

The Madison Theatre

at MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 2022



**Laura Benanti
and Seth Rudetsky**

Dancing Lotus

Kirk Whalum

The Doo Wop Project



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MADISONTHEATRENY.ORG

ABOUT

TONY AWARD WINNER

LAURA BENANTI AND SETH RUDETSKY

November 5, 2022



Tony® Award-winner and five-time Tony® Award nominee Laura Benanti is a highly celebrated stage and screen actress.

Benanti can currently be seen in HBO Max's much awaited GOSSIP GIRL reboot. Eight years after the original series, the new show addresses just how much social media — and the landscape of New York itself — has changed. Benanti also reprised her role on the final season of the hit TV series YOUNGER, starring opposite Sutton Foster and Hilary Duff. The first season premiered on April 15th, 2021 and was just renewed for a second season.

Most recently, Benanti starred in Sara Colangelo's WORTH opposite Michael Keaton, Stanley Tucci and Amy Ryan. The drama, acquired by Michelle and Barack Obama's production company Higher Ground, premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Set in the aftermath of 9/11, WORTH follows lawyers Kenneth Feinberg and Camille S. Biros facilitating the implementation of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. Benanti stars as a mother figuring out the best way to honor her late firefighting husband. The film is currently streaming on Netflix.

Additionally, Benanti will next be seen in Lin-Manuel Miranda's TICK, TICK... BOOM! for Netflix. The film is an adaption of the autobiographical Off-Broadway show written by Johnathon Larson, who is best known for writing the award-winning musical RENT.

ABOUT

Seth is the afternoon host on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio's ON BROADWAY as well as the host of SETH SPEAKS on Sirius/XM Stars. As a pianist, Seth has played for more than a dozen Broadway shows including RAGTIME, LES MIZ and PHANTOM. He was the Artistic Producer/Music Director for the first five annual Actors Fund Fall Concerts including DREAMGIRLS with Audra MacDonald (recorded on Nonesuch Records) and HAIR with Jennifer Hudson (recorded on Ghostlight Records, Grammy Nomination). In 2007 he made his Broadway acting debut playing Sheldon (singing "Magic to Do" in a devastating unitard) in THE RITZ directed by Joe Mantello for The Roundabout Theater. Off-Broadway he wrote and starred in the critically acclaimed RHAPSODY IN SETH (directed by Peter Flynn) at the Actors Playhouse and has also appeared on TV on LAW AND ORDER C.I. and had a recurring role on ALL MY CHILDREN. As an author, he penned the non-fiction Q GUIDE TO BROADWAY, the novel BROADWAY NIGHTS and the recently published MY AWESOME/AWFUL POPULARITY PLAN (Random House). BROADWAY NIGHTS is available on Audible.com starring Kristin Chenoweth, Andrea Martin and Jonathan Groff and MY AWESOME/AWFUL POPULARITY PLAN stars Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Ana Gasteyer and Megan Hilty.

ENSEMBLE:

Kelly Brosnan, Alex Cannon, Mason Santa Catalina, Grace Estes, Rene Mirai Guyon, Karis Knerim, Jacqueline McKenna, Andrew McNamara, Adelaine Mollo, Kyle Pearson, Zachary Poore, Abigail Redlich, Hanna Scotch, Joshua Tanzer, Timothy Thomas, David VanDyke

WITH ACCOMPANIMENT BY THE SOUTH SHORE SYMPHONY

Violin 1

Catherine Birke
Adam Birke
Greg Krajci
Emily Kenyon
Melanie Kenyon
Lisa Quispe

Violin 2

Eileen Murphy
Kathryn Andersen
Jody Siegel
Cindy Pacini
Carol Yovino

Viola

Sue D'Ver
Kathy Rostholder
Jessica Herman
Marcus Brodsky

Cello

Wayne Lipton
Emmett Collins
Sharon Kahn Bernstein
Elisabeth Smirniotis

Bass

John Cotsonas
Max Naftol

Flute

Kathy Miller
Karen Pace

Oboe/English Horn

Laura Koski

Clarinet

Eric Hanauer
Christina Helbock

Bassoon

Cindy Lauda
French Horn
William Riley
Matthew Garcia
Victoria Kavitt

Trumpet

Walter Fremer
Mark Bennett
Glenn Koski

Trombone

Peter Freeman
Diane Hoffman

Tuba

Charlie Mann

Harp

Susan Mann

Drum Set

Ben Vellella

Percussion

Evan Biegel
Michelle Cozzi



DANCING LOTUS

November 13, 2022

A Note from the Curator

Thank you so much for joining us for the 2022 Dancing Lotus! I am delighted to share this evening of dance works from LayeRhythm, Rovaco Dance Company, and J CHEN PROJECT.

This program celebrates Asian choreographic voices. It elevates the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) experience at a turning point in American history. It aims to deconstruct old forms to reclaim and demarginalize AAPI voices and stories by re-imagining the past, present, and future through an Asian American cultural lens.

I am deeply grateful to Angelo and the Madison Theater team for this incredible opportunity to showcase two artists I admire, Mai Lê and Rohan, alongside works I've created over the past three years.

Creating and sharing art has never felt more urgent. It is a path to receiving a new understanding of oneself and others. And it is a way to transform and process painful experiences into beautiful works.

Thank you for supporting the arts, and enjoy the show!

Jessica Chen
Artistic Director, Choreographer
J CHEN PROJECT

STARRING

Aj Guevara, Jasmine Huang, Maya Lam, Kathy Liu, Tsubasa Nishioka, Fang-Ting Yeh, Nico Gonzales, Anna Pinault, Devika Chandnani, Siddharth Dutta, Karma Chuki, Isabelle Rosso, Saúl Guanipa, Tatiana Desardouin, Keenen Victor Thomas ('Ki-Nen'), Ivan Cofield (Heat Rock), Axel Tosca, Osyris Antham, Alex Mackinnon

ORDER

LayeRhythm

Introductions + Dance Upon A Word

Artistic Direction: Mai Lê Hồ

Improvisation by Tatiana Desardouin, Heat Rock, Ki-Nen, Mai Lê Hồ

Music Improvisation by Alex MacKinnon (drums), Axel Tosca (bass/keys), Osyris Antham (emcee)

LayeRhythm

Rhythm Condukta feat. Kilomet109

Artistic Direction: Mai Lê Hồ

Choreography by Tatiana Desardouin, Heat Rock, Mai Lê Hồ

Improvisation by Tatiana Desardouin, Heat Rock, Ki-Nen, Mai Lê Hồ

Music Improvisation by Alex MacKinnon (drums), Axel Tosca (bass/keys), Osyris Antham (emcee)

Select clothing pieces by Kilomet109

Artisans featured in video: Lo Thi Pom, Vi ThiGiot, Lo ThiXien, Luong Thi Poon, Luong ThiQuy, Phung Thi So

Choreographer's Note: LayeRhythm aims to highlight the brilliance of freestyle dance & music through audience interaction and games. In this edition of the Rhythm Condukta segment, LayeRhythm collaborates with Kilomet109, an eco fashion brand from Hanoi, Vietnam, highlighting centuries-old creative processes through slow fashion made from the ground up with local craft artisans.

Rovaco Dance Company

Waada (Promise)

Choreography: Rohan Bhargava in collaboration with dancers

Performers: Anna Pinault and Devika Chandnani

Music: Namesake Opening Titles by Nitin Sawhney, extended by Saúl Guanipa

Choreographer's Note: Waada (Promise) is a queer love duet that abstracts themes of companionship, trust, support, and commitment.

J CHEN PROJECT

I Can Almost See You

Choreography by Jessica Chen

Sound design by PaprTape

Costume design by Erica Johnston

Danced by FangTing Yeh

Choreographer's Note: A solo piece featuring a bamboo hat from the Chinese ethnic minority Dai Zu. The choreography blends Western movements with traditional Chinese folk dance.

J CHEN PROJECT

NüWa

Choreography by Jessica Chen

Sound design by PaprTape

Costume design by Lui Konno

Danced by Jasmine Huang, Kathy Liu, Chieh Hsiung

Choreographer's Note: NüWa is based on the mother goddess of Chinese mythology who repaired the Pillars of Heaven and upon feeling an indescribable loneliness, created the first human inspired by her own image reflected in the water. *This work is made possible through the Dance/NYC Dance Advancement Fund, Amerivision Inc, and an ongoing residency at the Museum of Chinese in America.

Rovaco Dance Company

The Devil's Advocate

Choreography: Rohan Bhargava in collaboration with Nico Gonzales

Performer: Nico Gonzales

Music: Sinnerman by Nina Simone

Choreographer's Note: Originally commissioned by Mare Nostrum Elements' Emerging

Choreographer Series #3, "The Devil's Advocate" presents a businessman battling his inner demons and addictions. Consumed by society's relentless rat-race, he gradually transforms from man to beast fueled by greed, power, and ambition.

J CHEN PROJECT

Reclaim

Choreography by Jessica Chen

Sound design by PaprTape

Danced by Maya Lam, Tsubasa Nishioka, Fang-Ting Yeh

Choreographer's Note: For three generations, my family sought safety and a place to call home. With this new work, I am exploring what parts of our stories, identities, and culture we lose when moving from land to land to land. I dedicate this work to my maternal grandfather, Po-Ta Chou, whom I called YeYe. He was a warrior, a leader, and an honorable man. * This work was commissioned by the New York Chinese Cultural Center, and created in residence at the Museum of Chinese in America.

Rovaco Dance Company

Madaari (The Monkey Master)

Choreography: Rohan Bhargava in collaboration with dancers

Performers: Devika Chandnani, Siddharth Dutta, Karma Chuki, Isabele Rosso

Music: Original composition by Saúl Guanipa, based on "Roz" by Ritviz&Nucleya

Choreographer's Note: Madaari (The Monkey Master) depicts toxic feelings of possessiveness and obsession. Inspired by the imagery of Indian street performers who direct and control monkeys for monetary gain, this work highlights the pervasive nature of capitalistic ownership. It brings forth our human tendency to consume and commodify others in interpersonal relationships.

J CHEN PROJECT

You Are Safe

Choreography by Jessica Chen

Sound design by PaprTape

Costume design by Lui Konno

Danced by AJ Guervara, Jasmine Huang, Maya Lam, Kathy Liu, Tsubasa Nishioka, FangTing Yeh, Chieh Hsiung

Choreographer's Note: You Are Safe is a response to the 2020-2021 escalation in xenophobia and bigotry targeting Asian Americans. *This work was commissioned by the Museum of Chinese in America to shed light on Anti-Asian Racism in America.

ARTISTS' BIOS

Jessica Chen, Artistic Director and Choreographer of J CHEN PROJECT

Jessica is an emerging American dancer and choreographer. Through history, myth, and her own Asian American experience, Chen's work interprets the contemporary moment and imagines a brighter future.

Chen is the first person in her family to be born in the United States. In 2013, she made a miraculous journey back to the stage after suffering a horrific car accident that left her in a coma for 13 days. Movement is her vehicle to tell stories, better understand our human existence, and, quite literally, heal wounds.

Her work has been presented at the MoMA Museum of Modern Art for New York Fashion Week, Lincoln Center's Restart Stages, Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, MACY's Thanksgiving Day Parade, TEDx Semester at Sea, World Expo-USA Pavilion in Shanghai, and featured in Google Arts & Culture by the Asian American Arts Alliance.

Chen is a 2021 GALLIM Moving Women Artist-in-Residence, 2021 Dance Lab New York Choreographer, and 2022 Silver Lining Impact5X Commissioned Artist. She is currently the Choreographer of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella at Geva Theater.

J CHEN PROJECT (JCP) is a 501c3 contemporary dance company based in New York City with the mission to create dance works that deconstruct identity, cultural diversity, and belonging. As a female POC-led organization, JCP promotes radical, equitable access to the arts by creating more opportunities for marginalized communities to participate in the arts and expand their capacity for imagination through artistic expression.

JCP's core education program is the J CHEN PROJECT Mentorship Program, which invests in the next generation of dance artists and leaders, providing a roadmap to a sustainable dance career for underrepresented artists. JCP programs and events are open to the public and accessible to all. Through our dance works, community-centered projects, and educational outreach, JCP seeks to inspire change, use culture to build connections, and create a lasting impact on our communities.

JCP is a recipient of the 2022-23 Dance/NYC Dance Advancement Fund, 2021-22 Amerivision artist grant, 2022-23 NYS AAPI Community Fund awarded by the Coalition of Asian American Children and Families, and the 2021-2022 Company-in-Residence at the Museum of Chinese in America

Rohan Bhargava, Artistic Director of Rovaco Dance Company

Born and raised in New Delhi, India, Rohan Bhargava began dancing at The Danceworx Academy for the Performing Arts, where he went on to serve as a performer, choreographer, and educator. In 2012 he relocated to New York to study dance at the Tisch School of the Arts, NYU.

Bhargava founded Rovaco Dance Company in 2015 and has received commissions from The Dance Gallery Festival, Sam Houston State University, Mare Nostrum Elements, Dancewave, Making Moves Dance Festival, and Rhythmically Speaking. In 2019, he completed a two-year residency through the CUNY Dance Initiative at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center. He was awarded the 2020 Jadin Wong Fellowship in Dance through the Asian American Arts Alliance. In 2021, Rovaco Dance Company received city funding from Brooklyn Arts Council, was presented by Little Island and Battery Dance Festival, and was named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch."

Rovaco is a recipient of the Dance Advancement Fund 2022-23, awarded by Dance/NYC. Bhargava works for Kizuna Dance, Periapsis Music and Dance, Notes in Motion Outreach Dance Theater, and Mare Nostrum Elements.

Rovaco Dance Company

Rovaco Dance was founded in New York City in 2015 by Artistic Director Rohan Bhargava. Over the years, the company has produced a unique form of narrative dance-theater, which blends floorwork, release, ballet, Bollywood, street jazz, and contemporary partnering into one fluid whole, in multimedia collaboration with designers and composers.

In the past, our work has found thematic context in the power dynamics of relationships, sex and addiction under capitalism, as well as the queer experiences of each. More recently, the company has dived into narratives of cultural representation and exchange with a focus on the Indian sub-continent. Our dissecting and celebrating of Indian culture intends to create a safe space for contemporary Indian artists to explore their identities and artistic voices.

Our annual Rovaco Dance Party breaks the wall between audiences and performers through an intimate social gathering inspired by Indian hospitality culture. At the event, we serve Indian snacks and drinks and present live music and dance performances in-the-round. The night ends with a DJ dance party for all. Rovaco believes that culture is best understood when it is intimately experienced. We provide authentic cultural experiences to audiences, allowing them to examine their own embodiments of culture, and how they interact with those of others.

In cultivating this relationship with audiences, Rocavo seeks most broadly to increase viewership and appreciation for the performing arts. By striking a balance of rigor and accessibility, we hope to bring disparate communities together to ignite conversations that might not otherwise take place.

Mai Lê Hô, Artistic Director and Dancers of LayeRhythm

Mai Lê is a French-Vietnamese street/club dance artist & educator and the founder of LayeRhythm Productions INC, an NYC-based nonprofit organization dedicated to highlighting freestyle voices in the performing arts landscape.

A core member of Passion Fruit Dance Company since 2016, and a member of Sour Patch Crew since 2012, Mai Lê has performed at the Apollo Theater, Dance Place DC, Harlem Stage, SummerStage, and across the USA. She toured Europe with seminal Detroit music producer Theo Parrish and his live band.

In 2015, Mai Lê created Layerhythm, a cutting edge monthly jam session that layers live musicians & vocalists with freestyle dancers, acclaimed by the New York Times (2018).

In 2021, she was selected as a virtual artist-in-residence with Asian American Arts Alliance and movement curator for Asian Cultural Council's East West Fest.

Mai Lê has won 1st place in various international house dance competitions such as We Love Dance (NJ, 2022), Ladies of Hip-Hop (NYC, 2015), Universole (Detroit, 2015), Step Ya Game Up (NYC, 2013) and has served a judge for House Dance UK (London, 2015), Slick City (Chicago, 2015), The Blueprint (Houston, 2013).

Layerhythm

Layerhythm Productions, Inc. (LPI) aims to highlight freestyle dance and music voices under-recognized in the traditional performing arts landscape and transform individuals' relationship to music and dance while providing entertainment, building community, educating audiences in cultural history, and supporting emotional and social well-being. Layerhythm is dedicated to risk-taking improvisation and interactive audience engagement through performances and events.

Since 2015, Layerhythm (LR), led by Founder/Artistic Director Mai Lê Hô, has offered NYC monthly interactive, improvisational street/club music and dance jam sessions at Meridian 23 and Nublu, as well as performances at venues/festivals such as Jacob's Pillow, the Guggenheim Museum, NY Public Library, Bridge Street Theater, 92NY. Layerhythm was selected by CUNY Dance Initiative for residencies at Brooklyn College for the Performing Arts (2021-2022) and Baruch College (2022-2023) and has partnered w/ Works & Process at the Guggenheim, 92NY, Hi-Arts, Rolling Stone, Queens County Farm Museum, Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, PotaY. LPI was incorporated as a

nonprofit in 2020 and has since received the support of the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, New Music USA, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and Dance/NYC.

The LR experimental platform layers extemporaneous collaborations of live musicians and freestyle dancers, working from a diverse cultural palette: hip hop, funk, soul, house music, and popping, locking, flexN, breaking, voguing, house, litefeet, and other music/dance forms born in African-American & LatinX communities and passed down from generation to generation in social contexts.

Kilomet109

Kilomet109 is the vision of Thao Vu, a designer, artist, eco-entrepreneur, and leader among the pioneering group of young designers who have made Hanoi an emerging creative hub of the fashion world. But what makes Kilomet109 unique in today's fashion world is the story behind the garments.

Thao collaborates with several teams of local craft artisans around Vietnam to grow, spin, weave, print, and naturally dye Kilomet109 fabrics. After that, the garments are hand-stitched in her Hanoi design studio. Thao's vision encompasses every detail of Kilomet109's production process, starting from the natural materials that go into the garments she designs. The entire production chain is self-contained within the craft communities themselves — using only locally sourced materials and home-grown eco-friendly dyes. This hyper-localized approach prioritizes ecological sustainability and provides material support to the artisans.

This is fashion from the ground up, and it defines a new type of ready-to-wear couture: hand-made, hand-stitched garments from a designer who works directly with local artisans on every element that goes into them. And since these practical, affordable garments are made by human artisans rather than mass-produced by machines, each is like a work of art — hand-crafted, visionary, unique.

"The value of our pieces is about more than their design," Thao says, "it's about the culture of the people who make them and the environmental issues that are so vital to our future."

J CHEN PROJECT PERFORMERS' BIOS

AJ GUEVARA (JCP dancer) is a performer, teaching artist, and choreographer from California's Central Coast. He earned his BFA in Dance & Choreography from Virginia Commonwealth University, with additional training from the Accademia dell' Arte (Italy) and the American Dance Festival as a scholarship recipient. He has had the privilege of performing the works of Jennifer Archibald, Marc Brew, Bill T. Jones, Jodi Melnick, Rachel Erdos, Walter Matteini, Joshua L. Peugh, Arthur Pita, Thomas Noone, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, among others. Company Credits include AXIS Dance Company, chrisbelldances, Heidi Latsky Dance, Tiffany Mills Dance, Susie McHugh & Dancers, Abarukas, The Nash Conspiracy, VON HOWARD PROJECT, and Company|E.

CHIEH HSIUNG (JCP dancer) is a Graduate of the National Taiwan University Of Physical Education and Sport with a major in Dance and Choreography. Originally from Taiwan, Chieh moved to NYC 5 years ago. In 2015, she won the audience favorite award at the Breaking Glass: The Emerging Female Choreographers Project. In 2016, she choreographed part of the Fish Lens 2016 World Tour at Lincoln Center. In 2017, Chieh was invited to perform in the 92Y Harkness Dance Center Big Mouth Asian Choreographer Festival. She performed at off Broadway-Women on Fire in 2018. In 2019-2020, she was the movement instructor for TV series and Concert in Taiwan.

JASMINE HUANG (JCP dancer) is a Toronto-born dancer, choreographer, and instructor. Some of her credits include Kendrick Lamar, Disney+, Gotham Dance Theater, Royal Thieves, and The Music Man at Thousand Islands Playhouse. Jasmine debuted with J CHEN Project in December 2021, performing "I Can Almost See You" at Super Secret Arts. Jasmine is a Spring 2022 Broadway Dance Center's Professional Semester Program graduate. In 2008 and 2009, she received the highest score in Canada for the Beijing Dance Academy of Dance Examinations. Jasmine's creative mission is to tell

untold AAPI stories and amplify the voices of artists within this community.

MAYA LAM (JCP dancer) (she/they) is a Manhattan-based Asian-American dancer, choreographer, and interdisciplinary artist. Maya has performed works by Sidra Bell, Jessica Lang, Jenn Freeman, Michael Waldrop, Yin Yue, Nancy Lushington, and Samuel Pott. As a recipient of a City Artist Corps Grant, Maya has curated an interdisciplinary performance installation. The Kennedy Center also commissioned her to create a short film for their Art-Under-A-Minute Series. Maya is interested in the investigative processes that challenge societal ideals and power structures and strives to comment on these concepts with a multifaceted approach.

KATHY LIU (JCP dancer), originally from Fremont, California, is a dancer and model based in New York City. Her ballet-focused training facilitated her move to New York, where she received her BFA in Dance from The Ailey School and Fordham University. She has since had the privilege to perform with Iggy Azalea in Berlin, in Cabaret at Goodspeed Musicals. She has danced with several contemporary projects in NYC, including Tracie Stanfield's Synthesis-Dance, Vertical Shadows Dance Company, and MHR Dance Collective. As a model, she utilizes her movement background and has worked with brands like FILA, Make Up For Ever, REDKEN, and more.

TSUBASA NISHIOKA (JCP dancer) was born in Japan, training in ballet, modern, and contemporary. In 2017 he was accepted to The Ailey School and got a scholarship in 2018. He had also performed at the "Ailey Spirit Gala" with Alvin Ailey's "Battlefield" at Lincoln Center. He had also worked with Fumihito Shimizu, NBA Dance Company, Omar Roman de Jesus, Darshan Bhuller, and Marcus Jarrell Wills. Now he is a member of iKADA Contemporary Dance Company, Vashti Dance Theater, and Yu.S.Art-istry. He was also awarded 1st place in the Chiba Select Young Dancer's Performance, 3rd place in the Saitama Dance Competition, 3rd place in the Dance Competition in Sendai, and 2nd place in the NBA National Ballet Competition.

FANG-TING YEH (JCP dancer) is a choreographer and freelance dancer based in New Jersey. She had performed one of Martha Graham's works – Heretic with Graham 2, at the Joyce Theater. In 2021, Fang-Ting created her soloist dance film - MURMUR_S, which was the winner of the Open Vision Film Fest, and Silent But Not Silenced won the Best Direction of Black & White Film Festival. This year Fang-Ting's choreography Chaos and Yuan has been presented at Dixon Place's "8 In Show" series and We Belong Here: AAPI festival at Arts On Site.

ROVACO DANCE COMPANY PERFORMERS' BIOS

NICO GONZALES(Rovaco Dance Company Dancer), a Colorado native, holds his BFA in Dance from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He has performed with Rovaco Dance, Studio Susan Marshall, Bryn Cohn + Artists, Christina Noel and the Creature, Heidi Latsky, and Gwendolyn & Guests. Nico completed his Comprehensive Pilates Training from The Kane School in NYC and teaches at April Nicole Studios.

ANNA PINAULT(Rovaco Dance Company Dancer), grew up in Minnesota and currently works as a freelance artist and educator between Minneapolis and New York. Her work is heavily influenced by dance theatre, improvisation, and her background as a hip hop dancer. She also practices Thai bodywork and is studying for her MS in Human Movement Science.

DEVIKA CHANDNANI (Rovaco Dance Company Dancer), is a performing artist from Mumbai, India. She graduated from Ailey/Fordham's BFA in Dance program in 2019. Devika is a company member with Third Rail Projects, creators of site-specific, immersive, and experiential performances and is currently pursuing her MS in Data Science from Fordham University.

SIDDHARTH DUTTA (Rovaco Dance Company Dancer), born in New Delhi, India, is an

architect turned dancer. He graduated in contemporary dance from Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts (Bangalore) and completed a one-year International Study Program at PeridanceCapezio Center. Siddharth is currently pursuing his MFA in Scenic Design at NYU's Tisch School of the arts.

KARMA CHUKI (Rovaco Dance Company Dancer), born and brought up in Thimphu, Bhutan, is a versatile dancer currently pursuing dance at Peridance Center in NYC. She dances with Rovaco, Valerie Green/Dance Entropy, Elisabetta Minutoli/Sandsilk Dance, and as an apprentice with Brice Mousset/Oui Danse. Karma has trained at The Danceworx Academy and toured nationally and internationally with Navdhara India Dance Theatre Since 2013.

ISABELE ROSSO (Rovaco Dance Company Dancer), born and raised in Brazil, graduated from the Independent Study Program at The Ailey School in 2018. She has worked as a professional dancer and choreographer with Nimbus Dance Company and is currently a dance artist with Kizuna Dance & Rovaco Dance. Isabele is also a Yoga Teacher and enjoys Heels Dance.

SAÚL GUANIPA (Rovaco Dance Company Composer), Rovaco's in-house composer, is a Venezuelan, Austin-based producer and composer and a Berklee College of Music graduate. His music has been used in film trailers, commercial advertising, and TV promos for HBO, Showtime, Netflix, ABC, and CNN. Saúl is a staff composer at VideoHelper Music and Sound Design Library.

LAYERHYTHM PERFORMERS' BIOS

TATIANA DESARDOUIN (LayeRhythm Dancer), of Haitian origin, born and raised in Switzerland, Tatiana is the director and choreographer of Passion Fruit Dance Company, a street dance theater and educational company (est. 2016) (Guggenheim, MASS MoCA, Jacob's Pillow etc.). Teaching and mentoring since 2005,

she developed her teaching method, Technique Within Your Groove. She taught in several universities (Harvard, Mount Holyoke etc.). She is an adjunct professor at Hunter College. She is also a faculty member of 92NY.

Features & awards:

Dance Magazine's 2020 "25 to Watch",
The New Yorker magazine (2021),
Harper's Bazaar (2021),
The Vilcek Foundation Prizes for Creative Promise in Dance (2022).

KEENEN VICTOR THOMAS aka 'KI-NEN' (LayerRhythm Dancer) is an artist from Brooklyn, New York who specializes in freestyle dance movement. His foundations started in the Lite Feet dance culture and community. Later he progressed into the art of Robotics and Animation movement adding it to his style. He also has a hand in graphic design through his personal approach to digital art inspired by shapes. His aim with his movement and his art is to display the mechanical, technical, geometric, and illusionary possibilities of the body through rhythms and imagination. Ki-Nen has participated in a number of dance events around the world mainly as a guest battler and judge.

IVAN COFIELD aka HEAT ROCK (LayerRhythm Dancer) is an African American visual and dance artist born and raised in Georgia, where he began popping at 12 and b-boying at 16. In 2011 Heat Rock co-founded the dance crew Del Fuego Wolfpack while living in Boston. In 2012 he moved to NYC to further his visual art and dance career. Heat Rock was featured as a dancer and actor in the Netflix series *The Get Down*, is the winner of IBE Top Rock World Championship (2020), Octagon Breaking World finals (NYC, 2016), JusteDebout USA (NYC, 2013), King Dance (Japan, 2016) and was judge for Destructive Steps (Australia, 2019), Au Delà des Préjugés (Switzerland, 2017).

AXEL TOSCA (LayerRhythm Keys/Bass) is a Cuban-born pianist Axel Tosca is a dynamic performer known for his genre-bending mix of Jazz, Latin, and Timba music. Born in Cuba in 1983, Tosca grew up in a prestigious musical family. His mother is renowned Trova singer Xiomara Laugart and his father, folk singer-gui-

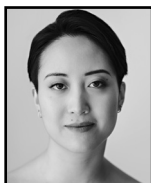
tarist Alberto Tosca. Tosca has worked with George Clinton, BeBeWinans, The Clark Sisters, DJ / Producer / Remixer's Louie Vega and David Morales, Stretch & Bobbito, Mae-Sun, Steve Gadd, Ray Chew, Lenny White, Pino Palladino, Giovanni Hidalgo, Jocelyn Brown, Karren Wheeler, Monique Bingham, Godwin Lewis and J Balvin and Bad Bunny.

OSYRIS ANTHAM (LayerRhythm Emcee), a Brooklyn-bred rapper from Flatbush, started his artist life as a poet and slowly grew into the hip hop world. Since jumping into the NY underground scene at his first official rap contest in August 2013, he has won 40+ competitions. These include Freestyle Mondays (17-time champion) + 3-time US champ (2017-19) and back-to-back End of the Weak World champion (2017-18). Alpha Phi Omega, Nicholas Brooklyn and End of The Weak have been the most important environments to his growth as a rapper.

ALEX MACKINNON (LayerRhythm Drums) grew up in Piermont, NY where he would study piano and later drums. When he was 16 he was badly burned in a campfire and barely escaped with his life. From that point on he was determined to dedicate his life to music no matter what it took, despite being left with thick scars greatly affecting his range of motion. Since moving to New York he has worked steadily as a dance accompanist, freelance musician, and producer, in addition to releasing his own original music under his name and under "The Whistleblowers," a project dedicated to voicing social justice concerns through music. Working as a dance accompanist for the past ten years has given him the opportunity to reflect on the relationship of sound and movement across various styles from ballet to jazz to West African and many more.



Aj Guevara



Jasmine Huang



Maya Lam



Kathy Liu



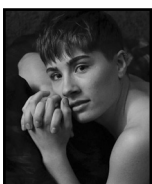
Tsubasa Nishioka



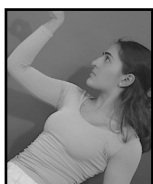
Fang-Ting Yeh



Nico Gonzales



Anna Pinault



**Devika
Chandnani**



Siddharth Dutta



Karma Chuki



Isabele Rosso



Saúl Guanipa



**Tatiana
Desardouin**



**Keenen Victor
Thomas ('Ki-Nen')**



**Ivan Cofield
(Heat Rock)**



Axel Tosca



Osyris Antham



Alex Mackinnon



Chieh Hsiung



KIRK WHALUM

November 19, 2022

Soulful, passionate, stirring...these are the words most often used to describe Kirk Whalum's music. Forged from his Memphis, (TN) gospel roots and his 1980's initiation into the thriving Houston, TX nightclub scene, Kirk's big, rich tenor sound is unmistakably his. The 80's were highlighted by Kirk's stepping out of his blossoming sideman role and forming his own band. It was there that Kirk ultimately developed both his "voice" and songwriting in the crucible of the local club scene—especially at a rooftop club called Cody's. It was also in Houston where jazz pianist Bob James "discovered" him and brought him on tour, which led to five successful albums with Columbia Records, including *Cache*, Kirk's first #1 album. As well, Kirk and Bob received a Grammy nomination for their collaboration album, *Joined at the Hip*. After moving to Los Angeles, Kirk became an in demand session player for top artists like Barbara Streisand, Al Jarreau, Luther Vandross, Larry Carlton, Quincy Jones and most notably, Whitney Houston, amongst many others. It's his sax heard on the mega-hit, "I Will Always Love You." Kirk soon followed that career high point with his phenomenal hit album released on Warner Bros. Records, *For You*, perhaps the most successful of over 25 solo recordings to date; others include his eclectic, and much lauded, *Gospel According to Jazz* series, (Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4). In addition to his many solo projects, Kirk was also a member of the popular soul/jazz group, BWB, which features Kirk as the "W" of the group with Rick Braun (trumpet) and Norman Brown (guitar).

An ordained minister, Kirk has earned a Masters of Art in Religion. It's in this spirit that he serves his community in various ways when his touring schedule allows. There is also his daily fifteen minute podcast, *Bible In Your Ear (BIYE)*, in which he invites you to listen along as he reads through the Bible in a year. In addition to music and ministry, Kirk has a passion to educate young, aspiring musicians and is currently engaged as a music professor at Visible Music College in his hometown of Memphis.

Kirk is the recipient of numerous awards and acknowledgments for his musical excellence including three Dove Award nominations, an NAACP Image Award nomination and has won two Stellar Awards-Gospel music's highest honor. A twelve time Grammy® Award nominee, Kirk won his first Grammy® Award (2011) for Best Gospel Song ("It's What I Do"—featuring Lalah Hathaway) alongside life-long friend and gifted songwriter, Jerry Peters. Kirk has also been honored with a Brass Note on the Memphis Walk of Fame and a Star on the Nashville Walk of Fame.

In a career spanning decades, Kirk has a sound that is uniquely his; it is a sound that leaves an indelible imprint on the listener.

ABOUT



October 9, 2022

Love the classic sounds of Frankie Valli, The Drifters, The Del Vikings? Ever wonder what Maroon 5 would sound like if they had lived in the Doo Wop era?

The Doo Wop Project begins at the beginning, tracing the inception of group singing developed by inner city African Americans performing tight harmonies on a street corner to the biggest hits on the radio today. In their epic shows DWP takes audiences on a journey from foundational tunes of groups like the **Crests**, **Belmonts** and **Flamingos** through their influences on the sounds of **Smokey Robinson**, **The Temptations**, and **The Four Seasons** all the way to DooWopi-fied versions of modern musicians like **Michael Jackson**, **Jason Mraz** and **Maroon 5**. Featuring **stars of Broadway's smash hits Jersey Boys** and **Motown: The Musical**, the Doo Wop Project brings unparalleled authenticity of sound and vocal excellence to recreate—and in some cases entirely reimagine—some of the greatest music in American pop and rock history!

MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Dominic Nolfi was last seen on Broadway in Chazz Palminteri's *A Bronx Tale - The Musical*, directed by Robert DeNiro and Jerry Zaks. As an Original Cast member of *A Bronx Tale - The Musical*, *Motown: The Musical* (Grammy nominated) and *Jersey Boys* (Grammy Award for Best Cast Album, Tony Award for Best Musical), he can be heard on all three soundtracks. Dominic also performed in the World Premiere productions of *A Bronx Tale* and *Jersey Boys* at the Paper Mill Playhouse and the La Jolla Playhouse. Dom was born and raised in San Francisco where he studied youth acting at the acclaimed American Conservatory Theatre. He studied Voice at the San Francisco Conservatory and attended the Boston Conservatory on scholarship where he graduated with a BFA in Theater. Upon graduation Dominic joined the European production of *Grease*. It was there that he met his future wife Sonia Iannetti; they have a daughter Vivienne. Dominic studies Brazilian JiuJitsu at Brooklyn Martial Arts. He's currently a Blue Belt.

Charl Brown was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his role as "Smokey Robinson" in "*Motown The Musical*" on Broadway and he reprised this role opening London's West End production in 2016. He is also featured on the Grammy Nominated Original Broadway Cast recording. Credits include; *Jersey Boys* Broadway & Las Vegas (Hal Miller) *Sister Act* Broadway (Officer Eddie Souther, TJ, Pablo U/S, Ensemble) *Hair* (Hud) European Tour, "*The Who's Tommy*" (Captain Walker) Den-

ver Center, (specialist) Kennedy Center "Ever After" (Captain Laurent) Papermill Playhouse, *Johnny Baseball* (Tim Wyatt) ART, *Dreamgirls* (Curtis Taylor Jr.) SDMT, *Ragtime* (Coalhouse) Performance Riverside, *Six Degrees of Separation* (Paul) Long Beach Playhouse, *JC Superstar* (Judas) Music at Westwood Theater, *A Chorus Line* (Richie) Starlight Theater, *Star Wars Trilogy in 30 Minutes* (Lando Calrissian) Edinburgh Fringe Festival. TV; "Evil," "Madam Secretary," "America's Got Talent" US & UK, Macy's 85th & 87th Thanksgiving Day Parade, The 63rd Annual Tony Awards, A Capitol 4th 2013. Charl is a proud Graduate of the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts where he currently sits on the advisory board for the inaugural BFA in Musical Theater Class.

John Michael Dias recently appeared on Broadway as Neil Sedaka in the Tony and Grammy Award-winning hit *Beautiful: The Carol King Musical*. He originated the same role for the *Beautiful* First National Tour. Originally from Tiverton, RI, Dias earned a BFA in musical theatre from Boston Conservatory. John gained a nationwide following starring as Frankie Valli of the Four Seasons in the smash hit *Jersey Boys*, playing the role on Broadway, as well as in the First National Tour, Vegas, and Chicago companies. Concerts: *Breaking Up Is Hard to Do: Neil Sedaka's Greatest Hits!* And *Get Happy* (a celebration of songs made famous by Judy Garland) With friend/collaborator Jacqueline Carnahan. Johns' solo album, *Write This Way*, which features intimate takes on Broadway and pop favorites like "Can't Take My Eyes off of You" and "New York State of Mind" is available on iTunes.

Russel Fischer was cast in the Broadway company of Jersey Boys on his 22nd birthday, marking his Broadway debut. Fischer starred in the second national tour of Big: The Musical. His latest NYC credit was in Baby Fat, Act 1: A Rock Opera at LaMama Experimental Theater Club. Regional credits include Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Music Man at Chautauqua Opera, the American premiere of Children of Eden at Papermill Playhouse and most recently, the Atlanta Musical Theatre Festival premiere of The Collins Boy. Fischer was a featured vocalist on Last Week Tonight with John Oliver and in the HBO documentary, The Bronx, USA. He has appeared on the live broadcasts of the 2015 Belmont Stakes, the 2009 Tony Awards, and several spots for TV Land's 60 Second Sitcoms.

Dwayne Cooper is from Florence, SC and currently lives in New York City. He first began singing with a Christian A capella group called, "The Cunningham Singers" where he learned how to sing in tight harmonies. Often referred to as a modern day Sammy Davis Jr. meets Barry White, he is what the industry calls a "triple threat" and has performed in the Broadway Casts of MOTOWN: The musical, HAIRSPRAY, the NY Revival/Off- Broadway production of SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE and has done several National tours. As a songwriter, he has charted on Billboard's Top Ten Dance Chart and as a sketch comedy writer, his YouTube videos have been seen by over 1 million people. Dwayne's tv/film credits include Law and Order, Difficult People, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt and RuPaul's Drag Race. You find

him @itsdwaynecooper on all his social media handles.

Santino Paladino currently is the Music Supervisor for the Broadway Musical, Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812, as well as Music Director for the upcoming Broadway revival of Smokey Joe's Café. Sonny's recent credits include: Associate Conductor, The Last Ship (written by 16 time Grammy Award winner, Sting), and the Tony-winning revival of Pippin. Other Broadway credits include, Jesus Christ Superstar, Billy Elliot, Grease, Priscilla - Queen of the Desert, Guys and Dolls, Mama Mia, Promises, Promises, Addams Family, and Women on the Verge. Sonny was the Music Supervisor for Disney's High School Musical Italian tour and his national tour credits include Dirty Rotten Scoundrels and Grease. His arrangements and orchestrations have been performed by the The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and he has worked with the likes of Alicia Keys, Ke\$ha, and Matthew Morrison. Sonny's work for television has been featured on The X-Factor Australia and The Next Big Thing. He earned his B.F.A. in Jazz Piano from CUNY City College, New York.

DECEMBER 17-23, 2022

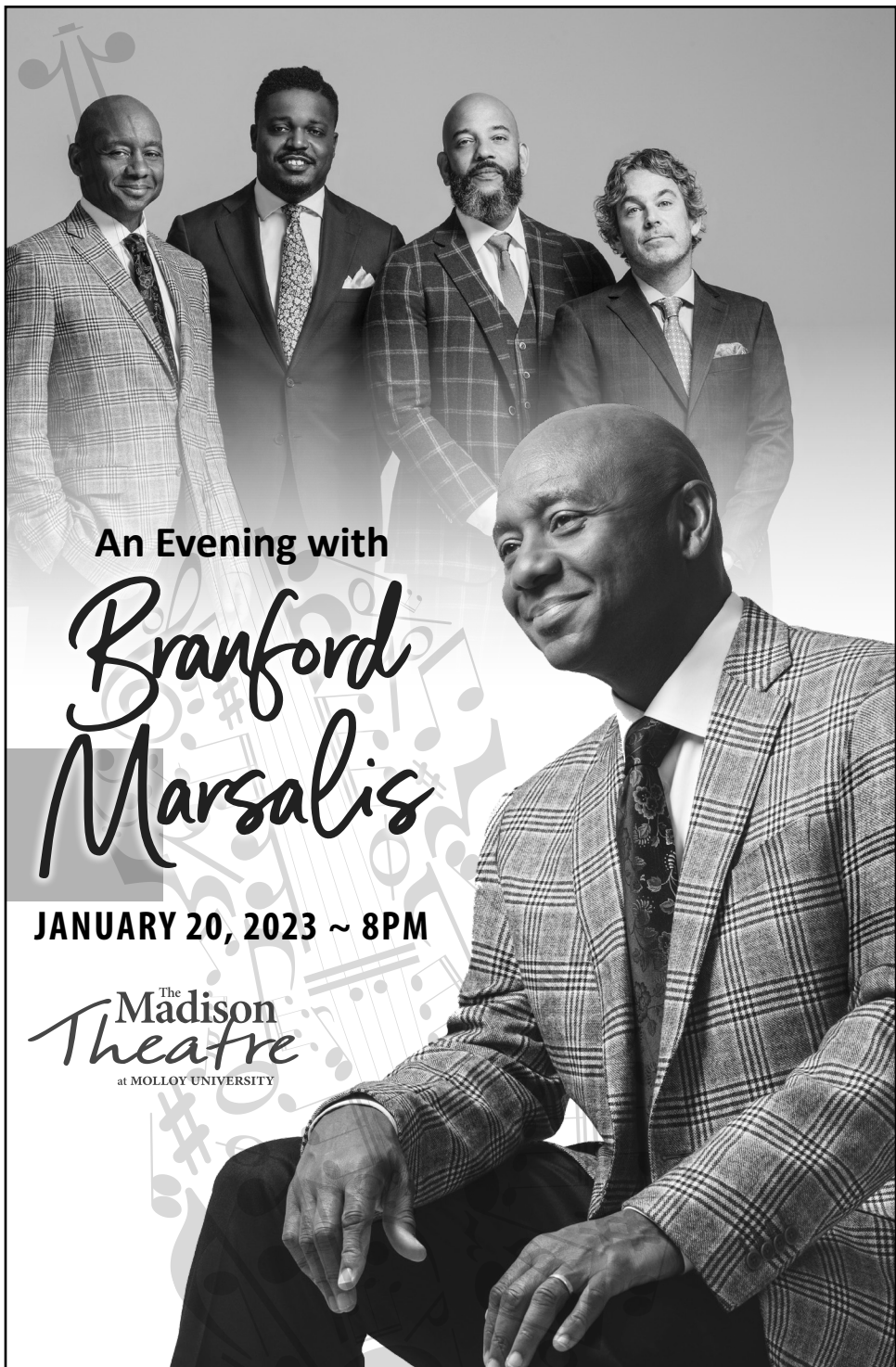
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

THIS SEASON

2022-23 AT THE MADISON THEATRE



DEC 2, 3, 4 ROCKVILLE CENTRE GUILD FOR THE
ARTS PRESENTS: TCHAIKOVSKY'S
NUTCRACKER BALLET

DEC 17-23 ELF THE MUSICAL

JAN 18 DEBORAH ROYCE "REEF ROAD"
LITERARY LUNCH

JAN 20 BRANFORD MARSALIS

FEB 11 SOUTH SHORE SYMPHONY PRESENTS:
40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

FEB 15 MARY CALVI "IF A POEM
COULD LIVE AND BREATHE"
BOOK SIGNING

FEB 18 HELPING THRU HUMOR STARRING
BOBBY COLLINS

MAR 11 & 12 MOLLOY UNIVERSITY CAP21
PRESENTS: HEAD OVER HEELS

MAR 25 SOUTH SHORE SYMPHONY PRESENTS:
ORCHESTRAL GLORY FEATURING OUR
OWN JEFFREY KAUTZ

APR 15 & 16 A DREAM IS A WISH PRINCESS
CONCERT

APR 21 40TH ANNUAL ASBURY SHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 13 & 14 RENT, IN CONCERT

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