

EPHRAT ASHERIE DANCE WITH ARTURO O'FARRILL *SHADOW CITIES*

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Ephrat Asherie

CHOREOGRAPHY Ephrat Asherie, in collaboration with the company

ORIGINAL MUSIC Arturo O'Farrill

DANCERS Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie, Manon Bal, Ron "Stealth-1" Chunn, Teena Marie Custer, Val "Ms Vee" Ho, Eriko Jimbo, Dorren "Moglii" Smith

PIANO Arturo O'Farrill

BASS Eduardo Belo

WOODWINDS Alfredo Colon

PERCUSSION Juan Carlos Polo

LIGHTING DESIGN Kathy Kaufmann

COSTUME DESIGN David Dalrymple

ARTISTIC ADVISOR Nick Minas

COMPANY MANAGER Bridget Caston

PRODUCTION MANAGER LD DeArmon

AUDIO ENGINEER Will Stanton

PROP SUPERVISOR Val "Ms Vee" Ho

EXCLUSIVE USA TOUR REPRESENTATION Pentacle

Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, November 14 @ 7:30 PM

Saturday, November 15 @ 2 PM

Saturday, November 15 @ 7:30 PM

There will be no intermission.

INSIGHTS

Nov 14: Join us after the performance for a conversation with Ephrat Asherie and Arturo O'Farrill, moderated by Raphael Xavier.

Penn Live Arts is a co-commissioner of the world premiere of *Shadow Cities* as part of the Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program.

The 25/26 season dance series is co-sponsored by Arthur Kaplan, C'67 and Duane Perry alongside Lynn Jerath, W'95 and Kunal Jerath.

PROGRAM NOTES

Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD) collaborates with Grammy® Award-winning pianist and composer Arturo O’Farrill on its newest creation, *Shadow Cities*, a contemplative and multi-faceted reflection on the beauty, vastness and joy of the in-between. With a cast of seven dancers and four musicians, the performers explore the myriad ways they feel split between cities, memories and generations, encountering their most enlivened selves in unexpected moments. EAD, rooted in a multitude of Afro-diasporic vernacular dances, explores the expansive narrative qualities of breaking, hip hop, house and waacking to tell stories and find new modes of expression. Featuring live music by Arturo O’Farrill and friends, *Shadow Cities* is a conversation between O’Farrill’s vast compositional voice and EAD’s dynamic, rigorous and idiosyncratic choreography.

Shadow Cities is made possible by Lead Commissioning support provided by Modlin Center for the Arts University of Richmond, Jody and John Arnhold, and in part by Harkness Dance Center’s Artist-in-Residence Program at 92NY. Co-commissioning support is provided by Penn Live Arts Accelerator Program, Duke Arts, La Jolla Music Society and the ProtoStar Foundation. Additional support provided by O’Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation, One World Fund, New Music USA’s Organization Fund and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Development support provided by the Studio Artists program of the NYC Public School’s Arts Office. Additionally, Ephrat Asherie Dance gratefully acknowledges the support from members of its Commissioning Circle, with lead gift provided by Deborah and Charles Adelman.

Special thanks to dedicated EAD colleagues and supporters Sandy Garcia, Bridget Caston, Amy Lam, Sarah Long Holland, Owen Burnham

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ephrat Asherie Dance

Founded in 2012, New York City-based Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD) is made up of a dynamic group of multi-faceted street and club dance artists. A dance company dedicated to honoring the ethos of the underground club community, EAD is rooted in Black and Latine vernacular dance, including breaking, hip hop, house, waacking and the New York-style hustle. A two-time National Dance Project awardee, EAD has presented work at 92NY, Apollo Theater, ChangMu International Festival (Korea), El Festival Internacional Cervantino (Mexico), Firatarrega (Spain), Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Joyce Theater, Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences, La MaMa, La Mercé Festival (Spain), River to River Festival, New York City Center, New Victory Theater, New York Live Arts, Spoleto Festival USA, Vail Dance Festival, White Bird, Works & Process at the Guggenheim and The Yard, among others. EAD is committed to celebrating and bringing awareness to the history, expansiveness and vastness of street and club dance culture by creating and sharing innovative performance works, teaching workshops and classes, and creating platforms for dialogue across the field. For more information, please visit ephratasheriedance.com or follow EAD on Instagram @ephratasheriedance.

Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie (Artistic Director, Choreographer, Dancer)

Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie is a NYC-based choreographer, performer and b-girl. A Bessie Award winner for Innovative Achievement in Dance, Asherie creates work for the dynamic group of dancers in her company, Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD). Asherie's singular way of creating “compact bursts of choreography with rapid-fire changes in rhythm and gestural articulation” (*The New York Times*) brings forth work that is aesthetically innovative, physically rigorous and unceasingly curious. Asherie has received numerous awards to support her work including *Dance Magazine*'s inaugural Harkness Promise Award, a Jerome Artist Fellowship and two fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts. Asherie's work has been presented on stages nationally and internationally with additional commissions from Vail Dance Festival, Fall for Dance, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences, PHILADANCO!, Parsons Dance and Malpas Dance Company. Asherie is honored to have been mentored by Richard “Break Easy” Santiago and to have collaborated with Michelle Dorrance, Doug Elkins, Rennie Harris, Bill Irwin, Gus Solomons Jr. and Buddha Stretch, among others. Asherie earned her BA from Barnard College, Columbia University in Italian and her MFA from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee where she researched the vernacular jazz dance roots of street and club dance. She is a co-founding member of the all-female house dance collective, MAWU, and is forever grateful to NYC's underground dance community for inspiring her to pursue a life as an artist.

Arturo O’Farrill (Composer, Piano)

Mexican-American pianist, composer and bandleader Arturo O’Farrill stands as a towering figure in contemporary music, renowned for his genre-defying virtuosity, leadership and unwavering commitment to social justice through music. O’Farrill is a celebrated composer whose work has been performed by Dr. Cornel West, pianist Lara Downes, The San Francisco Ballet and more. Hailed by *DownBeat* as “one of our greatest living pianists,” O’Farrill bridges the gap between traditional Latin rhythms, modern jazz and contemporary composition, continually pushing the boundaries of the art form while maintaining a profound connection to his roots. Beyond performing worldwide, O’Farrill is a passionate educator and advocate for social justice, using his platform to champion diversity and unity. As founder and director of both the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra (ALJO) and Belongó (formerly known as the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance), O’Farrill plays a pivotal role in nurturing cultural dialogue through the transformative power of music.

Driven by a mission to merge Afro Latin traditions with the innovation of modern jazz, Arturo O’Farrill founded the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra (ALJO) in 2002, redefining Latin jazz through bold performances, social commentary, and global collaborations. From Carnegie Hall to NYU Abu Dhabi, the ALJO has become a vital force in music, recently appearing at Town Hall with Brazilian legends and at WNYC's Centennial Broadcast. O’Farrill has partnered with choreographers from Alvin Ailey to Ballet Hispanico and scored major works like Arielle Smith's *Carmen* for the San Francisco Ballet. His compositions, like “Tabla Raza” with Tania León and “Four Questions” with Dr. Cornel West, reflect a deep engagement with heritage and activism. In 2007, he launched the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance (now Belongó), a nonprofit advancing Afro Latin jazz and community empowerment. A renowned educator at UCLA and beyond, O’Farrill also leads Casa Belongó, a new cultural hub in East Harlem. A 6-time GRAMMY winner, his acclaimed recordings include *Fandango at the Wall in New York*, *Four Questions* and the 2024 release *Mundoagua: Celebrating Carla Bley*, hailed by *The Wall Street Journal* as a Grammy-nominated “masterwork.”

Kathy Kaufmann (Lighting Design)

A New York City native, Kaufmann is a two-time Bessie recipient and was nominated for a 2015 Bessie for Rebecca Davis's *Bloowst Windku*. She has been a resident designer at the Danspace Project at St. Marks Church for over 15 years and has toured extensively throughout the world. She was honored to be included in Curtain Call: Celebrating 100 Years of Women in Design at the New York Performing Arts Library and currently teaches lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College. Kaufmann works regularly with many companies, including Michelle Dorrance of Dorrance Dance, Joanna Kotze, David Parker of The Bang Group, Eiko & Koma, Rebecca Stenn, Moriah Evans and Mina Nishimura. Recent projects include designs for Jonathan González, Morgan Bassichis, Mariana Valencia, Jasmine Heard and Tatyana Tenenbaum.

David Dalrymple (Costume Design)

In 1994, Dalrymple began working with Patricia Field as the designer for the House of Field collection. Dalrymple expanded and elevated the established fashion brand by celebrating its connection to New York's downtown scene. He shared the excitement, energy and spirit of nightlife and sent it down the runways of New York Fashion Week. The one-of-a-kind collection became a must have for stylists, celebrities and "it" girls worldwide. Since then, Dalrymple's client list reads like a who's who of the entertainment industry including Beyoncé, Pink, Mary J. Blige, Lion Babe, Shakira, Jennifer Lopez, Eve, Ciara, Deborah Harry and Bette Midler. Dalrymple has designed and built costumes for dance companies including Rioult Dance, Stephen Petronio, Richard Move and Tere O'Connor, and has come full circle with his work by designing for the main stage of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, the Werq The World Tour and *Drag Race* alumni past and present.

Manon Bal (Dancer)

Bal is a versatile professional dancer from Marseille, France. She has trained at the IFPRO Rick Odums in Paris and at the prestigious Ailey School in New York City. She has been a member of Ephrat Asherie Dance since 2016. She has worked for respected choreographers such as Ronald K. Brown, Rick Odums, Michelle Dorrance, Tweet Boogie, Michele Byrd McPhee, Jon Rua and Miki Tuesday. As a choreographer, Bal is the co-founder of Maley Company with Dhele Agbetou and Mozaik Dance in collaboration with Janine "J9" Micheletti and Sun Kim. She is a New York City Center Teaching Artist.

Ron "Stealth-1" Chunn (Dancer)

Chunn is a b-boy and DJ originally from Columbus, Ohio. Chunn is a member of Get Down Gang from Pittsburgh and was a founding member of the Midwest's Street Symphony Crew. As a b-boy, Chunn has battled and danced with crews in various places around the world and has opened for hip hop heavy-hitters such as Rakim, Pete Rock, Mobb Deep and Slum Village. Stealth was also a founding member of Bill "Crutchmaster" Shannon's company, Touch Update, and toured with the company to Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and New York City. As a DJ, Chunn has played music all around the U.S. and Canada, selected for b-boy battles such as Get Rooted in Nashville and Battlezone in Pittsburgh, and currently holds residencies in multiple places in Pittsburgh, PA and Wheeling, WV. Chunn also DJs for the Pittsburgh Emcee Cypher Track Meet. Chunn holds two master's degrees, including a philosophy MA from Western Ontario University and bachelor's degrees in five fields from Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Pittsburgh. Chunn still serves as one half of the owners of the GDG HQ, which has served as a hip hop playground in the city of Pittsburgh where people come to train in dance and music and generally soak up hip hop and funk culture.

Teena Marie Custer (Dancer)

Custer is an artist and healer based in Pittsburgh, PA. Her solo choreographic work has been presented at Sadler's Wells in London and then toured around the U.S. She has created street dance theatre works for over 35 university dance departments around the country, and, after receiving an MFA from Ohio State, was on faculty at Slippery Rock University and the American Dance Festival. She is a member of Venus Fly and Get Down Gang street dance crews and has been with Ephrat Asherie Dance since 2012 while also touring with Bill "Crutchmaster" Shannon.

Valerie "Ms Vee" Ho (Dancer, Prop Coordinator)

Ho, originally from Vancouver, Canada, started making her mark in the NYC dance scene in 2003. Ho has proudly been in Ephrat Asherie Dance since 2012. She's also had the pleasure of working with such distinguished choreographers as Buddha Stretch, Rennie Harris, Luam, Maria Torres and Bradley Rapier. Amongst her numerous TV, film and stage credits, highlights include: the "Hideaway" video by Kiesza, The Detour, VH1 *Dear Mama* TV special, *Step Up 3D*, Rennie Harris' *Legends of Hip Hop*, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Sadler's Wells Breaking Convention and Lincoln Center Out of Doors. Ho is also a celebrated dance educator and is on faculty at Broadway Dance Center, Pace University's Commercial Dance BFA Program and, in 2017, became the first hip hop teacher at the world-renowned Juilliard School.

Eriko Jimbo (Dancer)

Jimbo is a Tokyo-born, NYC-based performing artist. She is an experienced performer ranging in various styles such as contemporary, modern, hip hop, house, martial arts, aerial arts, sway pole and acting. Professionally, she has toured globally, appeared on national and international TV shows, featured in several music videos, films, interviews and worked extensively with the world-renowned Pilobolus as a primary company member for six years. Since then, she has continued to work with Pilobolus, while performing with several other companies/productions such as the Forest of Arden, Ephrat Asherie Dance, MAWU, Fuerza Bruta's Wayra, Seeing You NYC and FLOW KAKOU, and she was also an original cast member and dance captain of *Fuerza Bruta WA!!* in Tokyo. She recently joined Virgin Voyages as a show captain/performer working with Gypsy Snider of Les 7 Doigts de la Main, Sam Pinkleton and Ani Taj, and she now currently works with their team to help install shows as an associate choreographer/director. Jimbo continues to expand her performance vocabulary with the Muse ABCirque productions as an aerialist as well as a sway pole artist and dancer. You can follow her adventure at erikojimbo.com or [@jb0b0](https://www.instagram.com/jb0b0).

Dorren "Moglii" Smith (Dancer)

Smith is an American artist born in the Bronx, New York, and a YDC alumnus. Smith's modes of movement include ballet, modern, contemporary, breaking, hip hop and house dance. Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club was the first place where his passion for dance was sparked wholeheartedly. Professional dance training was completed at the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase where his performance experience includes works by Bill T. Jones, Paul Taylor, Luca Vegetti and a repertoire solo by Crystal Pite. Smith performed in the *iLuminate* show for many years Off-Broadway and with national tours. He also appeared with the cast of *America's Got Talent*. Recently, Smith has been dancing and collaborating with Ephrat Asherie Dance where there are always new and exciting projects being explored and created. When Smith is not performing, he teaches creative movement workshops in New York, Berlin, Prague, Switzerland and Vienna. He also competes internationally to keep the spirit of expression and exchange alive.

Eduardo Belo (Bass)

Belo is a Brazilian bass player and composer. Belo has worked with renowned musicians including Ari Hoenig, Chico Pinheiro, Duduka Da Fonseca, Helio Alves, Claudio Roditi, Kevin Hays, Gabriel Grossi, Koran Agan and Mario Adnet, among others. Belo earned his BA in music at the Universidade de Brasília and his MM in jazz studies from the Queen's College of New York.

Alfredo Colon (Bass Clarinet, Baritone Sax, Flute & Alto Sax)

Dominican-American saxophonist and composer Colon is a proud New York City native. His playing has been described as authoritative and fiery yet mournful and melodic. Drawing on his interest in Dominican folklore and the works of visionary saxophonists Albert Ayler and Ornette Coleman, Colon creates a musical atmosphere that highlights beauty by framing it in disarray. Colón has collaborated with artists such as William Parker, Amirtha Kidambi, Henry Threadgill, Moses Sumney, Cafuné, Charlie Burg, Hamid Drake, Cautious Clay, Dawn Richard, Aaron Parks and Harish Raghavan. In 2020, Colón was awarded the Jazz Coalition Commission Fund Grant. He was awarded Roulette Intermedium's Van Lier Fellowship in 2022 and was a Roulette Resident Artist in 2023.

Juan Carlos Polo (Percussionist)

Polo is a Peruvian drummer, percussionist and composer based in New York City. Described by Latin Jazz Network as an artist who "melds jazz improvisation techniques into his drumming and makes a fine display of his virtuosity," Polo has established himself as a dynamic force in the contemporary music scene. He has collaborated with renowned musicians, including Arturo O'Farrill, Ayodele Casel, Akua Dixon, Bill O'Connell and hip hop legend Grandmaster Caz. His performances have taken him to prestigious venues and festivals worldwide such as La Casa de las Américas and the Teatro Nacional de Cuba during the Jazz Plaza Festival in Havana, the Ithra Theater in Saudi Arabia, the Ciudad Emergente Festival in Argentina and the Varadouro Festival in Brazil. A recipient of the 2021 New York City Artists Corps Grant, Polo has also been awarded grants from the Jazz Foundation of America and the Louis Armstrong Foundation, further cementing his impact in the world of jazz and beyond.

Bridget Caston (Company Manager)

Caston has worked in arts administration since 2021. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a BFA in dance performance and choreography and a BBA in consulting and change management, she has held roles with Gesel Mason Performance Projects, K.DMC, and Jacob's Pillow Dance's 90th Anniversary Festival. From 2022 to 2024, Caston was Associate Producer at the Joyce Theater Foundation's in-house producing entity, Joyce Theater Productions (JTP), where she contributed to projects, including serpentwithfeet's *Heart of Brick*, Hope Boykin's *States of Hope* and Caleb Teicher's *Bzzz*, and served as company manager for touring productions. She also helped launch and manage the Joyce's New York Center for Creativity & Dance. In 2024, she supported Max Roach 100, a centennial celebration featuring Ayodele Casel, Rennie Harris and Ronald K. Brown, among others. Most recently, she was Company Manager for A.I.M by Kyle Abraham (2024–2025). Caston is dedicated to advancing the growth, efficiency and sustainability of performing arts and artists for years to come.

LD DeArmon (Production Manager)

DeArmon worked in New York City from 2008-2020 in the field of dance as a performer, stage manager, production manager and lighting designer. Now, they live in Richmond, VA and tour with a handful of talented artists. When they're not on the road, DeArmon works for Virginia State Parks as a maintenance ranger. They can be found at @yesmoredays off on Instagram.

William Stanton (Audio Engineer)

Stanton is an audio engineer with a breadth of experience in live sound and studio engineering who has engineered for a wide range of artists and musicians. He frequently engineers for the Reflections Concert series, working with luminaries like Daniel Lanois, Suzanna Ciani, Laraaji, Ben Neill, Eric Calvi and Sarah Davachi. He has also engineered projects as a freelancer, mixing and recording artists like Terry Allen and Jo Harvey Allen, Tim Robbins, Travis Scott, Pink Siifu, Ethan Hawke, Meshell Ndegeocello, Snarky Puppy, Xenia Rubinos, Nels Cline, Miho Hatori and Marshall Allen. Recent experiences include collaborations with choreographer Mark Morris and chamber orchestra Alarm Will Sound on a staging of David T. Little's opera *What Belongs to You*; mixing projects for news outlet The Intercept; live performances with the Martha Graham Dance Company; and producing a live multi-night taping of John Cameron Mitchell's *Cancellation Island* starring Holly Hunter. Most recently, Stanton completed a six-week North American tour with Noga Erez. Previously, Stanton has worked as a front-of-house engineer for tours with Julian Koster's *Orbiting Human Circus (of the Air)* and Virgil Moorefield. He is a native of New Baltimore, Michigan and a graduate of the University of Michigan's Performing Arts Technology program.

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