WILD
A ground-breaking ballet from Jeremy McQueens Black Iris Project

World Premiere
March 17, 2022
Presented by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture & 651 Arts, as part of Carnegie Hall's Afrofuturism Festival

Thursday, March 17, 2022 - 7 PM
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Directed & Choreographed by
Jeremy McQueen

Additional choreography created in collaboration with the performing artists
Associate choreographed by Derick McKoy, Jr.

Costume design by Jeremy McQueen

Scenic design by Jeremy McQueen & Colton Williams

Lighting design by Josh Kundert-Gibbs & Jeremy McQueen

Projection design by Brittany Bland

Projector rental & focusing by Carlos Johns-Davila

Illustrations by Aria Feliciano

Sound design by Mauricio Escamilla

Screen printing by Eric Michael

Production photography by Matthew Murphy

Promotional Illustration by DeeOnna Denton
Founded by choreographer Jeremy McQueen in 2016, The Black Iris Project (BIP) is a ballet collaborative and education vehicle which creates new, relevant classical and contemporary ballet works that celebrate diversity and Black history. Based in New York City, BIP hosts a team of predominantly artists of color, and delivers cross-disciplinary and original works. Championing individuality, the collaborative harnesses the Black inherent creative spirit. The ballets that McQueen choreographs for BIP are rooted in Black history and community, bringing inadequately-represented stories to public attention through an art form that has only recently begun to expand meaningfully outside its privileged past.

His works push the boundaries of the ballet world as they highlight the personal narratives of significant Black public figures as well as extraordinary individuals amongst the general public who navigate a world that is prejudiced and dangerous for them. BIPs vision is to encourage and inspire youth of color to pursue art, movement, and music as an expressive outlet and means for collective healing, as well as educating audiences about how Black history relates to the modern Black journey.

BIP has performed for audiences around the country and has been featured in numerous publications including The New York Times, Elle Magazine, Village Voice, Out Magazine, Huffington Post, The Root, and has received three New York Emmy® Award-nomination for their ground-breaking films.

blackirisproject.org
Jeremy McQueen is an award-winning choreographer, dedicated to story-telling rooted in experience and social engagement. His work aims to create spaces of comfort, solace, and connection through reflection—a sharing of observations of what is going on around him. Born and raised in San Diego, California, McQueen is a graduate of The Ailey School/Fordham University, B.F.A. in dance program and has also trained in the schools of American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, and Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet. A performer turned choreographer, McQueen made his professional debut at the age of 15 performing in regional theater productions in his hometown, and later went on to perform in the Broadway national tours of Wicked and The Color Purple, in addition to the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, and numerous Metropolitan Opera productions.

As a decorated choreographer on the rise, McQueen is a three-time New York Emmy® Award-nominated choreographer, 2020 recipient of the Soros Justice Fellowship from Open Society Foundations, 2019 recipient of the Bronx Council on the Arts’ BRIIO (Bronx Recognizes It’s Own) Award for Excellence in Choreography, 2013 recipient of the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago’s Choreographers of Color Award [Winning Works], and a two-time finalist of the Capezio Award for Choreographic Excellence.
William Roberson
Education: Howard University
Career Highlights: Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Metropolitan Opera's "Porgy & Bess"
@thewcr

Jeffrey Sousa
Education: University of the Arts
Career Highlights: Aladdin the musical, Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance, "Isn't it Romantic" film.
@sousa_spectacular

Charles Grant
Education: Fisk University & The Ailey School
Career Highlights: Evidence Dance Company, "Pose" on FX and Nick Cave's Bessie Award-winning "The Let Go".
@charliewa93
Performed by

Rayan Lecurieux-Durival

Education: The Ailey School
Career Highlights: Bill T. Jones, Jennifer Muller, Buglisi Dance Theater
@rayanld

Fana Tesfagiorgis

Education: Ailey/Fordham BFA
Career Highlights: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, "My Fair Lady" First National In Tour, "In the heights" film.
@fanaminea

Also featuring

Claude Alexander III, Joshua P. Bell, Michael Bishop, Khalid Dunton, David Adrian Freeland, Jr., Aaron Frisby, Isaiah K. Harvey, Prince Jon, Michael Montgomery, Khayr Muhammad, Brandon Ragland, Tamir Rios, Kevin R. Tate & Christopher Taylor.

“Juvie Talk” Interviews & Photographs by Richard Ross
“Misunderstood” Journal entry written by D., through a program with The New York City Administration for Children's Services, Division of Youth & Family Justice
Excerpt from “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison
Music by

Phil
“Crown Royal”
Performed by Phil. & Demeanor
Written by Phillip Johnson Richardson, Malcolm Flex & Justin Harrington
Produced by Malcolm Flex
philsgoodmusic.com

morgxn
“Shelter”
Written & Performed by morgxn
Sound Design by Mauricio Escamilla
Produced by Solomon Dorsey

“Waves”
Written, Performed & Produced by morgxn

“Running to Red”
Written & Performed by morgxn
Produced by Aaron C. Harmon
@morgxn
Music by

Mowri
“Prevent your choke”
Written, Performed & Produced by Mauricio Escamilla
mowrichops.com

Brittany Campbell
“Matter”
Written & Performed by Brittany Campbell
Produced by Sam Hoffman and Brittany Campbell
brittanycampbell.com

Chari Glogovac-Smith
“Identity”
Composed & Performed by Chari Glogovac-Smith
Emery Barter - Guitar & Bass, Tomeka Reid - Cello, Nayoung Judy Jung - Piano, Matthew Ka Git Wong - Alto Saxophone, Tony Gennaro - Drums, Patrick Barter - Auxiliary Percussion,
Produced by Chari Glogovac-Smith and Emery Barter
chariglogovacsmit.com
Additional Music

“Morning Mood”
Composed by Edvard Grieg
Performed by the Czech National Symphony Orchestra

“Piano Trio No. 2 in C Minor Op. 66. MWV Q 33: II Andante Espressivo”
By Felix Mendelssohn
Performed by Trio Opus 8
Courtesy of Naxos of America, Inc.

Special Thanks

Mary McQueen, Cliff Hunt, Kris Bergbom, Rob Montenegro, Alex Goleman/Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc., Colton Williams/Three Strikes Inc., Misty Copeland, Lynn Shipley/Ballet Hispanico, Fareed Nassor Hayat, Khalilah Bates/Schomburg Center, L. Camille Massey, Rebecca Coughenour, Janée Murray-Wegman, Jonah Konah

ALL of our Seed Planters!

Research & Development Contributors

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**dance/NYC**
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“WILD” is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the Bronx Council on the Arts.

“WILD” is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and administered by the Bronx Council on the Arts.

CUNY DANCE INITIATIVE

“WILD” is co-commissioned by the CUNY Dance Initiative (CDI) and the Gerald W. Lynch Theater at John Jay College, with support from The Howard Gilman Foundation, The Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Jerome Robbins Foundation, the SHS Foundation, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, and Dance/NYC’s New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program, made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. CDI is produced by The Kupferberg Center for the Arts at Queens College.

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Enjoyed tonight’s performance? Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to The Black Iris Project to help us continue amplifying Black voices.

blackirisproject.org/support