



DANCE FOR LIFE

AUGUST 13, 2022



deeply rooted

DANCE THEATER

NOVEMBER 5 | 7:30PM

**“fervor and
raw power”**

— See Chicago Dance

AuditoriumTheatre.org
312.341.2300

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

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Joshua Francique and Rebekah Kuczma in *Episodes*, photo by Ken Carl.

TRINITYIRISH DANCECOMPANY

FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARK HOWARD

"Effects of complexity and
syncopation that astounded"

New York Times

"A stunning program of
groundbreaking dance"

Broadway World



**SAVE THE
DATE**

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

.....
THE THEATRE FOR THE PEOPLE
.....

**APRIL 22ND
7:30PM**

TIDC, Dorrance Dance, and M.A.D.D. Rhythms

Chicago Dancers United Presents



Saturday, August 13, 2022
6:00pm
Auditorium Theatre

FEATURED COMPANIES

NAJWA Dance Corps
Giordano Dance Chicago
Chicago Dance Crash
Deeply Rooted Dance Theater
The Joffrey Ballet
Trinity Irish Dance Company
Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater
"Never Enough"
World Premiere by Randy Duncan

*Original Music by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul, featuring The Stellenbosch University Choir
with additional music by Andy Mitran. Vocals by Annie Mitran Brennan and Louise Mitran*

The program run time is 90 minutes with no intermission.

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AIDS Foundation Chicago | Ballet Chicago | Chicago Academy for the Arts | HMS Media
Howard Brown Health | Shirley Ryan Ability Lab

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Todd Rosenberg
Dancers: clockwise from top left, Morgan McDaniel, Brandon Talbott, Devin Buchanan,
Fernando Rodriguez, Arielle Israel, Adam Houston, Jack Halbert, and Fernando Duarte

A Message from

Dance for Life Chicago's 2022 Co-Chairs

As Chicago's vibrant dance community returns to the beautiful Auditorium stage, we are thrilled to be presenting some of the city's talented dance professionals. Tonight, and every night that we attend performance and offer our support, we honor their talents that make Chicago one of the most celebrated dance communities in the country.

Thirty-one years ago, Dance For Life was born out of necessity due to a devastating pandemic. At alarming rates, we were losing members of our dance community to HIV/AIDS, people who touched our lives both on and off the stage, whose lives were changed forever, and too many that were tragically cut short. Members and supporters of the dance community recognized the need, envisioned, and created Dance For Life, a performance to honor those lost and a benefit to help those fighting to survive.

Now, after over two years of yet another pandemic, Dance For Life's goals are still to heal, support, unify, and inspire. Chicago Dancers United is an organization uniquely qualified to meet our dance community's needs in an ever-changing world and The Dancers' Fund has been a beacon of hope to many dancers in crisis. The Dancers' Fund ensures that everyone in the dance community has somewhere to turn if they ever need help with medical care expenses.

We welcome and thank each and every one of you, whether it is your 1st or your 31st year attending Dance For Life. If you are inspired by tonight's performance, please consider making an additional donation to Chicago Dancers United benefitting The Dancers' Fund. Every dollar is an investment in the mental and physical well-being of Chicago's vibrant dance community.

Thank you for your unwavering love, passion, and care. To all of the dancers, choreographers, companies, sponsors, ambassadors, volunteers, and loyal patrons that made tonight possible: here's to everyone's good health and to our world-class dance community uniting to take care of each other!

Words cannot express our gratitude,

Jennifer Edgcomb, Ted Grady & Ross Slotten

Credits



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DANCE FOR LIFE 2022

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Dan Paterno, *Paterno Group*

PHOTOGRAPHY

Todd Rosendberg

Michelle Reid

Purple Photo Group

A Message from CDU



We are thrilled to be returning to the beautiful Auditorium Theatre stage for the 31st annual Dance for Life, presented by Chicago Dancers United. Tonight's program is truly one-of-a-kind, connecting thousands of individuals throughout our city with Chicago's vibrant, diverse, and beautiful dance community.

For more than 30 years, Dance for Life has celebrated connection. Connection not only between audiences and artists, but between the performers themselves, the hundreds of people behind the scenes, and the neighborhoods represented on stage and in the audience. These connections spark joy and help us to better understand our own humanity through the beauty we are able to experience together.

We recognize that the devastating effects of the pandemic are still being experienced by so many in the cultural sector and that there is still a long way to go before Chicago's artistic landscape regains equilibrium. Chicago Dancers United will continue to sustain the dance industry as we rebuild and renew together. To every audience member, donor, artist, technician, educator, administrator, and volunteer: thank you for being a critical part of this bridge of support.

Chicago Dancers United exists to support a thriving and healthy dance community by providing financial relief for preventative health care and critical medical needs for Chicago dance industry professionals. Through your commitment and generosity, Dance for Life allows us to raise the essential funds needed to achieve this mission, now and well into the future.

Tonight, we gather; we celebrate; we reflect; we engage. We connect with one another to honor the resilience and passion of you — our incredible community.

With gratitude and joy,
The Board of Chicago Dancers United

Chicago Dancers United and Dance for Life Recognize

Danny Kopelson

It all began with a phone call.



Danny Kopelson

In 1992, Danny Kopelson answered Keith Elliott's call for help. So many friends in the dance community were dying, so many friends were HIV-positive, something needed to be done. Keith wanted to put on a show: dancers helping dancers, action not just reaction. As the Director of Special Events for AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Danny received many requests, but this was different. Danny said, "It came straight from the heart, and the actual idea for the event was simple and brilliant." DANCE FOR LIFE was born!

Against all odds, Keith, Danny, Gail Kalver, and Harriet Ross created a benefit performance that has successfully taken place for more than 30 years. The umbrella organization, Chicago Dancers United, was created in 2014, and Dance for Life continues to serve as its primary fundraiser. The Dancers' Fund, established in 1994, has helped hundreds of Chicago-area dance professionals, not only with HIV/AIDS-related medical expenses, but also with grants for critical care as well as health and wellness.

Danny has worked tirelessly to carry on the love, support the need, and spread the word. Looking back 31 years, Danny too was living with HIV. Today, Danny has not simply survived, he continues to play an active role in improving the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS and supporting the dance community in Chicago.

We thank you, Danny, for answering the call. We are forever grateful for your contributions.

The Dancers' Fund

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

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

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

How the Dancer's Fund Works:

There are two grant opportunities through the Dancer's Fund

The **Critical Health Need Grant** helps cover medical expenses related to the diagnosis of a critical health issue. Those expenses include, but are not limited to, doctor and hospital visits, surgery, medical testing, therapy, and medication. Funding of up to \$5,000 is available annually.

The **General Health and Wellness Grant** helps cover non-critical health expenses related to general health and wellness, such as insurance premiums, medical bills, dental bills, and mental health sessions. Funding of up to \$1,000 is available annually.

Grants are intended for temporary assistance and are paid directly to the collector. Each case is reviewed on an individual basis by a committee comprised of Chicago Dancers United board members. Chicago Dancers United does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status.

For more information and an application, please call 312-678-7919 or email info@chicagodancersunited.org. The application can also be downloaded on Chicago Dancers United's website: www.chicagodancersunited.org

DanceWorks

CHICAGO

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OUR NEW SEASON STARTS AUGUST 22

TUNE IN

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2022 Dancer David Anthony Scheuerman
in Brandon DiCriscio's *Veiled Encounters*

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LIVE AT THE AUD

2022-23 SEASON | Single Tickets Available Now! | AuditoriumTheatre.org

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Sarah Burnham

DANCE FOR LIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Todd Rosenberg

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Grab Magazine, SeeChicagoDance

The Story of DFL/CDU



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

Dance for Life raises money for The Dancers' Fund, established by Harriet Ross in the early 1990s, which provides financial assistance to members of the Chicago professional dance community to help them remain healthy. Since 1992, Dance for Life and other fundraising activities have raised more than \$6 million for The Dancers' Fund, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and 25 other organizations in Chicago.

For over 30 years, nearly 45 Chicago-based, professional dance companies and numerous choreographers have participated in Dance for Life, supporting and showcasing the city's unique diversity of talent, dance traditions, and styles. Dancers, companies, and choreographers generously donate their time, energy, and artistry to the cause. This annual performance remains a spectacular opportunity for the incredibly talented and world-renowned Chicago professional dance community to unite artistically to help each other.

Over the years, Dance for Life has inspired audiences and filled theaters such as the Skyline Stage at Navy Pier, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, the Auditorium Theatre, and last year at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park. Chicago Dancers United is thrilled to return Dance for Life this year to the historic Auditorium Theatre.

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

Chicagodancersunited.org

Dance for Life Donors

\$5000 and above

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Jodi Wickersheimer
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Laura Weaver
Betsy Whipple
Jessica Williams
Alan Scott Woodard

*List as of August
12, 2023. Every
effort has been
made to ensure
the accuracy of
this information.
Any errors and/
or omissions are
unintentional.*

Come Party with Us After the Show!

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

Tickets available at the Door.
Admission price of \$250.

VENUESIX10

610 South Michigan Ave.



Dance for Life After Party

SPONSORS + DONORS + COLLABORATORS



VENUESIX10

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Grab Magazine | SeeChicagoDance.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Dan Paterno, PaternoGroup

*"Pushing Spanish dance
into the 21st century"*

Chicago Tribune

ENSEMBLE
SPANOL★
Spanish Dance Theater
IN RESIDENCE AT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

EnsembleEspagnol.org



Be Moved



A Lifeline of Beneficiaries

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

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

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

Chicago DanceCrash

welcomes you to

Booms Day

Life, strife and relationship goals
after the end of the world

Fri/Sat at 7pm
Aug 26 thru Sept 10
#ItsBoomsDay

The CENTER
The Ruth Page Center for the Arts



ChicagoDanceCrash.com

THE PROGRAM

NAJWA DANCE CORPS

GUINEA FARE AND SORSENE

Choreography: Mouminato Camara

Dancers: Cheryl Barnes, Erica Cork, Najwa Dobrez, Jamerial Goss, Precious Latham, Bradlee Lathon, Brenda Malika Moore, Andrea Najwii Vinson, Nathaniel Taylor, Andrew Pierce

Musicians: John Chapman, Deshon Newman, Jabulani Spraggins, Eric Thomas

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

SHIRT OFF MY BACK (2015)

Choreography: Ray Mercer

Music: Max Richter, Ólafur Arnalds, Bongie Duma

Costume Design: Branimira Ivanova

Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer

Dancers: Ashley Downs, Ryan Galloway, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Skyler Newcom, Onjélee Phomthirath, Katie Raffery, Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda, Eduardo Zambrana

CHICAGO DANCE CRASH

US VS. THEM (2022)

Choreography: Annie Franklin

Music: Man From Sol- "Purposeless", Jonah k- "Live at solstice 2018", Overlook- "all of them Witches"

Costume Design: Jeff Hancock

Lighting Design: Erik Barry

Dancers: KC Bevis, Diamond Burdine, Daniel Gibson, Jack Halbert, Molly Harris, Logan Howell, Jessica Leyva, Jordan Ordonez, Kelsey Reiter, Ibrahim Sabbi

The program run time is 90 minutes with no intermission.

DEEPLY ROOTED DANCE THEATER

PARALLEL LIVES (2018)

Choreography: Gary Abbott

Original Music Composed by: Evangelos Spanos, based on La Folía

Costume Design: Gary Abbott, Ricky Davis

Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner

Dancers: Heather Cagle, Emani Drake, Cherae Grimes, Rebekah Kuczma, Taylor Ramos, Nyemah Stuart, Alyssa McCallum

THE JOFFREY BALLET

ÉLÉGIE (2020)

Choreographer: Yoshihisa Arai

Music: Morceaux de Fantasia by Sergei Rachmaninoff

Costume Design: Yoshihisa Arai

Lighting Design: Jack Mehler

Dancers: Anais Bueno and Dylan Gutierrez

Live Pianist: Jorge Ivars

TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY

AMERICAN TRAFFIC (2020)

Choreography: Michelle Dorrance and Melinda Sullivan

Music: drums and hand percussion by Steven Rutledge

Costume Design: Kristine Fatchet

Lighting Design: Al Crawford

Dancers: Lydia Fredrick, Anna Gorman, Abigail Graham-Luke, Chelsea Hoy, Francisco Lemus, Sierra McNall, Claudia Morrison, Sydney Niewiedzial, Maggie Nowakowski, Kelsey Parry, Clare Rahner, Marissa Wurster

Percussionist: Steven Rutledge

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE THEATER

EL BAILE DE LUIS ALONSO (2011)

Choreography: Irma Suárez Ruiz, artistic director

Music: Gerónimo Giménez

Costume Design: Irma Suárez Ruiz, costume designer

Luz Creations, costume production

Lighting Design: Margaret Nelson

Repetidor/Rehearsal Master: Jose Torres

Company Dancers: Luis Beltran, Juan Carlos Castellon, Nestor Corona, Albertossy Espinoza, Laila Galecki, Samantha Micklewright, Nalanie Molina, Abigail Mosquera, Jonathan Pacheco

FINALE

NEVER ENOUGH (2022)

Choreography: Randy Duncan

Music: Benj Pasek & Justin Paul, Featuring The Stellenbosch University Choir with additional music by Andy Mitran.

Vocals by Annie Mitran Brennan and Louise Mitran

Lighting Design: Margaret Nelson

Costume Design: Luis Razo

Dance Coach: Harriet Ross

Rehearsal Liaison: Katelyn Reyes

Dancers:

Mikail Calliste

Jack Halbert (Chicago Dance Crash)

Arielle Israel

Sydney Jones (Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre)

Quinn Kuch (Chicago Academy for the Arts '23)

Joseph Massarelli (Dutch National Ballet)

Hayley Midea (South Chicago Dance Theatre)

Morgan Reed McDaniel

Aaron Renteria (The Joffrey Ballet)

Fernando Rodriguez (Giordano Dance Chicago)

Michelle Skiba (Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre)

Caitlin Yatsuhashi (New Dances 2022, Danceworks Chicago/Thodos)

Eduardo Zambrana (Giordano Dance Chicago)

Understudies:

Amara Barnes (Symbiosis Arts), Samantha Dauer



DANCE AT THE HARRIS

22/23 SEASON

ALEJANDRO CERRUDO + ARTISTS

IT STARTS NOW

September 8, 2022

PINA BAUSCH / GERMAINE ACOGNY + MALOU AIRAUDO

THE RITE OF SPRING / COMMON GROUND[S]

October 27 + 28, 2022

HAMBURG BALLET / JOHN NEUMEIER

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

February 23 – 25, 2023

ALONZO KING LINES BALLET

WITH LISA FISCHER + JASON MORAN

DEEP RIVER

May 5 + 6, 2023

Tickets start at \$20.



Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Photo by RJ Muna

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Special Thanks

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

In 2022, the following events and partners contributed
or will contribute critical support
in raising funds for Chicago Dancers United.

The Baton Show Lounge

Lindsay Backiev

C5 Create With No Limits

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Jay Frankovich

Ted Grady

Erin Harner

The HMS Media Team

Marty's Martini Bar

Harrison McEldowney

Jere mey Plummer

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About AIDS Foundation Chicago

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



About the American Cancer Society



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

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



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

About Howard Brown Health



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

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

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

Learn more at howardbrown.org

Company Bios

CHICAGO DANCE CRASH

Founded in 2002, Chicago Dance Crash has emerged as a critical staple of the local and national scene, engaging audiences and broadening the exposure of hip hop/contemporary dance. With a unique fusion of both classic and street styles including capoeira, breaking, acrobatics and contemporary dance, Crash continues to impress fans with exciting repertory, innovative productions and jaw-dropping freestyles. Headed by artistic director Jessica Deahr, the company has grown to receive critical acclaim throughout its 20 years with even more to come including their upcoming Chicago premiere of "Booms Day," August 26 – September 10 at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts. Learn more at www.ChicagoDanceCrash.com and join the conversation on Instagram (@chicagodancecrash), Twitter (@DanceCrash) and Facebook/YouTube (Chicago Dance Crash).

DEEPLY ROOTED DANCE THEATER

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater reimagines and diversifies the aesthetics of contemporary dance by uniting modern, classical, American, and African-American traditions in dance and storytelling. Through its uncompromising pursuit of excellence, Deeply Rooted demonstrates the transformative power of art and beauty through dance education, performance, and cultural enrichment in Chicago and on the world stage.

Deeply Rooted is rooted in traditions of American and African-American dance, storytelling, and universal themes that spark a visceral experience and ignite an emotional response in diverse

audiences worldwide. Deeply Rooted collaborates with nationally renowned choreographers, across the spectrum of modern, ballet, and African dance, to reflect contemporary voices. Deeply Rooted Dance Theater was co-founded by Kevin Iega Jeff and Gary Abbott with LaVerne Alaphaire Jeff, Diane Shoher, and Linda Spriggs and made its public debut in 1996. Jeff, who founded JUBILATION! Dance Company in New York City in 1982, came to Chicago in 1994, to take over as artistic director of Joseph Holmes Chicago Dance Theatre, joined shortly thereafter by Abbott, Laverne Jeff, Shoher and Spriggs. Building on the philosophical and organizational foundation of JUBILATION!, Jeff provided the catalyst for drawing together the synergy of artistic and administrative talents that comprise Deeply Rooted. Adopting Jeff's lifetime commitment to the "process" of art, Deeply Rooted was established to create an environment where all parties are central to the work and the team concept of managing and directing is realized. By incorporating these basic rituals into every aspect of the organization, Deeply Rooted allows those involved an opportunity to grow intellectually, physically, and spiritually, thus contributing to the evolutionary continuum and creating the legacy that is Deeply Rooted.

ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE THEATER

Founded in 1975 by Dame Libby Komaiko, and incorporated in 1976, the organization is now under the dynamic leadership of Irma Suarez Ruiz, artistic director and Jorge Pérez, executive director. The company is comprised of 40 dancers, singers, and musicians representing a mosaic of cultures from

around the world. The organization is praised by educators, arts professionals, business and government leaders, as well as arts and cultural media for its artistic excellence, cultural integrity, and its commitment to arts and higher education opportunities for all.

The Ensemble appears in a broad range of television, opera, film, and symphonic formats, including with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Ensemble has appeared in many major theater and universities in Chicago and Illinois, including the landmark legendary Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, North Shore Center, Harris Theater, Symphony Space, to mention a few. The Ensemble has appeared throughout the United States, the Midwest, Puerto Rico, Hawaii & Canada and on four continents in the countries of Mexico, Costa Rica, Poland, Australia, China and Spain.

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

America's original jazz dance company is celebrating 60 years of expanding jazz dance! Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) is an iconic cultural organization and an integral part of Chicago's vibrant performing arts community. From our origins in founder Gus Giordano's original school in Evanston, IL, to our current incarnation as a world-class dance company, GDC boasts over a half-century of worldwide performances (28 countries, 47 states, and more than 1,300 cities) with an imprint on the art form of jazz dance that is far-reaching and significant. For 38 years GDC has been under the Artistic Leadership of Nan Giordano who is responsible for commissioning numerous groundbreaking works, the mentoring of hundreds of young dancers and choreographers, and the development of the Nan Giordano Certification

Program®. The Program, which offers multi-level instruction and certification in the proprietary Giordano Technique, has certified dance educators in 36 states and 7 countries, all integrating the Technique into their college, high school, and studio programs. Each Spring, GDC's *Jazz Dance/Science & Health* program teaches elementary school anatomy and nutrition through a dance-centric program in CPS science classrooms. In 2022 the program brought 250 classes to 350 students in four under-resourced schools, all taught by GDC dancers. With the leadership of Nan, Executive Director Michael McStraw, and the support of our Board of Directors, Giordano Dance Chicago is stronger than ever. Join us for Season 60 Catch the Light, Feel the Radiance, Celebrate Giordano! www.giordanodance.org

THE JOFFREY BALLET

The Joffrey Ballet is one of the premier dance companies in the world today, with a reputation for boundary-breaking performances for more than 65 years. The Joffrey repertoire is an extensive collection of all-time classics, modern masterpieces, and original works.

Classically trained to the highest standards, the Joffrey expresses an inclusive perspective on dance and plays a vital role as one of the largest dance companies and education providers in Chicago and the Midwest region.

Founded in 1956 by pioneers Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino, the organization remains dedicated to artistic expression, innovation, and first-rate education and engagement programming. The Joffrey Ballet continues to thrive under The Mary B. Galvin Artistic Director Ashley Wheeler MBE and President and CEO Greg Cameron.

NAJWA DANCE CORPS

NAJWA Dance Corps (NDC) is a company of professional dancers and musicians devoted to the performance, production and preservation of dance styles and techniques reflective of the African American dance heritage culture and experience. The Company showcases, year-round, the breathtaking diversity of African-influenced dance in a historical context. From the rituals of traditional Africa to the glamorous chorus girls of the swing era, NDC brings joyous, fascinating life to the different dance cultures that have influenced contemporary American dance.

The Company's mission is to operate a professional dance company devoted to the performance, production and preservation of dance styles and techniques reflective of the African American dance heritage and experience; offer and provide high quality arts programming; and, make art accessible to audiences of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

Performances are presented in auditoriums, cultural centers, colleges, universities, high schools, elementary schools, festivals, fairs, museums, at corporate events and television for the purpose of earned income. Programs and projects include classes, workshops, master classes, lecture demonstrations, ensemble presentations, mini-concerts and concerts.

TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY

Trinity Irish Dance Company (TIDC) has significantly changed the direction and scope of Irish dance, re-introducing the art form as the phenomenon it is today. TIDC is

constantly in search of an original means of expression while maintaining a high regard for tradition. This cutting-edge nonprofit company was created in 1990 to celebrate the pioneering work of Founding Artistic Director Mark Howard. Howard's uniquely Irish-American company was the birthplace of progressive Irish dance, an innovative movement genre which opened new avenues of artistic freedom that led directly to commercial productions such as "Riverdance."

By using Irish dance as an instrument and a metaphor, TIDC redefines the medium with passion, flair, and precision. Through a unique blend of uncompromising power and grace, TIDC sends a consistent message of female empowerment with a repertory that has elevated the art form for over three decades.

Considered an American treasure by critics and enthusiasts worldwide, TIDC has performed sold-out tours in Europe, Asia, and North America, appearing in distinguished venues, such as New York's The Joyce Theater, Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center, UCLA's Royce Hall, Ottawa's National Arts Center of Canada, Tokyo's Orchard Hall, and Chicago's Auditorium Theatre, among many others. TIDC has traveled to entertain dignitaries as varied as Monaco's royal family, Irish and American presidents, Japanese royalty, and Indian meditation masters.

TIDC holds an important place in the dance world, offering both a highly skilled presentation of traditional Irish step dance and a brilliantly engaging interpretation of contemporary world vision.

Individual Bios

Sarah Burnham (Project Manager)

Sarah Burnham (She/her/hers) is a Chicago-based Production and Project Manager. She is on staff at Lookingglass Theatre Company where she serves as the Director of Production and has previously worked with Peninsula Players Theatre and American Blues Theatre. Sarah has an extensive props design history having worked with companies such as Northlight Theatre, American Blues Theater, TimeLine Theatre, Northwestern University-Next Up Series, Steep Theatre Company, Jackalope Theatre and Lookingglass Theatre Company. Sarah holds a BFA from the University of Oklahoma with an emphasis in acting and scenic design. Sarah is also a founding member of For the Group Chicago: A Chicago BIMPOC Theatre Network, as well as part of the No More 10 out of 12s Working Group. She grew up dancing, and is excited to return to the world of dance with this project.

Randy Duncan (Finale Choreographer)

Randy Duncan, a native of Chicago, who began his dance training with Ms. Geraldine Johnson and credits much of his artistic development with Harriet Ross, has the unique privilege to be a three-time recipient of Chicago's prestigious Ruth Page Award for Outstanding Choreographer of the year. He has received numerous other awards including the Artistic Achievement Award from the Chicago National Association of Dance Masters, three Black Theatre Alliance Awards, and the Gay Chicago Magazine After Dark Award. He earned an American Choreography Award Nomination for his choreography in the block buster movie Save the Last Dance, starring Julia Stiles. Mr. Duncan's work has been seen in the companies of Joffrey Ballet, Giordano Jazz

Dance Chicago, Ballet Met, and many others. He has created choreography for such theatres as the Goodman, Manhattan Theatre Club, South Coast Repertory, Actor's Theatre, Court Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Washington Shakespeare Theatre, and Portland Opera. Most recently, Randy's work can be seen in season four of Showtime's THE CHI. For the past 28 years he has been on the faculty of The Chicago Academy for the Arts, where he now serves as Dance Department Chair and received the 2019 Faculty Legacy Award. Randy has been choreographing the finale for Chicago's annual Dance for Life gala since 1994 and has received the 2013 AIDS Foundation Chicago Civic Leadership Award for his work with Dance for Life.

Erin Harner (Operations Manager)

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

Erin has a rich teaching background and has facilitated classes within a myriad of movement spaces, as well as through school programming. Aside from her collegiate pedagogical education, Erin's accreditations include the Nan Giordano Certification Program, Yogaview's 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training, CorePower's Yoga Sculpt Teacher Training and AIR's Aerial Fitness Teacher

Training. Additionally, she is in the midst of a course of study in relation to the somatic practice IMAGE TECH for dancers, under the direction of its creator, Alexandra Wells, and maintains membership with the International Association for Dance Medicine & Science.

Furthermore, Erin functions as the Assistant to the Artistic Director & Founder of Springboard Danse Montréal and the Operations Manager for Chicago Dancers United. Previously, she assumed the role of Manager of Artist Training at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Erin's previous and current roles afford her the pleasure of engaging in collaboration resulting in the promotion of innovation and generosity.

Julia Hinojosa (General Manager)

Julia Hinojosa (she/her/hers) is a non-profit arts professional with ten years of experience working with educational, cultural, and community-based organizations to develop arts programming and educational experiences for students of all ages. She is committed to supporting mission-driven arts and culture organizations in Chicago confronting complex social issues. Julia comes to this work from University of Chicago's Arts+Public Life initiative, where she managed a portfolio of arts education programs for South Side Chicago teens to cultivate artistic and creative growth, leadership, and social development. Prior to her role at Arts+Public Life, Julia spent ten years with the Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater where she served as Director of Education and Community Outreach and assisted in raising \$1.5 million and increased program enrollment by 40%. Julia holds a Master's Degree in Arts, Entertainment, and Media Management from Columbia College, Chicago, and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Northeastern Illinois University.

Andy Mitran (Composer/Producer)

Five time Emmy award winner Andy Mitran started his career in music as a child. From drums to piano, he formed a band in high school, studied composition in college while performing professionally and went on to become the Music Director on TV's longest running children's program in history, the Bozo Show.

Since the Bozo Show went off the air in 2001 Andy has written almost four hundred pieces of music that have been used on the Oprah Winfrey show, the Dr. Oz show, the Nate Berkus show and Oprah's Own Network from 2005 to the present. Andy is also co-owner of Mitran Mitran Music a long time custom music and audio production company founded in 1984. As his studio services expanded, Mitran Mitran Music truly became Chicago's quintessential music and audio company, having completed projects for some of the city's biggest brands - Oprah, the Bulls, Sox, Cubs, WGN, WTTW, Empire Today, and more. Teaming up with internationally acclaimed composer and owner of Laughing Cat Records, Al Jewer, Andy has created a team and business with a reputation for dependability, innovation and unique skills.

In 2011 Andy launched Perfect Choice Music Library with long time co composer Al Jewer. This music can be heard in commercials, broadcast and cable programming on shows including "Let's Make A Deal", "Martha Stuart Living" "Aftermath with William Shatner" among others.

Margaret Nelson (Lighting Designer, Production Stage Manager)

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

Luis Razo (Costume Designer)

Luis is originally from Guadalajara, Mexico. He moved to Chicago in 1994 and has since been very successful as a Creative Costume Designer for multiple Chicago theatre and dance productions. He has been instrumental in designing, and restoring a variety of classical and modern costumes for the Chicago Academy for the Arts Dance Department's spring and fall programs from 2012 – present. These include: *Escapades, Journey, Held, and Solitaire*. Luis has also an award winning collaborator with Joffrey Ballet Academy's (2018 – 2022) productions of *Momentos, Mori, Sea of Stars, Vessals Bearing, Give The People What They Want, Borders, Brush Stroke, Ballet De Cour, Now But Not Now, Porcelain, Road to Fire, On the same Boat, Coppelia, Swan Lake, Harlequinade, Ferdinand, Fire Bird, and Appalachian Spring*. He also has created costumes for the Trinity Irish Dance Company's 2021 production of *Soles* and for Visceral Dance Chicago's 2022 season productions of *Awake, Youth Company* and *We Move Lightly*. In 2018, Luis was honored to design and create the costumes for Randy Duncan's finale work of *Adroit* at the Dance For Life/ Dancers United performance. His participation in Charmweddings Toilet Paper Wedding Gown Contest, earned him a finalist nomination in 2017 and 2018. In his limited spare time, Luis also pursues additional creative endeavors. He is known for landscape design, stained glass and mosaic work, carpentry and furniture restoration, as well as commercial and residential décor.

Katelyn Reyes (Finale Ambassador)

Katelyn Reyes, originally from the Chicago suburban area, is a dance educator and performing arts advocate. She holds degrees in Dance Teacher Education, Physical Education, and Business Administration from Illinois

State University, a Master of Science degree in Education with a concentration in Health Education from University of St. Francis, and a 200-hour Power Yoga Teacher Certification from CorePower Yoga. Formerly with the Joel Hall Dancers, she currently teaches full-time dance at Barrington High School where she directs the Orchestis Dance Company and co-produces the Giordano Choreography Project with Giordano Dance Chicago. In addition, she serves on the steering committee for Illinois High School Dance Festival as the Professional Company Performance Coordinator. Since 2017, Katelyn has been contributing her time working with Chicago Dancers United as a program associate and dance ambassador for Dance for Life, as well as Randy Duncan's finale rehearsal ambassador and a Dance Divas performer. Dance for Life is one of Katelyn's favorite events of the entire year!

Jacob Snodgrass (Assistant Production Manager and Lighting Director)

Jacob has been designing lights and working within the performing arts community since 2000. He has been involved with Dance for Life since for over a decade. Jacob has created with Aerial Dance Chicago, BONEdance/Breakbone Dance Company, Ray Leeper, Jumaane Taylor, Khecari Dance Theater, Peter Chu, Giordano Dance Chicago, Ray Mercer, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Peter Carpenter Performance Project, REDCLAY Dance Theater, Nejla Yatkin, Same Planet Performance Project, James Morrow/ the movement, Roni Koresh, J'Sun Howard, REIDance, Soham Dance, Joel Hall Dancers, Hedwig Dances, Ruth Page Foundation, Space Movement Project, Canada's lbs/sq", and Free Street Theater. He was formerly Technical Director at Ruth Page Theater, Links Hall and Hamlin Park Dance Theater and Lighting Director at Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago. Jacob is Technical Director for Giordano Dance Chicago.



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See you next year!