

# PARSONS DANCE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR David Parsons

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Rebecca Josue

**DANCERS** Zoey Anderson, Megan Garcia Ziminski, Téa Pérez, Luke Romanzi, Joseph Cyranski, Justine Delius, Joanne Hwang, Emerson Earnshaw, Odin Brock **UNDERSTUDY** Luke Biddinger

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Natalie Lomonte
REHEARSAL DIRECTORS Elizabeth Koeppen Kalosieh, Megan Garcia Ziminski
COMPANY AND STAGE MANAGER Danielle De Vito
LIGHTING SUPERVISOR Christopher S. Chambers

#### Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, May 30 @ 8 PM Saturday, May 31 @ 2 PM Saturday, May 31 @ 8 PM

#### **INSIGHTS**

Stay after the performance on Friday evening for a chat with the dancers, David Parsons and Leslie Bush, adjunct professor of dance at Rowan University.

Wolfgang (2005)

CHOREOGRAPHY David Parsons
LIGHTING DESIGN Howell Binkley
MUSIC Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
COSTUME DESIGN David Murin

**DANCERS** Zoey Anderson or Justine Delius, Megan Garcia Ziminski or Joanne Hwang, Téa Pérez, Luke Romanzi, Joseph Cyranski, Emerson Earnshaw or Odin Brock

Wolfgang was originally commissioned by and created for the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet.

## **Balance of Power** (2020)

CHOREOGRAPHY David Parsons
LIGHTING DESIGN Christopher S. Chambers
MUSIC Giancarlo De Trizio\*
COSTUME DESIGN Barbara Frin Delo

**DANCERS** Zoey Anderson and Joseph Cyranski

Balance of Power was generously commissioned by Linda Stocknoff.

\*"Balance of Power" written and performed by Giancarlo "GC" de Trizio. Published by GrooveMusic (ASCAP).

**Mr. Withers** (2023)

**CHOREOGRAPHY** David Parsons **LIGHTING DESIGN** Christopher S. Chambers **MUSIC** Bill Withers\*

**DIALOG ASSEMBLY AND MUSIC EDITING** Frank Dickinson / 90 East Productions

**COSTUME DESIGN** Christine Darch

**DANCERS** Zoey Anderson, Megan Garcia Ziminski, Téa Pérez, Luke Romanzi, Joseph Cyranski, Justine Delius, Joanne Hwang, Emerson Earnshaw, Odin Brock

*Mr. Withers* was generously commissioned by Joe Lalka and Teresa Ribadeneyra in honor of her parents, Carol and Tom Ribadeneyra; Mark and Carol Pollard; and Warner Bros. Discovery. Additional support was provided by Charlton Andrews.

\*"Use Me" written by Bill Withers. Published by Interior Music Corp c/o/ Songs Of Universal, Inc. Masters licensed by Sony Music Entertainment. Used by permission. All rights reserved. "Ain't No Sunshine" written by Bill Withers. Interior Music Corp c/o/ Songs Of Universal, Inc. Masters licensed by Sony Music Entertainment. Used by permission. All rights reserved. "I Can't Write Left Handed" written by Bill Withers and Raymond M. Jackson. Published by Interior Music Corp c/o/ Songs Of Universal, Inc. Masters licensed by Sony Music Entertainment. Used by permission. All rights reserved. "Grandma's Hands" written by Bill Withers. Published by Interior Music Corp c/o/ Songs Of Universal, Inc. Masters licensed by Sony Music Entertainment. Used by permission. All rights reserved. "Lean On Me" written by Bill Withers. Published by Interior Music Corp c/o/ Songs Of Universal, Inc. Masters licensed by Sony Music Entertainment. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

#### INTERMISSION

**Juke** (2024)

CHOREOGRAPHY Jamar Roberts
LIGHTING DESIGN Christopher S. Chambers
MUSIC Miles Davis\*
COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

DANCERS Zoey Anderson, Megan Garcia Ziminski, Téa Pérez, Luke Romanzi,

Joseph Cyranski, Justine Delius, Joanne Hwang, Emerson Earnshaw, Odin Brock
\*"Spanish Key" written by Miles Davis. Downtown DMP Songs o/b/o Jazz Horn Music Corporation.

**Caught** (1982)

CHOREOGRAPHY David Parsons
LIGHTING CONCEPT David Parsons
LIGHTING DESIGN Howell Binkley
MUSIC "Let The Power Fall" by Robert Fripp
COSTUME DESIGN Judy Wirkula

**DANCERS** Zoey Anderson or Megan Garcia Ziminski or Joseph Cyranski

Please be advised that strobe lights will be used during this piece.

Caught is maintained in the active repertory of Parsons Dance through generous support from the Jim and Linda Ellis Foundation.

**In the End** (2005)

CHOREOGRAPHY David Parsons
LIGHTING DESIGN Howell Binkley
MUSIC Dave Matthews Band
COSTUME DESIGN Christine Darch

**DANCERS** Zoey Anderson, Megan Garcia Ziminski, Téa Pérez, Luke Romanzi, Joseph Cyranski, Justine Delius, Joanne Hwang, Emerson Earnshaw, Odin Brock

In the End was commissioned by The Ferguson Center for the Arts at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA. Additional support was provided by the Jim and Linda Ellis Foundation, in memory of Jim Ellis.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Parsons Dance** is a New York City based contemporary dance company, internationally renowned for its energized, athletic ensemble work. Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director David Parsons and Tony Award-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, the company has toured to more than 447 cities, 30 countries and 5 continents, in addition to appearing at such notable venues as the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Sydney Opera House, Maison de la Danse, Teatro La Fenice and Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro.

Parsons Dance performs works selected from the vast and varied repertory of more than 75 works created by David Parsons. The company commissions new dances from established choreographers and restages works from the American canon, including pieces by Robert Battle and Paul Taylor. Through its GenerationNOW Fellowship, the company offers commissions to young American choreographers whom Parsons mentors through the creative process.

Parsons Dance is committed to providing enriching experiences beyond its performances as it seeks to engage audiences of all ages through education and outreach programs, including post-show discussions, open rehearsals, studio showcases, video workshops, open company classes, summer workshops for pre-professional dancers and in-school workshops for public school students. The company is especially proud of its Autism-Friendly Programs initiative, launched in 2016, which features sensory-friendly workshops and relaxed performances for audiences of all abilities. All these activities are driven by the vision of Artistic Director David Parsons, who, for more than 35 years, has combined his choreographic gifts and talent for training highly skilled dancers with a real passion for the art form.

# **David Parsons** (Artistic Director/Co-Founder)

Parsons has enjoyed a remarkable career as a director, choreographer, performer, master teacher and producer. Raised in Kansas City, Parsons made it to New York at the age of 17 when he received a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey School. After Ailey, he became an understudy with the Paul Taylor Dance Company and then joined the company as a principal dancer. He stayed for eight years. During summers, he toured with MOMIX; appeared with Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris in the first White Oak tour; and launched his choreographic career by setting work on the Taylor Company and on the National Ballet of Canada, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Batsheva Dance Company and the Paris Opera Ballet.

After leaving the Taylor company, Parsons was a guest artist with New York City Ballet for four years before his artistic prowess led him to undertake such diverse projects as choreographing *Aida* at Arena di Verona and producing and co-choreographing *María de Buenos Aires* at the Skirball Center, as well as creating the choreography for *Fool's Fire*, a 1992 film directed by Julie Taymor. Perhaps one of his most thrilling assignments was choreographing and directing the dance elements for Times Square 2000, the 24-hour festivities in Times Square celebrating the turn of the millennium. Since then, Parsons has participated in many projects, such as choreographing *A Knight's Tale*, a musical theatre work directed by John Caird, who previously directed the Broadway and West End productions of *Les Misérables* and the London National Theatre's production of *Candide*. Staged at Tokyo's iconic Imperial Theatre in summer 2018, the work featured Japanese pop stars.

In addition to the more than 75 works that he has created for Parsons Dance, Parsons has received commissions from such companies as American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, the Spoleto Festival and Het Muziektheater in Amsterdam, with his most recent from the Kansas City Ballet, who staged his work, *A Play For Love*, in May 2019.

Heralded by *The New York Times* as "one of the great movers of modern dance," Parsons has received many accolades throughout his career, including three Choreography Fellowship Grants from the National Endowment of the Arts; the American Choreography Award; the *Dance Magazine* Award; a Howard Gilman Fellowship; and the Dance Masters of America Annual Award. In May 2018, he received the Capezio Award, one of the most prestigious awards in dance.

Howell Binkley (Co-Founder/Resident Lighting Designer, 1985-2020)

Binkley was the proud co-founder of Parsons Dance for which he designed more than 70 pieces. His Broadway designs included: *Ain't Too Proud* (2019 Tony nomination), *Come From Away* (2017 Tony nomination), *Allegiance, After Midnight* (2014 Tony nomination), *How to Succeed...* (2011 Tony nomination), *West Side Story* (2009 Tony nomination), *Gypsy* starring Patti LuPone, *In The Heights* (2008 Tony nomination), *Avenue Q, The Full Monty, Parade* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1993 Tony nomination). He made extensive regional and dance works for companies such as Alvin Ailey, American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and The Joffrey Ballet's *Billboards*. He was a five-time Helen Hayes Award recipient and received the 1993 Sir Laurence Olivier Award and the Canadian Dora Award for *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Howell also received the 2006 Henry Hewes Design Award, the 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award, and the 2006 Tony Award for *Jersey Boys*. In addition, he won both the 2017 Tony Award and the 2018 Sir Laurence Olivier Award for the lighting design of *Hamilton*.

## Zoey Anderson (Dancer)

Anderson was born and raised in Utah, where she trained in contemporary, ballet, jazz and ballroom dance at Center Stage. She was the ballroom national smooth champion in 2010. Anderson graduated cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2015 with a BFA in ballet under the direction of Katie Langan. She has performed works by Dwight Rhoden, Lar Lubovitch and Aszure Barton, among others. In 2013, Anderson performed with Nikolais Louis in the Yang Liping International Dance Festival in Kunming, China. Other credits include the Broadway premiere gala of *On the Town*, the film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Dancing with the Stars* webisodes and Macy's Passport Tour. Anderson was nominated for the 2018 Outstanding Performer Bessie Award for her sustained achievement in Parsons Dance and is the recipient of the 2019 Clive Barnes Dance Artist Award. Anderson joined the company in 2015.

#### Megan Garcia Ziminski (Dancer & Rehearsal Director)

Garcia Ziminski began training at Progressions Performing Arts in Spring, TX. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arizona in 2019 with a BFA in dance and a minor in business administration. She was privileged to perform works by Nacho Duato, Martha Graham, Bella Lewitzky, Larry Keigwin and more. Garcia Ziminski attended intensives at Hubbard Street, Giordano Dance, River North Dance, the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company and the Rockettes. After graduation, Garcia Ziminski was offered the role of Rockette in the 2019 Christmas Spectacular. She performed in 102 shows and was interviewed by TODAY, News 4 New York and Telemundo. This is Garcia Ziminski's fourth season with Parsons Dance.

# Téa Pérez (Dancer)

Pérez is originally from Dallas, Texas, where she trained and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts under the direction of Lily Cabatu Weiss and Kate Walker. Pérez moved to New York City in 2017 to attend the Ailey/Fordham BFA Dance Program under the direction of Melanie Person. Pérez graduated in May of 2021 from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program with a BFA in dance and a BA in art history, with a concentration in contemporary and modern art. During her studies, Pérez performed works by Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle, Kyle Abraham, Jessica Lang, Aszure Barton, Lar Lubovich and Dwight Rhoden, among others. Pérez served as an understudy for one season with Parsons Dance and was promoted to company dancer in 2022.

#### Luke Romanzi (Dancer)

Romanzi, a Brooklyn native, is an alumni dance major of LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts. He was most recently the youngest dancer in Rock the Ballet, a contemporary ballet company. While with the company, he toured Germany, France and Dubai and was featured on Fox's *So You Think You Can Dance* and HBO's *Random Acts of Flyness*. In 2018, he was accepted into the Young Choreographers Festival, held at Symphony Space in New York City, and was designated a YoungArts finalist. This is Romanzi's third season with Parsons Dance.

#### Joseph Cyranski (Dancer)

Cyranski began dancing at the age of eight in his hometown New Baltimore, Michigan. After graduating from high school, he went on to study dance at Marymount Manhattan College, where he received his BFA in 2020. Since graduating, Cyranski has worked with numerous choreographers such as Earl Mosley, Angelica Stiskin and Jenn Freeman. He recently performed with Giordano Dance Chicago, in its fall and spring 60th season appearances with its second company at the Harris Theater. This is Cyranski's second season with Parsons Dance.

#### Justine Delius (Dancer)

Delius was born and raised in a Paris suburb, where she trained in ballet and jazz before attending the Conservatory National of Paris in 2017. She appeared in Paris with MIXITY, the music hall cabaret sensation. In 2021, Delius went to New York to study at The Ailey School. As a student, she performed works by Alvin Ailey, Levi Marsman, Stephanie Lake, Ashley Green and Kameron N. Saunders. This is Delius' second season with Parsons Dance.

#### Joanne Hwang (Dancer)

Hwang was born and raised in Sydney, Australia and graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in dance and a minor in musical theatre. While at Point Park, she had the honor of working with and/or performing works by Twyla Tharp, Robyn Mineko Williams, Martha Graham, Norbert De La Cruz III and others. She has continued to train with companies such as BODYTRAFFIC, Move NYC and The Pillow Project. This is Hwang's second season with Parsons Dance.

#### Emerson Earnshaw (Dancer)

Earnshaw was raised in Cedar Hills, Utah, where he trained at the Utah Conservatory of Performing Arts. He continued to train as a member of Brigham Young University's Contemporary Dance Theatre and at the GibneyPRO Professional Certificate Program. As a student, he performed works by choreographers such as Peter Chu, Ana Maria Lucaciu, Laja Field of LAJAMARTIN, Omar Román de Jesús, Jesse Obremski, Jie-Hung Connie Shiau and Cameron McKinney. This is Earnshaw's second season with Parsons Dance.

#### Odin Brock (Dancer)

Brock was raised in Woodbridge, Virginia. He was a scholar-athlete who played the cello and piano and began dancing when he was seventeen. He received his BFA from George Mason University's School of Dance in 2024. While in college, he worked with David Parsons and choreographers such as Rena Butler, Kate Skarpetowska and Ronald K. Brown. He also served as an apprentice for Chamber Dance Project, the Washington, D.C.-based company devoted to partnering contemporary ballet with live music. In 2024, Brock appeared at lower Manhattan's Battery Dance Festival, where he performed in the NYC premiere of Anna Lopez's *On Exhaust*. This is Brock's first season with Parsons Dance.

#### **Luke Biddinger** (Understudy)

Biddinger was raised in Colorado and began his dance training at Inspirations Dance Company when he was 11 years old. After moving to Pennsylvania at age 14, he trained at Touch of Class Dance Studio. Since locating to NYC, he has continued to study at Steps on Broadway, Kanyok Arts Initiative and the New York City Dance Alliance, which honored him as its National Teen Outstanding Dancer in 2021.

Christopher S. Chambers (Lighting Designer, *Balance of Power, Mr. Withers* and *Juke*) Dance: Ailey II, American Repertory Ballet, Ballet Memphis, Boca Tuya, José Limón Dance Foundation, Lustig Dance Theatre, Parsons Dance, Yin Yue Dance Company, Manchester Ballet, Ram Island Dance. Theatre: Houses on the Moon, Cape Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, York Theatre, Curtain Call Inc., Boston College, Montclair State University, University of Hartford, Mount Washington Valley Theatre Company, Resort Players, M+D Productions, Weston Playhouse. A Connecticut native, Chambers currently lives in New York. He holds an MFA from the University of Connecticut and is a proud member of USA 829.

#### Natalie Lomonte (Associate Artistic Director)

Lomonte is a New York City-based choreographer, director and teacher. A Parsons dancer from 2008 to 2009, she went on to perform with MOMIX, Pilobolus and CBE. She also appeared in the film Sex and The City 2 and was in the original Broadway cast of Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark. Following her career as a dancer, she was Assistant Choreographer to Mia Michaels for the New York Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes. In 2014, she returned to Parsons Dance to serve as David Parsons' creative assistant and in 2015, she received the first Parsons Dance GenerationNOW fellowship to create Within, a work premiering at the Joyce Theater. Since 2012, Lomonte has been movement director for One Year Lease Theater Company.

#### **Rebecca Josue** (Executive Director)

Josue joined Parsons Dance in 2010 as the Company Manager and Stage Manager and was lucky enough to tour with the company both nationally and internationally for her first five seasons. Josue became the General Manager for the 2013-2014 season and was appointed Executive Director in June 2019. Before joining Parsons Dance, Josue was a freelance company manager, stage manager, producer, theatre administrator and director. She has worked at New York Stage and Film, Mabou Mines, The Public Theater, New World Stages, La Mama and the Under the Radar Festival, among other places, in company management, production management, stage management and development. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Josue completed the Senior Leaders Program for Non-Profit Professionals at Columbia Business School in May 2019, earning her a Certificate in Business Excellence.

ADDITIONAL PARSONS DANCE STAFF
BUSINESS MANAGER Robert J. Ford
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT Kate Taylor
DATABASE AND DIGITAL OFFICE MANAGER Micah Sauvageau
ARCHIVE MANAGER Michael Megliola
MARKETING CONSULTANTS Martha Cooper, Gabrielle DiNizo

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25 \* 26 SEASON

# DANCE

Mark Morris Dance Group Dances to American Music: Soul of America

SEP 26-27

Aakash Odedra Company Songs of the Bulbul

**OCT 18** 

Ephrat Asherie Dance with Arturo O'Farrill Shadow Cities

NOV 14-15

MOMIX Alice

DFC 12-14

**Dance Theatre of Harlem** 

JAN 16-18

Compagnie Virginie Brunelle

**Fables** 

FEB 20-21

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Martha Graham Dance Company

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