



JUL 26-AUG 5

2024

DORRANCE  
DANCES

An Evening with Michelle Dorrance & Friends

Wednesday, July 31, 2024  
Vilar Performing Arts Center

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*This evening's performance is underwritten in part by  
The Marvin Naiman and Margery Goldman Family Foundation*

# DORRANCE DANCES

An Evening with Michelle Dorrance & Friends

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Michelle Dorrance

## DANCE CAPTAIN

Elizabeth Burke

## DANCERS

Brinae Ali, Elizabeth Burke, Michelle Dorrance, Luke Hickey,  
Emiko Nakagawa\*, Claudia Rahardjanoto, Leonardo Sandoval

## UNDERSTUDY

Addi Loving

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joel Wenhardt

## MUSICIANS

Brinae Ali, Abdias Armenteros, Jayla Chee,  
Michelle Dorrance, Eliza Salem, Joel Wenhardt

## PRODUCTION MANAGER/LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

Devin Koenig

\*Vail Dance Festival Scholar-In-Residence

## **SOUNDspace / REDUX (2013)**

*Choreography by Michelle Dorrance with solo improvisation by the dancers  
Lighting Design by Kathy Kaufmann*

BRINAE ALI   ELIZABETH BURKE   MICHELLE DORRANCE  
LUKE HICKEY   EMIKO NAKAGAWA\*  
CLAUDIA RAHARDJANOTO   LEONARDO SANDOVAL

Bass: JAYLA CHEE

*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.*

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## **Boards & Chains**

### **An excerpt from *ETM: The Initial Approach* (2014)**

*Choreography by Michelle Dorrance and Nicholas Van Young,  
with solo improvisation by the dancers  
Lighting Design by Kathy Kaufmann*

ELIZABETH BURKE   MICHELLE DORRANCE  
LUKE HICKEY   LEONARDO SANDOVAL

## **INTERMISSION**

### **An excerpt from *Shift*. (2024)**

*Choreography by Michelle Dorrance with solo improvisation by the dancers  
Music: "Dedicated to You" by Sammy Cahn, Hy Zaret, and Saul Chaplin*

ELIZABETH BURKE   LUKE HICKEY   EMIKO NAKAGAWA\*  
LEONARDO SANDOVAL   CLAUDIA RAHARDJANOTO

Vocals: BRINAE ALI  
Saxophone: ABDIAS ARMENTEROS  
Ukulele: MICHELLE DORRANCE  
Bass: JAYLA CHEE  
Drums: ELIZA SALEM  
Piano: JOEL WENHARDT

———— ***A Historical Offering*** ————

*Curated by Michelle Dorrance*  
*Lighting Design by Devin Koenig*

*Opening remarks/demonstration by*  
MICHELLE DORRANCE    CLAUDIA RAHARDJANOTO

***A Tribute to “Bubbles”***

*Curated by Leonardo Sandoval*  
*Music: “I Can Give You Anything But Love, Baby”*  
*by Jimmy McHugh and Dorothy Fields*  
*“Rhythm’s O.K. in Harlem” by Michael Carr*

LEONARDO SANDOVAL

Vocals: BRINAE ALI  
Saxophone: ABDIAS ARMENTEROS  
Bass: JAYLA CHEE  
Drums: ELIZA SALEM  
Piano: JOEL WENHARDT

***An excerpt from The Baby Laurence Legacy Project***

*Curated by Brinae Ali*  
*Music: “Baby, BeBop, & The Blues” by Brinae Ali*  
*Baby Laurence sample from Live at the Berlin Jazz Festival 1973 with Duke Ellington*  
*“For Baby” by Brinae Ali*  
*A reimagining and montage of Baby Laurence’s version of “Baby At Birdland”*  
*followed by a phrase from “Concerto In Taps” from his album*  
*“The Dancemaster” mixed with “An Afternoon of Percussion”*

BRINAE ALI

Saxophone: ABDIAS ARMENTEROS  
Bass: JAYLA CHEE  
Drums: ELIZA SALEM  
Piano: JOEL WENHARDT

*The creation of The Baby Laurence Legacy Project was made possible, in part, by National Dance Projects,  
Chamber Music of America, and the Robert W. Duetsch Foundation.*

## ***An excerpt from Cantata and the Blues (1984)***

*Written, Directed and Choreographed by Brenda Bufalino  
with solo improvisation by the dancers*

*Music: Excerpt "Invention No. 1 in C Major, BWV 772" by Johann Sebastian Bach  
"Take the A Train" by Billy Strayhorn  
"Lullaby of the Leaves" by Bernice Petkere and Joe Young*

ELIZABETH BURKE   LUKE HICKEY

Vocals: BRINAE ALI

Saxophone: ABDIAS ARMENTEROS

Bass: JAYLA CHEE

Drums: ELIZA SALEM

Piano: JOEL WENHARDT

## ***An excerpt from Rhythms of Being (2022)***

*Composition by Michelle Dorrance including/rooted in  
traditional material by John Dee Holman*

ELIZABETH BURKE   MICHELLE DORRANCE  
LUKE HICKEY

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## ***The Twelve/Eight (2012)***

*Choreography by Michelle Dorrance  
Body Percussion Solo Improvised by Leonardo Sandoval  
Original Vibe in E Minor by the musicians  
Lighting Design by Kathy Kaufmann*

BRINAE ALI   ELIZABETH BURKE   MICHELLE DORRANCE  
LUKE HICKEY   EMIKO NAKAGAWA\*  
CLAUDIA RAHARDJANOTO   LEONARDO SANDOVAL

Saxophone: ABDIAS ARMENTEROS

Bass: JAYLA CHEE

Drums: ELIZA SALEM

Piano: JOEL WENHARDT

Vocals: BRINAE ALI

# 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.

*Major support for Dorrance Dance is provided by:*

National Endowment for the Arts  
New York State Council on the Arts  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
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Howard Gilman Foundation  
The Shubert Foundation Inc.  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
Harkness Foundation for Dance

## DORRANCE DANCE STAFF

<b>Artistic Director</b>	Michelle Dorrance
<b>Interim Executive Director</b>	Jenny Novac
<b>General Manager</b>	Hillary Kooistra
<b>Production Manager/Sound Designer</b>	Christopher Marc
<b>Asst. Production Manager/Lighting Supervisor</b>	Devin Koenig
<b>Associate Producer</b>	Gabby Benavides
<b>Company Manager</b>	Taylor Craft
<b>Development Manager</b>	Amanda Hameline
<b>Dance Captain</b>	Elizabeth Burke
<b>Musical Director</b>	Gregory Richardson
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Kathy Kaufmann
<b>Wardrobe Supervisor</b>	Amy Page
<b>Financial Administrator</b>	Andrea Nellis & Evan Aanerud, Arts FMS
<b>Artist Representative</b>	Barbara Frum, outer/most

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### 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 Bachelor of Arts from New York University and an honorary Doctorate of Arts from the University of North Carolina. She is a Capezio athlete and was recently named an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells.

**BRINAE ALI** (*Dancer*) was born and raised in Flint, Michigan and is an interdisciplinary artist who believes in using the power of the arts to transform the human spirit. Among Brinae's many roles, she is currently a lecturer at Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory, a member of the Baltimore Jazz Collective, and cultural ambassador and artist in residence with Next Level-USA and the U.S. Department of State Education and Cultural Affairs. Ali is also a National Dance Projects Grant recipient and Art for Social Change Fellow through Johns Hopkins University's Inheritance Baltimore/Billie Holiday Center for Liberation Arts for a new work in progress archival performative process called the "Baby Laurence Legacy Project."

Brinae has served as the artistic director of Tapology, Inc., Fourth Wall Arts Salon, and Sound and Movement, LLC. She is the recipient of the Best Short Play Award at the Downtown Urban Theater Festival and the Vox Populi Independence Music Award. Her Broadway and Off-Broadway experiences include Shuffle Along and STOMP.

**ELIZABETH BURKE** (*Dance Captain/Dancer*) Elizabeth Burke has performed full time with Dorrance Dance since its inaugural 2010-2011 season. Prior to this, she spent 11 years under the tutelage of her mentor, Gene Medler, in the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble, and she's also an alumna of the School at Jacob's Pillow. Elizabeth is a sought after educator and performer at tap dance festivals across the US and abroad, and enjoys collaborating with, and performing in the work of, fellow Carolinian Luke Hickey. She thanks Amelia Peden for their singular support, and Go Heels.

**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.

**Emiko Nakagawa** (*Dancer*) is a Japanese tap dance artist currently based in NYC. She went on to further develop her tap artistry with Yukiko "Smilie" Misumi's mentorship, and she served as dance captain on various stages, including ARTN Company's solo "Legends of Tap" series 2015-2020 in Japan. Before coming to NY, she achieved international recognition through performing at "JUBA!" at Chicago Tap Festival and Big Apple Tap Festival, and as well as winning contests. Emiko is an alumnus of The School at Jacob's Pillow 2023 and is deeply grateful to be an understudy for Dorrance Dance.

**Claudia Rahardjanoto** (*Dancer*), born and raised in Berlin, Germany, started her professional dance career at the Deutsche Open Berlin. 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. She hopes to continue to share her love and passion for music and the art of tap dance through her teaching and performing worldwide.

**Leonardo Sandoval** (*Dancer*), Brazilian tap dancer and choreographer Leonardo Sandoval is renowned for blending America's great tap tradition with Brazil's rich rhythmic and musical heritage. A member of Dorrance Dance since 2014, he also directs Music From The Sole, a tap and live music company, with composer Gregory Richardson. Leonardo is a 2021 Dance Magazine "25 To Watch", received a 2022 Vilcek Foundation Prize for Creative Promise, and is a 2022 NYSCA/ NYFA Artist Fellow in Choreography.

**Joel Wenhardt** (*Music Director/Musician*) New York based Joel Wenhardt is a jazz pianist, and collaborator. While completing his studies at Juilliard (BM '18, MM '23) he has become a regular presence on the Jazz scene, as well as an active participant in multi-medium productions. He has played or recorded with Paul Simon, Wynton Marsalis, Veronica Swift, Caroline Shaw, Claire Chase, and Brooklyn Rider as well as dancers from Juilliard, NYC Ballet, ABT, Alvin Ailey and more. Currently, he is Musical Directing at the McKittrick Hotel, where he can be found in the Manderley Bar leading The Nightingales. This will be Joel's 4th time in Vail for the dance festival, and is grateful to call this community his artistic family.



**Abdias Armenteros** (*Musician*) is a native of Miami, Florida, where he attended New World School of the Arts High School. He began to play the saxophone at the age of eight and began to play jazz in the 9th grade. He has participated in various summer programs such as the Brubeck Summer Jazz Colony and the Summer Jazz Academy with Jazz at Lincoln Center. Armenteros is currently in his first year of his Master's degree at Juilliard as a Jazz Studies Major after completing his undergraduate degree at the prestigious school. Since being in New York, he has shared the bandstand with world-renowned artists like Wynton Marsalis, Ben Vereen, Aloe Blacc, Victor Lewis, Arlo Parks, and performs regularly while continuing his studies at school. He is a firm believer that music is healing, and we're living in a time where we need healing the most.

**Jayla Chee** (*Musician*) Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, 19-year-old Jayla Chee took up the upright bass her sophomore year of high school after playing the trumpet. She has since then played music across the country as well as internationally, in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. She has shared the stage with the likes of Kurt Elling, Sean Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Derrick Hodge, Allison Miller, Randy Napoleon, Vince Lateano, Pasquale Grasso, and Andrew Speight. Jayla currently lives in California and New York, where she studies jazz bass at the Juilliard School with Gerald Cannon.

**Eliza Salem** (*Musician*) is an in-demand drummer, educator and composer currently based in Brooklyn, New York. They have played in acclaimed performance spaces locally and nationally such as Lincoln Center, The Stone, Mezzrow, Smalls, Birdland Jazz Club, Roulette, 55 Bar, the Detroit Jazz Festival, the Newport Jazz Festival, SFJAZZ, the Vail Dance Festival, the Gilmore Piano Festival, and the Portland Jazz Festival, among others. Eliza received a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Jazz Studies from the University of Michigan in 2021 where they studied and worked closely with Michael Gould, Sean Dobbins, Robert Hurst, Ellen Rowe, Marion Hayden and Andy Milne. Eliza is also an alumnus of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute, a selective program focused on composition led by Rufus Reid, Steve Wilson, and Billy Childs.

**Addi Loving** (*Understudy*) New York based, is a rising artist in the world of performing arts. Hailing from North Carolina and St. Louis, she trained under Gene Medler in North Carolina, and her talent beamed through her involvement in MUNY St. Louis. A YoungArts winner in 2019 and attendee at Jacob's Pillow, her passion is evident through her performances. With a bright future ahead, Addi is more than thankful every time she joins Dorrance Dance on the stage.

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\* Since July 25, 2024

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