

deeply rooted

DANCE THEATER

NOVEMBER 3 | 7:30



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AuditoriumTheatre.org
312.341.2300
@auditoriumtheatre



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2023-24 season at the Auditorium Theatre!

We are overjoyed for you to join us tonight! Thanks friends like you, the Auditorium Theatre has captured hearts and sparked imaginations for 134 years through the magic and majesty of live performance.

Community helps drive our mission at the Auditorium, and we are excited to celebrate the incredible season ahead, and honored to welcome so many fantastic dance companies that comprise the foundation of our artistic communities.

We are especially grateful to **Deeply Rooted Dance Theater** who continue to reimagine contemporary dance with incredible works. The pieces they create are driven by the spirit of community and imbued with a commitment to harnessing art as a tool for improving the world that we share.

These values are exhibited in all of Deeply Rooted's masterful works, but especially in *Madonna Anno Domini* celebrating its world-premiere on the Auditorium Theatre's stage! The unyielding and evolving Civil Rights Movement, the struggle against discrimination, and the importance of ensuring all voices in our communities are heard are central themes of this powerful piece.

Later this season, we welcome our friends **Trinity Irish Dance Company** and **South Chicago Dance Theatre** back to our stage. Each of these Chicago companies expand and redefine dance through unique styles and innovative and collaborative choreography. We also will have visits from New York's **Complexions Contemporary Ballet** and **MOMIX**, as well as Spain's **Compañía Nacional de Danza** and of course, **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater!**

But community means more to us than what you see on our stage. At the Auditorium Theatre, we have a department devoted to this crucial aspect of our mission. Our Creative Engagement Team works throughout all of Chicago's communities to: implementing programs that teach the arts in our city's schools, using the performing arts to provide healing for children who have experienced tragedy, and creating cultural experiences for groups who lack access to the world of the arts.

The best way to maintain an ongoing presence in our community of arts-lovers and experience all that the Auditorium has to offer 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!

As vital members of our community, the Auditorium Theatre's Board of Directors and staff thank you for your continued support and attendance! **Let's come together—as a community—and enjoy another fantastic season!**

ENJOY THE SHOW!



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Rich Regan
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Thomas R. Baryl
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Our In-Kind Partners

PROGRAM

JUNTOS 1990

Choreographer: Kevin Iga Jeff

Music: Pat Metheny

Performed by:

First Duet: Rebekah Kuczma and Mekeba Malik

Quartet: Emani Drake and Ahmad Hill, Nyemah Stuart and Sam Ogunde

Second Duet: Alyssa MacCullum and Louis Pearson

Costume Design: Victoria Carot

Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner

Brought to life by the joyous rhythms of Pat Metheny's music, *Junto* [translation "Together"] is a jubilant dance of welcome. May our hearts unite as we enjoy this evening of dance together.

53 INHALE 2009

Choreographer: Gary Abbott

Music: Nico Muhly

Performed by: Cherae Grimes, Joshua L. Ishmon, Mekeba Malik,

Sam Ogunde, Taylor Ramos, Nyemah Stuart

Costume Design: Victoria Carot

Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner

"Fifteen years ago, I crafted this piece as a heartfelt tribute to the artists in my life, a touching reminder of the cherished memories with those who collaborated with me and those who have since departed, and its emotional significance has only deepened with the passing years"

—Gary Abbott

VESPERS 1986

Choreographer: Ulysses Dove

Music: Mikel Rouse's "Quorum," the music for Ulysses Dove's *Vespers*, is available on iTunes. Performed by Mikel Rouse. © 1983 Mikel Rouse.

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Performed by (in order of appearance): Emani Drake, Taylor Ramos,

Alyssa MacCullum, Heather Cagle, Rebekha Kuczma, Nyemah Stuart

Costume Design: Ulysses Dove

Redesigned: Lea Umberger

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater Costume Construction: Victoria Carot

Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner

Vespers 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 powerful athleticism and elegance propelled by an electronic score.

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

INTERMISSION

MAMA ROSE Company Premiere

Choreographer: Keith Lee

Music: Archie Shepp/Jasper Van't Hof (Live in Concert)

Performed by: Emani Drake, 2023 Princess Grace Dance Performance

Honoraria Awardee

Costume Design: Victoria Carot

Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner

PAUSE

MADONNA ANNO DOMINI World Premiere

Choreographer: Nicole Clarke-Springer

Music: Aretha Franklin, Culoe de Song, Sinead O'Connor, and Alev Lenz

Performed by: Deeply Rooted Dance Theater

Costume Design: Inspiration provided by Men Ca Acnem

Lighting Design: Sarah Lackner

"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

LEADERSHIP



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.



Makeda Crayton | Executive Director

Makeda Crayton, a Chicago native, began her dance training at Studio One Dance Theatre and refined her technique at Bryant Ballet, The Juilliard School, Interlochen School of the Arts, and I.D.E.A.S.-Germany. Although dance has always been her first love, she chose to nurture her creative and analytical skills and earned a BS in biology from Clark Atlanta University. Functioning in dual capacities in front of and behind the curtain has been a hallmark of Crayton's career. While performing as a guest artist for Cape Dance Company in South Africa, she also served as repetiteur for world-renowned choreographer Christopher Huggins, and she returned to the tour of Disney's *Aida* in Taiwan as a dancer and assistant director. In 2021, she began working as Deeply Rooted's operations director and in 2023, she became executive director and looks forward to fulfilling Deeply Rooted's mission and vision.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Nicole Clarke-Springer
 Artistic Director



Rebekah Kuczma
 Rehearsal Director

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Gary Abbott
 Co-Founder



Kevin Iega Jeff
 Co-Founder/ Executive/
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Joshua L. Ishmon



Scan the QR code for artistic leadership and resident choreographer bios.

DANCERS



Heather Cagle



Emani Drake



Cherae Janelle
 Grimes



Ahmad Hill



Joshua L.
 Ishmon



Rebekah
 Kuczma



Mekeba Malik



Alyssa
 McCallum



Taylor
 McQueen
 Myles



Sam Ogunde



Louis Pearson



Taylor Ramos



Nyemah Stuart



Lori Wiggins

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 dancer biographies.



PROGRAM CHOREOGRAPHERS

Gary Abbott
 53 Inhale

Nicole Clarke-Springer
 Madonna Anno Domini

Kevin Iega Jeff
 Junto

Ulysses Dove | Vespers

Ulysses Dove (1947—1996), born in Columbia, South Carolina, began dance study with Carolyn Tate while a premed student at Howard University. He transferred to the University of Wisconsin and in 1970 he graduated from Bennington College with a degree in dance. Dove joined the Merce Cunningham company and also

performed with Mary Anthony, Pearl Lang, and Anna Sokolow. In 1973 he joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, where he quickly gained key roles and acclaim for his commanding presence, bright clarity of movement, and truthful dramatic intensity. Dove turned to choreography at Ailey's urging, and created the 1980 solo *Inside* for Judith Jamison. He has choreographed for Royal Swedish Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, London Festival Ballet, American Ballet Theater, and New York City Ballet. His choreography was marked by its relentless speed, violent force, and daring eroticism.

Keith Lee | Mama Rose

Keith Lee is a master teacher and choreographer originating from the Bronx, New York where he trained at the High School of Performing Arts in NYC. In 1969 Mr. Lee joined American Ballet Theatre and was promoted to the rank of soloist the following year. He then pursued his career at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre as their ballet master. He has choreographed works for American Ballet Theatre, the Washington Ballet, the Geneva Ballet, the Oakland Ballet, the Garden State Ballet, Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, the Lexington Ballet, and the Charlottesville Ballet. Mr. Lee now calls Central Virginia home, and continues to work as a freelance choreographer, teacher, and performing arts coordinator. Mr. Lee is excited to pioneer his new role of Director of Diversity & Inclusion for the Charlottesville Ballet.

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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Special thanks to Auditorium Theatre, Ballet Chicago, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Chicago Park District, Maywood Fine Arts, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, St. Benedict the African Church, University of Chicago Community Accelerator Program, and Lara Ziemba/Millennium Park for their partnership and support.



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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
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Ted A. Grady and Dr. Ross Slotten
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Phil Lumpkin
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Kevin McGirr, Co-Chair
Helen Hall Melchior
Anne and Keith Moffat
Charmaine Morton
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Ken Norgan
Tom O'Keefe
Dana Shepard Treister and
Dr. Michael Roy Treister
Thomas G. Sinkovic
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Sofia Solomon
Linda C. Suter
Diane and Richard Weinberg
William Ziemann

ECHO SOCIETY

Evvy J. and Robert A. Alsaker
Veronica and Brett Batterson
Gail Beedie
Gerry Berstell
Patricia and Laurence Booth
Patti Eylar and Charlie Gardner
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Michael Goldberger
Dar Johnson
Renee and Mel Katten
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D. Elizabeth Price
Walter Renffltlen
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

**Our friends remembered*



Photo by Julia Nash Photography.



Auditorium Theatre Venue Policies & Amenities

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
CHICAGO'S LANDMARK STAGE EST. 1889

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 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's 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 and Booker T. Washington. During WWII, our theatre was transformed into a Servicemen's Center for recreation with indoor baseball games and even a bowling alley!

Since the renovation in the late 1960s, the Auditorium earned a reputation as Chicago's home for all entertainment. The stage showcased some of the most popular and iconic musical groups and performers in history, like Queen, James Brown, Dolly Parton, and David Bowie, along with world-renowned dance companies like Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Bolshoi Ballet, and The Joffrey Ballet. The Auditorium also became a destination for acclaimed Broadway musicals like *Miss Saigon*, *Show Boat*, *Les Misérables*, and *Phantom of the Opera*.

We are a theatre that exemplifies resilience, versatility, and an ability to adapt to changing times. In recent years, we have expanded our offerings to include the most varied experiences of any venue in Chicago. We held the NFL draft, hosted citizen Naturalization Ceremonies, presented educational lectures, and welcomed former presidents, political dignitaries, and Supreme Court Justices, in addition to continuing to grow our incredible dance community. We have also enjoyed music by Chance the Rapper, Kanye West, Charlie Puth, Wilco, Neil Young, Jason Isbell, Sigur Ros, The National, Eddie Vedder, and many more.

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. As a source of exceptional artistic and cultural experiences poised at the gateway to Grant Park, Lake Michigan, State Street, and Michigan Avenue, the Auditorium Theatre is a cornerstone of the "Cultural Mile" and a vital and enduring presence that helps transform and elevate the surrounding environment.

- 1889
Auditorium Theatre officially opened
- 1945
Post WWII closes Auditorium's 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!
Building your memories with the best in entertainment!**

BUILDING COMMUNITY

- **100K** audience members last year and counting!
- **\$35,000+** raised and donated to Operation White Stork at Kyiv City Ballet's visit
- **439** students participated in ArtsXChange
- **66** participants attend Hearts to Art
- **5** Creative Engagement and Education Programs
- **Supporting** underrepresented communities through dynamic programming
- **60** neighborhoods reached through our outreach programs
- **50** states, plus DC and PR, were represented by our patrons
- **25+** countries represented by our patrons
- **49** schools attended our Student Matinees
- **Fostering** new collaborations and partnerships with local dance companies

BABY CHANGING TABLES are located in both the men's and women's restrooms, located on 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 onsite 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.

STIR YOUR SOUL

**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



2023-24 SEASON

AuditoriumTheatre.org | 312.341.2300

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Made In Chicago Dance

Patti Eylar and
Charlie Gardner