

DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE PRESENTS

BIOME

Danceworks'
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Danceworks Staff



Donation Info



Created by Gina Laurenzi



February 29 –
March 3, 2024

Danceworks Studio Theatre

Tickets @ Danceworksmke.org



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Milwaukee Ballet, Itzel Hernandez &
Davit Hovhannisyan, Photo by Tom Davenport.
Milwaukee Ballet, Marie Collins, Photo by Mark Frohna.

DANCEWORKS PERFORMANCE MKE

BOUNDLESS



OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

DANCEWORKS STUDIO THEATRE

Artistic Direction: Christal Wagner

Lighting Design: Colin Gawronski | Costumes: Christal Wagner in collaboration with DPMKE

Premiere Concert Sponsors Jane Lewis and Mickey Maier

Photo by DPMKE Artistic Director Christal Wagner

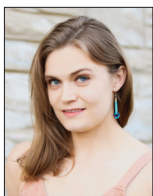
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**DANCE
WORKS MKE**



A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

What is Jazz dance anyway, and where does it come from? If you yourself aren't sure of the answer, then I am glad you are here. I am lucky enough to have been brought up with a large variety of dance in my youth. Tap dance was first including kickline and can can. Then my parents and I joined a west coast swing dance club in the late 90's and also practiced east coast swing, two step, and hustle. From there I was lucky enough to study ballroom dance including jive, samba, paso-doble, rumba, cha cha cha and salsa. In college I would go on to practice Lindy Hop regularly with a natural affinity for its rhythm and rootedness. This training easily translated to Jazz dance. My education in rhythmic stepping patterns was vast and wide.

In my time learning these culturally diverse styles, no one mentioned the history of these dances. Very few mentioned that jazz dance is delineated right from the swing era and from vernacular stepping patterns such as the Charleston, the Shorty George, the Susie Q, the Big Apple, the Franky Doo, and the Shim Sham. These steps were passed socially from dancer to dancer on ballroom floors in 20's, 30's and 40's. I was taught the steps but I was not taught that these steps emerged from African dance practices brought to the United States by enslaved peoples who were ripped from their culture, banned from drumming, and dance was their only way to express and communicate with each other across tribes and plantations. The truth is that for our unique American history, the forms of dance that are highly valued, funded or highlighted are ones of eurocentric origin or eurocentric adaptation led by white choreographers who stole, borrowed, popularized and neglected to cite where they got their rooted style from.

Today the community of dance that regularly acknowledges the origins of its form is Lindy Hop. I'd like to take a page out of their book by shifting the narrative not only by bringing Jazz to the forefront but stating where it comes from, how it started and how to continue to celebrate it. I hope this concert is the first of many and my energy spent creating dances, highlighting creators and teaching in the form feels boundless. I will do whatever it takes to continue to educate dancers, audiences, and supporters, giving credit where credit is overdue.

THE PROGRAM

Jazz is a Spirit

Performance: DPMKE Company

Music: *Jazz is a Spirit* by Jakob Manz, Mark Harrington, and Paolo Fresu

What is Jazz

Speaker: Paté Patrice Nassalang

Film: Christal Wagner

Opus de Funk

Choreography: Christal Wagner

Performance: Altmann, Jenkins, Lueck, Moore, Ramirez Castro, Ray Garcia, Ritchey, Robertson, Sivertson, Sustache

Music: *Opus de Funk* by Art Pepper

Pennies from Heaven

Improvisation and Performance: BJ Szyjakowski and Lyndsey Kuhlmann

Music: *Pennies From Heaven* By Ben Webster

Precision

Choreography: Gabi Sustache

Performance: Glise, Ritchey, Robertson, Sustache

Music: *Precision* by Logic1000

Unsquare Dance

Choreography: Christal Wagner

Performance: Altmann, Jenkins, Moore

Music: *Unsquare Dance* By Dave Brubeck

Birds of a Feather

Choreography: Christal Wagner

Performance: Ramirez Castro, Ritchey, Robertson, Sivertson

Music: *Birds of a Feather* by Vulfpeck

Cry to Me

Choreography: Christal Wagner

Performance: Moore

Music: *Cry to Me* by Mark Broussard

First Song

Choreography: Christal Wagner in collaboration with the Dancers

Performance: Altmann, Moore, Ramirez Castro, Lueck, Ray Garcia, Ritchey

Music: *First Song* by Ozan Musluoglu, Jeremy Pelt, Ferit Odman, and Danny Grissett

Quirky but cool

Choreography: Gina Laurenzi

Performance: Jenkins, Robertson, Sivertson, Sustache, Glise

Music: *Cat Blues* by SEATBELTS, *Nefertitwist* by Ludovic Bource

Otherly

Choreography: Christal Wagner

Performance: Sustache, Lueck, Ray Garcia

Music: *The Alien* by Ben Salisbury and Geoff Barrow, *Default* by Atoms for Peace

River Man

Choreography: Christal Wagner in collaboration with the Dancers

Performance: Jenkins, Lueck, Moore, Ray Garcia, Roskopf

Music: *River Man* by Nick Drake

The Sweet Science

Choreography: Christal Wagner

Performance: Roskopf

Music: *The Sweet Science* by Vulfpeck

It's A Vibe

Performance: Jenkins, Robertson, Sivertson, Sustache, Glise

Choreography: Gina Laurenzi

Music: *A Night in Tunisia* by Grace Kelly

To Someone From a Warmer Climate

Choreography: Christal Wagner

Performance: Altmann

Music: *To Someone From a Warmer Climate* by Hozier

Ain't Nothin' Wrong With That

Choreography: Christal Wagner in collaboration with the Dancers

Performance: Danceworks Performance MKE

Music: *Ain't Nothing Wrong With That* By Eric Reed, The Quintet

THE ARTISTS



KATELYN ALTMANN



GRETA JENKINS



JESSICA LUECK



KAITLYN MOORE



CUAUHTLI RAMIREZ
CASTRO



ASHLEY RAY GARCIA



TESSA RITCHEY



ISAAC ROBERTSON



ELISABETH ROSKOPF



HALLE SIVERTSON



GABI SUSTACHE



GINA LAURENZI



ZOE GLISE



COLIN GAWRONSKI



BJ SZYJAKOWSKI



LYNDSEY KUHLMANN



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and view Artist Bios:



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Remaining performances:

BIOME created by Gina Laurenzi // Feb. 29–Mar 3, 2024 // Danceworks Studio Theatre
DIXIT DOMINUS with Aperi Animam // May 17–19, 2024 // Calvary Presbyterian Church

Please call 414.277.8480 to set up your subscription or with any questions.



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