



Nicky Paraiso (he/him) is an actor, singer, musician, writer, curator, solo performance artist. He has been a fixture of the NY downtown performance scene for almost five decades. He is Director of Programming for The Club at La MaMa, and is also Curator for the annual La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival, which recently celebrated its 21st season in April 2026.

Nicky has worked as a performer with vanguard artists Jeff Weiss & carlos ricardo martinez, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, and Yoshiko Chuma & The School of Hard Knocks. He has also performed in the work of Anne Bogart, Laurie Carlos, Jessica Hagedorn, Robbie McCauley, Richard Elovich, Dan Froot, Christopher Williams, among many others. He has performed with Ma-Yi Theatre Company & National Asian-American Theatre Company (NAATCO). Nicky is the recipient of a 1987 Bessie Award for his Collective Performances, The Lilah Kan Red Socks Award, a 2012 BAX Arts & Artists in Progress Arts Management Award, a 2018 TCG Fox Fellowship as an Actor of Distinguished Achievement, and the 2019 (NY Innovative Theatre) Ellen Stewart Award for Stewardship. Nicky is an acclaimed solo performance artist and has written & performed the following solo shows: *Asian Boys* directed by Laurie Carlos (Performance Space 122), *Houses & Jewels* directed by Laurie Carlos (DTW), and *House/Boy* directed by Ralph B. Pena (La MaMa, Dublin Theatre Festival, Singapore Performance Initiation Festival). Nicky's most recent full-length performance, *now my hand is ready for my heart: intimate histories*, directed & designed by John Jesurun, premiered at La MaMa's Ellen Stewart Theatre in March-April 2019. Nicky was an honoree at the Movement Research Gala in 2016. Nicky is the recipient of the 2024 Ruth Maleczek Award for Excellence in Performance aka "RUTHIE" Award.

Nicky is most recently the winner of a 2026 special OBIE Award which is also the inaugural Morgan Jenness Award named after beloved dramaturg, mentor, teacher & great friend Morgan Jenness.