

33RD ANNUAL CHOREOGRAPHERS' SHOWCASE



Artist Partner Program and
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission present

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Leah Cox and Zvi Gotheiner, adjudicators

Saturday, February 6, 2016 . 3PM

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Dance Theatre

This performance will last approximately **1 hour and 30 minutes**
with one 15-minute intermission.

Join the artists for post-performance conversations after each performance.

Video or audio recording of the production is strictly prohibited.

PROGRAM

WOODBIND. IT COURSES (excerpt)

Choreography: Sarah Beth Oppenheim

Performers: Kate Folsom and Sarah Beth Oppenheim

Music: *Black Swan* by Sunset Rubdown, *The Ascendant: No. 3, Surviving Death* by Roomful of Teeth and Jason Treuting, *Ecstatic Thoughts* by San Fermin

Costumes: Sheri K. Autry

Oppenheim and Folsom race and tear through esteemed barriers and ghost bites. You decide whether to trust in their secret handshakes or evade their wound-up world. It's all in the game of stepping on moments, or revealing a gutter — frontrunner rough and clean like California. Dehydrating fast.

The entire 50-minute duet of *Woodbind. It Courses* premiered at Dance Place in September 2015. This project is supported in part by a commissioning grant from Dance Metro DC, the regional service organization for dance in the national capital region.

MY DAD SOMETIMES SAYS "SH*!"

Choreography: Monique Walker

Performer: Adjetey Klufio

From the eyes of a child, Dad's -isms are explored, stripped and wrapped in love.

CRADLE (excerpt)

Choreography: Hayley Cutler (darlingdance)

Performers: Claire Alrich, MissJessica Denson, Sarah Greenbaum, Juliana Mascelli

Music: Original Score for *CRADLE* by Steven Krigel

CRADLE is a completely collaborative project between its choreographer and performers. This work explores the unique and shared aesthetics and personal experiences of a group of female dancers, and aims to confront traditional notions of the female body in performance and space. *CRADLE* highlights authentic movement qualities and personal narratives without normalizing them for the sake of presentation. Tonight's piece is an excerpt of a longer work that premiered at Dance Place in September 2015.

INTERMISSION

PROGRAM (cont'd)

OCTAVIA'S BROOD: RIDING THE OX HOME (excerpt)

Choreography: Meghan K. Abadoo

Performers: Meghan K. Abadoo, Sydney Parker, Jasmine Watkins

Music: Akua Allrich (vocalist), "Four African Women" by Somi

Lyrics by Somi (inspired by Nina Simone's original song "Four Women")

Music by Somi and Michael Olatuja

Sound Design: Sam Crawford

Costume Design: Tyler Gunther

This is an excerpt from an immersive, evening-length dance work that seeks to reveal the *Kensho*, or essence, of a Black woman. It sings, weeps, wonders, saunters and hollers in elation. *Octavia's Brood...* borrows its title from the recently released collection of "short stories for social justice movements" co-edited by Walidah Imarisha and Adrienne Maree Brown. Like Imarisha and Brown's anthology, this dance is inspired by Octavia Butler's use of "speculative" or "visionary" story-telling, where science fiction is a foundation for imagining socially just worlds inhabited by richly diverse protagonists, particularly Women of Color.

BROVAMU ESA

Choreography: Kasi Aysola

Performer: Kasi Aysola

Lyrics and Music Composition: Vempati Ravi Shankar

Rhythmic Composition: Kasi Aysola

Vocal: Ramya S. Kapadia

Nattuvangum (Cymbals): Kasi Aysola

Mridangam (Percussion): Visrut Sudhakar

Violin: Abhishek Balakrishnan

The lyrics of this piece pay homage to Shiva, the Supreme being. Shiva represents the entire universe and commands the five elements at his will: Earth, which he dances upon; Wind, which runs through his matted locks; Fire, which he holds in his hand; Water, which flows from his hair; and Space, which is within him. Shiva, who has surpassed the bounds of life and death, wears the skull garland to signify his mastery of the effects of time. The poet surrenders to this omnipotent and compassionate being and asks for protection and salvation.

7 DEADLY SINS

Choreography: Athena Powell and Gabrielle Odom

Performers: Jasmine Brandon, Alexis Dockery, Victoria Gomillion, Keli Maduchukwu, Che' Manning, Amber Millard, Gabrielle Odom, Simone Stewart, Stacey Warr, Kiah Williams

Music:

Hater by Various

Fever by Beyoncé

Crave You (Adventure Club Dubstep Remix) by Flight Facilities

All About The Benjamin's by Puff Daddy and the Family

Jealous by Drootrax & Rena

Here by Alessia Cara

Feeling Myself/Flawless by Nicki Minaj & Beyoncé

Down with the Sickness by Disturbed

7 *Deadly Sins* is an eclectic hip-hop contemporary piece of work that comes to life as we take the audience through the transition of the "Seven Deadly Sins" (Lust/Greed/Gluttony/Sloth/Pride/Envy/Wrath).

ABOUT THE ADJUDICATORS

Leah Cox is an educator, performer and choreographer. Cox currently holds the positions of Dean of the American Dance Festival and Term Associate Professor at Bard College. Cox is an avid educator, teaching classes for all ages and levels of ability nationwide. She has been on faculty at the American Dance Festival, Peridance and Dance New Amsterdam and is a master teacher and adjudicator for YoungArts. Cox worked with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in various capacities from 2001 to 2014. When the Company merged with Dance Theater Workshop to form New York Live Arts, Cox continued in her education capacity, developing Live Arts' education programs. Most notably, she oversaw the six-year partnership between Live Arts and Bard College. Her choreography has been presented in New York City at the 92nd Street Y, Dixon Place, the DUMBO Dance Festival and the CoolNY Festival, in addition to other locations beyond New York City. Cox is inspired by the way that her teaching, performing and creative practices inform one another and provide a richly layered perspective on dance as it functions in contemporary culture.

Born and raised in a kibbutz in northern Israel, **Zvi Gotheiner** began his artistic career as a gifted violinist with the Young Kibbutzim Orchestra, where he attained the rank of soloist and Concertmaster at age 15. He began dancing at 17, and soon after, formed his first performance group. Gotheiner arrived in New York in 1978 on a dance scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and danced with the Joyce Trisler Dance Company and Feld Ballets/NY and toured with Bat-Sheva Dance Company. After directing Tamar Ramle and the Jerusalem Tamar Dance Companies in Israel and the Israeli Chamber Dance Company in New York, he founded ZviDance. Most recently, Gotheiner has received distinguished teaching awards from the American Dance Festival and Kaatsbaan International Dance Festival. He is returning for his third year as expert adjudicator for the Choreographers' Showcase.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Meghan K. Abadoo is a choreographer and teacher based in Mount Rainier, Maryland. Her performance credits include company member with Gesel Mason, David Dorfman Dance, Urban Bush Women and Liz Lerman. She has taught as a guest artist at Brown University, James Madison University, East Carolina University, Dickinson College and the University of Virginia. She is an adjunct artist with the Dance Exchange and MFA candidate in dance at the University of Maryland. Her current work explores the intersections of race and gender embedded in the “dance event,” addressing the capacity for art, especially dance, to catalyze and sustain social action. In the spring of 2015 Abadoo co-directed and choreographed a site-based dance-theatre adaption of the 1988 film, *School Daze*, written, directed and produced by filmmaker, Spike Lee. She is also an intergroup dialogue facilitator with UMD’s Words of Engagement program and a student of the Mountain and River’s Order of Zen Buddhism. She loves to read, draw with loose ink and fountain pen and spin to Stevie Wonder with her daughter in the comfort of their kitchen.

Kasi Aysola is a Bharata Natyam dancer and choreographer who trained under Viji Prakash for more than 10 years. Aysola has been privileged enough to work with leading exponents of Bharata Natyam throughout his dance career such as Guru C.V. Chandrasekhar, Bragha Bessel, Ajith Bhaskaran Dass, Harikrishna Kalayanasundaram and Mythili Prakash. Aysola has performed as a soloist in the U.S. and India and has toured extensively with the Shakti Dance Company across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. A versatile dancer, Aysola has performed fusion works with the Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh and the Blue13 Dance Companies. He is currently the co-founder/co-artistic director of Prakriti Dance, an innovative professional company that uses the traditional Bharata Natyam movement vocabulary to explore human experience and philosophy.

Hayley Cutler is a choreographer, interdisciplinary performer and educator based in Washington DC. Cutler holds a BA in dance from the George Washington University, a postgraduate diploma from the Laban Conservatoire in London and recently received her MFA in dance at GWU. As a solo artist and as founding Artistic Director of darlingdance company (est. 2010), her work has been presented in London, Chicago, Boston and extensively throughout Washington DC. She was an Artist-in-Residence at the Northfield Mount Hermon School, and has taught at Sitar Arts Center and Imagination Stage. At present, she is on the faculty of Joy of Motion Dance Center and GWU’s Theater and Dance Department. Cutler is the recipient of the Maida Withers Dance Construction Company Innovation Award for “daring to walk the tightrope between originality and risk in performance art and the formality of the theatre stage.” She was named a finalist in the Emerging Choreographer category for the 2012 Metro DC Dance Awards, and has been recognized as “a choreographer to watch” by *Washington City Paper*. In 2015, she received a Choreographers’ Commission grant from Dance Metro DC. Most recently, the *Washington Post* declared Cutler’s work “tonally bizarre.” She “tonally” agrees.

Gabrielle “G. Cruz” Odom is the CEO/Choreographer of DareU2Dance (DU2D) and holds eight years of dance experience. She specializes in hip-hop, street jazz and pop styles of dance. She is a member of Dance Over Everything, DU2D’s adult performance and competitive dance team. Odom is also the advisor, coach and choreographer for the Morgan State University’s Morganelles Dance Team.

Sarah Beth Oppenheim hails from the Wild, Wild West, where she had trouble cutting on the dotted black line, so she read Steinbeck and became a modern dancer instead. She graduated from SUNY Purchase and founded her first dance company in Berlin. Ever since, she has created big movement for small spaces with a good view of a crescent

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS (cont'd)

moon. She used to clean house for a stripper who tipped very well, she once met Baryshnikov with kale in her incisors and she danced on a Noah Baumbach film set before landing in the middle of the country's worst traffic. Here, she has lovingly driven to rehearsals for Stephanie Miracle, Tzveta Kassabova, Sharon Mansur, Robin Neveu Brown and Colette Krogol & Matthew Reeve's Orange Grove Dance. Oppenheim is currently pursuing her MFA at UMD while serving as Associate Director of Greater Washington Dance Center. Her company Heart Stück Bernie is usually found performing in something like a stairwell, while pushing play on something like a boom box. But the company recently made its proscenium debut at Dance Place as a 2015 award recipient of Dance Metro DC's Choreographers' Commission program. More stairwells and stages to come. Contact heartstuckbernie@gmail.com.

Athena Powell, Owner/Artistic Director/Choreographer/Mentor of DareU2Dance, is a Maryland native, trained since the age of three in ballet, pointe, jazz, hip-hop, tap and Broadway/theater. Since 2006, under DareU2Dance, Powell has been supporting the arts by providing workshops, choreography, performances, dance programs and other dance-related support activities. She is most known for her work with local high schools and colleges, dance companies, parks and recreation, churches, community awareness events, fundraising, charities and stage productions. Powell specializes in the various genres of dance to include modern, contemporary, jazz (pop and theater), hip-hop (pop and street) and inspirational.

Monique Newton Walker, originally from Chester, Pennsylvania, has served on the dance faculties at North Carolina State University, The School at Jacob's Pillow and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater's 45 Degrees Project, and is currently at CityDance in Maryland and DC. She has training in ballet, jazz, African and modern from many dance masters and institutions including Philadanco!, The School at Jacob's Pillow, Walter Nicks, Dr. Chuck Davis and Dr. Kariamuwelsh. Her choreography has been presented at the North Carolina Dance Festival, the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Dance Place and CityDance Studio Theater. Walker is a certified teacher of the Umfundalai African Dance Technique and her performance credits include Chuck Davis' African American Dance Ensemble, Kariamuwelsh & Company: Traditions and choreography by David Dorfman. A devoted wife and mother of two, she continues her passion for African Diasporan dance styles as a performer with Soul In Motion Players and as the Artistic Director of new/walks dance theatre.

ABOUT THE SHOWCASE

The Choreographers' Showcase celebrates its 33rd year in 2016. The Showcase was first held at Prince George's County's Publick Playhouse in 1982, helping to bring that theater into prominence and establishing the Showcase as an important event in the regional dance community. The Showcase was moved to The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center when it opened in the 2001–2002 season, and is an important part of the on-going partnership between The Clarice and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

Each year live auditions are held to determine the Showcase program. Auditions are open to any choreographer aged 18 or older who resides in Maryland, Virginia or the District of Columbia. Those auditioning must present original works, not exceeding 15 minutes, which have been created within the most recent two years. During

the Showcase's history many critically renowned choreographers such as Jane Comfort, Beverly Blossom, Doug Varone, Sean Curran and Sidra Bell have served as adjudicators. The Showcase gives all those who audition the opportunity to have their work seen and critiqued by respected national dance professionals, and those awarded additionally have their work professionally produced, presented and video recorded. The Showcase also gives audiences the chance to see the diverse and dynamic range of works being created by dance artists in the region. This year, notable choreographers and teachers Zvi Gotheiner and Leah Cox served as adjudicators and selected the program.

We extend our thanks to all of the choreographers and dancers who participated in this year's auditions and congratulate those selected for the Showcase.