

PEABODY DANCE! FESTIVAL

danah bella, BFA Dance chair



Friday, January 28, 2022 · 7:30 pm
Virtual Broadcast Hall

Rhythmic Interplay

Nicole A. Martinell, choreographer

Timothy Nohe, sound designer

Adan Rodriguez, videographer and editor

Lacey Buckholz, Sade Morgan, Chelsea Patten, and Baylee Wong, dancers

Two Faces In Places

Ryan Bailey, choreographer

Franki Graham, Peabody Preparatory Dance Contemporary dance coordinator/rehearsal director

Music by Eva Cassidy, *What A Wonderful World* (Live At Blues Alley)

Joseph Randolph, *Sky Is Pervasive*

Tim Hecker, *Step Away From Konoyo*

Declan Casey, Helia Hung, Julia Mammen, Emma Rifat, Madison Wesson, and Lizzie Wiggin, dancers of the Peabody Preparatory

Say Her Name

Torens Johnson, choreographer

Ryun Chandler, editor

Co-written by Cynthia Erivo and Joshua Brian Campbell
from the soundtrack to the biographical film *Harriet*

Music by Dianne Reeves, *Endangered Species*

Maya Angelou, *Phenomenal Woman*

Janet Jackson, *Interlude T.V.*

Nina Simone, *Black is the Color of my True Love's Hair*

unknown, *Interlude*

Rhiannon Giddens, *Julie*

unknown, *Interlude*

Cynthia Erivo, *Stand*

unknown, *poem & Interlude*

Master P, *Say Her Name* (featuring Decarlo)

Janelle Monae, Deep Cotton, St. Beauty, Jidenna, Roman GianArthur, George, *Hell You Talmbout*

Ivy Fox, Ashley Holland, Kutia Jawara, Zori Patrick, and the Jonae Rollins Dance
Baltimore Repertory Ensemble, dancers

Say Her Name was choreographed in honor of the Black Lives Matter movement. The piece was specifically developed for presentation at the second annual Summer Music Moves Festival (2020), an event produced by Dance Baltimore in three outdoor settings to ensure the continuation of live performance in the face of the devastating pandemic. *Say Her Name* was presented at the Eager Park location in east Baltimore. The piece is a part of the DBRE repertoire and last year was presented at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum as a part of a tribute to noted photographer Robert Houston.

Sunflower (Excerpt)

American Yellow Flowers. Dancing in the Wind.

Allen Chunhui Xing, choreographer

Music by The Piano Guys and Ezio Bosso

Carissa Qin, Chloe Brown, Kristen Han, Grace Yuan, Jenny Huang, Irena Tan, Carolyn Tai, and Olivia Xia, dancers of the Xing Dance Theater Student Company

In the early days of the pandemic, many Asian Americans faced random acts of violence. As a Chinese immigrant living in the US since 2011, I understand the challenge that those who look different often face. Sunflower, the great American Yellow Flower that stands tall and follows the sun was my inspiration to showcase immigration stories and those of first-generation Asian Americans. The work is performed by first-generation Chinese Americans – the seeds of culture for years to come, standing tall, proud, and a vital part of our community. Xing Dance Theater Student Company was founded in 2021 under Xing Dance Theater; dancers are selected from XDT Education preparatory program and are ages 12-15.

We Stand with Those Who Stood.

Travis D. Gatling, choreographer

Music and Audio by Martin Luther King Jr., Prophetic Last Speech – 1968

Bernice Johnson Reagon of Sweet Honey in the Rock, *I'm Gon' Stand!*

Hope B. Byers, Stephanie Crockett, Shaela Davis, Elizabeth Hafey, Maddie Welsh, and Alicia Williams, dancers of the Full Circle Dance Company

Make it Home

Anesia Sandifer, choreographer

Music by Tobe Nwigwe, *Make it Home*

Toluwalase Kojo, actor

Kiera Harley, Misha Michel, Dustin Praylow, Anesia Sandifer, and Nicolas Stewart, dancers

Jeeda Barrington, Jordan Spry, and Rob Warnsley, special guests

Shedding Skin (2021)

Bree Jackson, choreographer

Music by Pendulum People, *Drones*

Lulu Rouge, *Thinking of You* (featuring Tuco)

Performed at Towson University

Destinee Bouldin, Kaylie Gonzalez, Brandon Palmer, Sade Morgan, Markel Williams, Kendall Willis, and Christiana Wozniak, dancers

Father Stretch

Dustin Praylow, choreographer

Music by Sunday Service Choir, *Father Stretch*

Dustin Praylow, dancer

9:29

Diedre Nyota Dawkins, choreographer

Natalie Colony, lighting designer

Music edited by Abena Serwaa Opape

Alexandra Carioti, Aren Cedric, Ui-Seng Francois, Kayla Laufer, Noelia Montiel,

Peter Pattengill, Sophia Perone, and Lourdes del Mar Santiago, dancers of the Peabody Conservatory

The Spirit of the goddess Oya is the wind. She deals with injustice and transformation. She brings rapid change and aids us in both inner and outer transformation. She represents the last breath that we take before death and has the power to be a cool breeze or to tear and cut everything up in her path before she makes it all new. 9:29 pays homage to Oya receiving the last breath of our beloved ancestor George Floyd and the community's charge to work for transformation. *Egun Ibae*.

Visit peabody.jhu.edu for faculty biographies and upcoming performances and events.

BIOGRAPHIES

Ryan Bailey

Ryan Bailey is a dancer, choreographer, and visual artist based in NYC and the DMV. Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in dance from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2016, Bailey was granted outstanding senior in choreography and dance after being named an American College Dance Association Gala finalist. He furthered his education by attending training programs with dance companies in Chicago, NYC, Los Angeles, Portland, and Tel Aviv. In 2017, Bailey premiered his first evening length self-produced show funded by Earl and Darielle Linehan which premiered in The Cube at UMBC. Bailey has danced professionally for MADBOOTS DANCE company on various projects and performances at Gibney Dance, New York Live Arts, and at the Joyce Theater in NYC. He has also had the opportunity to dance for Project 44 dance company, performing at the Jack Crystal Theater in NYC. Bailey recently premiered two evening length pieces as a guest artist for Ballet Embody in Maryland.

Diedre Dawkins

Diedre Dawkins is a 2003 N.Y.C. Bessie Award winner for outstanding dance performance and a 2016 recipient of the President Obama Lifetime Achievement Award for National and Community Service. She is also the 2020 Evidence Award recipient for Artistic Expression with the theme "Sistas Prepared, Positioned and Pivotal for Such a Time as This." She is the founder and director of Dance is Healing, a mentorship program for middle school girls and was voted 2016 Teacher of the Year at ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School. Dawkins graduated from The NYC. High School of the Performing Arts and received her BFA. in dance from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and her M.F.A. in choreography and performance from The University of Maryland College Park. She was a member of Ronald K. Brown and Evidence Dance Company for eight years where she had the privilege of teaching and performing in Senegal, West Africa, Switzerland, Greece, France, London, and Cuba. She is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and has toured and worked with artists such as Bill T. Jones, Bebe Miller, Kevin Iga Jeff (Deeply Rooted Dance Theater), Jawole Zollar (Urban Bush Women), Amaniyea Payne (Muntu Dance Theater) Babatunde Olatunji, and Max Roach.

Dawkins is the dance director at ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School; the founder and director of ConneXions Repertory Company; assistant professor in dance at The Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory; and the director of AILEYCAMP Baltimore. Children and the betterment of her community is her life's work.

Travis D. Gatling

Travis D. Gatling began his dance training at Norfolk State University under the mentorship of Inez L. Howard, the Founding Director of the NSU Dance Theater. While earning a BA in English and liberal arts he performed and choreographed for the company for several years, and later served as the rehearsal director. He continued his training in ballet, modern, and jazz at the Virginia Ballet Theatre with Glen White and Elbert Watson. He attended Ohio State University as a Fellowship student where he earned an MFA in dance performance. Gatling's performance credits include lead roles in works by Donald McKayle, Merce Cunningham, and Doris Humphrey as well as solo works by Ronald K. Brown, Earl Mosley, and several others. He was a full time modern and jazz instructor at Avondale High School of Performing Arts in Decatur, Ga., where he also served as the artistic director for the Dance Repertory Company, the school's touring group. Some of his other teaching and choreography credits include Georgia State University, Emory University, and the Morton Street Dance Center in Md. He has been commissioned to create new works and set existing repertoire for the University of Akron, the Cherokee Ballet in Woodstock, Ga., Middle Tennessee State University, Full Circle Dance Co. in Md., and Urban Soul Dance Company in Texas. In addition to teaching modern, jazz, ballet techniques, and Black Dance Forms at Ohio University he currently serves as the artistic director and head of the Dance Division within The School of Dance, Film, and Theater.

Bree Jackson

Bree Jackson has been dancing for 17 years. Her training expands from ballet, pointe, and modern to jazz, musical theater, and hip hop. Her early training at studios such as Spotlight Studio of Dance and B.Funk Dance Studio instilled a love of performance and versatility. She began her classical training at Baltimore School for the Arts where she trained in ballet and modern for 20 hours a week. She is currently working towards her BFA in dance with a concentration in choreography and performance going into her last year at Towson University. In her four years at Towson University she has performed and presented her choreography in shows such as Inertia, Dance Majors Performance Project, and Senior Seminar. Outside of school and teaching she has performed with Aliyah Caldwell Artist Collective as a resident artist. One of her greatest joys is taking the knowledge of dance she has gained and passing it on to the youth. For four years she has taught dance in the Baltimore area and for three years has been a group leader at Ailey Camp Baltimore. She hopes to continue to inspire youth to find joy in dance no matter the skill level or age. After graduation she has plans of working in the theater dance industry and working in the commercial dance industry.

Torens Johnson

Torens Johnson is the former artistic director and choreographer of the Dance Baltimore Repertory Ensemble (DBRE). Johnson develops special artistic programs and creates distinctive lyrical movement to demonstrate the beauty and grace of the human body often speaking to significant societal issues affecting the world today. In July of 2021, Johnson accepted a position as assistant professor at Dance at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. He continues to work with DBRE virtually until a new artistic director is selected. Additionally, Johnson is a master instructor in ballet, modern, and jazz. He has served as deputy director of AileyCamp National for the past two years. He has held full and part time teaching positions at Towson University Community Dance, Morgan State University, Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School, Dance Baltimore, and Paseo Academy of the Fine and Performing Arts, Kansas City, Mo. He has successfully choreographed and/or produced more than forty student (middle, high school, college, and university levels including *The Color Purple* and *Dreamgirls* at the Murphy Fine Arts Center) and professional performances throughout the east coast and midwest. Professional productions include *Go Tell It* featuring international renowned gospel artists BeBe Winans and Lecresia Campbell at The Lincoln Theater (DC).

Nicole A. Martinell

Nicole A. Martinell, MFA, CMA, is an educator, choreographer, and founder and artistic director of Baltimore-based Deep Vision Dance Company. Martinell has a BS in kinesiology with dance minor from Penn State University and an MFA in dance from Texas Woman's University. She is a certified Movement Analyst through Laban Institute of Movement Studies and a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique through AT MidAtlantic. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Towson University since 2008 where she teaches composition, modern technique, pedagogy, and dance science and somatics courses.

Dustin Praylow

Dustin Praylow is a South Carolina native that began his dance training at Dancin' On Main Studios in Lake City, SC, under the instruction of Karl Singletary and direction of Paige Strickland. Praylow furthered his training in modern, Contemporary, and ballet at the University of South Carolina where he received a BS in biology with a dance minor. Praylow began his professional dance career with Norwegian Creative Studios in 2016 with completed contracts on the *Pride of America*, *RSSC Mariner*, and the Norwegian Escape performing in the Broadway Show *After Midnight*. His credits also include *Woven: Life in Notes and Steps*, *Ruins* choreographed by Terrance Henderson, Trustus Theatre's *Dreamgirls* (Ensemble), American Music Theater's *The First Noel*, and Step Afrika!'s production of *Drumfolk* (Jemmy).

Anesia Sandifer

Anesia Sandifer is a native of Augusta, Georgia. At the age of 4, she began taking dance classes and soon after joined a competitive dance company traveling around the United States. She attended the University of Georgia where she received a BBA in finance and a minor in dance training in all genres. Sandifer was a full scholarship recipient at the 2015 Debbie Allen Summer Intensive in Los Angeles, Calif. There she performed on ESPN for the Special Olympics 2015 World Games as a dancer for O.A.R. and Siedah Garrett. Sandifer joined Step Afrika!, the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, in 2015 where she was able to perform off-broadway twice and tour the world as a US Cultural Ambassador. She's taught and performed in Croatia, Benin, South Africa, Chile, Ukraine, and many more. She has also danced in several music videos for African artists including the incomparable Nigerian entertainer Teni. Sandifer thoroughly enjoys sharing her passion for dance and hopes it's used as a tool to bring people together and spread love.

Allen Chunhui Xing

Allen Chunhui Xing is a dancer, choreographer, educator, and movement research scholar based in Baltimore. He holds a BFA in dance from Shanxi Academy of Arts, an M.Ed. from Salisbury University, and an MFA in dance from University of Maryland. He currently is the artistic director of Xing Dance Theater and City Dance Festival. He is a former member of Huajin Dance Drama Ensemble (China) and performed in the production *Forbidden Fruit Under the Great Wall* which toured internationally from 2007 to 2011. His work has been invited and selected to perform nationally and internationally, including at the Dance Gallery Festival NYC, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, NextNow Festival, Maryland Campaign, Peabody Spring Dance Showcase, Washington DC Global Perspectives Festival, Maryland Dance Festival, Beijing Dance Festival, On the Move at the Kennedy Center, Baltimore Dance Invitational, Richmond Dance Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, SpectorDance's Choreographers Showcase, Japan SAI International Dance Festival, and many more. Recent recognition of Xing has included both the 2020 Baltimore and the 2020 Maryland State Independent Artist Awards, the 2021 Baker Artist Award, the 2021 Russian Season School Choreography Grant, the 2021 Baltimore Artist Relief Grant First Place Award, and the 2021 Singapore International Dance Festival Choreography Gold Award.

The Dance Baltimore Repertory Ensemble

The Dance Baltimore Repertory Ensemble was founded in 2019. The five member ensemble performs modern, jazz, hip hop and other styles of contemporary dance by area choreographers. The company, which spans an age range of 23 to 60, brings a wide variety of professional experience and dance genres. The company offers emotional and vibrant performances on stage at every appearance and has performed at the Gordon Center for the Performing Arts, Baltimore Center Stage, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Eager Park, and other area venues.

Full Circle Dance Company

Full Circle Dance Company was founded in 2000 by Donna L. Jacobs. From its inception, Full Circle has been committed to presenting diverse stories, tackling real-world issues, and creating technically excellent work that engages and moves a broad audience.

In addition to performing frequently throughout Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia, Full Circle has performed by invitation in Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Arizona, and Tennessee. Venues have included Baltimore Artscape, Baltimore Museum of Art, Tempe Center for the Arts (AZ), Broadway Dance Center (NY), Ohio University, Wesleyan University (CT), Dance Place (Washington, DC), and many others.

Since 2004, Full Circle has developed a signature method for creating and presenting work. Selecting one issue to explore deeply each year, the company commissions up to seven choreographers, inviting each to explore the issue from any angle. The resulting works — thematically united but reflecting diverse approaches and perspectives — are presented together, inviting audiences to engage with difficult challenges in new ways. Tackling such complicated issues as race, religion, body image, gender, and more, Full Circle's yearlong choreography projects have received both local and national attention.

