

## 2025 ASBURY PARK DANCE FESTIVAL

AN EVENING OF DANCE IN SUPPORT OF ARTS ED NJ

# We believe in the power of dance to *MOVE* and *INSPIRE* a community.

**APDF CO-FOUNDERS** 

VJ CARBONE
MICHELLE FLEET
LAURA HALZACK
MICHAEL TRUSNOVEC

## **PROGRAM**

#### excerpt from A SWING SUITE (2023)

Choreography: ELIZABETH BURKE & LUKE HICKEY

with improvisation by the dancers

Performed by LUKE HICKEY & JOHN MANZARI
Music: "It Happened In Monterey," composed by

Mabel Wayne as performed by the Oscar Peterson Trio

#### excerpt from HEROES

Choreography: TAKEHIRO UEYAMA

Performed by **FRANCESCA FORCELLA & JERARD PALAZO**Music: "Tokoshieni" by Kato Hideki (composition & percussion),
Ana Milosavljevic (orchestration & violin), Anita Culp(recorded voice)

Lighting Designer: Christopher Ham and Michael Korsch

Costume Designer: Eugenia P. Stallings Costume Construction: Julie Watson

Choreographer's Assistant: Khris Beeson

#### excerpt from ink (2017) "TURF"

Direction & Choreography: CAMILLE A. BROWN in collaboration with the originating members of CABD Performed by DORSE BROWN & ERIC PARRA

"TURF" is an excerpt from Camille A. Brown's ink, which celebrates the rituals, gestural vocabulary, and traditions that remain ingrained within the lineage of the African Diaspora and reclaims African-American narratives by showcasing their authenticity. The work examines the culture of Black life that is often appropriated, rewritten, or silenced. TURF is the response illustrating the Black male rite of passage propelled by "the dab." Two innocents are hit with the reality of navigating being Black Men in America while protecting one another through it all.

#### SOLO 03: MAK

ChoreographY: HOUSTON THOMAS

Performed by: KAYLA MAK\*

Music: Für Alina

composed by Arvo Pärt

\*Appearing courtesy of ABT Studio Company





## **ABOUT US**

VJ Carbone, Michelle Fleet, Laura Halzack and Michael Trusnovec founded the Asbury Park Dance Festival in 2019. Fleet, Halzack and Trusnovec are all distinguished alumni of the internationally acclaimed Paul Taylor Dance Company sharing a combined 58 years of professional dance experience. Carbone has worked as a film publicist with some of the most respected companies in Hollywood for over two decades. Together they all share a passion for dance and a mutual appreciation for all art forms. It is their shared belief that the arts have the power to build community, break down barriers, spread joy, and enrich people's lives.

The festival's mission is to present dance and raise funds for arts education advocacy through a partnership with the non for profit Arts Ed NJ. Together APDF and Arts Ed NJ want to ensure that the next generation of budding artists and arts-lovers have access to what they need to pursue their dreams of living a life in the arts or a life that is enriched and made full by the arts.



JARED BOGART (Performer) graduated with a BFA in Dance from Jacksonville University and trained during the summers at Orlando Ballet School, Archcore40, Florida Dance Masters, and Florida Dance Festival. At Jacksonville University, Jared worked with artists such as Jennifer Muller, Robert Moses, Jennifer Archibald, Ronen Koresh, and Stephanie Martinez. Jared danced five seasons with Ballet Hispánico under artistic director Eduardo Vilaro, where he worked with renowned choreographers such as Ronald K Brown, Gustavo Ramirez-Sansano, and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa. He also performed and taught with PARA.MAR Dance Theater under founder and director Stephanie Martinez. He has also performed with Diavolo in Los Angeles under director Jacques Heim. Jared most recently performed with Dua Lipa as a backup dancer at the 2024 Grammy Awards. Jared joined MOMIX in 2024. Follow on Instagram: jared\_bogart

**CAMILLE A. BROWN** (Choreographer) is a prolific Black choreographer whose work taps into both ancestral and contemporary stories to capture a range of deeply personal experiences and cultural narratives of African American identity. Through the medium of dance, she is successfully balancing careers in Stage, TV, and Film, most recently directing the Broadway revival of for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf, co-directing and choreographing the Metropolitan Opera's production of Fire Shut Up in My Bones, and choreographing the Broadway production of Hell's Kitchen and the revival of Gypsy starring Audra McDonald. For her complete bio, click HERE and follow on Instagram: camilleabrown

At the age of 7, **DORSE BROWN** (Performer) began his dance career in his hometown of Little Rock, AR. He graduated from the University of Memphis and appeared on the 5th season of So You Think You Can Dance. He is so honored to have danced with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company from 2011- 2015. Brown has been contracted with Royal Caribbean Cruise line and Norwegian Cruise Lines as a soloist. He was selected for the Bronzlens Film Festival and the Emerging Black Choreographer Incubator. This is his third season with Camille A. Brown and Dancers. Follow Instagram: deelee\_jr

**ELIZABETH BURKE** (Choreographer) is a New York City based tap dancer, performer, choreographer, and teacher from Chapel Hill, NC. A "deft and impassioned" (The New York Times) dancer, she has worked with MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance's company, Dorrance Dance, since their inaugural season. She trained under her mentor, Gene Medler, in the acclaimed North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, performing worldwide. She collaborates frequently with Luke Hickey; recently, they performed their A Swing Suite at the New Victory Dance Festival and the work will tour in the fall. Elizabeth is also a sought after teacher, frequently teaching across the US and internationally in festival and conservatory settings. Stage highlights: The Kennedy Center; New York City Center; The Joyce Theater; Sadler's Wells; screen: Nostalgia (dir. Johnnie Hobbs III); Step Into The Light (Oak & Ash); Tap Or Die (dir. Jackie Pare). Follow on Instagram: elizabethrburke

CHRIS CELIZ (Performer) is an artist, music educator, world champion beatboxer and all-around "fun-haver," focused on sharing the possibility of empowerment, joy and excellence through performance, education and artistry. A New York City native and graduate of SUNY Fredonia, some notable accomplishments include winning the American Beatbox Championships in 2015 and 2016, the Grand Beatbox Battle in 2018 and the World Beatbox Championships in 2018 (all in partnership with acclaimed beatboxer Gene Shinozaki). Celiz is also the founder of The Beatbox House, a collective of worldchampion beatboxers based out of NYC.Follow on Instagram: <a href="mailto:chrisceliz">chrisceliz</a>

HEATHER CONN (Performer) s originally from New York. She attended the Long Island High School for the Arts as a dance major and holds a BFA in dance from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Additionally, she has trained with the Joffrey Ballet School, the Bolshoi Ballet, and the Boston Conservatory, among others. Heather has performed professionally across the United States and beyond, in contemporary dance, musical theater, film, and live production art. She has performed in such notable venues as Radio City Music Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Apollo Theater, Jacob's Pillow, the Joyce, and the Folies Bergere in Paris, France. Heather has danced for Nickerson-Rossi Dance, Schoen Movement Company, and The Orsano Project as assistant to Phil Orsano. She was given a leading role in Busch Gardens Christmastown production of their show Miracles. She performs for TEN31 Productions as a "living art" performer at events and for the live arts company Moving On. Heather is featured in the published photography book Dance Across the USA by Jonathan Givens, as a dancer representing the state of New York. She is a certified Yoga teacher, a certified Animal Flow® instructor, and an Essential Oil Specialist. Heather has a passion for healing arts and is a strong advocate for social justice, wildlife, and the Earth. Heather joined MOMIX in 2018. Follow on Instagram: heather.a.conn

DYLIS CROMAN (Fosse/Verdon Stager) a Dallas native, started her professional career at the early age of seventeen dancing with the Feld Ballet/NY. After a couple of years of intense company dancing in New York City, she discovered a new love... musical theater. Between Broadway shows and national tours, she has appeared in nine shows... most recently playing the role of Roxie Hart in the musical Chicago on Broadway. Other credits include... Bob Fosse's Dancin', Nine, A Chorus Line, Movin' Out, Sweet Charity, Oklahoma, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Applause, Thou Shalt Not and Fosse. Her TV credits include "Guiding Light" as Andrew Daniels, "Great Performances: Dance in America" on PBS, "Smash" on NBC, as well as the upcoming movie musical "Kiss of the Spider Woman". Dylis is also a respected Bob Fosse aficionado and legacy keeper, teaching the Fosse style when she finds time away from her professional career. Follow on Instagram: dycro33

**TONY D'ALELIO** (Performer) Broadway: *Gypsy* Starring Audra McDonald (Little Rock, u/s Tulsa), Bob Fosse's *Dancin* (Principal, Chita Rivera Award - Outstanding Ensemble). Off Broadway: *This Ain't No Disco* (Atlantic Theatre). Tours: *Hamilton* (Samuel Seabury), *Cats* Revival (Mungojerrie), *Kinky Boots* (Angel), *Matilda* (Michael Wormwood), *Beauty...Beast* (LeFou). TV: *We're Here* (HBO), VMA's (MTV), Good Morning America, The Tamryn Hall Show, Dance Moms: A New Era, PENNYWILD Wednesdays. Follow on Instagram: tonydalelio

NATHANIEL DAVIS (Performer) was born in Toronto, Canada. He started training at the age of seventeen and attended the New World School of the Arts college graduating cum laude in 2015 with a BFA in dance. He has worked with the Peter London Dance Company in Miami, Florida, and Artichoke Dance Company in Brooklyn, New York. He has performed works by Robert Battle, Daniel Ulbricht, George Balanchine, Jose Limon, Kyle Abraham, Bill T. Jones, and Darshan Bueller. Nathaniel joined MOMIX in 2017. Follow on Instagram: <a href="mailto:trainer\_nate\_davis">trainer\_nate\_davis</a>

SAM FAULKNER (Performer) recently made his Broadway debut in *GYPSY* starring Audra McDonald. TV: I.Q. in Hairspray Live! (NBC), The Other Two (MAX). With Verdon Fosse Legacy, Sam has appeared at NYCC Fall For Dance Festival, Fire Island Dance Festival, and Hudson Valley Dance Festival. Other: Billy in Billy Elliot (Ogunquit Playhouse, NC Theatre), performances at American Repertory Theatre, Broadway at Music Circus, and The Met Gala. Sam holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Michigan. Follow on Instagram: \_samfaulkner\_

ASHLEY BLAIR FITZGERALD (Performer) is a Broadway veteran whose credits include Susan Stroman's New York, New York, Bob Fosse's Dancin', The Cher Show (Dark Lady, Chita Rivera Award winner), Trip of Love, On the Town, Gigi, Smokey Joe's Café, Come Fly Away (Helen Hayes nominee), Dirty Dancing, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and Fosse. Her film and TV work includes Isn't It Romantic and NBC's Smash. She has been a dedicated member of The Verdon Fosse Legacy since 2013, preserving and performing the work of Bob Fosse. Follow on Instagram: ashleyblairfitzgerald

FRANCESCA FORCELLA (Performer) joined BalletX in 2013 after working with Houston Ballet II (HBII), the Washington Ballet Studio Company, and Los Angeles' American Contemporary Ballet. She began her training in tap. hip hop, ballet and jazz with her aunt, Gina Forcella, at Dance Stop Education Center in New Jersey, and then later focused on her ballet training with Risa Kaplowitz and former ABT principal dancer, Susan Jaffe, at Princeton Dance and Theater in Princeton, NJ. At 16, she joined HBII under the artistic direction of Stanton Welch. Francesca had opportunities with HBII to perform alongside the main company touring both nationally and internationally. In 2011, she represented Houston Ballet at the International Youth Dance Festival in Budapest, Hungary. Francesca was a 2012 recipient of a Helen Hayes award for her work in Imagination Stage's production of The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe, in which she played the dancer roles of Lucy and the White Witch. In 2015, while on a vacation period with BalletX, Francesca briefly returned to guest with the Washington Ballet in Swan Lake under her former artistic director, Septime Webre. Since joining BalletX in 2013, Francesca has been a part of countless world premieres, processes, and collaborations, and has worked with many well-renowned choreographers. Follow on Instagram: francescaforcella xo

## **ARTISTS**

MARGIE GILLIS (Choreographer) has been at the forefront of modern dance for more than 50 years, is an internationally acclaimed dance artist, and one of the most influential Canadian choreographers/dancers of the 20th and 21st centuries. Over the decades, Margie has created a rich repertory of more than one hundred and fifty creations, solos, duets, and group works, which have been performed around the globe. Establishing herself as an innovative choreographer, she built her career as a solo dancer, distinguishing herself with her naturalistic style and inimitable stage presence, and her iconic long cascading hair. She developed a new form of movement in her unique artistic voice that has influenced generations of choreographers and dancers. She continues to this day to shape the art of movement, earning public and critical recognition for the beauty, authenticity and emotional expression of her creations. Infused with political, social, and cultural themes, Margie Gillis' philosophy explores the notions of humanity, inner landscape, and our intrinsic relationship to nature, revealing the intimacies of the human psyche. Her repertoire covers a wide array of topics including feminine consciousness, the natural world, and the transformative process, all merging in a profound and powerful expression of humanism and emotion. For her complete bio, click HERE and follow on Instagram: gillis margie

SEAH HAGAN (Performer) Born and raised in Tallahassee, Florida, Seah is a third-generation dancer. She began her training at the Southern Academy of Ballet Arts under the tutelage of Natalia Botha and Charles Hagan. As an Advanced Company member of the Pas de Vie Ballet, she performed many classical and contemporary soloist and principal roles. In addition to ballet and modern training, Seah is also an accomplished ballroom dancer, having competed in multiple world championships. At age 16, she graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Florida State University Schools. Before MOMIX, she worked for the State of Florida at the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. On her 18th birthday, Seah began her professional dance career with the world-renowned company MOMIX. She has since toured across the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, and Asia, performing in three original shows, VIVA MOMIX, Opus Cactus, and Alice, where she has performed featured solos in all three. As Dance Captain, Seah was heavily involved in the creation of their newest show, Alice. Seah joined MOMIX in 2017. Follow on Instagram: muffet21

LUKE HICKEY (Choreographer/Performer) is a tap dancer, choreographer, film director, and actor from Chapel Hill, NC. Named by Dance Magazine among their "25 To Watch" in 2020, Hickey began studying with the legendary tap educator and founder of the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, Gene Medler, at the age of seven. As a choreographer, he has presented work at venues including Birdland Jazz Club, Chelsea Factory, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, 92NY, Little Island, and American Dance Festival. He has been a member of MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance's award- winning company, Dorrance Dance, since 2019. Recently, Hickey and longtime collaborator Elizabeth Burke created their new work titled, A Swing Suite, which is currently touring. Hickey is privileged to teach tap dance all over the world at dance studios, universities and tap dance festivals. Follow on Instagram: <a href="https://link.pipe.com/l

KAYLA MAK (Performer) grew up in Rye Brook, New York and is of Japanese, Chinese, and Cuban descent. Her inspiration for dance sparked at the age of four after seeing ABT's production of The Nutcracker. She trained at Westchester Dance Academy and Ballet Academy East and is currently studying at The Juilliard School in New York City, earning her BFA in dance under the direction of Alicia Graf Mack and associate director Mario Alberto Zambrano. She soon became involved in competitive dance, gaining additional exposure to stage performance. She was fortunate to participate in various television shows such as NBC's World of Dance and to play the role of Clara in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Mak also developed a love for concert dance, working and performing with Juliano Nunes in projects for summer festivals in Switzerland and Mexico for two years. She joined ABT Studio Company in September 2024 under the artistic direction of Sascha Radetsky. Follow on Instagram: kaylamak10

ANDREA MILLER (Choreographer) is a groundbreaking choreographer, creative director, and founder of the internationally renowned multidisciplinary organization GALLIM, represented by Opus 3 Artists. A Hispanic creator and collaborator for dance, film, fashion, and the visual arts, Miller is known for her exploration of the essential elements of human behavior and the alchemy of movement and performance. Miller's dance works are presented by leading institutions and festivals around the world including Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, New York City Center, The Joyce Theater, BAM, Jacob's Pillow, Royal Albert Hall, Sadler's Wells, London Royal Opera House, Théâtre National de Chaillot, Teatre Grec of Barcelona, Theaterhaus Stuttgart, Canal Madrid, Teatro Nacional de Panamá, DanceHouse Vancouver, Spoleto Festival, and others. For a complete bio, click HERE and follow on Instagram: andreamiller gallim

JOHN MANZARI (Performer) is a dancer, singer, actor & choreographer. Stage: Funny Girl (OBC); Anything Goes (MUNY); The Tap Dance Kid (Encores!); Bzzz. Television: Law & Order SVU; Black Broadway: A Proud History, A Limitless Future; Rooted; The Kennedy Center at 50. Concerts: one man shows Recenter & The First Set; guest appearances with the NY Pops, NSO, Seattle, Houston, Vancouver symphonies and others; The Hot Sardines; Fall for Dance; Fall for Dance North; Amelia Island DanceFestival. Films: Reimagined. Short Films: I Get Knocked Down; Ghost; To: Everything I Love; Slip. Documentaries: Maurice Hines: Bring Them Back; Leonard Soloway's Broadway. Follow on Instagram: johnmanzari

ANNMARIA MAZZINI (Performer), a New York City dancer, choreographer, and teaching artist, is a former member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company and current faculty member at The Taylor School. A graduate of Southern Methodist University, she has also danced with the Margie Gillis Legacy Project, Martita Goshen, Amy Marshall, and Patrick Corbin. Her choreography has been seen throughout New York, New Jersey, and New England and is featured in the short film The Pink Pony. Annmaria is also a mom and the creator of Dancing Amulets, handmade, magical jewelry. Follow on Instagram: annmariamagic

CHALVAR MONTEIRO (Performer/Choreographer) began his formal training at Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts and went on to study at The Ailey School before receiving his BFA in Dance from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase. He has worked with Sidra Bell Dance New York, Elisa Monte Dance, Keigwin+Company, BODYTRAFFIC, GALLIM, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, Ailey II, and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In 2019 Mr. Monteiro took part in Merce Cunningham Trust's Night of 100 Solos: A Centennial Event, and has since performed in numerous Cunningham events and was a part of the 2025 Cunningham Teacher Training. Chalvar joined the faculty at Tisch School of the Arts in 2020, was part of UNSCA's 2025 Choreographic Institute, and his choreography has been presented on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Fire Island Dance Festival, Lincoln Center's Summer for the City, and other festivals and institutions across the U.S. Learn more about him at <a href="https://www.chalvarmonteiro.com">www.chalvarmonteiro.com</a> and follow on Instagram: <a href="https://www.chalvarmonteiro.com">chlvrmntro</a>

JERARD PALAZO (Performer) was born in Manila, Philippines and moved to Canada at 8 years old, where he began his formal dance training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School Professional Division in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2006. After graduating in 2012 he moved to Toronto to further his dance studies with the Toronto Dance Theatre for a year. Upon receiving a full tuition scholarship from the Alvin Ailey School Jerard moved to New York and trained at Ailey from 2013-2015. Jerard was selected for summer programs on full tuition scholarships at Jacob's Pillow Contemporary Program and Nederlands Dans Theatre. He has worked with Nai Ni Chen Dance Company, Peridance Company and Lavagnino Dance in New York. Jerard made his debut as a choreographer at iHeartDanceNYC in June 2021 with 'New Beginnings' a duet he specially conceived for New York City Ballet soloist Megan LeCrone, performed by Ms. LeCrone and Jerard on the rooftop of the Empire Hotel near Lincoln Center. It turned out to be the onset of So Close his first full-length ballet that had its world premiere in the spring of 2022 at Peridance Contemporary Dance Company and was received enthusiastically. Jerard Palazo joined BalletX in 2022. Follow on Instagram: jerardpalazo

**ERIC PARRA** (Performer) is a first-generation Colombian-American artist hailing from Union City, NJ. He began his dance training at Montclair State University where he graduated with a BFA in Dance Performance. Select performance credits: Limón Dance Company, Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Carolyn Dorfman Dance, Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance, *Hell's Kitchen* on Broadway (Vacation Swing), *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* (US Tour), *The Life and Times of Malcolm X* (US Tour). Eric is currently a performing artist for Camille A. Brown & Dancers as well as a Dance Ensemble cast member of *Hell's Kitchen* on Broadway. More at <a href="maintenants-ericparradance.com">ericparradance.com</a> and follow on Instagram: <a href="maintenants-ericparradanna">ericmannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradannants-ericparradance.com</a>

MOSES PENDLETON (Choreographer/MOMIX Artistic Director) is one of America's most innovative and widely performed choreographers. A co-founder of Pilobolus Dance Theater (1971), he launched MOMIX in 1980, earning international acclaim for work that fuses athleticism, illusion, and visual poetry. Under his direction, MOMIX has toured worldwide for over four decades. Pendleton's choreography spans ballet, opera, film, and television. He has created work for the Paris Opera Ballet, Deutsche Oper Berlin, La Scala, the Joffrey Ballet, and the Opening Ceremonies of the 1980 and 2014 Winter Olympics. His film and television credits include Moses Pendleton Presents Moses Pendleton (CINE Golden Eagle) and Pictures at an Exhibition (International Emmy Award). A Guggenheim Fellow and acclaimed photographer, Pendleton has received numerous honors, including the Positano Choreographic Award, the American Choreography Award, honorary doctorates from the University. Read his full bio here: https://www.momix.com/about/directors/and follow on Instagram: m.p.hotography

CYNTHIA QUINN (Choreographer/MOMIX Associate Director) grew up in Southern California. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Riverside and continued there as an Associate in Dance for five years. She received the University's Alumni Association's Outstanding Young Graduate Award in 1988. As a member of Pilobolus in the 1980s, she performed on Broadway and throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, Israel, and Japan, and collaborated on the choreography of Day Two, Elegy for the Moment, Mirage, What Grows in Huygens Window and Stabat Mater. Ms. Quinn began performing with MOMIX in 1983 and has toured worldwide with the company. She has appeared in numerous television programs and music videos and has assisted Moses Pendleton in the choreography of Pulcinella for the Ballet Nancy in France, Tutuguri for the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Platée for the Spoleto Festival USA, Les Mariés de la Tour Eiffel in New York, AccorDION for the Zurich-Volksbuhne Theatre, Carmen for the Munich State Opera, as well as Opus Cactus for the Arizona Ballet and Noir Blanc for the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. She has also appeared as a guest artist with the Ballet Théâtre Française de Nancy, the Deutsche Oper Berlin Ballet, the Munich State Opera, and international galas in Italy, France, and Japan. Ms. Quinn made her film debut as "Bluey" (a role she shared with Karl Baumann) in F/X2. She was a featured performer in the Emmy Award-winning Pictures at an Exhibition with the Montreal Symphony and has also appeared in the 3D IMAX film IMAGINE. Ms. Quinn is a board member of the Nutmeg Conservatory in Torrington, Conn., and is on the advisory board of the Susan B. Anthony Project. She was featured with Ru Paul and k.d. lang for M.A.C. Cosmetics' "Fashion Cares" benefits in Toronto and Vancouver. Ms. Quinn is co-choreographer of "White Widow," which is featured prominently in Robert Altman's The Company. Ms. Quinn was also featured in the film "First Born," with Elisabeth Shue. Most recently, she co-choreographed The Doves of Peace, featuring Diana Vishneva, for the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Her most rewarding and challenging role, however, has been as a mother to her daughter, Quinn Elisabeth.

ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ (Performer)also known as :Invertebrate" is a creative director, choreographer, and specialty performer. Combining his contorting flexibility, dynamic blow-up moves, charisma, and musicality brings his unique style together. More recently has landed television roles on the American Horror Stories, Gotham, and Evil. Anthony has 10+ years of experience in live theatre production. He also has 20+ years of experience in hip-hop culture, primarily the dance style breaking. Anthony brings a vast knowledge of specialty performance types to events and showcases his performances internationally for Sotheby's, The Guggenheim, and Lincoln Center to name just a few. Follow on Instagram: invertebratenyc

## ARTISTS

TAYLOR STANLEY (Performer), born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, began their dance training at age three at The Rock School. They attended summer programs at Miami City Ballet (2006–2007) and the School of American Ballet (SAB) in 2008, before enrolling full-time at SAB that fall. In September 2009, Taylor became an Apprentice with New York City Ballet (NYCB), joining the Corps de Ballet in 2010. They were promoted to Soloist in 2013 and Principal Dancer in 2016. Taylor received the Mae L. Wien Award for Outstanding Promise in 2009 and the Janice Levin Award in 2011-2012. Since joining NYCB, Taylor has originated roles in works by Justin Peck, Alexei Ratmansky, Peter Martins, and Christopher Wheeldon, and has danced featured roles in classics by George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins. They've pursued international dance training with Nederlands Dans Theater and Batsheva Dance Company, and have frequently collaborated with renowned choreographers including Jodi Melnick, Andrea Miller, Kyle Abraham, Christopher Williams, and Shamel Pitts, among others. Taylor earned a Bessie Award for "Outstanding Performance" in Kyle Abraham's The Runaway and has appeared as a guest artist with Andrea Miller's company, GALLIM. In 2022, Taylor curated and performed in Dichotomous Being: An Evening of Taylor Stanley at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival's 90th Anniversay season. Other partnerships and collaborations include BalletCollective, Guggenheim Works & Process, New York Choreographic Institute, Fire Island Dance Festival, Lake Tahoe Dance Festival, Gold Coast Dance Festival, and CARVALHOPARK Performance Series. Taylor currently serves on the School of American Ballet Alumni Advisory Committee on Diversity & Inclusion. They hold a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from St. Mary's College of California and are a certified yoga instructor (RYT 200). Taylor enjoys bringing their passion, distinctive artistry, and emotional depth to their performances as they continue to explore the intersection of classical and contemporary dance. Follow on Instagram: taylor stanley and tgsdrwngs

HOUSTON THOMAS (Choreographer), born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, is a choreographer and former soloist with the Dresden Semperoper Ballett. Houston embarked on his dance journey through the Joffrey Ballet Outreach Program, furthering his education at the Joffrey Ballet Academy of Dance upon its inception in 2008, concurrently honing his skills at the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts), and later studying at the School of American Ballet. After graduating from SAB in 2013, Houston found his artistic home with the Dresden Semperoper Ballett, rising to second soloist by 2018. After a decade of performing with the Semperoper Ballett, culminated in Houston's final performance during the 22/23 Season, marking the transition to focus exclusively on his choreographic career. In the digital realm, Houston collaborated with NYCB dancers Mimi Staker and Sebastian Villarini-Velez to create the film "An Afternoon of Angelic Voices," entirely conducted over Zoom for the New York Choreographic Institute. Houston was later invited to the 2021 and 2023 Fall Sessions, creating his works "The Return Studies" and "001.3," featuring dancers from the New York City Ballet and the School of American Ballet. Since then, Houston has created new works for schools and companies, including The Washington Ballet, Cincinnati Ballet, The Juilliard School, ABT Studio Company, Ailey II, BalletCollective, Grainger Academy of The Joffrey Ballet, Ballet San Antonio, The School of American Ballet, Point Park University, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School, Palucca University of Dance Dresden and the Hamptons Dance Project. His works have been performed by Ballet 22 and the Columbia Repertory Ballet. For a complete bio, click HERE and follow on Instgram: houdidit

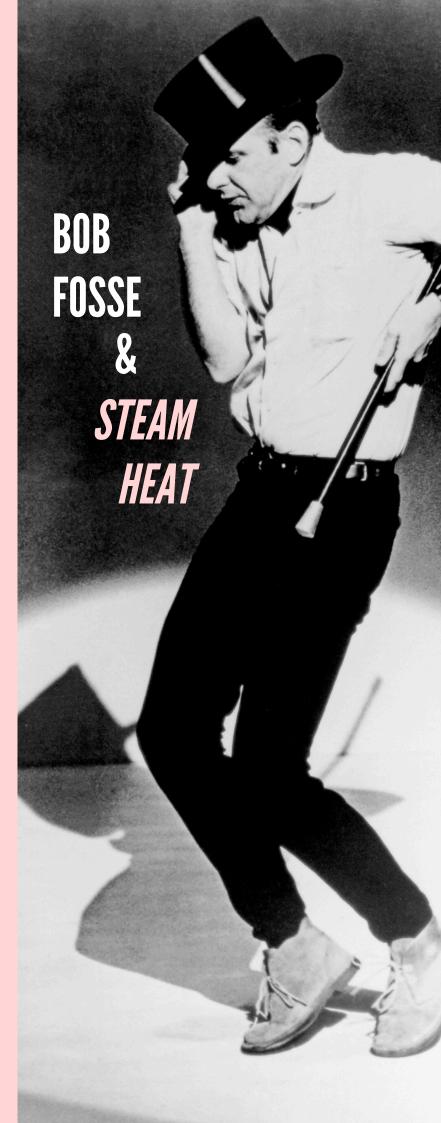
MICHAEL TRUSNOVEC (Performer), hailed by the New York Times as "one of the world's most luminous dancers," was a Principal Dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company from 1998-2019 performing in works by Mr. Taylor, as well as by Pam Tanowitz, Brian Arias, Margie Gillis, Doug Varone and more. Additionally, he was Associate Rehearsal Director and served as the Director of Worldwide Licensing. Michael received a 2018 Dance Magazine Award, a 2006 Bessie Award, and was a 1992 YoungArts awardee and Presidential Scholar in the Arts. He is co-founder of the Asbury Park Dance Festival, co-curator of the Dance on Camera Festival and continues to stage Mr. Taylor's dances, teach, and perform, more recently in the Joyce Theater presentation of Molissa Fenley's State of Darkness, New York City Ballet's 2020 Lincoln Center performances of George Balanchine's Episodes, and in short films with Matthew Neenan and for films.dance. Michael currently serves as the Dance Co-Director for The Metropolitan Opera. Follow him on Instagram: truzdncr

TAKEHIRO "TAKE" UEYAMA (Choreographer), a Tokyo native, moved to the U.S. in 1991 to study dance at Juilliard. After graduating, he toured globally with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for eight years and performed as a guest artist with Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theatre. In 2005, Ueyama founded TAKE Dance, blending athleticism with elements of his Japanese heritage. His choreography draws from the beauty of nature, the duality of light and darkness, and compassion in everyday life. Ueyama's work Sakura won a prize at the International Modern Dance Choreographic Competition in Spain, and in 2006, he was selected for the Free to Rep at FSU's National Center for Choreography. He became the first choreographer to win the S&R Foundation's Washington Award in 2010. Ueyama received the 2015 Jadin Wong Award for Emerging Asian American choreographers and the 2022 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Grant. In 2023, he was awarded the Danse Mirage Foundation's Choreography grant for his new work Bamboo Dreams. For a complete bio, click HERE and follow on Instagram: takedancecompany

Director-choreographer Bob Fosse forever changed the way audiences around the world viewed dance on the stage and in the film industry in the late 20th century. Visionary, intense, and unbelievably driven, Fosse was an artist whose work was always provocative, entertaining, and quite unlike anything ever before seen. His dances were sexual, physically demanding of even the most highly trained dancers, full of joyous humor as well as bleak cynicism — works that addressed the full range of human emotions. Through his films he revolutionized the presentation of dance on screen and paved the way for a whole generation of film and video directors, showing dance through the camera lens as no one had done before, foreshadowing the rise of the MTV-era of music video dance.

Fosse's first fully choreographed show was 1954's "The Pajama Game." Directed by Abbott, the show made Fosse an overnight success and showcased his trademark choreographic style: sexually suggestive forward hipthrusts: the vaudeville humor of hunched shoulders and turned-in feet; the amazing, mime-like articulation of hands. He often dressed his dancers in black and put them in white gloves and derbies, recalling the image of Charlie Chaplin. He incorporated all the tricks of vaudeville that he had learned pratfalls, slights-of-hand, double takes. Fosse received the first of his many Tony Awards for Best Choreography for "The Pajama Game."

The **STEAM HEAT** number in *The Pajama Game* would make stage musical history by introducing his signature style After *Steam Heat* stopped the show in the out of town tryout in New Haven, CT, director George Abbot moved to cut the number however his partner, <u>Jerome Robbins</u>, successfully lobbied for its retention

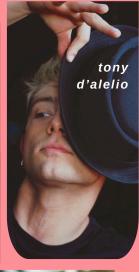


















parra



heather conn







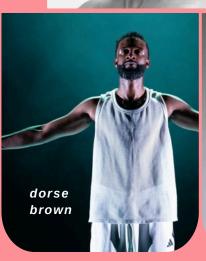
michael trusnovec



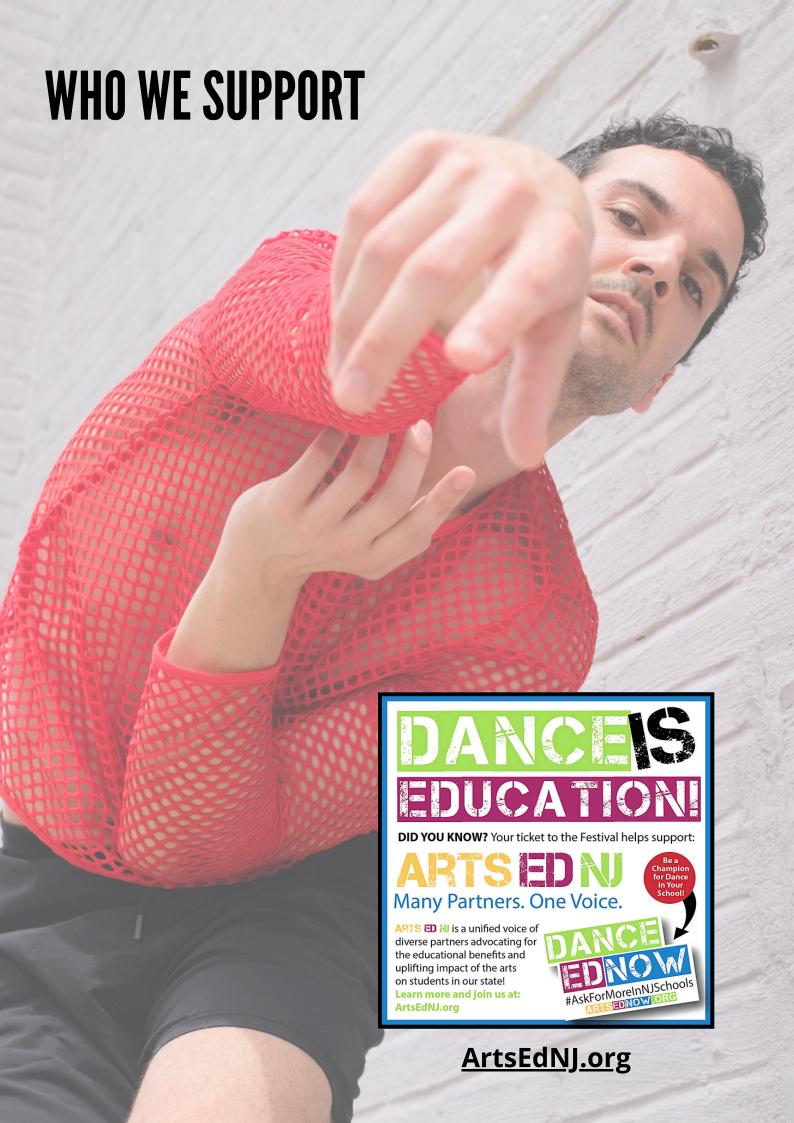








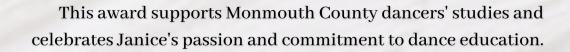




## THE APDF/JANICE TUOHY-AGUILERA AWARD

Janice Tuohy-Aguilera was a mother, mentor, educator and friend whose love of dance inspired countless young artists to reach and exceed their potential. APDF co-founder Michael Trusnovec was one of the many dancers touched by her passion and dedication.

Janice sadly passed away in 2016.



With generous support John and Jody Arnhold, Monmouth Arts and Dawn Tarpinian, a dear friend of Janice and local Asbury Park resident, of the Bevier-Evans Foundation we are proud to provide four tuition awards to local NJ dancers to assist them on their educational journey.

### This year we celebrate the accomplishments of:

CAROLINE CEVASCO	JAKE FREDERICKS	LAUREN HARRY	KATHERINE SALERNO

"For me, being a dancer isn't a choice. It's a huge part of what I am." "Dance helps me step into the world with strength and resilience." "From the moment I wake up, to the moment I go to sleep, dance is part of every aspect of my life..." "I find it's imperative to get an abundance of education to allow my artistry to grow..."

## WITH THANKS

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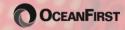






This program is made possible in part by funds from Monmouth Arts, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and the Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners.





#### SPECIAL THANKS TO

**EVERYONE AT ARTS ED NJ** 

THE VERDON FOSSE LEGACY, CAMILLE A. BROWN, ANDREA MILLER, MOMIX,

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KIM POWERS & JESS GOLDSTEIN, SHAWN EMAMJOMEH

CELIA MORRISSETTE AND KEITH JOHNSON

4WALL NEW YORK, GEORGE SMALLWOOD

JULIAN GELLMAN, MIKE RUSSO, THE STAFF & CREW OF HOUSE OF INDEPENDENTS MARY KATE SCHMIDT AND EVERYONE AT AXELROD PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY MONMOUTH ARTS, OCEAN FIRST BANK

DANCE NJ, KELLY BOURKE & OCVTS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

AND MOST ESPECIALLY ALL OF THE DANCERS VOLUNTEERS AND OUR PRODUCTION TEAM WHO GIVE THEIR TIME, TALENT AND EXPERTISE TO BRING OUR VISION TO LIFE.

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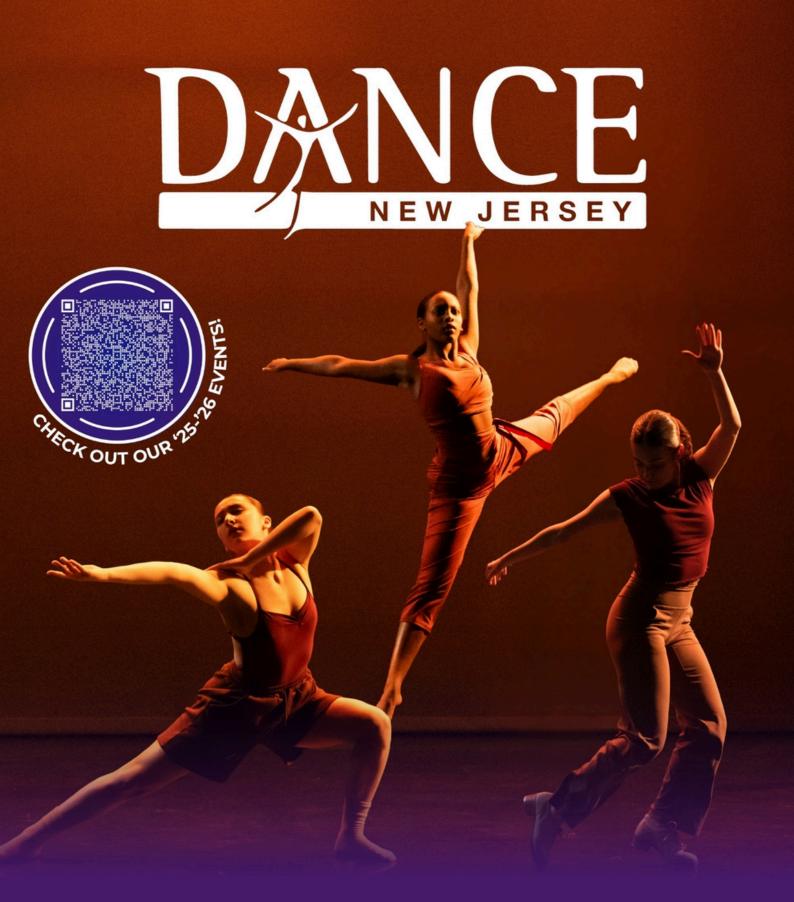
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Dance New Jersey connects the dance community through education and advocacy to build and sustain a healthy, diverse, and equitable dance community in our state.

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