City in Motion DANCE THEATER

Presents

THE EIGHTEENTH

MODERN

GEM A CHOREOGRAPHER'S **SHOWCASE**

Featuring

Ashley Ebner Olivia Emert Reina Gray Liza Heeler Stephen Loch Katie Metzger Kyle Mullins Jennifer Owen Liat Roth

SAT. 2.5.2022 7:30 PM

Gem
1615 E. 18th St.

THeateR Kansas City, MO 64108 americanjazzmuseum.org

photo by: Phillip Koenig A Modern Night at the Folly 2020 - "The List" by Christopher Huggins

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City in Motion Dance Theater, Inc. is a professional dance company, a presenter of dance and a school of dance. Its mission is to foster the development of high-quality contemporary dance programming and expand the dance audience in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

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City in Motion Dance Theater was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in 1985.

more info at:

www.cityinmotion.org

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MODERN NIGHT

AT THE GEM

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Director Lighting Designer Shelbi Arndt Photographer Phil Koenig

Videographer Mark Titus Poster/Program Design Tracie Jensen

Co-Artistic Directors Marisa Callaway, Joanna Des Marteau Wil Hopes- Pflumm Technical Director Connor Fredenberg Stage Manager AJ Hopes-Pflumm Adjudicator Cody Jennings

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American Jazz Museum, Juneteenth KC, Gem Theater, Quez Beasley, Kyle Mullins, Kelsey Vetter, KCUR, Tico Productions, Plexpod Westport Commons, Missouri Arts Council, Legends Honda, Arts KC Regional Council, Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, and the Flarsheim Charitable Foundation.



PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES



WIL HOPES-PFLUMM, PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Wil Hopes-Pflumm graduated from SUNY Purchase with a BFA in Classical Piano. While working in NYC, he met his husband A.J. Hopes-Pflumm and was introduced to the world of dance. Together with his husband he helped found CaptiveFlow Dance, a by project platform dance company. Acting as producer and co-director, Wil worked extensively in promotion of and fundraising for the company. He has produced works at NYC based theaters such as Player's Theatre and

Hudson Guild. After moving to Kansas, he produced works at Charlotte Street Foundation in KCMO and now with City in Motion's Modern Night at the Gem Theatre. In addition to producing dance performances, Wil works as an educator in Cosmetology and special effects make up. His special effects work has been praised by Tom Savini, who was the special effects designer for many classic horror films such as Dawn of the Dead.



MARISA CALLAWAY, CO- ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Marisa Callaway has performed professionally all over Kansas City. She tours regionally as a featured performer with El Monstero, The Pink Floyd Experience (St. Louis). She is currently a Co-Artistic Director of Kansas City's City in Motion Dance Theater and instructs with the school. Her choreography has been performed in: Edinburgh, Scotland; Tulsa, OK; A Modern Night at The Folly, the Choreographer's Festival in Lawrence, Musical Theater Heritage, Kansas City's Dance

in the Park, The Pitch Mastermind Awards, UMKC Conservatory (dance department, opera department), The Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, Olathe Civic Theatre Association, The Barn Players, Leawood Stage Co., Minds Eye Theatre and more. Marisa has served as Artistic Directors for Reach and for The Smith Project, and has performed with KC/Motion, Storling Dance Theatre, 940 Dance Company and Kacico Dance. Marisa holds a BFA in dance performance and a minor in theatre from The University of Missouri, Kansas-City and has served on the UMKC Conservatory Alumni Board as President. She often works the local and national commercial circuit including a national McDonalds spot. Mrs. Callaway also is an owner and producer of Kansas City Burlesque LLC., the umbrella of the Kansas City Burlesque Festival and Burlesque Downtown Underground.



JOANNA DES MARTEAU, CO- ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Joanna K. Des Marteau grew up in Des Moines, Iowa dancing under Carol Tetmeyer. While there, The Moving Force was created by Greg Neuman and Carol, a dance troupe that traveled to Iowa schools for kids to learn about movement and dance. Joanna was given the chance to dance with The Neuman Project, also started by Greg. She graduated and took a place at the UMKC Conservatory working towards her BFA in dance performance. She then took a path leading

to southern Utah in Cedar City to dance with The American Folk Ballet. Joanna also danced in the musical UTAH! before she moved back to Kansas City. She danced with City in Motion for six years, before taking a pause to have two children. She teaches for DSPA in Belton, danced with KACICO under Michelle Diane Brown and taught classes for City in Motion.







MODERN NIGHT

proudly presents

AT THE **GEM**



City in Motion Dance Theater is proud to present the 18th Annual performance of "Modern Night at the Gem" a choreographers' showcase for Kansas City's local and regional contemporary dance. This is an adjudicated event for professional choreographers working in our community. City in Motion provides the venue and production support at the historic Gem Theater in the 18th & Vine District of Kansas City, Missouri.

The showcase offers main-stage exposure of the choreographer's work to an audience, and the audience's exposure to the diverse artistry of contemporary dance. Choreographers provide for their own dancers and all of the development and rehearsal time needed to create a finished piece of work.

City in Motion Dance Theater, Inc. is a professional dance company, a presenter of dance, an outreach program and a school of dance. This concert builds upon City in Motion's mission to foster the development of high-quality contemporary dance programming and expand the dance audience in the greater Kansas City Metropolitan area. Since 1985, City in Motion has provided opportunites for developing and experienced choreographers to present their work througher earlier programs such as "The Choreographer's Showcase" and "New Dance Series." Modern Night is a honored continuation of that tradition.

City in Motion Dance Theater "Modern Night" is sponsored in part by:







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ACT I

nRG

Choreographer Reina Gray

Music Nu by Ori Lichtik

Dancers Ashylnn DeGeorge, Reina Gray, Gary McCall

DIGITAL PROGRAM QR CODE scan with camera to view program on your device

Ruminating Spasms

Choreographer Olivia Emert

Music Original Composition by Tim J Harte

Dancers Kayla Brazelton, Mady Buerck, Ashleah England, Elizabeth

Lollar, and Sarah McGuyer

I'll Tell You When You're Older

Choreographer Liat Roth

Music "Im Hashem Lo Yivneh Bayis," composed by Shlomo Yehuda

Rechnitz (b. 1971); "Au Bord," composed by Erinrad Viker Sinfonietta; "Mi Bon Siach," traditional wedding song, sung

by Shira Haas.

Dancers Christine Kraus, Elizabeth Lollar, Ivyana Robinson, Kaitlyn

Gardener, Katie Johnson, Laura Behm, Lauren Jesperson

Understudies: Emily Dillman, Persi May

Darker Planet, Brighter Star

Choreographer Jennifer Owen

Music Adagissimo from Capriccio on the departure of a beloved

brother, BWV 992

Composer J.S. Bach, Music performed and recorded by Brad Cox

Dancer Laura Jones Wallner

INTERMISSION 15 MIN

ACT II

Aftermath

Choreographer Kyle Mullins

Music Vivaldi: Nisi Dominus (Psalm 126) r. 608-2 Vanum est vobis

(Largo) r. 608 - 4 Cum dederit, (Andante), r. 608 - 1 Nisis

Dominus (Allegro)

Dancers Marisa Callaway, Joanna Des Marteau, Bobbi Foudree,

Alyssa Gaede, Hunter Jones, Persi Mey, Jordan Wilson

Lucretia

Choreographer/ Liza Heeler

Dancer

Music Waltz in B Minor by Chad Lawson

L'Amour et la Mort

Choreographer Ashley Ebner

Music Bitter Milk - ibi, 14 Lines from Love Letters or Suicide Notes

- Doc Luben

Dancers Ashleigh Contos, Gabrielle Corporal, Sydney Ebner,

Jennifer Egley, Maya Gold, Grace Josin, Hannah Kempskie, Claire Kirchner, Alyssa Kendrick, Rachel Kricsfeld, Cullen Krishna, Madison Meade, Rory Sweedler, Olivia Taylor

Looking Forward, Holding Back

Choreographer Stephen Loch

Music "Shy" and "Late Summer" by Volker Bertlemann and

Hauschka

Dancers Madelyn Dunne, Alyx Glessner, Abbey Griffin, Avery John-

son, Lauren Mcdermeit, Avery Moore, Cully Simpson

Unified Duplicity

Choreographer Katie Metzger

Music "Elevator Song" by Keaton Henson and Ren Ford, Found

by Marika Takeuchi and Jim Perkins

Dancers Nora Burkitt, Rachel Grisi Dugan, Christine Kraus, Viriginia

Smith, Caroline Morales, Katarina Fitzpatrick, Shelby West,

Sonja Shulz, Amanda Lankford

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES



ASHLEY EBNER

Ashley Ebner is originally from Shawnee, Kansas. She graduated from the University of Kansas in 2021 with a B.A. in Dance and a minor in French. Currently, Ashley teaches at Academy of the Arts in Shawnee as well as directs their recreational performing company. This is her first time presenting work for Modern Night.



OLIVIA EMERT

Olivia Emert (she/her) is an eager, passionate, and dedicated dancer, creator, and mover. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, she is currently residing in Kansas City to complete her BFA in Performance and Choreography at the Conservatory of University of Missouri- Kansas City. Outside of the Conservatory, she dances as a part of Geometry's second company: a LA based

contemporary and movement research dance company. As a creator, Olivia collaborates with all aspects of art: film, visual arts, composition, and theater. She has worked closely in collaborations with saxophonist, Colton James, composer, Tim J Harte, and pianists Matthew Esguerra and Euhyne Kim. She choreographed for Daniel D'Angelo's award winning short film, "Steadfast." Working with Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, she helped choreograph and assist under direction of Michael Blake and Sidonie Garrett. Currently, she has been working closely with cinematographer, Ian VanDusen and lighting designer, Austin VanWinkle. She works to bring authenticity into her choreography.



REINA GRAY

Reina Gray is a dancer and choreographer pursuing a BA in East Asian Studies and a BFA in Dance at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Reina is a Kansas City, Missouri native, and grew up training at The Pulse Performing Arts Center. Reina has attended many dance intensives and workshops including Jacob's Pillow, Arts Umbrella, Alonzo King Lines Ballet (AKLB), Hubbard

Street Dance Chicago, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, Vim Vigor, Peter Chu's ChuThis, and Wylliams Henry Contemporary Dance among others. While attending AKLB, Reina was awarded the Homer Avila Award. Reina has also had the pleasure of working and training with the likes of Sean Curran, Annique Roberts, Kyle Mullins, Haley Kostas, and Elaine Kimble Peaks. Reina is grateful to be a part of Modern Night again and thanks her parents, her dancers, and her teachers at The Pulse for making this possible.



LIZA HEELER

Liza Heeler (she/her) began her dance training at the age of three in St. Joseph, MO, and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at Ball State University. While at BSU, she has had the opportunity to take classes with Sidra Bell, Jamie Meek, Bradley Beakes, and more. She has grown immensely as a dancer, choreographer, and artist thanks to her professors and peers.

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CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES

(Heeler, continued) Throughout her time in school, she has presented work at Cleveland Dance Festival, Koresh Dance Showcase, and Oakland Dance Festival. Most recently, Liza has enjoyed exploring cross-curricular study and the opportunities it offers. As she continues her education, she hopes to remain curious and creative.



STEPHEN LOCH

Stephen Loch, Instructor of Dance at Kansas State University is a movement artist who performed and taught in Atlanta, Georgia for 7 years before returning to school and receiving his MFA in choreography from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. His choreography has been performed throughout Georgia, Kentucky, Kansas, and North Carolina. He enjoys the creative process

and collaborating with his dancers to create his works. His process is like a test kitchen that experiments with flavors from classic modern techniques and contemporary styles of movement to hopefully create something delicious. If not, interesting will do.



KATIE METZGER

Katie Metzger started her training under the guidance of Barbara Craig and Jennifer Medina in St. Louis, Missouri at an early age. She continued her training on scholarship at the University of Missouri- Kansas City where she performed in numerous shows, both locally and nationally including ACDF, The Modern Night at the Folly, the spring and fall concert series, and many more. She

graduated from UMKC in 2009 with a dual emphasis in ballet and modern. Throughout her career, she has performed with several companies including; The Slaughter Project, Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance, Quixotic, and Kansas City Contemporary (formerly Kacico Dance). In addition to performing, she also teaches dance locally and has choreographed for several organizations, companies, and studios. Her choreography has been showcased in many concerts in the Kansas and Missouri area including but not limited to Open Stage at the J, Modern Night at the Folly, and Dance in the Park. She is currently in her sixth season as the Associate Director of KC Contemporary Dance.



KYLE MULLINS

Kyle Mullins is a dance artist living and creating in Kansas City, MO. He is the artistic director of his contemporary dance-theater project Cerca Trova and producer of Making Moves, a monthly dance series. Kyle's work has been seen at Triskelion Arts, BCBeat, City in Motion Dance Theater, The University of Kansas, The Unicorn Theatre, Kansas City Public Theater, Cottey College,

and the Lawrence Dance Intensive. Kyle's film work has been commissioned by Powell Gardens, Tarble Arts Center, and presented with No Divide KC. Mullins danced in NYC for ten years before relocating home to Kansas City. In New York City, Mullins danced with the Second Avenue Dance Company, The Steps Repertory Ensemble, dre.dance, Nicholas Andre, Bill Young/Colleen Thomas and Dancers, and York Dance Works. He has worked with Crystal Pite, Donald Byrd, Benoit-Swan Pouffer,

Aszure Barton, Sean Curran, Camille A. Brown, Nathan Trice, Cherice Barton, Andrea Miller, Larry Keigwin, Shannon Gillen, Zvi Gotheiner, and Gregory Dolbashian. Since relocating back to Kansas City, he has performed with Wylliams Henry Contemporary Dance Company (works by Mary Pat Henry, Gary Abbott, Shapiro and Smith, and Kevin Iyega Jeff), Brillo Performance, and Ilana Silverstein. He holds a MFA in Dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.



JENNIFER OWEN

Jennifer Owen is the Artistic Director of Owen/ Cox Dance Group,

an ensemble she co-founded with composer Brad Cox in 2007. She has choreographed over fifty new works for Owen/Cox Dance Group, including two commissions by the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and works commissioned by Island Moving Co. of Newport, RI,

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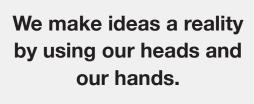
Kansas City Dance Festival, Kansas City Baroque Consortium, and Kansas City Chamber Orchestra. She created a winning entry for the 2006 Columbus Choreography Project, and she is the recipient of a 2000 Princess Grace Honorarium. Prior to founding Owen/Cox Dance Group, Owen enjoyed a 13-year international ballet career, performing with the Russian State Ballet, Moscow Renaissance Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, BalletMet, and was a guest artist with the National Ballet of Turkmenistan. She has performed principal roles in Giselle, Don Quixote, George Balanchine's Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux and Donizetti Variations, and the central pas de deux in Todd Bolender's Arena.



LIAT ROTH,

Liat Roth, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, is a Jewish-American choreographer, dancer, and educator based in Kansas City. She began her training under Kathleen Massot and Lisa Nicholas and furthered her education at the St. Louis Ballet, Kansas City Ballet School, Houston Ballet, and Joffrey Ballet School. In 2021, Liat graduated cum laude from the University of Missouri-Kansas City

Conservatory with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance and Choreography and a minor in Visual Art and Communication. While at UMKC, Liat presented choreography in the Symposium of Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship and in 2021 was chosen to choreograph the Conservatory's commencement performance. She has recently led several film projects: Calamine, a collaboration with singer and songwriter Maccabee Raileanu, and To Your Nature, a collaboration with composer Jacob Schwartzberg and installation artist Rafael-Lozano Hemmer at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art.





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