

# DORRANCE DANCE

## *THE NUTCRACKER SUITE*

**CO-CREATORS** Michelle Dorrance, Hannah Heller, Josette Wiggan

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Michelle Dorrance

**PERFORMERS** Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie, Sydney Burtis, Christopher Broughton, Elizabeth Burke, Warren Craft, Michelle Dorrance, Jabu Graybeal, Asha Griffith, Sterling Harris, Hannah Heller, Luke Hickey, Michael Jellick, Rena Kinoshita, Addi Loving, Aaron Marcellus, Carson Murphy, Maddie Murphy, Claudia Rahardjanoto, Veronica Simpson, Gisele Silva, Matthew "Megawatt" West, Josette Wiggan

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Andrea Nellis

**GENERAL MANAGER** Hillary Kooistra

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/SOUND DESIGNER** Christopher Marc

**ASSISTANT TO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Gabby Benavides

**DANCE CAPTAIN** Elizabeth Burke

**NUTCRACKER SUITE ASSISTANT DANCE CAPTAIN** Addi Loving

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR** Gregory Richardson

**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Kathy Kaufmann

**STAGE MANAGER** Olivia Brown

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER** Carly Shiner

**LIGHTING SUPERVISOR** Devin Koenig

**WARDROBE SUPERVISOR** Amy Page

**NUTCRACKER SUITE COMPANY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT** Madeline Nellis

**NUTCRACKER SUITE PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS** Alisa Dietz, Penelope Wendlandt

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Friday, December 8 @ 8 PM

Saturday, December 9 @ 2 PM

Saturday, December 9 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

There will be no intermission.

**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

Media support for the 23/24 season dance series provided by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

## PROGRAM NOTES

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### ***An Ella'quent Holiday Swing*** (2021)

**MUSIC DIRECTION & VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS** Aaron Marcellus

**MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS** Aaron Marcellus and Gregory Richardson after Ella Fitzgerald and Frank DeVol

**LIGHTING DESIGN** Kathy Kaufmann

**COSTUME STYLING** *An Ella'quent Holiday Swing* performers

**SOUND DESIGN** Christopher Marc

**LEAD VOCALS** Aaron Marcellus

**DRUMS** Warren Craft

**PIANO** Michael Jellick

**BASS/VOCALS** Claudia Rahardjanoto

**VOCALS** Michelle Dorrance and Addi Loving

**FEATURED SOLOISTS** Michelle Dorrance, members of the company and special guests

**MUSIC** "Brighten The Corner Where You Are" written by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel and Ina Duley Ogdon; "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane; "Good Morning Blues" by Count Basie, Eddie Durham and James Rushing; "Sleigh Ride" written by Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parish, Woodbury Music Company and Sony ATV Music Publishing, copyright owners; "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" written by Johnny Marks; "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne; "Jingle Bells" written by Frank Devol and James Pierpont

## ***The Nutcracker Suite***

or, a rhythmaturgical evocation of the super-leviathonic enchantments of Duke and Billy's supreme adaptation of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece that tells a tale of a misunderstood girl who kills a king and meets a queen and don't forget oooo-gong-chi-gong-sh'-gon'make-it-daddy, and that it ain't so bad after all  
(2019)

**CO-CREATORS** Michelle Dorrance, Hannah Heller, Josette Wiggan

**CHOREOGRAPHY** Michelle Dorrance and Josette Wiggan with solo improvisation by dancers

**ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY** Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie, Hannah Heller, Matthew "Megawatt" West, Joseph Wiggan

**MUSIC** "The Nutcracker Suite" composed by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, arrangement by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. Presented under license from Music Sales Corporation o/b/o Itself, Tempo Music, Inc. and Sony ATV Harmony, copyright owners.

**LIGHTING DESIGN** Kathy Kaufmann

**COSTUME DESIGN** Andrew Jordan

**SCENIC DESIGN** Peiyi Wong

**SOUND DESIGN** Christopher Marc

**COSTUME CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE** Amy Page and Iggy Soliven

**MOTHER GINGER DESIGN & BUILD** Carolyn Mraz

**ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGN** Maya Topping Weed

**RAT PUPPET DESIGN & BUILD** Ariel Lauryn and Peiyi Wong

**ADDITIONAL PUPPET FABRICATION** Amelia Lang and Mele Borges

**ADDITIONAL SCENIC FABRICATION** Danielle Landry and Object Fabrication

**STAR DROP** Drape Kings

**DANCERS** Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie, Christopher Broughton, Elizabeth Burke, Warren Craft, Jabu Graybeal, Asha Griffith, Sterling Harris, Hannah Heller, Luke Hickey, Rena Kinoshita, Addi Loving, Aaron Marcellus, Carson Murphy, Maddie Murphy, Claudia Rahardjanoto, Veronica Simpson, Gisele Silva, Matthew "Megawatt" West, Josette Wiggan

**UNDERSTUDY** Sydney Burtis

*The Nutcracker Suite...* was commissioned and created, in part, with the support of The Joyce Theater Foundation's Artist Residency Center, made possible by lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. *The Nutcracker Suite...* was co-commissioned by Global Arts Live, with support from Eric Klotch and Catherine Owens (Global Arts Live is a not-for-profit presenting organization located in Cambridge, MA); John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, Director Seth Soloway; and University of Connecticut, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts. Special thanks to all *Nutcracker Suite* 2023 campaign donors.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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### **Dorrance Dance**

Dorrance Dance is an award-winning tap dance company based in New York City. Led by Michelle Dorrance, the company supports dancers and musicians who embody and push the dynamic range that tap dance has to offer. The company's mission is to engage with audiences on a musical and emotional level, and to share the complex history and powerful legacy of this Black American art form through performance and education.

Founded in 2011 by artistic director and 2015 MacArthur Fellow Michelle Dorrance, the company has received countless accolades and rave reviews, and has performed at venues including Danspace Project, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Vail Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, Carolina Performing Arts at UNC Chapel Hill, Cal Performances at UC Berkeley, among many others, including international venues in Canada, France, Germany, Spain, England, Hong Kong, Singapore and Russia. [DorranceDance.com](http://DorranceDance.com) | Instagram/Facebook: @dorrancedance

### **Michelle Dorrance** (Artistic Director/Choreographer/Dancer)

Dorrance is a New York City-based artist. Mentored by Gene Medler (North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble), she was fortunate to study under many of the last master hoofers. Career highlights include: *STOMP*, Derick Grant's *Imagine Tap!*, Jason Samuels Smith's *Charlie's Angels/Chasing the Bird*, Ayodele Casel's *Diary of a Tap Dancer*, Mable Lee's *Dancing Ladies*, and playing the bass for Darwin Deez. Company work includes: Savion Glover's *Ti Dii*, Manhattan Tap, Barbara Duffy and Co., JazzTap Ensemble and Rumba Tap. Solo work ranges from *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert to commissions for the Martha Graham Dance Company, Vail Dance Festival, American Ballet Theatre and New York City Center. Dorrance made her Broadway choreographic debut with James Lapine's *Flying Over Sunset* at Lincoln Center Theater in 2021. A 2018 Doris Duke Artist, 2017 Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow and 2015 MacArthur Fellow, Dorrance is humbled to have been acknowledged and supported by United States Artists, The Joyce Theater, the Alpert Awards, Jacob's Pillow, Princess Grace Foundation-USA, The Field, American Tap Dance Foundation and the Bessie Awards. Dorrance holds a BA from New York University and is a Capezio Athlete.

**Josette Wiggan** (Co-Creator/Dancer)

Wiggan has a love for performing that was fostered by Paul and Arlene Kennedy in Los Angeles. A graduate of UCLA, Wiggan's career highlights include the 2001 Spotlight Award winner in non-classical dance, the first national Broadway tour of *42nd Street*, movies *Idlewild* and *The Princess and the Frog*, and studying with Germaine Acogny at L'ecole les Sables in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal. Alongside her brother, she was a part of two original casts of Cirque du Soleil's *Banana Shpeel* and *Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour* from 2009-2013. The duo has also been seen in *Tireless*, a curated show by Michelle Dorrance that had its debut at Jacob's Pillow in 2017. In addition, Wiggan is a part of Dorrance's all woman quartet, *Until the Real Comes Along* and *All Good Things Must Come to an End*, and co-created *The Nutcracker Suite* in 2019 with Michelle Dorrance and Hannah Heller. In the summer of 2021, Wiggan created her first evening length work, *Praise: The Inevitable Fruit of Gratitude*, in collaboration with Grammy®-nominated jazz trumpeter Keyon Harrold at Jacob's Pillow and most recently, has developed *On Solid Ground: A Celebration of Black Joy and Freedom In Our America*, featuring improvisation by the dancers and musicians of Josette Wiggan Presents. Wiggan is a sought-after educator, choreographer and performer and has dedicated her life to the perpetuation of African American vernacular jazz dance. She is also on faculty at USC's Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, teaching vernacular jazz and tap dance.

**Hannah Heller** (Co-Creator/Dancer)

Heller is a filmmaker, actor, writer and dancer. She was a founding member of Savion Glover's Ti Dii and has appeared with Dorrance Dance, Jane Comfort and Co. and Grand Lady Dance House. Select New York theatre credits include *Elements of Oz* (Skirball), *The World is Round* (BAM), *The Reception* (HERE Arts Center) and *Evelyn* (Bushwich Starr). Heller's award-winning short film, *Ursula*, continues to play at festivals across the world.

**Aaron Marcellus** (Musical Direction/Lead Vocals, *An Ella'quent Holiday Swing*)

Hailing from Atlanta, Marcellus is a versatile artist with a career spanning 25 years. He has captivated global audiences as a singer, songwriter, composer, musician, dancer and actor. Marcellus gained recognition through *American Idol* and performed on a world tour sponsored by the US Armed Forces, entertaining thousands in multiple countries. He has also appeared in Chapstick commercials, Universal Pictures' *Dear Evan Hansen* and NBC's *Next Caller*. As a member of *Stomp* Off-Broadway and a supporting lead in National Black Theater's *Dreaming Zenzile*, he continues to showcase his exceptional talents. Find him on Instagram at [@theaaronmarcellus](https://www.instagram.com/theaaronmarcellus).

**Andrew Jordan** (Costume Designer)

Jordan is an artist and costume designer exploring the possible relationships between sculpture, installation, puppetry and the moving form of the human body. He has designed for both stage and screen, including projects spanning opera, contemporary dance, experimental performance, film and parade. He has worked primarily in NYC and LA, currently residing in Detroit. He received his BFA in fine arts, with a minor in media studies, from the Columbus College of Art and Design and his MFA in sculpture from the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

**Kathy Kaufmann** (Lighting Designer)

Kaufmann is a two-time Bessie recipient and New York City native. She is a resident designer at the Danspace Project at St. Marks Church and has toured extensively throughout the world. She has been lighting Dorrance Dance since 2012 and designs regularly for many companies including Music From The Sole, Joanna Kotze, Ephrat Asherie Dance, The Bang Group, Elko & Koma, Rebecca Stenn, Mariana Valencia and Mina Nishamura.

**Christopher Marc** (Production Manager/Sound Designer)

Marc is a NYC-based sound designer and production manager from Minneapolis, MN. He has designed and engineered sound for Michelle Dorrance, Music From the Sole, Variety Life Productions, Lincoln Center Restart Stages, Luke Hickey and Michael Jellick, as well as regional and Off-Broadway productions with the Kennedy Center, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, IJB Productions, Aquila Theatre and Mills Entertainment. Marc also designs/builds custom floors for percussive dance and is owner/operator of @CMarcAudio.

**Peiyi Wong** (Scenic Designer)

Wong is a Bessie Award-winning scenographer and interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY. She designs sets, installations and costumes for live performance. Recent credits – sets: *The Whitney Album* (Soho Rep), *Weightless* (WP Theater), *A Delicate Balance* (Transport Group | NAATCO), *The Vicksburg Project* (Mabou Mines), *SPEECH* (Lightning Rod Special), *Song About Trains* (Work), setater | RadEv), *Memoirs of a...Unicorn* (NYLA, 2018 Bessie Outstanding Design), *HOUSECONCERT* (Object Collection), *Charleses* (The Tank, Hewes nomination); set and costume: *A Hunger Artist* (Sinking Ship), *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine* (Transport Group), *MukhAgni* (The Public UTR). Upcoming: *Public Obscenities* (Woolly Mammoth | TFANA), *A Good Day To Me Not to You* (Waterwell). In 2023, she was the recipient of the Edith Lutyens & Bel Geddes Design Enhancement Fund and NYSCA Support for Artists Grants. Wong is on the faculty at Playwrights Horizons, NYU Tisch and received her MFA from CalArts.

**DORRANCE DANCE ADDITIONAL STAFF**

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGER** Amanda Hameline

**FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR** Evan Aanerud, Arts FMS

**ARTIST REPRESENTATIVE** Barbara Frum, outer/most

Dorrance Dance is generously supported by the Mellon Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, MacMillan Family Foundation, Shubert Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The Evelyn Sharp Foundation, The Hyde and Watson Foundation and Harkness Foundation for Dance.

Rehearsal and development for this performance was supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. These performances are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. This program is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the city council. Dorrance Dance is a recipient of a U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, made possible by the leadership of Senate Majority Leader Charles D. Schumer.



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