

The Visiting Artist Series presents

DANCENORTH, LUCY GUERIN INC. & SENYAWA
ATTRACTOR (AUSTRALIA/INDONESIA)



SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019 . 8PM
The Clarice

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAMS

VAS
VISITING ARTIST SERIES

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center's
Visiting Artist Series presents

DANCENORTH, LUCY GUERIN INC. & SENYAWA:
ATTRACTOR

Directors & Choreographers

Lucy Guerin
Gideon Obarzanek

Artistic Director

Kyle Page

Associate Artistic Director

Amber Haines

Dancers

Samantha Hines
Mason Kelly
Jenni Large
Ashley Mclellan
Josh Mu
Georgia Rudd
Felix Sampson
Jack Ziesing

Musicians

Rully Shabara
Wukir Suryadi



**Embassy of Australia
Washington, D.C.**

*This performance of Attractor by
Dancenorth, Lucy Guerin Inc. & Senyawa
is supported in part by an award from the
National Endowment for the Arts and the Embassy of Australia.*

Attractor was commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne for Asia TOPA through the KMATS Endowment Fund, the Playking Foundation and the Australia-ASEAN Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., Brisbane Festival, Arts Centre Melbourne, and WOMADelaide. This project has been assisted by the Australian government through the Department of Communication and the Arts' Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund and the Australia Council for the Arts. Dancenorth is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its art funding and advisory body. Lucy Guerin Inc is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its art funding and advisory body.

*Please join us for a conversation with
the artists following the performance.*

*We would like to acknowledge the **Holiday Inn-College Park** as a
season sponsor and preferred choice hotel for the Visiting Artist Series.*

Indonesia's tour-de-force music duo Senyawa and Melbourne's choreographic luminaries Lucy Guerin and Gideon Obarzanek join forces with two of Australia's leading dance companies, Lucy Guerin Inc. and Dancenorth. Together they take you on a unique music and dance ritual. Senyawa reinterprets the Javanese tradition of entering trance through dance and music as a powerful, secular, present-day ritual.

Their unusual sound borrows from the metal bands they listened to as teenagers – Black Sabbath, Metallica, Iron Maiden – and Indonesian ritual and folk idioms. As the performance unfolds, Senyawa's unique fusion of hand-made electrified stringed instruments with operatic melodies and heavy metal vocals slowly builds to a euphoric pitch while the dancers are propelled into wild physical abandonment and ecstatic release, creating a visceral, empathic experience for the audience. Selected members of the audience will be called onto the stage to joining the dancers, dissolving the demarcation between dancer and non-dancer, audience and performer, professional and the amateur in a cross-cultural, shared ritual.

Director's Note, Lucy Guerin:

This work for me has been a succumbing to the inherent power of music and dance and how they can propel each other into heightened states of energy, tone, rhythm and form. I have always believed that we can watch dance without having to translate it into a meaning beyond what we see and experience. We accept this easily with music, and with the help of Senyawa's incredible sound I hope that we can experience this work beyond a representation of a narrative or a theme.

The excitement of working with Senyawa and their willingness to play and try new things has been a joyous experience. We experimented initially with leading and following; dancers responding to the music and the musicians following the movements and rhythms of the dancers. But, these boundaries have become blurred and get tossed back and forth throughout the work.

The movement involves gradual evolutions of form that connect the dancers as one organism, made of individual bodies. I was not looking for clarity of image in this piece but rather a constantly shifting texture of movement that allows the eye to move between absorbing the whole picture and finding detail and precision. Kyle, Amber and the dancers have contributed generously to this creation with their remarkable skills. It couldn't have happened without their patience and dedication and this has been deeply appreciated by both Gideon and myself.

Director's Note, Gideon Obarzanek:

I first met Indonesian music duo Senyawa in Yogyakarta in 2014, when we set off on a long journey to a remote village in far eastern Java to observe a traditional trance ceremony. After two nights of prayers and offerings to the dead, dancers entered a state of trance through a series of vigorous performances. Now possessed, they were considered vessels for immortal spirits come to visit the living. To prove this extraordinary transition from human to non-human, they performed shocking acts of pain and strength before being exorcised by Shamans.

While in the village, I reflected on my many years of creating virtuosic stage productions with highly trained dancers and my own contrasting early experience in dance. This happened on kibbutz in Israel as a child doing folk dancing where participation was privileged over performance. I am an atheist but have always been interested in religious art and traditional ceremony. While my folk dancing background is not religious, it shares a similar traditional relationship where watching and participating, performing and experiencing are all interchangeable.

As contemporary artists performing to secular audiences, Rully, Wukir and I discussed our contradictory interest in traditional music and dance. We pondered why we and other seemingly non-religious people are drawn to this type of ceremonial performance. We concluded that dance and music can create transcendent states for participants, through which they become a part of something bigger than themselves. Making *Attractor* comes from a shared interest to construct rituals for non-believers.



Dancenorth

As a major champion of the arts in regional North Queensland, Dancenorth balances a dynamic regional presence with a commitment to creating compelling contemporary dance that tours the globe. Led by Artistic Director, Kyle Page (2017 Sidney Myer Creative Fellow) and Associate Artistic Director Amber Haines, Dancenorth is an integral part of the Australian dance ecology making a significant contribution to the dance sector and building literacy around contemporary dance nationally.

Dancenorth is fast becoming one of Australia's leading contemporary dance companies having presented work in more than 35 International Arts Festivals and venues around Australia and the world. As a model for making outstanding art in a regional community, Dancenorth has received several accolades including the prestigious 2017 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Group Award, Australian Dance Award (Best Community Dance Award), Greenroom Award (Best Ensemble If_Was_), two Helpmann awards for the MFI Commissioned work *Attractor* (Best Dance Production and Best Choreography in a Ballet, Dance or Physical Theatre Production) and a Greenroom award for Composition / Sound Design for *Attractor*, along with numerous other nominations.

Dancenorth empowers and supports artists by providing a creative hub for many artistic voices including a diverse range of choreographers, guest collaborators, artists in residence and dancers. Alongside our professional ensemble and touring productions sits an equally vital pillar of focus, the Enrichment Projects. Driven by a dedicated team, Dancenorth works with diverse and minority communities across Queensland using dance to support, enhance, inspire and heal - bringing communities together.

Lucy Guerin Inc.

Lucy Guerin Inc. is an Australian dance company established in Melbourne in 2002 to create and tour new dance works. Renowned for the skill and originality of its small group of performers, it is dedicated to challenging and extending the art of contemporary dance. New productions are generated through an experimental approach to the creative process, and may involve voice, video, sound, text and design as well as Guerin's lucid physical structures.

The company is a flexible model that values research and risk in the creative process and provides the conditions to question existing notions of dance. This is always a choreographic exploration, striving for visual, emotional and physical revelations that could not be generated or communicated in any other artform.

Throughout the last 16 years, the company has evolved from a structure that enables Guerin's choreographic projects, to an organization that also supports the development of independent dance artists in Melbourne. Through a program of residencies, classes, workshops, presentations and mentoring opportunities, it is responsive to the shifting ideas and contexts generated by dance and choreography in the world today.

In 2017, Lucy Guerin Inc. premiered *Split*, presented by Arts House as part of the Dance Massive festival in Melbourne. Other recent works include *The Dark Chorus* (2016) and *Attractor* (2017), a collaboration with Gideon Obarzanek, Dancenorth and Indonesian music duo Senyawa. The company will premiere a new work, *Make Your Own World*, in 2019 at Arts House as part of Dance Massive 2019. The company regularly tours works both nationally and internationally to Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States.



Senyawa

Jogjakarta's Senyawa embodies the aural elements of traditional Indonesian music whilst exploring the framework of experimental music practice, pushing the boundaries of both traditions. Their music strikes a perfect balance between their avant-garde influences and cultural heritage to create truly contemporary Indonesian new music. Their sound is comprised of Rully Shabara's deft extended vocal techniques punctuating the frenetic sounds of instrument builder, Wukir Suryadi's modern-primitive instrumentation. Inventions like his handcrafted 'Bamboo Spear' - a thick stem of bamboo strung up with percussive strips of the animal skin alongside steel strings. Amplified it fuses elements of traditional Indonesian instrumentation with garage distortion. Sonically dynamic, the instrument can be rhythmically percussive on one side whilst being melodically bowed and plucked on the other.

Senyawa has performed at many notable festivals and underground clubs such as MONA FOMA Festival in Tasmania, the Adelaide Festival with Korean singer Bae Il Dong, Malmo Sommarscen Festival in Sweden, Salihara Literature Festival in Jakarta, Art Basel Switzerland, Café Oto in London, Cyptic Festival Glasgow, Copenhagen Jazz House Denmark, Resonate Festival Belgrade Serbia, CTM Festival in Berlin, Copenhagen Jazz Festival, UNSOUND Festival Poland, Clandestino Festival in Norway, The Lab San Francisco, Eaux Claires Festival, Bridget Donoghue Gallery in New York, Pioneer Works in New York and Oct Loft Jazz Festival in China.

They have also collaborated and performed with many notable musicians such as Yoshida Tatsuya, Otomo Yoshide, Lucas Abela, KK Null, Keiji Haino, Rabih Beiani, Greg Fox, Arrington De Dionyso, Melt Banana, Jon Sass, Damo Suzuki, Jerome Cooper, Justin Vernon, Oren Ambarchi, David Shea, Trevor Dunn and Kazu Ushihashi. In 2012 Senyawa completed a film in collaboration with French filmmaker Vincent Moon.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Members of Dancenorth taught in a technique class yesterday in the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. Join us for a Q&A after the performance moderated by Interim Director and Associate Professor of Dance Maura Keefe.

We the rabid dogs of daylight,
our bushy glowing tongues frothing
in our mouths like desire,

we the kinsman, the chained bulls,
the loose rivers,
enemy of every song but scream,

we the pained politic, the rude
masses,

soldiers of no war or tongue,

faithful to everything but the hunt,

have come before you today,

behind black shades and the tuned
echo of a microphone, to say,

when the hour of judgement arrives

a team of stallions will whinny

themselves breathless

on the front lawn, their bay

coats steaming in the zebra-grass,

tempting the moon.

A reflection by
Jalen Eutsey,

Urban Arts Leadership
Fellow



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ABOUT THE VISITING ARTIST SERIES

The Clarice's **VISITING ARTIST SERIES** curates a season of regional, national and international artists in dance, music, theater and performance. Beyond the stunning work these artists bring to the stage, the Visiting Artist Series is also committed to providing extensive campus and community engagement opportunities that extend the academic learning and cultural opportunities for UMD students as well as the community that surrounds the university. Through creative partnerships, we believe that artists can be catalysts for community change, leadership and empowerment. The Visiting Artist Series is part of the Artist Partner Programs that include the NextNOW Fest, the National Orchestral Institute + Festival, NextLOOK at Joe's Movement Emporium and MilkBoy ArtHouse.

UPCOMING ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAMS EVENTS

ANDREW SCHNEIDER (USA) **AFTER**

MAY 10 - MAY 11

\$25 PUBLIC / \$10 STUDENT/YOUTH / UMD STUDENTS FREE

"Hallucinatory. Psychotropic. Miraculous" (*The New York Times*). Andrew Schneider's technical theater masterpiece examines the last burst of human thought before entering the afterlife. **AFTER** commands mind-bending light and sound effects, and physical performances riddled with humor and intelligence. This journey engages all the senses to determine where the human experience stops, how it gets there and what comes after.

NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE + FESTIVAL & WOLF TRAP OPERA:

GERSHWIN'S PORGY & BESS

SAT, JUNE 1 . 8PM

TICKETS STARTING AT \$20 / \$10 STUDENT/YOUTH / UMD STUDENTS FREE

Cincinnati Pops Conductor John Morris Russell opens the 2019 festival in a concert anchored by Gershwin's great American opera, *Porgy and Bess*. The performance pairs the opera with rarely heard contemporaneous works by black composers, including Nathaniel Dett, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Florence Price and James Europe.

NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE + FESTIVAL: DVOŘÁK'S SYMPHONY NO. 8

SAT, JUNE 8 . 8PM

TICKETS STARTING AT \$20 / \$10 STUDENT/YOUTH / UMD STUDENTS FREE

Maryland-native Andrew Grams returns home to lead a tour-de-force program including Anna Clyne's *Abstractions* (based on Baltimore Museum of Art works), Mozart's intimate Concerto for Bassoon and Antonin Dvořák's masterful Symphony No. 8.

NATIONAL ORCHESTRAL INSTITUTE + FESTIVAL: GERSHWIN'S CONCERTO IN F

SAT, JUNE 15 . 8PM

TICKETS STARTING AT \$20 / \$10 STUDENT/YOUTH / UMD STUDENTS FREE

A riveting journey of influential American music led by Grammy-winning conductor David Alan Miller featuring pianist Kevin Cole, the world's leading authority on Gershwin's piano literature. Gershwin's virtuosic Concerto in F is paired with two landmarks of American repertoire: Joan Tower's *Sequoia*, John Harbison's *Remembering Gatsby* and Walter Piston's Symphony No. 5.

NURTURE THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS

We believe artists can be catalysts for community change, leadership and empowerment.

This season, our Visiting Artists will:

- **CREATE** opportunities for young audiences to experience live performances and creative conversations through the K-12 School Partner Program
- **ENHANCE** our understanding of the world through Do Good Dialogues, exploring social justice and the ways the human spirit informs art
- **SUPPORT** creation and development of new work by UMD students through master classes, coaching and performances of their work by visiting artists
- **ENGAGE** students through intimate, unplugged performances in residence halls throughout the year, creating connections through art, food, and shared experiences

Immerse yourself in a world of artistic discovery with our 2018-2019 visiting artists and strengthen the future of the arts by making your gift today.

To support the Visiting Artist Series visit theclarice.umd.edu/make-gift. Or call 301.405.4517.

YEAR OF IMMIGRATION

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

In this Year of Immigration at UMD, which seeks to transform dialogue into impact on urgent issues related to immigration, global migration and refugees, the Artist Partner Program at The Clarice, which believes that artists can be catalysts for community change, leadership and empowerment, has chosen to begin the effort of building bridges across cultures by acknowledging what has been buried by honoring the truth.

We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Piscataway People, who were among the first in the Western Hemisphere to encounter European colonists. We pay respects to their elders and ancestors.

Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

Immigrants Make the University of Maryland Stronger.

Join us for a #YearofImmigration as we create community and conversations around immigration, global migration and refugees.

yearofimmigration.umd.edu

THE CLARICE

ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAMS STAFF

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