



PAM TANOWITZ DANCE

WORLD PREMIERES

CHOREOGRAPHER Pam Tanowitz

PERFORMERS Kara Chan, Christine Flores, Zachary Gonder, Lindsey Jones, Brian Lawson, Maile Okamura, Melissa Toogood

MUSICIANS Lakecia Benjamin & Pursuance

LIGHTING DESIGNER Davison Scandrett

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Melissa Toogood

PRODUCTION & STAGE MANAGER Laura Hirschberg

PRODUCER Jason Collins, Fisher Center at Bard

FRIDAY, **OCTOBER 14** @ 8 PM

SATURDAY, **OCTOBER 15** @ 2 PM

SATURDAY, **OCTOBER 15** @ 8 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be no intermission.

Penn Live Arts is the lead commissioner of *Walk With Me*. | Pam Tanowitz Dance's *Walk With Me* in the 22/23 season is made possible in part with support provided by the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program at the University of Pennsylvania. | Co-commissioning and development support was provided by Fisher Center LAB, which receives funding from the Fisher Center at Bard's Artistic Innovation Fund with lead support from Rebecca Gold and S. Asher Gelman through the March Forth Foundation. The Fisher Center at Bard is Pam Tanowitz's artistic home.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Media support provided by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.



Media support for Alice & John: A Coltrane Festival provided by WRTI.

PROGRAM NOTES

EVERY MOMENT ALTERS (2021)

A FILM BY Liz Sargent and Pam Tanowitz

DIRECTED BY Liz Sargent

STARRING Jason Collins, Brittany Engel-Adams, Christine Flores, Zachary Gonder, Lindsey Jones, Victor Lozano, Maile Okamura, Melissa Toogood

CINEMATOGRAPHY Minos Papas

EDITED BY Liz Sargent and Minos Papas

MUSIC Caroline Shaw

COSTUME DESIGN Reid Bartelme and Harriet Jung

SOUND DESIGN Jim Dawson

COLOR BY Minos Papas

PRODUCED BY Minos Papas

CO-PRODUCER Caleb Hammons

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Gideon Lester

PAUSE

MY FAVORITE THINGS (DUET + GROUP)

CHOREOGRAPHY Pam Tanowitz

MUSIC "My Favorite Things" by Alice Coltrane

DANCERS Zachary Gonder, Lindsey Jones with Kara Chan, Christine Flores, Maile Okamura

COSTUME COORDINATOR Maile Okamura

FOREVER AND EVER AND EVER AND EVER

CHOREOGRAPHY Pam Tanowitz

MUSIC "Once More With Feeling" composed by Caroline Shaw, commissioned by the Vail Dance Festival, Damian Woetzel, Director featuring performances by Johnny Gandelsman and Caroline Shaw

PROJECTED IMAGES Suzanne Bocanegra

DANCERS Kara Chan, Christine Flores, Zachary Gonder, Lindsey Jones, Brian Lawson, Maile Okamura, Melissa Toogood

COSTUME COORDINATOR Maile Okamura

PAUSE

WALK WITH ME

CHOREOGRAPHY Pam Tanowitz

MUSIC "Walk with me" and "Going Home" by Alice Coltrane

MUSICIANS Lakecia Benjamin & Pursuance

DANCERS Kara Chan, Christine Flores, Zachary Gonder, Lindsey Jones, Maile Okamura, Melissa Toogood

COSTUME COORDINATOR Maile Okamura

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Pam Tanowitz Dance (PTD) unites critically acclaimed choreographer Pam Tanowitz with a company of world-class dance artists and renowned collaborators in all disciplines. As a choreographer, Tanowitz is known for her abstract treatment of classical and contemporary movement ideas. The work is deeply rooted in formal structures, manipulated and abstracted by Tanowitz until the viewer sees through to the heart of the dance. The juxtapositions and tensions that Tanowitz creates draw upon the virtuosic skill, musical dexterity and artistic integrity of the PTD dancers. Since its founding in 2000, PTD has received commissions and residencies at Fisher Center at Bard, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Chicago Dancing Festival, Danspace Project, Dance Theater Workshop, Guggenheim Museum's Works & Process, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Joyce Theater, ICA Boston, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, MANCC, New York Live Arts, Penn Live Arts and Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA. Pam Tanowitz Dance was selected by *The New York Times* as Best of Dance 2013–2021. Pamtanowitzdance.org

Pam Tanowitz (Choreographer)

Tanowitz is quick-witted and rigorous. The New York-based choreographer and collaborator has steadily delineated her own dance language through decades of research and creation. The 2020 Doris Duke Artist redefines tradition through careful examination, subtly questioning those who came before her, yet never yielding to perceptions stuck in the past. And now, the world's most respected dance companies—Martha Graham Dance Company, Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, among others—are proudly integrating Tanowitz's poetic universe into their repertoires. Tanowitz's combination of intentional unpredictability, whimsical complexity and natural drama evokes master dance makers from Cunningham to Balanchine through the clever weaving of movement, music and space. Tanowitz holds degrees from Ohio State University and Sarah Lawrence College, where she clarified her creative voice under former Cunningham dancer and choreographer Viola Farber. After attaining her MFA, Tanowitz moved to New York City to begin her professional career. She immersed herself in dance by working in administration at New York City Center, splitting her time off studying the Center's archived dance videos and developing her own work in their studios. In 2000, she founded Pam Tanowitz Dance (PTD) to explore dance-making with a consistent community of dancers. She has since been commissioned by Fisher Center at Bard, the Joyce Theater, the Kennedy Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Vail Dance Festival and many other leading arts institutions. She has received numerous honors and fellowships from organizations ranging from the Bessie Awards, Guggenheim Foundation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Princeton University, Herb Alpert Award and, most recently, LMCC's Liberty Award for Artistic Leadership. When awarding Tanowitz the 2017 BAC Cage Cunningham Fellowship, Mikhail Baryshnikov described her interrogative approach to choreography as "a distinct intellectual journey." Her dances have been called a "rare achievement," (*The New York Times*) and her 2018 work, *Four Quartets*, inspired by T. S. Eliot's literary masterpiece, was called "the greatest creation of dance theater so far this century." (*The New York Times*) Tanowitz is a visiting guest artist at Rutgers University and is the first-ever choreographer in residence at the Fisher Center at Bard.

Harriet Jung and Reid Bartelme (Costume Designers)

Jung and Bartelme met in 2009 while pursuing fashion design degrees at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. They started designing collaboratively in 2011 and have focused their practice primarily on costuming dance. They have frequently designed costumes for works by Kyle Abraham, Jack Ferver, Justin Peck and Pam Tanowitz, with whom they have worked on over 20 dances. In 2015, they were commissioned by the Museum of Art and Design in New York to develop a costume-centric performance work, and have since devised two performances at the Guggenheim Museum to shed light on collaborative practice in design and dance. Reid & Harriet Design has completed research fellowships at the NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. They continue designing costumes and sets for dance productions around the world while expanding the scope of their practice outside the theatre.

Kara Chan (Performer)

Chan is a New York City-based freelance dancer originally from Vancouver, Canada. She has danced lead roles with Twyla Tharp Dance and has assisted Tharp in the staging of *Deuce Coupe* and *Ghostcatcher* on American Ballet Theatre. Other performance credits include Lar Lubovitch Dance Company (*Artemis in Athens*), Mark Morris Dance Group (*The Hard Nut*), Janis Brenner & Dancers, Gleich Dances, Ballet Verité and Barkin/Selissen Project, among many others. A BFA graduate from The Juilliard School, Chan was named one of *Dance Magazine's* "25 to Watch" for 2020. karachandance.com

Christine Flores (Performer)

Flores is originally from Toronto, Ontario and has been working with Pam Tanowitz since 2016. She graduated from New World School of the Arts (Miami) in 2015 with a BFA in dance and received additional training at Springboard Danse Montreal, the Contemporary Program at Jacob's Pillow and Cunningham Fellowship workshops. Named one of *Dance Magazine's* 2021 "25 to Watch," Flores is currently based out of New York City and also performing with Company XIV, Danielle Russo Performance Project, Dance Heginbotham, NVA & Guests and Shinsa Collective.

Zachary Gonder (Performer)

Gonder was born in Grayslake, a small suburb north of Chicago. At the age of five, he started dancing at The Dance Connection, a local studio. He then trained at the Chicago Academy for the Arts High School under the tutelage of renowned choreographer Randy Duncan. He graduated from Juilliard in 2018, where he performed works by Austin McCormick, José Limón, Azure Barton, Pam Tanowitz, Richard Alston, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano and Crystal Pite. Gonder has worked for BODYTRAFFIC in Los Angeles as well as the Barton Sisters' Axis Connect Program. Along with Pam Tanowitz Dance, he also works with Brian Brooks Moving Company and Zvi Dance.

Laura Hirschberg (Production & Stage Manager)

Hirschberg is a New York-based stage manager/playwright/director. Favorite stage management credits include: *The Mountaintop* (Arc Stages), *Gavin Creel: Walk on Through* (Metropolitan Museum of Art), *Babes in Toyland* (Lincoln Center), *Peter and the Wolf* (BAM), *Magic & Mayhem* (Workshop Theater) and several seasons as the resident stage manager of the Spiegeltent, part of Bard Summerscape. Hirschberg has just returned from stage managing Black Grace Dance Company's U.S. and New Zealand tours. Proud member of AEA.

Lindsey Jones (Performer)

Jones is a Brooklyn-based dance artist and educator. She has been a member of Pam Tanowitz Dance since 2013. Since graduating from SUNY Purchase in 2012, she has performed with Dance Heginbotham, Kimberly Bartosik/daela, Caleb Teicher & Company, Sally Silvers, Bill Young and June Finch, among others. She has worked with the Merce Cunningham Trust on numerous projects, including *Night of 100 Solos* at BAM in 2019 and Alla Kovgan's 3D film, *Cunningham*. Jones grew up in St. Louis, MO.

Brian Lawson (Performer)

Lawson is a dance performer and educator who began dancing in Toronto, Canada. He earned his BFA in dance at SUNY Purchase and, while studying, performed with Douglas Dunn and Dancers and the Mark Morris Dance Group (MMDG). He graduated summa cum laude in 2010 and went on to work with Pam Tanowitz Dance and Dance Heginbotham before joining the MMDG from 2011 to 2018. Lawson left MMDG to earn his MFA from the University of Washington, graduating in 2020. He has been on faculty at Cornish College of the Arts and has given masterclasses at Purchase College, NYU Tisch and the American Dance Festival, among others. He continues to perform with MMDG and is very glad to be rejoining Pam Tanowitz Dance.

Maile Okamura (Performer, Costume Coordinator)

Okamura studied with Lynda Yourth in San Diego, California, and at San Francisco Ballet School. She was a member of Boston Ballet II and Ballet Arizona. Since 1998, she has danced with Mark Morris Dance Group. Okamura has been dancing with Pam Tanowitz Dance since 2016.

Davison Scandrett (Lighting Design)

Scandrett is a Bessie award-winning lighting designer and production manager based in Brooklyn, NY. In addition to 10 designs for Pam Tanowitz, he has created lighting for works by Merce Cunningham, Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener, Charles Atlas, Sonya Tayeh, Sarah Michelson, Netta Yerushalmy, Moriah Evans, Mina Nishimura, Dylan Crossman, Andrew Ondrejcek, Rebecca Lazier, Mike Birbiglia and Neal Brennan. Production management credits include projects with Wendy Whelan, Marina Abramovic, Bill T. Jones, Benjamin Millepied, Kyle Abraham, BalletBoyz, Jennifer Monson, Brian Brooks, Silk Road Ensemble, Steve Reich, The Knights, Lincoln Center Festival, Park Avenue Armory, Lyon Opera Ballet and Paris Opera Ballet. He served as Director of Production for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 2008-2012 and is currently the Design & Production Consultant for the Merce Cunningham Trust.

Melissa Toogood (Performer, Rehearsal Director)

Toogood is a Bessie Award-winning performer who began dancing with Tanowitz 16 years ago. She has assisted Tanowitz on numerous creations, including works for the Australian Ballet, Ballet Austin, Martha Graham Dance Company, Juilliard, Paul Taylor Dance Company, Vail Dance Festival and others. Toogood was a member of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and is an official stager for the Merce Cunningham Trust. She has taught Cunningham Technique internationally since 2007 and is a 2013 and 2015 Merce Cunningham Fellow. She has performed with Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, Kimberly Bartosik, Wally Cardona, Rosie Herrera Dance Theater, Rashaun Mitchell + Silas Riener, Miro Dance Theater, Stephen Petronio Company, Sally Silvers, Christopher Williams, Michael Uthoff Dance Theater, The Bang Group: Tap Lab and more. Her own work has been commissioned by the Boston Ballet and New York Theater Ballet and presented by The Space Dance & Arts Center, Melbourne, Australia. She has been in residence at Dance Initiative, Carbondale, CO and on faculty at Bard College, Barnard College and New York Theater Ballet School. She is a frequent artist at the Vail Dance Festival. Toogood is a native of Sydney, Australia and earned a BFA in dance performance from New World School of the Arts, Miami, FL.

Lakecia Benjamin (Saxophone, Band Leader)

Voted Rising Star Alto Saxophonist by 2020 *Downbeat* Critics Poll and Up and Coming Artist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association, charismatic and dynamic saxophonist Lakecia Benjamin fuses traditional conceptions of jazz, hip-hop and soul. Benjamin's electric presence and fiery saxophone work has shared stages with several legendary artists, including Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, The Roots and Macy Gray. As the bandleader of Lakecia Benjamin and Soul Squad, she melds the vintage sounds of James Brown, Maceo Parker, Sly and the Family Stone and the Meters with soaring, dance-floor worthy rhythms. Benjamin's grooves take the classic vibe to a whole new level with sultry alto saxophone creating something special on every cut, be it a smoldering late-night ambiance, a forceful jazz intensity or even the tight funk multi-horn harmony sections.

A streetwise New York City native, born and raised in Washington Heights, Benjamin first picked up the saxophone at Fiorello LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. From there, she joined the renowned jazz program at New York's New School University. However, even at that early stage, Benjamin was already playing with renowned jazz figures like Clark Terry and Reggie Workman, which introduced her to opportunities to play and tour with an array of artists such as Rashied Ali, the David Murray Big Band, Vanessa Rubin and James "Blood" Ulmer. With her deep jazz roots, she was soon in demand as an arranger and horn section leader, landing stints with such acclaimed artists as Anita Baker.

Currently, Benjamin's latest album, *Pursuance*, is an intergenerational masterpiece that takes a journey through the lineage of the music of John and Alice Coltrane. Benjamin pays homage to those who have come before by featuring innovative bandleaders of her generation, such as, Reggie Workman (co-producer and performer), Ron Carter, Gary Bartz, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Meshell Ndegeocello, Regina Carter, Bertha Hope, Last Poets, Greg Osby, Steve Wilson, John Benitez, Marc Cary, Marcus Gilmore, Keyon Harrold, Marcus Strickland, Brandee Younger, Georgia Anne Muldrow and Jazzmeia Horn.

Fisher Center at Bard develops, produces and presents performing arts across disciplines through new productions and context-rich programs that challenge and inspire. The Center's relationship with Tanowitz began with the presentation of three works for Bard SummerScape Festival 2015 and continued with the 2018 commission, premiere and touring of *Four Quartets*, which has been lauded as "the greatest creation of dance theater so far this century." (*The New York Times*) Following the success of *Four Quartets*, Tanowitz became the Center's first choreographer-in-residence. This three-year fellowship, supported by Jay Franke and David Herro, included four film commissions, comprehensive administrative and touring support, creation residencies and rehearsal space, professional development and three large-scale proscenium commissions - the last of which, *Song of Songs*, premiered in the summer 2022.

With the success of Tanowitz's fellowship and connected to a 20-year record of developing ambitious productions, the Fisher Center is making its unique brand of long-term, personalized and holistic support of artists the guiding force of its organizational development into the future. This commitment to American artists like Tanowitz is central to the Center's mission as a premier professional performing arts center and a hub for research and education that develops, produces, and presents productions and context-rich offerings that challenge and inspire. It is a priority to nurture artists at all stages of their careers. As such, the Fisher Center serves as Tanowitz's ongoing artistic home. fishercenter.bard.edu