



SWING OUT

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9 @ 8 PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 10 @ 2 PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 10 @ 8 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be an intermission.



This engagement of *SWING OUT* is made possible in part through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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PROGRAM NOTES

BRAINTRUST (CREATIVE TEAM) Evita Arce, LaTasha Barnes, Nathan Bugh, Caleb Teicher, Eyal Vilner
CHOREOGRAPHY & IMPROVISATION Caleb Teicher and the Braintrust in collaboration with the dancers, except for *Big Apple Contest* - with choreography by Frankie Manning, as first seen in *Keep Punching*
DIRECTOR Caleb Teicher

DANCERS Evita Arce, Brandon Barker, Nathan Bugh, Gaby Cook, Andrea Gordon, AJ Howard, Michael Jagger, Jennifer Nicole Jones, Brian Lawton, Rachel Pitner, Caleb Teicher, Sean Vitale

MUSICIANS

BAND LEADER, ALTO SAXOPHONE, FLUTE, CLARINET Eyal Vilner

TROMBONE Willie Applewhite

TENOR SAXOPHONE Julieta Eugenio

DRUMS Erán Fink

BASS Ian Hutchison

TRUMPETS Anthony Hervey, John Lake

BARITONE Joshua Lee

VOCALS Imani Rousselle

PIANO Martha Kato

MUSIC Arrangements and orchestrations by Eyal Vilner, performed by the Eyal Vilner Big Band; "Downhill", "The Rabbit", "Ain't Got Nobody", "Chabichou", "The Jam", "Tap Tap Tap" and "Belleville" composed by Eyal Vilner. "My Baby Just Cares for Me" by Donaldson & Kahn, "Saint Louis Blues" by W.C. Handy, "The Big Apple Contest" by L. Norman, "Shiny Stockings" by F. Foster and "Jumpin' at The Woodside" by C. Basie

ORIGINAL LIGHTING DESIGN Serena Wong

ORIGINAL SOUND DESIGN Joseph Wolfslau

COSTUME DESIGN Márion Talán de la Rosa

BANDSTAND & LOGO DESIGN Michelle Stokes

CHOREOGRAPHIC ADVISOR Melanie George

PRODUCER Ross LeClair, Joyce Theater Productions

PRODUCTION MANAGER Jacob Wexler

COMPANY MANAGER Bridget Caston

About Lindy Hop

Lindy Hop is the preeminent swing-jazz, partnered dance. In the late 1920s, movement elements, including those of the Charleston, the Collegiate and the Texas Tommy, were swirling together in African American communities to form a new style, and they coalesced around a musical groove called "swing." Dance champion George Snowden supplied the name "Lindy Hop" in reference to Charles Lindberg, whose transatlantic flight was the phenomenon of the moment. The name stuck, and the dance was popularized by early masters at the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem.

Frankie Manning and other exponents of the 1930s and 1940s incorporated choreography and high-flying "air steps." Frequently presented by Savoy bouncer Herbert White as "Whitey's Lindy Hoppers," these champions dominated clubs, contests, stages and film. Manning had a phasic career, retiring after the swing era but reengaging with the dance industry in the 1980s. In the intervening years, visionaries such as Norma Miller and Mama Lu Parks sustained Lindy Hop and even adapted it to new music genres.

At the end of the 20th century, a surge of popularity sowed modern swing-dance scenes all around the world. There are now plenty of non-U.S. hotspots, like Stockholm and Seoul, with robust dance communities. Lindy Hop also continues to thrive in the U.S. and in Harlem, where the dance never stopped.

The Jam

Improvised social dancing is integral to the tradition and modern-day expression of Lindy Hop and jazz dance. At the end of the show, we invite you to dance: find some space and join us while the Eyal Vilner Big Band plays a 30-minute set!

A Note from the Braintrust

SWING OUT presents social Lindy Hop and vernacular dance as a jazz concert experience. It is a blend of prearrangement and improvisation, where only some of the steps are choreographed, only some of the music is on the page. Performers and spectators are invited to interpret the material in real-time to share in the exhilaration of creation.

Even though Lindy Hop and vernacular jazz have been used in other productions for nostalgia or novelty, there has not been a touring, evening-length program celebrating what these dances have become. By assembling genuine swing-dance superstars in an improvisatory space, this show offers a unique glimpse into their universe: the modern Lindy Hop scene.

For us, Lindy Hop tackles the issues of society-at-large but in an arena of exaggerated humanity. Touch, trust, gender, history, intimacy and partnership get ground together there, in the crucible of jazz, and they are reified as art. Our mission with *SWING OUT* is to search for perspective on these complexities while embracing the joy of jazz dance and music.

Thank you for joining us.

SWING OUT was made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; and was commissioned and created, in part, with the support of The Joyce Theater's Artist Residency Center, made possible by lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Works & Process at the Guggenheim; the Center for the Arts at George Mason University; Northrop at The University of Minnesota; and additional commissioning funds provided by The O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation. Additional creation support was provided by Deborah and Charles Adelman, Alpern Family Foundation, Sarah Arison, Michèle and Steve Pesner, Anh-Tuyet Nguyen and Robert Pollock, and Karen Roth.

Music commissioned by the Charles and Joan Gross Family Foundation.

Lead tour support for this tour of *SWING OUT* was generously provided by Mr. Stephen Kroll Reidy. Additional tour support provided by Stephanie Gittleman, Karen Roth, and Dorry Segev.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Willie Applewhite (Trombone)

Applewhite is a trombonist, composer and arranger. Applewhite was born and raised in the Chicagoland area. He has performed with many great jazz artists, including Slide Hampton, Wycliffe Gordon, Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, William Parker, Bobby Broom and Junior Mance. Applewhite's musical studies brought him to the Institute for Jazz Studies at The Juilliard School in New York City, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees. A music educator, he went on to serve as Director of Jazz Studies at Snow College in Utah from 2011 to 2014 before returning to New York. Working now as an in-demand sideman, Applewhite is a fixture in the New York music scene, and collaborates with James Burton and Brandon Lee as co-leaders on the Uptown Jazz Tentet, a big band featuring both original compositions and arrangements of jazz standards.

Evita Arce (Braintrust, Showrunner, Dancer)

Arce, an internationally renowned Lindy Hop dancer and teacher, began her jazz journey in Austin, Texas. A few career highlights include competing on *So You Think You Can Dance* (2007), *Let Freedom Swing* with Jazz at Lincoln Center at the Kennedy Center (2009), performing in *SWING! the musical* (2008-2009) and her Broadway debut beside Caleb Teicher for Regina Spektor's run at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater (2019). Arce was also featured in the swing documentary *Alive and Kicking* (2016), which follows her path in the international Lindy Hop community. Co-directing with Michael Jagger, Syncopated City debuted as the first Lindy Hop dance company to present at Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Stage (2012-2013). Arce danced for Caleb Teicher & Company, having performed in *Meet Ella* and *More Forever*. Over the course of the pandemic, Arce has continued to teach Lindy Hop, Charleston and solo jazz online at syncopatedcity.com. She graduated from University of Texas Austin with a bachelor's degrees in theatre and dance and film

production. Thanks to her family, especially her husband, Simon, her mentors, Ryan Francois and Jenny Thomas, the Vanaver Caravan's training, Mirra and Richard Brockman's support, Jacky Li for the shoes and Elena Iannucci and Teddy Kern of Dance Manhattan for providing an artistic home for 10 years. And, of course, huge love to the extraordinary dream team of *SWING OUT*.

Brandon Barker (Dancer)

Barker is a performing artist who began his journey of dancing ballet at age three at the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Following this, he dove deeper into movement with modern dance and contemporary styles through grade school. He found a unique release from rigid structure and a freedom of creativity with Lindy Hop. This became his main focus and passion guiding him through his studies to obtain a BFA in dance. He continued to study styles of ballet and modern along with West African, hip hop and house. He is currently exploring the connections between all dances of the African diaspora and their lineage to each other. While having a physical connection of growth to the performing arts, he also has an economic connection in ensuring their financial stability through his studies to obtain a bachelor's degree in arts public policy.

LaTasha "Tasha" Barnes (Braintrust, Dancer)

Barnes is an internationally acclaimed and awarded dancer, educator, coach and ambassador of culture from Richmond, VA. Barnes is globally celebrated for her musicality, athleticism and joyful presence throughout the cultural traditions she bears, which include house, hip-hop, waacking, vernacular jazz and Lindy Hop. Her expansive artistic, competitive and performative skills have made her a frequent collaborator to Dorrance Dance, Singapore-based Timbre Arts Group, Caleb Teicher & Company, Ephrat Asherie Dance and many international urban arts and jazz/Lindy Hop festivals like Summer Dance Forever and Paris Jazz Roots Festival. Accolades and accomplishments aside, Barnes' forever purpose is to inspire fellow artists and art enthusiasts to cultivate an authentic sense of self in their creative expressions and daily lives.

Nathan Bugh (Braintrust, Dancer)

Bugh is known worldwide for his intimately rhythmic style of Lindy Hop and vernacular jazz. He "rocked the stage" at Carnegie Hall, dancing Lindy Hop with the New York Pops Orchestra; he performed in Harlem's famous Apollo Theater in *Swingin' Frankie's Way*; and he danced in the Caleb Teicher & Company's *More Forever* at Jacob's Pillow. His film appearances include *My Fair Wedding* (season 3, episode 3, Great Gatsby Bride), *Fox and Friends Christmas*, *Rebel in The Rye* and *The Weepies - Be My Honey Pie*. As a national jazz-dance competitor, Bugh has taken first place in Lindy Hop, Slow Dancing, Solo Charleston, Team, Jill and Jack, Luck/Draw and cabaret divisions. He is one of the most eminent solo-jazz contestants in the world, having won both the Ultimate Lindy Hop Showdown (2012) and International Lindy Hop Championships (2014), as well as achieving third place in the ILHC invitational (2018). He was also the director and choreographer of Yeah Man, the 2015 ILHC Team champions.

Bridget Caston (Company Manager)

Caston is an alum of the University of Texas at Austin (2021) with a BFA in dance performance and choreography and BBA in consulting and change management. Born in New Orleans and raised in Fort Worth, Caston grew up dancing at local studios and summer dance programs across the country. In her time at UT, she was trained and mentored under program director Charles O. Anderson, as well as Gesel Mason, Erica Gionfriddo, Leah Cox, Andrea Beckham, Tina Curran and Dorothy O'Shea Overbey, among others. Along with her studies, she served as the Dance Area Administrative Assistant. Since graduation, Caston has worked with Gesel Mason Performance Projects, K.DMC (a corporate events agency) and at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in company management. At Jacob's Pillow, she worked with acclaimed dance companies such as Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham and Miami City Ballet, among others. She had the pleasure of connecting with *SWING OUT* at The Pillow as well and is excited to be joining them this season as their company manager.

Gaby Cook (Dancer)

Cook is a veteran Lindy Hopper of all stripes. For the last 15 years, she has been an active professional in the global Lindy Hop scene, teaching and performing for events such as Herräng Dance Camp, Lindy Focus, Paris Jazz Roots, Rock That Swing Festival and the IG hop Dance Residency in Vienna, among others. In addition to her career as a teacher, she is also a choreographer and performer. She is Artistic Director for two New York dance companies based in the language of swing and vernacular jazz: Wild Rhythm Dance Company and Gatsby Entertainment. These two companies have presented feature performances on stages like Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out Series, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, 92nd St Y, Midsummer Night Swing at Lincoln Center and The Great Gatsby Party and many appearances at the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center. Wild Rhythm was the dance company in residence at Brooklyn College through the CUNY Dance Initiative program for the 2019-2020 season.

Julieta Eugenio (Tenor Saxophone)

Eugenio is an Argentinian saxophonist based in New York City. Eugenio embedded herself into the Argentinian jazz scene and performed in renowned jazz venues in Buenos Aires alongside master musicians. In 2013, she was accepted to study at Queens College for a jazz master's degree in New York City. Now, Eugenio is playing alongside the finest jazz musicians, including Johnny O'Neal, Eric Reed and Leon Parker. Eugenio had the opportunity to perform on one of the most prestigious jazz broadcast radios in the U.S., WBGO, as well as being featured on ABC7 News nationwide alongside Philip Harper. In April 2017, Eugenio won the International Women in Jazz Competition as a member of the SIJ Trio. She has shared the stage multiple times with jazz legend Johnny O'Neal as a feature in his residencies at Smoke Jazz Club, Ginny's Super Club, Smalls Jazz Club, Mezzrow and more. Over the last few years, Eugenio had the opportunity to record with David Kikoski and Leon Parker. In 2022, Eugenio released her debut album of her own compositions which features Jonathan Barber and Matt Dwonszyk.

Erán Fink (Drums)

Fink is originally from Israel, where he attended the Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts. His passion for music and jazz led him to Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied with jazz masters Ralph Peterson Jr., Hal Crook, Bob Gulotti and Jamie Haddad, among others. Since moving to New York City in 2011, Fink has been active in the jazz, R&B, Ethiopian and Afro-Cuban music scenes. He is a sought-after accompanist at the city's top dance schools, including the Alvin Ailey School and Martha Graham School.

Melanie George (Choreographic Advisor)

George is the founder and director of Jazz Is...Dance Project and Associate Curator and Director of Artist Initiatives at Jacob's Pillow. As a dramaturg, she has contributed to projects by Raja Feather Kelly, Ephrat Asherie, Susan Marshall & Company, Kimberly Bartosik/daela, LaTasha Barnes and Urban Bush Women, among others. George is featured in the documentary *UpRooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance* and founded the global advocacy website jazzdancedirect.com. She is the former Dance Program Director at American University and has guest lectured at Harvard University, the Yale School of Drama and The Juilliard School.

Andrea Gordon (Dancer)

Gordon is a comedian and social dancer's dancer. A lover of music, rhythm and connection, Gordon started dancing in 2006 when the Lindy Hop world looked much different than today, culturally and aesthetically. As a Frankie Manning Ambassador, Gordon quickly found her developing style rooted in a pulse, feeling and groove, honoring the values of herself and Black Americans—values she deeply felt from hearing the recollections of the celebrated legends of the Savoy Ballroom. Unwilling to ignore the challenges Black dancers faced in the dance, Gordon took a hiatus until 2020, when she stepped onto the floor for the first time in six years. Change was in the air. It reinvigorated her passion for the dance, and Gordon soon began teaching on her home floor, Atomic Ballroom in Irvine, as well as teaching and emceeing at local and national events. She's so excited to be carving out space for others to feel at home in their cultural dance.

Anthony Hervey (Trumpet)

Hervey is an American trumpeter, composer and teacher from South Florida. At 18, he was admitted to The Juilliard School, graduating with his BM in 2019 and his MM in 2020. Wynton Marsalis described Hervey as a “beautiful trumpet player of the first magnitude.” He has performed all over the world with some of the best that jazz has to offer, including Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride, Jon Batiste and Michael Bublé. In recent years, he made his international debut as a bandleader at the Bern Jazz Festival in Switzerland. In February 2020, he opened for the Branford Marsalis Quartet with a co-led jazz quartet, Citizens of the Blues. He is also on Christian McBride’s Grammy® Award-winning big band album, *For Jimmy, Wes and Oliver*, released on Mack Avenue Records. Hervey is prominently featured acting and playing trumpet in the Hulu anthology series, *Monsterland*. He is an artist with firm musical roots who strives to understand the past while also giving meaning to jazz in our present time. He views music as a force that can uplift and inspire. In the same way music has changed his life and brought him joy, he strives to spread that joy and change the lives of others through jazz. Hervey is releasing his debut album as a leader, *Words From My Horn*, this month.

AJ Howard (Dancer)

Howard brings a unique style and energy to the Lindy Hop community. Getting introduced to the world of Lindy Hop at the age of 19, Howard quickly took an appreciation to dance, which led to him running home, getting changed and heading out to dance almost every day of the week after working at a car dealership. He burst into the scene in 2016, winning competitions throughout the U.S. with his partner Jennifer, showing the dance world what Sacramento really had to offer! Competing at international events such as Camp Hollywood and the International Lindy Hop Championships, Howard became well known for his generous use of aerials paired with his energetic dancing. Howard has also had the honor of performing with dance groups such as HellaBlackLindyHop, San Francisco Jitterbugs and the Midtown Stompers, and the privilege to spread his love of dance by teaching at Lindy Hop events in the U.S., on a Carnival Cruise ship and around Europe.

Ian Hutchison (Bass)

Playing swing music for swing dancers is Hutchison’s passion and he’s done it all over the world. His big sound and bouncing pulse make him one of the busiest swing and trad jazz bass players in New York City. Hutchison has played with a virtual who’s who in the swing dance world, including Glenn Crytzer, Jonathan Stout, Naomi Uyama and Gordon Webster. As a skilled social dancer, Hutchison is in a unique position to teach in-depth yet practical music classes to swing dancers. Hutchison has taught in NYC, Colorado and Israel. He also leads his own swing band, Slap Happy, which has played at dance events in Florida, Colorado, NYC and Canada. Originally from Colorado, Hutchison enjoys hiking and rock climbing whenever he can make room in his gig schedule. Hutchison studied jazz bass at the University of Denver.

Michael Jagger (Dancer)

Jagger’s stage credits include *South Pacific* (associate choreographer, Chichester Festival Theater) and two consecutive appearances at Jacob’s Pillow Inside/Out Festival with his dance company, Syncopated City, which he co-directed with his dance partner, Evita Arce. They were featured dancers for Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in *Let Freedom Swing*, a celebration of jazz for Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Kennedy Center, and again for a tribute to Benny Goodman at the Rose Theater in NYC. As a principal dancer with Arce, he starred as a Lindy Hop specialist in several productions of the Broadway musical *Swing!*, including regional productions at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera and the California Music Circus in Sacramento as well as on the 2008 Japanese tour.

Jennifer Nicole Jones (Dancer)

Jones is a New York City based dancer. Originally from Akron, Ohio she received a BFA in dance performance from Wright State University while performing with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. Jones has performed in many regional and Off-Broadway productions.

Martha Kato (Piano)

Born and raised in Nagoya, Japan, Kato is a pianist, composer and arranger in her blossoming career. Based in New York since 2009, she has performed across the world as a bandleader and collaborator at major venues such as Blue Note, Jazz Standard, Blue Note Tokyo, Cotton Club Japan, The Jazz Gallery, Dizzy's Club, Smoke Jazz & Supper Club and Smalls Jazz Club. Playing in a wide range of styles and instrumentations, she has shared the stage and studio-recording with collaborators including Remy Le Boeuf, Miho Hazama, Takuya Kuroda, Alexis Cuadrado, and Pedro Giraudo. Kato's awards and honors include the ASCAP Foundation Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award and she is the second-place winner of the 2014 Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition in Kawasaki. She was a scholarship recipient of The Juilliard School and The New School, where she studied with Kenny Barron, Kevin Hays, Robert Sadin, Reggie Workman and more. She is the pianist on Remy Le Boeuf's Grammy® Award-nominated album, *Assembly of Shadows*.

John Lake (Trumpet)

Lake is a trumpet player and composer living in New York City, maintaining a busy performance schedule as a jazz soloist, in-demand lead trumpet player and featured jazz soloist. In the thriving NYC big band scene, Lake has performed and recorded for numerous up-and-coming names, including Remy Le Boeuf, Steven Feifke, Jihye Lee, Eyal Vilner, Brian Krock, Angela Morris and Anna Webber, the Terraza Big Band and many more. Lake released his debut jazz small-group recording, *Seven Angels*, in June 2020 and continues to write and perform his own music across the U.S. and internationally.

Brian Lawton (Dancer)

Lawton is a New York City-based dancer, instructor, choreographer and director. He has an eclectic background in ballet, jazz and modern, as well as in Latin and ballroom dances with a specialty in the vernacular jazz dances of the 1920s-1940s. Lawton has performed in Shakespeare in the Park's *Comedy of Errors*, in *Swing!* at Gateway Playhouse and with the Red Hot Chili Peppers at Madison Square Garden and in their music video *Go Robot*. He has traveled around the world with his wife, Samantha Lawton (samanthaandbrian.com), teaching vernacular jazz, Charleston and Lindy Hop. He was the Assistant Director/Choreographer of the new musical *Part of the Plan* (TPAC) as well as Assistant Director of *Distant Thunder* (A.R.T. /New York Theaters) both alongside Lynne Taylor-Corbett, and the Choreographer and Resident Director of the *A Charlie Brown Christmas* national tour. He most recently performed in an episode of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *The Tonight Show*.

Joshua Lee (Baritone)

A saxophonist, composer, arranger and Managing and Co-Artistic Director of Jazz Lives Philadelphia, Lee is dedicated to the advancement of the Philadelphia jazz community. Lee graduated from Temple University in 2016 and 2019 with both a bachelor's and master's degree in jazz performance. Lee brings performance experience gained in the trenches of the Philly and New York scene that has been fostered by mentors Barry Harris, Terell Stafford, Tim Warfield, Dick Oatts and Gary Smulyan. In 2018, Lee joined the legendary Count Basie Orchestra and still performs with the group around the world. He also is a regular substitute with Terell Stafford's Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia, The Mingus Big Band and Memo Acevedo's Manhattan Bridges Orchestra and has had the privilege of traveling the country with the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Delfeayo Marsalis, the Upton Jazz Orchestra and Orquestra Akokan. He, along with classmate Sarah Leonard, founded Jazz Lives Philadelphia in 2015 with the mission of celebrating jazz in Philadelphia through performance, education and community outreach. Since its existence, Jazz Lives Philadelphia has presented music in unconventional venues and given free jazz education master classes for thousands of Philadelphia school children. Lee has taught jazz at his high school alma mater, Pennsbury, since 2017 and joined the jazz faculty at Temple University in the fall of 2019.

Kelly Martin (Assistant Lighting Designer)

Martin is a lighting designer and associate based in New York. He is the lighting director for New York Theatre Ballet and writer/director/actor Ain Gordon. Design collaborations include performances by choreographers Richard Alston, Duncan Lyle, Kyle Marshall, Clove Galilee, Nicolo Fonte, Catherine Tharin, Julia Gleich, Tiffany Rea-Fisher, Garnet Henderson, Amanda Treiber and Julian Donahue. He has lit numerous productions for The Bang Group, Co-Lab Dance, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and Boston Early Music Festival.

Rachel Pitner (Dancer)

Pitner has been dancing all her life. From dancing down the aisles at the grocery store to performing on stage and everything in between, Pitner is thrilled to join the cast of *SWING OUT* after finishing filming a dance sequence for the Disney movie *The Haunted Mansion*. Pitner has a degree in dance with a focus on Graham-style modern from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. Pitner loves dancing, and she loves nurturing her dance community. You can often find her organizing or supporting fellow organizers throughout the southeast and at various events, but especially at Hot Jam and Atlanta Varsity Showdown (the hometown events that she runs.) Pitner loves the personal growth and the exchange of ideas that occurs with partner dancing, the freedom and energy of Lindy Hop, and the flow of solo dancing. You'll often see her dancing to the music in her head.

Imani Rousselle (Vocals)

Rousselle is a Texas-born vocalist with a love for interpreting and delivering the message of lyric. Whether jazz standards or contemporary compositions, her voice invites you to follow along as she fills the spaces between the silence with carefully crafted sound. She currently resides in New York City, having graduated from the Manhattan School of Music in 2021. Prior to moving to NYC, Rousselle studied at Columbia College Chicago, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in voice with a double minor in environmental science and management. While in Chicago, she performed on many stages around the city, including the legendary Jazz Showcase and The Green Mill, and since moving to New York just before the global shutdown, Rousselle was able to sing on stages such as the world-famous Dizzy's Jazz Club, Clements Place, the Schomburg Center in Harlem and more. She is excited to be joining the world's audiences again.

Márió Talán de la Rosa (Costume Designer)

Born in Mexico City, Mexico, costume designer Márió Talán de la Rosa has nurtured her work by collaborating with artists and innovators of dance, drama and opera over the last two decades. She has been the wardrobe supervisor and designer at The Juilliard School for 15 years and has designed at NYU Steinhardt School for approximately 13 years in collaboration with Joe Salvatore on plays and research-based performances, including the Verbatim Performance Lab. Her most recent project of note is the Grammy® Award-nominated *Fire in My Mouth* composed by Julia Wolfe and performed by The New York Philharmonic, The Crossing and the Young People's Choir of NY. This highly acclaimed piece was inspired by the New York Triangle Shirtwaist Fire that took place on March 25, 1911, and was performed with a symbolic 146 women's choir. Other works include collaborations with choreographers Caleb Teicher, Sonya Tayeh and Bryan Arias. She has had work featured in Fall for Dance at City Center, BAM Next Wave Festival, Jacob's Pillow, American Dance Festival, The Joyce, The Gibney, The New Victory Theater, the DUMBO Light Festival and WHITE WAVE Festival. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

Caleb Teicher (Director, Braintrust, Dancer)

Teicher is an NYC-based dancer and choreographer specializing in musically driven dance traditions and interdisciplinary collaboration. Teicher began their career as a founding member of Michelle Dorrance's critically acclaimed tap dance company, Dorrance Dance, while also freelancing in contemporary dance (The Chase Brock Experience, The Bang Group), Lindy Hop (Syncopated City Dance Company) and musical theatre (*West Side Story* international tour and London). As a solo performer and collaborator, Teicher is known for choreographic collaborations with diverse musical talents: world-champion beatboxer Chris Celiz, composer/pianist Conrad Tao, the National Symphony Orchestra and indie rock legends Ben Folds and Regina Spektor. In 2015, Teicher shifted their creative focus towards Caleb Teicher & Company (CT&Co), a creative home for incubating new concert dance works from Teicher's unique perspective. CT&Co's engagements and commissions expand across the U.S. and abroad, including The Joyce Theater, New York City Center, the Guggenheim Museum (NYC and Bilbao), Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Lincoln Center Out of Doors. Teicher is the recipient of a 2019 New York City Center Choreographic Fellowship, two Bessie Awards, a 2019 Harkness Promise Award, the 2020 Gross Family Prize and a 2019 NEFA National Dance Project Production Grant. Their work has been featured in *The New York Times*, NPR, *Forbes*, *Vogue*, *Interview Magazine*, on the cover of *Dance Magazine*, and, most recently, on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* alongside Regina Spektor. Teicher continues to engage with dance communities as a teacher for international tap, swing and jazz dance festivals. CalebTeicher.net Instagram: @CalebTeicher

Eyal Vilner (Braintrust, Band Leader, Alto Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet)

Vilner is one of the leading voices in the New York swing and big band scene. Born in Tel Aviv, saxophonist, clarinetist, flutist, composer and bandleader Vilner moved to New York in 2007 and started his big band the following year. The Eyal Vilner Big Band has been performing widely at some of New York's landmarks such as Lincoln Center, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, The Joyce Theater, Birdland, Dizzy's Club, Smalls Jazz Club, Minton's Playhouse, Midsummer Night's Swing and Central Park SummerStage. Internationally, Vilner has performed on Israel's most prestigious stages, such as the Red Sea Jazz Festival, Tel Aviv Museum, Jerusalem Theater and The Tel Aviv Jazz Festival, as well as the historical La Bellevoise, Caveau des Oubliettes and Caveau de la Huchette in Paris, France. The big band performs Vilner's original compositions as well as his new arrangements of jazz classics. The group's music, which derives from the tradition of jazz, swing and the blues, strives to bring a unique voice to this beautiful art form. The big band's first six albums: *Introducing the Eyal Vilner Big Band*, *Almost Sunrise*, *Hanukkah*, *Swing Out!*, *Live in Washington Square Park!* and *The Jam!* received rave reviews and made it to the Top Jazz Radio Charts of the U.S. and Canada.

Sean Vitale (Dancer)

Vitale is a dynamic dancer with a love for jazz music and movement. Vitale has been Lindy hopping since 2018 and is a prominent member of the Big Apple Lindy Hoppers, a principal dancer for the Project Connect dance company, and the latest addition to the Harvest Moon Hoppers dance company. Vitale has witnessed the power of dance to grow community and heal hearts and minds, and he wishes to spread that joy for as long as he is able. Vitale is a doctor of physical therapy and trains dancers, athletes and those affected by neurologic conditions such as stroke and Parkinson's disease.

Jacob Wexler (Production Manager)

Wexler is a professional stage manager based out of New York City and proud SUNY Purchase graduate. Focused primarily within the dance industry, Wexler has worked both domestically and internationally with acclaimed companies and choreographers such as Martha Clarke, L.A. Dance Project, Jessica Lang Dance and Alonzo King Lines Ballet. Other past credits include stage managing for the School of American Ballet, Fall for Dance and the Fire Island Dance Festival. When Wexler is not stage managing, they can be found reading leftist literature, playing with their beagle named Bagel and fighting for a more egalitarian world.

Joseph Wolfslau (Sound Designer)

Wolfslau is a set, sound and costume designer based in Brooklyn. Recent designs include production design for *La Sonnambula* (Promenade Opera), *Magnum Opus: A Retrospective* (The People Movers) and *Cendrillon* (Promenade Opera); sound for *The Emperor's Nightingale* (Pan Asian Rep.), *The Peanut Butter Show* (Little Lord), *Romulus the Great* (Yangtze Rep.), *Brideshead Obliterated* (Dixon Place), *Colncident* (JACK), *Ski End* (New Ohio) and *CoVenture* (Baryshnikov); set, sound and costumes for *410 [Gone]* (Yangtze Rep); and set and costumes for *Poor Sailor* (Tugboat Collective).

Serena Wong (Lighting Designer)

Wong is a Brooklyn-based freelance lighting designer for theatre and dance whose work has been seen in the U.S. and Europe. Most recently, she has designed for choreographers Gemma Bond, Caleb Teicher, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko and Shamel Pitts. She enjoys biking, bread-baking and pottery.