



AUGUST 19, 2023



 **DANCE
FOR LIFE**

Chicago Dancers United Presents



Saturday, August 19, 2023
6:00pm
Auditorium Theatre

FEATURED COMPANIES

The Joffrey Ballet

BOOM CRACK! Dance Company

Giordano Dance Chicago and South Chicago Dance Theatre

Moonwater Dance Project

Chicago Tap Allstars

Muntu Dance Theatre

Joseph Massarelli and Riho Sakamoto

Hiplet Ballerinas

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

Finale "As One" choreographed by Randy Duncan

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Todd Rosenberg

Dancer: Fernando Duarte

A Message from **Dance for Life Chicago's 2023 Co-Chairs**

Tonight, we will proudly watch as Chicago's professional dance community returns to the Auditorium stage. We are delighted to be presenting, once again, many of the city's most talented dance professionals. All year long, we honor and support these professionals and their contributions that make Chicago home to one of America's most vibrant dance communities.

Dance For Life was born of necessity in 1992, as a devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic was claiming the lives of too many members of the dance community—people who touched our lives and whose lives were changed forever by a deadly disease. Our community, and those who love and support us, answered the call by creating Dance For Life, an annual performance to honor those lost and a benefit to help those fighting to survive.

In its 32nd year, Dance for Life still aspires to heal, support, inspire and unify our professional dance community. In the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Chicago Dancers United remains uniquely qualified to respond to the dance community's needs in an ever-changing world. The proceeds of Dance for Life benefit The Dancers' Fund, through which CDU provides help, hope and financial relief to many dancers in crisis. The Fund ensures that everyone in our dance community has a place to turn when faced with burdensome health care expenses.

Whether it is your first Dance for Life or your 32nd, we welcome and thank you for joining us tonight. If you are inspired by tonight's performance, please consider an additional donation to Chicago Dancers United in support of The Dancers' Fund. Your contribution is an investment in the physical and mental health of Chicago's dance community and their work.

To the dancers, choreographers, companies, hosts, volunteers and supporters who made tonight possible—here's to a healthy, thriving, and world-class Chicago dance community—united in purpose!

With gratitude,

Ted Grady & Ross Slotten, M.D.

Victor Alexander & Maray Gutierrez

Credits



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CHICAGO

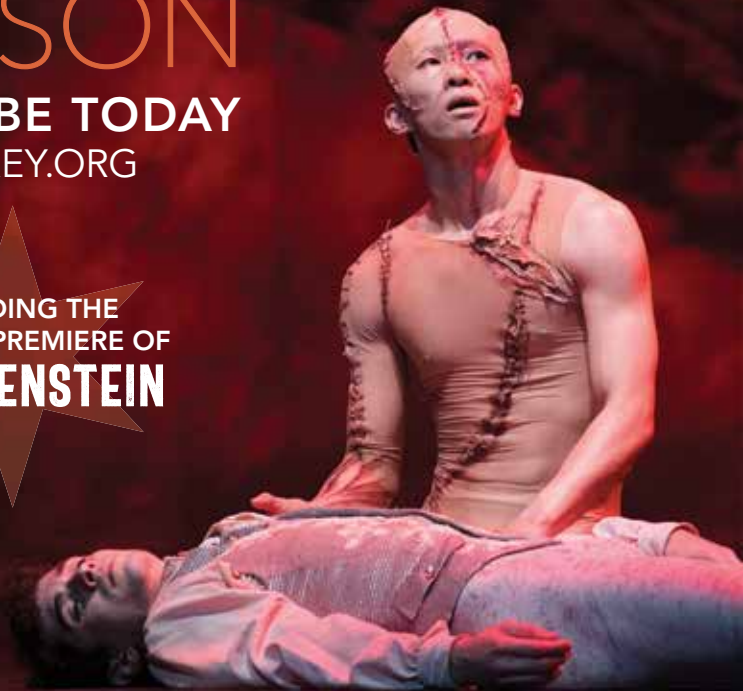
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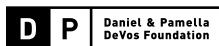
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Special thanks to Live Music Sponsors Sandy and Roger Deromedi, Sage Foundation, and The Marina and Arnold Tatar Fund for Live Music | Wei Wang in Liam Scarlett's *Frankenstein* © Erik Tomasson, courtesy of San Francisco Ballet.



CHICAGO
DANCERS
UNITED

A Message from
CDU's Board President & Executive Director

On behalf of Chicago Dancers United's entire Board of Directors, we welcome you back to the beautiful Auditorium Theatre for the 32nd annual Dance for Life production, presented by Chicago Dancers United to raise money for The Dancers' Fund. Tonight's program is truly a one-of-a-kind, unique and special occasion. Dance for Life connects thousands of individuals throughout our city and the surrounding Chicagoland area with the diverse talent of Chicago's beautiful and vibrant dance community.

For more than 30 years, Dance for Life has brought dance professionals together, uniting hundreds of performers, audience members, and those who work behind the scenes toward our shared cause—to support the health and well-being of Chicago's professional dance community. Through those connections, we celebrate our own humanity and the beauty that we create together. To every audience member, donor, artist, technician, educator, administrator, and volunteer, thank you for supporting our mission.

Chicago Dancers United envisions a healthy and thriving dance community by providing financial relief for preventative health care and critical medical needs for dance industry professionals. Through your generous support, Dance for Life raises the funds that are so vitally needed to achieve this mission, now and into the future.

Join us as we gather, celebrate, reflect, and engage with you, our patrons, and this incredible and resilient community. We appreciate your sponsorships, annual donations and gifts of any amount to Chicago Dancers United. Your generous support makes our many critical, and health and wellness grants possible for those in need in the Chicago professional dance community. We cannot do it without YOU!

With gratitude and joy,

Sara Stewart Schumann
Chicago Dancers United
Board President

Nathaniel P. Ekman
Chicago Dancers United
Executive Director

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Chicago Dancers United & Dance for Life Recognize

Gail Kalver



Photo by Michelle Reid

This year Chicago Dancers United is proud to honor Gail Kalver, who has been involved with Dance for Life (DFL) in some capacity since the very beginning when Harriet Ross and Keith Elliot called and asked her to help. Gail has been an integral part of the Chicago dance community for over 50 years. Her extraordinary service and commitment have helped the Chicago dance community grow and thrive. When Gail was first approached to be a part of DFL, she recalls, "it was a moment of extraordinary empowerment. The possibilities of what could be accomplished when our dance community came together for a cause was just beginning." This idea of what could be accomplished by a community, rather than a single individual, has always been Gail's leadership style. Throughout her career this gift of bringing people together in support of each other has been one of Gail's greatest contributions.

Gail gained her love and appreciation for dance when she was the associate manager and dance programmer of the Ravinia Festival, at the same time working as an active freelance clarinetist performing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera Orchestra and Grant Park Symphony, in addition to an active performing schedule with her own woodwind ensemble, The Windy City Wind Ensemble. Gail went on to become the executive director of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago for 23 years (1984 - 2007), and River North Dance Chicago (2009 - 2014). As a leader of these dance organizations, she always found ways to help other organizations and contribute her time and talents.

In 2014, Gail started her own arts management business whose diverse client roster has included the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, Ballet Chicago, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Concert Dance, Inc., Dance Affiliates of Philadelphia, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, The Grant Park Music Festival, and the Chicago Dancing Festival.

In addition to working for many of Chicago's arts organizations, Gail has graciously volunteered and served on numerous non-profit boards throughout the country, always with a strong desire to help, and strengthen the Chicago dance community. She has received numerous awards throughout her career, but Dance for Life holds a special place in her heart because it was a unique moment in time when the dance community was facing a crisis and everyone, including Gail, said "What can I do to help?"

Thank you, Gail, for your generosity, your kindness, your humor, and your exceptional leadership for all these years. We appreciate and love you.

Dance for Life

AUG 19, 2023

**Arpino Chicago
Centennial Celebration**

SEP 23+24, 2023

**Deeply Rooted
Dance Theater**

NOV 3, 2023

**Sugar Hill: The Ellington /
Strayhorn Nutcracker**

DEC 19-30, 2023

**Terence Blanchard:
Film Scores LIVE!**

JAN 13, 2024

**Complexions
Contemporary Ballet**

FEB 3, 2024

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de Danza**

FEB 10, 2024

**Trinity Irish
Dance Company**

MAR 3, 2024

MOMIX

MAR 9, 2024

**Alvin Ailey
American Dance Theater**

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**South Chicago
Dance Theatre**

APR 27, 2024



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Dance for Life Chicago 2023

The Dancers' Fund

The Dancers' Fund provides short-term financial assistance to Chicago dance professionals diagnosed with a critical health need. In 2020, we broadened our grantmaking to include support for general health and wellness needs.

The Dancers' Fund was created by Harriet Ross in the early 1990's in response to the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the dance community, however, over the past 30 years its impact has broadened. The Fund was designed to help qualified individuals meet their financial obligations when faced with critical health issues, but now also includes support for health and wellness to help our dance community remain healthy.

The Dancers' Fund is available to Chicago-based, professionally trained working dancers and those whose primary source of income is derived by serving the dance community. These include dancers in a professional dance company, choreographers, dance company full time administration/production/technical personnel, full-time dance instructors, freelance dancers, musical theatre chorus dancers, and full-time class/rehearsal accompanist.

Although the Fund was created in response to the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the dance community, its impact has now broadened. The Fund offers assistance for housing, utilities, insurance, medication, and travel. Designed to help qualified individuals meet their financial obligations when faced with health issues, The Dancers' Fund is available to Chicago-based, professionally trained working dancers and those whose primary source of income is derived by serving the dance community. These include dancers in a professional dance company, choreographers, dance company full-time administration/production/technical personnel, full-time dance instructors, freelance dancers, musical theater chorus dancers and full-time class/rehearsal accompanists.

How the Dancers' Fund Works

There are two grant opportunities through the Dancers' Fund:

The Critical Health Need Grant is intended for those who are experiencing a critical health need in connection with their personal physical or mental health. A critical health need is one which arises from the applicant's critical illness or injury, diagnosed by a medical or other health professional, which significantly and adversely affects the individual's ability to work as a professional. Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, doctor and hospital visits, surgery, medical testing, therapy, and medication. Funding of up to \$5,000 is available annually.

The General Health and Wellness Grant is intended for those attempting to maintain their health and wellness. Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, insurance premiums, medical bills, dental bills, and mental health sessions. Funding of up to \$1,000 is available annually.

Come Party with Us After the Show!

Since 1992, Dance for Life has raised over \$6 million. The funds over the years have been distributed to The Dancers' Fund, AIDS Foundation Chicago, the American Cancer Society, and 24 other health service organizations throughout Chicago.

Tickets available at the Door
Admission price of \$125

PURCHASE TICKETS

*Text **DFL23 After** to **50155** and follow the prompts*

VENUESIX10

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The Story of DFL/CDU



Having lost many close friends and dance colleagues to HIV/AIDS, Keith Elliott, a member of Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre (JHCDT), felt it was time for Chicago dancers to take an active role in preventing the spread of the disease. Keith's idea — both brilliant and simple — was to bring Chicago's dance community together for one night each year, to Dance for Life.

In 1991, Keith and Todd Kiech began working to make Dance for Life a reality, enlisting JHCDT associate artistic director Harriet Ross to give their event the creative force required to make a significant impact. HIV/AIDS community activist and fundraiser Danny Kopelson joined the project the following year, along with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago executive director Gail Kalver. The inaugural Dance for Life (DFL) was held in June 1992 at the Organic Theatre. Every seat was sold. In the years following, annual DFL performances filled the Athenaeum Theatre, the Skyline Stage at Navy Pier, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, and the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, each selling out weeks in advance. DFL is proud to be held tonight at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

Over the past 30 years, more than 50 Chicago-based professional dance companies and numerous choreographers have been presented in DFL, supporting and showcasing the city's unique diversity of talent, dance traditions and styles. DFL remains the only annual opportunity for the incredibly talented, world-renowned professional dancers of Chicago to unite artistically to help those affected by health issues through The Dancers' Fund. Dancers, companies and choreographers generously donate their time, energy and artistry to the cause.

Millions of dollars have been raised by DFL since 1992, for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, The Dancers' Fund, and 28 other AIDS prevention, treatment and advocacy organizations in Chicago. DFL has supported and helped produce several spin-off events. In 1994, Board Member Harriet Ross created the Dance for Life Fund, later known as The Dancers' Fund. The Fund provides assistance to any member of the professional Chicago dance community facing a critical health issue or needing preventative health care. In response to the changing needs of the dance community, the evolving nature of HIV/AIDS, and the growth of the event and its programs, DFL has matured into a nonprofit organization, Chicago Dancers United.

Chicago Dancers United is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that provides financial relief for preventative health care and critical medical needs for Chicago dance industry professionals.

www.chicagodancersunited.org/history

Gerald Arpino

Gerald Arpino
CENTENNIAL
1923 ★ 2023

CAPTIVATING



Photo: Artists of Ballet West, photo by Beau Pearson

The Gerald Arpino Foundation and the Auditorium Theatre
proudly present

The Arpino Chicago Centennial Celebration

September 23-24, 2023

Auditorium Theatre, 50 E Ida B Wells Dr, Chicago

Saturday, September 23,

performance at 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 24,

performance at 1:00 pm

TICKETS

Ticket prices range from **\$25** to **\$250**

Tickets are on sale now through
the Auditorium Theatre Box Office

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by Patti Eylar and Charlie Gardner

Complexions Contemporary Ballet – *Valentine*,
Sponsored by Anne and Keith Moffat

Oklahoma City Ballet – *Birthday Variations*

Eugene Ballet – *Reflections*, Sponsored by an
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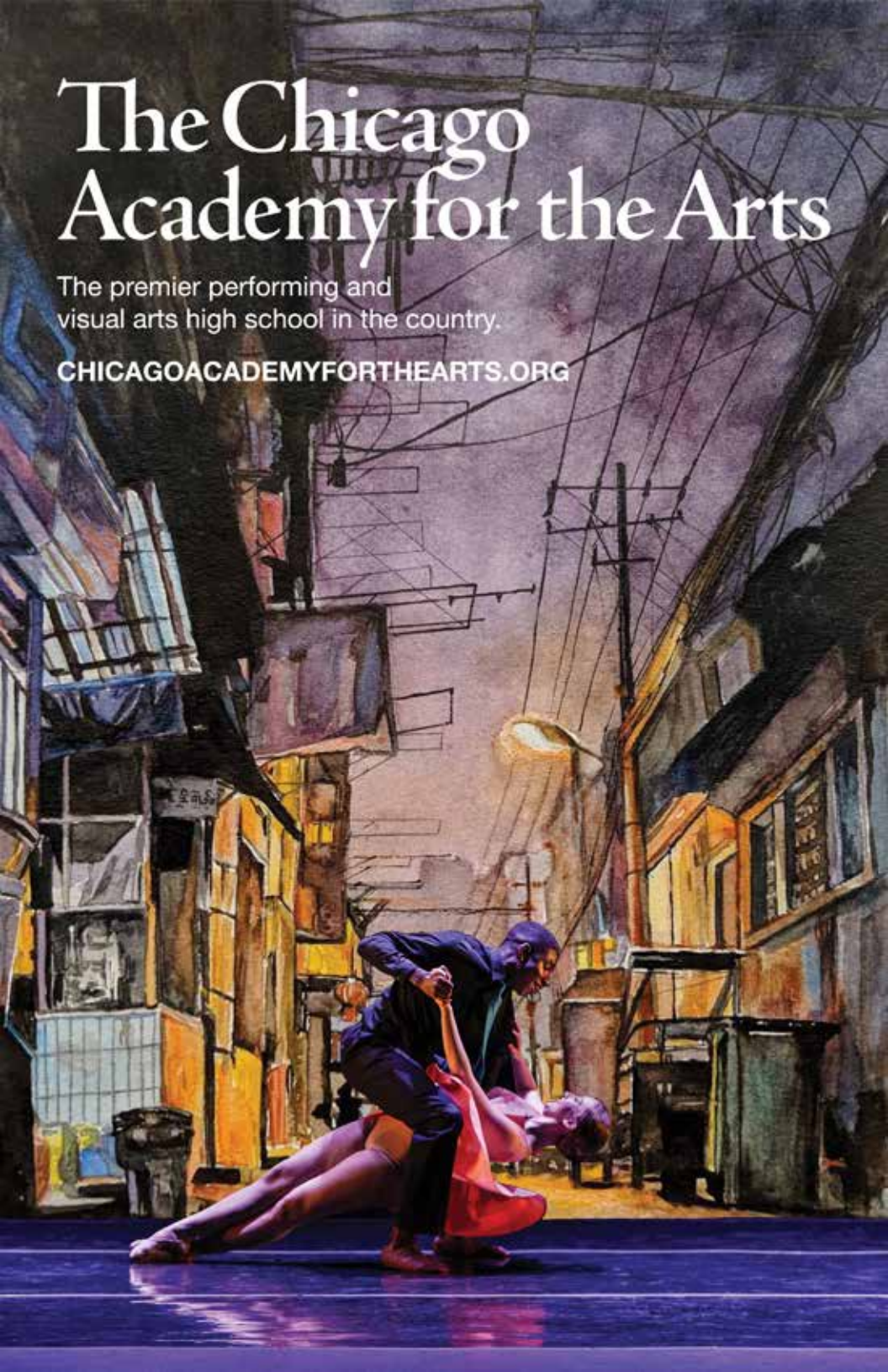
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Any errors and omissions are unintentional. Donations on this list are as of August 11, 2023.

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A Lifeline of Beneficiaries

Since 1992, Dance for Life has raised over \$6 million. The funds raised over the years have been distributed to the AIDS Foundation Chicago, The Dancers' Fund, and 25 other HIV and AIDS service providing organizations in Chicago.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) was Dance for Life's first beneficiary in 1992. In 2020 a second partnership was formed with the American Cancer Society (ACS), as more dance professionals were having critical health issues beyond HIV/AIDS. With the funds raised through Dance for Life, Chicago Dancers United has supported the efforts of these esteemed organizations in providing medical support, research and advocacy. In Illinois, AFC is working to prevent new HIV infections and serve people living with HIV/AIDS (PWA).

A Lifeline of Beneficiaries	Chicago House
Agape Missions, NFP	Chicago Women's AIDS Project
AIDS Alternative Health Project	Howard Brown Health Center
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago	Interfaith House
AIDSCare	Luck Care Center
American Cancer Society	Making a Daily Effort
Better Existence with HIV	Open Hand Chicago
Bonaventure House	Pediatric AIDS Chicago
Brothers Health Collective	Project VIDA
Center on Halsted	South Side Help Center
Centro Romero	Stop AIDS
Centro San Bonifacio	Test Positive Aware Network
Chicago Child Care Society	Young Women's Empowerment Project

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Special Thanks

Dance for Life and The Dancers' Fund
is supported year-round
by the generosity of the community.

In 2023, the following individuals and partners contributed
or will contribute critical support
in raising funds for Chicago Dancers United.

Lindsay Backiev

Jill Chukerman

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Ted Grady & Ross Slotten, M.D.

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THE PROGRAM

THE JOFFREY BALLET

BIRTHDAY VARIATIONS (Excerpts) (1986)

Choreography: Gerald Arpino

Music: Giuseppe Verdi

Costume Design: Stanley Simmons

Lighting Design: Thomas Skelton

Dancers: Lucia Connolly, Yumi Kanazawa, Princess Reid, Julia Rust, Natali Taht, Alberto Velazquez

BOOM CRACK! DANCE COMPANY

DECIBEL (Excerpt) (2022)

Choreography: Trae Turner

Music: "Is you real" by Paul Mond

Musical Score produced, edited and remixed by: Trae Turner

Costume Design: Trae Turner

Lighting Design: Trae Turner

Dancers: Kayla Bilal, Kayla Clayborn, Emily Dietze, Krista Ellensohn, Chole Hamilton, Alison Janega, Alysia Johnson, Alexa Kruchten, Sophia Santore

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO and SOUTH CHICAGO DANCE THEATRE **LUMINESCENCE. (2023)**

Choreography: Kia S. Smith

Music: Coldplay, U2

Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass

Dancers: Trey Alexander, Kelly Anderson, Mya Bryant, Kim Davis, Ashley Downs, Ryan Galloway, Rosario Guillen, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Emma Kempson, Sasha Lazarus, Hayley Midea, Skyler Newcom, Katie Rafferty, Elijah Richardson, Fernando Rodriguez, Lourdes Taylor, Marissa Thomas, Erina Ueda, Sophia Vangelatos

Luminescence. was commissioned by Giordano Dance Chicago in its 60th Anniversary Season in honor of Homer Hans Bryant and with generous support from Charles Gardner and Patti S. Eylar, Lead Sponsors, and the Jerome H. Stone Family Foundation, Sponsor.

MOONWATER DANCE PROJECT

CLARITY (2022)

Choreography: Hanna Bricton

Music: Murcof & Venessa Wagner, Travis Lake

Costume Design: Hanna Bricton

Lighting Design: David Edburg-Goodman

Dancers: Jade Monet Hooper, Celine Spinka O'Brien, Lucy Pierson, Rachel Spies, Abigail Stachnik

CHICAGO TAP ALLSTARS

BIRDLAND (2023)

Choreographer: Brill Barrett and Mark Yonally

Restaged by: Molly Smith

Music: Weather Report

Costume Design: Sara Anderson

Lighting Design: Margaret Nelson

Dancers: Sara Anderson, Ivy Anderson, Brill Barrett, Abby Cooper, Jenai Cutcher, Megan Davis, Starinah 'Star' Dixon, Molly Eder, Jay Fagan, Kelsey Fields, Alexandria Fyrson, Sterling Harris, Michelle Haskell, Caleb Jackson, Donnetta 'LilBit' Jackson, Heather Latakas, Devin Mosely, Matt Pospeschil, Case Prime, Molly Smith, Davon Suttles, William Wims, Mark Yonally

I N T E R M I S S I O N

MUNTU DANCE THEATRE

DJELIYA (Excerpt)

Choreography: Regina Perry-Carr

Music: Ish Bey, Sekou Conde, Idris Daniel, Akinjobi Davis, Tyler Whittler

Costume Design: Vaune Blalock and Suquan Diop

Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner

Musicians: Idris Daniel, Akinjobi Davis, Paul Cotton, Ish Bey, Tyler Whittler

Dancers: Iddrisu Alhassan, Nicholas Brokemon, Oshuntaye Brown, Beverly Carrington, Keisha Frazier, Nicholas Gwyn, Matumbe Himons, Naomi Kinslow, Ayanna London, Kayla Moore, OsunKoya Odum, Nura Pollard

Freelance Artists Joseph Massarelli and Riho Sakamoto

ON THE NATURE OF DAYLIGHT (2007)

Choreography, Concept and Staging: David Dawson

Music: Max Richter

Costume Design: Yumiko Takeshima

Stage and Lighting Design: David Dawson

Assistant to the Choreographer: Tim Couchman

Dancers: Joseph Massarelli, Riho Sakamoto

HIPLET BALLERINAS

REACT (2021)

Choreography: Trevon Lawrence, Anthony Sampson

Music: The Pussycat Dolls

Costume Design: Cheryl Taylor

Lighting Design: Gwenne Godwin

Dancers: Makyla Bates, Kristoffer Bellvie, Taylor Edwards, Alexandria Franklin, Allison Harsh, Joshua Hopkins, Benjamin Marshall, Brandon Paraharm, Nia Towe

HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

BUSK (Excerpt) (2009)

Company Premiere (2021)

Choreography: Azure Barton

Stager: Jonathan E. Alsberry

Music: Amusements composed and performed by Daniel Belanger, (p) 2007

Daniel Bélanger (exclusive licensed to Audiogram). Love Potion Expired

composed by Ljova, performed by Ljova and the Kontraband. Saltarelle

composed by Camille Saint-Saëns and performed by Orphei Drangär & Eric

Ericson, performed with kind permission by BIS Records, Sweden. Kung

Liljekonvalje composed by David Wikander and performed by Orphei Drangär &

Eric Ericson, performed with kind permission by BIS Records, Sweden Nordiska

Musikförlaget/2007 Gerhrmans Musikförlag AB.

Musical Arrangement & Editing: Azure Barton with Jonathan E. Alsberry

Costume Design: Michelle Jank

Lighting Design: Nicole Pearce

Dancers: Alexandria Best, Jacqueline Burnett, Aaron Choate, Morgan Clune,

Michele Dooley, Abdiel Figueroa Reyes, Jack Henderson, Elliot Hammans, Alysia

Johnson, Shota Miyoshi, David Schultz, Simone Stevens, Cyrie Topete, Matt

Wenckowski

FINALE

AS ONE (2021)

Choreography: Randy Duncan

Music: Ira Antelis

Lighting Design: Margaret Nelson

Costume Design: Richard Dayhoff

Dance Coach: Harriet Ross

Rehearsal Liaison: Katelyn Reyes

Repetiteurs: Jonathan E. Alsberry, Craig D. Black Jr., Quinn Kuch

Dancers: Coco Alvarez-Mena (The Joffrey Ballet), Craig D. Black Jr. (Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Rehearsal Director), Evan Boersma (The Joffrey Ballet), Jackson Bradford (Freelance), Morgan Clune (Hubbard Street Dance Chicago), Michele Dooley (Hubbard Street Dance Chicago), Fernando Duarte (The Joffrey Ballet), Elliot Hammans (Hubbard Street Dance Chicago), Jade Monet Hooper (Moonwater Dance Project), Sydney Jones (Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre), Zach Manske (The Joffrey Ballet), Joseph Massarelli (Dutch National Ballet), Hayley Midea (South Chicago Dance Theatre), Anouk Otsea (Niko8, Peckish Rhodes Performing Arts Society, Little Fire Artist Collective), Aaron Renteria (The Joffrey Ballet), Abdiel Figueroa Reyes (Hubbard Street Dance Chicago), Fernando Rodriguez (Giordano Dance Chicago), Michelle Skiba (Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, Little Fire Artist Collective, Niko8), Erina Ueda (Giordano Dance Chicago), Caitlin Yatsuhashi (Freelance)

Understudies: Quinn Kuch (The Juilliard School '27), Carla Smith (Freelance)

AS ONE

Composed by Ira Antelis

Produced by Ira Antelis & Rick Fritz

Recorded, Engineered, and mixed by Rick Fritz

Lead Vocal: Stevie Robinson

Female Lead Vocal: Emily Blue

Female spoken word: Nikki Lynette

Acapella Vocal: Stella Tate Ricciardi Fitzpatrick

Background Chants & Vocals: Laveeta Renee Robinson, Isaiah Robinson,

Rachel Robinson, Noemi Robinson.

Crowd Chants: Jim Hoffman

Guitars: Joe Shahid

Bass: Alan Berliant

Horns & Marching Drums: Jim Trompeter

Drum Programming: Dejjon Madison

Synthesizers, keyboards and drum programming: Ira Antelis

Bass: Alan Berliant

Horns & Marching Drums: Jim Trompeter

Drum Programming: Dejjon Madison

Synthesizers, keyboards and drum programming: Ira Antelis

AS ONE Lyrics

Choreographed by Randy Duncan

Music & Lyrics by Ira Antelis

CHANTS

DOWN WITH HATE (Repeat)

WHAT DO WE WANT

WE WANT FREEDOM (Repeat)

BLACK WHITE GAY STRAIGHT AIDS

DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE (Repeat)

Verse 1

So torn apart

Down on my knees

Can someone help me

I'm begging please

Where's the hope

That we all dreamed of

Where things would change

What did that mean love

What did that mean (what did that mean)

What did that mean (what did that mean)

What did that mean (what did that mean)

What did that mean (what did that mean)

Verse 2

So much hate

Growin stronger

I just can't take it

any longer

Where's the peace

show me some love

let's rise together

look to god above

To God Above (to god above)

Look to God Above (to god above)

To God Above (to god above)

Look to God Above (to god above)

Pre Chorus

Raise your hands to the sky

Raise your hands to the sky

Let's all stand united we won't compromise

Raise your hands to the sky

Raise your hands to the sky

Let's all stand united we won't compromise

Chorus
All together all as one
Show the world the time has come
All together all as one
Show the world the time has come

Verse 3
We've got to stop
with this ordeal
I'm out hear crying
it's time to heal
A new way forward
it's time to act
Let's stand together
Let's make a pact
It's time to act (let's make a pact)
It's time to act (let's make a pact)
It's time to act (let's make a pact)
It's time to act (let's make a pact)

Verse 4
It's in the doing
That change will come
On shattered ground
We rebuild it up
We can't accept
All this oppression
It's a digression
From the main lesson
It's a digression (it's a digression)
It's a digression (it's a digression)
It's a digression (it's a digression)
It's a digression (it's a digression)

SPOKEN WORD/RAP
Unrelenting—never give up
Unrepenting—yes we've had enough
Undecided—now it's time to choose
Undivided—we can never lose
Unrestrained—chains are gone
Unashamed—standing strong
Undervalued, Unaccepted
OH YES WE'VE BEEN NEGLECTED
Unsupported---for so many years
Unreported—all the scars and tears
Unrecorded—treated bitterly
Unseen—all our misery
Undesired—we'll rise above

Unrequited—show us some love
Uncensored, Undone
It's time we stand as one

PRE CHORUS
Raise your hands to the sky
Raise your hands to the sky
Let's all stand united we won't
compromise
Raise your hands to the sky
Raise your hands to the sky
Let's all stand united we won't
compromise

CHORUS
All together all as one
Show the world the time has come
All together all as one
Show the world the time has come

Verse 5
The time is now
If not now when
If you believe
Just say amen (amen)
let's face each other
Come take my hand
As one forever
Say yes we can (yes we can)
Say yes we can (yes we can)
Say yes we can (yes we can)
Say yes we can (yes we can)
Say yes we can (yes we can)

Verse 6
My years are short
I've rounded third
My light is fading
Though I have learned
Let's tell the whole world
We can recover
Let's always be there
Be there for one another
Be there for each other (be there for
each other)
Be there for each other (be there for
each other)
Be there for each other (be there for

each other)
Be there for each other (be there for each other)
Be there for each other (be there for each other)
Be there for each other (be there for each other)
Be there for each other (be there for each other)
Be there for each other (be there for each other)

SPOKEN WORD/RAP

Unrelenting—never givin up
Unrepenting—yes we've had enough
Undecided—now it's time to choose
Undivided—we can never lose
Unrestrained—chains are gone
Unashamed—standing strong
Undervalued, Unaccepted

OH YES WE'VE BEEN NEGLECTED

Unsupported—for so many years

Unreported—all the scars and tears
Unrecorded—treated bitterly
Unseen—all our misery
Undesired—we'll rise above
Unrequited—show us some love
Uncensored, Undone
It's time we stand as one

ACAPELLA

All together all as one
Show the world the time has come
All together all as one
Show the world the time has come

CHORUS

All together all as one
Show the world the time has come
All together all as one
Show the world the time has come
AS ONE!
AS ONE!
AS ONE!



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About AIDS Foundation Chicago

AFC brings together service providers and funders to develop systems that meet the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS and to maximize the use of scarce resources. AFC manages more than \$17 million in local, state, and federal funds for an array of AIDS-related services. By assisting government entities in planning, distributing, and monitoring service contracts, AFC helps develop provider expertise and promotes uniform and high-quality delivery across the region.



About the American Cancer Society



At the American Cancer Society, we're on a mission to free the world from cancer. Until we do, we'll be funding and conducting research, sharing expert information, supporting patients, and spreading the word about prevention. All so you can live longer — and better.

Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD
CEO
American Cancer Society



Learn more at [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org)

About Howard Brown Health



Howard Brown Health was founded in 1974 and is now one of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) organizations. With an annual budget of over \$145 million, the agency serves more than 40,000 adults and youth in its diverse health and social service delivery system focused around seven major programmatic divisions: primary medical care, behavioral health,

research, HIV/STI prevention, youth services, elder services, and community initiatives.

Howard Brown serves men, women, trans and gender non-conforming folks, infants, youth, and children through a multi-site operation based in Chicago that includes a main health and research center in the Uptown neighborhood, Howard Brown Health Sheridan, and our other clinics Howard Brown Health Halsted in Lakeview, Howard Brown Health Clark in Rogers Park, Howard Brown Health 63rd Street in Englewood, Howard Brown Health 55th Street in Hyde Park, Howard Brown Health at Thresholds South in Back of the Yards, Howard Brown Health at La Casa Norte in Humboldt Park, the Broadway Youth Center, and three Brown Elephant resale shops in Chicago (Lakeview and Andersonville neighborhoods) and Oak Park.

Learn more at howardbrown.org

Company Bios

BOOM CRACK! DANCE COMPANY

Founded in 2009 by Artistic Director, Trae Turner, BOOM CRACK! Dance Company is a professional hip hop company based in Chicago, IL. Since inception, our purpose is to make music visible. BOOM CRACK! believes in bringing the art of hip hop dance to new audiences, and increasing its representation by creating inspirational, concept-based sets that move audiences globally.

CHICAGO TAP ALLSTARS

Our mission is to audaciously amplify the excellence of Chicago Tap Dance by creating an equitable, healing, and inclusive community through education, performances, and advocacy.
Mark Yonally & Bril Barrett

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) America's premier jazz dance company is celebrating 61 years of expanding jazz dance! Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) is an iconic cultural organization and an integral part of Chicago's vibrant performing arts community. From our origins in founder Gus Giordano's original school in Evanston, IL, to our current incarnation as a world-class dance company, GDC boasts over a half-century of worldwide performances (28 countries, 47 states, and more than 1,300 cities) with an imprint on the art form of jazz dance that is far-reaching and significant. For 39 years GDC has been under the Artistic Leadership of Nan Giordano who is responsible for commissioning numerous groundbreaking works, the mentoring of hundreds of young dancers and choreographers, and the development of the Nan Giordano Certification Program®. The Program, which offers multi-level instruction and

certification in the proprietary Giordano Technique, has certified dance educators in 36 states and 8 countries, all integrating the Technique into their college, high school, and studio programs. Each Spring, GDC's Jazz Dance/Science & Health program teaches elementary school anatomy and nutrition through a dance-centric program in CPS science classrooms. In 2022 the program brought 250 classes to 350 students in four under-resourced schools, all taught by GDC dancers. With the leadership of Nan, Executive Director Michael McStraw, and the support of our Board of Directors, Giordano Dance Chicago is stronger than ever. Join us for Season 61, Unlimited! www.giordanodance.org

SOUTH CHICAGO DANCE THEATRE

was founded in 2017 by Executive Artistic Director, Kia S. Smith. Since its launch, the Main Company has toured regionally, nationally and internationally and commissioned the choreographic work of renowned artists. Its collaborative initiatives have included music ensembles, television, opera, art museums and public schools through a range of self-produced and institutionally presented performances. Prioritizing intergenerational learning and exchange, SCDT's seven core programs include the Main Company and Emerging Artist Program, the Choreographic Fellowship, the Education and Community Programs, Arts Administration Fellowship, the annual South Chicago Dance Festival, and the Choreographic Diplomacy™ Program. Recent recognition includes support from the Mellon Foundation and the International Association of Blacks in Dance, receiving the African American Arts Alliance Black Excellence award for "Dance Company", support from Princess Grace USA foundation, and the Chicago DCASE Foster Innovation Award. Kia S. Smith

was recently named a Rising Star in 2023 by Chicago Magazine and Player of the Moment in the category of Dance for New City Magazine's annual 50 Players List. The Chicago Tribune lauded SCDT as ``the next big thing to hit Chicago's dance scene`` and one of the best of dance for 2022.

HIPLET BALLERINAS

Hiplet (pronounced HIP-LAY) started as "The Rap Ballet" in the 1990s, developed by Homer Hans Bryant. Soon after its development, the Rap Ballet was featured at several schools in the Chicago area while working with Urban Gateways.

In 2005, at the UniverSoul Circus, the African American circus, Homer Bryant was approached and asked to have one of his dancers do rap ballet type movement for the circus, and they would teach her aerial. They had a black girl playing Eminem's violent piece, "Lose Yourself", on the violin. Homer thought, "I can't call this rap anymore. What are we going to call this"? His answer..."ballet and hip-hop---Hiplet"! In 2009, Homer obtained the trademark on the word "hiplet."

Today the Hiplet Ballerinas are "WOWING" audiences all over the globe with their fiery performances and amazing skill. In the words of Founder and Artistic Director, Homer Bryant, "Hiplet is important. It is Afro-centric. So we are pulling from your urban communities, and we put in the Jazz, Latin and African, but we stick to the classical Ballet discipline. We have been to Germany, Seoul, South Korea, France, Spain, and the Virgin Islands, New York and California a dozen times. It's just amazing what has happened. A lot of normal people have been deterred from dancing because they were a little too big, a little too busty. Hiplet ballerinas look like normal people".

HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO

The mission of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago is to bring artists, art, and audiences together to enrich, engage, educate and change lives through the experience of dance.

For 45 years, Hubbard Street has been one of the most original forces in contemporary dance - bringing top choreographers and works to Chicago and beyond. Hubbard Street's ever-evolving repertory, created by today's leading choreographic voices, makes us a company that dancers aspire to join and performance venues all over the world are eager to present. To date, the main company has performed globally in 19 countries and 44 US states.

At home in Chicago, Hubbard Street performs 20 times a year and delivers renowned education programs in 50 classrooms across 17 Chicagoland schools. HSDC Education utilizes the choreographic process to teach essential problem-solving skills, creativity, and collaboration - expanding our reach beyond traditional concert dance audiences, ensuring that everyone has access to world-class dance and instruction.

THE JOFFREY BALLET

Classically trained to the highest standards, The Joffrey Ballet expresses an inclusive perspective on dance that reflects the diversity of America through its Company Artists, extensive repertoire, Academy, and Community Engagement programs.

Considered one of the premier companies performing today, the Joffrey plays a vital role in the dance community as one of the largest dance companies and dance education providers in Chicago and the greater Midwest region.

MOONWATER DANCE PROJECT

Moonwater Dance Project is an all female company that focuses on the ethical treatment of dancers through collaborative creation while producing high quality concert dance.

Moonwater strives to provide a platform for women's voices to be heard and shared. It is crucial today for women's stories to be told and we are passionate about telling them and empowering others to do the same.

Integral to the mission of Moonwater is to educate the next generation of artists to know their worth. The company strives to nurture a new generation of contemporary artists who have been trained at the highest level and have a honed sense of individuality.

The aesthetic of Moonwater Dance Project is similar to water and has a captivating duality. Both are soft yet strong, both nurturing and destructive; a force to be reckoned with and unpredictable.

MUNTU DANCE THEATRE

Muntu Dance Theatre was founded in 1972. Founded amidst the need for an aesthetic that represented the African cultural legacy of the African- American. The purpose of the company was to foster the cultural enlightenment of the community through professional performances and teaching of traditional and contemporary African dance and music. The Company is committed to researching the cultural and historical significance of the dances in its repertoire, and the societies from which they originate. In this manner, Muntu strives continuously to increase the level of awareness of and appreciation for African dance in the context of a professional performing art form. Over its 50-year history, Muntu has matured and gained national recognition for the quality and consistency of its artistic works. The primary goal of the organization is to establish Muntu as an institution, based in community, to ensure the Company's artistic mission for the benefit of future generations.



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Individual Bios

IRA ANTELIS (FINALE COMPOSITION)

Ira Antelis has been writing and producing music for over 30 years. He's composed songs for Disney and artists such as Marc Anthony and Patti LaBelle. Brands like Gatorade (Be Like Mike) and McDonald's have used Ira's music for commercials. His latest project "We Have Loved" (wehaveloved.com) is an online music memorial to honor those we've lost during the pandemic. He's also written music for movies, television, and composed music for the theater. "As One" which was composed for Dance For Life looks back on all we've been through as a nation and how much further we need to go.

RICHARD DAYHOFF (FINALE COSTUMES)

For this year's finale, Randy Duncan revives and expands his world-premiere finale for 'Dance for Life' 2021, 'As One,' with music by Ira Antelis. 'As One' drew inspiration from the marches, protests and hate occurring then, and invokes the love and healing, the hope and fellowship, that we all need to endure such times.

Chicago Designer Richard Dayhoff will costume the finale's dancers using his own creativity to enhance the vision offered by 'As One.' To portray both solidarity and diversity, the varied performers will all be wearing identical garments from Dayhoff's design collection meant to support Duncan's conception and performance, without distracting from either.

Such symmetrical costuming shows how we may be fully individuals, while also fully members of community – 'As One.' Dayhoff's designs here – elemental T-Shirts and fitted shorts in black - as sturdy as they are comfortable – are beyond passing fashion, themselves works of real artistry.

Dayhoff starts his process by carefully choosing a fabric for its aesthetics and practicality, and his design develops out of those essential qualities. He selects high quality fabric, so his clothes function well - aesthetically and practically - for professional dancing. Just as they do in regular use as a comfortable, durable, elegant presence for a first layer of clothing.

ISHANEE DEVAS (PROJECT MANAGER)

Ishanee has more than 30 years of experience in Theater, 18 of them in Dance, touring nationally and internationally. She has crossed 46 States, 25 Countries and six Continents off her bucket list. (Despite growing up a couple of hours south of Chicago, Antarctica is too cold.)

After graduating from Cornell College in Iowa with a double major in Theater and Philosophy, she ended up in Non-Profit Arts Administration. She has held such varied positions as Company Manager, Business Manager, Production Manager, General Manager and Producer. She has had the pleasure of working with Santa Fe Opera, Arena Stage, North Shore Music Theater, Ailey II, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, The Acting Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and the Auditorium Theater at Roosevelt University.

Ishanee has been in the corporate world since 2016 with Freeman Audio/Visual. Currently, she has been freelancing in the Convention/Trade Show industry as a Production and Project Manager.

RANDY DUNCAN (FINALE CHOREOGRAPHER)

Randy Duncan, a native of Chicago, who began his dance training with Ms. Geraldine Johnson and credits much of his artistic development with Harriet Ross, has the unique privilege to be a three-time recipient of Chicago's prestigious Ruth Page

Award for Outstanding Choreographer of the year. He has received numerous other awards including the Artistic Achievement Award from the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, three Black Theatre Alliance Awards, and the Gay Chicago Magazine After Dark Award. He earned an American Choreography Award Nomination for his choreography in the blockbuster movie *Save the Last Dance*, starring Julia Stiles. Mr. Duncan's work has been seen in the companies of Joffrey Ballet, Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, Ballet Met, and many others. He has created choreography for such theaters as the Goodman, Manhattan Theatre Club, South Coast Repertory, Actor's Theatre, Court Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Washington Shakespeare Theatre, and Portland Opera. Most recently, Randy's work can be seen in season four of Showtime's *THE CHI*. For the past 28 years he has been on the faculty of The Chicago Academy for the Arts, where he now serves as Dance Department Chair and received the 2019 Faculty Legacy Award. Randy has been choreographing the finale for Chicago's annual Dance for Life gala since 1994 and has received the 2013 AIDS Foundation Chicago Civic Leadership Award for his work with Dance for Life.

NATHANIEL EKMAN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

Nathaniel Ekman is the new Executive Director of Chicago Dancers United. He became Interim Director in October 2022 after four years leading NAMI Cook County North Suburban, part of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In January, he officially joined the CDU team. Nathaniel's career includes extensive work in strategic planning, board development, fundraising, and consulting. He is a community health advocate who is personally invested in the mental health field and has led support

groups for individuals in recovery. He has served on community advisory boards for NorthShore University HealthSystem and Advocate Aurora Health.

As Executive Director, Nathaniel wants to take CDU to the next level, growing the organization and its impact on Chicago's professional dance community by increasing grantmaking to meet as much medical need as possible.

He holds a master's degree in public policy and administration from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree from Harvard.

JOSEPH MASSARELLI (DANCER)

Joseph Massarelli was born and raised in Elk Grove Village, Illinois and attended The Chicago Academy for the Arts from 2010 until graduating in 2014. As a student at The Academy, Joseph trained in classical ballet, modern, jazz, pas de deux, repertory and choreography. In addition to his basic training, he also worked closely with the head of the dance department, Randy Duncan, and helped the students at The Academy stage his work. During his time at The Academy, Joseph danced numerous works by Randy Duncan, Johnathan Alsberry and many other choreographers. In addition to the training he received at the school, he also participated in many summer programs in New York City, London, Amsterdam, Houston and Salt Lake City.

In the final year of his training at The Academy, Joseph qualified for the Youth America Grand Prix Finals in New York City, where he received an offer to attend the summer course of the National Ballet Academy in Amsterdam. After participating in the summer course, Joseph was offered a position as a guest student at the National Ballet Academy where he continued his training in classical ballet, modern, repertory and

partnering. After the last performance of the end-of-year performance, Joseph was offered a contract with the Junior Company of the Dutch National Ballet. One year later he made the transition to the big company in the rank of élève.

Since joining the company, Joseph has danced leading roles in ballets by George Balanchine, Alexei Ratmansky, William Forsythe and David Dawson, among others. In 2019, Joseph became a grand sujet with the company. He indicated that he wanted to continue working with a wide range of choreographers and artists. There is still so much he wants to achieve and he hopes to continue to give back to the arts in every way possible. After the December 2022 premiere of Dawson - in which Joseph danced in the world premiere of Legacy Variations and in The Four Seasons by David Dawson - he was promoted to soloist. This is Joseph's fourth time participating in Dance for Life Chicago and is very excited to be back with the Chicago dance community.

**ERIN MORAN
(OPERATIONS MANAGER)**

Erin Moran is a freelance artist who has performed with companies such as BOOM CRACK! Dance Company, CabinFever, Chicago Urban Dance Collective (since renamed Egun Artist Collective) and Peckish Rhodes Performing Arts Society. Erin's work with such companies and various independent artists has taken on the shape of both evening-length performances within generative theater spaces, as well as site-specific, immersive productions at venues such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Stony Island Arts Bank, and Soho House. She has performed at events such as Prelude Midwest and World of Dance Chicago, in addition to a variety of Chicago-based festivals.

Erin is an impassioned educator and facilitates classes within a myriad of movement spaces. Aside from her collegiate pedagogical education, Erin's accreditations include the Nan Giordano Certification Program, Yogaview's 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training, CorePower's Yoga Sculpt Teacher Training and AIR's Aerial Fitness Teacher Training and she maintains membership with the International Association for Dance Medicine & Science. In addition to her role as Operations Manager for Chicago Dancers United, Erin functions as the Associate Director & Director of Communications for Springboard Danse Montréal, as well as the General Manager for South Chicago Dance Theatre.

**MARGARET NELSON
(LIGHTING DESIGNER AND
PRODUCTION MANAGER)**

Margaret has been lighting dancer (and other) stuff in Chicago and surrounding continents for about forever. Her favorite payment is sweaty dancer hugs. Dancers work hard. Attention must be paid!

RIHO SAKAMOTO (DANCER)

Riho Sakamoto (Osaka, Japan) started amateur ballet at the age of four, because her parents believed that she should get a nice straight posture and that she always danced whenever she got the chance. After several years of training in Japan, she moved to Washington DC at the age of ten to continue her training at the Kirov Academy of Ballet. In 2010, she won the gold medal at the Youth America Grand Prix final in New York.

In 2014, Riho was accepted by the Junior Company of Dutch National Ballet. Just a year later she made the switch to Dutch National Ballet, in the rank of élève. After that, her career took off quickly. She was promoted every year: in 2016 to member of the corps de ballet, the following year

to coryphée, in 2018 to grand sujet, in 2019 to second soloist and at the end of 2021 to principal after her debut as Clara in the ballet performance. Nutcracker and Mouse King.

She has since played a large number of leading and title roles, including that of Princess Aurora in The Sleeping Beauty, Kitri in Don Quixote, the double role Odette/Odile in Swan Lake and the title roles in Giselle and in Mata Hari. This is Riho's first time participating in Dance For Life Chicago and is very excited to be here with the Chicago dance community.

**JACOB SNODGRASS
(ASSISTANT PRODUCTION
STAGE MANAGER)**

Jacob has been designing lights and working within the performing arts community since 2000. He has been involved with Dance for Life for over a decade. Jacob has created with Aerial Dance Chicago,

BONEdanse/Breakbone Dance Company, Ray Leeper, Jumaane Taylor, Khecari Dance Theater, Peter Chu, Giordano Dance Chicago, Ray Mercer, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Peter Carpenter Performance Project, Red Clay Dance Company, Nejla Yatkin, Same Planet Performance Project, James Morrow/the movement, Roni Koresh, J'Sun Howard, REDance, Soham Dance, Joel Hall Dancers, Hedwig Dances, Ruth Page Foundation, Space Movement Project, Canada's lbs/sq", and Free Street Theater. Jacob is production manager and resident lighting designer with Red Clay Dance Company as well as resident lighting designer with Aerial Dance Chicago.

He was formerly Technical Director at Ruth Page Theater, Links Hall and Hamlin Park Dance Theater, Lighting Director at Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, and is transitioning out after a decade as Technical Director for Giordano Dance Chicago.



The formulation of mastermind,
Homer Hans Bryant, former principal dancer
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Hubbard Street Dancers Alyssa Johnson and Abdiel Figueroa Reyes
Photo by Michelle Reid, styling by Imani Sada

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