***What I Feel Inside Is What Makes Me Move* with JanpiStar**

**Hosted by Janice Laurence and Rianne Švelnis**

This beautiful conversation takes us so many places. We hear about how virtual dance classes, technology and dancing at home has expanded access to dance for so many; how JanpiStar’s artistic practice is shaped by growing up in Puerto Rico and the impact of hurricane disaster; the importance of radical gender expression,beauty and weirdness in the art of drag; and how empowerment through performance and creative energy is a foundation of JanpiStar’s way of life.

JanpiStar <https://linktr.ee/janpistar>

<https://axisdance.org/team-member/janpistar/>

BORP (Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program) <https://www.borp.org/>

AXIS Dance Company <https://axisdance.org/>

Dance for All Bodies <https://www.danceforallbodies.org/>

Queering Dance Festival <https://www.shawl-anderson.org/queeringdance>

**Bio JanpiStar**

JanpiStar (they/them/Janpi) was born and raised in Puerto Rico. They got involved with art for the first time through the music at the Fine Art School Anita Toro Hernández as a 12-year-old playing the clarinet. In 2012 Janpi began their Bachelor Degree in Drama at the University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras and had the opportunity to work with Viveca Vazquez, Carola Garcia and Petra Bravo. Janpi began to dance on January 2013 with Juan Maria Seller in the School For the Performing Arts at Guaynabo Puerto Rico. They then took workshops in writing, movement, acting and semiotics in Ecuador with the group *Malayerba*.

Janpi has also done workshops with the Candoco Dance Company and went to their audition. They worked with the theater group “Jóvenes del 98” directed by Maritza Perez and trained dance in The School for the Performing Arts directed by Waldo Gonzalez. Janpi has worked with choreographers including Robert Dekkers, Arthur Pita and Jennifer Archibald as well as Petra Bravo with “instalaciones Coreograficas , la casitas de Santurce” in The Fine Arts Center of Puerto Rico. Janpi’s most recent solo work of choreography was commissioned for the inaugural Queering Dance Festival, *FROLIC.*