THE COWLES CENTER

2021/2022 Performance Season

A DECADE OF DANCE
Letter from the Directors

Greetings, Cowles Community —

Does anyone else feel that? The optimism in the air? Thank goodness!

We could not be happier to open our doors and welcome you to The Cowles Center again after a long and strange year without live performances in the Goodale Theater.

Twelve diverse productions will grace the stage for our 2021/2022 season. We’re excited to offer co-presentations and a co-commission with our friends Northrop, The Great Northern, and the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, respectively. All 12 productions will have in-person experiences, and we’re happy to offer livestream performances again this season!

All this dance feels appropriately celebratory, for this is our 10-year anniversary as The Cowles Center! Please join us to toast 10 years of dance on October 1 at DECADANCE, our short and sweet fundraiser.

We hope you’ll enjoy perusing these pages, and that you find something that speaks to you. Thank you for your continued support of The Cowles Center and Minnesota dance artists.

EVERY. BODY. DANCES

Joseph Bingham  |  Jessi Fett

Co-directors of The Cowles Center

Health & Safety at The Cowles Center

Your health and safety are our number one priority during your visit to The Cowles Center. To keep our patrons, performers, and staff safe:

- Please assume masks are required while visiting The Cowles Center unless otherwise specified.
- Touchless hand sanitizer stations are available throughout the building.
- High-touch surfaces are disinfected before, during, and after use.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of any illness, we respectfully ask that you please stay home and enjoy the livestream performance instead.

The Cowles Center retains the right to update masking, social distancing, and other sanitary rules at any time in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines. We encourage you to review the Health & Safety language on our website ahead of any event to ensure you are adequately prepared. Find it at thecowlescenter.org/visit.
FEATURING SHORT & SWEET PERFORMANCES

by Rhythmically Speaking and Duniya Drum & Dance Company, plus a special announcement! Celebrating dance and desserts as we honor 10 years since The Cowles Center put on its dancing shoes and opened its doors to the public. We are excited to host a diverse group of arts supporters at The Cowles Center for our in-person, on-site benefit (event capacity of 250 persons) with a virtual component.

Early bird tickets go on sale August 3. Go to thecowlescenter.org/DECADANCE or scan the QR code to buy your tickets and learn more!

Questions? Contact Mary Meyers at 312.485.4063 or mary.meyers@artspace.org
FALL PERFORMANCES

The Cowles Center and the McKnight Fellowships for Dancers present

SOLO

Six World-Premiere Dance Films

September 18th, 2021 at 7:30 PM CST
at The Cowles Center

*Livestream and On Demand options available

SOLO Fellows and their Commissioned Choreographers Include:

Renée Copeland
(2018 Dancer Fellow)
Erika Bettin (Italy)

Erin Thompson
(2019 Dancer Fellow)
Bebe Miller (OH)

Sharon Mansur
(2018 Dancer Fellow)
Yara Boustany, Andrea Shaker and Mette Loulou von Kohl (Lebanon, MN, NY)

Joseph “MN Joe” Tran
(2019 Dancer Fellow)
Rudi Goblen (CT)

Yeniel “Chini” Perez Domenech
(2018 Dancer Fellow)
Ephrat Asherie (NY)

Elayna Waxse
(2019 Dancer Fellow)
Bobbi Jene Smith (NY)

With films edited and arranged by Caitlin Hammel.

Each year three exceptional Minnesota dance artists receive the coveted honor of a McKnight Dancer Fellowship. SOLO celebrates the 2018 and 2019 recipients with an evening of solo dance films created specifically for them by renowned local, national, and international choreographers.

Join us after the show for a Meet the Artist post-show discussion!

Ticket Prices (Fees Included)

$25 Cowles premiere showing
$20 Livestream or On Demand until September 25th, 2021

Get tickets at TheCowlesCenter.org or scan this QR code.

Photo of Renée Copeland by Tim Rummelhoff
TheCowlesCenter.org | 612.206.3600
JAMES SEWELL BALLET

James Sewell Ballet’s 30th Anniversary Retrospective

Contemporary Ballet  ●  October 16 – 17  ●  $20 - $35*

Join us in celebrating a remarkable 30 years of James Sewell Ballet! Powerful performers showcase past favorites and new hits, highlighting the company’s distinct voice and vision. This program will also feature a new dazzling work from Da’Rius Malone. Live musicians will accompany select works.

TWIN CITIES TAP FESTIVAL

Tap Dance  ●  October 21 – 23  ●  $20 - $35*

The 7th annual Twin Cities Tap Festival Concerts and Showcase shines a spotlight on the dynamic and ever-changing art of tap dance. This year’s Concert features live music accompanying the best in local and national tap artists, including Jumaane Taylor and Max Pollak, among others! The Showcase highlights local tap artists and the area’s best youth ensembles.

Co-presentation with Northrop

*fees included
FALL PERFORMANCES

THREADS DANCE PROJECT

Modern Dance  ●  November 5 – 6
$20 - $30*

Threads Dance Project emerges from the ashes of the pandemic to celebrate its 10th anniversary, premiering the film Out of the Ashes and new works by 2020 Tapestries Program choreographers: Gabby Abram, Jennifer Pray, and Elayna Waxse. Out of the Ashes honors those impacted by 9/11 and asks whether we can resurrect a better way of living. This film, along with the works premiered by Tapestries program choreographers, emerges Threads anew.

Out of the Ashes is co-commissioned with the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

BEST BUY

Awake. Alive. Anew. is sponsored in part by Best Buy and the City of Saint Paul Cultural Sales Tax Revitalization Program.

ASHWINI RAMASWAMY
Ashwini Ramaswamy’s
Let the Crows Come

Bharatanatyam/Contemporary/African Diasporic/Gaga
November 20 – 21  ●  $20 - $30*

Ashwini Ramaswamy’s Let the Crows Come invokes the metaphor of crows as messengers for the living and guides for the departed to channel memory and homeland, guidance and dislocation.

Featuring Ashwini Ramaswamy, Alanna Morris-Van Tassel, and Berit Ahlgren, the south Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam is deconstructed and recontextualized to recall a memory that has a shared origin but is remembered differently from person to person. Set to an original recorded score of classical south Indian instrumentation, electro-acoustic cello, and electronics/turntables.

DID YOU KNOW?
LIVESTREAM PERFORMANCES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

*fees included
December 10 – 19

Ricci Milan and the artists of Rhythm Street Movement return to The Cowles Center with *Who Brought the Humbug?* this holiday season!

Join us for a fun, funky, funny holiday show that the whole family can enjoy. Live music paired with amazing tap dance and a unique mix of comedy, drama, and mystery is sure to make an evening to remember.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
WHO BROUGHT THE HUMBUG? TICKETS GO ON SALE OCTOBER 14 AT THECOWLESCENTER.ORG/TICKETS.
ALANNA MORRIS-VAN TASSEL & COLLABORATORS

Black Light a re:Search performance

Contemporary/African Diasporic • February 3 – 6 • $20 - $30*

Black Light is a multi-year collaborative performance directed by Minnesota-based dancer-choreographer, Alanna Morris-Van Tassel (City Pages’ Artist of the Year, Dance Magazine’s “25 to Watch” and 2021 McKnight Choreographer Fellow). This work explores birth, creation, death, and life transitions while honoring noble ancestry. It ventures into the nobility of black-ness; the divinity of feminine creative energy; and the harnessing of sensual expression. Black Light a re:Search performance is an expression of interwoven local and global identities.

This work contains frontal nudity and may not be suitable for persons under the age of 16.

Co-presentation with The Great Northern and Northrop

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Black Light a re:Search performance is sure to be a special show. Not only is this our first co-presentation with The Great Northern (and we are so pleased to revisit partnership with our friends across the Mississippi: Northrop), but we have had the privilege to see iterations of this project, including during Alanna and Penelope Freeh’s MERGES IN MARCH performance in 2020, Bring it down under your feet. If you were among our virtual audience last year, you won’t want to miss the continuation of this project!

*fees included
CHITRA VAIRAVAN & VALERIE OLIVEIRO

Contemporary Indian/Non-disciplinary Performance Art  ● March 5 – 6  
$20 - $30*

Chitra Vairavan and Valerie Oliveiro offer two dances created through a year-long merging of energies, practices, conversation, ancestors, memories, breaths, places, sounds, and “Asian-nesses.” This performance brings the intentional and unintentional intersections of their diverse art forms to the surface.

HERB JOHNSON III & LIEUTENANT SUNNIE

Spoken Word/Movement Art  ● March 12 – 13  ● $20 - $30*

This untitled work will share the joy of “beating the odds.” Lieutenant Sunnie and Herb Johnson III come from different backgrounds but have reached similar outcomes thanks to resilience and perseverance. Through adversity they found focus, and each accomplished goals that led them to where they are currently.

*fees included
SPRING PERFORMANCES

MINNESOTA DANCE THEATRE

Enchantment

Ballet ● April 22 – April 24
$31 - $36 ● In-person shows only

A mystery reigns: Twelve beautiful, obedient princesses awake each morning with energies destroyed. The king is in a quandary. Is it a harmless enchantment? Or something bewitchingly dark and dangerous? Based in the original fairy tale “Twelve Dancing Princesses,” Enchantment is a neoclassical story ballet that explores deeper themes that resonate in today’s world.

BALLET CO.LABORATORY

Freddie: Break Free

Ballet ● March 31 – April 3
$33 - $75* ● In-person shows only

The stage is set for Ballet Co. Laboratory’s world premiere of Freddie: Break Free, a contemporary rock ballet exploring the life of rock-n-roll’s ultimate showman, Freddie Mercury. Join a cast of 20 dancers and live on-stage music by Queen tribute band Ready Freddie for a blurring of boundaries, a taste of artistic collaboration, and, in the words of Freddie, a “theatrical event.”

*fees included

DID YOU KNOW? $20 STUDENT & EDUCATOR RUSH TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EVERY IN-PERSON SHOW (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
THE MIXTAPE Collective

*MIXTAPE 5G: The Sound of Movement
Street & Hip Hop Dance Theatre • May 6 – 8 • $20 - $30*

MIXTAPE dances into the next chapter of Hip Hop dance theater with an exploration of futuristic ways to perceive the struggles of the present. We locate ourselves in cyberspace, where battles are fought, relationships are built, and artifacts of the past are uncovered. MIXTAPE 5G: The Sound of Movement investigates finding the strength to defy hierarchy, building solidarity through difference, and fracturing fossilized stereotypes.

*fees included

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO EASILY BUY SEASON TICKETS:

Dive back into dance performances with a Cowles Center Season Package and see your favorite shows at a discount! Season packages are priced per individual package holder and come with one ticket per show described.

**TASTE OF COWLES** • $72.50 • Choose your own adventure! Pick three shows to enjoy in-person and save 15% - 20%.

**MERGES IN MARCH** • $45 • Experience the collaboration in action! Save 10% and see both MERGES IN MARCH shows in-person.

**VIRTUAL EXTRAVAGANZA** • $144 • Enjoy our 2021/2022 season from the couch! Purchase household tickets to all nine livestreamed season shows at a 20% discount. Purchase by September 18, 2021. Holiday show not included in Virtual Extravaganza package.

thecowlescenter.org/tickets