DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE

OUT OF MANY < ONE

FEBRUARY 6 – 8, 2020 AT JAN SERR STUDIO

danceworks INC

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Milwaukee Ballet, *The Nutcracker*, 2017, Marize Fumero, Photo by Mark Frohna;
First Stage, *The Wiz*, DiMonte Henning, Darrington Clark and Reese Parish, Photo by Paul Ruffolo;
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Photo by Ron Oshima

DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE

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FEBRUARY 6 – 8, 2020 AT JAN SERR STUDIO

DPMKE: Katelyn Altmann, Alisha Jihn, Gina Laurenzi, Nekea Leon, Ivy Robertson, Elisabeth Roskopf, Maggie Seer, Gabi Sustache, Christal Wagner, Angela Weidner, Joshua Yang, Andrew Zanoni

Guest Dancer: Alex Seager

Guest Artists: Allen Russell (Composer/Violinist), Dana DeBofsky (Violist), Pat Reinholz (Cellist), Barry Paul Clark (Bassist), Dawn Springer (Choreographer), Gina Laurenzi (Choreographer)

Lighting Designer: Colin Gawronski

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Cover photo: Mark Frohna

FROM DANCEWORKS' ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

From the start, planning this concert circled around the work of Milwaukee composer/violinist, Allen Russell. I've worked alongside Allen in Danceworks projects including *Paleontology of a Woman, Footsteps, Shadows & Whispers, Secrets from the Wide Sky* and *Revealing the Eclectic Body,* as well as numerous community performances of an audience-interactive music and dance improvisation score that we've developed together. In each and every instance Allen has brought artistry, generosity, nuance, intuition, work ethic and commitment to the collaborative table. And what a gift it is to create dance in real-time conversation with a music composer! Choreographers Gina Laurenzi, Dawn Springer and I, all had an interest in collaborating with Allen to make new work on the 19-20 season. Why not draw us together in one collaboration with Allen on the Danceworks Performance Season? Throughout our creative processes with him, each of our works unfolded in a uniquely organic evolution.

Meanwhile a major evolution has taken place in the 19-20 Danceworks Performance season. In this inaugural season of Danceworks Performance MKE (formerly Danceworks Performance Company) the groups' numbers have expanded to allow us to draw inspiration from a more diverse wealth of movers in our community and likewise serve the community in a larger way – by increasing health, joy and creativity through dance! Largely due to this expansion of the group, this season is simultaneously one of the most exciting and challenging that I have encountered in my 12-year tenure as Artistic Director. I arrive to rehearsal every day with enthusiasm for the new look and feel of the group, but also with a bit of fear (likely a healthy dose). Fear that these beautiful dancers (and collaborating artists) that have entrusted me with their time and talents will not be inspired by my leadership. Fear that I won't have an inventive idea, or dynamic sense of physicality, or won't be able to maintain an efficient use of time. Fear that I will fail to maximize the potential of this group, this moment, this opportunity to create something unique and meaningful.

But over time, in what has now become a very long career in the arts, I've learned that it is not one single day of brilliance or failure that determines value. Rather, it is the daily, mindful commitment to well-seeded values and clearly stated intentions that adds up, cumulatively, to a lifetime of artmaking and community building. I am more inspired than ever to maintain this steady commitment. The artists of the 19-20 season deserve my best, cumulative self. They deserve more than I offer. They deserve my mindful leadership plus the value that each individual inside of the group contributes. I am committed to a process and product that upholds these cumulative and collaborative efforts that are more than any one of us.

Tonight, the Milwaukee skyline, featured in the beautiful Jan Serr Studio, provides the backdrop for music and dance drawn from the city we all call home. Thank you for being here, and supporting the Milwaukee arts community.

Dani Kuepper | Artistic Director, Danceworks

THE PROGRAM

/,MASK'RĀD/

(excerpt from /,mask'rād/ by Gina Laurenzi Dance Project, November 2019)
Choreography: Gina Laurenzi
Music Composition: Allen Russell
Music Performance: Allen Russell, Dana DeBofsky, Pat Reinholz, Barry Paul Clark
Dancers: Gina Laurenzi, Elisabeth Roskopf, Alex Seager, Gabi Sustache, Joshua Yang

MEADOW

Choreography: Dawn Springer
Music Composition: Allen Russell
Music Performance: Allen Russell, Dana DeBofsky, Pat Reinholz, Barry Paul Clark
Dancers: Gina Laurenzi, Elisabeth Roskopf
Dedicated to Patricia Colloton-Walsh.

******15-Minute Intermission******

OUT OF MANY, ONE

Choreography: Dani Kuepper with contributions from the dancers
Music Composition: Allen Russell
Music Performance: Allen Russell, Dana DeBofsky, Pat Reinholz, Barry Paul Clark
Dancers: Katelyn Altmann, Alisha Jihn, Gina Laurenzi, Nekea Leon, Ivy Robertson, Elisabeth Roskopf, Maggie Seer, Gabi Sustache, Christal Wagner, Angela Weidner, Joshua Yang, Andrew Zanoni

Special Thanks to Zach Schorsch and Jasper Sanchez for their contributions to DPMKE and to choreographic process of Out of Many, One.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Jan Serr and John Shannon, Zach Schorsch, Jasper Sanchez, Mischa Premeau, Simone Ferro, Kayla Premeau, Lisa Dickson, Randy Holper, Kyle Norris, Gina Laurenzi Dance Project, Tontine Ensemble, Danceworks Board Members, Danceworks Season Subscribers and the UWM Dance Department.

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Danceworks Performance MKE, formerly Danceworks Performance Company (DPC) – is a new ensemble of performing artists with dynamically different movement training and experiences. We welcome seven new dancers to the season, building upon the strong core of dancers you've come to love over the years. The group, led by Artistic Director, Dani Kuepper, maintains a commitment to celebrating the vitality and diversity of the Milwaukee arts community, creating works of physical virtuosity and ingenuity, gathered on fertile, common ground.

DPMKE ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Dani Kuepper joined Danceworks Performance MKE in 1998 and has since choreographed more than 30 dances for the company. As a Danceworker, she has enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate extensively in the Milwaukee community with established organizations as well as independent artists. Dani received both her BFA and MFA from UW-Milwaukee, where she has been a faculty member of the dance department since 1999. As an undergraduate at UWM, Dani performed the solo, *Mrs. Schultz,* at the national American College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She was honored in 2009 as a "Forty Under 40" recipient by the Business Journal of Milwaukee and also received the UWM Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award for non-tenure track instructors in 2010. *Dani is sponsored in part by Ryan Kuepper and Bob Balderson.*

Katelyn Altmann is a movement-based artist, collaborator and improviser who is currently based in Milwaukee, WI. She recently graduated magna cum laude with a BFA in Dance Performance & Choreography from UW-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Arts. Katelyn is a current company member with Danceworks Performance MKE and Wild Space Dance Company as well as being an Administrative Intern with Milwaukee Dance Theatre Network. She has worked closely with many artists, including Esther Baker-Tarpaga, Daniel Burkholder, Maria Gillespie, Mair Culbreth, Esmé Boyce, Simone Ferro, Ishmael Huston-Jones, Kym McDaniel, Melanie George and Holly Johnston (Ledges and Bones). Collaboration with these artists and community members is key within her curation and creative exploration. *Katelyn is sponsored in part by Michelle Weber & Jason Wendt.*

Alisha Jihn is a dance artist and licensed dance/movement therapist. She developed her passion for movement at the Milwaukee Ballet School and Academy and studied dance and dance/movement therapy at St. Olaf College, the American Dance Festival, and Columbia College Chicago. Alisha was a 2017-2018 U.S. Fulbright Fellow to Taiwan focusing on cross-cultural dialogue about dance/movement therapy. Beyond her dance and choreographic endeavors, she is deeply passionate about promoting the creative arts—specifically dance, as a modality of healing for all individuals. Alisha is very excited to be dancing in her hometown of Milwaukee after eight years away! *Alisha is sponsored in part by Chiung-Fang Hsu and Karen Wang.*

Gina Laurenzi graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a BFA in Dance. Gina is currently an Associate Lecturer at UWM, Artistic Manager for Danceworks Youth Performance Company, and Artistic Director of the Gina Laurenzi Dance Project. Before beginning her chapter in Milwaukee, Gina was on scholarship at Giordano Dance Center and later performed with Giordano II and Inaside Chicago Dance. For seven years, Gina owned and operated Laurenzi Dance (Kenosha, WI). After taking a year off to pursue other interests, she is excited to be back performing with Danceworks

Performance MKE, as well as Water Street Dance Company, and creating new work for the Gina Laurenzi Dance Project's collective of movers. *Gina is sponsored in part by Mary Lou DeFino.*

Nekea Leon is a Milwaukee based dancer and a native of the city. She began her love of dance at the age of 5 and continued her studies at her middle and high school. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with her BA in dance in 2018. She has danced all throughout the community and is a current member of Revamped Dance Company. Along with being one of the newest members to the Danceworks Performance MKE, she will also be performing in the UWM new dance makers show in November. *Nekea is sponsored in part by John Salemi.*

For 15 years, **Ivy Robertson** has been passionately involved in the art of dance and dance making. Ivy first started their training in post modern and Graham styles under the direction of Lisa Andrea Thurrell and Robert E. Cleary. Ivy also studied classical ballet at Madison Ballet under the direction of w. Earl Smith. Later, from 2010-2014, they danced with Kanopy Dance Company for four seasons. Ivy attended summer dance programs on scholarship at Pacific Northwest Ballet and Alonzo King LINES Ballet. Ivy studied as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee studying contemporary dance and choreography from 2014-2017. After receiving their Cosmetology license from The Institute of Beauty and Wellness in 2018, Ivy is honored to be with Danceworks Performance MKE for their first season. *Ivy is sponsored in part by John Salemi and Tim & Sue Frautschi.*

Elisabeth Roskopf graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where she earned her BA in Piano and minor in Dance. She is a company member with Li Chiao-Ping Dance, Danceworks Performance MKE, and Wild Space Dance Company. She is currently a guest artist with the Gina Laurenzi Dance Project, and she has had the opportunity of performing with Marlene Skog Dance and Catey Ott Dance Collective. Since the spring of 2014, Elisabeth has been performing in the Lake Arts Project, directed by Jennifer Miller and Karl von Rabenau formerly of the Milwaukee Ballet. Since 2013, and still ongoing, she has choreographed and performed her solo works for Danceworks DanceLAB *Get It Out There* concert series. In addition to performing, she joined the Danceworks studio faculty as a ballet teacher in 2018. Elisabeth is very excited to be performing with DPMKE as well as working under the direction of Dawn Springer this season! *Elisabeth is sponsored in part by Bob Balderson.*

Maggie Seer received her BFA in Dance from UW-Milwaukee in 2016. She has performed regularly with Danceworks Performance MKE since 2017 and Wild Space Dance Company since 2016. She performs with Maria Gillespie's Hyperlocal MKE and the Gina Laurenzi Dance Project. She has choreographed several times for the Danceworks DanceLAB *Get It Out There* concert series and will present a new work as part of the Danceworks' *Emerging Choreographers Concert* in 2020. Maggie also fundraises and teaches for Danceworks, and loves exploring the Milwaukee community. *Maggie is sponsored in part by Jeff McClellan, Lynda & Steve Seer, and Kyle Alcaraz.*

Gabi Sustache currently is a senior at UW-Milwaukee, where she is studying dance. She began her dance training at Danceworks at the age of three and hasn't stopped dancing since. She was a member of Danceworks Youth Performance Company from 2011-2013 and is currently also a member of Danceworks On Tap, Danceworks' resident tap dance company. Gabi first danced with Danceworks On Tap as a guest performer at the age of five and became a full-fledged company member in 2010. In addition to dancing

with Danceworks On Tap, Gabi performs with various Milwaukee-based hip hop crews, such as S.A.I.N.T.S. She has performed as part of Danceworks' DanceLAB concert series in *Ignite: A Hip Hop Dance Experience* from 2013-2019, as well as *Get It Out There* 2016-2019. Gabi joined the Danceworks studio faculty in 2014 and is also part of the teaching faculty for the Danceworks Mad Hot Ballroom and Tap program. *Gabi is sponsored in part by Gregg Sustache & Amy Brinkman and Bob Balderson.*

Christal Wagner is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee with her BFA in Dance. She is a founding member of the collaborative trio Cadance Collective and has been performing their original works since 2012. She has danced with Danceworks Performance MKE since 2007 and has formally danced with Your Mother Dances and Gina Laurenzi Dance Project. She has been a featured performer with Present Music, Dawn Springer Dance Projects, Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Skylight Music Theatre. She is in her 12th year teaching for the Danceworks Mad Hot Ballroom and tap program and has enjoyed teaching for Danceworks' residencies, Barre fitness and Generations classes. *Christal is sponsored in part by Bob Balderson.*

Angela Weidner began dancing at the age of three and hasn't stopped since! She is versed in many styles, but she primarily focuses on jazz, tap, hip hop, and dance team. Angela trained in the Madison, WI area for 15 years, competing at regional and national levels. In 2013, she graduated with her bachelor's degree in Economics from UW-Milwaukee, minoring in Actuarial Science, Math, and Business. She is a proud alumni of the UW-Milwaukee Panther Dance Team, and she professionally danced for both the Milwaukee Brewer's Diamond Dancers and the Milwaukee Buck's Dancers. She has been choreographing, teaching, and coaching for numerous Milwaukee based studios and high school dance teams throughout Wisconsin since 2010. In more recent years, Angela is grateful to be a member of the Danceworks faculty in various capacities: Development and Programs Coordinator, Studio faculty, Mad Hot Teaching Artist, Performer in the *Ignite* Hip Hop and Danceworks on Tap showcases, and now a member of DPMKE. She especially loves sharing her love and passion for dance, as well as the lessons/values/healing it can instill, throughout the MKE community. *Angela is sponsored in part by Dawn Kassuke.*

Joshua Yang is one of the many bright, young minds in the professional dance world today. Partaking in multiple choreographic endeavors, Joshua seeks to expand his reach. As a teacher, he works hard to spark confidence, passion, and ambition for his student. Joshua has also established the first hip-hop program at the Milwaukee Ballet Academy. He is one of the many leaders in the community and recently established a company called "Origins". Yang trains continuously from learning new skills from other genres of dance, pursuing a higher education, and embracing the beauty of life, which all culminates to shape Joshua's artistic mind and unique ambition. *Joshua is sponsored in part by Michelle Weber & Jason Wendt.*

Andrew Zanoni is a Milwaukee based artist who has performed in Milwaukee, New York, Boston, and Bethlehem, PA. He graduated from UW-Milwaukee with a BFA in Dance in 2010 and has performed on and off with Danceworks ever since. If he's not sweating it out in the Danceworks studios, you can catch him in the Third Ward slinging food and drinks at The Wicked Hop or biking and rollerblading on the Oak Leaf Trail. Many thanks to my mom (Cindy) and Dave for supporting me in my dream of paying off my college tuition and their endless support. *Andrew is sponsored in part by Christine Palacios.*

GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Allen Russell is a violinist, composer, and educator based in Milwaukee, WI. Specializing in improvisation and collaboration, Allen composes and performs with dancers and movement artists and has worked with Danceworks, the Milwaukee Ballet, and UW-Milwaukee dance department. Allen appears often playing jazz fiddle with his band Swing Chevron and other groups around Milwaukee and the Midwest. He is a cofounder of the string quartet Tontine Ensemble that focuses on developing and performing works of new music. Allen has earned a B.A in Music and an M.F.A. in String Pedagogy and Performance from UW-Milwaukee.

Dana DeBofsky grew up in Highland Park, IL and received her Bachelors in viola performance from Lawrence University and her Masters in string pedagogy from UW-Milwaukee. She has attended summer intensive programs such as Aspen Music Festival and College Light Opera Company, and currently performs with the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Philharmonic and Dream City Strings.

Pat Reinholz Patrick is a versatile cellist collaborating frequently with other musicians, artists, dancers and even spoken word artists. He frequently performs a variety of music including classical, new music, jazz, and rock. Improvisation also plays a very large role in Patrick's music. Notable collaborations include working with famed New York dancer Sally Gross on a minimalist dance film, contributed original music to choreography by Li Chiao-Ping, and performing frequently with the electroacoustic ensemble *The Weather Duo*. He has premiered chamber music by composers Steven Lewis and Filippo Santoro. Patrick has also played a very active role in the formation and performances of the new music ensemble *Downbeat Means Attack* and the Jazz/Avant Garde group *Lovely Socialite Mrs. Thomas W. Phipps*. Patrick holds a degree in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he studied cello with Uri Vardi.

Barry Paul Clark (BM 2009, Mannes College of Music – New School University, NYC) – Classically trained bassist, composer, improviser and educator. Section bassist in Festival City Symphony, Kenosha Symphony Orchestra, Wisconsin Philharmonic and has been a featured artist with Florentine Opera. Teaching staff at West End Conservatory, Hartford Union High School, and Cardinal Stritch University. Co-curator of the monthly improvised performance series Unrehearsed MKE. Member of performance projects Tontine Ensemble, Argopelter, Lady Cannon, adoptahighway, and FieldReport. Film composer for "Seeking Century City" (2017 short, directed by Wes Tank & Adam Carr) and "Plucked" (2019 documentary, directed by Joel Van Haren).

Dawn Springer is a choreographer and writer. She has performed and travelled internationally as a dance artist and invited speaker. Her recent choreographic collaborations with composer Jon Mueller have garnered critical acclaim ("mesmerizing" — Spin Magazine) and were commissioned for consecutive years at the Eaux Claires Music and Arts Festival curated by Justin Vernon (Bon Iver) and Aaron Dressner (The National). Her research on dance in American culture has been published by numerous publications and was recently released as a chapter in the Perspectives on American Dance: The New Millennium anthology through the University of Florida Press. She studied on scholarship at the North Carolina School of the Arts,

concentrating in high school on Ballet and earning her BFA in Modern Dance. She earned her MFA in Dance through the Hollins University/American Dance Festival partnership under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield. She has been privileged to work with students in Dance at Universities across the country, and currently serves on faculty in the Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Alex Seager has been moving and grooving ever since she took her first dance class at DDH Dance Academy in Wausau, Wisconsin. Currently a third year student at UWM's Peck School of the Arts, she's pursuing a BFA in Contemporary Performance and Choreography, and since 2018, has been a member of local repertory company Water Street Dance Milwaukee. Through her career, her love for dance has expanded—from traveling to each coast for Water Street Dance Milwaukee, to studying abroad in Brazil this past summer, to teaching weekly at In Motion Dance Studio in Plymouth—and she can't be more grateful. She would like to thank her family, friends, and wonderful dance community for the support and love, and would especially like to thank the Gina Laurenzi Dance Project for allowing her to partake in this incredible experience. Enjoy the show!

Colin Gawronski could not be happier to be a part of Danceworks Performance MKE. They have worked extensively with Danceworks, Inc. as well as such local companies as Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, UWM Dance, Next Act, PrideFest Milwaukee, Bard and Bourbon, Gina Laurenzi Dance Project, Black Arts Milwaukee and the Bronzeville Arts Ensemble as well as Theatre Lila of Madison. Favorite productions include: *Ignite: A Hip Hop Experience, Secrets From the Wide Sky, Black Nativity, King Lear, Jesus Christ Superstar, Stories From a Life, Any Given Monday, Serendipity, In A Black Mood, Gruesome Playground Injuries, Lamps for My Family,* and *Vagabondare.* Give Love Always. *Colin is sponsored in part by Kim Johnson & Jon Rockafellow.*

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We gratefully acknowledge our funders from September 1, 2019 through January 21, 2020. Our apologies to any individual or organization that was inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed. Call Maggie Seer at (414) 277-8480, ext. 6008 with any corrections or to make a pledge to Danceworks. Your support keeps Milwaukee moving!

DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE

101 WAYS TO ENTER & EXIT

(STAGE DOOR LEFT)

MAY 14 - 17, 2020 · NEXT ACT THEATRE

Our lives are marked by comings and goings. Sometimes a grand and sweeping entrance – sometimes an abrupt and unexpected exit. Long goodbyes, stumbling onto stage unprepared or shot like a cannon into the unknown. We'll explore tales that exude humor, sorrow, joy and compassion crafted by guest author, Jennifer Kohnhorst (The Moth Twin Cities StorySLAM Winner, DPC's *Secrets from the Wide Sky*). This theatrical event unfolds with original music by percussionist Andy Miller (UWM Dance Department Music Director), who provides drum rolls to accompany grand entrances and the steady pulse that vibrates through the exuberance of birth, the endurance of life and the ritual and beauty of death. Choreography by Dani Kuepper embodies these extreme moments of lived experience through an intergenerational cast that offer a collective wisdom and diverse perspective of beginnings and endings.

Featuring DPMKE artists: Katelyn Altmann, Melissa Anderson, Richard Brasfield, Arturo de la Mesa, Alisha Jihn, Gina Laurenzi, Nekea Leon, Jenni Reinke, Ivy Robertson, Elisabeth Roskopf, Maggie Seer, Christal Wagner, Joshua Yang, Andrew Zanoni and the members of Danceworks 50+ Performance Workshop

Advanced purchase and walk up tickets available.
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visit DanceworksMKE.org or call 414.277.8480.

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Photos by Mark Frohna.

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