

THE 36TH ANNUAL
NEW YORK DANCE &
PERFORMANCE
AWARDS

The Bessies

7:30PM ET
DECEMBER 14, 2020
VIRTUAL BESSIES CEREMONY

Justice.
Transformation.
Education.



Reimagining the dance ecology.

MARCH 17-20 2021
VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Register at Dance.NYC
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**SYMP
OSIUM**

Leadership support is provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Howard Gilman Foundation. The Symposium is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, from the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and from the National Endowment for the Arts.

**CONGRATS TO ALL
BESSIE ARTISTS...**

**AND TO ANGEL,
LUCY SEXTON!**

**NEW YORK
LIVE
ARTS**

**Join us for Live Artery
in January!**

Featuring full digital remounts
including 2020 Bessie Nominee
Kimberly Bartosik I daela's
through the mirror of their eyes.

Photo: Dancers Joanna Kotze, Dylan Crossman,
and 2020 Bessie Nominee Burr Johnson in
through the mirror of their eyes
by Maria Baranova

NEW YORK LIVE ARTS
219 W 19th Street
New York 10011
newyorklivearts.org

NOTE

Enjoy The Bessies while sipping our very own original Bessies cocktail recipes!

Mixology courtesy of Salty Brine.

WALK THE BALL!

- 1 half lime, quartered
- 3 slices cucumber
- 1 small handful cilantro
- 2 oz tequila
- Tonic
- 1 teaspoon mezcal (*optional*)

Muddle limes, cucumber and cilantro in a chilled Collins glass. Add tequila and ice. Top with tonic and stir. Float mezcal on top for some smoky goodness, if desired. Get down with your bad self, and dance and strut and vogue it out!

THE SHOW MUST GO ON
(SOFT COCKTAIL)

- 2 parts lemon juice
- 2 parts grapefruit juice
- 1 part real maple syrup
- Seltzer

Add lemon juice, grapefruit juice and maple syrup to a cocktail shaker and shake vigorously for ten seconds. Dump entire contents including ice into a chilled Collins glass. Top with seltzer. Garnish with lemon and grapefruit wedge. Dust off, get back up, and just keep going!

Salty Brine is a cabaret artist, playwright and actor. He is the creative force behind The Living Record Collection, a series of cabaret performances built around whole, incredible albums. He makes cocktails for fun in his spare time. Cheers!
www.thesaltiestbrine.com

FROM THE
INCOMING
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR—

Dear New York Dance and Performance Community,

Welcome to our 36th Annual, and first ever virtual Bessies Ceremony! Thank you for joining us this evening. Tonight, we celebrate our community, witness one another and the work we have accomplished collectively during this pandemic, and unite to grieve all we have lost. In recognition of the enormous impact this year has had on our field, we did not feel it would be appropriate to carry on with business as usual. This year, we lift up our frontline and essential workers, the unsung but vital people who make dance happen in New York City, and remember those who have passed since our last ceremony. We celebrate Black Lives, Black dance, and Black-led organizations and initiatives. Instead of presenting awards this year, we are honoring all of the 2019/2020 nominated artists, Lifetime Achievement, Service to the Field of Dance, and Special Citation individuals. Congratulations to each and every one of you!

The manifestation of this evening has been a community effort, with ideas shared by many folks over the course of this year. Special thanks to the Steering Committee, Selection Committee, and to The Bessies League and Presenter League. Many thanks to Michele Thompson for stepping in during our most challenging year in Bessies history! Thank you to our partners, our interns, our production team; to all who attended our town hall at Gibney, and to all who sent me emails with suggestions of how we can do better at The Bessies. *Muchas gracias* to each and every artist, dance worker, arts worker, patron and supporter of dance and performance. We need you now more than ever.

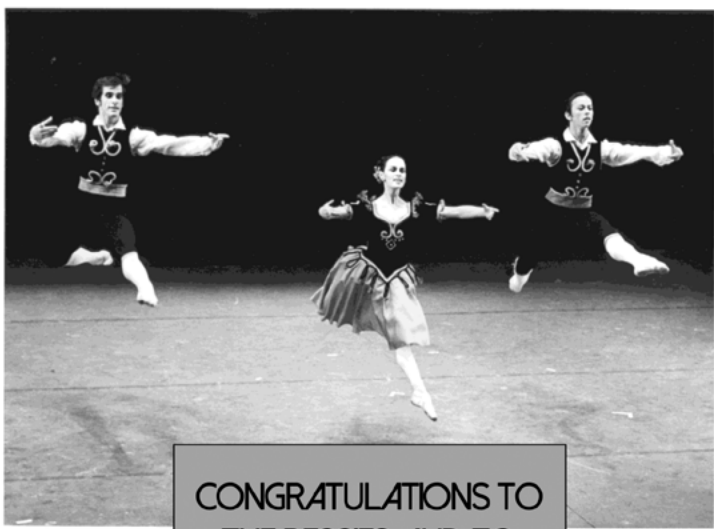
For me, this year has reaffirmed the transformational power of art. As we rebuild our community, let us build with vision and soul, connection and equity, and never go back to business as usual. Let us always unite in support of one another, and rally for both our collective survival and our thriving. This is a time of *possibility*. I look forward to working with you to create a space where all of us are held, and free.

Love,

Heather Robles

Incoming Executive Director

The New York Dance and Performance Awards, The Bessies



CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE BESSIES AND TO
ALL THE NOMINEES



HARKNESS
FOUNDATION FOR DANCE

Nel Shelby
PRODUCTIONS



*Congratulations to all the nominees!
So proud to be part of this incredible and
resilient dance community.*

Sending love from the NSP team

videography & livestream production

nelshelby.com


pentacle

ARTIST DRIVEN

RELIABLE

INCLUSIVE

SUPPORTIVE

WWW.PENTACLE.ORG

PROGRAM—

WELCOME

Masazumi Chaya, Bill Irwin, Virginia Johnson, Ralph Lemon,
Bebe Miller, Bebe Neuwirth, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Quita Sullivan

BESSIES NEWS

Lucy Sexton, *Bessies Angel Honoree*
Heather Robles, *Incoming Executive Director of The Bessies*

OUTSTANDING PERFORMER NOMINEES

Presented by Leslie Cuyjet

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN / MUSICAL COMPOSITION NOMINEES

Presented by Conrad Tao and
Caleb Teicher

OUTSTANDING VISUAL DESIGN NOMINEES

Presented by Constance Valis Hill

GRATITUDE TO FRONTLINE AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS

devynn emory

OUTSTANDING REVIVAL NOMINEES

Presented by Jasmine Hearn

IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIVES

Presented by Charmaine Warren
André M. Zachery / Renegade Performance Group, The Billie
Holiday Theatre, Black Dance Stories, Collective of Black
Artists, dance Immersion, The International Association of
Blacks in Dance, One Dance UK

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN DANCE HONOREES

Presented by Joan Myres Brown

OUTSTANDING BREAKOUT CHOREOGRAPHER NOMINEES

Presented by Mariana Valencia

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY & ACTIVATIONS

Presented by Andrea Snyder
Abrons Arts Center, Creating New Futures,
Dance Artists' National Collective, Dance/NYC's

#ArtistsAreNecessaryWorkers Series, Dance Rising NYC, Dance Studio Alliance, The Dance Union, #Dance2Vote, Dancers Above Water Relief Fund, NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund, #NYCDanceUnites, Wise Fruit NYC

SERVICE TO THE FIELD OF
DANCE HONOREES

Presented by Louis Mofsie

SPECIAL THANKS TO
DANCE WORKERS

Presented by George Emilio Sanchez
Abrons Arts Center, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Brooklyn Ballet, The Clemente, The Chocolate Factory Theater, Dance Parade, Danspace Project, The Flea Theater, Gibney, Green Space, Harlem Stage, Japan Society, The Joyce Theater, The Kitchen, New 42nd Street Studios, New York Live Arts, Steps on Broadway, STREB, TOPAZ ARTS

SPECIAL CITATION
HONOREE

Presented by Dianne McIntyre

IN MEMORIAM

Presented by Dyane Harvey-Salaam and
Abdel Salaam

DANCE/NYC

Alejandra Duque Cifuentes, *Executive Director*, and
Candace Thompson-Zachery, *Manager of Justice, Equity and
Inclusion Initiatives*

OUTSTANDING
PRODUCTION
NOMINEES

Presented by Alice Sheppard

CLOSING

Eva Yaa Asantewaa, Maria Baranova, Michele Byrd-McPhee, Celia Ipiotis, Nicky Paraiso, Carla Peterson, Rajika Puri, Gus Solomons jr, Risa Steinberg, Carrie Stern, Paz Tanjuaquio, Catherine Tharin, Muna Tseng, Tony Waag

PERFORMANCE NOTES—

ANCESTRAL CALLING

Collective of Black Artists

Choreography: BaKari I. Lindsay

Performance: BaKari I. Lindsay

Music: Trevor Watts Drum Orchestra

REDLINE

Renegade Performance Group

Choreography: André M. Zachery

Performance: André M. Zachery

Music: Arin Maya

IN MEMORIAM

Sound: *Cross Currents* and *Solea* composed and performed by Paul Jared Newman.

Photos: Danny Tidwell in *Le Spectre de la Rose* in 2005 by Marty Sohl, courtesy American Ballet Theatre; Susan Hendl in *Dances at a Gathering* by Steven Caras; Nick Fish courtesy of his family; Elyse Borne in *Apollo* rehearsal with George Balanchine by Steven Caras; Rita Hamilton, courtesy of Tony Waag; Paul Jared Newman by Nan Melville, courtesy of Deidre Towers; Carol Paumgarten, courtesy of Diane Grumet & Steps on Broadway; Marcus White, courtesy of Tribute Archive; Hilda Kraker, courtesy of her family and Meg White; Anh Tuyet-Nguyen, courtesy of her family and Meg White; R. Britton Fisher, courtesy of his family and Meg White; Tim Schellenbaum, courtesy of La Mama; Howell Binkley, courtesy of Mike Megliola & Parsons Dance; Erik Ostrand, courtesy of John Durbin.

HONOREES—

2020 OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE FIELD
OF DANCE HONOREES

Harkness Center for Dance Injuries

Shannon Hummel

Ishmael Houston-Jones

Peter Richards

2020 OUTSTANDING
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
IN DANCE HONOREES

Arthur Aviles and Charles Rice-González

Louis Johnson

Mary Overlie

2020 SPECIAL
CITATION HONOREE

Jacquelyn Buglisi for *Table of Silence*

2020 OUTSTANDING
PRODUCTION
NOMINEES

NOMINATIONS—

Kimberly Bartosik/daela

through the mirror of their eyes

New York Live Arts

Monica Bill Barnes and

Robert Saenz de Viteri

Days Go By

Brookfield Place New York

Brother(hood) Dance!

Afro/Solo/Man

Gibney

Ayodele Casel and Arturo O’Farrill

Ayodele Casel + Arturo O’Farrill

The Joyce Theater

a canary torsi/Yanira Castro

Last Audience

New York Live Arts

Yoshiko Chuma

My Diary: Secret Journey to Tipping Utopia

The Invisible Dog

Colin Dunne in collaboration with

Sinéad Rushe and Mel Mericer

Concert

Baryshnikov Arts Center, co-presented
with the Irish Arts Center

Gregory Vuyani Maqoma
Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero
The Joyce Theater, co-presented with
Prototype Festival

Annie-B Parson
David Byrne's *American Utopia*
Hudson Theatre

jumatatu m. poe and
Jermone "Donte" Beacham
Let 'im Move You: This is a Formation
Abrons Art Center

Amanda Szeglowski
this is now, and now, and now.
JACK

2020 OUTSTANDING
REVIVED WORK
NOMINEES

BUSK
by Aszure Barton
Performed by Alvin Ailey American
Dance Theater
New York City Center

Colored
by Kyle Marshall
BAM Fisher

From The Horse's Mouth, various works
by Tina Croll & Jamie Cunningham/
From the Horse's Mouth honoring the
75th anniversary of the Jerome Robbins
Dance Division
The Theater at the 14th Street Y

Monuments: Echoes in the Dance Archive
by Adam Weinert
The New York Public Library for the
Performing Arts

2020 OUTSTANDING
PERFORMER NOMINEES

Oluwadamilare Ayorinde
A.D. & Colored by Kyle Marshall
BAM Fisher

Grupo de Rua
Inoab by Bruno Beltrão/Grupo de Rua
Brooklyn Academy of Music

Burr Johnson
through the mirror of their eyes
by Kimberly Bartosik/daela
New York Live Arts

Wataru Kitao
The Unknown Dancer in the Neighborhood
by Suguru Yamamoto

2020 OUTSTANDING
PERFORMER NOMINEES,
CONTINUED

The Public Theater's *Under the Radar
Festival 2020*
Japan Society

Huwer Anthony Marche Jr. "King Havoc"
LayeRhythm Jam
Nublu

Shannon Nash
Community Exercises for Sanctuary Spaces
by Brendan Drake
The Brick Theater

Emily Pope
My Diary: Secret Journey to Tipping Utopia
by Yoshiko Chuma
The Invisible Dog

Annique Roberts
For Sustained Achievement in the work of
Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE

Myssi Robinson
For Body of Work with Kyle Marshall

Bijayini Satpathy
Kalpana – the world of Imagination by
Kelucharan Mohapatra and Surupa Sen
A.R.T. New York Theatre
Drive East Festival

2020 OUTSTANDING
PERFORMER
NOMINEES, CONTINUED

Hu Shenyuan
Under Siege by Yang Liping
Contemporary Dance
David H. Koch Theater

Omari Wiles
Odeon by Ephrat Asherie
The Joyce Theater

2020 OUTSTANDING MUSIC
COMPOSITION / SOUND
DESIGN NOMINEES

Quran Karriem
Soundz at the Back of My Head
by Thomas F. DeFrantz/Slippage
Gibney

Nhlanhla Mahlangu and Ntuthuko Mbuyazi
Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero
by Gregory Maqoma /
Vuyani Dance Theater
The Joyce Theater, co-presented with
Prototype Festival

Stephan Moore
Last Audience
by a canary torsi/Yanira Castro
New York Live Arts

Nioka Workman, nia love, and
Antoine Roney
gl(host):lostatsea by nia love
Gibney

2020 OUTSTANDING
VISUAL DESIGN NOMINEES

Peter Born (Set and Lighting Design)

Sitting on a Man's Head

by Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born
Danspace Project

Liam O'Brien & Kelly Hanson (Costume
and Scenic Design), Mary Ellen Stebbins
and Jane Cox (Lighting Design)

Days Go By by Monica Bill Barnes and
Robert Saenz de Viteri
Brookfield Place New York

Ricardo Valentine and Orlando Zane

Hunter (Video)

Afro/Solo/Man by Brother(hood) Dance!
Gibney

Tim Yip (Art Director, Costume Design)
and Beili Liu (Installation)

Under Siege by Yang Liping
Contemporary Dance
David H. Koch Theater

2020 OUTSTANDING
BREAKOUT
CHOREOGRAPHER
NOMINEES

Gemma Bond

Tess Dworman

It's Showtime NYC!

Gabrielle Revlock

SPEAKERS—

JOAN MYERS BROWN,
DFA, DHL, DA

Founder, Executive Artistic Advisor of Philadanco. Ms. Brown is the honorary chairperson for the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD), an organization she established in 1991. Founder of the International Conference of Black Dance Companies in 1988, a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of the Arts and Howard University in Washington, DC. Most recently, Ms. Brown was celebrated in a live-streamed presentation by the Board of DanceFest Skopje (Macedonia) with the prestigious 2020 MENADA Award for Outstanding Life Achievement in the Field of Dance.

MASAZUMI CHAYA

Masazumi Chaya was born in Fukuoka, Japan, where he began his classical ballet training. He joined Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1972 and performed with the Company for 15 years. From 1991 to 2019, Mr. Chaya served as Associate Artistic Director of the Company. He continues to provide invaluable creative assistance in all facets of its operations.

LESLIE CUYJET

Leslie Cuyjet is a choreographer and award-winning performer living in Brooklyn, NY. lesliecuyjet.com

DEVYNN EMORY

devynn emory is a choreographer, dance artist, bodyworker, ceremonial guide, and an acute care and hospice Nurse currently working as a COVID-19 Nurse. emory's performance work draws from their multiple in-between states of being, both as a mixed-race indigenous and transgender person, and in holding space for liminal bodies bridging multiple planes of transition.

JASMINE HEARN

Jasmine Hearn is a performer, director, choreographer, organizer, teaching artist, and a 2017 Bessies-award winning performer. They are currently a company member with Urban Bush Women, a 2019 Jerome Foundation Jerome Hill Fellow, and a part of the collective Skeleton Architecture. They also have creatively collaborated with multidisciplinary

artists, Solange Knowles, Alisha B. Wormsley, Vanessa German, Ayanah Moor, Staycee Pearl, Holly Bass, BANDPortier, David Dorfman Dance, and Li Harris, who have produced solo and collective dance choreographies for international performances.

CONSTANCE VALIS HILL

Constance Valis Hill, Five College Professor Emerita of dance studies at Hampshire College, specializes in dance historiography, feminist performance, and African diaspora aesthetics. The author of *Brotherhood in Rhythm: The Jazz Tap Dancing of the Nicholas Brothers* and *Tap Dancing America, A Cultural History*, she is dance editor for the Los Angeles Review of Books.

BILL IRWIN

Bill Irwin, now known primarily as a Tony Award-winning actor, has achieved distinction as a dancer, a performance artist, and a vaudeville clown, with credits as a producer, director, writer, and choreographer. He was born in California in 1950, and holds degrees from Oberlin College and the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. Irwin made his Jacob's Pillow debut in 1981 and has returned on several memorable occasions.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON

Currently Artistic Director, Johnson is a founding member of Dance Theatre of Harlem over a career that spanned nearly 30 years. After retiring in 1997, Ms. Johnson went on to found *Pointe Magazine* and was editor-in-chief for 10 years. She has received such honors as a Young Achiever Award from the National Council of Women, Outstanding Young Woman of America Award, the Dance Magazine Award, and more. <https://www.dancetheatreofharlem.org/>

RALPH LEMON

Ralph Lemon is an artist, writer and choreographer.

DIANE MCINTYRE

Dianne McIntyre, recipient of three Bessies, choreographs for concert dance, theatre, film and opera. Awards include United States Artists Fellowship, Dance/USA Honor Award, Doris Duke Artist Award, Guggenheim Fellowship, two Audecos,

an Emmy nomination, two honorary degrees. Her mentor is Gus Solomons jr.

BEBE MILLER

Bebe Miller has received four New York Dance and Performance Bessies Awards and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, Guggenheim Foundation and many others. She was a United States Artists Ford Fellow, received one of the first Doris Duke Artists Awards, a New York Live Arts' 2013 David White Award, and was a 2015 Movement Research Honoree. A Distinguished Professor in Dance at The Ohio State University's College of Arts and Humanities from 2000–2016, Miller received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Ursinus College in 2009.

LOUIS MOFSIE

Louis Mofsie is from the Hopi and Winnebago tribes. He is a retired art teacher who taught for 35 years at the Meadowbrook Elementary School in East Meadow, New York. He is a founding member of the American Indian Community House and served as the Chairman of the board for over 15 years. He is the current director of the Thunderbird American Indian Dancers, a dance company he helped originate in 1963.

BEBE NEUWIRTH

Broadway: *A Chorus Line*; *Little Me*; *Dancin'*; *Sweet Charity*, (Tony Award); *Damn Yankees*; *Chicago*, (Tony, Astaire, Drama Desk, Outer Circle Critics, Drama League Distinguished Performance of the Year Awards); *Fosse*; *The Addams Family*. Off-Broadway: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, etc. Regional: *The Taming of the Shrew*, etc. London: *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*. TV.: *Cheers*; etc.; 2 Emmys, 2 nominations. Film: *Jumanji*; *Liberty Heights*; *The Faculty*; *Celebrity*; etc. CDs - Bebe Neuwirth - *Porcelain*, *Stories... in NYC*, *Live at 54 Below*. Honorary Local 1, Honorary Ziegfeld Girl.

DYANE HARVEY-SALAAM

Dyane Harvey-Salaam is a 2017 Bessies Awardee, founding member of Forces of Nature Dance Theatre Company, performing artist, dance educator, choreographer and published writer. Lincoln Center Library's Dance Division presented stories of her life in dance-theatre-culture in 2020 through *The Oral History Project* and *The Dance Historian Is In* programming. Forever grateful to those who came before, Ase.'

ABDEL R. SALAAM

Abdel R. Salaam is the Artistic Director/Co-Founder of Forces of Nature Dance Theatre and the Artistic Director of Dance Africa @BAM. His fifty year career in the world of dance and theater spans five continents as a director, choreographer, percussionist, and costume designer. He has received a 2017 Bessie Award for Outstanding Production and the 2019 American Dance Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in Dance.

LUCY SEXTON

Lucy Sexton is a Brooklyn-born choreographer, producer, administrator, and performing artist who works in the fields of dance, performance, film, and public advocacy. She is the Executive Director of the cultural advocacy coalition New Yorkers for Culture & Arts. Prior to that, she served as Executive Director of the NY Dance and Performance Awards, The Bessies, where she worked for 10 years with Heather Robles to build The Bessies into an independent organization. From 2013-16, she served as a Consulting Associate Artistic Director of the planned performing arts center at the World Trade Center. As a dance artist, she works with Anne lobst creating and performing the dance performance duo DANCENOISE, which was founded in 1983, had a retrospective exhibit and performance at the Whitney Museum in 2015, and premiered a new piece at NY Live Arts in 2018. She has also directed and dramaturged plays by Spalding Gray, Tom Murrin, Nora Burns, and Heather Litteer; and produced documentaries by Charles Atlas for the BBC and Arte.

ALICE SHEPPARD

Alice Sheppard is an emerging and Bessies award-winning choreographer. In addition to performance and choreography, Sheppard is a sought-after speaker and has lectured on topics related to disability arts, race and dance. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times* and in academic journals.

QUITA SULLIVAN

(she/her/they/them) (Montaukett/Shinnecock) is the Senior Program Director for Theater at New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), where she leads the National Theater Project, supporting the creation and touring of devised, ensemble-based theater. She is a Board Member of Grantmakers in the Arts and a frequent speaker on supporting Indigenous Artists. nefa.org/quita-sullivan for a full bio.

CONRAD TAO

Conrad Tao has appeared world wide as a pianist and composer, and has been dubbed a musician of “probing intellect and open-hearted vision” by *The New York Times*, which also cited him “one of five classical music faces to watch” in the 2018-19 season. Tao is a recipient of the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant, and was named a Gilmore Young Artist—an honor awarded every two years highlighting the most promising American pianists of the new generation. At the 2019 New York Dance and Performance Awards (Bessies), Tao was the recipient of the Award for Outstanding Sound Design/Music Composition for his work on *More Forever*, his collaboration with Caleb Teicher.

CALEB TEICHER

Caleb Teicher is a two-time Bessie Award winning-dancer and choreographer specializing in musically-driven dance traditions and interdisciplinary collaboration. Their work was recently seen on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert accompanying Regina Spektor, and you can watch their duo show with Conrad Tao for free through the Library of Congress website. www.CalebTeicher.net

MARIANA VALENCIA

Mariana Valencia is a choreographer and performer. She's a Bessie Award-recipient for Outstanding Breakout Choreographer (2018), a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award to Artists grant recipient (2018), and a Whitney Biennial Artist (2019).

JAWOLE WILLA JO ZOLLAR

Jawole Willa Jo Zollar earned her B.A. in dance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and her M.F.A. in dance from Florida State University. She moved to New York City in 1980 to study with Dianne McIntyre at Sounds in Motion; she founded Urban Bush Women (UBW) in 1984. Recently, she received the 2015 *Dance Magazine* Award, 2016 Dance/USA Honor Award, and the 2017 Bessies Lifetime Achievement Award alongside multiple honorary degrees. UBW was named one of America's Cultural Treasures by the Ford Foundation in 2020.

ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDED IN THE CEREMONY—

ABRONS ARTS CENTER

Abrons Arts Center is a home for contemporary interdisciplinary arts in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. Abrons believes that access to the arts is essential to a free and healthy society. Through performance presentations, exhibitions, education programs, and residencies, Abrons mobilizes communities with the transformative power of art.

ANDRÉ M. ZACHERY / RENEGADE PERFORMANCE GROUP

André M. Zachery (b. 1981) is a Brooklyn-based interdisciplinary artist of Haitian and African American descent, and is a scholar, researcher and technologist with a BFA from Ailey/Fordham University and MFA in Performance & Interactive Media Arts from CUNY/Brooklyn College. As the artistic director of Renegade Performance Group his practice, research and community engagement artistically focuses on merging of choreography, technology and Black cultural practices through multimedia work.

THE BILLIE HOLIDAY THEATRE

The Billie Holiday Theatre, Inc. (BHT) was founded in 1972 by Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation (Restoration), a community development corporation whose mission is to be a catalyst for the progressive improvement of the quality of life for the people of Bedford Stuyvesant.

BLACK DANCE STORIES

Charmaine Warren, Kimani Fowlin, Nicholas Xavier Hall, Tony Turner, Cynthia Tate, Gabriel-Lee Dekoladenu, Kaitlyn Chandler, Renee Redding Jones, Antonio - Intentional Interpreting, LLC - Shannon

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are a community working together to support, uphold, highlight and celebrate Black Creatives.

**BROOKLYN ARTS
EXCHANGE**

Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) is a cultural home dedicated to artistic risk-taking, social justice, and dialogue among diverse constituencies. Since 1991, we have built community with thousands of students, families, and artists through our artistic and educational programming.

BROOKLYN BALLET

Brooklyn Ballet brings a contemporary vision to the treasured art form of ballet, with repertory and programs that revitalize and re-imagine the classical form. Our mission is three-fold: to commit to artistic accomplishment, education, and community engagement.

**THE CHOCOLATE
FACTORY THEATER**

The Chocolate Factory Theater is an artist-centered organization, built by and for artists. Since Co-founders Sheila Lewandowski and Brian Rogers began making work together in 1995, The Chocolate Factory has grown and developed within and through a creative process and centers the development of new work, as guided by makers.

THE CLEMENTE

The Clemente is a Puerto Rican/Latinx multi-arts cultural staple for close to three decades, and the pulpit where countless New York based Latinx, BIPOC, local LES, and international partners create contemporary work and co-productions in a collaborative environment. We provide meaningful support and affordability to contemporary artists, curators, independent producers, and small arts organizations in the form of subsidized studio, rehearsal, office, and venue space; as well as countless co-production opportunities, an annual series of exhibitions, and seasonal festivals.

**COLLECTIVE OF
BLACK ARTISTS**

Founded in 1993, COBA is dedicated to creating and presenting the finest traditions in dance and music that celebrate and reflect an Africanist aesthetic. The Collective presents Traditional West African dance, music and folklore; Caribbean Indigenous Folk dance, music and rituals in their purest forms possible for the theatrical stage; and contemporary works.

CREATING NEW FUTURES

In response to the global pandemic, Creating New Futures (CNF) began as a document “to create a more equitable and inclusive dance & performance ecosystem.” In Phase 2, CNF has formed into working groups that center BIPOC and Disabled+ lives.

DANCE ARTISTS' NATIONAL COLLECTIVE

Dance Artists' National Collective (DANC) is a growing group of freelance dance artists organizing for action toward safe, equitable, and sustainable working conditions nationwide through collective action and worker organizing. What do dancers need from their art and activism spaces in this post-election, mid-COVID-19 moment? Join us: <https://danceartistsnationalcollective.org/>

DANCE IMMERSION

dance Immersion produces, promotes and supports dancers and dances of the African Diaspora. Since 1994, the organization has provided presentation, skill development, and networking opportunities for dance artists of African descent, connecting communities across Canada and around the world.

DANCE/NYC

Dance/NYC is a nonprofit organization that promotes the knowledge, appreciation, practice, and performance of dance in the New York City area. It embeds values of justice, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of the organization.

DANCE PARADE

Dance Parade promotes expressive dance through the celebration of diversity, cultural equity and inclusion by presenting as many forms of dance as possible. We believe that live performance has the potential to awaken a communal human spirit and helps build a more equitable and vibrant society. Each May the parade presents 10,000 dancers on Broadway showcasing over 100 unique styles of dance, culminating with a five stage festival--all free to the public.

DANCE RISING NYC

Dance Rising NYC is a platform for embodied advocacy that affirms the importance of dance in all its forms, makes dance visible in a re-opening landscape, and sparks crucial conversations about the future of our field in NYC.

THE DANCE STUDIO ALLIANCE

The Dance Studio Alliance NYC is a coalition of dance studios and institutions that have come together with the clear goal of advocating for the greater needs of our industry and community.

THE DANCE UNION

The Dance Union captures timely and ephemeral conversations circulating within dance communities. We support transparent discourse about a variety of topics including inequalities, abuse of power, mental wellness, and living through a time of COVID. The Dance Union holds space to unify and amplify marginalized voices within dance communities in the United States.

#DANCE2VOTE

#Dance2Vote is the Dance/USA Get Out the Vote campaign that urged the arts sector and the general public to vote during the November 3, 2020 elections. Dance/USA provided information and resources about voting in their November 2020 Election Toolkit.

DANCERS ABOVE WATER RELIEF FUND

The Dancers Above Water Relief Fund was created by Barkin/Selissen Project Dance Company, to help dancers and choreographers struggling with the recent loss of income during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please consider contributing to this fund to provide ongoing support for NYC area-based dance artists in need. To learn more visit: <https://www.barkinselissenproject.org/dancersabovewater>

DANSPACE PROJECT

Danspace Project presents new work in dance, supports a diverse range of choreographers in developing their work, encourages experimentation, and connects artists to audiences.

For over 45 years, Danspace Project has supported a vital community of contemporary dance artists in an environment unlike any other in the United States.

THE FLEA

The Flea was founded in 1996 by a group of downtown artists looking to raise a joyful hell in a small space. The same spirit of adventure and excitement, which defines Off-Off-Broadway, also defines The Flea.

GIBNEY

Gibney is a dance company, a performing arts hub, and a social action incubator. Through expansive programming, we push boundaries, address pressing issues, lift voices and mobilize the power of movement to transform lives and, in turn, change the world we live in.

GREEN SPACE

Valerie Green founded Green Space in 2005 as an alternative to Manhattan's high rates and crowded schedules. As a 24/7 resource, Green Space aims to provide an affordable, welcoming environment for rehearsals, classes, and performance opportunities. The resident company, Valerie Green/Dance Entropy, creates its critically acclaimed repertoire and offers weekly outreach programs to underserved communities. We embrace the diversity of Long Island City as an asset, encouraging exchange on an artistic, educational, and interactive level. Come dance with us!

HARLEM STAGE

Harlem Stage is the performing arts center that bridges Harlem's cultural legacy to contemporary artists of color and dares to provide the artistic freedom that gives birth to new ideas. For over 37 years our singular mission has been to perpetuate and celebrate the unique and diverse artistic legacy of Harlem and the indelible impression it has made on American culture.

**INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS
IN DANCE**

The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in advocacy, audience development, education, funding, networking, performance, philosophical dialogue, and touring.

JAPAN SOCIETY

Founded in 1907, Japan Society presents events that encompass world-class exhibitions, dynamic classical and cutting-edge contemporary performing arts, film premieres and retrospectives, workshops and demonstrations, language classes, and talks on issues of vital importance to the U.S. and Japan.

THE JOYCE THEATER

One of the only theaters built by dancers for dance, The Joyce Theater has garnered a well-deserved international reputation for cultivating and honoring emerging and established dance artists whose work represents a wide range of aesthetic interests.

THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit spaces, showing innovative work by emerging and established artists across disciplines. Our programs range from dance, music, performance, and theater, to video, film, and art, in addition to literary events, artists' talks, and lecture series. Since its inception, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country, and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

NEW YORK LIVE ARTS

New York Live Arts is a center of diverse artists devoted to body-based investigation that transcends barriers between and within communities led by world-renowned artist Bill T. Jones. We are a place that brings people together to explore common values through live gathering and performance reminding us of our humanity and elevating the human spirit.

NEW 42 STUDIOS

New 42 Studios cultivates new ideas in the performing arts through services and spaces that empower artists to do their best work. From early development to opening night, New 42 Studios welcomes the season's biggest musicals and plays, as well as numerous nonprofit performing arts companies.

NYC COVID RESPONSE & IMPACT FUND

The NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund in The New York Community Trust was created by foundation partners to raise and distribute relief funding to local arts, cultural, and human service nonprofits. The Trust connects past, present, and future generous New Yorkers with vital nonprofits working to make a healthy, equitable, and thriving community for all.

#NYCDANCEUNITES

Five of New York City's acclaimed dance companies, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Hispánico, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and New York City Ballet, joined together to create a new online initiative to urge the dance community to do their civic duty and vote: #NYCDANCEUNITES.

ONE DANCE UK

One Dance UK is a sector support organisation working to lead the way to a stronger, more vibrant and diverse dance sector. It works to remove barriers and promote the national profile and diversity for dance for everyone in the UK.

On Nov.16th, One Dance UK released their biennial magazine which focuses on dance of the African Diaspora raising awareness, profile and appreciation of the artists and the art forms that they work with.

STREB

For over forty years, STREB has performed in theaters large and small, served as artists-in-residence at the world's top art museums, and taken its work into the streets and sports stadiums. In 2003, STREB transformed a warehouse in

Brooklyn into the STREB LAB FOR ACTION MECHANICS (SLAM), which now serves as a performance venue and an open access education and rehearsal space.

STEPS ON BWAY

Founded in 1979, Steps on Broadway is the internationally-recognized dance training center serving dancers of all ages and abilities. Its hallmarks are its commitment to honoring the integrity of each dance form, its world renowned faculty, and its fostering of the dance community.

TOPAZ ARTS

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a nonprofit arts organization founded in 2000 by artists Todd B. Richmond and Paz Tanjuaquio to foster new works in contemporary dance and visual arts. A pioneer in Queens, TOPAZ ARTS offers an inspiring, affordable space, assisting artists in the creative process, sharing works with our diverse community.

WISE FRUIT

WISE FRUIT, curated by Brinda Guha, is an artistic showcase dedicated to the feminine divine and honoring/benefiting women-led organizations like Planned Parenthood of Greater New York and Sue Rock Originals Everyone Inc. The initiative puts dancers, choreographers, and other interdisciplinary artists on a platform to use their talents towards #ArtMeets-Activism.

THE BESSIES STAFF—

Michele Thompson (Interim Executive Director)

Thompson has more than 25 years of experience in cultural and educational administration, fundraising, and external relations at leading institutions, including The 92nd Street Y, Trisha Brown Dance Company, Carnegie Hall, American Ballet Theatre, and Vanderbilt University. She has consulted with The Jewish Museum, Urban Bush Women, and the Kennedy Center, among others. She completed the Interim Executive Director Training Program at the Non-Profit Support Center and has completed two interim E.D. postings, first at Doug Varone and Dancers and, most recently, with A.I.M. (formerly Abraham.in.Motion). She is an adjunct faculty member in arts and entertainment management at Pace University, where she works with upper-level undergraduates about to enter the field in diverse disciplines. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from Vanderbilt University.

Heather Robles (Incoming Executive Director and Bessies Producer)

Heather Robles has worked at The Bessies since 2009, the first year it was independently produced with Lucy Sexton. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Alma Dance Company, a Grantmaking Assistant at Dance/ NYC, and a certified birth doula at Our Birth Doula. A Brooklyn-based choreographer and performer, she has worked with many artists, including Yvonne Rainer, Sidra Bell, Pavel Zuštiak, Nathan Trice, DANCENOISE, André M. Zachery, Buglisi Dance Theater, Fredrick Earl Mosley, and Suzanne Ponomarenko Dance. She is on the board of Renegade Performance Group, Brooklyn Dance Festival, Sharron Miller's Academy for the Performing Arts, and a member of Eva Yaa Asantewaa's Curatorial Advisory Team at Gibney. Heather is also a dance educator, teaching artist, producer, and advocate for mental health in the dance field.

Gabbie Burgess (Social Media Manager)

Gabrielle Burgess is the Social Media Manager for The Bessies. Outside of The Bessies, she is an educator and teaching artist throughout Brooklyn and the greater NY area. She graduated from Hofstra University's dance program in 2017 and freelances as a modern dancer and performer.

Dani Cole (Associate Manager, Special Events)

Dani Cole (she/her) works on the unceded land of the Lenape & Canarsie people as a movement artist, educator, writer, and arts administrator. Dani's artistic work centers body politics and the interdisciplinary; movement, text, and sonic vibration weave together reflections, current-ness, and imaginative realization of a questioning & disabled, Japanese-American body. She founded the collective Mobilized Voices/MO B I V in 2018, received support from residencies at Mana Contemporary & the Steffi Nossen School of Dance, among others, and works as a collaborator with jill sigman/thinkdance and ECHOensemble. Recently, Dani has shifted away from choreographic orientations to focus on site-specific improvisations, co-determined facilitation, and access in all processes.

Alexeya EM (Technical Assistant)

Alexeya EM is a healing artist dedicated to raising the collective consciousness through her life and artistry. Alexeya was born and raised in Queens, NY. She holds a BA in Dance Studies from the University of South Florida with an emphasis on research in Leadership Studies. Upon graduation, Alexeya joined Gibney Dance Company as a full time dancer, performing internationally and conducting movement based workshops in DV shelters. Alexeya has presented concert dance and commercial choreography throughout NYC and Philadelphia while building a repertoire as a creative director, choreographer and performance coach for music artists such as Columbia Records artist Leon, Cailee Rae, Dim Mak Records artist Noise Cans, and more. In 2016, Alexeya began directing LEAD: Leadership for Emerging Artist Development, an immersive leadership training program geared towards developing strong leadership awareness in NYC's young dancers. Recognizing the current cultural rise and demand of the multifaceted artist, LEAD is designed to give emerging artists the tools to enter every space with a commanding and inclusive leadership presence to further the advancement of art making in the world. Alexeya has conducted leadership seminars for NYU School of Professional Studies, Move(NYC), and Gibney Dance Center. In 2017, Alexeya released her debut EP entitled 'Dancing with the Devil' and has since been building her repertoire as an independent recording artist. She resides in New York City.

Brinda Guha (Technical Manager)

BRINDA GUHA identifies as a non-disabled, caste-privileged, cisgender, queer South-Asian American artist, choreographer, teacher, administrator, organizer, and producer. She is trained in Kathak, Manipuri, Flamenco and Contemporary dance. She is the artistic director of the Contemporary Indian ensemble, Kalamandir Dance Company; performs with the multi-cultural percussive trio, Soles of Duende; is the Symposium Coordinator at Dance/ NYC, a service organization based in justice, equity and inclusion; and is the curator of Wise Fruit NYC, a seasonal live arts showcase dedicated to the feminine divine.

Neysba Merced (Administrative Assistant)

Neysba Merced (she/her) is a DeSales' University graduate with a B.A. in Dance. Now living in Brooklyn, she is focused on community building through movement and networking with dancers of all genres to create a sustainable future for the arts. Currently, Neysba is a dancer as well as an assistant in Marketing and Communications for JCHEN PROJECT, a GYROTONIC® & GYROKINESIS® Trainer, and part of the legendary House of Xtravaganza. She is ecstatic to be working virtually with The Bessies Team this year!

Regine Pieters (After Party Producer)

Regine was born and raised on a small island in the Caribbean called Curaçao. She completed her undergraduate studies at Belhaven University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. She has performed works by Elizabeth Dishman, Vincent Hardy, Marc Wayne, and Sung Yong Kim, and Faizah Grootens. She performed twice at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington DC for the American College Dance Association's national festival. Regine also grew a passion for Contact Improvisation in college where she was fortunate to personally work with Nancy Stark Smith. Working at Gibney Dance, Dishman + Co. Choreography, and Brooklyn Arts Exchange have immensely impacted the way she approaches non-profit administration, producing, and fundraising. With Regine's unparalleled appreciation for performing and visual arts, she aspires to provide leverage within the structure of arts organizations to continue creating opportunities for artists.

Juan Pablo Siles (Angel Reception Producer)

Juan Pablo Siles is a Bolivian cultural producer and arts professional currently living and working in Brooklyn, NY. He is founder and artistic director of region(es), a free annual performing arts series that presents, produces, and commissions works created by artists with Latin American and Caribbean roots. Juan Pablo is driven by a desire to discover artists who create unique work that adapts to the needs of communities and reflects on current social issues. He is a strong advocate for free and no-cost programs that are guided by dialogue, perspective, and in search of social change.

Izzi Wayner (Producing & Archival Assistant)

Izzi Wayner (she/her) is an arts administrator, creative collaborator, and arts advocate. Since receiving her BFA in Dance from the University of Michigan, she has worked in event management and development at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Lincoln Center. She is thrilled to have joined The Bessies team for this year's virtual events.

ABOUT THE BESSIES—

The New York Dance and Performance Awards, The Bessies, have saluted outstanding and groundbreaking creative work in the dance field in New York City for 36 years. Known as “The Bessies” in honor of revered dance teacher Bessie Schoenberg, the awards were established in 1984 by David R. White at Dance Theater Workshop. They recognize outstanding work in choreography, performance, music composition, and visual design. Nominees are chosen by a selection committee composed of artists, presenters, producers, and writers. All those working in the dance field are invited to join the NY Dance and Performance League, whose members participate in annual discussions on the direction of the awards and nominate members to serve on the selection committee. The Bessies are produced in partnership with Dance/NYC.

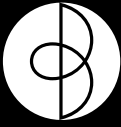
GREEN SPACE

INCUBATOR OF DANCE IN QUEENS

GreenSpaceStudio.org

**VIRTUAL CLASSES
& PROGRAMMING**

**REHEARSAL
SPACE**



**Brooklyn Ballet congratulates
the Bessie nominees 2020!**

We salute the resilience, ingenuity, and perseverance of all performing and creative artists during this unprecedented time.

Stay strong and keep dancing!

**Danspace Project congratulates
all of the 2020 Bessie Award
nominees, including Peter Born
on his nomination for Outstanding
Visual Design!**

Issue 11 of our online Journal,
trembling archive, is live at
danspaceproject.org/journal!

**Danspace
Project**

Okwui Okpokwasili & Peter Born, *Sitting On a Man's Head*,
Danspace Project, 2020. Photo: Jan Douglas.

**STEPS ON BROADWAY
CONGRATULATES ALL OF THE
2020 BESSIE NOMINEES!**

STEPS
on Broadway
STEPSNYC.COM

Heartfelt congratulations to all nominees from an unprecedentedly challenging season, as well as deeply-felt gratitude and appreciation to all essential workers in our field who work behind-the-scenes and help make our performances happen, and a warm shout-out to our special angel Lucy Sexton.

Here's to a joyful, safe and hopeful new year ahead!
With love from your friends and colleagues at La MaMa.





LAMBENT
FOUNDATION

BESSIES LEADERSHIP CIRCLE—



Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Howard Gilman Foundation



Lambent Foundation



Marta Heflin Foundation

Mertz Gilmore Foundation



The Harkness Foundation for Dance

The Jerome Robbins Foundation

The W Trust

MARTA HEFLIN
FOUNDATION

BESSIES ANCEL RECEPTION HONORING LUCY SEXTON—

BESSIES ANCEL

Amy Cassello, Carole Crewdson, Stephen Daldry, Beverly D'Anne, Jacqueline Z. Davis, Dian Dong, Catherine Edwards, Ara Fitzgerald, Ann Foye, Ed Henry, Anna Kohler, David Leslie, Sheila Lewandowski, Rajika Puri, John C. Robinson, Brian Rogers, Linda Shelton, Martha Sherman, Elizabeth Kay Takeda, Tony Waag, Tara Willis, Martha Wilson, Tal Yarden

HOST COMMITTEE

Dave Archuletta, Eva Yaa Asantewaa*, Mary Barone, David Binder, BAM, Carol Bryce-Buchanan, Cora Cahan*, Olga Garay-English, Gina Gibney, Allyson Green, Judy Hussie-Taylor*, Jeanne Linnes*, Stanford Makishi*, Cynthia Mayeda, Joseph V. Melillo, Nicky Paraiso*, Carla Peterson*, Craig Peterson*, Mark Russell, Amy Schwartzman, Gus Solomons jr*, Paz Tanjuaquio* and Todd B. Richmond, Donald Rose, M.D, Deborah Sale and Ted Striggles, Laurie Uprichard*, Charmaine Warren*, Martin Wechsler*, Jawole Willa Jo Zollar

*Indicates a member of The Bessies Steering Committee

BESSIES PRESENTERS LEAGUE 2020—

Abrons Arts Center
Baryshnikov Arts Center
Brooklyn Ballet
Danspace Project
Gibney
Hunter College Dance Department
Japan Society
La MaMa Experimental Theater Club
New York Live Arts

New York City Center
Valerie Green/Dance Entropy
Pentacle
The Joyce Theater
Works & Process at the Guggenheim

BESSIES LEAGUE 2020—

Ronald K. Alexander
Ella Baff
Xianix Barrera
Torya Beard
Alison Beatty
Karen Bernard
Janis Brenner
Amy Cassello
Babette Coffey-Fisch
Alyce Dissette
Denys Drozdnyuk & Antonina
Skobina
Robin Dunn

Neil Greenberg
Cathy Hung
Nicola Iervasi
Ryutaro Ishikane
Holly Jones
Tommy Kriegsmann &
Shanta Thake
Lena Lauer
Madeleine Nichols
Stephen Pier
Gian Marco & Riccardo
Lo Forte
Valerie Rochon

JoAnna Mendl Shaw
Martha Sherman
Anna Sperber
Jeanne Suggs
Laurie Uprichard
Megan Williams
Malin Yhr

If you'd like to get involved
in The Bessies by joining
any of these groups, email
heather@bessies.org

IN MEMORIAM—

ALICIA ALONSO

Alicia Alonso was known as one of the great ballerinas in the last century who brought classical ballet to Cuba. Not only did she help foster the presence of the National Ballet of Cuba for almost 70 years, she was also part of the birth of ballet in the United States. Alonso performed lead roles until she was 76, despite being nearly blind most of her life.

SALLY BANES

Sally Banes, an influential dance historian and critic whose books include the indispensable *Terpsichore in Sneakers: Post-Modern Dance*, died on June 14 in Philadelphia. Dr. Banes covered many genres of dance, and was among the first critics to document the development of hip-hop dance and culture. Her writing paired a vivid and inquisitive approach with a lack of agenda and a belief that dance was a crucial part of cultural history. Some of her other books include *Democracy's Body: Judson Dance Theater 1962—1964*, (1983) and *Greenwich Village 1963: Avant-Garde Performance and the Effervescent Body* (1993), to name a few.

HOWELL BINKLEY

52 Broadway Shows including: *Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations* (2019 Tony nomination), *Come From Away* (2017 Tony nomination), *Hamilton* (2016 Tony winner), *Allegiance*, *After Midnight* (2014 Tony nomination), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2011 Tony nomination), *West Side Story* (2009 Tony nomination), *In the Heights*, (2008 Tony nomination), *Jersey Boys* (2006 Tony winner), *Avenue Q*, *The Full Monty*, *Parade*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1993 Tony nomination/Olivier and Dora winner).
Co-founder/resident lighting designer: Parsons Dance.

JAMIE BLAU

Jamie Blau was a board certified Chiropractor who graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1992 and completed her Chiropractic training in 1997 at Life University in Atlanta,

Ga. In 2000, she began her private practice in NYC. Dr. Blau treated patients in the Upper West Side since then, located in the same building as Steps On Broadway. She enjoyed the uniqueness of a NYC practice where she worked on world class Ballet dancers, Broadway performers, choreographers, and actors.

ELYSE BORNE

Elyse Borne, who died on December 16, 2019, was a New York City Ballet Soloist who worked closely with George Balanchine during his final years. She became a highly regarded repetiteur for the Balanchine Trust, staging authoritative productions of his works for major American and international companies, and was a Ballet Mistress for both Miami City Ballet and San Francisco Ballet.

**WILHELM "WILLY"
BURMANN**

Wilhelm "Willy" Burmann began his ballet studies at 16, after performing with friends as supers in an opera. Despite that late start, he went on to dance with New York City Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Pennsylvania Ballet, and more. He was a principal dancer at Frankfurt Ballet and Grand Theatre de Genève. He was also Ballet Master at Genève, Washington Ballet, and Ballet du Nord. Willy's legacy belongs to his time as a master teacher, at STEPS on Broadway in particular, where he nurtured thousands of dancers for over 34 years.

**DON "CAMPBELLOCK"
CAMPBELL**

Don "Campbellock" Campbell was an American dancer and choreographer best known for having invented "locking," and for his work with the Lockers. In 1971, Campbell joined the cast of Soul Train. He was a featured dancer until 1973, and founded the Lockers. Don and The Lockers appeared with some of the greatest entertainers of all time on all platforms, and have inspired countless generations of Hip-Hop dancers who have helped bring back his revolutionary dance.

FRANK CASTACNA

Frank Castagna, an extremely talented and kind businessman and philanthropist, passed away at 91 in his Brookville home. Not only did he transform his father's masonry contracting company, Gerace & Castagna, into Castagna Realty Co., he expanded and developed numerous shopping districts, renovated medical centers, and college campuses in Long Island. In recent years, Castagna served on boards of arts organizations including the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts and Nassau County Museum of Art.

MARCE CHAMPION

Marge Champion was a child of Hollywood, the daughter of a dance coach who taught her ballet, tap, and the twirls and sweeps of the ballroom. She performed at the Hollywood Bowl as a girl, and as a teenager was a model for three Walt Disney animated features, one being the heroine of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937). She later met and married Gower Champion, and they became the first dance team to achieve national popularity through television with their story-dance techniques.

CLEMENTE D'ALESSIO

Clemente D'Alessio began his career at the Metropolitan Opera, where he was television producer of 50 full-length operas for the PBS series, *Live from the Met*. A five-time Emmy Award Winner, Mr. D'Alessio dedicated his work creating performing arts programs for broadcast for over thirty-five years.

CHI CHI DEVAYNE

Chi Chi DeVayne, also known as Zavion Davenport, found her biggest audience with "RuPaul's Drag Race," attracting fans with a combination of Southern charm, acrobatics and candor about her hardscrabble upbringing. As a child, DeVayne took dance lessons—ballet, West African, modern—and gymnastics. DeVayne began dancing in earnest after she graduated in 2003 from Fairpark High School, where she had been a drum major. Soon afterward, she started performing in drag at a nightclub and gaining wider attention.

**PRINCESS NORODOM
BOPHA DEVI**

Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, a noted practitioner and promoter of classical Cambodian dance, learned dance as a child and became lead dancer in the royal troupe by 16. In that capacity, she played a major role in her father's cultural diplomacy, especially in presenting shows for visiting foreign leaders. She was particularly well known for her performance and production of the Apsara dance, inspired by the female spirits depicted in stone carvings on the walls at Cambodia's Angkor Wat.

DRED

Dred, a Haitian-American Drag King, was one of the most prominent Drag Kings to emerge from the dynamic drag scene of New York City during the late 1990's. Dred embodied the term "gender bender" long before it became common parlance. Moving with ease from male to female and showcasing an array of characters within one medley made Dred's performances mesmerizing, to say the least. Dred blurred and blended gender lines; made you question masculinity, sexuality, identity; challenged racial, social, gender stereotypes; and provided memorable, world class entertainment.

JEAN ERDMAN

Jean Erdman, a unique figure in the post-pioneering period of American modern dance and avant-garde theater, was born and raised in Hawaii. She embraced hula and forms of world dance, alongside a lifelong dialogue with her husband, Joseph Campbell, as sources of inspiration. Erdman began her career in the Martha Graham Dance Company from 1938-1943. She was an ambassador for dance, crisscrossing the U.S. with her work. She directed the dance program at Bard College from 1954-1957, and was the founding director of the dance program at New York University.

NIKOLAI FADEYECHEV

Nikolai Fadeyechev was one of the Bolshoi Ballet's greatest dancers who was hailed for his distinctively noble style and his chivalry as a partner to the company's leading ballerinas from the 1950s to the '70s. He danced in major Soviet-era works like Leonid Lavrovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Igor Moiseyev's version of *Spartacus* and novelties like *Carmen Suite*

**NICHOLAS
STUYVESANT FISH**

Nicholas Stuyvesant Fish was born in New York City and, throughout his life, he advanced the quality of urban life for all. While practicing law in NYC, Fish was appointed by Borough President Ruth Messinger to Community Board #5, which he eventually chaired. A signal accomplishment of the Board during his tenure was its support of the Times Square Hotel, a housing project for low-income and HIV-positive residents. He was active with St. Mark's Church Landmark Preservation Fund, and on its behalf, supported Danspace Project's growth during the 1990's. He was elected to the Portland City Council in 2008.

R. BRITTON FISHER

R. Britton Fisher was a life-long Brooklynite, who admired and appreciated his family's philanthropic devotion to arts and education. A fan of contemporary dance, he served on The Joyce Theater Foundation's Board of Trustees. He was the Executive Producer of Full Battle Rattle, which had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival. He was also part owner of DF Indie Film Studios. Britton worked on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange for a specialist brokerage firm and attended Fordham University at Lincoln Center as an adult student. He served on the vestry at Twilight Park's Church of All Angels, and cheered for the New York Rangers.

ION GIBSON

Jon Gibson worked with Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Terry Riley, and La Monte Young as well as performing his own music. A saxophonist and composer who played a foundational role

in Minimalist music, his most ambitious creations include “Voyage of the Beagle,” a music theater piece about Charles Darwin.

JOHN GIORNO

John Giorno starred in the Andy Warhol movie, *Sleep*, but was best known for bringing poetry into the modern age. He founded Giorno Poetry Systems, a nonprofit foundation, to promote his work and that of others. Over several decades, Giorno produced dozens of albums, videos, and events and showcased the work of other writers, musicians, and artists. In 1984, the foundation started the AIDS Treatment Project, which disbursed hundreds of thousands of dollars to help those suffering in the epidemic.

ROSE MARIE CIRAUD

Rose Marie Giraud was an internationally acclaimed dancer, choreographer, actress, singer, storyteller, and teacher of the Ivory Coast.

RUTH CRAUERT

Ruth Grauert danced in the pre-World War II Hartford Nikolais Company, Kashman Company and in the Charles Weidman Dance Company. At the Henry Street Playhouse, she was stage manager for dance concerts presented there and was production stage manager for the Alwin Nikolais, Murray Louis, Phyllis Lamhut, and Beverly Blossom companies from the 1950s to the late 1980s. She taught lighting at the Nik/Lou lab for 47 years and toured worldwide as the Production Stage Manager for Nik’s company.

RITA HAMILTON

Rita Hamilton began dancing in Philadelphia at her father’s dance studio, Jimmy Hamilton’s Dance Corner. Ms. Hamilton received a degree in theater from DeSales University where she began honing her choreographic skills in the musical theater. In the early 80’s, she choreographed everywhere from Off Broadway and continued to teach dance class in Philadelphia and NY. In 2005 her studio, Hamilton Dance, was the first to be presented with the Bobby Short Scholarship Award from the American Tap Dance Foundation.

REED HANSON

Reed Hansen, longtime accompanist and one of the last links to the earliest days of Juilliard's Dance Division, died October 4. He was also the pianist and accompanist for Martha Graham herself and many generations of Graham teachers and students. Fellow accompanist Andy Monroe said, "He gave his professional life to the accompanying of this dance technique and to the betterment of thousands of dancers' training," adding, "The artistic community will miss you."

SUSAN HENDL

Susan Hendl, who died on October 12, 2020 at 73, had a notable career dancing with NYCB from 1963 to 1983, where she became a Soloist. She created roles in works by Balanchine (including *Chaconne* and *Coppelia*) and Robbins. She then became a beloved and influential Ballet Mistress for the company for 25 years, responsible for staging and rehearsing many ballets by Balanchine, Robbins, and others.

KATHLEEN HERMESDORF

Kathleen Hermesdorf was an international dance artist, educator, and producer based in San Francisco. She directed ALTERNATIVA with musician Albert Mathias, and had been dancing in the Bay Area since 1991. She performed with Bebe Miller Company for several years. Her work has been presented in commissions for universities, companies, and independent dancers, and in collaboration with art partners worldwide. Hermesdorf brought over 20 years of experience from the field, studio, and stage to her work, and held a BFA and an MFA in Dance Performance + Pedagogy.

AL HEYWARD

Al Heyward, who for years co-produced the NY Tap Extravaganza, has passed due to the current pandemic. He enjoyed being around the tap dancers and jazz music so much that he dedicated a solid portion of his life to making sure that the craft was celebrated. He did this through his work on the New York Committee to Celebrate National Tap Dance Day and the production of the annual Tap Extravaganza®.

THEODORE JAMISON

Theodore Jamison was a technique master and famed instructor who was committed to carrying Katherine Dunham's legacy onwards. He served as Dunham's demonstrator for more than 15 years and was honored at the Lula Washington's Dance Theatre's International Conference and Festival of Blacks in Dance.

LOUIS JOHNSON

Louis Johnson was a dancer and choreographer born in North Carolina. He moved to Washington D.C., where he quickly became a standout dancer with gymnastic abilities. Johnson moved to New York City and continued his dance training at the School of American Ballet, where he was mentored by Jerome Robbins and George Balanchine. He performed on Broadway, choreographed the Broadway production of Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity*, *The Wiz* starring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson, and worked with many companies like Dance Theatre of Harlem, Joffrey Ballet, and Atlanta Ballet.

BETTY JONES

Betty Jones was a legendary teacher and a founding member of the José Limón Dance Company. The former Jacob's Pillow student met José Limón there before becoming a charter member of the company. Her most famous role, as Desdemona in *The Moor's Pavane*, shows Jones' artistry. Her extraordinary gifts as a teacher have touched legions of dancers across the globe.

MICHELE KADISOVA

Michele Kadisova, a teacher/choreographer/performer, has taken elements from over 30 years in dance and combined them to create a new approach to healing, strengthening, and making more space inside the body. Body Activation was the result of her in-depth knowledge of anatomy and kinesiology, along with a finely tuned intuitive approach to training the body through precise imagery, instruction, and hands-on guidance.

PAULA KELLY

Paula Kelly graduated from the Juilliard School and later performed as a dancer for directors and choreographers, including Martha Graham and Donald McKayle. She made her way to Broadway, then television, where she earned a best supporting actress Emmy nomination in 1984 for portraying public defender Liz Williams on the first season of NBC's *Night Court* and received another in 1989 for the ABC miniseries, *The Women of Brewster Place*, in which she played what's believed to be one of television's first black lesbian characters.

SAROJ KHAN

Saroj Khan, Bollywood's first female choreographer, was a pioneer, one of the few women working behind the camera at a time when nearly all the technicians were men. Her film career spanned more than 60 years, and she created some of the industry's most famous dance scenes in the 1980s and '90s. She joined the industry as a three-year-old child actress in the early 1950s, and she became an assistant choreographer at the age of 12. She choreographed nearly 2,000 songs, including many Bollywood classics like "Ek Do Teen" from the movie *Tezaab* (1988), and the lush songs from *Devdas* (2002).

ANNE MCLEOD KOLETZKE

Anne McLeod Koletzke studied Bharata Natyam in India with Balasaraswati as a young woman. The early travel exposed her to the performances of theater and the Royal Ballet with Rudolph Nureyev. After receiving her B.A. in English Literature from Bard College and a Master's Degree in Dance from UCLA, Anne moved to New York City. She danced with Murray Louis Dance Company (MLDC) and partnered with Rudolf Nureyev in Louis' *Canarsie Venus*. Her professional dance career included performances with Katherine Dunham and the Nikolais Dance Theatre.

HILDA KRAKER

Hilda Kraker was a paralegal by day and a consummate devotee of dance by night. She had a wickedly smart and progressive mind and explored all genres of the art form. Kraker had no family to speak of - and was adamant to connect with the dancers, choreographers, directors, and “movers/shakers” she admired in dance. She often waited at the stage door to meet/greet and shower praise and impressions with sincerity, verve, and humor. Kraker befriended, encouraged, and supported many of the world’s greatest artists in dance.

NAKOTAH LARANCE

Nakotah LaRance was a nationally acclaimed Hopi-Tewa hoop dancer and performer with Cirque du Soleil. His career began at age 4 under hoop dancer Derrick Suwaima Davis. LaRance won three youth division championships and adult division titles at the World Championship of Hoop Dance. Performing on various television shows and mini-series, he also moved through life as an actor and interviewee.

MINC CHO LEE

Ming Cho Lee, an innovative and influential designer who created sets for hundreds of plays, dance works, and operas, and whose ideas continue to influence the field, passed at 90. His impact in theaters was matched by his impact in the classroom. He taught at Yale from 1969 to 2017, serving as chairman or co-chairman of the design department. Many of his students went on to prominent careers in the field.

EUCENE LOWERY

Eugene Lowery, a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts majoring in classical ballet, was a lighting designer who lit the opening performance at the Kennedy Center for Margot Fonteyn. He had an illustrious career in the dance world; Director of Repertory Lighting at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Stage Manager/Lighting Designer at the Concord Pavilion, and more.

JUN MAEDA

Jun Maeda worked with experimental theater companies in his native Japan and, later, New York City, designing the sets of productions by such directors as Peter Brook, Thaddeus Kantor, Ellen Stewart, and Harvey Fierstein. The resident designer at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Maeda won an Obie Award in 1981.

BOB MARINACCIO

Bob Marinaccio, born in Brooklyn, was an actor, dancer, and arts administrator. Along with David White and Ivan Sygoda, Marinaccio co-founded Pentacle, an innovative arts management firm. He worked for several years in at the New York State Council on the Arts and managed choreographers. He worked at Pittsburgh Filmmakers as Executive Director, developing the organization, widening the scope of offerings, and showing the work of new filmmakers. He later moved to San Diego, working with The Gaslight Quarter Historic District as its Executive Director.

BERNARD MARSH

Bernard Marsh was a career actor, director, and choreographer. He is known for fighting for racial equity on Broadway and founded the Living History Theater Group. Performance credits include *Kong's Harvest*, *The Liberation of Mother Goose*, *Eubie*, among others. He graduated from SUNY Empire in 1997 with a labor relations degree and spearheaded Performers Against Racism on the Theatrical Stage (P.A.R.T.S.).

MICHAEL MCARTHUR

Michael McArthur started formal dance training at the age of seven. He graduated from Howell High School's Fine and Performing Arts in 2004 and attended Marymount Manhattan College where he received a B.F.A. in dance. After college he began dancing for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, touring the U.S. and then in New York at the Radio City Music Hall for the next 10 years. When McArthur was not performing he was teaching and choreographing all over the country as a Fosse/Verdon Legacy protégé, paying forward his love of dance.

DON MCDONACH

Don McDonagh championed experimental choreographers emerging in the 1960s and '70s with his reviews in *The New York Times*. McDonagh was one of the first critics to support the dancemaker Twyla Tharp when she began showing her provocative early conceptual work, and was the author of critical biographies of George Balanchine and Martha Graham.

MICHAEL MCFREDRICK

Michael McFrederick was a multi-faceted musician connected with many organizations, among them Steps on Broadway, Alvin Ailey, Juilliard, Barnard/Columbia University, HB Studios, and Broadway Dance Center. Recently, he was the composer/musical director/singer of the hit off-Broadway musical comedy *Around the World in a Bad Mood*, the musical comedy *Socks* (which was performed at the York Theatre Company - CitiCorp Building), and was co-writer/pianist/singer for an original Jerome Kern revue *All the Things You Are* for East Lynne Theatre Company.

HELEN MCGEHEE

Helen McGehee, a powerful dancer in Martha Graham's company since the 1940s and a prominent teacher known for her tough-love rigor, passed at 98. While dancing with the Graham troupe for 29 years, Ms. McGehee created original roles that included her most celebrated role as the ferocious leader of a Greek chorus in *Night Journey*. She also taught rigorous classes as a founding member of the Juilliard School dance division from 1951 to 1982.

WELCOME MSOMI

Welcome Msomi was born in Durban and was a world-renowned playwright and director, specifically for Umabatha. He won the Lifetime Achievement Award for Theatre from the Arts & Culture Trust in 2012 and served on multiple boards, including the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission.

PAUL JARED NEWMAN

Paul Jared Newman, a Manhattan native, was an empathetic soul, a flamenco, classical, and blues musician who accompanied singers, poets, and dancers, and for students at Ballet Hispanico, Fazils, and Bard College. He edited Dennis Koster's Keys to Flamenco Guitar. A graduate of University of California, Berkeley, and SUNY, Stony Brook, Jared was a passionate, funny, and very humble guy cut short by a heart attack. pauljarednewman.net

ANH-TUYET NGUYEN

Anh-Tuyet Nguyen had an 18-year career with Fortis Inc. in a variety of roles. A native of Vietnam, Ms. Nguyen joined The Joyce Theater's Board of Trustees in 2007 and served the organization for 13 years, including two years as Vice Chair. She also served on the Board of Trustees of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra; on the board of Film Forum; and the New York Opera Society. In 2013, she helped set up a non-profit organization called Dance to Unite to provide after school programs for underserved children in NYC. In 2019, The Joyce Theater honored Ms. Nguyen at their Annual Gala for her tremendous commitment and service to the dance community.

ERIK OSTRAND

Erik Ostrand graduated from the University of Arizona with a BFA in Dance in 2012. He danced with numerous projects and repertory companies, including Steps Repertory Ensemble, DAMAGEDANCE, and The Big Muddy Dance Company. Never one to miss a theater jazz or contemporary class at Steps or Broadway Dance Center, nor miss the chance to attend a performance, Ostrand was an avid participant in the NYC arts community. Keep dancing for Erik.

AILEEN PASSLOFF

Aileen Passloff, a dancer, choreographer, and broadly influential teacher whose work spanned ballet, modern, and postmodern dance. A former member of the Judson Dance Theater, the experimental 1960s collective that led

to postmodern dance, she was devoted to all aspects of the form. Ms. Passloff was co-chair of Bard College's dance and drama department from 1969 to 1990. Her students at Bard included many who would make a mark in the performing arts.

CAROL PAUMCARTEN

Carol Paumgarten founded the internationally recognized dance training center Steps on Broadway in 1979, and was the shining light that led the way for 40 years. A gracious and vibrant soul with generosity and spirit, she laid the foundation for Steps to become a pillar of the dance community, a place where dancers – from the professional to the novice – train, rehearse, congregate, and dream. She created a welcoming place where openness, diversity, and talent flourished for decades. Her legacy lives on through dance at Steps.

FRANK PIETRI

Frank Pietri choreographed, directed, and appeared in television shows, nightclub acts, industrials, cruise ships, and films, including Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You*. He worked with such notables as Lucille Ball, Steve Lawrence, Eydie Gormé, and more. He was on faculty at many NYC dance schools and as a guest teacher, took his Free-Style Jazz Technique throughout the U.S. and Europe. He taught at New Dance Group until its closure in February 2009.

NINA POPOVA

Nina Popova was a celebrated ballet dancer who escaped the Bolsheviks in Russia and the Nazis in Paris. During WWII, she joined the Original Ballet Russe, directed by Wassily de Basil, which took her to Australia and eventually to Cuba, where she came to the attention of the directors of what would become American Ballet Theater in New York. In 1975, she taught at the Neubert Ballet Institute at Carnegie Recital Hall, until she was 77.

**TYRONE “THE BONE”
PROCTOR**

Tyrone “The Bone” Proctor was a dancer and choreographer who became known as a dancer on “Soul Train,” where he popularized the dance style waacking. In 1973, Don Cornelius hand-picked Proctor to join the Don Cornelius & The Soul Train Gang Presents stadium tour. Proctor went on to choreograph music videos for artists including Jody Watley and the Isley Brothers. He has been awarded lifetime achievement awards and was recognized as a “New York Legend of Hip Hop.”

DIANE RODRIGUEZ

Diane Rodriguez, a celebrated member of the Los Angeles theatre community, was an actress, director, playwright, and producer. Her career began in 1973 when she joined Luis Valdez’s El Teatro Campesino. She went on to become associate artistic director for Center Theatre Group, where she worked with theatres and artists across the country, as well as internationally. She also served as president of the board of Theatre Communications Group, served on the National Council for the Arts, and received recognition from President Barack Obama.

GREG RUSSELL

Gregg Russell worked with celebrities such as Bette Midler and Gene Kelly; coached pop icon Michael Jackson and Family Guy creator Seth McFarlane. A most revered as a master tap instructor and performer, Russell also frequently taught hip-hop and musical theater classes, showcasing a versatility that secured him a successful career onstage and in film and television, both nationally and abroad.

TIM SCHELLENBAUM

Tim Schellenbaum was a musician, composer, sound engineer, and sound designer. He helped place the Lower East Side on the world’s cultural map as an avant-garde musician. He worked with notables like Arthur Russell and Robert Ashley, and worked at numerous downtown venues. Proudly he served as the resident sound designer at

La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club for 25 years. There, Schellenbaum generously shared his skills with hundreds of artists. He was the recipient of 1998 and 2000 Obie Awards and a 2007 IT Award for collaborative design.

NANCY STARK SMITH

Nancy Stark Smith first trained as an athlete and gymnast, leading her to study and perform modern and postmodern dance in the early 1970s, greatly influenced by the dance/theater improvisation group the Grand Union and the Judson Dance Theater breakthroughs of the 1960s in NYC. She graduated from Oberlin College with a degree in dance and writing. Her book, *Caught Falling: The Confluence of Contact Improvisation, Nancy Stark Smith, and Other Moving Ideas*, made with David Koteen, came out in 2008. She created Contact Quarterly, a dance and improvisation journal, in 1975 with the dance artist Lisa Nelson.

KEVIN T. TARRANT

Kevin T. Tarrant lived a life of many accomplishments. He was the lead singer of SilverCloud Singers (NYC), former Executive Director of the American Indian Community House, panel-speaker, teacher, presenter, performer, and composer of numerous events, shows, and honoring ceremonies. Creating a safe haven for people to gather and compose their own songs and stories, his focus was always that of bringing the community together, wanting a harmonious song to be spoken between all.

VALERIE TAYLOR-BARNES

Valerie Taylor-Barnes, age 88, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at her home in New York City. She is survived and loved by family members, dear friends, and many of her former students. Ms. Taylor-Barnes was a soloist with the Royal Ballet and later a highly respected teacher of dance. After the death of her husband, Clive Barnes, she created a Foundation in his honor which recognizes promising young professionals in Dance and Theatre.

DANNY TIDWELL

Danny Tidwell, a remarkably gifted dancer who performed leading roles with American Ballet Theatre as a young member of the corps de ballet, died in a car crash on March 6, 2020 at age 35. After ABT, he danced with Complexions Contemporary Ballet and Norwegian National Ballet, and achieved fame performing on the TV show *So You Think You Can Dance*, for which he went on to choreograph.

TOBI TOBIAS

Tobi Tobias was a long time dance critic and influential voice in *New York Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Bloomberg News*, and *Dance Magazine* among others. Her articles in *Arts Journal* made her a finalist in the Pulitzer Prize in criticism. She was born in Brooklyn and also wrote a number of children's books.

DAVID TOOLE

David Toole was 26 when he found relief from his postal work in Britain in an unexpected way: as a novice dancer at a workshop, where he showed intuitive grace and athleticism while performing on his hands. His legs had been amputated in childhood. He became a leading disabled dancer in Britain performing with various troupes and achieved global renown as a featured dancer in the opening ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. He passed away at the age of 56.

WOODY VASULKA

Woody Vasulka founded The Kitchen with his partner, Steina Vasulka, in 1971. Originally seeking to create a center for artists working in the emerging medium of video, the two quickly found their generous and welcoming environment becoming “a home for the homeless” among artists whose innovative approaches across disciplines—particularly music—were in need of a new institutional context. To this day Woody's example in art, where he continually pushed boundaries while making work with Steina, provides The Kitchen with its guiding spirit.

MARCUS WHITE

Marcus White was an assistant professor of dance at Arizona State University and an artist/scholar who dedicated his career to working in the long legacy of the Black radical tradition. He studied dance at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. After graduation, White moved to Detroit, founded his company White Werx and earned his MFA from the University of Michigan in 2015. White was bold and explorative, and he wanted to make sure that his mentees and students took the time to find who they were in their artistry.

TED D. WILLIAMS

Ted D. Williams was a beloved singer, spreading joy wherever he went. He passed in on December 1, 2019 and was celebrated at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in 2020. Credits include *The Whiz*, dancing with Syvilla Fort, and other Broadway productions.

COLLIER ROBERT WOODS, JR.

Collier Robert Woods, Jr. was a veteran lighting designer and stage technician with extensive lighting design credits in opera, ballet, modern dance, music and theater. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Theater, a Master of Fine Arts in Design from the University of Washington, and taught at the University of Washington and Morgan State University.

BESSIES STEERING COMMITTEE—

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BESSIES 2019/2020 SELECTION COMMITTEE—

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DIANE CRUMET	Artistic Director, Steps on Broadway and Steps Beyond Foundation
MAI LÊ HỒ	Program Director, It's Showtime NYC!; Founder of LayeRhythm
IRENE HULTMAN	Independent dance artist and performance advocate. Faculty at Yale University

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CATHERINE THARIN	Independent Dance Curator and Producer, Dance Artist, Teacher, Writer
PHILIP TREVIÑO	Lighting and Scenic Designer; Production Manager; Stage Manager; Educator and Technical Director at Marymount Manhattan College
MUNA TSENG	Choreographer, performer, teacher, creative archivist. www.munatseng.org
TONY WAAC	Dancer, director, teacher, producer, Artistic Director, American Tap Dance Foundation, Tap City, the New York City Tap Festival
WILLIAM WHITENER	Director, Choreographer, Teacher
SANCEETA GHOSH YESLEY	Founder Director at Creative Performances; Dance curator at Dixon Place; Dance show producer and workshop organizer; Freelance interpreter
DR. LAYLA ZAMI	Visiting Assistant Professor, Pratt Institute; Curator, International Human Rights Art Festival; Performer

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Every Bessies staff person, Selection Committee and Steering Committee member, and every individual in our community who has made tonight possible!

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