



BURSTING WITH LIFE  
ECHO-DRIVEN  
MYTHICAL

# DANCING EARTH

*Between II*

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

APR 7 + 8  
7:30 PM

[ringling.org](http://ringling.org)

The Ringling THE JOHN & MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART  
STATE ART MUSEUM OF FLORIDA | FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY





## ABOUT BETWEEN II, 2023

DANCING EARTH'S BETWEEN II brings to the stage a compelling story of dynamic young people struggling through the Apocalyptic present, with resilience and humor, as they survive the end of one world and dream in a future world of balance, harmony, connection and renewal. Storytelling takes infinite forms with this family friendly narrative with energetic expressive forms becoming poetic and dreamlike, as told through dance, dialogue, song, striking media projections of the Southwest, and unforgettable eco-innovative set design, costumes, handheld lanterns and shadow puppets - all created by intercultural collaborators and visionaries of the future.

Dancing Earth offers BETWEEN II as an ancestral and futuristic ritual of the liminal realm, bringing healing and renewal of the creative life force in a portal between underground and sky-world. Co-created with Dancing Earth's new generation of cooperative artist leadership with BIPOC creative collaborative visionaries of mixed identities in every form, intercultural and ecological diversity reflect each other, in an adaptation of our original contemporary mythologies (BETWEEN UNDERGROUND AND SKY WORLD) that poetically responds to local place, people and season in the living improvisation of our time.

## ABOUT DANCING EARTH

*DANCING EARTH CREATIONS dynamically activates our mission, to create contemporary dance and related arts through global indigenous and intercultural relationships centered in ecological and cultural diversity for creativity, health, and wellness.*

Founded by Artistic Director Rulan Tangen, to serve a need rarely met in the USA, DEC gives hope and opportunity to Native, mixed, global Indigenous, and BIPOC talent who have been largely outside the dialogue of mainstream performance because of lack of access. DEC is an organic constellation of largely self-taught dancers, composers, costumers, filmmakers, and spoken word artists.

Together, DEC artists work with community members, culture carriers, and intercultural elders to explore the rich diversity of ancestral heritage, contemporary identity, and relationship building, by collaborating on innovative ecologically themed performances. DEC's work promotes environmental awareness, cultural diversity, and understanding between peoples through contemporary arts expressions.

"We gather as individual artists to create experimental yet elemental dances that reflect our rich cultural heritage as contemporary global peoples. We strive to embody the unique essences of cultural perspectives by creation and renewal of artistic and cultural movement rituals. Ancient and futuristic, our dances are an elemental language of bone and blood memory in motion." - Founding Director, Rulan Tangen

DANCING EARTH IS RESPECTFULLY BASED IN OGAA PO OGEH—occupied Tewa territory known as Santa Fe, NM and Yelamu—occupied Ohlone territory known as San Francisco, CA and are honored to bring this production here to homelands of the traditional land of Florida's indigenous populations including the Calusa, the Seminole, the Tocobaga, and the Uzita peoples and we would also like to acknowledge the Angola community, known as the Black Seminoles. We are honored that this production emerges from land and sky that has been danced and sung into renewal by humans of the earth since the beginning of time, and this vision includes contributions of respected and beloved cultural community members.

Here on the grounds of The Ringling, Dancing Earth respectfully acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of Florida's indigenous populations including the Calusa, the Seminole, the Miccosukee, the Tocobaga, and the Uzita peoples. We would also like to acknowledge the Angola community, known as the Black Seminoles. We bring our dance as a respectful offering to this place and peoples.



## CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE RITUAL DESCRIPTION

### ACTIVATION OF PLACE

Multi-sensory immersive offering by DE artists, occurring on Ringling grounds, in collaboration with elements, in the days/hours before onstage performance

### ACT I

#### CONSTELLATIONS

A Beam of light enters space, making way for luminous beings. These superheroes represent core values of cultural teachings such as bravery, patience, kindness, groundedness, vision for generations ahead. As apparitions of destructive practices of Earth appear, they reach towards different make of animals, so they can take forms to give messages and guidance to humans.

#### JOURNEY

Then, time speeds forward into the apocalypse of the present, with a new generation struggling for survival, and finding resilience. They crawl and climb a mountain to seek guidance, only to be told the knowledge is in their medicine bundles (their backpacks), as a creation story. Directed to cross the waters, they remember the ways of star navigation. They find humble items in their backpacks, are these the gifts which symbolize qualities and teachings? Eventually they find that connection, even to what is considered trash as having life force to be considered and appreciated. They move beyond greed and selfishness to share and exchange with each other, before moving into the dream realm where they are all connected, in a starlit web of energy and life force.

### ACT II

#### DREAMING

In a dreamscape of balance and harmony, humans and constellations move together in recognition of their shared heritage.

#### BEING

Arising early, they now remember to give a respectful greeting to the morning sun. With guidance from skyworld above and their roots below, they reflect the challenges of current realities, and the humans peel away layers towards understanding the forces and systems that have shaped the present. They dig deeper, to prepare themselves for the deeper meaning of the medicine bundles, and the responsibilities of those gifts. They move into connection with each other, generously embodying the wisdom and qualities, empathy, honesty, courage, gratitude, strength, kindness that are their superpowers. With these powers, they walk in beauty, with each other, with all people, with all forms of life as sacred.

The next step, of the future, is the dance to be made by us all collectively, the energy of continual renewal. So the open portal of possibility is brought into the audience, for us all to dream and co-create together...

OPPOSITE PAGE

Dancers, left to right: Justin Giehm and Raven Bright. Photo by Randi Lynn Beach for Dancing Earth



**CAST & CREDITS**

**CO-FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Rulan Tangen

**PROGRAM MANAGER**

Angel Guanajuato

**TECH DIRECTOR**

Deirdre Morris

**CULTURAL ORATORY AND OFFERING**

Brian Frejo

**PERFORMING ARTISTS**

Rulan Tangen

*Dancing Earth Founding Artistic Director & Choreographer, and 2023 BETWEEN II Performing Artist as Dreamweaver, and Teaching Artist*

Angel Guanajuato

*Executive & Southwest Impact Producer, and 2023 BETWEEN II Tour Manager*

Deirdre Morris

*2023 BETWEEN II Tech Director*

Gabriel Carrion-Gonzales

*Califa Executive & Intercultural Impact Producer, and 2023 BETWEEN II Performing Artist as Re-Gen, and Teaching Artist*

JUSTIN GIEHM

*2023 BETWEEN II Rehearsal Assistant, Performing Artist as Lightening Eyes, and Teaching Artist*

RAVEN BRIGHT

*2023 BETWEEN II Performing Artist as Time Twister, Teaching Artist, and Costume/Props/Sets Maintenance Master*

SARAH HOGLAND-GURULÉ

*2023 BETWEEN II Performing Artist as Heart Opener, and Teaching Artist, Grantwriter, and Director/Choreographer for UNBOUND (a major upcoming Dancing Earth project)*

NATALIE ACEVES-GHEZZI

*Local Sarasota Guest Artist as Moon Beam, and DE Alumna Artist*

ESMÉ OLIVIA

*2022-23 Sound Design Technician for BETWEEN II, Alumna Performing Artist, Teaching Artist, and 2022 Rehearsal Director*

ELAINE TALAMAIVAO

*Califa Cultural Visioning Partner & Community Organizer*

## CONCEPT

Rulan Tangen and Dancing Earth 2017-2023 associate and summer guest artists, incorporating collaboration and visioning sessions with diasporic community members through lived cultural research and relationship building.

## CHOREOGRAPHY

Rulan Tangen with collaborative contributions from Dancing Earth 2017-2023 associate artists.

## PROJECTION

Marion Claire Wasserman of Elemental Designs, cinematography of Moon dance/ lullaby by Louis Leray. Drone camera work with Luke Fitch and Cedar Jocks. Artists and community members in projection imagery include Ciera Budge, Deollo Johnson, Anne Pesata, Elijah Kennar, Justin Giehm, Melanie Pesata, Hyda Maria, Talavai Denipah-Cook.

## SOUND DESIGN

Original compositions commissioned from or graciously shared by: QVLN Quetzal Guerrero, Ehren Kee Natay, Esme Olivia. 2022-23 Sound Design adaptations by Esme Olivia; Initial Sound Design by: Dakota Alcatrara-Camacho, with additional support from Marc Mr. Boogie Gonzalez, John Rangel and Esme Olivia, integrating original, remixed, and graciously shared tracks by Randy Barton's The BlessingWay, John Coltrane's Naima (JowCol Music) as arranged by John Carlos Perea (Aerep Music) AudioPharmacy multiple albums and tracks, including voice of Ras K'Dee and with rapping in Spanish by Gina Madrid, additional vocals by Esme Olivia and Natalie Benally and additional spoken word by Deollo Johnson, Esme Olivia, Kayla Banks, Trey Pickett, Olivia Camfield, and Sirena Rayes. Sampling tracks which may include works from esteemed artists such as Robert Mirabal with Aspen Mirabal, Kona Mirabal, Masa Mirabal; Saami singers Ethel Marja Mortensson, Elina Mikalsen, Katarina Barrruk; Tanya Tagaq Gills and Bjork; Beastie Boys; DJ Teao Sense; Tribe Called Red with John Trudell; Keith Secola; Pura Fe; Dakota Alcatrara-Camacho; voices of Bernadette Smith, Desirae Harp, Kanyon Sayers Roods; Bernadette Smith; Grace Nono; Ciera Budge; Ras K. Dee; Nina Simone; Lauryn Hill; Climbing Poetree; environmental sounds; "Wee Totaa" - Lyrics in Tongva & English by L. Frank Manriquez, music composed by L. Frank & Esme Olivia; Rainbow Bridge story as composed and recorded by Esme Olivia with support from Rulan Tangen, Incorporating voices, poems, and words by Dancing Earth artists and alumna artists and community members.

## INITIAL STORY & TEXT CONSULTANTS

Ty Dafoe of Indigenous Directions, Kalani Queypo and Michael Rohd

## COSTUME, ACCESSORIES, & MASKS

Connie WindWalker for animal masks, shadow puppets, accessories and costumes with additional costume items by Rulan Tangen. Randolph Duke for solar discs. Additional shadow puppets by Raven Bright.

## SET DESIGN

Kayo Muller and Drew Van Bruhn

## MOON HEADDRESS

Susan Baker-Dillingham

## 2019-2023 DRAMATURGICAL & COACHING SUPPORT

Deirdre Morris, Liz Letman, John Flax of Theater Grottesco, Michael Rohd, Layla Amis, Javon Jones, Santana Shorty

## OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This creative work arises from responses and reflections from community conversations about climate change, commodification, and colonization, and the importance of cultivating hope to mobilize body, mind, spirit and emotions at this time, individually and communally. What is the collective future that we are making? What is renewable and what is energy; what are a myriad of ways to renew eco-cultural sustainability that embraces the cultural teachings of the past from elders as well as the great imagining of the future by the younger generation? This performance work of BTW US is part of a bigger vision that includes all of us in every way!

We also want to acknowledge every Dancing Earth summer guest artist and company members who have been exploring these questions with deep conversations and creativity, as well as countless cultural and creative conversations since 2017 including: Tony Skrelunas, Camilla Trujillo, Lupita Salazar, Natalie Benally, Molly Pesata, Anne Pesata, Talavai Denipah Cook, Randle Charles, Maria Firmino Castillo, Fidel Tohil Bernal, Dr. Kina Murphy, Dr. Yolanda Teran Maigua, Jorge Males, Norma Diala, Leny Strobel, Marion Wasserman, Alicia Rencountre Da Silva, Charles Rencountre, Valeria Alarcon, Hazel James, Teahonna James and Kevin Belin, Jonathan Sims, Jon Ray, Ibrahim Loeks, Roxanne Swentzel, Ciera Budge, and many other powerful visionaries.

## DANCING EARTH STAFF

### FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Rulan Tangen

### EXECUTIVE & SOUTHWEST IMPACT PRODUCER & TOUR MANAGER

Angel Guanajuato

### CALIFA EXECUTIVE INTERCULTURAL IMPACT PRODUCER

Gabriel Carrion-Gonzales

### CALIFA CULTURAL VISIONING PARTNER & COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Elaine Talamaivao

### MARKETING DIRECTOR

Samara Smith

### GRANT CONSULTANT

Taraneh Sarrafzadeh

### FINANCE & OPERATIONS CONSULTANT

Paulo Rocha-Tavares

### TOUR TECH DIRECTOR for BETWEEN II

Deirdre Morris

### BOOKKEEPER

Barbara Ortega



Photos by Pam Taylor for Dancing Earth

## OUR HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Touring of this production is made possible with funding by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Theater Project Production and Touring award, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and additional support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

And, we are grateful for additional support including in kind support in recent years from: Bernadette Pena, Fernando Ramos, and Cindy Montoya of New Mexico School for the Arts where we are proud to be Company in Residence; Sheila and Jonah at Institute of American Indian Arts; New Mexico Dance Coalition; Myra Krien of Pomegranate Dance Studio; Elise Gent of Railyard Performance Center; Julie Brette Adams; Norman Lee Johnson; Kate Sweetster; filmmaker Francois Achan; Layla Amis of Modas Dance and NDI-Highlands Theater; photographers Randi Lynn Beach, Tyra Sandoval, and Francois Achan; Invoking the Pause award for Climate Change Trailblazers for the initial convening of global Indigenous elders at Academy for Love of Learning, invitations since 2019 for creative residencies, tech previews and previous touring sites at ASU Gammage, Dance Mission and Presidio Theater of Yelamu (San Francisco) - with special thanks for support from Gerbode Choreographers awards and California Arts Council Intersections and Innovations Grant), and Texas A+M University and Northwest Vista College in Texas, Daystar Rosalie Jones and all our cultural and artistic advisors and mentors throughout the duration of this project!



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[ringling.org](http://ringling.org)

## MAMMALIAN DIVING REFLEX

and Sarasota Elders

*All the Sex I've Ever Had*

CANADA/GERMANY/AUSTRALIA

APR 20 - 22, 7:30 PM  
APR 23, 5:00 PM



THE HAT  
lounge

Join us this season at the HAT's pre- and post-show hang out in the Benfer Courtyard. Grab a drink, chat with friends, and discuss the performances in a casual, outdoor neighborhood space.

See you @ the HAT Lounge!

OPENS AT 6:30 PM

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ART OF PERFORMANCE SPONSORS



This program is supported in part by the Art of Performance, Ringling Art of Performance Endowment, Historic Asolo Theater Endowment, Lester Bessemer & Mary Tilley Bessemer Endowment for The Ringling, Selby Foundation Ringling Museum Endowment, Arthur F. and Ulla R. Searing Endowment, Ellin Family Art of Our Time Endowment, Jay K. Turner Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation, Stephen and Judy Shank, Leon and Marge Ellin, Warren R. and Marie E. Colbert, Michael and Kathy Bush, Heather and Timothy Dull, Marge and Irv Weiser, and The Huisking Foundation.

**THE RINGLING'S ART OF PERFORMANCE** delivers broad access to provocative and timely performing arts that reflect a wide range of experiences, disciplines, and relevant cultural expressions. The series embodies The Ringling's values of inclusion, inspiration, and excellence through programs that elevate community engagement, equitable partnerships, and the plural exchange of ideas in tandem with visiting artists. Besides public programs, we support Florida-based, national, and international performance makers in developmental residencies and creative research.

The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art is the State Art Museum of Florida administered by Florida State University. It features an art museum, historic mansion, circus museum, historic theater, conservation laboratory, arboretum, and research library, situated on 66-acres of bayfront property in Sarasota. The Ringling is an extraordinary center of art and culture engaging with the local, state, and global communities, and is accessible to and inclusive of all.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** The Ringling respectfully acknowledges that we are located on the traditional Homelands and the ancestral territories of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, as well as the ancient tribes of the Calusa, Uzita and Tocobaga. We also acknowledge the local freedom-seeking community called Angola, and the people later known as Black Seminoles.

We honor the resiliency of Indigenous communities, and we extend our gratitude as we live and work on their Homelands. We pay our respect to the Elders, both past and present, who have stewarded these lands and waters through generations since time immemorial.