MAR 25, 2023
SATURDAY | 7:30 PM
TOUHILL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
PRESENTS

dorrance
dance

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
MICHELLE DORRANCE

DANCERS
ELIZABETH BURKE  MICHELLE DORRANCE  STERLING HARRIS
LUKE HICKEY  LISA LA TOUCHE  ADDI LOVING
CLAUDIA RAHARDJANOTO

MUSICIANS
KYLE EVERETT  AARON MARCELLUS
MATT PARKER  GREGORY RICHARDSON

DORRANCE DANCE SHOW SPONSORS

MARY STRAUSS

The taking of flash photos and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited. Program and artists subject to change. Cover photo by Matthew Murphy.
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PROGRAM

SOUNDspace (2013)

Choreography by Michelle Dorrance
with solo improvisation by the dancers

Original Music by Gregory Richardson
Original Body Percussion Score by Michelle Dorrance
Lighting Design by Kathy Kaufmann
Costumes by Mishay Petronelli, Michelle Dorrance, and Byron Tittle

Dancers
ELIZABETH BURKE
MICHELLE DORRANCE
STERLING HARRIS
LUKE HICKEY
LISA LA TOUCHE
ADDI LOVING
CLAUDIA RAHARDJANOTO

Musician
GREGORY RICHARDSON (BASS)

The creation of SOUNDspace was made possible, in part, by the Danspace Project 2012-2013 Commissioning Initiative, with support from the New York State Council on the Arts. As part of Danspace Project’s Choreographic Center Without Walls, Dorrance received a production residency supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
45th & 8th (2022)

Choreography by Michelle Dorrance
in collaboration with Elizabeth Burke, Luke Hickey,
Claudia Rahardjanoto, Leonardo Sandoval, Byron Tittle
and featuring improvisation by the dancers

Original Music by Aaron Marcellus in collaboration with the musicians
Lighting Design by Kathy Kaufmann
Costumes by Dede Ayite

Dancers
ELIZABETH BURKE
MICHELLE DORRANCE
STERLING HARRIS
LUKE HICKEY
LISA LA TOUCHE
CLAUDIA RAHARDJANOTO

Understudy
ADDI LOVING

Musicians
AARON MARCELLUS (VOCALS/KEYS)
KYLE EVERETT (DRUMS)
MATT PARKER (SAXOPHONE/FLUTE/CLARINET)
GREGORY RICHARDSON (BASS)

This work was created in part during a residency
at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park.
ABOUT DORRANCE DANCE

Dorrance Dance is an award-winning tap dance company based in New York City. Led by Michelle Dorrance, the company supports dancers and musicians who embody and push the dynamic range that tap dance has to offer. The company’s mission is to engage with audiences on a musical and emotional level, and to share the complex history and powerful legacy of this Black American art form through performance and education.

Founded in 2011 by artistic director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance, the company has received countless accolades, rave reviews, and has performed at venues including Danspace Project, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Vail Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Works and Process at the Guggenheim, Carolina Performing Arts at UNC Chapel Hill, Cal Performances at UC Berkeley, among many others, including international venues in Canada, France, Germany, Spain, England, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Russia.

www.DorranceDance.com

Instagram: @dorrancedance
Facebook: facebook.com/dorrancedance/

As seen in tonight’s performance, Dorrance Dance is deeply committed to creating new works and employment opportunities for tap dancers. Please join our mailing list for updates and consider donating to support the art and artists!


Rehearsal and development for this performance was supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. These performances are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. This program is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the city council. Dorrance Dance is a recipient of a U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, made possible by the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Charles D. Schumer.
The Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis is an active ADVOCATE for the arts. As the largest public funder of the arts, we act as an economic CATALYST in the City and County. RAC is a reliable PARTNER and collaborator with local, state and nationwide organizations.

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Executive Director ........................................ Andrea Nellis
General Manager ........................................... Tina Huang Abrams
Production Manager/Sound Designer .................... Christopher Marc
Development Manager ................................. Amanda Hameline
Assistant to Artistic Director ........................... Gabby Benavides
Co-Dance Captains ......................................... Elizabeth Burke & Byron Tittle
Musical Director .............................................. Gregory Richardson
Lighting Designer ........................................... Kathy Kaufmann
Lighting Supervisor ....................................... Devin Koenig
Stage Manager ............................................... Olivia Brown
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Artist Representative ................................. Barbara Frum, outer/most
**BIOS**

**Michelle Dorrance** (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Dancer) is a New York City-based artist. Mentored by Gene Medler (North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble), she was fortunate to study under many of the last master hoofers. Career highlights include: STOMP, Derick Grant’s Imagine Tap!, Jason Samuels Smith’s Charlie’s Angels/Chasing the Bird, Ayodele Casel’s Diary of a Tap Dancer, Mable Lee’s Dancing Ladies, and playing the bass for Darwin Deez. Company work includes: Savion Glover’s Ti Dii, Manhattan Tap, Barbara Duffy and Co., JazzTap Ensemble, and Rumba Tap. Solo work ranges from The Late Show with Stephen Colbert to commissions for the Martha Graham Dance Company, Vail Dance Festival, American Ballet Theatre, and New York City Center. Michelle made her Broadway choreographic debut with James Lapine’s Flying Over Sunset at Lincoln Center Theater in 2021. A 2018 Doris Duke Artist, 2017 Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow, and 2015 MacArthur Fellow, Dorrance is humbled to have been acknowledged and supported by United States Artists, The Joyce Theater, the Alpert Awards, Jacob’s Pillow, Princess Grace Foundation-USA, The Field, American Tap Dance Foundation, and the Bessie Awards. Dorrance holds a B.A. from New York University and is a Capezio Athlete.

**Aaron Marcellus** (Composer/Musician), singer songwriter, vocal coach, musician, dancer, and actor, was born and raised in Atlanta and has been entertaining crowds around the world for 25 plus years. He got his start in Gospel music with his first major record deal with the Warner label Word Records. After placing Top 24 on “American Idol” he was sent on a world tour sponsored by the US Armed Forces, where he performed for thousands in England, Italy, Holland, Germany, France, Korea, Kuwait and Japan. Aaron has been featured in a Chapstick commercial, NBC’s “Next Caller” and is a veteran member of New York City’s Off-Broadway hit “Stomp” also supporting lead in National Black Theater’s production of “Dreaming Zenzile”. Marcellus can be found hosting weekly at a local Burlesque and live music restaurant “Duane Park” Amongst singing all New York City, directing showcases, tap dancing, acting, and serving as a vocal coach, Aaron is Founder and Creative Director of The Marcellus Collective and CEO of “Surrender To Love” LLC; a foundation that financially supports music & arts programs and feeds hungry bellies.”
Elizabeth Burke (Co-Dance Captain/Dancer) has worked full time with the company since its inaugural 2010-2011 season. Before Dorrance Dance being her artistic focus, she spent 11 years under the mentorship of Gene Medler in the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble. She’s also an alumna of the School at Jacob’s Pillow. Elizabeth teaches, choreographs, and performs at tap dance festivals across the country, and works with fellow Carolinian Luke Hickey. She thanks Amelia Peden for their inimitable support.

Kyle Everett (Musician) is delighted to be performing with the Dorrance Dance. He has done various performances and programs with Juilliard school of Music, All City Jazz bands and performed for various celebrities, events, tv programs and much more.

Sterling Harris (Dancer) (he/him), a Chicago native, holds a B.A. in Neuroscience from Northwestern University but has a strong passion for tap dance. He is the Artistic Associate of Chicago Tap Theatre, a Company Member of M.A.D.D. Rhythms, and has performed with Music From The Sole, YellowShed, and 333. Sterling is also an alumnus of the Tap Program at The School at Jacob’s Pillow and the recipient of the 2021 Lorna Strassler Award.

Luke Hickey (Dancer) is a NYC based tap dance artist and choreographer, named by Dance Magazine among ‘25 To Watch’ in 2020. Hickey credits his knowledge and achievements to the incomparable brilliance of his mentor, JUBA Award recipient Gene Medler (North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble). His choreography has been presented by Jacob’s Pillow, Birdland Jazz Club and the Chelsea Factory, to name a few. Luke is honored to be a company member of Michelle Dorrance’s Dorrance Dance.

Lisa La Touche (Dancer), a Canadian and New Yorker, Lisa’s credits include Broadway’s Shuffle Along, recipient of Fred Astaire and Actor’s Equity Award for Outstanding Broadway Chorus, touring with Savion Glover as well as with STOMP. She is the founder of performance and production company, Tap Phonics, and an educator dedicated to servicing unrepresented communities. Her film making debut includes TRAX encompassing her journey back to Alberta, Canada while discovering important local black history. www.lisalatouche.com
BIOS

Addi Loving (*Dancer*) is thrilled to join Dorrance Dance on this season’s tour! Hailing from North Carolina and St. Louis, she trained under Gene Medler and later had involvement with the MUNY St. Louis. Now stationed in New York, she is currently a junior at Pace University studying Arts Management in hopes to further her dance career. “Anything you do, let it come from you, then it will be new...” - Stephen Sondheim

Matt Parker (*Musician*) is a saxophonist and composer whose highlights include: Dr. Lonnie Smith, Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, The Mingus Big Band, Cape Town Youth Choir, Bridgett Everett, and spending two years touring with Maynard Ferguson. Parker has written and released two albums, *World Put Together* (2014) and *Present Time* (2016), both albums receiving album of the year awards. He is the composer and musical director for multiple theater companies that create original content.

Claudia Rahardjanoto (*Dancer*), born and raised in Berlin, Germany, started her professional dance career at the Deutsche Oper Berlin at the age of nine. At fifteen, she fell in love with tap dance under the tutelage of Sven Göttlicher and Marie-Christin Zeisset and moved to NYC in 2003 to pursue a career in tap dance. A Dorrance Dance member since the company’s inception, Claudia hopes to continue to share her love and passion for music and the art of tap dance through her teaching and performing worldwide.

Gregory Richardson (*Musical Director/Musician*) is a multi-instrumentalist focusing on upright and electric bass. He’s the co-creator of Music From The Sole, an Afro-Brazilian tap dance and live band show that is currently in residence at Lincoln Center Education. He’s played drums, keys, and guitar with the band Darwin Deez at the world’s largest music festivals in the UK, Australia, Japan, Germany, and Austria.
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Martha Graham

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* in memoriam
The 2022 – 2023 season marks Rich Dee’s twelfth with Dance St. Louis, and the sixth season as the executive leader.

On the verge of closing in 2017 due to financial struggles, and under his guidance, Dance St. Louis has achieved 5 straight seasons (2018 - 2022) in the “black” and remains one of only 4 nonprofit dance-only presenters in the United States. In addition, Mr. Dee has led Dance St. Louis through the Covid-19 pandemic overcoming significant challenges as the result of cancelled shows.

During his tenure at Dance St. Louis, Mr. Dee has raised millions in philanthropic support to present the talents of more than 4,000 artists and 300 professional dance companies from across the globe to our city. In addition, he led the efforts to secure more than $1 million to commission 25 world premieres exclusively for St. Louis-based dance companies in partnership with world-renowned choreographers, to grow artistically, increase exposure for their company, and elevate our city’s dance landscape.

He is credited with the creation of An Evening of Ballet Stars showcasing principal dancers from some of America’s most iconic and prestigious ballet companies; he reimaged the SPRING TO DANCE Festival under The Big Top circus tent at a time when indoor theaters were shuttered due to the pandemic; and through his leadership, St. Louis remains home to one of the most celebrated dance festivals in the Midwest region, SPRING TO DANCE.

Mr. Dee’s nonprofit experience spans 27 years with missions focused on the arts, animal welfare, humanitarian efforts and healthcare. He has raised more than $100 million in his career and has held executive positions with major non-profits that include the Humane Society of
Missouri, one of the largest and oldest animal welfare organizations in the country, during a successful $11 million capital campaign; the American Red Cross, most notably during 9/11; and Cancer Support Community/Gilda’s Club, the largest professionally led non-profit network of cancer support worldwide.

He currently serves as special advisor to Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater in Chicago, previously serving as Vice Chair of the Board and Executive Board Member for five seasons. Mr. Dee also serves as Board Vice President of the Dielmann-Kaiser House Foundation in St. Louis, focused on preserving the historic collection of furniture, fixtures and objects as well as original artwork by artist, sculptor, and master gardener Robert Dielmann. The Dielmann-Kaiser House is a historic 1883 three-story Victorian-style home located in the Dutchtown neighborhood of south St. Louis city.

Since 1995, Mr. Dee has been an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), serving as an Executive Board Member for nearly ten years. In 2000, Mr. Dee was one of only eight nonprofit leaders to serve on the Executive Host Committee for AFP International Conference on Fundraising held in St. Louis, the largest conference on fundraising in the world, setting a record that year with over 4,000 attendees. He has had the honor to work with Bob Costas, the late Beverly Sills, and other prominent figures in sports, media, and the arts and entertainment industry.

Prior to his nonprofit career, he was with FleishmanHillard, and mentored by civic icons Ruth K. Jacobson and Al Kerth. While at FleishmanHillard, he worked with clients such as Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Hyatt, McDonalds, St. Louis Rams, St. Louis Science Center, and Walmart.

Mr. Dee is a graduate of Missouri State University with a bachelor’s degree in electronic media and journalism. He was raised in the St. Louis Hills neighborhood and graduated from St. Gabriel the Archangel and St. Mary’s High School.
Michael Uthoff was born in Chile to the founders of the Chilean National Ballet, Ernst Uthoff and Lola Botka, who were both members of the original Ballet Jooss. Uthoff arrived in NYC to study dance at The School of American Ballet, The Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance and The Juilliard School of Music.

Soon after his arrival, he became a soloist with the José Limón Dance Company. Uthoff was also an original member of the American Dance Company, which opened the State Theatre at Lincoln Center, in which he danced leading roles in works by Jose Limon, Donald McKayle and Anna Sokolow. He then joined the Joffrey Ballet as a principal dancer and later joined the First Chamber Dance Company of NY touring the USA, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

He was among the first faculty members at SUNY Purchase and founded and developed the Hartford Ballet, taking it to national prominence where it served as a framework for companies around the country to follow. His tenure culminated with tours of China and Latin America. Uthoff continued his career as the artistic director of Ballet Arizona and the Ballet Estable del Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 2006, he accepted the post of artistic and executive director of Dance St. Louis and continued the presentation of quality dance performances while developing programs that enhanced the local dance community and thrilled audiences. Spring to Dance and New Dance Horizons were introduced to its season while an intensive dance education program was developed with inner city schools. He held the post until 2017 and later returned to Dance St. Louis as the artistic director in 2020.

He has taught at the university level and in dance schools throughout the country. He guest lectured at UMSL’s dance department and became a member of the faculty at Webster University in 2010.
Uthoff has choreographed at every level and his works have been seen all over the world earning him creative grants. He has received many awards culminating with an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from the University of Missouri in St. Louis as well as the Excellence in the Arts awards by the Arts and Education Council received in 2013.