape**, and Whitney Museum at Altria, **Migrations** created as part of the **Resonant Space** performance series in Spring 2005.

The **2005 Annual Gala Benefit** will help support **Noémie Lafrance's** new upcoming work **Agora**, which will take place in the historical McCarren Pool in September 2005. **Agora** is a site-specific dance performance inspired by the McCarren Pool site and performed by 30 dancers to a multi-channel score with theatrical lighting transforming the 50, 000 square foot pool into a vast staging area. Performed inside the large pool, the overlapping narrative segments of **Agora** will produce the illusion of travel through the different layers of visceral urban experience and explore the phenomenon of agoraphobia as a social and physical reaction to urban architecture. This artistic project is the first step in reopening the magnificent McCarren Pool site as both a cultural and recreational facility for the public and the community of Williamsburg/Greenpoint and the New York City metropolitan area.