

# USC KAUFMAN **DEBUT** AT THE WALLIS



**APRIL 21-23, 2022**

**WALLIS ANNEBERG CENTER  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

9390 N Santa Monica Blvd,  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

*Repertory & Performance Faculty:*

*Bret Easterling, Shannon Grayson, Bruce McCormick, Achinta S. McDaniel, Dawn Stoppiello*

# A NOTE FROM GLORYA KAUFMAN

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As the principal benefactor of this prestigious dance school, I am honored to welcome you to the USC Glorja Kaufman School of Dance Debut at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts!

This performance is significant for a number of reasons. Not only is this the first live, in-person showcase featuring USC Kaufman BFA students since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is also the last USC Kaufman performance for many of the graduating seniors. As we quickly approach the USC commencement ceremony on May 13, it's incredible to think about how much these students have grown during their four years at USC Kaufman. I can't wait to see what they'll do next and how they will impact the dance field and beyond.

This performance is also, sadly, the final showcase with Dr. Robert A. Cutietta as dean of the School. After more than 20 years of visionary excellence at the University of Southern California, Rob will be stepping down as dean at both the Kaufman School of Dance and the Thornton School of Music. His contributions to the arts at USC are unrivaled and he leaves behind a lasting legacy of both artistic and academic achievements.

Finally, this performance is special to me because it truly represents "The New Movement." Featuring world premieres by faculty members Tessandra Chavez, Achinta S. McDaniel and Toyin Sogunro, as well as repertory by choreographers Justin Peck, Ohad Naharin and Doug Varone, this exciting program reflects USC Kaufman's interdisciplinary study of dance and highlights the outstanding capabilities of our young artist scholars.

I'm so proud they will be joining the likes of professional dance companies, such as Ate9 Dance Company, Blue13 Dance Company, BODYTRAFFIC, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, DIAVOLO | Architecture in Motion, Heidi Duckler Dance, The TL Collective and Versa-Style Dance Company, who have graced the stages of this cultural landmark in recent years.

I am forever grateful to be an integral part of USC Kaufman's history and look forward to what the future holds for the School. I'm also appreciative of the love and support you are providing these talented dancers by being here today. Thank you for joining us!

Sincerely,  
Glorja Kaufman

*Principal Benefactor and Founder  
USC Glorja Kaufman School of Dance*

# ABOUT USC KAUFMAN

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Founded in 2012 by a transformational gift from visionary founder Glorya Kaufman, the University of Southern California created its sixth art school and, at that time, its first new school in nearly 40 years. The USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance expands upon USC's unique signature as a world-class research institution with a deep commitment to the arts. With its enterprising vision for arts education, USC Kaufman is at the forefront of developing dancers, choreographers and dance leaders for the future.

The exciting opportunity to create a new school brought the chance to rethink the professional degree for the 21st century and the role of a dance school within the greater national ecology. To fulfill this monumental intention, USC Kaufman envisioned a new model of dance education, called "The New Movement" – a hybrid and collaborative approach expressed in studio practice, music, choreography, performance, new media and scholarship, where artistic preeminence is combined with thoughtful industry access.

By encouraging interdisciplinary and collaborative work, USC Kaufman seeks to transform dance. It embraces the artistic rigor of conservatory dance instruction with unparalleled academic opportunity offered by one of the world's leading universities to shape the next generation of dance leaders who are connected to the world-at-large.

The program encourages students to think across boundaries and take advantage of the diverse cultures both on campus and within the Los Angeles arts community. Students approach the study of dance with a global perspective, reinforced through collaboration with national and international artists.

In addition to bringing together a stellar list of faculty and Artists in Residence, the program features the repertory of several iconic and innovative choreographers including Founding Director Jodie Gates, as well as George Balanchine, Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Crystal Pite, Sonya Tayeh and Rauf "RubberLegz" Yasit, among other significant dance-makers.

Graduates of the BFA program have gone on to secure contracts with Broadway productions and dance companies including Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Ballet BC, BalletMet, Ballet Hispánico, BODYTRAFFIC, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Oregon Ballet Theatre and RUBBERBAND, among others. They have also gone on to pursue careers in choreography, arts administration, marketing and business. To learn more about USC Kaufman, visit [kaufman.usc.edu](http://kaufman.usc.edu).

# THE PROGRAM

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## **RODEO (Excerpts)**

**Choreography:** Justin Peck

**World Premiere:** February 4, 2015, New York City Ballet, David H. Koch Theater

**Music:** Four Dance Episodes from *Rodeo* (1942) by Aaron Copland

**Original Lighting Design:** Brandon Stirling Baker

**Original Costume Design:** Reid Bartelme, Harriet Jung, Justin Peck

**Lighting Design Recreation:** Michael Korsch

**Costume Design Recreation:** Kathryn Poppen

**Staging:** Michael Breeden

### **April 21 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (3:00 p.m.)**

**Adage:** Kayla Goldsberry with India Dobbie, Elise Monson, Malachi Stevens and Jessalyn Ward

**Pas de deux:** Isabella Caso & Cameron Cofrancesco, Eileen Kim & Wyeth Walker

**Finale:** Dylan Amsterdam, Stefano Gallelli and Findlay McConnell with Lauren Brophy, Chelsea Correa, Ava Cosentino, Haily Foster, Hope Patterson and Amanda Peet

### **April 22 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (7:30 p.m.)**

**Adage:** Jordan Powell with Ciara Billups, Colin Heino, Eileen Kim and Ava Sine

**Pas de deux:** Kayla Goldsberry & Cameron Cofrancesco, Jessalyn Ward & Wyeth Walker

**Finale:** Eli Alford, Chelsea Correa and Brenan Gonzalez with Ashton Benn, Valerie Chen, Anijah Lezama, Findlay McConnell, Jenna Meilman, Elise Monson and Malachi Stevens

## **THE ARTIST'S STRUGGLE FOR INTEGRITY (World Premiere)**

**Choreography:** Toyin Sogunro

**Music:** *Baldwin Yoruba Soul Mix* by Mateo Senolia

**Lighting Design:** Michael Korsch, Toyin Sogunro

**Costume Design:** Kathryn Poppen, Toyin Sogunro

Sam Amey, Wyatt Florin, Tamar Gabelev, Shea Hancock, Rob Hoffer, Janae Holster, Tyler Jackson, Arjun Kochhar, Lyndsay Lykins, Ambar Matos Ortiz, Leon Powell, Esi Samuels, Sadie Grace Shelburne, Slaterose, Onye Stevenson, Alex Thomas, Jonah Tran, Summer Vu, Xavier Williams

## **THE MOMENTUM OF MEMORY**

**Choreography:** Doug Varone

**Music:** *Increase* by David Lang

**Original Lighting Design:** Derek Van Heel

**Lighting Design Recreation:** Michael Korsch

**Costume Design:** Kathryn Poppen

### **April 21 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (7:30 p.m.)**

Aimee Brotten, Marcel Cavaliere, Jonathan Cubides, Nicole Denney, Atticus Dobbie, Jau'mair Garland, Paige Litle, Diego Lopez, Jonacy Montero, William Okajima, Ryan Phuong, Hayden Rivas, Anja Tempel, Jada Vaughan, Louie Williams

### **April 22 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (3:00 p.m.)**

Aimee Brotten, Marcel Cavaliere, Jonathan Cubides, Nicole Denney, Jau'mair Garland, Paige Litle, Diego Lopez, Jonacy Montero, William Okajima, Chase Peterson, Ryan Phuong, Hayden Rivas, Anja Tempel, Jada Vaughan, Louie Williams

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### **About the momentum of memory**

*the momentum of memory* is loosely based on the concept of Representational Momentum: the idea that each time a memory is recalled, the image shifts slightly, and the memory perception changes, eventually altering the initial reality, sometimes radically.

### **BIG WHITE ROOM (World Premiere)**

**Choreography:** Tessandra Chavez

**Assistants to the Choreographer:** Connor Gormley, Adam Vesperman

**Music:** *Big White Room* by Jessie J

**Lighting Design:** Michael Korsch

**Costume Design:** Kathryn Poppen

Emily Carr, Stefano Gallelli, Nina Gumbs, Charizma Lawrence, Casey Murray, Benjamin Peralta, Syera Plitt, Christian Smith, Emma Sutherland, Ryan Vyskocil, Jada Walker, Brodie Wolf

### **1947 (World Premiere)**

**Choreography:** Achinta S. McDaniel

**Assistant to the Choreographer:** Jon Paul

**Music:** *Kamariya* by Lijo George, DJ Chetas, Darshan Raval; *Magnetic* by Tabla Beat Science; *Exodus* by A.R. Rahman; *Shivranjani - Pleasing Shiva at 432 Hz* by Hariprasad Chaurasia, Rakesh Chaurasia; *Palmistry* by Tabla Beat Science

**Sound Effects:** Sound Effects Library, Todster, Digifffects Sound Effects Library

**Voiceovers:** Indira Kaur Sawhny, Harbans Kaur Singh, Bhupinder Singh Sawhny

**Lighting Design:** Michael Korsch

**Costume Design:** Kathryn Poppen, Achinta S. McDaniel

### **April 21 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (3:00 p.m.)**

Sam Amey, Ashton Benn, Chelsea Correa, Nicole Denney, Shea Hancock, Janae Holster, Tyler Jackson, Arjun Kochhar, Paige Litle, Lindsay Lykins, Jonacy Montero, Hope Patterson, Chase Peterson, Leon Powell, Hayden Rivas, Sadie Grace Shelburne, Slaterose, Alex Thomas, Jonah Tran, Jada Vaughan, Summer Vu, Louie Williams

### **April 22 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (7:30 p.m.)**

Aimee Brotten, Marcel Cavaliere, Valerie Chen, Atticus Dobbie, Wyatt Florin, Tamar Gabelev, Jau'mair Garland, Brenan Gonzalez, Rob Hoffer, Diego Lopez, Ambar Matos Ortiz, William Okajima, Amanda Peet, Ryan Phuong, Lecann Ross, Esi Samuels, Ava Sine, Chi Stevens, Onye Stevenson, Anja Tempel, Xavier Williams

### **About 1947**

Little known in the west is the history of South Asia. You may know of India's independence from the British - an August date celebrating freedom obscures the dark reality of that time. In 1947, over one million people died during the horrific and bloody migration caused by the partition of India and Pakistan. "There is no crime in anyone's blood any more than there is goodness in the blood of others. Criminals are not born. They are made by hunger, want and injustice." — Khuswant Singh, *Train To Pakistan*

*Special thanks to Blue13 Dance Company for providing properties and costumes for 1947.*

**\*\*20-MINUTE INTERMISSION\*\***



## **MINUS 16**

**Choreography:** Ohad Naharin

**Assistant to the Choreographer:** Bret Easterling

**World Premiere:** 1999, Nederlands Dans Theater (The Hague, The Netherlands)

**Music:** Soundtrack from *Cha-Cha De Amor*, Popular song arranged by Dick Dale, Traditional song arranged and performed by the Tractor's Revenge and Ohad Naharin, *Nisi Dominus* by Vivaldi, Song by Arlen Harold arranged by Marusha, Chopin

**Lighting Design:** Avi Yona "Bambi" Bueno

**Costume Design:** Ohad Naharin

**Show Lighting Design:** Michael Korsch

### **April 21 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (3:00 p.m.)**

Lauren Brophy, Maddy Falconer, Davon Farmer, Haily Foster, Stefano Gallelli, Kayla Goldsberry, Colin Heino, Jona Huang, AJ Joehl, Eileen Kim, Charizma Lawrence, Findlay McConnell, Jenna Meilman, Sam Ogunde, Syera Plitt, Emma Sutherland, Ryan Vyskocil, Jada Walker, Jessalyn Ward, Brodie Wolf

### **April 22 (7:30 p.m.) & April 23 (7:30 p.m.)**

Eli Alford, Bella Allen, Dylan Amsterdam, Ciara Billups, Emily Carr, Isabella Caso, Cameron Cofrancesco, Ava Cosentino, India Dobbie, Davon Farmer, Jona Huang, Anne Kim, Anijah Lezama, Elise Monson, Casey Murray, Benjamin Peralta, Jordan Powell, Christian Smith, Wyeth Walker

*USC Kaufman Artists in Residence are supported in part through generous funding from The Choi Family Artists in Residence Fund. Additional production support provided by a generous gift from Katherine and James Lau. This performance of Minus 16 is made possible in part through generous support from Renae Williams Niles and Gregory Niles.*

## **TESSANDRA CHAVEZ (Choreographer, Big White Room)**

Two-time Emmy Award-winning Tessandra Chavez is an in-demand choreographer with her iconic work spanning across the entire entertainment industry. Her most recent 2019 Emmy win was for her breathtaking work that she created for her dance company UNITY LA for NBC's World of Dance Season 3. Most notable is the iconic story driven performance "Piece by Piece" that was told to Kelly Clarkson's heart wrenching song. The dance seamlessly and strategically features a door and her elite 10 dancer ensemble who take you through an emotional journey of a father who leaves his family. This dance is known for giving celebrity judge Neyo his first "goosie's" ever stating he had never had a dance affect him so deeply. In 2015, Chavez, along with celebrity dancer-choreographers Derek and Julianne Hough, took home the Emmy for Outstanding Choreography for their Dancing with the Stars season-finale routine to Sia's "Elastic Heart." For anyone who has seen the routine, either on TV or YouTube, the award is no surprise. The routine captures Chavez's signature choreography, a progressive brand of contemporary that is both athletic and intensely emotional. Performed by the Houghs, the exciting brother and sister dance team, "Elastic Heart" became an instant classic. In addition to her two Emmy wins and plethora of television work, Chavez has created masterful work for legendary artists such as Justin Bieber, Jennifer Lopez, Mariah Carey, Janet Jackson, Paula Abdul and the band MUSE. The Muse "Dead Inside" music video featuring Kathryn McCormick and William Wingfield, all stars of SYTYCD, has hit 50 million views on YouTube and has become a MUSE visual classic. She was also supervising choreographer for World of Dance, Holidays with the Houghs, X-Factor USA and UK, Dancing with the Stars in China, Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition, D-Trix's Dance Showdown, Disney's Dance Crew and the film "Heartbeats" directed by the pioneer of dance films, Duane Adler. Most recently, Chavez choreographed the new hit parade for Disneyland "Magic Happens" featuring music by Todrick Hall. The new parade brings a fresh new contemporary spin on the classic Disneyland parade. Growing up in San Diego, Chavez began dancing at

the age of five, choreographing at the age of 11, and even founded her own dance company, Unity Dance Ensemble, at the age of 15 (now known as UNITY LA). The struggle of growing up in a low-income single-parent household helped drive Chavez to dedicate her entirety to perfecting her craft. Chavez gained extensive and versatile training in jazz, tap, modern, ballet and hip-hop. This mastery of multiple styles of dance has made her unparalleled in her field. She is regarded by many as a pioneer in her field because of her signature style of contemporary which is a true fusion of multiple styles of dance, most notably how she incorporates hip-hop and unique musicality into her choreography. Amongst her many accolades for her choreography, Chavez is also well known across the globe as a master instructor who has trained an abundant number of the most elite professional dancers in the entertainment industry. For six years, she was head of jazz dance at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy where she was blessed to work alongside and learn from the legend herself, Debbie Allen. As one of the most sought after dance instructors in the business, Chavez has found the perfect balance in pushing the limits of her students while inspiring them to be masters in their craft. With a firm, but loving hand, she continues to groom the next generation of masterful dancers.

### **ACHINTA S. MCDANIEL (Choreographer, 1947)**

Achinta S. McDaniel, a pioneer of contemporary Indian dance in the United States, is the founder and artistic director of the critically acclaimed Blue13 Dance Company. Her work has been presented around the world, from New York to Paris and Morocco, and a recent world premiere of *Terpsichore in Ghungroos* presented by the Wallis. McDaniel choreographs for the screen as well, in music videos for DJ Snake, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and The Strokes, TV shows like “New Girl” and “The Amazing Race,” and commercials for Madden NFL, Snapple and Heineken. She has worked with Minnie Driver, Timbaland and Sunny Leone, and created dance productions for Walt Disney World on both American coasts. McDaniel’s style draws from diverse techniques she has studied for decades, including ballet, jazz, tap, modern, hip-hop, Bhangra, Kathak and Bollywood to create contemporary dance works, and to hold classes and lectures internationally. She is passionate about creating diverse and theatrical dance and disrupting normative associations of Americanness and Indianness alike. McDaniel was born in Queens and was raised studying dance in Cleveland, Ohio, where she got her start as a choreographer at Hathaway Brown School at the age of 14. Throughout school, she danced in ensembles at Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve, thereafter graduating from New York University with a degree in Choreography, Dance and Theatre. She later studied Kathak in Bangalore, India with guru Maya Rao. In 1999, McDaniel returned to New York to found Blue13 and perform and teach across the region. In 2001, she relocated to Los Angeles and continued her career as a teaching artist and dance maker. She has expanded her work for over 20 years, being among the first to introduce Bollywood dance to Americans, from studios to lecture halls to the silver screen, and creating the country’s first professional contemporary Indian dance ensemble to tour on stages internationally. McDaniel proudly joined the faculty at USC Kaufman in 2016.

### **OHAD NAHARIN (Choreographer, Minus 16)**

Ohad Naharin is the House Choreographer of Batsheva Dance Company and creator of the Gaga movement language. Naharin was born in 1952 in Mizra, Israel. His mother is a choreographer, dance teacher and Feldenkrais instructor, and his father was an actor and psychologist. He joined Batsheva Dance Company in 1974 despite having little formal training. During his first year, guest choreographer Martha Graham invited him to join her own company in New York. Between 1975 and 1976, Naharin studied at the School of American Ballet, The Juilliard School and with Maggie Black and David Howard. He then joined Maurice Béjart’s Ballet du XXe Siecle in Brussels for one season. Naharin returned to New York in 1979 and made his choreographic debut at the Kazuko Hirabayashi studio the following year. From 1980 until 1990, Naharin presented works in New York and abroad, including pieces for Batsheva Dance Company, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and Nederlands Dans Theater. At the same time, he worked with his first wife, Mari Kajiwara, and a group of dancers in New York. Naharin and Kajiwara continued to work together until she died from cancer in 2001. In 1990, Naharin was appointed Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, and in the same year, he established the company’s

junior division, Batsheva – the Young Ensemble. He has since created over 30 works for both companies. After almost 30 years of leading Batsheva, Naharin stepped down as Artistic Director in 2018, and continues to serve as the Company's House Choreographer. In addition to his stage-work, Naharin also developed GAGA, an innovative movement language based on research into heightening sensation and imagination, becoming aware of form, finding new movement habits and going beyond familiar limits. GAGA is the daily training of Batsheva's dancers and has spread globally among both dancers and non-dancers. Naharin trained in music throughout his childhood and continues to infuse his work with a unique musicality. He collaborated with the Israeli rock group, The Tractor's Revenge (Kyr, 1990), Avi Balleli and Dan Makov (Anaphaza, 1993), Ivri Lider (*Z/na*, 1995) and Grischa Lichtenberger (*Last Work*, 2015). Under the pseudonym Maxim Waratt, he composed music for *MAX* (2007) and edited and mixed the soundtracks for *Mamootot* (2003), *Hora* (2009), *Sadeh21* (2011), *The Hole* (2013), *Last Work* (2015) and *Venezuela* (2017). Naharin's work has also been featured in several films. In his 2007 documentary, *Out of Focus*, Director Tomer Heymann filmed the process of restaging *Decadance* with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. And in 2015, the Heymann Brothers released their comprehensive documentary about Naharin, *Mr. Gaga*, to critical and audience acclaim. A citizen of both Israel and the United States, Naharin currently lives in Israel with his wife, dancer and costume designer Eri Nakamura, and their daughter, Noga.

### **JUSTIN PECK (Choreographer, Rodeo)**

Justin Peck is a dancer, choreographer and director based in New York City. He is currently the acting Resident Choreographer and Artistic Advisor of the New York City Ballet. Peck began choreographing in 2009 at the New York Choreographic Institute. In 2014, after the creation of his acclaimed ballet *Everywhere We Go*, he was appointed as Resident Choreographer of New York City Ballet. He is the second person in the institution's history to hold this title. Peck joined New York City Ballet as a dancer in 2006. In 2013, Peck was promoted to the rank of Soloist, dancing regularly through 2019. As a choreographer, Peck has created over 40 works - 22 of those for New York City Ballet. His work has been performed by Paris Opera Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, LA Dance Project, Joffrey Ballet, the Juilliard School, Houston Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, Ballet Austin, Ballet Bordeaux, the School of American Ballet, Finnish National Ballet, BalletMet, Cincinnati Ballet and Ballet Arizona. In 2018, Peck made his Broadway debut choreographing the Broadway revival production of *Carousel*. Peck choreographed the 2021 film reimagining of *West Side Story*, collaborating closely on the film with director Steven Spielberg. In 2014, Peck was the subject of the documentary *Ballet 422*, which followed his process of creating New York City Ballet's 422nd original dance, *Paz de la Jolla*. Peck is the recipient of the Tony Award for Choreography (2018), the National Arts Award (2018 Ted Arison Young Arts Award), the Bessie Award (2015 for his ballet *Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes*) and the Academy of Achievement Golden Plate Honor (2019).

### **TOYIN SOGUNRO (Choreographer, *The Artist's Struggle for Integrity*)**

Born and raised in the D.M.V. (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) area, Oluwatoyin Sogunro, better known as Toyin, is a professional dancer and educator. She is a cultural ambassador of Black street dance and club dance forms. Sogunro spends her time traveling extensively to different urban arts communities globally. Through her travels, she broadens her perspective and understanding in all sorts of dance forms, and shares her own talents and teachings in these spaces. Most, if not all, of her work revolves around preserving the authenticity of Black culture through street and club dance. As an artistic director of Urban Artistry dance company for 10 years, Sogunro gained experience teaching historical techniques and applications. She mentored students to become a preservationist and innovator of urban arts. With the company, she also gained the opportunity to perform for the grand opening dedication ceremony for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. The other half of her dance life exists in competitive spaces. In 2011, Sogunro and her partner LaTasha Barnes made history by being the first American team and the first female team to take home first place in the world championship for House Dance in the Juste Debout competition. Since then, she has gained respect as one of the best "House dancers" of this generation. She is perhaps most well-known



for performing, winning and judging some of the top dance competitions in the world, including Juste Debout, Summer Dance Forever and I Love This Dance to name a few. Currently, Sogunro finds herself putting her energy into higher and new realms. She is creating and directing a new collective called Nefer Global Movement. It was recently mentioned in Red Bull's magazine, The Red Bulletin. Nefer is a group that consists of active influential women in the hip-hop dance scene. The collective's goal is to come together to celebrate dance, culture and empower sisterhood. While managing this collective, she has shared her artistry on stages across the country, including touring as one of Omarion's dancers on the Millenium Tour 2021. Using her talent and message, she continues to inspire fellow artists and arts enthusiasts. From her knowledge and with over a decade of experiences in different mediums as a working Black dance artist, she has plenty to give. Sogunro strives to be a true pillar of artistic excellence and uses art as a tool to propel personal empowerment and communal engagement.

### **DOUG VARONE (Choreographer, *the momentum of memory*)**

Award-winning choreographer and director Doug Varone works in dance, theater, opera, film and fashion. He is a passionate educator and articulate advocate for dance. By any measure, his work is extraordinary for its emotional range, kinetic breadth and the many arenas in which he works. His New York City-based Doug Varone and Dancers has been commissioned and presented to critical acclaim by leading international venues for close to three decades. Since its founding in 1986, Doug Varone and Dancers has commanded attention for its expansive vision, versatility and technical prowess. On tour, the company has performed in more than 125 cities in 45 states across the U.S. and in Europe, Asia, Canada and South America. Stages include The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Moscow's Stanislavsky Theater, Buenos Aires' Teatro San Martin, the Venice Biennale and at Jacob's Pillow, American Dance Festival and Bates Dance Festival. Varone, his dancers and designers have been honored with 11 New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Awards. In the concert dance world, Varone has created a body of works globally. Commissions include the Paul Taylor American Modern Dance Company, Limón Dance Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Rambert Dance Company (London), Martha Graham Dance Company, Dancemakers (Canada), Batsheva Dance Company (Israel), Bern Ballet (Switzerland) and AN Creative (Japan), among others. In addition, his dances have been staged on more than 75 college and university programs around the country. In opera, Doug Varone is in demand as both a director and choreographer. Among his four productions at The Metropolitan Opera are *Salome with its Dance of the Seven Veils*, the world premiere of Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy*, Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*, designed by David Hockney, and Hector Berloiz's *Les Troyens*. He has staged multiple premieres and new productions for Minnesota Opera, Opera Colorado, Washington Opera, New York City Opera and Boston Lyric Opera, among others. His numerous theater credits include choreography for Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theaters across the country. His choreography for the musical *Murder Ballad* at Manhattan Theatre Club earned him a Lortel Award nomination. Recent projects include directing and choreographing MASTER-VOICES production of *Dido and Aeneas* at New York's City Center, starring Tony Award winners Kelli O'Hara and Victoria Clark, and staging Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize-winning oratorio *Anthraxite Fields* for the Westminster Choir and the Bang on a Can All-Stars. Varone received his BFA from Purchase College where he was awarded the President's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007. Numerous honors and awards include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, an Obie Award (Lincoln Center's Orpheus and Euridice), the Jerome Robbins Fellowship at the Boglaisco Institute in Italy and two individual Bessie Awards. In 2015, he was awarded both a Doris Duke Artist Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Dance Guild.

### **ABOUT THE WALLIS ANNEBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, Calif., is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los

Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 300 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic’s Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000- square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater’s dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city’s history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff and Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine.

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 Goldman Family Fund  
 Renae Williams Niles and Gregory Niles

**Demi-Soloist (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

Anthony and Elizabeth Abbattista  
 Charlene Achki-Repko  
 Irene Maharam Boyd and  
   Dr. Stuart D. Boyd  
 Linda and Mark Florin  
 Claire and Ryan McKenzie  
 Christine A. Rhoades

**Corps de Ballet (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

Anonymous (2)  
 Sue and Ted Benn  
 Barbara and Gary Brandt  
 Piper and Chauncey Billups  
 Lisa Field  
 Susan Friedman  
 Parvin and Mashallah Goodarzi  
 Deborah and Phillip Massaglia  
 Joan Herman and Richard Rasiej  
 Yvonne and Damien Jordan  
 Regina and Rich Meilman  
 Robyn Parets  
 Donald E. Polk and J. Paul Longanbach  
 Joye and Mike Qualls  
 Robert A. Schulman  
 Katherine and Dr. John D. Shelburne  
 Keisha and Rhudel Stevens  
 Alyce Williamson  
 Deborah and Edward Wolf  
 Gillian Wynn

**FRIENDS OF KAUFMAN**

Leslie Meltzer Aronzon  
 Victoria L. Baumgart  
 Kimberly Cartron and Mark Shelburne  
 Yvonne Cazier  
 Marcellina Gross  
 Nilda and Leslie Gumbs  
 Debra Hinze Harr  
*In Memory of Richard G. Davila*  
 Nicole L. Jackson  
 Clara and Thomas Jett  
 Susan R. Klein  
 Carol and Guy Kroesche  
 Maria Kupillas  
 Jill Perkinson Masuda  
 McCain Family Foundation  
 Julie McDonald  
 Elizabeth and Leslie Michelson  
 Susie Norris  
 Anna and Mark Peet  
 Melissa and Andrew Platt  
 Catharine and Jeffrey Soros  
 Tonya and Duke Vu  
 Heide and Jeffrey Walker  
 Eleni and Chris Yokas

## **USC KAUFMAN STAFF**

Robert Cutietta, DEd	<i>Dean, Kaufman School of Dance and Thornton School of Music</i>
Jackie Kopcsak	<i>Assistant Dean of Faculty</i>
Jodie Gates	<i>Founding Director and Professor of Dance</i>
Anne Aubert-Santelli	<i>Assistant Dean of Admission and Student Services</i>
Kyle Beasley	<i>Admission and Student Services Officer</i>
Eva Blaauw	<i>Assistant, Assistant Dean of Faculty &amp; Faculty Support Associate</i>
Kyle de Tarnowsky	<i>Music Director</i>
Patrick Leder-Morrow	<i>Assistant Dean and Chief Development Officer</i>
Natasha Liu	<i>Associate Director, Individual Giving</i>
Jessica Mahon	<i>Operations Specialist</i>
Dane Martens	<i>Head of Dance Operations and Technology</i>
Aline Ocon	<i>Senior Department Business Administrator</i>
Cecile Oreste	<i>Head of Communications</i>
Kathryn Poppen	<i>Costume Coordinator</i>
Karen Rios	<i>Head of Human Resources</i>
Spencer Saccoman	<i>Production Coordinator</i>
Elliott Scher	<i>Admission and Student Services Officer</i>
Max Transue	<i>Dance Accompanist</i>
Chris Yokas	<i>Senior Business Officer</i>

## **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Spencer Saccoman	<i>Technical Director/Stage Manager</i>
Michael Korsch	<i>Lighting Designer</i>
Kathryn Poppen	<i>Costume Coordinator</i>
Ardyn Flynt	<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>
Jacqueline Gil	<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>
Olivia Schlueter-Corey	<i>Wardrobe Supervisor</i>
Win McCain	<i>Production &amp; Wardrobe Assistant</i>

## **USC KAUFMAN FACULTY**

Kyle Abraham	Jesus "Jay" Fuentes	Anindo Marshall
Margo Apostolos	Jodie Gates	Bruce McCormick
Molly Bogunovic	Shannon Grayson	Achinta S. McDaniel
Tiffany Bong	d. Sabela grimes	Jennifer McQuiston Lott
Patrick Corbin	Ebony Haswell Frazier	Amy O'Neal
Alison D'Amato	Marisa Hentis	Jason Rodgers
Kathryn Dunn	Bonnie Homsey	Danté Rose
E. Moncell Durden	Grasan Kingsberry	Dawn Stoppiello
Bret Easterling	Saleemah E. Knight	Rosanna Tavaréz
Gillian Finley	Jackie Kopcsak	

## **USC KAUFMAN ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE**

Hope Boykin	Fiona Lummis	Toyin Sogunro
Michael Breeden	Victor Quijada	Jermaine Spivey
Tessandra Chavez	Dwight Rhoden	Micaela Taylor
Marjani Forté-Saunders	Desmond Richardson	Doug Varone
Zippora Karz	Penny Saunders	

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