

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 · 7:30 pm
Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall

Reclaiming Joy

Brinae Ali * with Breai Mason-Campbell, Charlie Wieprecht, and Hannah Lane, choreographers

Music by Benny Goodman (arranged by Brinae Ali)

Common

Wendel Patrick*

Wendel Patrick, sound effects and musical underscoring

Hannah Mayer, keyboards

Aiden Taylor, bass

Claudio Silva, drums

Nico Wohl, guitar

Thomas Schinabeck and Keller Remington, saxophone

Chase Fittin and Ui-Seng Francois, lead dancers

Zoë Brielle, Rush Johnston, Eliana Krasner, Kayla Laufer, Stephanie Marco, Clare Naughton, Andrew Van Allen, and A.J. Winegar, ensemble dancers

Sole Stories

Kelly Hirina,* choreographer in collaboration with the dancers

Setia Kurniawanto, video direction and editing

Music by Fireplace FX Studio, *Cracking sound of HotFire helps your baby to sleep* (2020)

Jack White, *Everything You've Ever Learned* (2018)

Colin Stetson, *Reborn* (2018)

Rainfall, *Light Rain for Sleeping, Loop Sound* (2019)

Aphex Twin, *Jynweythek* (2001)

Maya (Eon) Allum, Julia Asher, Zoë Brielle, Armani Colon, Anna Cremers, Taylor Knighton, Setia Kurniawanto, Kayla Laufer, Lourdes del Mar Santiago Lebron, Stephanie Marco, Peter Pattengill, Sophia Perone, Noah Price, Micah Shapiro, Reilly Sheriff, Harry Sukonik, Marie-Amelle Thenoz, and A.J. Winegar, dancers

Sole Stories is inspired by the poem *Judge Softly* written in 1895 by Mary T. Lathrap which includes the line “walk a mile in his moccasins.” The idiom to walk a mile in someone else’s shoes is derived from this poem. This reminds us to consider another’s perspective and life experiences before making a judgement on them or their actions.

Thank you to all the dancers! It has been such a pleasure working with you! Special thanks to Micah Shapiro for dramaturgical conversations and Setia Kurniawanto for your artistry in creating the video for this work.

— Kelly Hirina

Now

Alvin Rangel (guest artist), choreographer

Christopher Pennix and danah bella, rehearsal directors

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Aren Cedric and Peter Pattengill, dancers of the Peabody Dance Ensemble

Vessel

Christian Denice (artist in residence), choreographer

danah bella, rehearsal director

Music by Slowdanger (edited by Christian Denice)

Julia Asher, Chase Benjamin, Chase Fittin, Emani Hayes, Rebecca Lee, Andrew Van Allen, Emma Welter, dancers

Leah Carpetner and Noah Price, understudies

INTERMISSION

Oceans

Sorah Yang (artist in residence), choreographer

Music by Flores, *Oceans*

Chase Fittin and Ui-Seng Francois, dancers

Maya (Eon) Allum and A.J. Winegar, understudies

Oceans is about how two well-meaning people in a relationship can hurt each other simply by miscommunicating — sometimes in the form of speaking without hearing. This piece explores the dynamic between friends who learn to listen.

Us

Danielle Agami (guest artist), choreographer

Paige Amicon and Sarah Butler, stage directors

danah bella, rehearsal director

Music by Raime (edited by Paige Amicon)

Julia Asher, Zoë Brielle, Elizabeth Chaillé, Chase Fittin, Rush Johnston, Eliana Krasner, Rebecca Lee, Clare Naughton, Peter Pattengill, Sophia Perone, dancers

Leah Carpenter, understudy

Love Supreme (excerpt)

Pat Taylor (guest artist), choreography

danah bella, rehearsal director

Music by John Coltrane

Julia Asher, Chase Benjamin, Zoë Brielle, Aren Cedric, Chase Fittin, Eliana Krasner, Rebecca Lee, Noelia Montiel, Peter Pattengill, Noah Price, dancers

Armani Colon and Kayla DeLise, understudies

Drive

Kyle Abraham (guest artist), choreographer

Catherine Kirk, stage director

Christopher Pennix and danah bella, rehearsal directors

Music by Theo Parrish

Julia Asher, Camara Byrd, Aren Cedric, Elizabeth Chaillé, Chase Fittin, Rush Johnston, Eliana Krasner, Rebecca Lee, and Clare Naughton with the Peabody Dance Ensemble, dancers

Church of Nations

Kevin Iega Jeff (guest artist), choreographer

Diedre Dawkins,* rehearsal director

Music by Ennio Morricone and Art of Noise

Tabitha Hitchye,* costume construction

Maya (Eon) Allum, Camara Byrd, Alexandra Carioti, Leah Carpenter, Elizabeth Chaillé, Anna Cremers, Ui-Seng Francois, Yasir Jones, Taylor Knighton, Setia Kurniawanto, Kayla Laufer, Lourdes del Mar Santiago Lebron, Stephanie Marco, Reilly Sheriff, Harry Sukonik, Marie-Amelle Thenoz, Emma Welter, dancers

CHOREOGRAPHERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Kyle Abraham

2018 Princess Grace Statue Award Recipient, 2017–18 Joyce Creative Residency Artist, 2016 Doris Duke Award Recipient and 2015 City Center choreographer in residence, Kyle Abraham (he/him) is a 2013 MacArthur fellow who began his dance training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He continued his dance studies in New York, receiving a BFA from SUNY Purchase, an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College. He has served as a visiting professor in residence at UCLA's World Arts Cultures in Dance program from 2016 to 2021. In 2021, he was named the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professorship in Dance at The University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance. Abraham currently sits on the advisory board for *Dance Magazine* and the artist advisory board for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. In 2020, he was selected to be *Dance Magazine's* first-ever Guest Editor.

Danielle Agami

Ate9 was founded in 2012 by artistic director Danielle Agami. Israeli-born, she was a member of the Batsheva Dance Company in Tel Aviv for eight years. She brought the Gaga movement to the U.S. and remains one of the few masters of the language, teaching workshops throughout the world. Through her performance and teaching travels, Agami has met and joined forces with some of the most talented and dedicated dancers to form Ate9 Dance Company. Recently recognized with the Princess Grace Award for Choreography, Agami and Ate9 are set to redefine and rebuild our concepts of what the art of movement can provide for us all.

Brinae Ali

Alexandria "Brinae Ali" Bradley, born and raised in Flint, Michigan is an interdisciplinary artist who believes in using the power of the arts to transform the conditions of the human spirit. When she is not traveling and performing, she is giving back to young people and grass roots organizing. Currently Bradley is the artistic director of Tapology, Inc., a youth based outreach program in Flint, that believes in preserving the art of tap and jazz culture through education and performance. As an educator she has collaborated with After School Activities Partnership, East Park Revitalization Alliance, Philadelphia Clef Club of Performing Arts, Raise It Up! Youth Arts and Awareness, Flint Youth Theatre, Mural Arts of Philadelphia, Young Audiences of New Jersey, Queens College, Long Island University, Ping Chong and Company, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and was an artist in residence at the Carol Morgan School in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and Apollo Theater Education with Wadleigh High School in Harlem NYC. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Queens College and Long Island University. Internationally Bradley has traveled and performed in countries such as, France, Germany, China, and Brazil. She also travelled with a team of tap dancers to Russia for a tour in five cities working with the U.S. Embassy for its cultural exchange program celebrating National Tap Dance Day. Her Broadway and off-Broadway experience has gained her positions as assistant dance captain for *Shuffle Along: the 1921 Sensation And All That Followed* choreographed by Savion Glover and directed by George C. Wolfe, company member of NY and Touring cast of STOMP, special feature in the *Cotton Club Parade* which later became *After Midnight* under the musical direction of Wynton Marsalis, New York City Center Off-Center production of *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope* directed and choreographed by Savion Glover, and was a part of a two week tour in Italy celebrating Ella Fitzgerald's centennial. As a playwright and songwriter she has also created award winning works such as Best Short Play at the Downtown Urban Theater Festival for her one woman show *Steps* and the Vox Populi Independence Music Award for *Destination Forever: Vol. 1 EP*. Currently she is developing a work in progress with trumpeter Sean Jones called *Dizzy Spellz* fusing tap, Bebop, Hip Hop, and Afro Cuban music to articulate the African American experience through the music of Dizzy Gillespie from an Afrofuturistic lens.

Christian Denice

Christian Denice grew up dancing in Westlake Village, California. Upon graduating high school, he began his professional dance career at Odyssey Dance Theatre in Salt Lake City, Utah, under the direction of Derryl Yeager. Denice spent the next three years at River North Dance Chicago under the direction of Frank Chaves. Denice was named one of the top ten male dancers of 2010 by *Time Out Chicago* and received recognition as a notable Chicago dancer of 2010 by the *Chicago Tribune*. He has worked with and performed works by Robert Battle, Sidra Bell, Lauri Stallings, Roni Koresch, Frank Chaves, and Sherry Zunker to name a few. He has guest performed with the Montgomery Ballet, Greensboro Ballet, Company E, and BODYTRAFFIC. Recently, Denice lived in Montreal, Quebec, where he danced for Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal and had the privilege of internationally performing works by Andonis Foniadakis, Cayetano Soto, Wen Wei Wang, and Barak Marshall.

Kelly Hirina

Kelly Hirina, originally from Michigan, moved to the Netherlands as a Fulbright scholar and continued to live and work there as a professional dancer for 20 years. While there, Hirina worked with many different choreographers such as Emio Greco and Pieter C. Scholten (EG|PC), Krisztina de Chatel, Suzy Blok, Nicole Beutler, Liat Waysbort, and Dylan Newcomb in companies such as ICKamsterdam and Dansgroep Amsterdam. Hirina also worked in mime/theater onstage with Jakop Ahlbom and Compagnietheater (Theu Boermans) and in films with directors such as Arno Dierickx and Noud Heerkens. Alongside her dance career she studied acting at the Atlantic Theatre School in New York City.

Hirina is a certified teacher of both Countertechnique, created by Anouk van Dijk and Double Skin/ Double Mind, created by Emio Greco and Pieter C. Scholten. She has been teaching these methods at the Lucia Marthas Institute for Performing Arts (Amsterdam) and in her role as the artistic coordinator of ICKamsterdam's academy. These methods offer healthy approaches to the dancing body while stimulating their personal creativity. Hirina also incorporates methods from ICKamsterdam, the Sensorium Toolkit, and Pre-choreographics, in choreographic development.

She acquired her MFA. in Dance from the University of Michigan with research based upon the link between mind and body in dance training, rehearsal, and performance. Her specific interest is in pedagogical methods that enhance intrinsic motivation, appreciation for learning (a process-oriented approach), and goal setting.

Beyond dance, Hirina is also a fully certified Pilates and Vinyasa Yoga instructor. She enjoys creating an extremely physical experience for her students while also encouraging them to take the practice deeper beyond the physical, a training that is both concentrated and joyous. Hirina incorporates her interest in education and psychology while working with clients and students to achieve goals while working in a positively charged environment.

Kevin Iega Jeff

Kevin Iega Jeff is an award-winning choreographer, accomplished dancer, renowned director, and respected and devoted dance educator. Iega creates transcendent works while inspiring those around him to foster extraordinary lives through dance. "The foundation of my practice is to examine the histories, cultures, and aesthetics of the African inspired human diaspora: how the histories of people throughout the diaspora speak to universal experiences and how we can translate those experiences into dance." In 2005, Iega was named one of the Juilliard School's 100 Most Outstanding Alumni in celebration of the school's centenary anniversary. He has appeared in several Broadway productions and has choreographed and directed for prominent institutions and projects world-wide. Iega has worked with several renowned dance companies, served as artist-in-residence at Purdue University's Black Cultural Center and is the co-founder of Deeply Rooted Dance Theater of Chicago where he currently holds the position of creative and executive director.

Alvin Rangel

For over twenty years, Alvin Rangel has enjoyed an international career as a performer, choreographer, and educator. He began his professional career performing ballet and jazz in his native Puerto Rico.

Rangel is full professor of Dance at California State University, Fullerton, teaching in the areas of dance composition, improvisation, contemporary dance, pedagogy, Horton technique, African American Concert Dance, and dance history. He also teaches yoga and dance at Fullerton College. Since 2018, Rangel has been traveling to Australia to teach Horton Technique at the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association Dance College (NAISDA). NAISDA Dance College is Australia's premier Indigenous training college with a proud tradition of producing the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance artists. He has taught dance in the United States, Russia, Australia, Taiwan, Poland, Colombia, Guatemala, Argentina, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

Rangel continues to perform as a guest artist with dance companies. In 2019, he performed with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) during their 50th Anniversary Gala, and at the Lincoln Center, Donald McKayle's *Rainbow Round My Shoulder*, hosted by the Paul Taylor American Modern Dance Company. In 2016, he danced in *Rainbow Round My Shoulder* during Paul Taylor American Modern Dance Spring Season at the Lincoln Center. For this performance, DCDC received the coveted Bessie Award for 2016 New York Dance and Performance Award for Outstanding Revival.

Pat Taylor

Founding artistic director-choreographer Pat Taylor grew up in a household where jazz served as the musical backdrop to daily life. Yet it was while she was living, teaching and choreographing throughout Europe for seven years, experiencing first hand the world's love and respect for our jazz tradition, that she made her personal commitment to a rooted exploration of jazz language through movement.

She is the recipient of several recognitions including a Brody Arts Fund Choreography Fellowship; project grant awards from Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Francis E. Williams Artists Grant, and the Center for Cultural Innovation; and a finalist award for the Leo's Choreography Competition/Jazz Dance World Congress.

Her passion for jazz dance education, preservation, and creation takes her across the United States and internationally as a master teacher and guest lecturer. A frequent artist in residence, Taylor has created work for Rhythmically Spekaing Dance, Irvine Valley College, Peabody Conservatory, Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University, Pasadena College, Salve Regina University, University of Idaho, and the International Congress of Jazz Dance.

She holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts (jazz aesthetics emphasis) from Goddard College, and is a faculty member at California State University, Long Beach. She is honored to be a contributing author for *Rooted Jazz Dance: Africanist Aesthetics and Equity in the Twenty-First Century* (University Press of Florida, 2022).

Sorah Yang

Sorah Yang is a choreographer, teacher, and entrepreneur who was born and raised in the Bay Area, and received her BS in Business Administration from USC. Her work has led to digital creative partnerships with brands like Hyundai and Adobe, as well as commercial work with Google and Nike. Other dance career highlights include being invited to 27 countries worldwide and over 30 colleges around the U.S. to teach and perform, providing choreography and movement coaching for major K-pop artists and Broadway actors, performing with Billie Eilish at Coachella, miscellaneous industry work (TV shows, commercials, etc.), founding Vessel Dance Company, and delivering a TEDx Talk where she discussed her nonlinear path from a Marketing 9-to-5 to a career in the arts. She has been recognized by the World of Dance Awards as a two-time nominee for Female Choreographer of the Year, as well as being named one of *Dance Magazines* "25 to Watch in 2021."

