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Arts Series

Mark Morris Dance Group

The Look of Love



Media Support:



Mark Morris Dance Group

The Look of Love

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

MICA BERNAS KARLIE BUDGE DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR.
SARAH HILLMON COURTNEY LOPES DALLAS McMURRAY
ALEX MEETH* BRANDON RANDOLPH CHRISTINA SAHAIDA BILLY SMITH
JOSLIN VEZEAU NOAH VINSON

*Apprentice

MMDG MUSIC ENSEMBLE

CLINTON CURTIS JONATHAN FINLAYSON MARCY HARRIELL
CHRIS McCARTHY BLAIRE REINHARD VINNIE SPERRAZZA
SIMÓN WILLSON

Artistic Director

MARK MORRIS

Executive Director

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The Look of Love

PROGRAM

THE LOOK OF LOVE

Music by Burt Bacharach

Lyrics by Hal David

Lyrics from "The Blob" by Mack David

Arranged by Ethan Iverson

Choreography by Mark Morris

Costume and Production Design by Isaac Mizrahi

Lighting Design by Nicole Pearce

"Alfie"

"What the World Needs Now"

"I'll Never Fall in Love Again"

"Message to Michael"

"Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"

"Do You Know the Way to San Jose"

"Anyone Who Had a Heart"

"Walk on By"

"Don't Make Me Over"

"Are You There (With Another Girl)"

"The Blob"

"Always Something There to Remind Me"

"The Look of Love"

"I Say a Little Prayer"

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Marcy Harriell, *lead vocals*; Chris McCarthy, *piano*; Jonathan Finlayson, *trumpet*;
Simón Willson, *bass*; Vinnie Sperrazza, *drums*; Clinton Curtis and Blaire Reinhard,
background vocals

Mica Bernas, Domingo Estrada, Jr., Sarah Hillmon,
Courtney Lopes, Dallas McMurray, Brandon Randolph, Christina Sahaida,
Billy Smith, Joslin Vezeau, Noah Vinson

The Look of Love is a production of the Mark Morris Dance Group; BAM; BroadStage, Santa Monica; Cal Performances, UC Berkeley; The Jay and Susie Gogue Performing Arts Center at Auburn University; Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth; and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in association with Arizona Arts Live, University of Arizona; Harriman-Jewell Series; The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond; Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech; Marybelle and Sebastian P. Musco Center for the Arts; Tennessee Performing Arts Center; UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures and Virginia Arts Festival.

This evening's program will be performed without an intermission.



MARK MORRIS was born on August 29, 1956, in Seattle, Washington, where he studied with Verla Flowers and Perry Brunson. In the early years of his career, he performed with the companies of Lar Lubovitch, Hannah Kahn, Laura Dean, Eliot Feld and the Koleda Balkan Dance Ensemble. He formed the Mark Morris Dance Group in 1980 and has since created over 150 works for the company. From 1988 to 1991, he was director of dance at Brussels' Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, the national opera house of Belgium. In 1990, he founded the White Oak Dance Project with Mikhail Baryshnikov. Much in demand as a ballet choreographer, Morris has created 22 ballets since 1986, and his work has been performed by companies worldwide, including San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet am Rhein, Dusseldorf and the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Noted for his musicality, Morris has been described as "undeviating in his devotion to music" (*The New Yorker*). He began conducting performances for MMDG in 2006 and has since conducted at Tanglewood Music Center, Lincoln Center and BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). He served as music director for the 2013 Ojai Music Festival. He also works extensively in opera, directing and choreographing productions for the Metropolitan Opera; New York City Opera; English National Opera and The Royal Opera - Covent Garden, among others. He was named a fellow of the MacArthur Foundation in 1991 and has received eleven honorary doctorates to date. He has taught at the University of Washington, Princeton University and Tanglewood Music Center. A Doris Duke Artist, Morris is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society and has served as an advisory board member for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. He has received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for lifetime achievement, the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement Award for the elevation of music in society, the Benjamin Franklin Laureate Prize for Creativity, the International Society for the Performing Arts' Distinguished Artist Award, Cal Performances Award of Distinction in the performing arts, the Orchestra of St. Luke's Gift of Music Award, and the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award. In 2015, Morris was inducted into the Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs, New York. Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Brooklyn, New York, in 2001 to provide a home for his company, subsidized rental space for local artists, community education programs for children and seniors, and a school offering dance classes to students of all ages and levels of experience with and without disabilities. Morris' memoir, *Out Loud*, co-written with Wesley Stace, was published in paperback by Penguin Press in October 2021.

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The **MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP** was formed in 1980 and gave its first performance that year in New York City. The company's touring schedule steadily expanded to include cities in the United States and around the world, and in 1986 it made its first national television program for the PBS series *Dance in America*. In 1988, MMDG was invited to become the national dance company of Belgium and spent three years in residence at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. The Dance Group returned to the United States in 1991 as one of the world's leading dance companies. Based in Brooklyn, New York, MMDG maintains strong ties to presenters in several cities around the world, most notably to its West Coast home, Cal Performances in Berkeley, California and its Midwest home, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In New York, the company has performed at New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, regularly performs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' Mostly Mozart and White Light Festivals and collaborates yearly with BAM on performances and master classes. From the company's many London seasons, it has received two Laurence Olivier Awards and a Critics' Circle Dance Award for best foreign dance company. Reflecting Morris' commitment to live music, the Dance Group has featured live musicians in every performance since the formation of the MMDG Music Ensemble in 1996. MMDG regularly collaborates with renowned musicians, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and jazz pianist Ethan Iverson, as well as leading orchestras and opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, English National Opera and the London Symphony Orchestra. MMDG frequently works with distinguished artists and designers, including painters Robert Bordo and the late Howard Hodgkin, set designers Adrienne Lobel and Allen Moyer, costume designers Isaac Mizrahi and the late Martin Pakledinaz and many others. MMDG's film and television projects include *Dido and Aeneas*, *The Hard Nut*, *Falling Down Stairs*, two documentaries for the U.K.'s South Bank Show and PBS' *Live from Lincoln Center*. In 2015, Morris' signature work *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* had its national television premiere on PBS' Great Performances. While on tour the Dance Group partners with local cultural institutions and community organizations to present arts and humanities-based activities for people of all ages and abilities.

The **MMDG Music Ensemble**, formed in 1996, is integral to the Dance Group. "With the dancers come the musicians...and what a difference it makes" (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*). The Ensemble's repertoire ranges from 17th and 18th century works by John Wilson and Henry Purcell to more recent scores by Ethan Iverson, Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell. The musicians also participate in the Dance Group's educational and community programming at home and on tour. The Music Ensemble is led by Colin Fowler, who began to collaborate with MMDG in 2005 during the creation of *Mozart Dances*.



BURT BACHARACH (1928-2023) was one of the world's most acclaimed, award-winning composer/songwriters. His music is as diverse as his audiences, spanning generations and continents, as he is celebrated both as a pop culture icon and one of the world's greatest contemporary composers. Bacharach's credits read like the world's favorite radio stations' playlist: "Alfie," "Arthur's Theme," "Close To You," "Do You Know The Way To San Jose," "I Say A Little Prayer," "I'll Never Fall In Love Again," "This Guy's In Love With You," "Walk On By," "What

The World Needs Now Is Love” and “Wishin’ And Hopin’” are among just the 48 top ten hits and nine No. 1 songs. Bacharach and Hal David were the recipients of the 2012 Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for popular song. The prize is awarded to musicians whose lifetime contributions in the field of popular song exemplify the standard of excellence associated with the Gershwins. Bacharach and David received the Library’s Gershwin Medal in May 2012 at an all-star tribute in Washington, DC. Bacharach’s memoir, *Anyone Who Had a Heart*, was released in May 2013, and for the first time in his long and astonishing career, Bacharach told his story of love, heartbreak, success, failure and unbridled ambition, which is named after one of many songs Bacharach and David wrote for Dionne Warwick. The memoir was published by HarperCollins. Bacharach composed his first film score in 16 years for John Asher’s autism-based drama film *Po*. The film was released in April 2016. *Po* tells the story of a recently widowed father struggling to raise his ten-year-old son who has autism. Bacharach and Daniel Tashian released two new songs called “Moon Over Wichita” and “Heartbreak Storms” via Big Yellow Dog Music in April 2022. The songs are a continuation of their Grammy® nominated *Blue Umbrella EP*, released in 2020 and *Blue Umbrella (The Complete Recordings)*, which was released in 2021 and featured four never-before-heard songs. Bacharach and Steven Sater’s *Some Lovers*, featuring vocal performances from some of Broadway’s most beloved co-stars, was released on November 26, 2021. The album was nominated for a Grammy Award for best musical theater album.



HAL DAVID (1921-2012) is known for his award-winning lyrics that have been featured in films, Broadway shows, and music charts throughout his career. Being honored through numerous Grammys, the NARM Presidential Award, and more, he is most known for his collaborations with composer Burt Bacharach, whom he met in 1957. The two wrote their first hit, “The Story of My Life,” and then continued to write iconic American pop songs throughout the 1960s and ‘70s.

In 2012, David and Bacharach received the Gershwin Prize for popular song. But the duo was not just known for the pop songs they created. They also wrote for movies, with four of their songs being nominated for Academy Awards®: “What’s New, Pussycat?,” “Alfie,” “The Look of Love” and “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head,” which also won an Oscar in 1970. Lincoln College bestowed a doctor of music degree on David for his contribution to American music. In October of 2007, David received an honorary degree from the Five Towns College in Long Island, and, in addition, they named their new music library building The Hal David Music Library. David is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and was the first non-British person to receive the Ivor Novello Award from the British Performing Rights Society.



Pianist, composer and writer **ETHAN IVERSON** (arranger) first came to international prominence as a founding member of The Bad Plus, a game-changing collective with Reid Anderson and David King. *The New York Times* called TBP “Better than anyone at melding the sensibilities of post-’60s jazz and indie rock.” During his 17-year tenure, TBP performed in venues as diverse as the Village Vanguard, Carnegie Hall and Bonnaroo; collaborated with Joshua Redman, Bill Frisell and the Mark Morris Dance Group and created a faithful arrangement of

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Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and a radical reinvention of Ornette Coleman's *Science Fiction*. Since leaving TBP, Iverson has kept busy. In 2017, he co-curated a major centennial celebration of Thelonious Monk at Duke University and premiered the evening-length *Pepperland* with the Mark Morris Dance Group. In 2018, he premiered an original piano concerto with the American Composers Orchestra and released a duo album of new compositions with Mark Turner on ECM. In 2019, he released *Common Practice* with Tom Harrell on ECM, standards tracked live at the Village Vanguard. In 2021, he released the big band work *Bud Powell in the 21st Century* and was featured on the March cover of *DownBeat*. In 2022, he released *Every Note is True* on Blue Note records, an album of original music with Larry Grenadier and Jack DeJohnette. Iverson has also been in the critically-acclaimed Billy Hart Quartet for well over a decade and occasionally performs with elder statesmen like Albert "Tootie" Heath or Ron Carter or collaborates with noted classical musicians like Miranda Cuckson and Mark Padmore. For almost 20 years, Iverson's website Do the Math has been a repository of musician-to-musician interviews and analysis. *Time Out New York* selected Iverson as one of 25 essential New York jazz icons: "Perhaps NYC's most thoughtful and passionate student of jazz tradition—the most admirable sort of artist-scholar." Iverson has also published articles about music in *The New Yorker*, *NPR*, *The Nation* and *JazzTimes*.



COLIN FOWLER (music director) began his musical study at the age of five in Kansas City, went on to study at the Interlochen Arts Academy and continued his education at The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music in 2003 and his Master of Music in 2005. While at Juilliard, he studied piano with Abbey Simon, organ with Gerre Hancock and Paul Jacobs, harpsichord with Lionel Party and conducted with James dePriest and Judith Clurman. A versatile

musician and conductor, Fowler works in many areas of the music scene in New York City. He is a veteran conductor and keyboardist of many Broadway shows, including *Jersey Boys*, *In the Heights*, *Wicked* and the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. As a classical soloist and collaborative artist, he has performed and recorded with many world-renowned musicians and ensembles, including Deborah Voigt, Renée Fleming, The Knights and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has arranged and conducted for numerous TV and film productions, including *Yellowstone* and Greta Gerwig's *Little Women*. He began to collaborate with the Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005 and has performed over 60 pieces with the company on almost every keyboard instrument possible, including the harmonium and toy piano. He has conducted performances of *Mozart Dances*, *Acis and Galatea*, *The Hard Nut* and *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, and helped edit and create over 15 video dances with Mark Morris during the pandemic. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "invaluable" and "central to Morris' music," he was appointed music director in 2013.



MARCY HARRIELL (lead vocals) is a singer, actress and designer. Music was as mandatory as air for the daughter of a truck-driving trumpeter and a gardening artist. In her childhood home, she delighted in drilling arias while jazz greats played in the background. Her ability to passionately embrace diverse vocal styles has made her a standout in New York theater. Jumping lithely amongst opera, rock, jazz and

R&B, *The New York Times* recently hailed her as a vocalist who “demolishes the furious torch song” with a “rafter rattling intensity.” Broadway star turns include Tony Award®-winning musicals *In the Heights*, *Rent* and her nightly showstopping performance in *Lennon*, where the *New York Post* declared this “wildcat kitten” a “star in the making.” Throughout her career, she has had the honor to work with numerous industry legends including Stephen Sondheim, who guided her performance of Marta in *Company* at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center; Athol Fugard, who directed her in the world premiere of his play *Sorrows & Rejoicings*; Jerome Robbins and Arthur Laurents, under whose masterful supervision Harriell deepened the role of Maria in *West Side Story*. “Superfriend” Lin-Manuel Miranda recruited her to record early demos for Disney’s *Moana*, tapping Harriell’s emotional interpretations for the soundtrack. Enamored by another interpretation, Quentin Tarantino wrote the role of Marcy for her in his film *Death Proof*. On the small screen, Harriell has been a series regular on NBC’s “Ed,” HBO’s “Nurse Jackie,” CBS’s “Queens Supreme” and has guest starred in numerous episodics, including “Manifest,” “NCIS,” “Law & Order” and “Search Party.” When she’s not onstage, onscreen or in-studio, Harriell takes a happy audience on a colorful ride alongside her husband Rob in the hit YouTube series @TheHandmadeHarriells, creating couture garments for everyday life. In fact, she’ll be wearing one of her creations tonight. (@marcyharriell/thehandmadeharriells.com)



CLINTON CURTIS (background vocals) is a multi-genre singer, musician and songwriter originally from Key West, Florida. As a choral singer he has worked with many of the world’s luminary conductors and orchestras, most recently including engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony. March 2016 marked his operatic debut in *Curlew River* for the Mark Morris Dance Group. As a popular songwriter and frontman for The Clinton Curtis Band he has toured internationally as a cultural ambassador with the U.S Department of State. He has released five original studio albums available at music.clintoncurtis.com.



BLAIRE REINHARD (background vocals) is thrilled to be joining the MMDG music ensemble in *The Look of Love*. Her voice and original compositions have been featured in hundreds of TV shows, films, radio spots and commercials, with credits including *Feel the Beat*, “So You Think You Can Dance,” *The Friend*, “Inside Amy Schumer,” “Dance Moms,” “The Young and the Restless,” “One Life to Live,” “Lincoln Heights,” “The Voice,” *Silver Bells*, *High School Musical*, *The Namesake*, *Cow Belles* and *The Merry Gentleman*. She has also worked as music supervisor on series including “Younger” and “Chappelle’s Show.” For over a decade, she has managed and directed the Blaire Reinhard Band, performing as lead vocalist and keyboardist at events around the greater New York City area (blaireband.com).

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CHRIS MCCARTHY (piano) is known for his “high skill and sensitivity” (*The New York Times*) and is one of the most in-demand pianists in New York City. McCarthy has developed a reputation as “one of the most imaginative and impressive voices on the New York jazz scene” (*Hot House Jazz* magazine). McCarthy grew up in the thriving local music scene of Seattle. Early accolades included the 2012 Gerald Wilson Award for big band composition at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

After playing with Jerry Bergonzi and Jason Palmer’s working bands in Boston for several years, he moved to New York in 2016 and has been collaborating with artists from around the globe in New York City ever since. He released his debut for Ropeadope Records *Still Time to Quit* in 2020, featuring Takuya Kuroda on trumpet, Michael Blake on sax, Sam Minaie on bass and JK Kim on drums. The album received widespread critical praise, including the No. 3 slot in Paul Rauch’s best local jazz albums of 2020 for *Seattle Times*. McCarthy is known for his sensitive accompanying of vocalists, working with many of New York’s finest including Vanisha Gould, Lucy Yeghizarian, Aubrey Johnson and Sami Stevens to name a few. McCarthy is also active in the world music scenes, touring with Carnatic vocalist Roopa Mahadevan and Gnawa musician Samir Langus. His playing is featured on albums by rising stars such as vibraphonist Sasha Berliner (*Azalea*, 2019) and saxophonist Eden Bareket (*Day Dream*, 2021). In 2021, his playing was featured on BBC Radio 1 and drummer Questlove’s social media. McCarthy also collaborates with R&B duo Lion Babe and is featured on their album *Cosmic Wind*. In January 2023, he was a featured artist in legendary pianist Johnny O’Neal’s show *Tribute to the Crooners* at Jazz at Lincoln Center. He currently plays in legendary tap dancer Dormeshia’s new show *Rhythm is Life*, a *New York Times* Critic’s pick. May 2023 brought the release of *Priorities* (Fresh Sound Records), McCarthy’s new album of all originals in the piano trio tradition featuring Chris Tordini on bass and Steven Crammer on drums. The international jazz scene will continue to hear from McCarthy for years to come.



JONATHAN FINLAYSON (trumpet) is an accomplished trumpeter, composer and band leader. Named a rising star by *DownBeat* magazine, Finlayson has been an integral part of the creative music scene in New York since relocating in 2000. He is widely admired for his ability to negotiate cutting-edge material while bringing a strong sense of individuality and verve. Finlayson has garnered critical acclaim and recognition for his three recordings as a leader with his group

Sicilian Defense. He has also received much recognition for his contributions as a sideman with cutting-edge artists such as Steve Coleman, Henry Threadgill, Steve Lehman and Mary Halvorson.



SIMÓN WILLSON (bass) is a Chilean-born, New York City-based bassist, composer and improviser. As an eclectic and in-demand sideman, he has toured with a host of different artists in Europe, the U.S., Canada and South America. His wide-ranging interest in different realms of jazz and improvised music has led him to work with a diverse pool of established artists such as Dave Douglas, Ethan Iverson, Steve Cardenas, George Garzone, Jason Palmer, Rodney Green, Michael Blake, Pablo Held, Jim Black, Tim Miller and Frank Carlberg, among many others. He also plays in bands of contemporaries such as Kevin Sun, Max Light and

Jacob Shulman. In addition to his sideman work, he co-leads the bands Great on Paper, Family Plan and Earprint. The latter won the best debut album category of the NPR Music Jazz Critics Poll in 2016, and Family Plan released their debut album in September 2021, due to receiving a generous grant from the Chilean government. Willson can be heard on over twenty-five records for labels such as Tzadik, Steeplechase, Newvelle and Endectomorph, in addition to a number of self-releases.



VINNIE SPERRAZZA (drums) is a Brooklyn-based jazz drummer. He has made a mark on the New York jazz community with his swinging, enthusiastic playing and his commitment to original projects. He has released three full-length albums of his original compositions for Loyal Label and Positone Records. In 2023, he released a trio album with pianist Ethan Iverson and bassist Michael Formanek, and a new suite of music composed for a group with guitarist Brandon Seabrook and saxophonist Loren Stillman. Additionally, he has played on over 80 albums as a sideman. Notable recent touring has been with saxophonist and composer Ohad Talmor's Subway Lines; Stew and Heidi Rodewald in Stew and The Negro Problem; the Mark Morris Dance Group's *Pepperland*, composed and led by Ethan Iverson; the Michael Formanek Drome Trio, featuring new extended compositions by Michael Formanek and the jazz collective Ember, featuring saxophonist Caleb Curtis and bassist Noah Garabedian. He is a member of the Hank Roberts Sextet and Hank Roberts Trio, and tours and records with the groups Landline, the Choir Invisible, Ember featuring Orrin Evans, Matt Bauder's Hearing Things, Vinnie Sperrazza-Jacob Sacks-Masa Kamaguchi PLAY and trioTrio meets Shelia Jordan.



ELISA CLARK (rehearsal director) is an award-winning artist, educator and administrator who trained at the Maryland Youth Ballet prior to receiving a Bachelor of Arts from The Juilliard School under the direction of Benjamin Harkavy, with guidance from Carolyn Adams. She first performed with Mark Morris Dance Group in 2005, remained a full-time company member through 2011 and frequently returned as a guest performer, company teacher and stager through 2024, when she was appointed Rehearsal Director. In addition to MMDG, she has been a featured company member with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and Monica Bill Barnes & Co, a guest artist for Buglisi Dance Theater, and has performed with Nederlands Dans Theater and the Metropolitan Opera in works by Jiri Kylian and Crystal Pite respectively, amongst others. Clark was also a founding member and company manager for Robert Battle's Battleworks Dance Company and has served as Battle's artistic assistant for over two decades. As an educator and mentor, she has been on faculty at the School at Jacob's Pillow, Princeton University, University of the Arts, American Dance Festival, Move NYC, Steps on Broadway, Marymount Manhattan College and at Bard College in partnership with Gibney Company, and has taught company class for MMDG, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Ballet Hispanico, Gibney Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. She is currently on the ballet faculty at the Ailey School, Gibney and the Mark Morris Dance Center. Clark is a répétiteur for both Battle and Morris' works and is also a Princess Grace Award winner and a certified life coach.

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MICA BERNAS, originally from Manila, Philippines, received her training at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Dance School. She later joined Ballet Philippines as a member of the corps de ballet and rose up the ranks to soloist. While at Ballet Philippines, she also studied at De La Salle University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in organizational communication in 2006. Upon graduating, she moved to New York and joined Carolyn Dorfman Dance. She was a guest artist with the Limón Dance Company and worked with Karole Armitage, Gallim Dance, Marta Renzi and Connecticut Ballet. As an educator, she taught all levels of dance, including after school programs, pre-professional and master classes. She has taught at the Limón Institute and formerly ran the dance program at BIMA at Brandeis University. She joined MMDG as a company member in 2017.



KARLIE BUDGE grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, training and performing with the Tennessee Children's Dance Ensemble. She attended Case Western Reserve University on a full scholarship from the department of dance, graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in dance and a Bachelor of Science in statistics in 2016. Budge has performed with Graham 2, Merce Cunningham Trust and in her own solo and duet choreography. Budge joined MMDG as an apprentice in September 2018 and became a company member in November 2019.



DOMINGO ESTRADA, JR., a native of Victoria, Texas, studied martial arts and earned his black belt in 1994. He danced ballet folklórico through his church for eleven years. Estrada earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in ballet and modern dance from Texas Christian University and had the honor of working with the late Fernando Bujones. During his undergraduate studies, he attended the American Dance Festival where he had the privilege of performing *Skylight*, a classic work by choreographer Laura Dean. He debuted with MMDG in 2007 and was a company member from 2009 to 2023. Estrada would like to thank God, his family and all who support his passion.



SARAH HILLMON was born and raised in Rochester, New York. There she trained with Garth Fagan and Timothy M. Draper and was a member of the Rochester City Ballet. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she had the privilege of performing works by talented artists including Sidra Bell, Lucinda Childs, Gus Solomons Jr. and Charles Weidman. After college, she became a member of Lucinda Childs Dance Company, where she toured the world performing classic works. While in New York City, she has also had the honor to perform with artists such as Solange Knowles as well as a number of dance companies including Robert Mark Dance, Suzanne Beahrs Dance, BodyStories: Teresa Fellion Dance, DanceBoissiere and the Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2023 and became a company member in 2024.



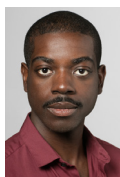
COURTNEY LOPES is originally from Bermuda and attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts for her high school education. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from SUNY Purchase in 2012 and studied in Taiwan at the Taipei National University of the Arts. As a student, she performed works by Paul Taylor, Jessica Lang, Lar Lubovitch and Huang Yi of Cloud Gate Dance Theater. In addition to performing with Dance Heginbotham for over nine years, she has worked as a freelance artist with Megan Williams, Sameena Mitta, Kathryn Alter, Sue Bernhard and Robert Mark Burke. As an educator and répétiteur, she has worked with the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, Ballet Tech, 92Y Harkness Dance Center, Dance for PD® and the José Limón Institute. She first performed with MMDG in 2017 and became a company member in 2023.



DALLAS McMURRAY, from El Cerrito, California, began dancing at age four, studying jazz, tap and acrobatics with Katie Maltsberger and ballet with Yukiko Sakakura. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from the California Institute of the Arts. McMurray performed with the Limón Dance Company in addition to works by Jiri Kylián, Alonzo King, Robert Moses and Colin Connor. McMurray performed with MMDG as an apprentice in 2006 and became a company member in 2007.



ALEX MEETH grew up in Dousman, Wisconsin, and began his dance training with Eddy Bray at the age of thirteen. After graduating from the Kettle Moraine School for Arts and Performance, he was accepted on scholarship to the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in contemporary dance performance (emphasis in choreography) in 2022. While at the Boston Conservatory, he performed works by Mark Morris, Catherine Coury, José Limón, Daniel Pelzig and Bradley Shelver. Since 2019, he has additionally danced with the Boston Early Music Festival under the direction of Kathleen Fay and Melinda Sullivan. Meeth joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2024.



BRANDON RANDOLPH began his training with the School of Carolina Ballet Theater in Greenville, South Carolina, under the direction of Hernan Justo. At age 14, he was accepted into the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, where he studied with Stanislav Issaev and Bobby Barnett. Randolph received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from Purchase College in 2012. There he had the opportunity to perform with Dance Heginbotham as well as repertory by Stephen Petronio, Lar Lubovitch, Paul Taylor and George Balanchine. Randolph began working with MMDG in 2013 and became a company member in 2014.

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2019.

CHRISTINA SAHAIDA grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and began her early dance training at the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre School. In 2012, she graduated with honors from Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance performance. She has worked with Ballet Quad Cities, Texture Contemporary Ballet and most recently the Big Muddy Dance Company in St. Louis, Missouri. Sahaida joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2017 and became a company member in



BILLY SMITH grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and attended George Mason University under a full academic and dance talent scholarship. He graduated magna cum laude in 2007 and received achievement awards in performance, choreography and academic endeavors. While at George Mason, he performed the works of Mark Morris, Paul Taylor, Lar Lubovitch, Doug Varone, Daniel Ezralow, Larry Keigwin, Susan Marshall and Susan Shields. Smith's own piece, *3-Way Stop*, was selected to open the 2006 American College Dance Festival Gala at Ohio State University, and his original choreography for a production of *Bye Bye Birdie* garnered much critical praise. An actor as well, Smith's regional theater credits include Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Mistoffelees in *CATS* and Dream Curry in *Oklahoma!*. Smith danced with Parsons Dance from 2007-2010. He joined MMDG as a company member in 2010.



JOSLIN VEZEAU is from St. Louis, Missouri, where she trained at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA). She graduated magna cum laude from the Ailey/Fordham Bachelor of Fine Arts program in dance performance in 2018, and while there, was awarded the Denise Jefferson Memorial Scholarship. During her senior year in college, she joined Peridance Contemporary Dance Company in New York and danced with that company for six seasons. When not dancing, she is a personal trainer and loves rock climbing, volunteering at Brooklyn farmers markets and taking care of dogs. She joined MMDG as an apprentice in 2023 and became a company member in 2024.



NOAH VINSON is originally from Springfield, Illinois, and received his Bachelor of Arts in dance from Columbia College Chicago. He was named a *Dance Magazine* dancer on the rise in 2009 and assisted Mark Morris in the creation of *The Letter V* for Houston Ballet. He began dancing with MMDG in 2002 and became a company member in 2004.



ISAAC MIZRAHI (costume and production design) has worked extensively in the entertainment industry as a performer, host, writer, designer and producer for over 30 years. He has an annual residency at Café Carlyle in New York City and has performed at various venues across the country such as Joe's Pub, The Regency Ballroom and several City Winery locations nationwide. *The New York Times* noted, "he qualifies as a founding father of a genre that fuses performance art, music and stand-up comedy." He is the subject and co-creator of *Unzipped*, a documentary following the making of his fall 1994 collection which received

an award at the Sundance Film Festival. He hosted his own television talk show *The Isaac Mizrahi Show* for seven years, has written three books and has made countless appearances in movies and on television. He served as a judge on *Project Runway: All-Stars* for the series' entire seven-season run. Mizrahi has directed productions of *A Little Night Music* and *The Magic Flute* for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Annually, he directs and narrates his production of the children's classic *Peter and the Wolf* at the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Mizrahi has his own production company, Isaac Mizrahi Entertainment, under which he has several projects in development in television, theater and literature. His *New York Times* Bestselling memoir, *I.M.*, was published in February 2019.



NICOLE PEARCE (lighting design) is a multidisciplinary artist living in Queens, New York. Her work has been seen across the United States, Cuba, England, Germany, Japan, Korea, Italy, New Zealand and Russia. *The New York Times* has stated: "The glow of Nicole Pearce's lighting on center stage creates a feeling of magic, as if the dancers are circling an unseen grail". Selected dance credits include work with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theater, Atlanta Ballet, Dance Heginbotham, Dance Theater of Harlem, Gallim, Houston Ballet, Hubbard Street, Joffrey Ballet, Malpasso, Mark Morris Dance Group, Nederlands Dance Theater and New York City Ballet. Selected theater and opera credits includes work with Arena Stage, Arizona Opera, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf Theater, McCarter Theater, Minnesota Opera, The Play Company, The Playwrights Realm, Philadelphia Theater Company, Opera Montreal and Pittsburgh Public Theater. Her installation of 1,000 paintings entitled *Tiny Paintings for Big Hearts* is open to doctors, nurses, staff and patients of Elmhurst Hospital in Elmhurst, New York. (@nicolepearceart / www.nicolepearcedesign.com)

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The Look of Love

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“What the World Needs Now”, “Are You There (With Another Girl)”, “Do You Know the Way to San Jose”, “I’ll Never Fall in Love Again”, “Don’t Make Me Over”, “Always Something There to Remind Me”, “Anyone Who Had a Heart”, “Walk on By”, “Message to Martha”, “I Say a Little Prayer” – Written by Burt F. Bacharach and Hal David. Published by New Hidden Valley Music (ASCAP) and BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP) obo itself and Songs of Fujimusic (ASCAP).

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