

PRESENTS

FALL 2023

BFA SHOWCASE

NOV 30-DEC 2



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
BING THEATRE

Cover: Paige Litle and Atticus Dobbie (BFA '24) in *Forgotten Land* by Jiří Kylián
| Photo by Wyatt Florin (BFA '25)

A NOTE FROM **DEAN JULIA M. RITTER**

We are on the cusp of a semester fulfilled.

The production you are about to see is the result of months of creation, experimentation, and hard work by our BFA students, faculty, Artists in Residence, and the staff of USC Kaufman. It requires long hours of dedication and balancing all the many elements in our lives—coursework, friends and family, among other things.

Immersing ourselves in dance while striving for a sense of balance is key to our mission at Kaufman. It allows us to cultivate dancers who are prepared to enter the world as the artists of tomorrow by giving them an opportunity to work with the artists of today—people like our very own Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor of Dance, Kyle Abraham, faculty members Thomas Ford, d. Sabela grimes, and Jason Rodgers, and this semester's award-winning Artists Residence: Tyce Diorio, Spenser Theberge, and Caili Quan, alongside Fiona Lummis Eddy, renowned répétiteur of Jiří Kylián's ballets.

As we close out the fall 2023 semester, marked by world premieres and a celebration of dance, I am excited for the doors that will open this spring. We will welcome a new set of experiences and growth opportunities with our travel abroad to South Korea, the U.K., Germany, and here in the U.S. for USC Kaufman's debut at the prestigious Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Our students are always moving and on the move. It's one of the great aspects of USC Kaufman. I invite you to sit back and enjoy the Fall Showcase—both a fulfilling ending and a beginning that proves the Glorya Kaufman School of Dance is always advancing forward.

Cheers to the artists, and Dance On!



Sincerely,
Julia M. Ritter

Dean
USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance

ABOUT **USC KAUFMAN**



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, Dwight Rhoden, 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, RUBBERBAND, and The Joffrey Ballet, among others. They have also gone on to pursue careers in choreography, arts administration, marketing and business.

Student Profiles

Scan the QR Code to learn more about
USC Kaufman's current BFA students.



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PLAYING PERSPECTIVES

Choreography: Caili Quan

Music: *Vai (Menina Amanhã de Manhã)* by Tom Zé; *Lied ohne Worte in F-Sharp Minor, Op. 67/2* by Khatia Buniatishvili; *J'attendrai* by Andre Toussaint; *Soul Bossa Nova* by Quincy Jones

Lighting Design: Karyn D. Lawrence

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Faculty Répétiteur: Ebony Haswell-Frazier

Performance: Dancers from the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027

November 30 (7:30 PM) & December 1 (2:00 PM)

Aimee Brotten, Valerie Chen, Atticus Dobbie, Paige Litle, Jonacy Montero, Andrew Nash, Amanda Peet, Elizabeth Smiley, Mia Snape, Covin Washington, Jayde Woodard

December 1 (7:30 PM) & December 2 (2:00 PM)

Carolina Centenera, Sam Fine, Rob Hoffer, Kyson Kai, Samiyah Norris, Chase Peterson, Simone Peterson, Andrea Rodriguez, Ava Sine, Katie Tapalaga, Quincy Wilson

WELCOME REMARKS

ROUND/NOW

Choreography: d. Sabela grimes, in collaboration with the dancers and Leeann Ross

Music: Live Mix by Slaterrose

Lighting Design: Karyn D. Lawrence

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Video Design: d. Sabela grimes

Performance: Dancers from the Classes of 2024 & 2025

Sam Amey, Jonathan Cubides, Janae Holster, Jonacy Cruz Montero, Ambar Matos Ortiz, Esi Samuels, Slaterrose, Jonah Tran, Kaylin Williams

IN ITS WAKE

Choreography: Thomas Ford

Music: *Otto* by Woodkid

Lighting Design: Karyn D. Lawrence

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Performance: Dancers from the Class of 2026

Jaelin Born, Travon Carter, Tyler Chang, Catherine Cruise, Enzy-J'Var Martin, Ella Melideo, Lincoln Seymour, Ryann Smith

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FORGOTTEN LAND (Excerpt)

Choreography: Jiří Kylián

Premiere: April 12, 1981, Stuttgart Ballet – Wurttemberg State Theatre, Stuttgart, Germany

NDT Premiere: June 13, 1981, Nederlands Dans Theater I – Circustheater, Scheveningen, the Netherlands

Music: *Sinfonia da requiem, opus 20* by Benjamin Britten

Original Scenery & Costumes: John F. Macfarlane

Costume Supervision: John F. Macfarlane

Original Lighting Design: Hans-Joachim Haas

Original Lighting Redesign: Kees Tjebbes (Basel Ballett, 2005)

Lighting Design Recreation: Karyn D. Lawrence

Staged by/Faculty Répétiteur: Fiona Lummis Eddy

Performance: Dancers from the Class of 2024

November 30 (7:30 PM) & December 1 (2:00 PM)

1st Black: Paige Litle, Atticus Dobbie

Grey: Ashton Benn, Chase Peterson

2nd Black: Hope Patterson, Zay

Biege: Aimee Brotten, Will Okajima

White: Jada Vaughan, Jau'mair Garland

Red: Amanda Peet, Marcel Cavaliere

Pink: Ava Sine, Jonathan Cubides

December 1 (7:30 PM) & December 2 (2:00 PM)

1st Black: Nicole Denney, Diego Lopez

Grey: Valerie Chen, Hayden Rivas

2nd Black: Ava Sine, Atticus Dobbie

Biege: Aimee Brotten, Will Okajima

White: Jada Vaughan, Jau'mair Garland

Red: Amanda Peet, Marcel Cavaliere

Pink: Hope Patterson, Jonathan Cubides

15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

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BALKAN BEAT BOX

Choreography: Tyce Diorio

Music: *Pachima* by Bulgarian Chicks

Lighting Design: Karyn D. Lawrence

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Rehearsal Assistants: Matthew Kubitz, Melanie Benz, Aika Doone, Nina Sawaya, Maddie Thanos, Mark Ibañez

Faculty Répétiteur: Ebony Haswell-Frazier

Performance: Dancers of the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027

November 30 (7:30 PM) & December 1 (2:00 PM)

Faith Aguilar, Emmy Cheung, Sam Fine, Jau'mair Garland, Rob Hoffer, Ava La France, Samiyah Norris, Simone Peterson, Ella Querrey, Kali Sayles

December 1 (7:30 PM) & December 2 (2:00 PM)

Ryan Amato, Emmy Berg, Marcel Cavaliere, Ell Horan, Kyson Kai, Rhaine Marquardt, Andrew Nash, William Okajima, Katie Tapalaga, Jada Vaughan

FOR TIME

Choreography: Spenser Theberge, in collaboration with the dancers

Music: *Suite No. 11 in D Minor, BWV 437: III. Sarabande* by George Frideric Handel

Text: Spenser Theberge

Lighting Design: Karyn D. Lawrence

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Faculty Répétiteur: Holley Farmer

Performance: Dancers of the Class of 2027

November 30 (7:30 PM) & December 1 (2:00 PM)

Braylon Browner, Christopher Chun, Ashley Chung, Benjamin Jones, Belly Laird, Emily Liu, Julia Lowe, Anthony Picarello, Jalen Scriven, Quincy Wilson, Mikaela Zarsky

December 1 (7:30 PM) & December 2 (2:00 PM)

Austin Diaz, Ellery Donlon, Caroline McAleavey, Bella Mills, Garris Munoz, Michaela Ramirez, Elizabeth Smiley, Eloise Valero, Mason Walker, Covin Washington, Stella Wong

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5 MINUTE DANCE (YOU DRIVIN'?)

Choreography: Kyle Abraham, in collaboration with A.I.M and The USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance Class of 2024

Premiere: April 4, 2023, The Joyce Theater, New York, NY

Music: Jlin

Original Costumes: Karen Young, Kyle Abraham

Original Lighting Design: Dan Scully

Lighting Design Recreation: Karyn D. Lawrence

Faculty Répétiteur: Holley Farmer

Performance: Dancers from the Class of 2024

November 30 (7:30 PM) & December 1 (2:00 PM)

Ashton Benn, Aimee Brotten, Will Okajima, Hayden Rivas

December 1 (7:30 PM) & December 2 (2:00 PM)

Valerie Chen, Jau'mair Garland, Amanda Peet, Jada Vaughan

TIMELESS HEARTBEATS

Choreography: Jason Rodgers

Music: *Lay It Down (Andre Lodemann Remix)* by Omar; *Summer Sun* by Koop; *Rico Suave Bossa Nova* by Jay Dee; *Only 1 Way 2 Know* by Machinedrum; *Simple Things* by Crackazat

Lighting Design: Karyn D. Lawrence

Costume Design: Kathryn Poppen

Performance: Dancers from the Classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027

November 30 (7:30 PM) & December 1 (2:00 PM)

Braylon Browner, Emily Fluker, Janae Holster, Ell Horan, Julia Lowe, Caroline McAleavey, Kali Sayles, Jonah Tran, Avery Zerr

December 1 (7:30 PM) & December 2 (2:00 PM)

Faith Aguilar, Ryan Amato, Jonathan Cubides, Diego Lopez, Rhaine Marquardt, Bella Mills, Nina Outlaw, Ella Querrey, Hayden Rivas

Casting subject to change.
For the most recent updates, scan the QR code.



FALL 2023 BFA SHOWCASE

Meet the Choreographers



KYLE ABRAHAM

**USC Kaufman Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor in Dance
Choreographer: 5 Minute Dance (You Drivin'?)**

Kyle Abraham (Artistic Director, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham) and his choreography have been featured in *Document Journal*, *Ebony*, *Kinfolk*, *O Magazine*, *Vogue*, and *Vogue UK*, amongst other publications. Abraham is the proud recipient of a Dance Magazine Award (2022), Princess Grace

Statue Award (2018), Doris Duke Award (2016), and MacArthur Fellowship (2013). He currently serves as the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor in Dance at The University of Southern California (USC) Gloria Kaufman School of Dance (2021-). Abraham also sits on the advisory board for *Dance Magazine* and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. He is a member of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences, the inaugural Black Genius Brain Trust, and the inaugural cohort of the Dorchester Industries Experimental Design Lab, a partnership between the Prada Group, Theater Gates Studio, Dorchester Industries, and Rebuild Foundation. Rebecca Bengel of *Vogue* wrote, "What Abraham brings ... is an avant-garde aesthetic, an original and politically-minded downtown sensibility that doesn't distinguish between genres but freely draws on a vocabulary that is as much Merce [Cunningham] and Martha [Graham] as it is Eadweard Muybridge and Michael Jackson." His company, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, is widely considered "one of the the most consistently excellent troupes working today" (*The New York Times*). Led by Abraham's innovative vision, the work of A.I.M is galvanized by Black culture and history and grounded in a conglomeration of unique perspectives; described as a "post-modern gumbo" of movement exploration. The company's recent works include *An Untitled Love* (2021), a thumping mixtape celebrating culture, family and community; *Requiem: Fire in the Air and Earth* (2021), a reimaging of Mozart's *Requiem in D minor* through abstracted themes of afterlife, reincarnation, mythology and folklore; and A.I.M's Emmy-nominated film *If We Were a Love Song* (2021), a series of poetic vignettes set to the music of Nina Simone. Abraham has been commissioned by a wide variety of dance companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The National Ballet of Cuba, New York City Ballet, and The Royal Ballet. Highlights include Abraham's collaborations with NYCB—*When We Fell* (2021), reviewed by *The New York Times* as "among the most beautiful dance films of the pandemic" and *The Runaway* (2018), recognized on the "Best Dance of 2018" list by *The New York Times*. Abraham was the final choreographer commissioned by Paul Taylor before his passing, creating *Only The Lonely* (2019) for Paul Taylor American Modern Dance. In addition to his work for A.I.M and other major dance companies, Abraham has choreographed for many of the leading dancers of our time including Misty Copeland, Calvin Royal III, and Wendy Whelan. For more information, please visit aimbykyleabraham.org.

FALL 2023 BFA SHOWCASE

Meet the Choreographers



TYCE DIORIO

Artist in Residence

Choreographer: Balkan Beat Box

Tyce Diorio's greatest passion in life is telling stories through dance.

His enthusiasm and love of the art form have led him to choreograph award-winning works for television, film, and stage. As one of the most recognizable choreographers on Fox Television's hit show *So You Think You*

Can Dance, where he was also a guest judge for six seasons, Diorio has become known as one of the most versatile in the industry. As the innovator behind Taylor Swift's *Red, 1989*, and *Reputation* albums, live performances, and world tours, Diorio has become one of the most sought-after choreographers in Hollywood, counting the *Shake it Off* and *Look What You Made Me Do* music videos as some of his most popular works. Diorio's knowledge of dance history and ability to take the audience on a journey has become part of his signature style, earning him the respect of his peers and a highly coveted Emmy® Award. He continues to evolve in the mediums of television, concert stage, commercials, and film, staying on top of the changing market and making his mark as a trendsetter. His ability to navigate between different genres such as Lorde's *Greenlight* and The Weeknd's *Can't Feel My Face* videos to television shows like *Grey's Anatomy* and *Drop Dead Diva*, to films like the soon-to-be-released sequel to the *High Strung* dance film, speak to his creativity. He has rounded out his career by choreographing national commercials for Nike, I Can't Believe It's Not Butter, Gillette, and many more, and TV Shows that include *Drop Dead Diva*, *Carrie Underwood's Christmas Special*, *Bones*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *American Idol*, and *Dancing with the Stars* with the incomparable Annie Lennox and Jewel. Diorio has a unique talent to cultivate affinity with the actors he works with and has had great success in coaching and choreographing for celebrities such as Cameron Diaz, Megan Mullally, Katie Holmes, Christina Applegate, Tom Cruise, Queen Latifah, Tobey Maguire, and Laverne Cox. His experience as a professional dancer, working with some of music's most iconic artists including Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Ricky Martin, Mya, *NSYNC, Paula Abdul, Kelly Osbourne, and Toni Braxton has given him a deep knowledge base to build from. Broadway was Diorio's first love, and as a teenager and avid enthusiast, it is likely that he has seen every show ever produced, sometimes seeing his favorites up to ten times. He himself has graced the Broadway stage in the Tony Award-winning shows *Chicago* and *Fosse*, and he continues to bring his proficiency and deep affection to every live show he gives life to. Diorio was honored to choreograph the Hudson's Theatre's *Sweet Smell Of Success*, a tribute to Marvin Hamlisch, starring Lindsey Mendez and Jeremy Jordan. He also did work on *Music City*, a modern country musical directed by Mary Kate Burke, which opened at the Cape Fear Theatre in the Fall of 2018. The best things about Diorio are not his unparalleled work ethic or his unquestionable passion for dance, but rather his keen sense of humor and ability not to take himself too seriously. His work speaks for itself. Those who know, respect, and love Diorio will sing his praises any day.

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Meet the Choreographers



THOMAS FORD

USC Kaufman Assistant Professor of Practice

Choreographer: In Its Wake

Thomas Ford, MFA, is an interdisciplinary contemporary dance artist and scholar. His research examines the mechanisms of identity and culture through an exploration of embodiment, choreography, and Black, queer, critical, and performance studies. Since 2016, he has collaborated with artistic partner—and husband—Steven Atwater. Using original sound scores, technology spanning mediated forms, and emergent movement vocabularies inspired by historically ostracized bodies and sci-fi folklore, they build worlds, where the social, political and cultural entangle with the aesthetics of their collective histories. Ford's choreographic work has appeared at the Joyce Theater, Symphony Space, Ailey Citigroup Theater and the Kaye Playhouse, and been presented at Next@Graham, the Peridance APEX Showcase, the Capezio A.C.E. Awards, the STEPS Performance Lab and the Joffrey Ballet School's winter and summer concerts. His writing has appeared in *ELLE*, *Dance Magazine*, *Movement Research Performance Journal*, the *Brooklyn Rail*, *Dance Spirit*—where he served as a contributing editor—*Dance Teacher*, the *Dance Enthusiast*, and *CultureBot*. His writing is part of a forthcoming anthology, edited by Sherrie Barr and Karen Schupp, that will be published in 2024. His performance credits include The Kennedy Center Honors, The Today Show (NBC), Debbie Allen's *Dreams*, A Capitol Fourth (PBS), The Radio One Music Awards and performances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. He has toured with Mike Minery's Tapaholics and the renowned D.C.-based troupe, Tappers With Attitude. He has performed Darvejon Jones' Afro-contemporary work at the Kraine Theater and La Mama Experimental Theatre Club in NYC. Ford has taught at the Joffrey Ballet School (NY), Marymount Manhattan College and Hunter College/CUNY, and serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Dance Education* (JoDE). The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA/YoungArts) recognized him as a Presidential Scholar. Ford holds a BA from Marymount Manhattan College and a MFA in dance from Hunter College/CUNY.



D. SABELA GRIMES

USC Kaufman Associate Professor of Practice

Choreographer: Round/Now

d. Sabela grimes is a trans-media storyteller, sonic ARKivist, movement composer. Improvisational systems and collaboration are at the heart of his creative practice, inhaling through socio-historical observation, self-examination and speculative meanderings, exhaling through layers of interconnected sonic, visual, and kinesthetic arrangements. Sabela be investing in the poetics of assemblage, the magic of mutability, mastering misuse. Past projects include *Philly XP*, *World War WhatEver*, *40 Acres & A Microchip*, and *ELECTROGYNOUS*. Sabela's current collaborative endeavor with Meena Murugesan, *Parable of Portals*, dreams Butler's professional and personal writings into live performances, audio-visual installations, site-specific short films, and interactive community activations. Each experience realizes quantum Blackness as a means to play within the nowness of recurring futures. On faculty at USC's Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, he continues to cultivate Funkamental MediKinetics, a movement system that draws on the layered dance training, community building, and spiritual practices evident in Black vernacular and Hip Hop/Street dance forms. He is a 2023 USC Associates Award for Artistic Expression recipient, 2021 Bessie Award winner for Outstanding Performer, 2017 County of Los Angeles Performing Arts Fellow, and 2014 United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow.

FALL 2023 BFA SHOWCASE

Meet the Choreographers



JIŘÍ KYLIÁN

Choreographer: *Forgotten Land*

The world-renowned choreographer Jiří Kylián (Czechoslovakia, 1947) was artistic director of Nederlands Dans Theater for nearly a quarter century. He started his dance career at the age of nine, at the School of the National Ballet in Prague. In 1962 he was accepted as a student at the Prague Conservatory. He left Prague when he received a scholarship for the Royal Ballet School in London in 1967. After this, he left to join the Stuttgart Ballet led by John Cranko. Kylián made his debut as a choreographer here with *Paradox* for the Noverre Gesellschaft. After having created three ballets for NDT (*Viewers*, *Stoolgame* and *La Cathédrale Engloutie*), Kylián became the company's artistic director in 1975 together with Hans Knill. In 1978 he put Nederlands Dans Theater on the international map with *Sinfonietta*. That same year, together with Carel Birnie, he founded NDT 2, which served as a bridge between school and professional company life and was meant to give young dancers the opportunity to develop their skills and talents and to function as a breeding ground for young talent. In 1991 he initiated NDT 3; a company that created opportunities for older dancers, above 40 years of age. This three dimensional structure was unique in the world of dance. After an extraordinary record of service, Kylián handed over the artistic leadership in 1999, but remained the company's house choreographer until December 2009. Since his last piece *Mémoires d'Oubliettes* for NDT in 2009, Kylián's creative focus has shifted to more small scale projects and films. Kylián's entire body of work counts 100 creations to date, of which 77 performed by NDT and no less than 75 were especially created for the company. Furthermore, he made pieces for companies worldwide such as the Stuttgart Ballet, the Opéra de Paris, the Munich Bayerisches Staatsballett, and the Tokyo Ballet. In 2020, NDT 1 presented the program *Sometimes, I wonder*, which marked the return of Kylián's work. Kylián received many prestigious, international awards and honours, such as Officer of the Royal Dutch Order of Orange-Nassau, Honorary Medal of Order for Arts and Science of the House of Orange given to him by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, honorary doctorate of the Juilliard School in New York and the Honorary Medal from the President of the Czech Republic. In March 2019, Kylián was inaugurated as a member of the Académie des Beaux Arts in Paris. This highly prestigious recognition was complimented with the Academy's decision to change its statutes and add a special seat for "dance." To this day, Kylián's masterpieces are frequently performed by numerous dance companies and schools around the world.

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Meet the Choreographers



JASON RODGERS

USC Kaufman Lecturer

Choreographer: Timeless heartBeats

Jason Rodgers is a tap dance educator, dancer, choreographer, actor and musician. His dance journey began at age seven as a pupil of Paul Kennedy & Arlene Kennedy at Universal Dance Design in Los Angeles, California.

His credits include The Academy Awards, the North American tour of the Broadway musical *Bring In Da Noise, Bring In Da Funk, Dancing With The Stars* (ABC), *So You Think You Can Dance?* (FOX), and *Station 19* (ABC). Rodgers has also choreographed and performed tap dance for Disney, Verizon, Dodge, Gatorade, Microsoft, Cosmopolitan Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, and the Closing Ceremony of the European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan. He has had the privilege of working with Debbie Allen, Tim Robbins, Jerry Lewis, Donald O'Connor, Fayard Nicholas, Eddie Brown, Michael Peters, George C. Wolfe, and Mandy Moore. Jason Rodgers Entertainment is his Los Angeles-based company that creates live interactive shows involving song, dance, and tap history. His dance work throughout North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, and Africa has included Madison Square Garden, The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, The Paris Jazz Roots Festival, and the world-renowned Stockholm Tap Festival in Sweden. Rodgers is currently the Director of Dance for Oasis Center International—a nonprofit organization that provides art programs for children in Orange County and Los Angeles schools. Rodgers is looking forward to sharing his love, knowledge, and experience as a tap teacher with the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance.



SPENSER THEBERGE

Artist in Residence

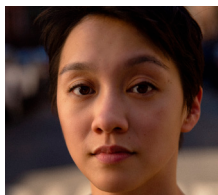
Choreographer: For Time

Spenser Theberge is a multi-hyphenate performer and creator, working across the fields of choreography, dance, movement direction, text, costume design, pedagogy, and installation work. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School and a former company member with the Nederlands

Dans Theater I & II, and The Forsythe Company, as well as a guest artist with Kidd Pivot, the Goteborgs Operans Danskompani, the ARIAS Company, RGWW, and with choreographer Astrid Boons. Theberge's creations are multi-disciplinary and genre-defying, continuously exploring the intersection between process and performance. His work has been commissioned and presented by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Juilliard School, GroundWorks DanceTheater, Modus Operandi, LA Dance Project, The Broad Museum, MOCA Geffen, REDCAT, The Korzo Theater, Gothenburg Opera Dance Company, Place des Arts, and the Queer Biennial III in LA. Theberge's collaborations with partner Jermaine Spivey have been additionally supported by Hollins University, PACT Zollverein, Nuova Officina della Danza, and presented by The Korzo Theater, The Frankfurt LAB, Place des Arts, Oregon Contemporary, Reed College, and NAVEL. As a movement director and performer, Theberge has worked with artists, brands, and organizations such as Taylor Swift, Gwen Stefani, LANY, UGG, Rami Malek, Ryan Pfluger, the Tune-yards, Seaworthy Jewelry, and the *New York Times* Magazine. He has also designed costumes for Andrea Miller, the ARIAS Company, and performing artist Frances Chiaverini, and is the text writer behind Alexander Ekman's award winning *Cacti and Hubbub*, as well as Astrid Boons' *Do you believe me yet?*. Theberge is a former dance faculty at California Institute of the Arts, an Artist in Residence at The Juilliard School and USC's Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, as well as at conservatories, schools, and programs across America, Europe, and Asia. Theberge is a YoungArts award winner, a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, and a Princess Grace Award winner.

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Meet the Choreographers



CAILI QUAN

Artist in Residence

Choreographer: *Playing perspectives*

Caili Quan is a New York-based choreographer who danced with BalletX from 2013 to 2020. She has created works for BalletX, The Juilliard School, Vail Dance Festival, American Repertory Ballet, Sacramento Ballet, Stars of American Ballet, Asbury Park Dance Festival, School of

American Ballet, Flight Path Dance Project, Oakland Ballet, Columbia Ballet Collaborative, and Ballet Academy East. She served as an Artistic Partnership Initiative Fellow and a Toulmin Creator at The Center for Ballet and the Arts at NYU. With BalletX she performed new works by Matthew Neenan, Nicolo Fonte, Gabrielle Lamb, Penny Saunders, Trey McIntyre, and danced at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Belgrade Dance Festival, and DEMO by Damian Woetzel at the Kennedy Center. *Mahálang*, a short documentary that wove familial conversations of her Chamorro Filipino upbringing on Guam with scenes from BalletX's *Love Letter*, was shown at the Hawai'i International Film Festival, CAAMFest, and the Dance on Camera Festival at Lincoln Center. She also participated in New York Choreographic Institute's 2022 Fall Session under the direction of Adrian Danchig-Waring. Quan was a 2022 Artist-in-Residence at the Vail Dance Festival and is a Creative Associate at The Juilliard School.

USC Kaufman Artists in Residence are supported in part through generous funding from the Choi Family Artists in Residence Fund.

Meet the Répétiteurs



FIONA LUMMIS EDDY

USC Kaufman Lecturer, Artist in Residence

Répétiteur/Stager: *Forgotten Land*

Fiona Lummis Eddy was a dancer for 20 years with Netherlands Dance Theater (1981-2001). Fiona created roles in 15 of Jiří Kylián's ballets, and in numerous works by Hans Van Manen, Nacho Duato, Ohad Naharin, and Mats Ek, among others. She danced featured roles in the repertoire of

William Forsythe, Jerome Robbins, Lar Lubovitch and Glen Tetley. She graduated from the Elmhurst School of Dance and The Rambert School in England, and also has a comprehensive Pilates teaching certificate from B.A.S.I. (Body Arts and Science International). In 1992 she received the Gouden Theaterdans Prijs for her performances in William Forsythe's *Steptext* and in 2000 was awarded the "Oeuvre Prize" in recognition of her career in The Netherlands. Fiona can be seen on many of the Arthaus films of Kylián's ballets, including the *Black and White Ballets* and *Kaguyahime*. She is also featured in eight recordings of Hans Van Manen's ballets in his *Master of Movement* DVD collection, and is recognized as one of his Muses. Fiona works closely with the Kylián and Van Manen foundations, teaching their repertoire in colleges, schools, and companies in the US and Europe.

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Meet the Répétiteurs



HOLLEY FARMER

USC Kaufman Assistant Professor of Practice

Répétiteur: For Time; 5 Minute Dance (You Drivin'?)

Holley Farmer, MFA, University of Washington, was a member of The Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 1997-2009, receiving the New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award for Sustained Achievement. Her performances with MCDC include a repertory of over 50 dances, and 13 original roles created for her by Cunningham, with multiple seasons at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Paris Opera, Théâtre de la Ville, the Barbican, and venues in 23 countries. With Twyla Tharp, she danced on Broadway originating the principal role of Babe in *Come Fly Away*, for which she received an Astaire Award Nomination. In 2011, she began staging the work of Cunningham, and creating her own choreographies. Her solo work has appeared at New York Live Arts, the Museum of Arts and Design, LaMama, the Joyce Theater, and Jacob's Pillow. For the last 12 years, in higher education, she has taught theory and practice courses, and has served on the faculty at Mills College, Hunter College, Sarah Lawrence College, Nassau Community College, CSU Long Beach, and CalArts, among national guest teaching and lecture engagements including Stanford University, and Southern California Institute of Architecture. Her early career was inspired by training with Hae Shik Kim, leading to positions in Theatre Ballet of Canada, *Phantom of the Opera* (785 performances), and Oakland Ballet.



EBONY HASWELL-FRAZIER

USC Kaufman Lecturer

Répétiteur: Playing perspectives; Balkan Beat Box

Ebony Haswell-Frazier began her dance training at The Miami Conservatory (Thomas Armour Youth Foundation) and continued on to New World School of the Arts. She was later asked to join Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) where she danced in ballets such as *Apollo*, *Giselle*, *Agon*, *Serenade* and many others. Following her time at DTH, Haswell-Frazier joined Complexions Contemporary Ballet and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She has performed principal roles with those companies and the works of many renowned choreographers such as Ulysses Dove, Jodie Gates, Robert Battle, Talley Beatty, and Maurice Béjart among others. She was also a member of the City Center Encores! production of *The Wiz* and is a cast member of the feature film *Bolden!*. In addition to teaching master classes throughout the country, Haswell-Frazier teaches at Debbie Allen Dance Academy as well as AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Haswell-Frazier is a graduate of University of Southern California and was a National Visiting Fellow with The School of American Ballet (SAB).

FALL 2023 BFA SHOWCASE

Meet the Designers



KARYN D. LAWRENCE

Lighting Designer

Karyn is an award-winning theatrical and entertainment lighting designer and instructor based in Los Angeles, California. Selected regional/local theater credits include Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, La Mirada Theater, East West Players, Ebony Repertory Theatre, Boston Court Pasadena, The Pasadena Playhouse, International City Theatre, Antaeus Theatre Company, and Arizona Broadway Theatre. She

teaches design at CSULA and is the resident lighting designer for the New Swan Shakespeare Festival in Orange County. In addition to lighting for the stage, she is Radiance Lightworks' lead lighting designer for Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios Hollywood. www.kdlightingdesign.com.



KATHRYN POPPEN

Costume Designer

Kathryn Poppen is a Los Angeles-based theatrical and dance costume designer. She is an Associate Artist with theatre dybbuk, and her designs are featured in the current touring productions *The Villainy You Teach* and *The Merchant of Venice (Annotated)*. Credits include work with Center Theatre Group, South Coast Repertory, Atlantic Theatre Company, Geffen Playhouse, Echo Theater Company, Bootleg Theater,

Pasadena Playhouse and the Garry Marshall Theatre. She holds a BFA in Theatrical Design from the University of Southern California.



JACQUELINE GONZALEZ

Assistant Lighting Designer

Jacqueline Gonzalez is a bilingual (English and Spanish) Lighting Designer and Scenic Designer from and based in Los Angeles, California. She has designed as well as assisted in both intimate community spaces and mainstage theater. Her theater credits include: South Coast Repertory, University of California-Irvine, Outside SCR at San Juan Capistrano Mission and Los Angeles Mission College. She believes that art

and design allow us to create and have a deeper connection with the world around us as well as one another, her designs aim to evoke and capture those strong connections and the emotions tied to them. Gonzalez earned her Bachelors of Arts at the University of California-Irvine in the Spring of 2022. When she's not at work you can find her painting, cooking, reading or making mixtapes for her friends and family. Website: Jqgonzalez.wixsite.com/design.

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