

National Presenting Partner



BALLETJÖRGEN



CELEBRATION OF BLACK CANADIAN CHOREOGRAPHERS

May 25-27, 2023
Young Centre for the Performing Arts



Education Partner



Katlyn Addison by Spencer Bentley, Mafa Makhubalo & Jose Carret by Theo Zian.

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for this program celebrating three distinct Canadian dance makers.



Ballet Jörgen was founded over 35 years ago to support the creation and dissemination of new Canadian choreography. Many well established Canadian artistic voices such as Crystal Pite and Jean Grand-Maitre worked with the company as they staked out their early choreographic paths. To date, the Company has commissioned 229 new works by 94 choreographers. We have stayed true to our mandate and are living our dream of an all-original repertoire of works, only dancing works created on Ballet Jörgen.

Today's program is a continuation of this dream, bringing together three artists – Katlyn Addison, Jose Carret and Mafa Makhubalo. These artists come from different dance backgrounds which have shaped the works you will see. What they have in common is a deep passion for dance, strong artistic voices, and a dedication to their craft which is all bound by generosity of spirit and relentless energy. They have inspired our dancers and embraced the Company, working around a challenging performance schedule, Covid and their own very busy careers to give us today's program for which I am very grateful.

There are several additional important artistic voices on today's program. I am delighted that we are premiering a new musical composition, a hauntingly beautiful score by Jonathan Sanford. And I am indebted to our three costume designers David Heuvel, Aaliyah Sundar and Stacey-Ann Vassell for their inspired and quick footed work. Likewise, I am indebted to Resident Lighting Designer Madhu Seran for their tireless work on the designs for today's creations. And of course, our dancers are the glue that link this program from beginning to end. Without their vitality, love for dance and simply extraordinary commitment to our art form none of this would be possible – thank you!

We have named the program a Celebration of Black Canadian Choreographers, but we could just as easily have named it a Celebration of Canadian Choreographers or a Celebration of Dance. These works were all commissioned at different times and, without the interruption of Covid, would all have had separate premieres. However, as they are now receiving their premieres together, we chose the name to both celebrate these artists and recognize that artists of colour have been underrepresented in our art form. Together with our partner George Brown College we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the tremendous work carried out by black artists in our own community.

I want to express my enduring gratitude to George Brown College for their support for the Performing Arts. The works on today's program have been created in the dance studios at George Brown College, and the College made it possible for us to premiere them here at the beautiful Young Centre for the Performing Arts as a joint venture between GBC and Soulpepper. I am also grateful to Soulpepper and the Young Centre for assisting us with this program.

I want to recognize the importance of operating support from our public funding partners the Ontario Arts Council, The Canada Council for the Arts and the Toronto Arts Council in the commissioning and presentation of new works. And finally, this program is made possible in part by donations from individuals in our community. Thank you all for helping bring these works to life.

Enjoy the show!



Bengt Jörgen, C.M.



Through the evening, we will be interspersing video showcasing success stories from a few of our Arts and Design students and graduates. We are pleased to be able to present these graduates as part of our alumni community.

JÖRGENDANCE

Dance for all

JÖRGENDANCE
ACADEMY

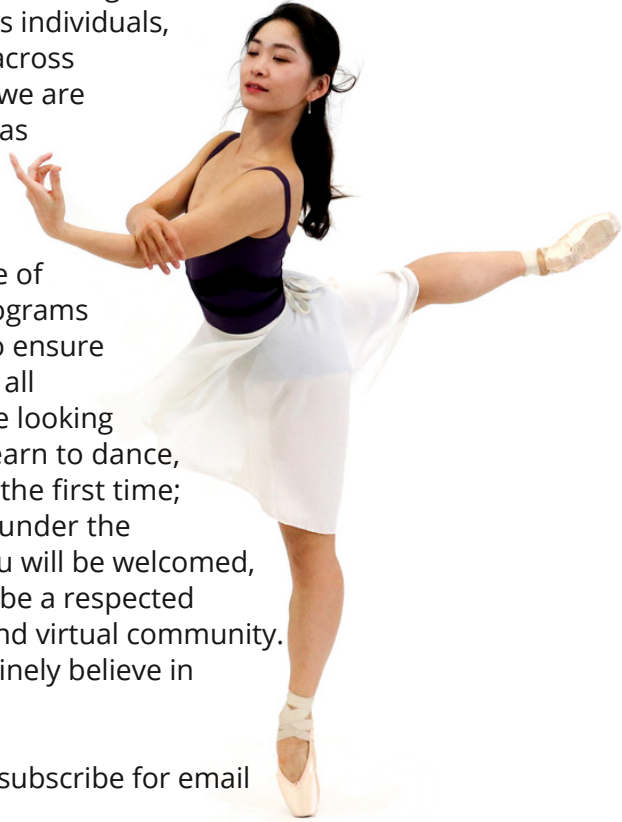
BALLETJÖRGEN

JÖRGENCOMMUNITY
DANCE

For 35 years Jörgen Dance has brought the joy of dance to countless individuals, families, and communities across Canada and beyond. While we are firmly rooted in our history as an exceptional professional ballet company, we have grown to be so much more! Today we offer a wide range of training and community programs across many dance styles to ensure dance is truly accessible for all Canadians. Whether you are looking to attend a performance, learn to dance, or engage with the arts for the first time; there is something for you under the **Jörgen Dance** umbrella. You will be welcomed, educated, entertained, and be a respected member of our in-person and virtual community. As an organization we genuinely believe in our motto **Dance for All**.

Visit the website today and subscribe for email news and updates.

jorgendance.ca



CELEBRATION OF BLACK CANADIAN CHOREOGRAPHERS

Program

(Casting subject to change)

Land Acknowledgement

Sofia Castillo Ardines (George Brown Dance Graduate)

George Brown Dance Alumna Video

Esie Mensah (Graduate)

Dream Talker

Choreography Jose Angel Carret

Music “Okarche” by NEXUS – DRUMTALKER Nexus Records 10713 The Invisible Proverb (2002) by Russell Hartenberger 1. Okarche

Costume Design by Aaliyah Sundar

Lighting Design by Madhu / மது

Dancers: Akari Fujiwara, Lydia-Laure Germain, Adrián Ramírez Juárez, Callum McGregor, Daniel Da Silva, Márcio Teixeira

Intermission

George Brown Fashion Alumni Video

Emefa Kuady (Graduate), Melanie Lawrence (Graduate & PAC member), Janielle McKoy (Graduate)

There Were TWO

Choreography Katlyn Addison

Music Composed by Jonathan Sanford:

Costume Design by David Heuvel

Seamstress Cindy Farrimond

Lighting Design by Madhu / மது

Dancers: Esther Zignaigo/Lydia-Laure Germain, Akari Fujiwara, Momoka Matsui/Ana Zamora, Hannah Mae Cruddas, Sakura Kawamura, Omar Hernández, Callum McGregor, Leandro Prado, Márcio Teixeira, Daniel Da Silva

Intermission

George Brown Jewellery Video

Joel Haede (Student), Cara Fitzell (Graduate), Ronke Nedd (PAC member)

Dialogue

Choreography Mafa Makhubalo

Music Koukou by Traditional African Music

Costume Design by Stacey-Ann Vassell

Lighting Design by Madhu / மது

Dancers: Full Company

MEET YOUR DANCERS



Hannah Mae Cruddas
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Company Member
since 2012



Adam Davidson
Zephyr, Ontario
Company Member
since 2019



Akari Fujiwara
Aichi, Japan
Company Member
since 2017



Lydia-Laure Germain
Montréal, Québec
Company Member
since 2022



Omar Hernández
Pinar del Río, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



Adrián Ramírez Juárez
Mexico City, Mexico
Company Member
since 2014



Sakura Kawamura
Japan
Company Member
since 2021



Momoka Matsui
Fukuoka, Japan
Company Member
since 2015



Callum McGregor
Glasgow, Scotland
Company Member
since 2019



Leandro Prado
Altamira, Pará, Brazil
Company Member
since 2016



Hiroto Saito
Kobe, Japan
Ballet Master &
Company Member
since 2007



Daniel Da Silva
São Paulo, Brazil
Company Member
since 2009



Márcio Teixeira
São Caetano, Brazil
Company Member
since 2019



Ana Zamora
Havana, Cuba
Company Member
since 2022



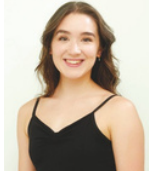
Esther Zignaigo
Lima, Perú
Company Member
since 2021



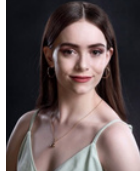
Taisia Zamula
Moscow, Russia
Apprentice



Chabi Arauz
Panama
Mentorship Student



Adrianna Cote
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Mentorship Student



Aria Lara Wilton
Kingston, Ontario
Mentorship Student



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dancers.

CHOREOGRAPHERS



KATLYN ADDISON

Katlyn Addison was born in Ontario, Canada. She began her professional ballet training at ten with the National Ballet School of Canada. She continued training with Quinte Ballet School of Canada, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Boston Ballet, and the Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy.

Katlyn joined Houston Ballet's corps de ballet in 2007. In 2008, she was awarded the Sarah Chapin Langham Award at Youth America Grand Prix and was invited to perform at the prestigious YAGP Gala the same year. In 2011 Katlyn joined Ballet West where she was promoted to Demi-Soloist in 2014, Soloist in 2016, and First Soloist in 2018. In 2021 Katlyn made history when she became the first black, female Principal Artist in Ballet West's 58-year history. Also in 2021, Katlyn was awarded the Performing Arts Fellowship Award by the Utah Division of Fine Arts & Museums.

Katlyn has danced classical, neoclassical, and contemporary works throughout her career including adaptations from John Cranko's *Romeo & Juliet* as Juliet and *Onegin* as *Tatiana*; Adam Sklute's *Swan Lake*, *Sleeping Beauty* as *Aurora*, and *Mrytha* in *Giselle*; George Balanchine's *Prodigal Son*, *Jewels*, *The Four Temperaments*, and *Concerto Barocco*; Williams Forsythe's *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*; Jiri Kylian's *Petite Mort*, *Return to a Strange Land*, and *Falling Angels*; Ben Stevenson's *Dracula*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *La Bayadere*; and many other ballets. She has also performed in several world premieres

including Christopher Bruce's *Grinning in Your Face*; Stanton Welch's *Medieval Babes*; Val Caniparoli's *The Lottery and Dances for Lou*; Nicolò Fonte's *Rite of Spring* and *Carmina Burana*; and Africa Guzman's *Sweet and Bitter*.

In 2016 Katlyn was the first black principal ballerina to perform the role of the "Sugar Plum Fairy" in Willam Christensen's *The Nutcracker*.

Katlyn performed for attendees of the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference, dancing the role of Mother Earth in *The Way of the Rain - Earth Movements - A Symphony for Ballet* with choreography by Emily Adams.

Throughout the fall and winter of 2019-2020, Katlyn performed the principal/soloist roles at the Scottish Ballet in Glasgow Scotland including *Tituba* in *Helen Pickettes' The Crucible* and *Snow Queen* choreographed by Christopher Hampson, Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet. She returned to Scotland in the Fall of 2022 for a repeat tour of *Snow Queen*.

In June of 2022, Katlyn was featured in *Reforming the Narrative* at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. where she performed a lead role in a new ballet created by renowned choreographer Donald Byrd.

Katlyn has also worked to find her choreographic voice. In 2015, Katlyn was chosen to choreograph a work, which she titled *The Hunt* for Ballet West's Choreographic Festival Program. She was again selected to create new works for the festival in 2018 (*Hidden Voices*) and 2021 (*Eden*). She also created new ballets for the Utah Arts Festival (*Unnamed*), the Ballet West Academy, and the University of Utah Dance Department (*Saint-George*, *The Composer*, *Frenchmen*, and *Creator*).

In early, 2022 Kansas City Ballet premiered Katlyn's new work *Sanctuary*, and she recently completed a new work for Bayou Ballet and another work for Ballet Jörgen, both premiering in May 2023.



JOSE ANGEL CARRET

Cuban born Mr. Carret is an award winning choreographer and principal dancer who has created more than 60 original works. He was a principal dancer and choreographer at Danza Espiral from Matanzas, Cuba, and performed many renowned Cuban choreographers' works such as Narciso Medina's piece "Meta-morphosis," a modern Cuban classic.

He has created choreographies for the International Ballet competitions in Cuba, and the Youth America Grand Prix international competition (2018) held in Canada.

Many of his awarded works are still part of the repertoire of several companies such as Danza Libre, Danza Fragmentada from Guantanamo, Cuba, and Ballet Creole Canada, among others. As a principal dancer, he toured in Spain, Canada, Martinica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, and Guadalupe. Mr. Carret performed at the International Ballet Festival in Cuba. One his awarded piece – Invernal, was danced at a special gala in which a Dance Award was given to Prima Ballerina Absoluta Alicia Alonso.

Mr. Carret received many awards given by prestigious dance artists in Cuba, such as Narciso Medina, Clara Luz Rodriguez, Isidro Leonardo Rolando Thondike, Ramiro Guerra, and etc.

Katlyn has appeared in numerous publications, programs, and films. In 2015 Huffington Post named her as one of the top "26 black female dancers you should know", and she has regularly been featured in Pointe and Dance Magazine. Katlyn danced and acted in Miu Miu *Woman's Tales*, a short film that premiered at the 2017 Venice Film Festival and appeared on the Prada Miu Miu website. She was also featured in an episode of "Let's Talk Utah" produced by the Utah Office of Tourism in the fall of 2021.

In early 2022, Katlyn was included as an honoree in Microsoft's virtual interactive museum, *The Legacy Project*. She was also featured in the Utah Black Chamber's book *Black Utah: Stories of a Thriving Community*.

Katlyn is involved in many passion projects and is dedicated to using her platform to give back to her community and to help raise the voices of other minority artists. Katlyn has volunteered her time for: the Redlining Project, an initiative drawing attention to injustices created by redlining voter districts; Ballet West's I CAN DO Program; Curly ME, which supports young girls of color; and Morning Star Middle School and Ridgewood Elementary School, both in Ontario, Canada; and she also serves on the board of directors for the Utah Black Artist Collective.

Mr. Carret firstly shared his unique Cuban dance style and heritage with Canadian audiences in 2005 as a guest dancer with decidedly Jazz Danceworks (Calgary) and Dance Immersion's Erie Music Choreographers Festival (2010).



MAFA MAKHUBALO

Mafa Makhubalo is a movement poet trained in folk forms from the Regions of African tradition, African contemporary, and Western-Contemporary. "My understanding of dance has influenced me as an accumulation of memory and the history of my culture." He has been actively involved in community engagement camps and arts education programs.

Jose is the Founding Artistic Director of Danza Corpus (Cuba) and Danza Corpus Canada (DCC). Danza Corpus Canada was awarded the Aboriginal and Culturally Diverse Training Grant by the Ontario Arts Council in 2014, 2015, and 2016. In 2016, Mr. Carret served as the Ontario Arts Council's Artistic Advisor for Operational Grants. Mr. Carret is the founder and the artistic director of International Dance Intensive TEADE (since 2011) in Cuba every summer and recently has done the first International Virtual IX Version last July 2020. He is a member of Dance Ontario.

Between 2019-2020, Mafa completed a mentorship placement with Young People's Theatre as part of the Arts Management program at Centennial College. During the 2020-2021 period, Mafa has been a mentor for the Vibes Arts Cohort 2, a resident choreographer with Ballet Jörgen Canada and Theatre Passe Muraille 11:11 production. Mafa participated in the Ontario-Quebec cohort program 2019-2021 presented by (LaDSR) La danse sur les routes du Québec and Ontario Presents. He has served on the juries for the Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Toronto Arts Foundation, and TAC Open Door Grant.



JONATHAN SANFORD

Jonathan Sanford is a Los Angeles-based composer, music producer, and saxophonist scoring music for films, television, and stage. He is known for bringing unique sounds and unexpected ideas through an analog exploration process.

Sanford recently scored the drama feature *National Champions* for STX Entertainment directed by Ric Waugh and starring J.K. Simmons, Stephan James, and Uzo Aduba. His other recent work includes the Universal / Netflix comedy feature *Good On Paper* starring Iliza Schlesinger and Margaret Cho and directed by Kimmy Gatewood, *Teenage Bounty Hunters*, a Netflix series from Tilted Productions (*GLOW*, *Orange Is The New Black*, *Weeds*), the Netflix series *Social Distance*, the documentary *Hold Your Fire* which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival, the drama romance feature *On Our Way*, and the comedy drama feature *Welcome Matt*. He is also the composer of USA's noir television drama *Dare Me*, based on the novel by Megan Abbott. Upcoming for Jonathan is the NBCUniversal / Amazon TV series *As We See It* from executive producer Jason Katims. Sanford's other previous work includes *That Moment When* for PBSNews Hour/Facebook Watch, original songs for YouTube's *Weird City*, score for the EKO interactive series *Timeline*, and Off-Broadway stage play *Tomorrow In The Battle* (*Stripped Scripts*).

Sanford has also scored documentaries for Syracuse professor Richard Breyer, tracks for *Run and Jump* directed by Oscar-nominated Steph Green, and short films with premieres at Tribeca and Cannes Film Festivals.

Sanford was born in Baltimore, Maryland, studying piano and violin before deciding on the saxophone at age nine. Jonathan went on to study classical saxophone, under the tutelage of Dr. Frederick Hemke at Northwestern University, where he was also a member of the 1996 Big Ten Championship Football Team. As a saxophonist and vocalist, Jonathan has shared the stage with legendary artists including Max Roach, Eddie Palmieri, Danilo Perez, and Bobby McFerrin.



DAVID HEUVEL

David Heuvel continues to have an illustrious career in costume design and production that has taken him to every corner of the globe. Five decades ago, Heuvel started as an apprentice at the Opera Theatre in Pretoria, South Africa. He quickly moved up the ranks in the state-run arts organization to become the director of the costume shop for PACT Ballet. In 1979, then-artistic director of Ballet West, Bruce Marks, invited Heuvel to head the fledgling company's costume shop. Under Marks, Heuvel helped build the reputation of Ballet West from a regional ballet company to one with international stature. The company received worldwide acclaim, with international tours, daring new works, and notable artistry on stage, from the dancers, and, yes, the costumes.

The Ballet West costume shop, under Heuvel's direction, is unparalleled. Today, few companies have the luxury of the vast talent and experience that he offers.

From cohesive designs with historical accuracy, to the ability to dye garments, his costume shop is the definition of full-service. "My philosophy is that the costume must move with the dancer," says Heuvel. "If they touch the stage feeling comfortable and regal, I have done my job."

Apart from Heuvel's work with Ballet West, he has designed and built costumes for ballet companies both nationally and international, including Ballet Du Nord (France), Alberta Ballet, Ballet Met, Singapore Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theatre, Atlanta Ballet, American Repertory Ballet, Carolina Ballet, Ballet Hawaii, Nashville Ballet, and Ballet Memphis. In December 2018, he received Governor Gary Herbert's prestigious Artist Award for Visual Arts.



AALIYAH SUNDAR

Costume Designer: *Jose Angel Carret's Dream Talker*, 2023

Costume Designer: *Metamorphosis*, Short Film 2019

Costume Designer: Frantic Assembly, *Everything is Different in this Moment*, 2019

Costume Designer: Hanna Kiel, *Urge*, 2018

I'm a Toronto based costume designer and seamstress. My work has started in mainly dance and bridal wear, which I'm always grabbing inspiration from. I love working with moving bodies and stretch fabrics but marrying it with elevated and innovative pieces. My current position at Canada's National Ballet school is always inspiring me to combine classical costumes

with a more contemporary and fashion forward approach.



STACEY-ANN VASSELL

Stacey-Ann Vassell is a Jamaican born costume and fashion designer. She is the face behind the fashion brand NUYUBYSTACY that designs casual to formal clothes for women and children of all ages, shapes and sizes. For more than 20 years this versatile costume designer's work can be seen in theatre, dance, television, pageants; fashion shows and music videos. This award-winning designer likes to bring stories and characters to life through a detailed analysis of historical facts coupled with her own sense of design. Stacey-Ann looks forward to this collaboration with Mafa Makhubalo and Ballet Jørgen.

MADHU/ மது

Madhu is an Ilankai-Tamil Canadian, originally growing up in Scarborough, and later Richmond Hill, having originally joined Canada's Ballet Jørgen in 2019 as their Lighting Director shortly after graduating from York University with a BFA with Honours in Theatre Production and Design. In addition to the role of Lighting Director, Madhu took on the role of Assistant Technical Director during the 2021-2022 season, and then Associate Technical Director during the first half of the 2022-2023 season, before joining full time as Resident Lighting Designer and Assistant Production Manager.

In addition to lighting and media design, Madhu also holds experience in 3d modeling & art, wardrobe, and IT Technology.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

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Susan Bodie & Bengt Jörgen, C.M.
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Artistic Director & CEO
Bengt Jörgen, C.M.
Ballet Master Hiroto Saito
Company Dancers
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Lydia-Laure Germain~, Omar
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Adrianna Cote~, Aria Lara Wilton~
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Principal Ballet Coach Svea Eklof
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Resident Stage Director Heinar Pillar
Artistic Working Group Hannah Mae
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Resident Lighting Designer & Assistant
Production Manager Madhu Seran
Technical Director Jacob Gagnon
Stage Manager Kayla Ado
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