

SOUTH CHICAGO DANCE THEATRE

energy | power | grace

JUNE 10



2022-23 SEASON

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

STIR YOUR SOUL

Dance for Life
AUG 19, 2023

**Arpino Chicago
Centennial Celebration**
SEP 23+24, 2023

**Deeply Rooted
Dance Theater**
NOV 3, 2023

**Sugar Hill: The Ellington /
Strayhorn Nutcracker**
DEC 19-30, 2023

**Terence Blanchard:
Film Scores LIVE!**
JAN 13, 2024

**Complexions
Contemporary Ballet**
FEB 3, 2024

Compañía Nacional de Danza
FEB 10, 2024

Trinity Irish Dance Company
MAR 3, 2024

MOMIX
MAR 9, 2024

**Alvin Ailey
American Dance Theater**
APR 17-21, 2024

**South Chicago
Dance Theatre**
APR 27, 2024

Welcome Letter

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

Dear Friends,

For more than 130 years, the Auditorium Theatre has been bringing artists and audiences together to celebrate the transformative power of the performing arts. Thank you for joining us and being part of that legacy.

We close out our 2022-23 season with **South Chicago Dance Theatre**. Executive Artistic Director Kia S. Smith and her blossoming company have been on our radar since SCDT's inception six years ago. Smith's incredible choreographic skills have quickly caught the attention of Chicago's dance community and we are proud to host SCDT for the first time on our historic stage with their world premiere honoring a part of Chicago's arts history rooted in the South Side.

As we prepare for a new season, we are thrilled to share the 2023-24 season will welcome the return of SCDT in addition to a few other Chicago favorites as well as sensational international companies.

Opening our 2023-24 season are two incredible performances that celebrate the strength and devotion of the dance community. We welcome back to our stage **Dance for Life** — a one-of-a-kind annual benefit for Chicago Dancers United, an organization providing financial relief for preventative health care and critical medical needs for Chicago's dance industry professionals. In the Fall, the culmination of a year-long celebration of iconic choreographer and Joffrey Ballet co-founder, Gerald Arpino will take place on our stage. The **Arpino Chicago Centennial Celebration** features a stunning evening filled with ballet companies from across the nation.

The Global Dance series will feature New York's **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** in *Star Dust: From Bach to Bowie*, Madrid's **Compañía Nacional de Danza** highlighting international groundbreaking choreographers Paul Lightfoot and Sol León, Nacho Duato, and Artistic Director and former New York City Ballet principal dancer, Joaquín De Luz, and innovative **MOMIX** presenting a stunning magical acrobatic dance journey inspired by Lewis Carol's classic *Alice In Wonderland*. Of course, no Auditorium dance season would be complete without a visit from the acclaimed **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**. Our Made In Chicago Dance series will return with **Deeply Rooted Dance Theater**, **Trinity Irish Dance Company**, and **South Chicago Dance Theatre** ready to captivate audiences and highlight the powerful mastery found in our own neighborhood.

In addition to stellar performances, we are continuing our efforts to preserve our **National Landmark Theatre** which is known internationally for its perfect acoustics, innovative design, and stunning architecture. Take a look around and soak in the golden glow of our historic arches. Our home is your home!

Whether you are visiting the Auditorium for the first time or have been here too many times to count, we cannot do what we do without your support. We hope to continue the shared hope that only the performing arts can provide and grow our community in 2023 and beyond. Thank you for being part of the Auditorium family.

ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE!



Rich Regan

Rich Regan
Chief Executive Officer



Thomas R. Baryl

Thomas R. Baryl
Chair, Auditorium Theatre Board of Directors



2023-24 SEASON
AuditoriumTheatre.org | 312.341.2300

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Official Hotel Partner

**Florian
Fund**
Global and
Made In Chicago Dance

2023-24 SERIES SPONSORS

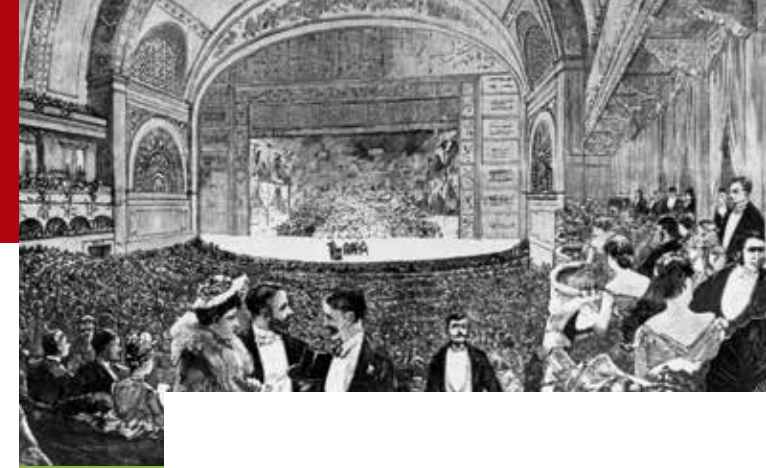
**Joyce
Chelberg**

**Pamela
Crutchfield**
Made In Chicago Dance

**Patti Eylar and
Charlie Gardner**

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

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

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*Our friends remembered

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 January 1, 2022 through February 20, 2023.



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Our In-Kind Partners



SOUTH CHICAGO DANCE THEATRE

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Letter from the Director

WELCOME

It is such a joy to welcome you to the world premiere of my first evening length work, *Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley* and South Chicago Dance Theatre's debut at the historic Auditorium Theatre of Chicago. I have been watching performances at the Auditorium Theatre since I was a little girl and it is a dream come true to see my company on this stage as a part of the Made In Chicago series!

My family has been on the city's south side now for almost a century and the seed for *Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley* was planted growing up in Chicago's jazz community. My father is the progenitor of the live music that took place for decades at the once popular sociocultural happening, Jazz in the Alley; and my mother was a fixture at the historic Jazz Showcase. Jazz in the Alley was a hotbed for jazz and a meeting place for some of the country's prominent musicians, visual artists, poets, activists and organizers. "It was a place where people could come and feel a part of each other," Ellis said in a 1992 interview for the Chicago Tribune.

Memoirs is an embodied and visual homage to the sounds and people of Jazz in the Alley, a work of historical fiction tracing the experiences of imagined characters found in an online gallery of photos taken by my father. *Memoirs* employs sound, projection design, color and movement to reimagine Jazz in the Alley through a futuristic retro lens, honoring the past with elements and ideas of the current time.

Click [here](#) to view photos of *Jazz in the Alley*.

theaud.us/MuseumOfPublicArt-JazzInTheAlley

Kia S. Smith, Executive Artistic Director
South Chicago Dance Theatre

AUDITORIUM THEATRE CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

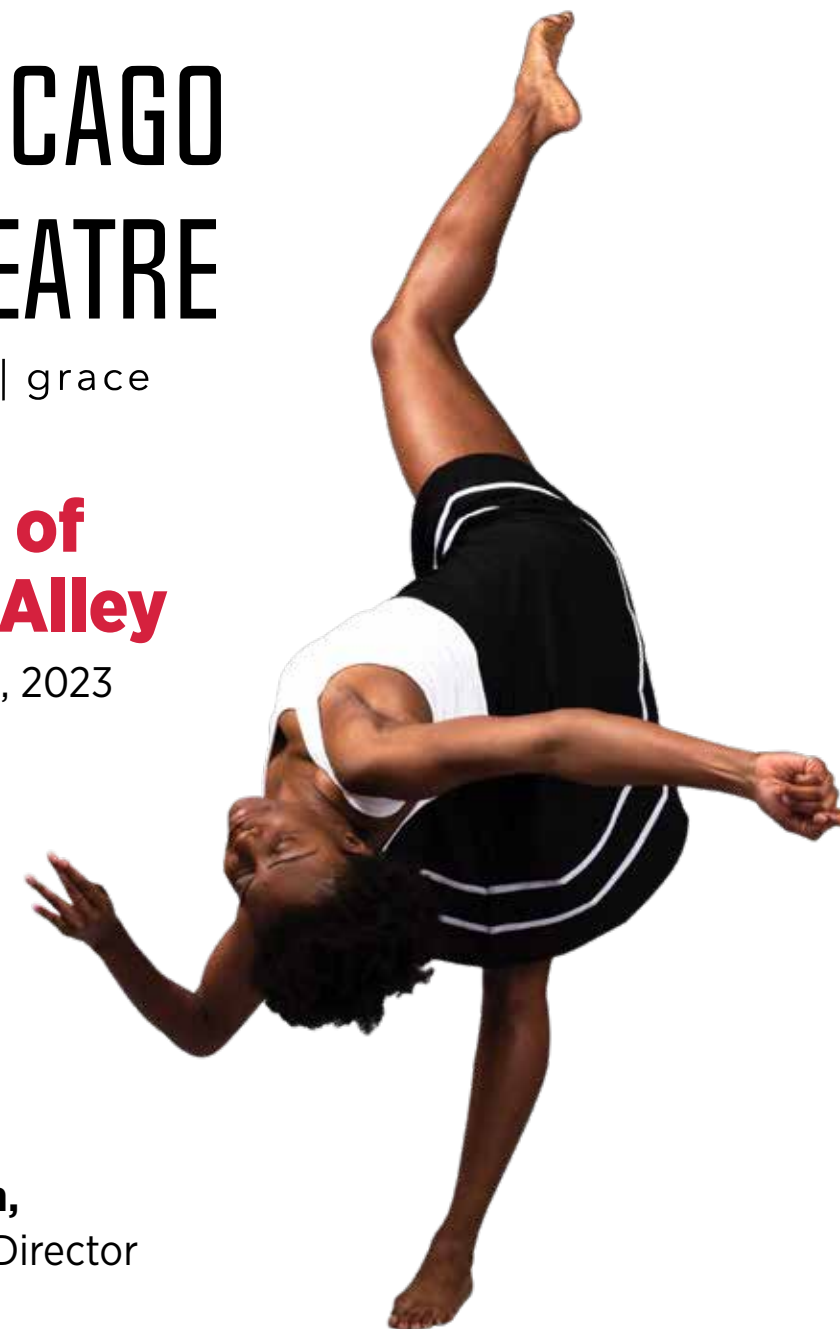
PRESENTS

SOUTH CHICAGO DANCE THEATRE

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Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley

Saturday, June 10, 2023



Kia S. Smith,
Executive Artistic Director

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Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley

Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley is narrated by The Sandman, a person who was found to have been ever present throughout the archived history of Jazz in the Alley. A nonlinear narrative traces the emotional journey of the Lady in Red, as she pursues a love interest and grapples with the vices and musings of life in the Alley. Broken into a prelude and four quadrants, each section is characterized by an interaction of color, light, sound and projection design. The sonic landscape features synthesized segments constructed by Smith and both arranged and newly composed music by Isaiah Collier, performed by Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few.

Prelude

Fletcher Henderson
Kia S. Smith

Opening

Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few
Cab Calloway
Ari Hoenig
Johnny Dodds
Charlie Parker
Miles Davis
Sonny Rollins

Red

Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few
Solomon Ilori
Miles Davis
Kia S. Smith

Blue

Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few
Oliver Nelson
Fletcher Henderson
Kia S. Smith
Louis Armstrong
King Oliver
Miles Davis

Yellow

Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few
Kia S. Smith
Louis Armstrong
Ari Hoenig
Miles Davis

Green

Mathieu Desy
Fletcher Henderson
Kia S. Smith

WARNING: This event contains staged instances of sexual assault that some patrons may find disturbing.

SOUTH CHICAGO DANCE THEATRE (SCDT)

is a multicultural organization seamlessly fusing classical and contemporary dance styles as well as preserving historic dance work. With cultural diplomacy at the heart of the organization, SCDT creates, performs, and teaches dance on a local, national, and international platform. Since the 2017 launch, SCDT’s collaborative initiatives have included music ensembles, television, opera, art museums and public schools through a range of collaborations and performances. Prioritizing intergenerational learning and exchange, SCDT’s seven core programs include the Main Company and Emerging Artist Program, the Choreographic Fellowship, the Education and Community Programs, the South Chicago Arts Administration Fellowship, the annual South Chicago Dance Festival, and the Choreographic Diplomacy™ Program. The art of dance empowers our community to resist oppression and foster collective healing.

SCDT has performed internationally in Seoul, Korea and Arnhem, Netherlands and makes its South American debut in 2023 with a tour to Bogota, Colombia. SCDT is a Resident Company of the Harris Theater For Music and Dance and performances throughout its sixth season have included collaborations with Music of the Baroque and Giordano Dance Chicago, Harvest Chicago Contemporary Dance Festival, Navy Pier Chicago LIVE, the City of Chicago’s Night Out in the Parks concert series, ELEVATE Chicago Dance Festival, Unity Temple, and residencies at Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University. In 2022, the Chicago Tribune lauded SCDT “the next big thing to hit Chicago’s dance scene”!

Recent recognition includes a three-year award from the International Association of Blacks in Dance and the Mellon Foundation, participation in the Allies For Community Business Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Lab, the African American Arts Alliance Black Excellence award for “Dance Company,” support from the Princess Grace USA foundation and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events Foster Innovation Award.



Elijah Richardson, photo by MReid Photography.



KIA S. SMITH | Director + Choreographer

A Chicago native, Kia trained intensely on scholarship at The Hyde Park School of Dance, The Joel Hall Dance Center, ETA Creative Arts Foundation, StoryCatchers Theatre, and received scholarships to attend the American Dance Festival in 2008 and 2009. She holds a BFA in Dance from Western Michigan University and an MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she was an Advanced Opportunity Program Fellow. Kia is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of South Chicago Dance Theatre, the company's Resident Choreographer and the founder of its signature core programs. In 2018, she received the inaugural Young and Ambitious Entrepreneurship Award from the Metropolitan Board of the Chicago Urban League and was chosen by the New York City based Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation as a member of the national Observership class. In 2021, Kia received a 3Arts Make A Wave award and was an Ann & Weston Hicks Choreographic Fellow at the renowned Jacobs Pillow. She was a 2022 Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Artist Awardee and a participant in the Artist in Residence "AIR" Program at the Cliff Dwellers Chicago. As a freelance choreographer, Kia's recent and upcoming commissions include Madison Ballet (2021), Chicago Repertory Ballet (2022), Houston Contemporary Dance Company (2023), Chicago Opera Theater (2023), Ruth Page Civic Ballet Training Company (2022), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2023), Giordano Dance Chicago (2023) and Western Michigan University (2023). She was recently included in Chicago Magazine's "Who's Got Next" list and named Player of the Moment in the category of Dance for New City Magazine's annual 50 Players List in 2023. Kia is grateful to God for giving her the energy, grace and the opportunity to be able to build community through the art of dance. She is also thankful to Kate Weare of Kate Weare Company for her time, kindness, mentorship and generosity.



KATHERINE COYL | Intimacy Director

A professional intimacy and fight director out of Chicago, her work includes two world premiere operas. Most recently she did fights and intimacy for the world premiere of *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* with Chicago Opera Theatre and will be serving as Intimacy Director for *Carmen* at Des Moines Metro Opera this coming June. Other recent credits include the world premiere of *Quamino's Map* at Chicago Opera Theatre, *The Bacchae* at University of Iowa, *Athena* at Urbanite Theatre, and *La bohème* at Lyric Opera Chicago. Kat is the current president of the International League of Fight Directors and Choreographers, is a



ISAIAH COLLIER | Band Leader

Isaiah Collier's musical journey began on the South Side of Chicago. Born into a musically inclined family, Isaiah sought to command his own space and develop a deeper connection to the music. He began at piano but soon became a multi-instrumentalist. Collier is most known for his work as a saxophonist, and in addition to him being a drummer as well. Collier has played at venues and festivals such as The Jazz Showcase, Dizzy's Club Coca Cola, Lithuania Jazz Festival, The White House, Chicago Jazz Festival, New York Winter Jazz Festival, Hyde Park Jazz Festival, Sons D'hiver Festival(Paris), The Logan Center, The Harris Theatre For Music and Dance and the U.S Embassy(Paraguay). Collier is also a former fellow of the prestigious Dave Brubeck Institute in Stockton, California and one of the last musician's to work with the late Rudy Van Gelder. His most well known work is with his group *Isaiah Collier & The Chosen Few*. Recent projects include *Return of The Black Emperor* (2017), *The Unapologetic Negro* (2019) and *Cosmic Transitions*, recorded at The Legendary Rudy Van Gelder's Studio (2020).



RASEAN DAVONTÉ JOHNSON | Scenic + Projection Designer

Rasean Davonté Johnson is a video artist and designer of projections, scenery, and sound for theater, film, and installations. Based in Chicago, his practice eightinfinitystudio specializes in video engineering, consultation, design, and content creation for the performing arts. Theater work includes collaborations with numerous institutions including Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Manual Cinema, Chicago Opera Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, ArtsEmerson, the McCarter Theatre Center, Yale Repertory Theatre, The Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Group, Everyman Theatre, The Ningbo Song and Dance Company, Yale Opera, Teatro Vista, Timeline Theatre Company, The Hypocrites, Porchlight Music Theatre, Halcyon Theatre, Redtwist Theatre, and many more. In addition to design for theater he has also worked on several installations including personal works such as *We Are All In This Together: Shutdown, Crisis, Restart* as a part of WonderWall at Bay Street Theatre, *Living Sculpture* as part of LUX: Ideas through Light at the Beinecke Rare Books Library, and *Juniper Ascending* at Yale University, and collaborative works including *The Ballad of Lula Del Ray 2.0* with

Manual Cinema at the Logan Arts Center, Convergence: A mad tea pARTy at the Yale Art Gallery, and Passenger featured at the University of Chicago and the Bridgeport Film Festival. Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, he is a graduate of The Ohio State University where he studied primarily as actor, director, and cinematographer in film. His film The Price of Pride was an Official Selection for the Columbus International Film Festival in 2007. He received his MFA from the Yale School of Drama in Design as a student in the projection program, and has lectured at Yale University, Columbia College Chicago, Syracuse University, Boston University, The Theatre School at Depaul, and the Ohio State University. He is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 and a Lecturer at The David Geffen School of Drama at Yale.



JULIE BALLARD, USA 829 | Production Manager + Lighting Designer

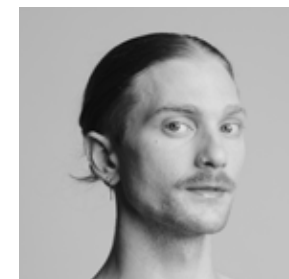
Julie E. Ballard is a professional lighting designer and theatrical technician. Ms. Ballard is an Assistant Professor of Theater Arts, specializing in lighting and sound, at Illinois Wesleyan University. She is affiliated with IATSE Local 2 and the Actors' Equity Association and was previously the Stage Manager and Properties Master for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Additionally, Ms. Ballard is the owner/operator of OverlapLighting, a freelance production company specializing in production/stage management, lighting design and photography, and is the Technical Director, Resident Lighting Designer and Stage Manager for The Seldoms. Ms. Ballard was the Lighting Director at the Dance Center of Columbia College for nearly 8 years. She has freelanced for two decades in and around the Midwest, touring regionally, nationally and internationally with Hubbard Street, Pilobolus, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and David Dorfman Dance, among others. Ms. Ballard holds degrees in Theater (BA, 1999) and Lighting Design (MFA, 2004) from Kent State University and the University of Florida, respectively. Visit her portfolio at overlaplighting.com.



JESSICA MILLER TOMLINSON | Rehearsal Director

Jessica Miller Tomlinson's Award Winning Choreography has been commissioned or produced by the Chautauqua Ballet Company, NC School of the Arts, Aerial Dance Chicago, Take Up Space Dance Fest, Unearth Virtual Arts Festival, Moonwater Dance Project, Alluvion Dance Chicago, Hot Crowd, The Universal Ballet Competition, Dancing To Dream Fundraiser, DanceWorks Chicago, Chicago Repertory Ballet, The Joyce Theater Foundation, The Inconvenience Performance Group, The Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Idaho Dance Theatre, Regional Dance

America, Columbia College of Chicago, Spring To Dance Festival St. Louis, Washington and Lee University, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival , Forum Dance Theatre, Nomi Dance Company, Common Conservatory, Dance in the Parks, The Dance Gallery Festival, Visceral Dance Chicago, Nebraska Contemporary Dance Theatre, Eisenhower Dance Detroit, The Harvest Dance Festival, The HSDC Youth Ensemble, Northern Illinois University, SHIFT DANCE | FESTIVAL Albuquerque, Dance For Life, and Thodos Dance Chicago. She has collaborated with Dance For Life's Our Voices Dance, Jacqueline Stewart/JAXON Movement Arts, Joshua Manculich, local Chicago band District 97, and the Andy Warhol Silver Clouds Exhibit at the MCA. Jessica was most recently a faculty member for the Hubbard Street Youth Dance Program, as well as The Joffrey Academy of Dance, where she taught Contemporary for the Joffrey Studio Company and Trainees. She was Adjunct Faculty at Northern Illinois University for two years. Jessica is currently in her fifth season as the Ballet Mistress for Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre. In addition, Jessica is the Rehearsal Director, Company Liaison and Ballet Instructor for South Chicago Dance Theatre. She is also currently a faculty member for Alma Dance School, Pure Vibe Dance Center, and The Rooted Space.



TREY ALEXANDER | Costume Designer + Soloist

Trey Alexander (they/them), from St. Louis, MO, began their dance training at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) under the direction of Kirven and Antonio Douthit-Boyd. Trey received a BFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from the UMKC Conservatory of Dance in 2019. While studying at the conservatory, they were mentored by Deeanna Hiett, Gary Abbott, and Paula Weber. They have performed works by choreographers George Balanchine, Frank Chavez, Gregory Dawson, Kevin Iega Jeff, Christopher Wheeldon and more. Trey has danced professionally with Wylliams-Henry Contemporary Dance Company, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, and DanceWorks Chicago. Trey has performed works by Chicago-based choreographers Katlin Bourgeois, Shannon Alvis, and Stephanie Martinez. Trey is currently dancing with South Chicago Dance Theatre under the direction of Kia S. Smith.



KIM DAVIS | Soloist

Kim Davis is from Portsmouth, VA, started dancing at the age of 4. Kim is a 2019 graduate of George Mason University where she performed Bhangra Fever by Donald Byrd, Kosmos by Andonis Foniadakis, and understudied Na Floresta by Nacho Duato. Kimberly joined DanceWorks Chicago in August 2019. At DanceWorks she performed pieces by Harrison McEldowney, Joshua Manculich, Greg Blackmon, and more. She's now dancing with South Chicago Dance Theater where she has worked with Crystal Michelle, Ron De Jesus, Monique Haley, August Tye, and Stephanie Martinez. In her dance career she has traveled internationally to Germany and the Netherlands where she has both performed and taught!



KELLY ANDERSON | Soloist

Kelly Anderson, originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is a graduate of Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. She now resides in Chicago, Illinois as a Main Company Member of South Chicago Dance Theatre. This is Kelly's third season with SCDT in which she also serves as Rehearsal Assistant. During her time with SCDT, she has had the privilege of working with choreographers such as Wade Schaaf, Stephanie Martinez, Ron de Jesus, and Kia S. Smith. In addition to her own dancing, Kelly finds joy in teaching and choreographing at local competitive dance studios and is privileged to share her love for dance with her students, company, and community.



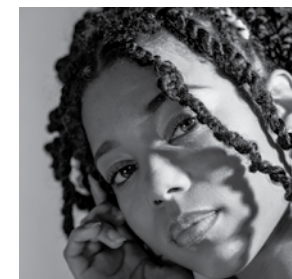
ELIJAH RICHARDSON | Soloist

Elijah Richardson (San Jose, CA) is a Chicago-based dancer, teacher, and creator. He received his BFA in Dance Performance from Chapman University in 2018, and additionally trained at intensives: San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Hubbard Street, BODYTRAFFIC, and Zion Dance Project. Professionally, he has performed with DanceWorks Chicago, Collage Dance Collective, Anaheim Ballet, and The Cambrians. This is Elijah's second season as a guest artist with South Chicago Dance Theatre.



TAYLOR YOCUM | Soloist

Taylor Yocum began her dance career in Spokane, Washington studying ballet at Spokane Ballet Studio under the direction of Sara Donnelly. In December 2021, she received her BFA from SUNY Purchase with additional studies in Beijing, China at Beijing Dance Academy. She has supplemented her training at summer programs with NW Dance Project, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Alonzo King Lines Ballet and Springboard Danse Montreal. Taylor is a supporting ensemble member of PARA.MAR Dance Theatre. She is so excited to be in her second season with South Chicago Dance Theatre!



AMAYA ARROYO

Amaya Arroyo was born in Columbus, Ohio and began her dance training at the age of 13 years old. Arroyo was a founding member of Dance ELITE Performance Academy where she trained under the direction of Samara Tillman, in modern, ballet, contemporary, jazz, and hip-hop techniques. In addition, Arroyo has seven years of competitive dance experience. Recognized for her choreography and technique, Arroyo was the recipient of the 2017 University of Illinois High School Talent Competition scholarship award and the honorary 2019 Vicki Sheer award. Arroyo is currently continuing her training at Columbia College Chicago working towards her BA in Dance. In addition to her studies, this is Arroyo's second season as an Emerging Artist with South Chicago Dance Theatre.



MYA BRYANT

Originally from Fort Worth Texas, Mya Bryant is an artist who values inclusivity and community. Bryant attended Margo Dean School of Ballet led by Margo and Webster Dean where she had the privilege of being a company member in Ballet Concerto, their summer company. In May of 2022, Bryant graduated from Sam Houston State University with her B.F.A in dance and minor in kinesiology. She is honored to be joining South Chicago Dance Theater as an Associate Artist for her first season!



MADDIE COUNSELL

Maddie Counsell (she/her), originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia, is a 2020 graduate of James Madison University (JMU) with a double major in Dance and Media Arts and Design. Her work was featured in three student concerts, selected for a mainstage concert, and presented at the American College Dance Association. In addition, she was a member of the JMU’s pre-professional company. While at school, Maddie had the pleasure of working with Abraham.In.Motion, DanceWorks Chicago, Rubén Graciani, and Matt Pardo. After moving to Chicago, Maddie trained at COMMON Conservatory under the direction of Terence Marling. Most recently, she has presented work at the Going Dutch Festival and Emergence Festival.



J'NAE HOWARD

J’Nae Howard is a Chicago-based dancer originally from Nashville, TN. She graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 2022, where she received her BFA in Dance. During her college career, J’Nae has had the honor of performing and collaborating in works by Autumn Eckman, Kristopher Estes-Brown, Joshua Blake Carter, Jennifer Archibald and many more. Upon beginning her professional career as an Emerging Artist, J’Nae is most excited about the new friendships and experiences she has made during SCDT’s sixth season!



SYDNEY JONES

Sydney Jones is a dancer, choreographer and educator. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from Point Park University. After graduation, she was grateful to join South Chicago Dance Theatre and Inaside Dance Chicago. Sydney is a current company dancer with Cerqua Rivera Dance Theater and continues to work as a guest artist with South Chicago Dance Theatre. As a choreographer she has worked with Momentum Dance Project, Simantikos Dance Chicago, Inaside Chicago Dance, Trifecta Dance Collective, New Dances and more. Additionally, she is the competition choreographer at Dance on Broadway, choreographs musicals for Ghostlight ETC and is on faculty at Artistic Pursuit.



HAYLEY MIDEA

Hayley Midea is a dancer, choreographer, and teacher. In Spring of 2020, Hayley received a BFA in Dance from Western Michigan University. Hayley’s choreography has been awarded the Maggie Allesee Choreography Award by the Michigan Dance Council, “Best Spoken Word Used in a Film” and “2021 Viewer’s Choice Award” at the inaugural Dance Is Activism Film Festival. Among other festivals, Hayley was selected to perform at the ACDA National Conference in Long Beach, California. Along with performing, Hayley teaches dance in the Chicagoland area. Hayley joined SCDT as an Emerging Artist in 2020 and this is her second season as an SCDT company member.



RICKY RUIZ

Ricky Ruiz received his BFA from the University of South Florida in 2007. His resume included River North Dance Chicago, Elements Contemporary Ballet, Level Dance Chicago and Visceral Dance Chicago. Ricky is a passionate teacher/choreographer training students in the Chicago suburbs and nationwide. He’d like to thank Carrie, Alice and Pongo for their love and support. Ricky is thrilled to join South Chicago Dance Theatre for his second season as a guest artist.



LOURDES TAYLOR

Lourdes Taylor primarily trained at Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center under the direction of Homer Hans Bryant. She also studied at Dance Theatre of Harlem and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater in their summer intensive programs. While in college, she danced with the Philadelphia Dance Company (Philadanco!)’s second company, D2. In 2021, Lourdes joined South Chicago Dance Theatre as an Emerging Artist and she was recently promoted to Associate Artist.



MARISSA THOMAS

Marissa Thomas is originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, and is currently in her first season with South Chicago Dance Theatre as an Associate Artist. Marissa received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance at The Ohio State University in 2019 and has previously danced as a Company Dancer with the Dancing Wheels Company, Mojuba! Dance Collective, and Hixon Dance. Marissa is a Teaching Artist for SCDT’s Education Programs and is the Tour Manager for the Dancing Wheels Company & School.



SOPHIA VANGELATOS

Sophia Vangelatos is a Chicago based dance artist originally from Sacramento, California. She graduated from the University of California, Irvine in 2021 with a BFA in Dance Performance, a BFA in Dance Choreography and a BA in Business Economics. During her college and professional career, Sophia has had the privilege of training with artists such as Lar Lubovitch, Kate Skarpetowska, Parsons Dance Company, Loretta Livingston, Tong Wang, Lisa Naugle and Charlotte Griffin. Sophia is so excited to be joining SCDT for their sixth season!



FAITH VON ATZIGEN

Faith von Atzigen is from Riverside, California where she began training at a competitive dance studio at the age of fourteen. While in high school, she had the opportunity to work with multiple commercial choreographers in the L.A. area such as Tina Landon, Michael Peña, and Jason Myhre. She went on to graduate from Oral Roberts University in 2020 with a B.A. in Dance Performance and was named the Outstanding Senior for the Theatre, Dance, and Visual Arts Department. Since graduating she has been working as a freelance dancer and has attended intensives with Doug Varone and Dancers, Parsons Dance, and Ad Deum Dance Company. Faith is overjoyed to work with South Chicago Dance Theatre as an Emerging Artist and enjoys freelancing throughout Chicago.



ZACHARY HELLER

Zachary Heller started his training in ballet and jazz in Alexandria, VA. During his early training he performed with the American Dance Company under the direction of Mark Marino. He accompanied ADC on several tours to Europe and Central America. He attended the University of Arizona and in 2008 graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance; he also fulfilled all the requirements for Pre-Med. Zachary spent thirteen illustrious seasons performing with Giordano Dance Chicago where he toured to Guatemala, Germany, Austria, Italy, The United Kingdom, Turkey, Latvia, and Israel. Throughout his career he has performed works by choreographers such as; Gus Giordano, Mia Michaels, Peter Chu, Frank Chaves, George Balanchine, Brock Clawson, Marinda Davis, Ray Leeper, Sherry Zunker, Douglas Neilsen, Randy Duncan, and many others. He is certified in the Giordano Technique and applies classic Giordano jazz to his musical theater style. Zach's mission is to get young dancers psyched about classical and contemporary jazz and ballet techniques.



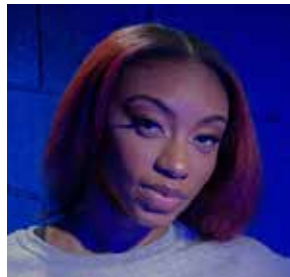
JESSE HOISINGTON

Jesse Hoisington began his training at a young age in Milford, Michigan. He was accepted into Interlochen Arts Academy and studied for two years under the tutelage of Mark Borchelt. Jesse then went on to attend Western Michigan University's Department of Dance B.F.A program, where he had the honor of dancing in many works by esteemed choreographers. Since moving to Chicago, Jesse has had the privilege of performing with Winifred Haun & Dancers, Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre, C5, Dance in the Parks, Hedwig Dances, and AJA Talent-where he currently serves as Rehearsal Assistant. Most recently, Jesse had the opportunity to perform in Dessau, Germany as part of the Centenary Bauhaus Festival Stage TOTAL, an arts festival celebrating 100 years of the Bauhaus art & design movement. Other professional credits include: Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival (Choreographer/Dancer), Links Hall's 40th Anniversary Season where he contributed solo material to Capillaries produced and directed by Mike Steele, and was choreographer for Trap Door Theater's productions of Tango and The Killer- receiving a 2020 Non-Equity Jeff Award nomination for Best Choreography. Jesse is thrilled to be joining SCDT for this amazing production!



KILEY TILLER

Kiley Tiller is a recent graduate from Western Michigan University with her BFA in Dance and a certification in Dance Studio Management. During her time at WMU, she performed in works by Tsai Hsi Hung, Yin Yue, Penny Saunders, Monique Haley, Carolyn Pavlik, and Katy Copeland. She was also a part of Western Dance Project, a touring dance ensemble under the direction of Kelsey Paschich. She has served as Vice President and President of Orchesis Dance Society where she leads her fellow student body in dance leadership, collaboration, and production. Additionally, Kiley has spent the past two summers training with Entity Contemporary Dance Company in Los Angeles, CA. Kiley is also passionate about teaching dance to the next generation of young artists and has taught at studios in Grand Rapids, Traverse City, and Kalamazoo, Michigan.



LANEÉ DICKENS

Laneé Dickens, is a junior at Western Michigan University where she double majors in dance and exercise science. She has studied at Dance Theater of Harlem, Complexions Ballet and Deeply Rooted Dance Theater. She has also had the privilege of performing with Kierra Clark-Sheard, interning for Anthony Burrell’s Breaking Barriers, performing in Ballet Met’s Nutcracker at the Detroit Opera House, working with George Faison, and performing a student choreographed solo at the American College Dance Association as well as at Western Michigan University’s School of Fine Arts’ 50th celebration.



ASHLIE ROTH

Originally from Portland Oregon, Ashlie Roth is currently pursuing her Bachelor in Fine Arts Degree in Dance with a minor in Leadership and Business Strategy at Western Michigan University. She was a member of WMU’s touring ensemble, Western Dance Project, under the direction of Kelsey Paschich and is the current Artistic Director of the hip hop student organization, 269 Crew. Ashlie has had the privilege to dance in the works of choreographers such as Chelsea Thedinga, Dee Caspary, Sarah Brinson, Tony Elliot, Taylor Tsvytkov, Jennifer Archibald, Penny Saunders, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks, and Tsai Hsi Hung.



CAITLIN M CLARK

Caitlin Clark originally from White Lake, Michigan, is a dancer, choreographer, and dance educator currently based in South-West Michigan. Caitlin graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Western Michigan University in April 2023. She has had the pleasure of working with Kiki Lucas, Tsai Hsi Hung, Carolyn Pavlik, Monique Haley, Jeremy Blair, Kaitlyn Pollock, Katy Copland, and now Kia Smith. Outside of her college career, she has attended DanceWorks Chicago’s ChoreoLab intensive where she worked with Katlin Bourgeois.

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Trevell Miller, In memory of
Marcus Miller
Given by Pamela Morong,
In memory of Anna Morong
Given by Maria Pasquinelli,
In memory of Tony and
Mary Ann Pasquinelli
Given by Sandra Popik,
In memory of John and
Adeline Popik
Given by the Pretkelis Family,
In memory of Josphe Frantik
Given by Larry G. Simpson,
In memory of Edward T. Zasadil
Given by Sepideh Smith,
In memory of Ahmad Esmaili
Given by Rachel Stiles,
In memory of Elizabeth Stiles
Given by Mara Tapp,
In memory of Michael Silverstein
Given by Wendy Tinnon,
In memory of John R. Tinnon
Given by Ada Washington,
In memory of Edmond Washington

Dance Partners

Michael Aden and Dr. James D. Miller
Michael J. Anderson and
J. Andrew Caruso
Lauren Brown
Caryn and Craig Caffarelli
Vilma Y. Chan
Joyce Chelberg
Joan Colmar and Mitchell Sabshon
Pamela Crutchfield
Jennifer Edgcomb, Co-Chair
Patti Eylar and Charlie Gardner
Sonia Florian
Rachel and James Freund
Ted A. Grady and Dr. Ross Slotten
Roderick K. Hawkins
Louise Lane
Deanne Rotfeld Levy and Mark Levy
Phil Lumpkin
Laura Lundin
Kevin McGirr, Co-Chair
Helen Hall Melchior

Anne and Keith Moffat
Ann and Tom Nash
Ken Norgan
Tom O'Keefe
Dana Shepard Treister and
Dr. Michael Roy Treister
Thomas G. Sinkovic
Denise Littlefield Sobel
Sofia Solomon
Diane and Richard Weinberg
William Ziemann

Echo Society

Evy J. and Robert A. Alsaker
Veronica and Brett Batterson
Gail Beedie
Gerry Berstell
Patricia and Laurence Booth
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John T. Geary*
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Dar Johnson
Renee and Mel Katten
Dr. Paul M. Lisnek
Kevin McGirr
Helen Hall Melchior
D. Elizabeth Price
Walter Renfftlen
Philip Slesur*
Brenda K. Sollitt*
Marsha and Ken* Tucker
Dia S. Weil and
Edward S. Weil Jr.*
Nike B. Whitcomb and
Jim McKechnie*
Darrell R. Windle

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