



deeply rooted

DANCE THEATER

NOV 5

*This performance is dedicated to
Giavanni Malia Powell*

2022-23 SEASON

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Godfather Live 50th Anniversary
NOV 12

**The London Suede and
Manic Street Preachers**
NOV 16

Isabel Pantoja
NOV 18

**Too Hot to Handel:
The Jazz-Gospel Messiah**
DEC 3 + 4

The Jinx & DeLa Holiday Show
DEC 7

Celtic Woman: A Christmas Symphony
DEC 11

Cirque Dreams Holidaze
DEC 22-24

Step Afrika!
JAN 14, 2023

**National Geographic Live —
Greenwood**
JAN 29, 2023

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
FEB 11, 2023

AuditoriumTheatre.org | 312.341.2300

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

50 East Ida B. Wells Drive | Chicago, IL

Welcome Letter

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2022-23 Season at the Auditorium Theatre!

We are overjoyed for you to join us in person to experience the best of all performing arts, an Auditorium Theatre legacy that began in 1889 and continues into this season and beyond!

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) have designated 2022 as the "Year of Chicago Dance." Here at the Auditorium, we are proud to celebrate that and play our part as one of the city's largest presenters of dance artists from across the city, country, and around the world.

Forced to flee their war-torn home in Ukraine, we are proud to support their most distinguished dance ambassadors for peace, Kyiv City Ballet. Their strength and courage are inspiring and their continuance to perform on the global stage speaks volumes about the immense power of dance.

Within our local community, we are thrilled to present for the first time on the Auditorium Stage, South Chicago Dance Theatre. This exceptional company embodies the vibrancy and resiliency of Chicago itself through its intimately transformative style.

We have a full slate of performances and events in our 2022-23 Season. Our Global Dance series welcomes, in addition to Kyiv City Ballet, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, Step Afrika!, Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo, American Ballet Theatre, and the annual return of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. Chicago Dance is vibrant and visceral! In addition to South Chicago Dance, we are excited to feature local favorites Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, as well as a special one-night-only triple threat performance by Dorrance Dance, Trinity Irish Dance Company, and M.A.D.D Rhythms! If you are more of an adventurer, discover and learn with National Geographic Explorers who will take you from under the golden glow of this National Historic Landmark to around the world with stories, photographs, and stunning videos.

Our beloved annual presentation of *Too Hot to Handel: The Jazz-Gospel Messiah* will kick off December followed by Celtic Woman and plenty of holiday performances for you and your family to enjoy. Join us to celebrate the festive season with evenings filled with music, laughter, and wonder.

The best way to experience all that the Auditorium has to offer this season is by joining us as a subscriber, which gets you the best savings and the best seats in the house. Visit AuditoriumTheatre.org to learn more about the variety of programming we have planned for the year ahead.

Let's come together for a season of enriching live experiences! When we walk into Chicago's National Historic Landmark Auditorium Theatre, we add momentum to the energy of past generations to creatively face the world. We sincerely thank you for your commitment and for joining us on this journey.

ENJOY THE SHOW!



Rich Regan

Rich Regan
Chief Executive Officer



Thomas R. Baryl

Thomas R. Baryl
Chair, Auditorium Theatre Board of Directors

Auditorium Theatre

Venue Policies & Amenities

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

BABY CHANGING TABLES are located in both the men's and women's restrooms, located in the Lower Level and on Level 3 of the Theatre.

CHILDREN: All guests must have a ticket for entry, and in all instances, babies in arms are not permitted. It is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian to research and judge the content of a performance as appropriate for their child's age and level of maturity. There is no official rating system for live performance.

COAT CHECK is located between Aisle 2 and Aisle 3 in the Main Floor Lobby. Please note that our Coat Check only accepts credit card transactions. The Coat Check also features complimentary seat cushions/booster seats, disposable ear plugs, and assisted listening devices.

ELECTRONICS, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND VIDEO: Please turn off ALL electronic devices that may ring, beep, vibrate, or otherwise produce a sound that may disrupt performances. The use of video, photography, or any other recording devices is strictly prohibited during performances.

EMERGENCY EXIT: Please take a moment to locate the nearest emergency exit closet to your seating area. In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain calm, and follow the instructions from the Auditorium Theatre team members.

FILMING NOTICE: Please be aware there may be video recording and/or photography of audience members taking place throughout the day. By entering the theatre, you consent to your voice, name, image, and/or likeness being used, without compensation, by the Auditorium Theatre, in any medium of publicity or advertising, and you release the Auditorium Theatre, its members, agents, employees, and board from any liability.

FIREARMS: In compliance with the Illinois Firearms Concealed Carry Act, the Auditorium Theatre prohibits the carrying of weapons of any kind in the theatre and on theatre property.

FIRST AID SERVICES: In the event you require medical assistance, please see an Auditorium Theatre team member.

FOOD & BEVERAGE: Concessions are open on the Main Floor Lobby for all performances. Additional concession locations will be open throughout the Theatre lobbies for certain performances. Outside food and beverages are

not allowed inside the building. Please note that our Coat Check, Merchandise, and Concession locations only accept credit card transactions.

HEALTH SAFETY: Our priority is the safety and comfort of all our guests in our theatre. To find out more information and for the most up to date protocols for our venue and your specific event, please check the Safety Page on the Auditorium Theatre website at auditoriumtheatre.org

LATE SEATING: The Auditorium Theatre has a strict policy of no late seating. Guests arriving after a performance has begun, or leaving the seating area for any reason, will be seated in a designated section and may take their ticketed seats at intermission, if applicable. For further information regarding late seating policies for your specific event, please see any Auditorium Theatre team member.

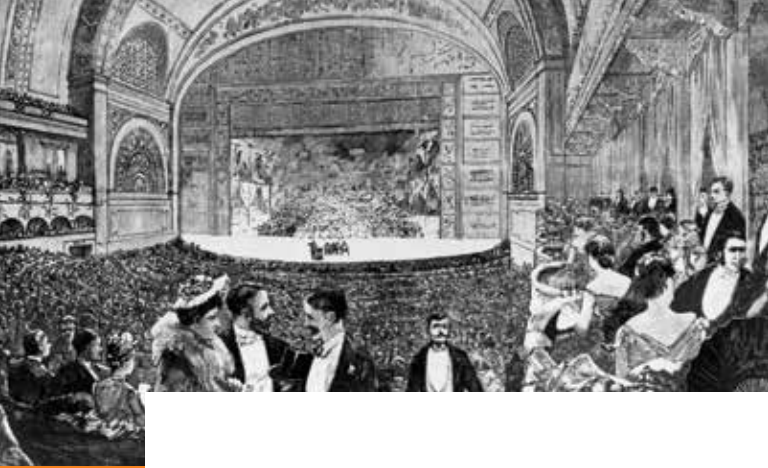
LOST AND FOUND: Found articles should be left with any Auditorium Theatre team member. To determine whether a personal article has been turned in to the Lost and Found, please call 312.341.2300. Any items lost or presumed stolen are not the responsibility of the Auditorium Theatre. Lost and Found items will be held on-site for 30 days only.

PROHIBITED ITEMS: Cameras (photo or video), professional camera equipment (tripods, monopods, etc.) and/or audio recording equipment of any kind are NOT permitted in the theatre during an event. In addition: firearms, weapons of any kind, large bags, backpacks, outside food and drinks, helium balloons, bullhorns or noisemakers, gifts, costumes, masks covering face, confetti or glitter, UAVs/drones, hover boards, luggage, signs of any type, and other items deemed unsafe by management are prohibited.

RESTROOMS/ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS are located on the Main Floor, Lower Level, and Level 3 of the Theatre. There are 2 accessible gender-neutral restrooms located in the Southwest corner of the Main Lobby and 2 additional accessible gender-neutral restrooms located on Level 3 of the Theatre.

SECURITY: Upon arrival, all guests will be required to follow all security protocols and screenings, which may include walk through metal detectors and/or handheld wands in order to gain access into the venue.

SMOKING of any kind, including e-cigarettes and vaporizers, is strictly prohibited inside the theatre and within 25 feet of any entrances.



133 YEARS OF HISTORY AND COUNTING!

Designed by **Louis Sullivan** and **Dankmar Adler** at the behest of Chicago businessman Ferdinand Peck, the theatre was immediately hailed as one of the most beautiful venues in the world, with its gilded elegance, graceful design and perfect acoustics. Architectural giant Frank Lloyd Wright, who for one of his first jobs served as a draftsman on the project, would later note the Auditorium is: "The greatest room for music and opera in the world—bar none."

During its early decades, the Auditorium stage was the venue of choice for leading entertainers of the era, including **John Philip Sousa** and **Sarah Bernhardt**, as well as political figures including **Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Booker T. Washington**. It also played host to not only operas and orchestras, but indoor baseball games, as well as a bowling alley while acting as a **Servicemen's Center** during WWII.

Since the late 1960s, the Auditorium earned a reputation as Chicago's home for music superstars, world premier dance companies, and even Broadway musicals!

We are a theatre that endures. To this day, the staff and Board of the Auditorium Theatre continue to preserve and restore this treasured building. Typically, more than 250 performances and events attract **over a quarter of a million people every year** to Chicago's landmark theatre, making it a true staple in Chicago and the rest of the world.

2021-22 SEASON IMPACT

ON OUR STAGE

- **24** Cultures + countries represented
- **179** In-person performances + events
- **1,446** Paid artists + theatre professionals
- **106,016** Audience members + counting!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

- **5** Signature education + outreach programs
- **41** Neighborhoods reached
- **954** People strengthened their communities through the performing arts

1889

Auditorium Theatre officially opened

1893

US Congress decision to host World's Fair in Chicago

1945

Post WW II closes our doors

1960s

Beatrice Spachner: renovate and restore!

1967

Re-opening night performance

1975

Declared a National Historic Landmark

2020

Covid-19 pandemic closes Auditorium's doors

2021

Reopened after 600 days with a record-breaking season!

And beyond!

Home for the best variety of entertainment and your memories!

Auditorium Theatre
Staff and Board Members

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Ryan Neil, Ticket Services Associate
Helen Zorn, Ticket Services Associate

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Jeff Gandy, Creative Engagement and
Education Manager

Production & Operations

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Kim Grose, Production Manager
Siobhan Townsend, Front of House
Manager
Karen Johannesen, Food & Beverage
Manager
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Emeritus

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The Auditorium Theatre is proud to acknowledge the following institutional partners for their generous support. Corporate, foundation, and government relationships are integral to the success of the Auditorium’s work on stage and in the community. This list is reflective of support from July 1, 2021 through September 15, 2022.



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Our In-Kind Partners



CHICAGO DANCE

2022-23 SEASON

**Dorrance Dance,
Trinity Irish
Dance Company,
M.A.D.D. Rhythms**
APR 22

**South Chicago
Dance Theatre**
JUN 10



LIVE AT THE AUD

AuditoriumTheatre.org | 312.341.2300

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Global and Chicago Dance

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Chicago Dance

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

PRESENTS

deeply rooted
DANCE THEATER

November 5, 2022




TOGETHER WE CAN...INSPIRE, IGNITE, CREATE

2022-23 SEASON SPONSORS






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2022-23 SERIES SPONSORS



Global and Chicago Dance

2022-23 SERIES SPONSORS



Chicago Dance

Alyssa McCallum, photo by Matt Karas.

DEEPLY ROOTED DANCE THEATER | 9

Vespers

Vespers is being presented in part by the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Music: Mikel Rouse’s *Quorum*, the music for Ulysses Dove’s *Vespers*, is available on iTunes. Performed by Mikel Rouse. © 1983 Mikel Rouse. All rights reserved. Published by Club Soda Music (ASCAP)

Choreographer: Ulysses Dove
Performed by: Emani Drake, Heather Cagle, Rebekah Kuczma, Alyssa McCall, Taylor Ramos, Nyemah Stuart

This company premiere is full of drama, raw energy, and profound grace. Inspired by acclaimed choreographer Ulysses Dove’s memories of his grandmother’s place of worship, the work showcases the powerful athleticism and elegance propelled to an electronic score.

Aisatnaf

Music: Lee Holdridge
Choreographer: Kevin Iega Jeff
Performed by: Ahmed Hill
Costume Design: Denise Naeemah Jeff
Costume Design Reimagined: Mark Botelho
Costume Design Assistant: Judith Ann Lundberg

This whimsical revival is a Deeply Rooted fan-favorite in which a woodland creature frolics to *Ballet Fantasy for Strings and Harp* by Lee Holdridge.

Excerpt of Madonna Anno Domini

Music: Culoe De Song, Aretha Franklin
Choreographer: Nicole Clarke-Springer
Performed by: Deeply Rooted Dance Theater Company and Company Apprentice Members

“Hear this, young men and women everywhere, and proclaim it far and wide. The earth is yours and the fullness thereof. Be kind, but be fierce. You are needed now more than ever before. Take up the mantle of change. For this is your time.”

— Sir Winston Churchill

INTERMISSION

Q After Dark

Q After Dark is presented through the support of the African American Legacy at the Chicago Community Trust.

Music: Quincy Jones
Choreographers: Nicole Clarke-Springer, Gary Abbott, Kevin Iega Jeff, Joshua L. Ishmon
Performed by: Deeply Rooted Dance Theater Company and Company Apprentice Members
Live Music: Sam Thousand + Ensemble

This world premiere is a joyous celebration of the music of Chicago’s legendary Quincy Jones.



Joshua Francique and Rebekah Kuczma in *Episodes*, photo by Ken Carl.



Nicole Clarke-Springer
Artistic Director

Nicole Clarke-Springer joined Deeply Rooted as an apprentice, then company member, shortly after graduating from Butler University. She joined Deeply’s Artistic Team in 2013 and was the company’s Emerging Choreographer for the program “Generations.” She traveled to South Africa for the JOMBA! Dance Festival in 2015, setting her work on Flatfoot Dance Company. She was Deeply’s Education Director prior to becoming artistic director in 2019. She teaches and choreographs around the country and is currently on staff at Northwestern University.



Gary Abbott
Co-Founder/Co-Associate Artistic Director

Gary Abbott danced with Lula Washington Dance Theatre, Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Theatre, and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble of Denver and choreographed for Parker Robinson and The Denver Center for the Performing Arts and more before co-founding Deeply Rooted with Kevin Iega Jeff. In addition to Deeply, he has choreographed for Penumbra Theatre, Goodman Theatre, and Bailiwick Repertory. He has taught nationwide and in Bulgaria, South Africa, and China. He is assistant professor of dance at University of Missouri Kansas City.



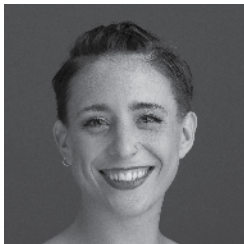
Men Ca
Co-Associate Artistic Director

Men Ca bio-[Kemet]cal essence of Men Ca is in his name: mata is energy from the nucleus of the ca’nsconscious atam. A practitioner of defining that which he does through that which he is (i.e., Men Ca), his absolute Art and Science is simply to be ca’nsconscious at all times, in all times, thus defining the life force energy of love and understanding.



Kevin Iega Jeff
Co-Founder/Creative/Executive Director

Kevin Iega Jeff co-founded Deeply Rooted with Gary Abbott in 1996. His work has been featured in films including Spike Lee’s *She’s Gotta Have It*; on television on The Academy Awards; and on Broadway in *The Wiz* and *Comin’ Uptown*. In 2005, the Juilliard School named him one of its 100 Outstanding Alumni in celebration of its centenary anniversary. After 24 years of executive and artistic leadership, Jeff leads Deeply’s new Special Projects division and plans for a state-of-the-art dance center on Chicago’s South Side.



Rebekah Kuczma
Rehearsal Director/Company Member

Rebekah Kuczma was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where she completed most of her dance education and training. She discovered modern dance at the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts middle and high school through teacher and mentor Greer Reed. Kuczma trained at Point Park University, performing works by Toru Shimazaki, Kevin Iega Jeff, Kiesha Lalama, and more. She simultaneously worked with the August Wilson Center Dance Ensemble and improv-based company the Pillow Project), and she performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Jacob’s Pillow and with Antonio Brown Dance in residency at Perry Mansfield. She currently works with Winifred Haun & Dancers. Kuczma is extremely grateful to be with Deeply Rooted, as the company and directors have constantly inspired her.



Joshua L. Ishmon
Resident Choreographer/Company Member

Joshua L. Ishmon joined Deeply Rooted in 2007 and moved into the main company in 2009. He has danced with Winifred R. Harris’ Between Lines (Denver) and Seamless Dance Theater (Kansas City, Missouri) and as a guest artist with Ballet Chicago and Dayton Contemporary Dance Company.



Kimberly Dulac
Company Manager

Kimberly Dulac has been a performer, choreographer, stage manager, dance captain, office manager, production manager, and instructor. She danced with The Joffrey Ballet, Luna Negra Dance Theater, and Danceworks Chicago, then the Los Angeles Ballet and the Walt Disney Company, later performing at Universal Studio’s Orlando Resort and Walt Disney World. Other performances include Univision’s New Year’s Eve special in 2016 and Disney’s primetime Christmas specials on ABC in 2017 and 2018. She has taught at the Joffrey Academy of Dance and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and given masterclasses in Europe.



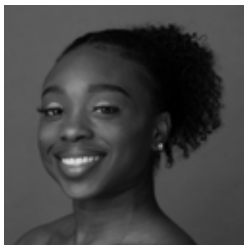
Heather Cagle

Heather Cagle (Toledo, Ohio) is a dancer, teacher, mentor, and friend. She received her BFA in dance in 2019 from Wright State University, when she was also part of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company’s pre-professional ensemble, DCDC2, for two seasons and was an apprentice for DCDC through the Jeraldyn Blunden Fellowship. She was a company member of South Chicago Dance Theatre for two seasons. She is beyond ecstatic to begin her first season with Deeply Rooted and thanks her family, friends, and supporters for their constant love and encouragement. Lastly, she has learned more than anything, that perseverance and dedication will get one farther than they could imagine.



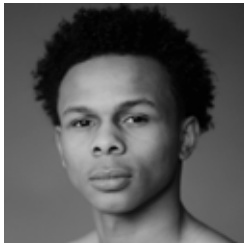
Emani Drake

Emani Drake (Cleveland, Ohio) trained at Revolutions Dance Academy, the Cleveland School of the Arts, and Tri-C Creative Arts Academy. She has also participated in summer intensives including The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and Deeply Rooted as a scholarship recipient. She earned a BFA in dance from The University of the Arts and was a member of Eleone Dance Theatre. She then trained with Verb Ballets. Drake has worked with and/or performed the work of Ulysses Dove, Robert Battle, José Limón, Christopher Huggins, Amy Hall Garner, Juel D. Lane, and many more. This is her second season with Deeply Rooted.



Cherae Janelle Grimes

Cherae J. Grimes (Philadelphia, PA) began her dance training at three years old with the Children of Kankouran West African Dance and continued at Point Breeze Performing Arts Center in Philadelphia. She earned her BFA from The University of The Arts and danced with Eleone Dance Theatre. She has trained with Debbie Allen, Anthony Burrell, Karen McDonald, Chantel Heath, and Eartha Robinson. She was a member of and rehearsal director for Anthony Burrell’s AB Project and has performed works by Tommie Waheed-Evans, Milton Myers, Debbie Allen, Christopher Huggins, Kim Bears-Bailey, Dara Meredith, and more. This is her first season with the company.



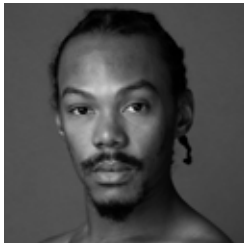
Ahmad Hill

Ahmad Hill (Chicago, IL) who attended the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts), participated in Deeply’s Summer Dance Intensive, where guest instructor Kevin Thomas invited him to apprentice with his company, Collage Dance Collective. He also worked with Joshua L. Ishmon’s project-based company, Production: COLORS, before returning to Deeply. He has danced for GreeneWorks Project directed by Terrence Greene and Ballet Austin II.



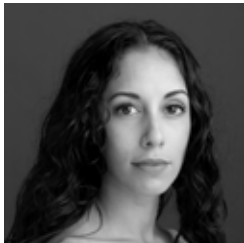
Alyssa McCallum

Alyssa McCallum (Baltimore, Maryland) began her dance training at competition studios, ballet schools, and gymnastics gyms, then graduated from The Baltimore School for the Arts and earned a BFA in dance from The University of the Arts. McCallum was an original cast member of Rock the Ballet X while attending college and has completed two European tours with the company. She is a company member with Deeply Rooted.



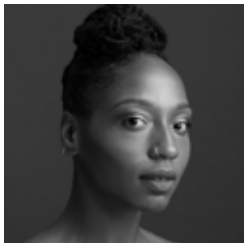
Louis Pearson

Louis Pearson (Pittsburgh, PA) graduated from Pittsburgh CAPA in 2017 majoring in dance. He continued his studies at University of the Arts and received his BFA in dance and performance. He just completed his first season with South Chicago Dance Theatre and is excited to start his journey with Deeply Rooted.



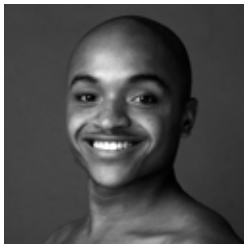
Taylor Ramos

Taylor Ramos (Toledo, Ohio) attended Toledo School for the Arts and trained at Toledo Ballet. She studied at Wright State University while performing as a second company member with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. She worked with choreographers such as Rob Priore, Greg Graham, and Keisha Lalama. After graduating with a BFA in dance, she moved to Buffalo to become a company member with Lehrer Dance and toured nationally and internationally. Ramos has been a member of Deeply Rooted’s Emerging Artist Ensemble and a Company Apprentice and is now a company member.



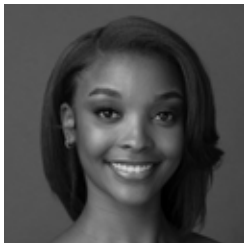
Nyemah Stuart

Nyemah Stuart (New York, NY) trained at Professional Performing Arts High School in its dance program, which was connected to The Ailey School, and studied ballet at Dance Theatre of Harlem as a scholarship student. She is a dancer with Harambee Dance Company and a member of Time Lapse Dance. She has matriculated through the Deeply Rooted Summer Dance Intensive and apprenticeship programs to become a company member. Stuart is honored and excited to continue elevating her artistic voice through Deeply Rooted’s repertory.



Mekeba Malik

Mekeba Malik (Chicago IL) has trained at Kiara Dance Arts Studio, Debbie Allen Dance Academy, The Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Chicago MultiCultural Dance Center, and The Chicago High School for the Arts. At age 17, he was the youngest to be accepted to Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet Training Program on a full scholarship. After handling family health issues and taking time to feel his transition and adjust to his new life, Malik has decided to share his love of dance. During his time away from dance, Mekeba became a certified yoga instructor and a certified personal trainer.



Taylor Myles

Taylor Myles (Columbus, OH) graduated from Fort Hayes Metropolitan Education Center, focusing on dance and music, and attended the Joan Palladino School of Dance at Dean College, where she double majored in dance and exercise science. She also participated in dance programs such as The Paul Taylor Dance Intensive, The Gus Giordano College Pro Dance Intensive, The Ailey School as an Independent Study Program student, and Dayton Contemporary Dance Company as a second company member. After completing her first season with Deeply Rooted as an Emerging Artist Ensemble member. Myles is now an apprentice and excited to continue to grow as an artist.

About

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater reimagines and diversifies the aesthetics of contemporary dance by uniting modern, classical, American, and African-American traditions in dance and storytelling. Through its uncompromising pursuit of excellence, Deeply Rooted demonstrates the transformative power of art and beauty through dance education, performance, and cultural enrichment in Chicago and on the world stage.

Deeply Rooted is rooted in traditions of American and African-American dance, storytelling, and universal themes that spark a visceral experience and ignite an emotional response in diverse audiences worldwide. Deeply Rooted collaborates with nationally renowned choreographers, across the spectrum of modern, ballet, and African dance, to reflect contemporary voices.



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