



WE
MOVE
YOU

DANCE

THE WORLD ASKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION
EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY.

FOR ONE EVENING,
WE ASK FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE **MOVED.**



WELCOME TO THE 2026 ASBURY PARK DANCE FESTIVAL.

We are grateful you chose to spend this evening with
us in support of Arts Ed NJ.

This festival exists because of an extraordinary
community of artists, supporters, volunteers, and
audiences who believe dance has the power to connect
us, spark joy, and remind us of our shared humanity.

Thank you for being part of that community.

Enjoy the performance.

VJ Carbone · Michelle Fleet · Laura Halzack · Michael Trusnovec
CO-FOUNDERS



THE PRODUCTION TEAM

DONALEE KATZ

STACEY JO MARINE

COLIN BROWN

LESLI TILLY

GEORGE SMALLWOOD

TYLER BRUNSON

THE PROGRAM

Six Months Out of Every Year

Choreography by Nick Alvino

Performed by **Alec Mittenenthal, Michael Santomassimo, Reese Spencer, Tyler Zydel**

Music: Richard Adler, Jerry Ross

An APDF Premiere

Immediate Tragedy

"I was upright and determined to stay upright at all costs." – Martha Graham

Choreography by Martha Graham, reimagined by Janet Eilber

Performed by **Anne Souder**

Original Music: Henry Cowell

Music for reimagined version: Christopher Rountree

Music performed by: Richard Valitutto, piano

Original Lighting: Yi-Chung Chen

Costumes: Martha Graham

Danceturgy for reimagining: Neil Baldwin

Premiere: July 30, 1937, Bennington, VT

Immediate Tragedy was Martha Graham's response to the Spanish Civil War. The work was lost for decades and reimagined in 2020 using archival sources including Labanotation, photographs, and written accounts.

Takademe

Choreography by Robert Battle

Performed by **Payton Primer***

Music: Sheila Chandra

Lighting: Burke Wilmore

Costumes: Missoni, redesigned by Jon Taylor

First performed in 1999 by Parsons Dance Company.

**Payton Primer appears courtesy of the Paul Taylor Dance Company.*

Sur le Fil (*By a hair's breadth*)

Choreography by Penny Saunders

Performed by **Emily Barrows & Michael Paradiso**

Music: Michael Wall and Yann Tiersen

Lighting: Penny Saunders

Costumes: Christopher Larson and Penny Saunders

My Funny Valentine

Choreography and performance by **Isaiah Day**

Music: Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart

Music performed by: Rachelle Ferrel, *Live in Montreux, Switzerland - 1991*

An APDF Premiere

On The Nature of Things

Created by Robby Barnett, Renée Jaworski, Matt Kent, and Itamar Kubovy in collaboration with Pilobolus artists

Performed by **Ryan Hayes, Isaac Huerta, and Kalyan Sayre**

Composed and produced by: Michelle DiBucci and Edward Bilous

Music: Vivaldi, Michelle DiBucci and Edward Bilous, mezzo soprano Clare McNamara, and violin solo by Krystof Witek

Lighting and Set Design: Neil Peter Jampolis

Commissioned by the Harkness Foundation for Dance, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Jerome Robbins Foundation.

Show Pony

Choreography by Kyle Abraham

Performed by **Taylor Stanley**

Music: Jlin

Lighting: Dan Scully

Costumes: Fritz Masten

As Ondas da Vida (Waves of Life)

Choreography by Ingrid Silva

Performed by **Ingrid Silva & Elias Re**

Original Music: Leandro Albuquerque

World Premiere May 9, 2026

Radio Days

Choreography by Demi Remick

Performed by **Demi Remick, Dario Ntarelli, Jesse Leigh Robinson**

Music: "Honeysuckle Rose" by Ella Fitzgerald; "If I Knew You Were Comin' I'd've Baked a Cake";

"Live Until I Die" by Eileen Barton

A Works and Process Production

Brokeback Mountain, The Ballet (First Look)

Choreography by Pontus Lidberg

Based on the short story by Annie Proulx

Performed by **Tade Biesinger & Zack Gonder**

Music: David Conte

Dramaturg: Gamal Gouda

Costume and Prop Design: Karen Young

Brokeback Mountain, the ballet was commissioned by Works & Process and Green Box Arts.

The work was created in Works & Process residencies at Bethany Arts Community and Green Box Arts and will continue in development at Modern Accord Depot and The Campus at Marlboro Music.

Music commissioning supported by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation and The O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation.

Support provided by SHS Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Mtiuluri (Georgian Mountain Dance)

Choreography by Gio Goderdzishvili

Georgian National Dance Ensemble "Pesvebi"

Performed by **Gio Goderdzishvili, Nickolas Ambrosidze, Luka Kikacheishvili, Davit Bakhturidze**

Music: Mtiuluri

Three exceptional young dancers
who participated in our most
recent FREE workshop at Axelrod
Performing Arts Academy are our

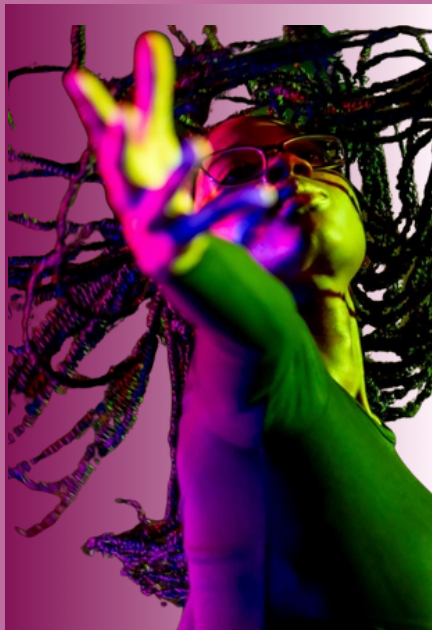
2026 APDF/JANICE TOUHY AGUILERA TUITION AWARD

We celebrate their accomplishments and are
happy to support their continued dance
education through generous support from
John and Jody Arnhold.



*Expressing human
experiences and
emotions through
movement are what
fuels my passion as a
dancer.*

**KACEY
CUPIT**



*When dancing, I feel
something bigger
than myself...there
has never been a
moment when I wasn't
happy while dancing*

**VERONICA
FORTUNA**



*I am inspired by
professionals in the
industry and the
creativity getting
explored during
classes that I take*

**AVA
GENOVA**

THE
ARTISTS
OF

APDF'26



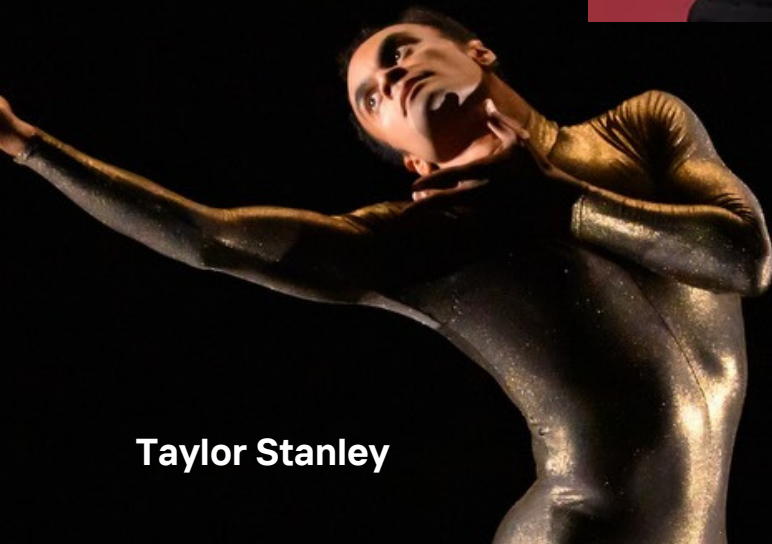
Payton Primer



**Tade
Biesinger**



Isaac Huerta



Taylor Stanley



Ryan Hayes



**Isaiah
Day**



**Jessee
Robinson**



**Demi
Remick**



Anne Souder



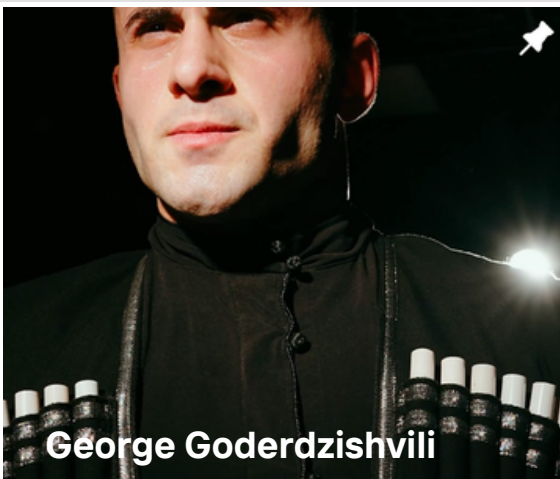
Dario Ntarelli



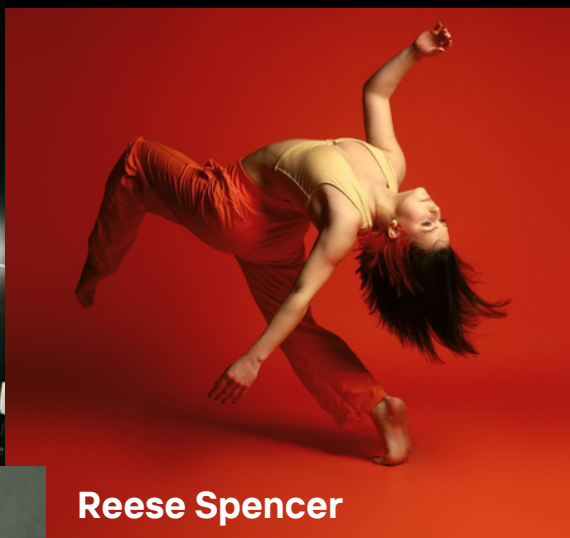
Kalyan Sayre



Zack Gonder



George Goderdzishvili



Reese Spencer



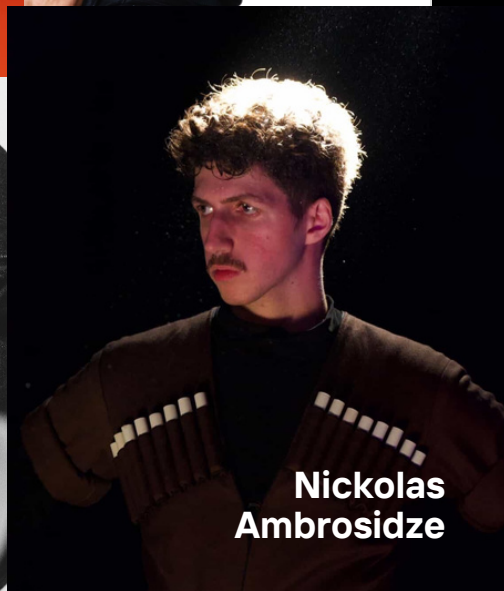
Alec Mittenhal



Ingrid Silva



Michael Paradiso



Nickolas Ambrosidze



Elias Re



David Bakhturidze



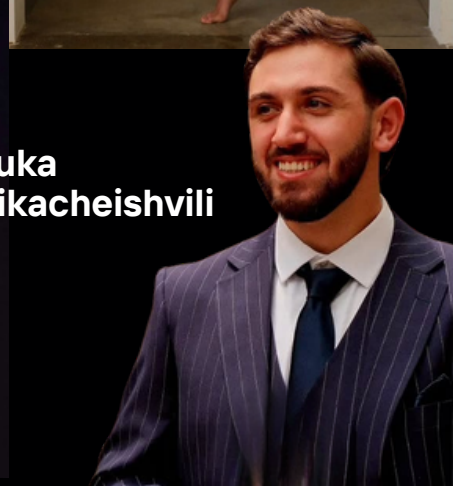
Michael Santomassimo



Tyler Zydel



Emily Barrows



Luka Kikacheishvili

DANCERS

Nickolas Ambrosidze was born in Tbilisi, Georgia and came to the United States at the age of 2. He started dancing with Pesvebi at the age of 5 and has been working with the ensemble for 15 years.

Davit Bakhturidze was born in Tbilisi, Georgia. He grew up watching his father perform with the world-renowned Sukhishvili Georgian National Ballet, which inspired him to begin dancing at a young age. Davit trained in Georgian national dance and later joined the ensemble *Pesvebi*, where he became one of its principal performers. After relocating to New York City, Davit continued performing with *Pesvebi* and has been featured in numerous cultural events and festivals celebrating Georgian heritage. He will make his Metropolitan Opera debut in the 2026/27 season production of *Macbeth*.

Emily Barrows began her ballet training at Festival Ballet Providence and Koltun Ballet Boston before continuing her studies at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. She later joined the conservatory program at Atlanta Ballet on a full scholarship. In 2017, she was offered a trainee position with Grand Rapids Ballet and was promoted to apprentice in 2019. She also performed with Minnesota Ballet before joining New Jersey Ballet in 2021. Since joining New Jersey Ballet, Ms. Barrows has performed in a wide range of classical and contemporary works, including *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and several ballets by George Balanchine, including *Who Cares?*, *Concerto Barocco*, *Rubies*, and *Serenade*. Her repertoire also includes Peter Martins' *Hallelujah Junction*; Harrison Ball's *Purcell Suite* and *New Ancient Strings*; Lauren Lovette's *Not Our Fate* and *Jewel Box*; Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs*; Justin Peck's *Murder Ballades* and *InCreases*; and Penny Saunders' *Sur le Fil*.

Tade Biesinger is a New York City-based actor and dancer. He recently completed the First National Tour of Broadway's *Back to the Future* after earning his BFA in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College. He starred as Billy in *Billy Elliot the Musical* on Broadway and in London's West End. His other credits include The Muny, Pioneer Theatre Company, and The Metropolitan Opera (upcoming).

Isaiah Day, a native of Chicago, Illinois, began his dance training with Yielded Vessel Dance Ministry at New Life Covenant Southeast. He continued his studies at Hubbard Street Youth Dance Center before attending The Chicago Academy for the Arts. In 2024, he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Juilliard School. A 2019 YoungArts winner in Modern/Contemporary Dance and a 2025 *Dance Magazine* "25 to Watch" honoree, Day is currently in his fourth season with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

George Goderdzishvili was born in Brooklyn, NY, George began dancing at the age of four. Raised in a performing arts family, he has dedicated his life to Georgian dance and choreography and is now the lead choreographer of the Georgian National Dance Ensemble, *Pesvebi*. He will make his Metropolitan Opera debut in the 26/27 season new production of *Macbeth*.

Zack Gonder grew up near Chicago and trained at the Chicago Academy for the Arts, under the tutelage of Randy Duncan. He then attended the Juilliard School and graduated in 2018. In 2024, he was in the Broadway show *Illinoise*, choreographed by Justin Peck, at the St. James Theater, as well as its Off Broadway runs at the Park Avenue Armory and the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. He also performed in Twyla Tharp's Diamond Jubilee Tour in 2025. He has performed with Pam Tanowitz Dance, Azure Barton & Artists, LA Dance Project, Keerati Jinakunwiphat, Dance Heginbotham, Brian Brooks Moving Company, Mark Morris Dance, PARA.MAR Dance, and Zvi Dance, among others.

Ryan Hayes was born and raised in Spokane, WA. He earned his degree in Dance Performance from Gonzaga University. After graduation, he continued his training as a Scholarship recipient at the Steps on Broadway Conservatory in New York. Ryan performed Paul Taylor and Jerome Robbins' original choreography in Section 5 of *Esplanade* and 'group dances' of *N.Y. Export Opus Jazz*. Additionally, he has performed with Jazz Choreography Enterprise, Sound Business Inc. in Dance Harlem!, Inland Northwest Opera, Human Kinetics Inc., and theater companies across the U.S. In addition to performing, he is passionate about dance education and arts accessibility. Ryan co-teaches Partnering for Broadway in New York and guest-teaches at universities, studios, and intensives across the country. He also serves on the Gonzaga University Dance Alumni board. Love to mom and dad!

Isaac Huerta is a movement-based performance artist from Whittier, California, and Orange County School of the Arts alum. He has worked with dance companies including Ezralow Dance, Invertigo Dance Theatre, KDV Dance Ensemble, Andrea Peña and Artist, Carlon Dance, Body Weather, and Wonderbound. He has danced with the LA Philharmonic, LA Opera, and the Pacific Symphony. Some of his Film/TV credits include Shake It Off: Taylor Swift, Chained to the Rhythm: Katy Perry (The Grammys), Bathtubs Over Broadway, and Focus World. He was nominated for a Henry Award for "Best Supporting Actor in a Musical" for *Rattlesnake Kate*, choreographed by Domonique Kelley. Isaac has presented original dance works in art galleries and the Episcopal Church with his husband and creative partner, William Clayton.

Luka Kikacheishvili was born in Samtredia, Georgia, Luka started dancing at the age of nine. After moving to the United States in 2014, he joined *Pesvebi*, where he developed his passion into a professional career. He will make his Metropolitan Opera debut in the 26/27 season new production of *Macbeth*.

Alec Mittenthal is a commercial dancer and musical theatre performer. His credits include the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *Xanadu* (Laguna Playhouse), *American in Paris* (Surflight Theatre), Apple, Saturday Night Live, LWT with John Oliver, Google Pixel, Starbucks, RWS Ent., Sony Earbuds Link with Olivia Rodrigo, NBCU Upfronts, FIFA World Cup Closing Ceremony. Alec holds a BFA from Pace University.

Dario Natarelli is a New York-based performer, choreographer, and dance educator specializing in tap dance. Broadway/Off-Broadway credits include *Illinoise* (OBC), three Encores! musicals (*Oliver!*, *Wonderful Town*, *The Tap Dance Kid*), *Masquerade*, *Tappin' Thru Life with Maurice Hines*, Ayodele Casel's Artists At The Center. Other credits: Vail Dance Festival, Fall For Dance (soloist/co-choreographer with Michelle Dorrance), Park Avenue Armory, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Postmodern Jukebox, Maestro (Netflix), SNL, Sugar Hill Nutcracker, Breaking Brooklyn (film), Jazz at Lincoln Center, Jacob's Pillow, national commercials, staging at Juilliard, and work with Jared Grimes, Michelle Dorrance, Joshua Bergasse, Damian Woetzel, Debbie Allen, and more. Dario is a graduate of LaGuardia High School and earned his BFA in Musical Theatre from Penn State. Deepest thanks to his teachers and supporters, especially his late mentor, Robert L. Reed, who always said, "Respect the Dance."

Michael Santiago Paradiso is from Cranford, New Jersey, and began his ballet training in 2011 at the New Jersey School of Ballet. After four years of study, he was accepted into the Ellison Ballet Professional Training Program in New York City, where he trained until graduating in 2018. Following his graduation, Michael joined Tulsa Ballet II, the second company of Tulsa Ballet. Over the course of six seasons, he rose through the ranks to become a Demi-Soloist with the main company. During his tenure, he worked with a diverse range of acclaimed choreographers, including Ma Cong, Jennifer Archibald, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and Andy Blankenbuehler. His repertoire included notable contemporary works such as Itzik Galili's *O Balcão de Amor*, Kurt Jooss' *The Green Table*, and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*. Michael joined New Jersey Ballet in 2024 and has quickly established himself as a versatile and dynamic artist. His repertoire with the company includes principal and featured roles in Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs*, Jerome Robbins' *In the Night*, Ulysses Dove's *Red Angels*, Peter Martin's *Hallelujah Junction*, Justin Peck's *In Creases*, George Balanchine's *Rubies*, and Penny Saunders' *Sur le Fil*. He has also performed leading roles in *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. In addition, Michael originated roles in Harrison Ball's *New Ancient Strings* and Roderick George's *Wings of Desire*, demonstrating his commitment to the creation of new works.

Payton Primer is from Dallas, Texas, where she trained at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. While there, she was named a Contemporary/Modern Dance Finalist in the 2018 National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts YoungArts competition. Payton graduated summa cum laude from Fordham University/The Ailey School with three degrees: BFA in Dance, Anthropology, and International Studies with a concentration in Global Affairs. Her career has taken her across the United States and internationally to Armenia, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and The United Kingdom. Previous credits include Gaspard and Dancers, the Taylor Outreach Ensemble, Alison Cook Beatty Dance, Adams Company Dance, Jon Lehrer Dance Company, and IKada Contemporary Dance Company. Payton currently dances with Paul Taylor Dance Company.

Elias Re was born in Milan, Italy. He trained at the Teatro alla Scala Ballet School, the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School, and the Escuela Nacional de Ballet de Cuba. Professional Experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem, American Repertory Ballet, New Jersey Ballet, Cleveland Ballet. Repertoire includes works by George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Christopher Wheeldon, William Forsythe, Jodie Gates, Geoffrey Holder, Stanton Welch, Robert Garland, Robert Bondara, Claire Davidson, Anna Rita Larghi, Gino Labate, Victor Alexander, and Da'Von Doane. Classical Repertory includes principal roles in *Swan Lake*, *Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Magic Flute*, *Paquita*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Sleeping Beauty*.

Demi Remick is a tap dancer, choreographer, burlesque performer, and teacher. Demi has toured worldwide with Postmodern Jukebox and has acquired over 5 million views on her Super Mario Tap Medley YouTube video. She has danced for Dorrance Dance, Jason Samuels Smith, Derek Deane, and alongside the American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet principal dancers. She has performed in cabaret shows for Dita Von Teese, Spiegelworld, Quixotic Fusion, Company XIV, and Angie Pontani/Brian Newman. She has performed at venues such as The Sydney Opera House, The London Palladium, The Ryman Auditorium, Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Royal Albert Hall to name a few. She was *Dance Magazine's Top-25-To-Watch* (2014), a YoungArts Gold winner (2013), a Capezio Athlete, and had a LaDuca 2024 LaSale Commemorative tap shoe made in her honor, The Retro. Demi has taught tap dance internationally, is on faculty at DanceMakers Inc., and earned her BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance.

Jessee Leigh Robinson is a New York City-based dancer from Los Angeles, CA. She is an alumna of The School at Jacob's Pillow and Dance Lab New York. Jessee has recently performed at The Joyce Theater with Anthony Morigerato, The New York City Center, Moody Performance Hall and Bryant Park with Sole Defined, also at 92NY, Symphony Space, and The National Jazz Museum in Harlem with Lisa LaTouche. As a choreographer, she has enjoyed the opportunity to present her work at 92NY for Future Dance Festival, Arts on Site, 3 Dollar Bill, Dixon Place, Choreographers Carnival NYC, and Silo Dance Festival. Jessee was recently a part of pre-production for NYCC Encores! *Wonderful Town* choreographed by Ayodele Casel and *Jelly's Last Jam* choreographed by Dormeshia. She has also been apart of pre-production for *Anything Goes* at the MUNY choreographed by Jared Grimes. Jessee has also loved the opportunity to perform works by Demi Remick, Joseph Webb, Dominique Kelley, Leo Manzari, John Manzari, and Christina Carminucci.

Michael Santomassimo is a graduate of Pace University's BFA program and LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. His credits include the Trisha Paytas' *Big Broadway Dream* (St. James Theatre), *42nd Street* (Broadway Music Circus), *The Little Mermaid*, *Mary Poppins*, *BATB* (The Muny), *Guys and Dolls* (Maltz Jupiter/Ogunquit) "Upfronts" (NBCUniversal), Radio City Christmas Spectacular (Ensemble).

Kalyan Sayre is a North Carolina native and NYC area transplant. She studied dance at George Mason University, where she was also a member of the Honors College. Kalyan has performed for companies and choreographers such as Brian Sanders' JUNK, Ariel Rivka Dance, The Yard, and Abby Bender. In addition to dance, Kalyan is a circus artist, has spent time farming and gardening, and is a volunteer sexual assault/domestic violence crisis advocate in NYC emergency rooms. Kalyan is a heliotrope at heart, and her favorite flavor of ice cream is coffee Heath bar crunch.

Ingrid Silva, a Rio de Janeiro native, began training at age 8 through the social project Dançando Para Não Dançar. She later trained at Escola de Dança Maria Olenewa and Centro de Movimento Deborah Colker on full scholarships and apprenticed with Grupo Corpo. In 2007, she moved to New York to join the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) Professional Training Program, becoming a company member in 2013. With DTH, Silva has performed principal roles in works by George Balanchine, Alvin Ailey, Ulysses Dove, Arthur Mitchell, Robert Garland, and William Forsythe. Silva founded PodHer and co-founded Blacks in Ballet, advocating for inclusivity in ballet. Her pointe shoes have been exhibited at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture since 2020. She has been featured in Vogue, The New York Times, and Forbes Brazil's 20 Successful Women list. She is the author of the bestselling books *The Pointe Shoes That Changed My World* and *The Ballerina Who Painted Her Pointe Shoes*. Currently, Silva is expanding her work as a choreographer. Her choreographic projects have been presented at the Fire Island Dance Festival, The Joyce Theatre, Orsolina28, Bryant Park, and Carvalho Art Gallery in New York. She has created work for leading institutions including Chattanooga Ballet, Ballet Nacional Dominicano, BalletWest, and many more companies, bringing a distinctive voice that blends classical foundations with contemporary expression. Through her choreography, Silva continues to explore identity, community, and cultural dialogue across disciplines and borders.

Anne Souder joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 2015 and performs lead roles in Graham's *Night Journey*, *Appalachian Spring*, *Cave of the Heart*, *Diversion of Angels*, *Dark Meadow Suite*, *Chronicle*, *Ekstasis*, *Frontier*, *Immediate Tragedy*, and *Herodiade*. She has performed repertoire in the Company's new and commissioned works by Jamar Roberts, Agnes de Mille, Baye & Asa, Annie Rigney, Hofesh Shechter, Sonya Tayeh, Andrea Miller, Maxine Doyle, Bobbi Jean Smith, Lucinda Childs, Lar Lubovitch, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, and Marie Chouinard. Anne has been a collaborator with The Long Beach Opera and has most recently guested with the Hamburg Ballet in their 2026 Gala performing two solos, *Lamentation* and *Satyrical Festival Song*. Souder began her training in Tennessee and continued on to earn her degree at the Ailey/Fordham BFA program. Upon graduation, she joined Graham 2 and was awarded a Dizzy Feet Foundation scholarship. Anne is a proud member of AGMA and has been the union rep for a total of 8 years and counting.

Reese Spencer is honored to be performing Nick Alvino's choreography at this year's Asbury Park Dance Festival! She is currently a Musical Theatre Major at Pace University in NYC and will graduate in 2027. Reese has performed in numerous dance and theatrical productions including the 50th Anniversary National Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Taylor Stanley, born in Philadelphia, PA, is a queer multidisciplinary artist focused in dance and visual art. They began their dance training at The Rock School, became an Apprentice with New York City Ballet (NYCB) in 2009, and were promoted to Principal Dancer in 2016. They are a recipient of the Mae L. Wien, Janice Levin, and Bessie Awards. With NYCB, Taylor has originated roles in works by Justin Peck, Alexei Ratmanský, and Kyle Abraham, and performed featured roles in ballets by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. Guest appearances and collaborations include The Metropolitan Opera, AIM by Kyle Abraham, GALLIM, BalletCollective, *GOTTA DANCE!* with American Dance Machine, The Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow, Guggenheim Works & Process, New York Choreographic Institute, Fire Island Dance Festival, Gold Coast Dance Festival, Asbury Park Dance Festival, and CARVALHOPARK. Taylor serves on the SAB Advisory Committee on Diversity & Inclusion, holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from St. Mary's College of California, and is a certified yoga instructor (RYT 200).

Tyler Zydel credits include the *Wicked* National Tour, *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *West Side Story* Int'l Tour, *Singin' in the Rain* (Ogunquit), RWS Ent., Disney Upfronts, NBC Upfronts, GENESIS Car Reveal, FIFA World Cup Closing Ceremony, SNL, VMA's, AHS: NYC.

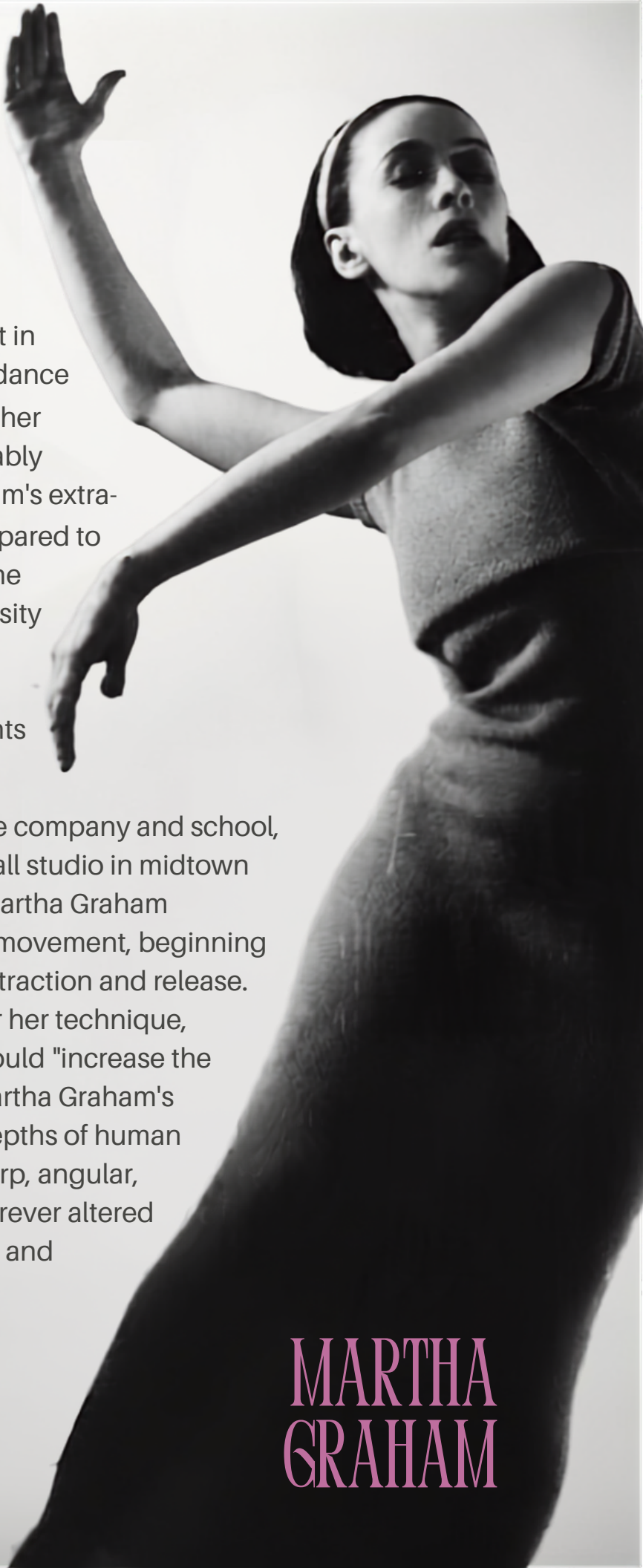


MARTHA GRAHAM

As the Martha Graham Dance Company celebrates its centennial year, we honor a century of *visionary artistry, fearless innovation, and an enduring legacy* that continues to shape the language of modern dance.

TIME magazine named Martha Graham *"Dancer of the Century,"* and People magazine named her among the female *"Icons of the Century."* As a choreographer, she was as prolific as she was complex, Graham created 181 ballets and a dance technique that has been compared to ballet in its scope and magnitude. Her approach to dance and theater revolutionized the art form and her innovative physical vocabulary has irrevocably influenced dance worldwide. Martha Graham's extraordinary artistic legacy has often been compared to Stanislavsky's Art Theatre in Moscow and the Grand Kabuki Theatre of Japan, for its diversity and breadth. Her legacy is perpetuated in performance by the Martha Graham Dance Company and Graham 2, and by the students of the Martha Graham School.

In 1926, Martha Graham founded her dance company and school, living and working out of a tiny Carnegie Hall studio in midtown Manhattan. In developing her technique, Martha Graham experimented endlessly with basic human movement, beginning with the most elemental movements of contraction and release. Using these principles as the foundation for her technique, she built a vocabulary of movement that would "increase the emotional activity of the dancer's body." Martha Graham's dancing and choreography exposed the depths of human emotion through movements that were sharp, angular, jagged, and direct. The dance world was forever altered by Martha Graham's vision, which has been and continues to be a source of inspiration for generations of dance and theatre artists.



MARTHA
GRAHAM

CHOREOGRAPHERS COMPANIES

Kyle Abraham and his choreography have been featured in Document Journal, Ebony, Kinfolk, O Magazine, Vogue, and Vogue UK among other publications. Abraham is the proud recipient of a Princess Grace Statue Award (2018), Doris Duke Award (2016), and MacArthur Fellowship (2013). He serves as the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor in Dance at The University of Southern California, Gloria Kaufman School of Dance. Abraham also sits on the advisory boards for Dance Magazine and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the inaugural Black Genius Brain Trust, and the inaugural cohort of the Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab, a partnership between the Prada Group, Theaster Gates Studio, Dorchester Industries, and Rebuild Foundation. His company, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, is widely considered “one of the most consistently excellent troupes working today” (The New York Times).

Led by Abraham’s innovative vision, the work of A.I.M is galvanized by Black culture and history and grounded in a conglomeration of unique perspectives. Abraham has been commissioned by dance companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The National Ballet of Cuba, New York City Ballet, and The Royal Ballet. Abraham has also choreographed for many of the leading dancers of our time, including Misty Copeland, Calvin Royal III, and Wendy Whelan.

For more information, visit aimbykyleabraham.org.

Nick Alvino is thrilled to be making his choreographic debut at Asbury Park Dance Festival! Broadway: *Death Becomes Her*, *The Music Man* (with Hugh Jackman). Other NYC: *The Light in the Piazza* (City Center Encores!) and *A Chorus Line* (50th Anniversary Concert). Regional: Papermill PCLO, STC.

Robert Battle’s journey to the top of the modern dance world began in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami, Florida where he showed artistic talent early and studied dance at a high school arts magnet program. From there he attended Miami’s New World School of the Arts and then the dance program at The Juilliard School where he met his mentor Carolyn Adams. He danced with Parsons Dance from 1994 to 2001, and set his choreography on that company starting in 1998. Mr. Battle founded his own Battleworks Dance Company in 2002 which performed extensively at venues including The Joyce Theater, American Dance Festival, and Jacob’s Pillow. A frequent choreographer and artist in residence at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since 1999, he set many of his works on the Ailey Company and Ailey II. In July 2011 he was personally selected by Judith Jamison to become Artistic Director of Ailey, making him only the third person to head the Company since it was founded in 1958. During his 12 years as Artistic Director he expanded the Ailey repertory with works by artists as diverse as Kyle Abraham, Mauro Bigonzetti, Ronald K. Brown, Rennie Harris, and Paul Taylor. He also instituted the New Directions Choreography Lab to help develop the next generation of choreographers. He stepped down from the position in 2023.

Mr. Battle was honored as one of the “Masters of African American Choreography” by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005, and he received the prestigious Statue Award from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA in 2007. He is a recipient of the 2021 Dance Magazine Award and has honorary doctorates from The University of the Arts, Marymount Manhattan College, and Fordham University. Mr. Battle was named a 2015 Visiting Fellow for The Art of Change, an initiative by the Ford Foundation. He was appointed Resident Choreographer of the Paul Taylor Dance Company in Fall 2024.

Pontus Lidberg, as a choreographer for the stage, has created works for dance companies including Paris Opera Ballet, New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Vienna Staatsoper Ballet, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Semperoper Ballet Dresden, Royal Swedish Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Le Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Beijing Dance Theatre and many more, as well as for his own experimental concert group, Pontus Lidberg Dance. His work has been commissioned and presented by festivals and venues including La Biennale di Venezia, Montpellier Danse, Théâtre National de Chaillot, The Joyce Theater, the National Arts Center of Canada, New York City Center's Fall For Dance Festival, the Havana International Ballet Festival and the Spoleto Festival. His work *Siren* received a Villanueva Award from UNEAC, The National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, as one of the best performances presented in Cuba in 2018. His work *Centaur* utilizing and exploring AI in dance received the Lumen Prize Nordic Award in 2021. His film, *The Rain*, received numerous awards. The New York Times wrote "memorably, *The Rain* illustrates what filmed dance can say that staged dance cannot." His film *Labyrinth Within* won Best Picture at the Dance on Camera Festival in 2012. His first feature film, *Written on Water*, starring Aurélie Dupont premiered at Le Festival International du Film sur l'Art in Montréal in 2021. Raised in Stockholm, Sweden, Lidberg trained at the Royal Swedish Ballet School and the Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse de Paris. He holds an MFA in Contemporary Performing Arts from the University of Gothenburg, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts. Between 2018-23, he was the Artistic Director of Danish Dance Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is the Artistic Director of Ballet de l'Opéra de Nice Côte d'Azur, France from December 2024.

Pilobolus is a rebellious dance company. Since 1971, Pilobolus has tested the limits of human physicality to explore the beauty and the power of connected bodies. We continue to bring this tradition to global audiences through our post-disciplinary collaborations with some of the greatest influencers, thinkers, and creators in the world. Now, in our digitally driven and increasingly mediated landscape, we also reach beyond performance to teach people how to connect through designed live experiences. We bring our decades of expertise telling stories with the human form to show diverse communities, brands, and organizations how to maximize group creativity, solve problems, create surprise, and generate joy through the power of nonverbal communication.

Pilobolus has created and toured over 120 pieces of repertory to more than 65 countries. Over the years we have performed our work for millions of people across the U.S. and around the world. Pilobolus has been featured on CBS This Morning, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, NBC's TODAY Show, MTV's Video Music Awards, The Harry Connick Show, ABC's The Chew, and the CW Network's Penn & Teller: Fool Us. Pilobolus has been recognized with many prestigious honors, including a TED Fellowship, a 2012 Grammy® Award Nomination, a Primetime Emmy® Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Programming, and several Cannes Lion Awards at the International Festival of Creativity. In 2015, Pilobolus was named one of Dance Heritage Coalition's "Irreplaceable Dance Treasures". Pilobolus has collaborated with more than 75 brands and organizations in finance, retail, media, fashion, sports, and more to create bespoke performances for television, film, and live events. Instagram: @pilobolus

Penny Saunders, originally from West Palm Beach, Florida, graduated from the Harid Conservatory in 1995, and began her professional career with The American Repertory Ballet under the direction of Septime Webre. She went on to dance with Ballet Arizona, MOMIX Dance Theater, Cedar Lake Ensemble and in 2004 she joined Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. In 2011, Saunders won the International Commissioning Project which launched her choreographic career, creating pieces for Hubbard Street, Cincinnati Ballet, Whim W'Him, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Parsons Dance, Oklahoma City Ballet, BalletX, Sacramento Ballet, The Royal New Zealand Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Diablo Ballet, Dayton Ballet, Eugene Ballet, ArtEmotion/Ballet West and Seattle Dance Collective among others. Saunders is honored to be the Resident Choreographer at The Grand Rapids Ballet, to have received support from The New York City Ballet Choreographic Commissions Initiative, to have participated in The Guggenheim Works & Process, and The National Choreographers Initiative, and to be the recipient of the 2016 Princess Grace Choreographic Fellowship. She recently premiered *An American in Paris* in collaboration with The Ruth & Nathan Hale Theater and Ballet West and this season she will be creating a new *Sherlock Holmes* ballet co-produced by Nashville Ballet, Ballet Idaho and Grand Rapids Ballet as well as a new one act *Romeo and Juliet* with Diablo Ballet.

WORKS AND PROCESS

*The magic is in the process.
We're letting you in on the secret.*

Championing performing artists and their creative process at each step from studio to stage, Works & Process produces fully funded residencies and presents events that go behind the scenes, blending artist discussion and performance highlights. Works & Process events transcend the proscenium, encouraging audiences to spectate and participate beyond the stage, and culminate in receptions in the Guggenheim rotunda to continue the conversation.

Works & Process produces over 25 creative residencies annually. Expanding from our bubble residency program created during the COVID-19 pandemic, Works & Process now has a network of over a dozen partners in Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, and Vermont. In over 100 Works & Process residencies, supporting over 1,000 artists, incubated works have been recognized with awards and grants, and have toured nationally—and internationally with the U.S. State Department. These out-of-town residencies provide industry leading artist fees of \$1,225 per week, 24/7 studio access, on-site housing, a transportation stipend, and health insurance enrollment access. When Works & Process events are presented in New York City, Works & Process provides artists with fees of \$450 per performance.

Beyond the Guggenheim, Works & Process also partners with organizations across New York, including 92NY and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Jerome Robbins Dance Division. During the summer, we curate and present free outdoor dance programs with Manhattan West and City Parks Foundation's SummerStage.



YOU MAKE APDF HAPPEN!

Special thanks to...

Richard Feldman & SHS Foundation, Laura Aden

Martha Graham Dance Company, Works and Process

NJ Ballet, Pilobolus, Paul Taylor Dance Company

Robert Battle, Kyle Abraham, Pontus Lidberg, David Conte

Duke Dang, Aria Roach, Janet Eilber, Lorenzo Pagano

Kirsten Leon, Kotoe Kojima-Noa, Susan Dodge, Joe Gallerizzo

Jenn Hampton, Keith Fiori, John Herr, Dani Boglivi-Fiori

Cafe Volan. The Berkley Oceanfront Hotel

Johann Howard, Kristin Draucker, Katherine Matthews

Jake Newiger, Johnny O'Sullivan, Caroline Cevasco

Olivia del Rio, Chris Nicolussi, Francis Devlin, Olivia Miranda

Gerard Yosca, Bob Ellis, Scott Petrillo & Sal Chiarelli

Ed Piestrup, Arianna Bocco, Scott Moyer & Eric Enderlin

Stuart & Angela Grodanz, Kim Powers & Jess Goldstein

Shawn Emamjomeh, Dave Henry & Clemente Moreno

Celia Morrisette & Keith Johnson

Jean West, 4wall New York, Julian Gellman, Mike Russo

The Staff & Crew of House of Independents

Nimbus Dance, Serena Soffer, Mary Kate Schmidt

Axelrod Performing Arts Academy, Dance NJ, Kelly Bourke

2026 SPONSORS

John & Jody Arnhold

Howard Gilman Foundation

Gary & Sophie Weiner

Bob Ellis

Eric Naison Phillips & Laura Halzack

Duke Dang & Charles Rosen

Kim Powers & Jess Goldstein

Deirdre Howley & Ira Eisenstadt

Stuart & Angela Grodanz

Dorothy Bousseau

Susan Cohen

June Heindel

Debbie & Dave Foster

Christopher Barrett Politan

Parlor Gallery

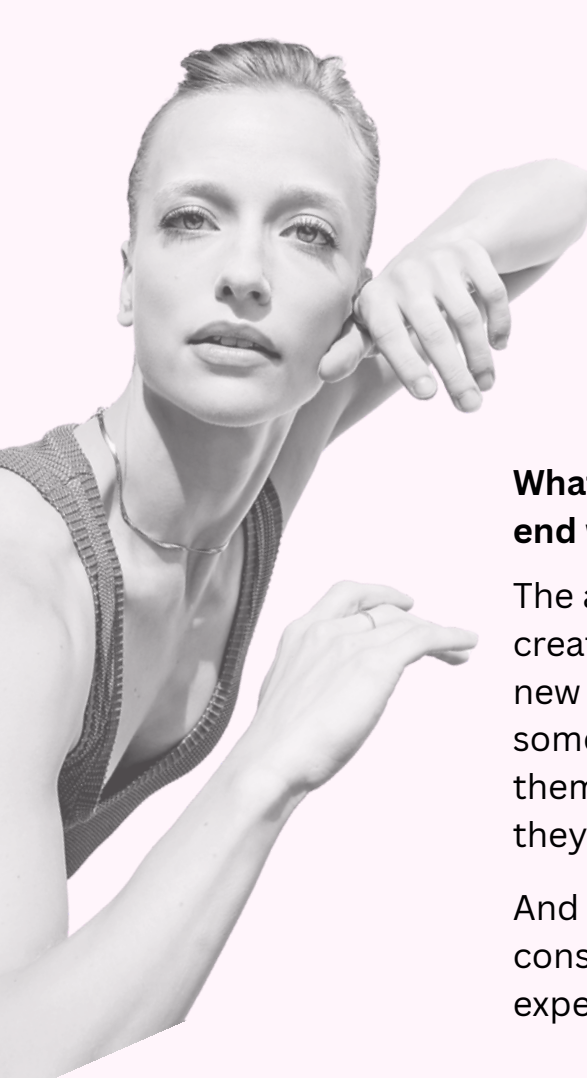
Rogue Creative

Sweet Dani B



This program is made possible in part by funds from Monmouth Arts,
a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and
the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners.

Photos throughout of **Payton Primer**, Paul Taylor Dance Company
by Laura Halzack



KEEP MOVING

What you experienced tonight doesn't have to end when the curtain comes down.

The artists and organizations on this stage are creating, performing, teaching, and imagining new possibilities for dance all year long. If someone moved you tonight, follow them, see them again, share their work, and support what they do.

And if tonight reminded you why the arts matter, consider supporting the work that makes those experiences possible for the next generation.

FOLLOW THE COMPANIES

MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE COMPANY

PAUL TAYLOR DANCE COMPANY

PILOBOLUS

NJ BALLET

NATIONAL GEORGIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE, *PESVEBI*

WORKS & PROCESS

NEW YORK CITY BALLET



SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Ed NJ works across New Jersey to ensure that every PreK–12 public school student has access to high-quality, sequential, and equitable arts education.

Their advocacy, research, professional learning, and statewide programs help keep the arts where they belong: in every child's education. **SUPPORT ARTS ED NJ**

**ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS
NETWORK OF CREATIVES
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
ARTS EXPERIENCES
YOUTH ARTS PROGRAMS
AND RESOURCES
EXHIBITIONS
EVENTS**



monmouth arts
a nonprofit organization

JOIN US!

Since 1971, Monmouth Arts has provided programs and services that support the arts throughout Monmouth County. Join today to become part of our network of creatives and supporters of the arts! Learn more about the benefits of membership on our website.



130 Maple Ave., Ste 7B
Red Bank, NJ 07701
732.212.1890
monmoutharts.org



CULTURE AROUND THE CORNER

A 3-DAY FESTIVAL
OF ARTS, FOOD,
& DISCOVERY

October 2-4, 2026
Long Branch, NJ

Artisans & Food Vendors Wanted!

culturearoundthecorner.org

