



Lois Greenfield

PARSONS DANCE

Artistic Director **David Parsons**
General Manager **Rebecca Josue**
Resident Lighting Designer **Howell Binkley**

Dancers

Zoey Anderson, Justus Whitfield, Deidre Rogan, Shawn Lesniak,
Henry Steele, Joan Rodriguez, Sasha Alvarez, Katie Garcia

Stage Manager **Michael Megliola**
Lighting Supervisor **Christopher Chambers**

PROGRAM

There will be an intermission.

Friday, May 10 @ 8 PM
Saturday, May 11 @ 2 PM
Saturday, May 11 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

NextMove
DANCE

The 18/19 dance series is presented by Annenberg Center Live and NextMove Dance.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Parsons Dance

Parsons Dance is a New York City-based contemporary American 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 five continents, and has appeared at such notable venues as The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Sydney Opera House, Maison de la Danse, Teatro La Fenice and Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro.

Parsons Dance performs works selected from the vast and varied repertory of more than 75 pieces created by David Parsons. In addition, established choreographers like Trey McIntyre and Robert Battle are invited to re-stage works from the American canon on its dancers. And, through its newly launched 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; through post-show discussions, open rehearsals, studio showcases, video workshops, open company classes and 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, that features sensory-friendly workshops and relaxed performances for audiences of all abilities.

All of these activities are driven by the vision of Artistic Director David Parsons, who, for more than 30 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/CoFounder)

David 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. Parsons continues his involvement in diverse projects, with his most recent gig taking him to Japan, where he choreographed *A Knight's Tale*, a new musical theatre work directed by John Caird, who previously directed the Broadway and West End productions of *Les Misérables* and the London's National Theatre production of *Candide*. Staged at Tokyo's iconic Imperial Theatre from July 25 through August 29, 2018, the work featured Japanese pop stars in leading roles.

In addition to the more than 75 works that he has created for Parsons Dance, Parsons has received commissions from 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, among dozens of others.

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 (Resident Lighting Designer/Co-Founder)

Howell Binkley is the proud co-founder of Parsons Dance for which he has designed more than 70 pieces. His Broadway designs include: *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 has made extensive regional and dance works for Alvin Ailey, American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street and The Joffrey Ballet's *Billboards*. He is 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*. Binkley 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)

Zoey 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 Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Dancing With The Stars* webisodes and Macy's Passport Tour with P. Diddy. Anderson was nominated for the Outstanding Performer Bessie Award for her sustained achievement in Parsons Dance. Anderson joined the company in 2015.

Justus Whitfield (Dancer)

Justus Whitfield is from Las Vegas, Nevada and trained in ballet, modern and jazz at Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. He performed with Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater in 2014 under the direction of Bernard Gaddis. In 2016, Whitfield graduated with a BA in dance from Point Park University, where he performed works by various choreographers including George Balanchine, Troy Powell and Garfield Lemonius. Whitfield joined Parsons Dance in 2016.

Deidre Rogan (Dancer)

Deidre Rogan began her dance training in Fort Myers, FL at Gulfshore Ballet, under the direction of Melinda Roy and Roberto Munoz. Rogan has worked with choreographers such as Judith Jamison, Milton Myers, Matthew Rushing, Hope Boykin, Ronald K. Brown and Cheryl Copeland. She performed as a United States Arts Ambassador for President Barack Obama during the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 Hannover Messe. She is a three-time recipient of the BIG ARTS awards scholarship and a National Young Arts award scholarship. Rogan graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program in dance and was a member of Ailey II from 2014-16. She was an understudy with Parsons Dance for the 2016-17 season before joining the company in the fall of 2017.

Shawn Lesniak (Dancer)

Shawn Lesniak began dancing at the age of seven in East Haven, Connecticut. At his hometown dance studio, Lesniak trained in various styles of dance including ballet, jazz and tap. After dancing competitively for 10 years, he decided to further his dance education at Point Park University. During his time at Point Park, Lesniak was fortunate to perform works by Mark Morris, Matthew Powell, Emery Lecrone and Septime Webre. Lesniak joined Parsons Dance in the fall of 2017.

Henry Steele (Dancer)

Henry Steele was born and raised in Wollongong, NSW, Australia. He was a competitive gymnast for eight years and a national gold medalist for three years. During his final years as a gymnast, he began making the transition to dance. In 2016, Steele graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in modern and jazz dance. At Point Park, he performed works by choreographers such as Lar Lubovitch, Mark Morris, Ronin Koresh and Troy Powell. He has danced professionally with Owen/Cox Dance Group, Texture Contemporary Ballet and toured internationally with the Bad Boys of Ballet. Steele joined Parsons Dance in 2017.

Joan Rodriguez (Dancer)

Joan Rodriguez was born in La Habana, Cuba. He graduated from the Escuela Nacional de Arte with the Best Graduate of the Year award. His professional career began with the dance company DanzAbierta, and he later joined Malpaso Dance Company where he danced for three years and worked with choreographers such as Trey McIntyre, Osnel Delgado and Ronald K. Brown. Rodriguez moved from Cuba to Arizona in 2016 where he focused on creating, teaching and performing. In the U.S., he has worked with award-winning dance artists such as Mary Fitzgerald and Liz Lerman, has been Guest Artist in Residence for numerous universities and arts centers. His choreography for students has received awards in several national level competitions. Rodriguez joined Parsons Dance in 2018.

Sasha Alvarez (Dancer)

Sasha Alvarez is from Tampa and began her formal dance training at the age of 15 with Next Generation Ballet at the Patel Conservatory under the direction of Peter Stark and Ivonne Lemus. In 2017, she graduated from Point Park University, where she studied under Rubén Graciani. Alvarez has performed works by prominent choreographers such as George Balanchine, Emery LeCrone, Septime Webre, Garfield Lemonius, Brian Enos, Ronin Koresh and James Gregg. Professionally, she has danced with Helen Simoneau Danse at NYU Center for Ballet and Arts and Hammerstep NYC at Mana Contemporary. Alvarez is also an active member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and has shared her passion for dance by volunteering at her home club in Tampa. Alvarez joined Parsons Dance in 2018.

Katie Garcia (Dancer)

Katie Garcia was born and raised in Miami and trained in ballet, jazz, tap, modern, contemporary, hip-hop, Latin, ballroom and flamenco. After graduating from New World School of the Arts, she continued her training at The Juilliard School, where she performed works by Paul Taylor, Merce Cunningham, Ohad Naharin, José Limón, Richard Alston, Johannes Wieland, Matthew Neenan, Zvi Gotheiner and Loni Landon. Service and community outreach is an integral part of her life and artistic journey, and in 2016, she traveled to Botswana to teach dance and movement therapy classes to children. A recipient of the Irene Diamond and Edith Rosenhouse-Baehr scholarship, Garcia graduated from Juilliard in 2017 and then danced for WHITE WAVES, under the direction of Young Soon Kim. Garcia joined Parsons Dance in 2018.

Madeline Parrish (Understudy)

Madeline Parrish was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, where she completed her early dance training under the direction of Kaylee Cahoon at the Franklin School of Performing Arts. In 2015, Parrish began studying at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts under the tutelage of Seán Curran. While in school, Parrish performed works by Crystal Pite, Sonya Tayeh and Paul Taylor. Parrish was selected by the NYU faculty to study abroad at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in 2017 and received her BFA in dance from NYU in 2018. Parrish became an understudy with Parsons Dance in 2017 and has performed with the company throughout the U.S. and in 24 cities in China.

Sumire Ishige (Understudy)

Sumire Ishige is from Greensboro, North Carolina and studied at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts high school program under the leadership of Brenda Daniels and Susan Jaffe. She is now in her third year of the Ailey/Fordham BFA program. In the summer of 2016, Ishige was selected to participate in an exchange program at the National Ballet School of Canada. She has performed pieces by Alvin Ailey, Twyla Tharp, Lar Lubovitch, José Limón and Ohad Naharin, and has worked with distinguished choreographers such as Gregory Dolbashian, Juel D. Lane, Jennifer Archibald and Tom Weinberger. Ishige became an understudy with Parsons Dance in 2018 and performed with the company at The Joyce in NYC and on tour in the U.S.

Trey McIntyre (Choreographer)

Trey McIntyre is a choreographer, filmmaker, writer and photographer. Born in Wichita, Kansas, he trained at North Carolina School of the Arts and Houston Ballet Academy. McIntyre spent 13 years as choreographic associate to Houston Ballet, a position that was created especially for him. He has also created works for American Ballet Theatre, Pennsylvania Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, New York City Ballet, Queensland

Ballet and Stuttgart Ballet, to name a few. In 2005, he founded his own dance company, McIntyre McIntyre Project, which was lauded critically and as a new model of an arts organization. In 2014, he transitioned the company to focus on photography and video projects. He continues to choreograph worldwide and is working on two books of photography, a Patreon site (patreon.com/treymcintyre) and a documentary entitled *Gravity Hero*. McIntyre has received numerous awards and is a United States Artists Fellow.

Rebecca Josue (General Manager)

Rebecca Josue joined Parsons Dance in 2010 as the Company Manager and Stage Manager and has been lucky enough to tour with the company both nationally and internationally for the past eight seasons. Josue became the General Manager for the 2013-2014 season and continued to tour until the company's current season. 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.

Development Director Kate Taylor

Manager, Business Operations Robert J. Ford

Production Coordinator & Lighting Associate Michael Megliola

Administrative Fellow Ivana Savarese

Marketing Consultants Martha Cooper, Morahan Arts & Media

Artists' Representative Margaret Selby, Selby Artists Management

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