

Saturday, March 26, 2022 · 7:30 pm    Sunday, March 27, 2022 · 3:00 pm  
Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall

### Veneer

**Lauren Tait**, choreographer, costume design, and construction

**Franki Graham**, rehearsal director

**Music by Te Vaka, written by Tatia Hendrix Foai, *Lumenaki***

**Agnes Opel, *Red Virgin Soil***

**Uakti, written by Marco Antiônio Guimarães, *Trilobita***

**David McAlmont, Max Cooper, and Michael Nyman, written by Chester Music,**

**David McAlmont, and Michael Nyman, *Secrets, Accusations, and Charges***

**Original mix by Lauren Tait**

**Declan Casey, Salma Hassanein, Helia Hung, Julia Mammen, Emma Rifat, Alkinoey Tsapatsis, Camille Valdez, Lizzie Wiggin, and Alyson Zhang**, dancers

Starting at surface level, *Veneer* turns its lens inward for a playful look at the layers of wild and weird that define and drive us.

### Seasons (excerpt from *Cinderella*, Act 1)

**Melissa Stafford and Debra Robinson Deckelbaum**, choreographers

**Justin Nurin**, music consultation and editing

**Music by Aleksandr Glazunov (1865–1936), *The Seasons, Op. 67: Tableau II: Le Printemps***

**Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953), *Cinderella, Op. 87, Act 1: Variation of The Spring Fairy;***

***Monologue of The Summer Fairy; Variation of The Autumn Fairy; Variation of The Winter Fairy***

**Kaya Banerjee, Kate Morton, Lorelei Olaru, Madison Wesson, and Tate Wigfield**, dancers

Spring: **Kaya Banerjee and Salma Hassanein**, dancers

Summer: **Hannah Kehoe and Sophie Scherz**, dancers

Autumn: **Isabella Pearlstein and Alkinoey Tsapatsis**, dancers

Winter: **Meredith Schatz and Sloane Wehman**, dancers

The suite of dances explores the energies and emotional qualities of different times of year, taking a closer look at how we experience the seasons.

### Summit

**Julia Mammen**, choreographer

**Music by Zoe Keating, *The Path***

**Kaya Banerjee, Declan Casey, Helia Hung, Ellis Thompson, Lizzie Wiggin**, dancers

This piece takes a closer look at how individuals can have an effect within the group.

*\*This piece was selected for presentation as part of the adjudication process of the 3rd Annual Student Choreography Showcase.*

## **Film Screening of *Truth Be Told, Truth Be Bold***

**Franki Graham**, dance and movement director

**Dan Trahey**, creative director

**Pete Tashjian**, music director

**Yasmin Josiah and Nnandi Cason**, cinematography

**Yasmin Josiah**, editing

**Mateen Milan and Elijah Wirth**, managing directors

**Music by Aja Black, Pete Tashjian, and Bobby Woody**

**Anthony Alark, Keyona Carrington, London Diggs, Jaron Givens, Brayden Hamilton, Nathan Harris, Salma Hassanein, Helia Hung, Lowrider James, Darius Kaiser, Julia Mammen, Adrian Mickens, Branden Midgette, Jayden Moore, Taylen Olin, Xavier Paisley, Nema Robinson, Ellis Thompson, Alkinoey Tsapatsis, Camille Valdez, Lizzie Wiggin**, performers and collaborators  
**Janice Alark and Chelsey Green**, special guests

Conceived and produced in the spring of 2021 as a collaboration between the music composition and dance students within the Preparatory, this dance film explores the history of theaters and music venues in Baltimore City.

## ***Dance with Me***

**Katherine Morris**, choreographer

**Debra Robinson Deckelbaum**, rehearsal director

**Monique Stins**, costume construction and alteration

**Music by Lady Gaga**, *Million Reasons*

**The Real Things**, *You are to me Everything*

**Olly Murs**, *Dance with me Tonight*

**Julián Quall**, piano

**Declan Casey, Helia Hung, Hannah Kehoe, Julia Mammen, Caitlyn Messenger, Emma Rifat, Meredith Schatz, Sophie Scherz, Ellis Thompson, Alkinoey Tsapatsis, Sloane Wehman, and Lizzie Wiggin**, dancers

This piece takes a closer look at the dynamics of individuals dancing together in an ensemble work, using a variety of musical selections and patterns.

## INTERMISSION

## ***Orbital***

**Declan Casey**, choreographer

**Music by Steve Reich**, *Electric Counterpoint-Fast* (Movement 3)

**Kaya Banerjee, Salma Hassanein, Julia Mammen, and Ellis Thompson**, dancers

Embodying the way twin suns would orbit each other, this piece takes a closer look at how they would change each other's path in space.

*\*This piece was selected for presentation as part of the adjudication process of the 3rd Annual Student Choreography Showcase.*

## ***Two Faces In Places***

**Ryan Bailey**, choreographer

**Franki Graham**, rehearsal director

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

**Joseph Randolph**, *Sky Is Pervasive*

**Tim Hecker**, *Step Away From Konoyo*

**Original mix by Ryan Bailey**

**Declan Casey, Helia Hung, Julia Mammen, Emma Rifat, Madison Wesson, and Lizzie Wiggin**, dancers

Caught between fantasy and reality, the dancers are enchanted by the euphoria of imagination yet challenged by the unending effort of structure.

## ***The Starry Night***

**Franki Graham**, choreographer

**Music by Andy Monroe**, *Prelude To Floyd*

**St. George's Church 'Bell of Legendary Mountain'**, *Lavenham Church Bells, Suffolk*

**Brian Flores, Jonathan Slott, John Hunter, Jr., and Jonathan Still**, *Beating All Odds*

**Original mix by Franki Graham**

**Nathan Harris, Salma Hassanein, Ella Moore, Krassi Trainor, Madison Wesson, and Alyson Zhang**, dancers

Diving into the tumultuous life of Vincent van Gogh, this dance takes a closer look at his iconic painting, "The Starry Night."

## ***Emerging***

**Franki Graham**, choreographer and set design

**Music by Hang Massive**, *Here Comes the Badger*

**Declan Casey, Helia Hung, Julia Mammen, Emma Rifat, Camille Valdez, and Lizzie Wiggin**, dancers

Exploring circumstances beyond our control, this piece takes a closer look at the way we respond and move forward.

*\*Please note: This piece uses 500 latex balloons, which may affect individuals with latex allergies.*

## BIOGRAPHIES



### **Ryan Bailey**

Ryan Bailey is a dancer, choreographer, and visual artist based in NYC and the DMV. Upon graduating with a BA in dance from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2016, Bailey was granted outstanding senior in choreography and dance after he was awarded an American College Dance Association Gala Finalist. He then furthered his education by attending training programs with dance companies in Chicago, NYC, LA, 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.



### **Debra Robinson Deckelbaum**

Debra Robinson Deckelbaum has been teaching dance in the Baltimore area for more than 40 years. Robinson began studying dance in Baltimore with Ellen Gniazdowski and Wally Saunders. She studied at the Joffrey Ballet School and at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. Returning to Baltimore, she danced with the Maryland Ballet and attended Goucher College. Upon graduation, she began to study with and teach alongside Wendy Robinson at the Baltimore Ballet and the Peabody Preparatory. She has consistently been on the faculty at the Peabody Preparatory since 2003, and on the dance faculty of the Baltimore School for the Arts since 1988. Robinson is an ABT® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Primary through Level 7 and Partnering of the ABT® National Training Curriculum. In February 2022, Robinson collaborated with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society in excerpts of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* choreographing on Peabody Preparatory dancers.



### **Franki Graham**

Franki Graham (she/her) is a Baltimore-based dancer, choreographer, and educator who believes in the transformative power of movement. Graham has danced locally, regionally, and internationally in many traditional and non-traditional spaces, with various artists and companies, including a European tour with Transitions Dance Company. Graham's creative practice is rooted in the company she co-founded and directs, LucidBeings Dance, which has been described as "...straddling the line between sensible and visceral" (*BMore Art*, 2018). Her work has been presented widely across the DMV and has been commissioned for professional and student companies. As a dance educator, Graham has worked within the public school system, in private institutions, and in higher education. Her certification as a Functional Awareness Movement Educator informs her teaching practice. Graham holds a Masters in Dance Performance from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, England, funded as a Leverhulme Scholar, and a Bachelors in Dance with an Education Certificate from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, funded as a Linehan Artist Scholar. Graham is currently adjunct faculty at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, coordinator for Contemporary Dance at the Peabody Preparatory, on the board of the Maryland Dance Education Association, and a teaching artist for the Maryland State Department of Education Centers for Creative Classrooms.



### **Katherine Morris**

Katherine Morris received her early training in her hometown of Bethesda, Maryland, under Yuri Yourlo, Sophia Firsova, Charles Dickson, Alan Woodard, Tensia Fonseca, Irena Prochotsky, and Raquel Pena. She was a scholarship student at the School of American Ballet in New York and at the Pennsylvania Ballet summer program at Penn State for three years, and passed examinations of both the Royal Academy of Dance in England as well as the Vaganova Syllabus with honors. In 1976, she was invited by Barbara Weisberger and Benjamin Harkarvey to join the Pennsylvania Ballet Company in Philadelphia, where she performed in works by Balanchine, Tudor, Limon, Butler,

Van Manen, Sappington, Robbins, Gogh, and many others. After eight years with the company, she took a break from dance in order to attend the University of Pennsylvania, earning a BA in European History in 1988. She transitioned into teaching and choreography when she was invited by Bojan and Stephanie Spasoff to join the faculty of the Rock School of the Pennsylvania Ballet, a position that she held for 15 years. During that time she participated in lecture demonstrations throughout the Philadelphia school system in conjunction with AVA as well as the Rock school, and developed creative dance programs for the West Chester Pennsylvania school system and the Episcopal Academy in Merion, Penn. Guest teaching included summer sessions at Jacob's Pillow in Massachusetts, Children's Ballet Theater in New Jersey, and the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet program in Carlisle, Penn. Morris has held faculty positions at many schools including Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore, and Cabrini colleges, the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, Peabody Dance, and Towson University Community Dance. She has taught at Goucher College since 2011.



### **Melissa Stafford**

Melissa Stafford studied ballet with Marcia Dale Weary and the faculty at the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet (CPYB), and received additional training at summer intensives including The Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory, Boston Ballet, and The Juilliard School. After earning a BA in psychology (summa cum laude) from Houghton College, Stafford joined the Peabody Dance faculty in 2001 under Artistic Director Carol Bartlett and Artistic Advisor Barbara Weisberger. In 2006, she was invited by Peter Stark to become ballet principal for the Patel Conservatory Youth Ballet in Tampa, FL. During her six years at that school, Stafford also served as full-time ballet faculty and

program manager of the Patel Conservatory dance programs. She returned to Peabody Preparatory in 2012 as department chair. Additionally, Stafford has been on the adjunct faculties of Peabody Conservatory and Goucher College and has taught for the Orlando Ballet School Summer Intensive and the Next Generation Ballet Summer Intensive, among others. Stafford's students have danced professionally with American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Tucson, Ballet Frontier, Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Royal Swedish Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, Ailey II, Ballet Austin II, Boston Ballet II, Orlando Ballet II, and Philadanco! D/2. Many continued their studies in pre-professional training programs and college dance programs. Stafford is the recipient of the 2017 Peabody Preparatory Excellence in Teaching Award. Most recently, she has served as an adjudicator for the Estelle Dennis Dance Scholarship Audition and Maryland State Dance Festival Scholarship Audition.



### **Lauren Tait**

Lauren Tait is an independent Pennsylvania and Maryland-based arts administrator, choreographer, dance educator, and advocate. She is the previous Executive/Artistic Director of Ellicott City non-profit Kinetics Dance Theatre, where she spent much of her career, as well as a former adjunct professor of dance at Howard Community College. As a choreographer Tait's work has been showcased at Maryland Dance Festival, Merriweather Park's Chrysalis Kids Series, the Baltimore Dance Invitational, AKIMBO Baltimore, Howard County Community Dance Festival, WBAL's Concert for Kids, and many other venues throughout the DC/Baltimore region and beyond. In

addition to her concert work Tait wrote and directed productions geared toward young audiences including *Jack and the Giant*, *Jungle Book Tales*, and *Bugged*. Early in her career Tait performed with Kinetics Dance Company and Baltimore Dance Project. Her work as a teaching artist spans workshops with NH-based Axis Dance Company, Franklin & Marshall College, a residency through Howard County Arts Council's Head StART in Art grant, Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning, and arts education programming developed through her project CommunityDanceLaboratory, dedicated to customized dance outreach and education within the community. Tait is a returning panelist for Howard County Arts Council's Rising Star Competition and currently sits on the Board of Directors at Maryland Dance Education Association where she represents professional companies and teaching artists. Tait attended Carver Center for the Arts and Technology in Towson and continued at UMBC, earning BA degrees in Visual and Performing Arts/Dance and Psychology with concentration in development, and minoring in writing as a Linehan Artist Scholar.

## **PEABODY PREPARATORY DANCE DEPARTMENT**

**Melissa Stafford**, Senior Chair for Dance

**Franki Graham**, Contemporary Dance Coordinator

**Debra Robinson Deckelbaum**, Pre-Professional Program Ballet Coordinator

**Adrienne Duckett**, Primary Ballet Program Coordinator

**Darion Smith**, Boys' Dance Coordinator

**Samantha Rolon**, Academic Program Coordinator

## **FACULTY**

Nicole Bealand

Lisa Green-Cudek

Debra Robinson Deckelbaum

Adrienne Duckett

Kate Goldstein

Franki Graham

Yuko Kawamata

Gail Melfi

Darion Smith

Melissa Stafford

Paul Wegner

Lan Zheng

## **ACCOMPANISTS**

Mark H. Williams

Ayal Yariv

## **SHOWCASE PRODUCTION STAFF**

**Franki Graham**, Showcase Coordinator

**Brian Jones**, Lighting Designer

**Paul Wegner**, Photographer