

The 37th Annual
New York Dance &
Performance
Awards

The Bessies

7:30pm ET
October 11, 2021
Virtual Bessies Ceremony

Redefining Practice

October 6 – November 3, 2021



Join Dance/NYC for a five-part town hall series
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. ET
Live online with one in-person convening

October 6

Asian American Choreography Tea House

October 13

Oceanic Currents: Indigenous Pacific Islander Movement Artists

October 20

Dancers Protecting Their Labor

October 27

Re-Entering With Care: A Community Town Hall

November 3

Afro-Latinidad and the NYC Dance Ecology

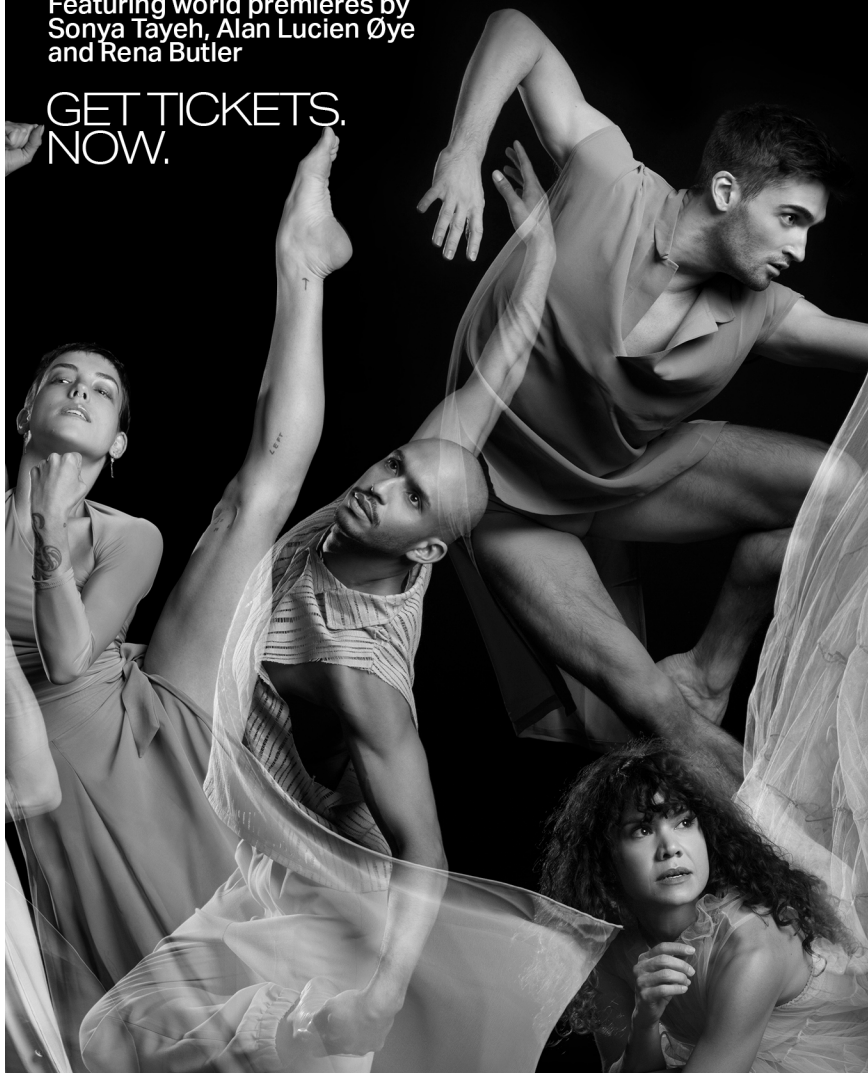
Learn more and RSVP: bit.ly/RedefiningPractice

GIBNEY COMPANY

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Sonya Tayeh, Alan Lucien Øye
and Rena Butler

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creative talents, and
outstanding artists!**

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**ABOUT THE
BESSIES—**

The NY Dance and Performance Awards, The Bessies, have saluted outstanding and groundbreaking creative work in the dance field in New York City for 37 years. Known as “The Bessies” in honor of revered dance teacher Bessie Schönberg, 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 Bessies Membership, and participate in annual discussions on the direction of the awards and nominate members to serve on the selection committee. The Bessies are presented in partnership with Dance/NYC.

FROM THE
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR—

Dear Member of the NY Dance & Performance Community,

Welcome to the 2021 Virtual Bessies Ceremony! Tonight, we celebrate artists, the resilience of our community, and honor those we have lost since last year's ceremony.

Last month I became quite ill, which seemed to mirror my grief at the state of the world. After I had fully physically recovered, I attended a performance at Pangea: Kristina Berger and Catherine Cabeen's *Glitter in the Gutter*. In that space, I laughed harder than I had in a year, alongside people I hadn't seen in almost two years. The performance was healing for me. That is what dance does. It gathers, unites, ignites our humanity, helps us metabolize intangible things like unspeakable grief. Dance is life-giving, inspires us, and shows us possibilities.

Many thanks to the incredible initiatives, funds, and discussions created during this time - from Creating New Futures, to Dance Union town halls, to individual artist chats, Instagram conversations, and field wide calls like NY4CA's Culture at 3, or Dance/NYC's #ArtistsAreNecessaryWorkers series. We must ensure artists have everything needed not just to sustain artistic practice, but to have thriving livelihoods and wellbeing. The life of a starving artist is one I know intimately, as do many of us here. Isn't it time we changed the paradigm of artists being some of the most underserved people in the art-making process, to the most thriving individuals in our community? Now is the opportunity to build, or tear down and rebuild, to ensure the sustainability of our artists and community.

Each of us is necessary to the building of a better future, right where we are. Every act matters. With a fitness for vulnerability and courage to try again when we mess up, we CAN create the future we dream of together.

Thank you to our 2021 Bessies Membership, which helps us envision a better Bessies each year. Everyone is invited to join. Simply email me at Heather@bessies.org. We could not move forward without the support of our Bessies Presenter League, the guidance of the Bessies Steering Committee, and our incoming chair, Paz Tanjuaquio. A very special thanks to our Bessies Selection Committee, which passionately advocates for dance all year, bringing artists to wider recognition. Invite them to your performances by visiting bessies.org/committee.

A HUGE thanks to our Bessies Associate Manager Dani Cole, my teammate in our part-time staff of two. Dani and I could not do our work without our brilliant seasonal staff and interns who make the October event magic possible.

Wherever you are, we hope you feel wrapped in the dance love this community is. We all get to participate in it, no matter where we are. Let it nourish, embolden, and heal us as we forge ahead.

Love,
Heather Robles
Executive Director, The Bessies

175 Eighth Avenue at 19th Street

JoyceCharge 212-242-0800



FALL '21/WINTER '22 SEASON

OCTOBER

SWING OUT
OCT 5-17

Lucinda Childs:
DANCE
OCT 19-24

Martha Graham
Dance Company
OCT 26-31

NOVEMBER

Gibney Company
NOV 2-7

Indigenous
Enterprise
NOV 9-14

COMPLEXIONS
Contemporary
Ballet
NOV 16-28

DECEMBER

Parsons Dance
NOV 30-DEC 12

AXIS Dance ●
Company
DEC 7-12

Les Ballets
Trockadero de
Monte Carlo
DEC 14-JAN 2

JANUARY

Ayodele Casel:
Chasing Magic
JAN 4-9

American Dance
Platform
JAN 11-16

Malpaso Dance
Company
JAN 19-23

Soledad Barrio &
Noche Flamenca
JAN 25-FEB 6

FEBRUARY

Botis Seva
Far From The
Norm
FEB 8-13

Sankofa
Danzafro
FEB 15-20

L-E-V
FEB 22-27

● Digital performance available
to the public for free.



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DANCE ENTROPY / GREEN SPACE

congratulates the 2021 Bessie awardees!



GREEN SPACE
INCUBATOR OF DANCE IN QUEENS

**Congratulations to
BAC Artists nominated
for Bessie Awards:**

Stefanie Batten Bland

Tei Blow

Mariana Valencia

**BARYSHNIKOV
ARTS CENTER**



PROGRAM—

OPENING	Step & Repeat
LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT	George Emilio Sanchez
WELCOME	Heather Robles, <i>Executive Director of The Bessies</i>
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER	Presented by Bijayini Satpathy
OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN / MUSICAL COMPOSITION	Presented by nia love + Antoine Roney
OUTSTANDING VISUAL DESIGN	Presented by Monica Bill Barnes
OUTSTANDING REVIVAL	Presented by Tina Croll
OUTSTANDING “BREAKOUT” CHOREOGRAPHER	Presented by Tess Dworman
SPECIAL THANKS TO DANCE WORKERS	Brooklyn Arts Exchange, The Chocolate Factory, Gibney, Ice Theatre of New York, Japan Society, The Joyce Theater Foundation, Mark Morris Dance Group, New 42 Studios
IN MEMORIAM	Presented by Bebe Neuwirth Soundscape by Samita Sinha
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN DANCE	Presented by Arthur Aviles & Charles Rice-Gonzalez
SERVICE TO THE FIELD OF DANCE	Presented by Pamela Green
OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION	Presented by Annie-B Parson
CLOSING	The Bessies Community



The Bessies 2021 After Party!

Following the 2021 Virtual Bessies Ceremony, join us at the After Party as we celebrate this year's award recipients, play fun games, and dance the night away with music by the amazing LVJjay (Larissa Velez-Jackson)!

Date: Monday, October 11 @ 8:30pm

Location: Zoom

RSVP at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-bessies-2021-after-party-tickets-181013806167>

2021 OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE FIELD
OF DANCE

RECIPIENTS—

DanceAfrica

2021 OUTSTANDING
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
IN DANCE

George Faison

NOMINATIONS—

2021 OUTSTANDING
PRODUCTION NOMINEES

Kyle Abraham

When We Fell

New York City Ballet

at the David H. Koch Theater

Kyle Abraham and Taylor Stanley

Ces noms que nous portons

New York City Ballet and

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

Stefanie Batten Bland

Kolonial

Baryshnikov Arts Center

mayfield brooks

Whale Fall

Abrons Arts Center

Ayodele Casel

Ayodele Casel: Chasing Magic

The Joyce Theater

Janessa Clark
Communion
Janessa Clark and HERE Arts Center

Johnnie Cruise Mercer
_AShadowPrince
Presented through Stephen Petronio Company's
Bloodlines(future) program

Israel Galván
Maestro de Barra
The Joyce Theater

Indigenous Enterprise
Indigenous Enterprise: Powwow Style
The Joyce Theater

Eiko Otake
A Body in a Cemetery
Pioneer Works and Green-Wood Cemetery

Mariana Valencia
brownout
Baryshnikov Arts Center

Saul Williams, Bill T. Jones, Maria Bauman, Kayla
Farrish, Marjani Forté-Saunders, d. Sabela grimes,
Jasmine Hearn, and Shamel Pitts
The Motherboard Suite
New York Live Arts

2021 OUTSTANDING
REVIVAL NOMINEES

State of Darkness
By Molissa Fenley
The Joyce Theater

Watermotor
By Trisha Brown
Trisha Brown Dance Company
The Joyce Theater

2021 OUTSTANDING
"BREAKOUT"
CHOREOGRAPHER
NOMINEES

Hope Boykin
Johnnie Cruise Mercer
Maleek Washington
André M. Zachery

2021 OUTSTANDING
PERFORMER NOMINEES

LaTasha Barnes
Sustained Achievement

Isabella Boylston
Sustained Achievement with
American Ballet Theatre

Marc Crousillat
Watermotor by Trisha Brown
The Joyce Theater

d. Sabela grimes
The Motherboard Suite, We get what you deserve
New York Live Arts

Jasmine Hearn
The Motherboard Suite, Order of Time
New York Live Arts

Princess Lockerooo
Sustained Achievement

Sara Mearns
State of Darkness by Molissa Fenley
The Joyce Theater

Anjali Mehta
Descent by Anjali Mehta
The Artist's Studio and Lion Party Films

Annie Roberts
Sustained Achievement with Ronald K. Brown/
EVIDENCE

Nicholas Sciscione
Love Me Tender by Stephen Petronio
The Joyce Theater

Michael Trusnovec
State of Darkness by Molissa Fenley
The Joyce Theater

Huiwang Zhang
OUR LABYRINTH by Lee Mingwei/Bill T. Jones
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

2021 OUTSTANDING
MUSICAL COMPOSITION
/ SOUND DESIGN NOMINEES

Monstah Black
_AShadowPrince by Johnnie Cruise Mercer
Presented through Stephen Petronio Company's
Bloodlines(future) program

Pedro León and Manu Prieto
Maestro de Barra by Israel Galván
The Joyce Theater

Arturo O'Farrill ^(pianist/composer) Crystal Monee Hall
^(singer/songwriter) Anastasia Victory ^(music director and composer) and
Senfu Stoney ^(percussionist)
Ayodele Casel: Chasing Magic by Ayodele Casel
The Joyce Theater

Saul Williams
The Motherboard Suite
New York Live Arts

2021 OUTSTANDING
VISUAL DESIGN NOMINEES

Kyle Abraham ^(Director) Ryan Marie Helfant <sup>(Director &
Director of Photography)</sup> Eric K. Yue ^(Director of Photography) and
Esteban Pedraza ^(Editor)
When We Fell by Kyle Abraham
New York City Ballet at the David H. Koch
Theater

Royal Osiris Karaoke Ensemble (Tei Blow and
Sean McElroy) & John Blalock
Visuals
The Sprezzaturameron by Tei Blow and Sean McElroy
Baryshnikov Arts Center

Conrad Quesen ^(installation) and Shane Ballard ^(costumes)
Kolonial by Stefanie Batten Bland
Baryshnikov Arts Center

Fritzlyn Hector ^(Director) Catalin Stelian <sup>(Director of Photography,
Cinematography, Editor)</sup> Kofi Assane Opare ^(Cinematography)
and Kweku Amantey Opare ^(Editor)
Steel Standing by Fritzlyn Hector
DanceAfrica 2021
Brooklyn Academy of Music

PRESENTERS—

MONICA BILL BARNES

Monica Bill Barnes is a dancer and choreographer. Barnes founded Monica Bill Barnes & Company in 1997. In 2018, the company won the Lily Award. Current collaborations include *The Running Show*, *Days Go By*, and *Many Happy Returns*. Within each of these new contexts and borrowed environments, the company's work constantly finds humor in our awkward, everyday triumphs and failures.

TINA CROLL

Tina Croll, founding member Dance Theater Workshop; teachers: Merce Cunningham, Erick Hawkins; established Tina Croll + Company NYC. Danspace Project productions: *Ancient Springs* and *Balkan Dreams*. Formed Improvisation group: "The Gang of Four" with Wendy Perron, Douglas Dunn, Kenneth King. "From the Horse's Mouth" presented since 1998 in major cities, Jacob's Pillow, ADF.

TESS DWORMAN

Tess Dworman is a choreographer, performer, audio describer and voiceover actor originally from the unceded land of Kiikaapoi, also known as Chicago, IL. She is a 2020 Outstanding "Breakout" Choreographer Bessie Honoree. More info at tessdworman.com

PAMELA GREEN

Pamela Green was Managing Director for Chuck Davis' AADE from 1985-1989 where she was first introduced to DanceAfrica. She founded PMGAM In 1992 with AADE and DanceAfrica as inaugural clients and went on to represent Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, and Philadanco! among others. She remains thankful to Baba Chuck.

NIA LOVE

Presently, love lives on unseated Lenape Nation land known as New York. In honor of her maternal grandmothers and their historical participation in black feminism and the powers of domesticity that radically move away from patriarchy, love wanted her pen name to be spelled in lowercase to shift the attention from her identity to her ideas. Her career spans forty years, beginning in 1978 becoming one of the youngest international apprentices with Ballet Nacional de Cuba. Received a BFA in Theater Directing and pre Medicine from Howard University and an MFA in Choreography from Florida State University. In 1996 studied Butoh and toured with Japanese Butoh master Min Tanaka and received the hon-

orary Fulbright Fellow in 2002-03. love has two Bessie Awards; 2017 Outstanding Performance (Skeleton Architecture), and Outstanding Musical Composition/Sound Design. love, a recipient of the 2019 Gibney Presents Residency and Gibney|DiP, Urban Bush Women's 2019-20-(21) Choreographic Center Initiative Fellowship (extended award due to COVID pandemic), a recipient of 2020 MAP Fund, 2020-21 Artist in Residence at Bryn Mawr College, the Movement Research Rosin Fund Residency. Most recently-- the 2021 MANCC (Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography) Residency and the 2021 Byrn Mawr Artist in Residence. She is currently the Brooklyn Arts Exchange Artist-In-Residence Co-Advisor and New York Live Arts Fresh Tracks Advisor. love presently serves as an Assistant professor adjunct at Queens College and New School|Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts.

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. T.V.: 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.

ANNIE-B PARSON

Annie-B Parson, choreographer, co-founded Big Dance Theater in 1991. She has also made dances and stagings for the work of David Byrne, David Bowie, St. Vincent, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Wendy Whelan, Laurie Anderson, Nico Muhly, Jonathan Demme, Salt 'n Pepa, Esperanza Spalding, David Lang, Anne Carson, and the Martha Graham Dance Co. American Utopia, her most recent work with David Byrne, is currently on Broadway, was made into a film by Spike Lee, and won a Tony. She will premiere a new work with Big Dance at BAM/The Kitchen; The Walker/The Wexner/CPA/Philly Fringe, and other theaters in 2021/22.

ARTHUR AVILES AND
CHARLES RICE-CONZALEZ

Celebrated award-winning dancer/choreographer and writer/activist/publicist, co-founded BAAD! (The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance), which creates, produces, presents, and supports the development of cutting-edge and challenging works in contemporary dance and all creative disciplines that gives voice to artists from underrepresented demographics and aids in dismantling paradigms of social injustices including sexism, racism, and homophobia in the Bronx and beyond. www.baadbronx.org

ANTOINE RONEY

Antoine Roney is an internationally and nationally acclaimed jazz musician, receiving decades of publicity and credit as a musician, bandleader and composer. Seven albums have been released under his name. Antoine has worked and performed with jazz greats such as Elvin Jones, Jackie McLean, Clifford Jordan, Ted Curson, Wallace Roney, and Chick Corea to name a few.

GEORGE EMILIO SANCHEZ

George Emilio Sanchez is a writer, performance artist and social justice activist. He was born in Los Angeles, California, and became a New York transplant in 1978. He began making original pieces in 1992 and has continued making performance work and social justice projects to this day. Sanchez also teaches performance and arts education at the College of Staten Island/City University of New York.

BIJAYINI SATPATHY

A globally revered Odissi dancer & 2020 Bessie outstanding performer honoree, Bijayini Satpathy premieres her first solo choreography "Abhypsaa - A seeking," commissioned by Duke Performances and Baryshnikov Arts Center with additional support by NEFA's National Dance Project in 2021, followed by a US Tour. She is also the 2021-22 Artist in Residency at the MET. (www.bijayini.dance)

THE BESSIES STAFF—

Heather Robles (Executive Director)

Heather Robles (she/her/ella) lives on the stolen land of the Lenape and Canarsie peoples in what is now called Brooklyn. She has worked at The Bessies since 2009- the first year they were independently produced with Lucy Sexton. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Alma Dance Company, 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 Zústiak, Nathan Trice, DANCENOISE, André M. Zachery, Buglisi Dance Theater, Soluq Dance Theater, Alison Cook Beatty Dance, 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.

Dani Cole (Associate Manager)

Dani Cole (she/her) works on the stolen land of the Lenape & Canarsie people as an interdisciplinary artist, facilitator, writer, and arts administrator. Currently, she is the Clinical Intern in in-patient adolescent psychiatry at Kings County Hospital, guiding group movement therapy sessions. In addition, she is the Administrative & Production Associate and performer with jill sigman/thinkdance; collaborates with ECHOensemble; and is on the community board of Hyp-ACCESS, an organization that develops care access programs in the arts, medical care, and somatics, and are accessibility consultants. Previously, Dani served as the Editorial Associate of *Imagining: A Gibney Journal* and as the Curatorial Associate & Artist Coordinator at Gibney, working with Eva Yaa Asantewaa. Dani's artistic and facilitation practices are informed by experiences with jill sigman/thinkdance's *Body Politic* and Disability Justice-centered spaces in NYC. She founded the collective *Mobilized Voices/MO B I V* in 2018, receiving support from *Mana Contemporary* and the *Steffi Nossen School of Dance*, among others. Dani was a part of the 92Y's *Dance Up!* next generation of young choreographers. Her writing details the artistic process of various creators and centers advocacy for the disabled+ in the movement field. Her text and audio recordings have been featured through Gibney and *The Dance Enthusiast*.

Gabbie Burgess (Social Media Manager and Assistant Producer)

Gabrielle Burgess (she/her) lives on the stolen land of the Munsee Lenape and Wassinger peoples in what is now called Manhattan. She began working with the Bessies in 2019. A New York-based performer, Gabrielle holds a BA in Dance from Hofstra University. She has performed with *The Moving Architects*, *Salvatore Larussa Dance Theatre*, the

Chamberlin Collective, Joan Bradford and Collaborators, and kamrDANCE. She also enjoys creating and has shown her work at CBGDance, WAXWorks, and the Sans Limites Movement Fest. Alongside performance and choreography endeavors, Gabrielle is a dance educator and teaching artist throughout Brooklyn and the greater New York area.

Alexeya EM (Technical Assistant)

Alexeya EM is a performing artist and energy worker dedicated to raising the collective consciousness through her life and artistry. Alexeya was born and raised in Queens, New York. 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 Léon, Cailce 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 performing and building her repertoire as an independent recording artist. In addition to her creative work, Alexeya has been training in energy work as a healing arts practitioner. She resides in New York City.

Brinda Guha (Technical Director)

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.

Maria Hochnowski (Development Intern)

Maria Hochnowski (she/her) resides on the stolen land of the Wappinger and Munsee Lenape people, now known as Washington Heights, Manhattan. A native to Denmark, Maria is a modern/contemporary dancer, teaching artist and Yoga teacher. While in Den-

mark she worked primarily as a teaching artist, supporting and mentoring young aspiring artists as well as creating Summer Dance Camp 2019, a community workshop to make dance classes more accessible in rural communities. She has also choreographed for music videos, concerts and musicals. In 2018 Maria immigrated permanently to NYC after completing the Professional Studies Program at the Limón school. She has had the pleasure of performing works by artists such as Doris Humphrey, Jose Limón, Yana Snitzler, Becky Brown and Dina Denis amongst others. Maria joined The Bessies as a Development Intern in July 2021 and is beyond excited to join the team.

Neysha Merced (Program Manager)

Neysha 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, Neysha is a dancer as well as an assistant in Marketing and Communications for JCHEN PROJECT, a GYROTONIC® & GYROKINESIS® Trainer, and model represented by Stetts Model Management. She is ecstatic to be working with The Bessies team for her second year!

Kayla Morgan (Archival & Producing Intern)

Kayla Morgan (she/her) resides on the stolen land of the Munsee Lenape people, also known as Staten Island, NY. She is the Archival and Producing Intern for The Bessies this season. Aside from working with The Bessies, Kayla is currently in her senior year as an arts administration major and dance minor at Wagner College. She is currently Wagner College's Theatre Advisory Board President, and is co-choreographing their dance project upcoming this fall.

Regine Pieters (Angel and After Party Producer)

Regine Pieters (she/her) was born and raised on the Caribbean island of Curaçao, and currently lives on the stolen land of the Lenape and Canarsie peoples which is now most commonly known as Brooklyn. She completed her undergraduate studies at Belhaven University, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. Regine has performed works by Elizabeth Dishman, Vincent Hardy, Marc Wayne, Sung Yong Kim, Faizah Grootens in addition to studying Contact Improvisation with Nancy Stark Smith. After being exposed to composition and choreography, Regine felt called to pursue choreography in her professional career. Her work *Djis Mi Mes* was performed in the Gala Concert at Northwestern State University. Later, after moving to New York City, she found deep joy in organizing logistical performance elements, giving directors and artists infinite space to focus on their art and to therefore fully thrive. Regine started developing her administrative and management skills at Gibney Dance Center and Dishman + Co. Choreography and is excited to continue growing in these areas of expertise. She now focuses on cultivating her non-profit

funding skills as a Development Associate at Brooklyn Arts Exchange and Chocolate Factory Theater. In addition, she is the Lead Production Manager at New Yorkers for Culture and Arts and produces events for The Bessies ongoingly. With her unparalleled appreciation for performing and visual arts, she aspires to provide leverage within the structure of arts organizations to continue creating sustainability and opportunities for artists.

Lucas Tahiruzzaman Syed (Video Designer)

Lucas Tahiruzzaman Syed is a video editor, composer and music producer with a passion for music, theater, games, and new media. At The New School he studied composition with Stefania de Kenessey and then tripped into the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop. Upcoming antics include a production of the musical *The Brontës* (Composer) at The University of East London; a new orchestral work with NYC's *Queer Urban Orchestra*; his debut game *Of Two Minds* (Game Designer, Composer) with writer-director Michael Bergmann, and the continuation of the publication *Musical Theater Today* (Co-Founding Editor). He likes to make stuff, so please say hello. Love and gratitude to all collaborators past, present, and future!

Izzi Wayner (Bessies Ceremony Producer)

Izzi Wayner (she/her) is a development and event management professional who leapt into the world of arts administration after pursuing a BFA in Dance at the University of Michigan. She currently is a Project Manager at Donorly, after gaining valuable experience working at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Lincoln Center. After serving as the Producing Intern for last year's ceremony, she is immensely honored to have been trusted to produce this year's ceremony and grateful to be a part of such a supportive, uplifting community.

NOTE

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

Mixology courtesy of Salty Brine.

DANCIN' THE NIGHT AWAY

1 tablespoon agave syrup
1 whole lime
1 sugar cube (or 1/2 teaspoon of granulated sugar)
2 ounces of tequila

Put agave syrup in the bottom of a cocktail shaker with a splash of warm water and stir to combine. Cut the lime in half; Cut each half in quarters; Put six pieces of lime in your shaker along with the sugar and muddle to release the juices. Add tequila. Add ice. Shake vigorously for 10 seconds and then dump the entire contents of the shaker (ice, limes and all) into a rocks glass.

DISCO BALL SPARKLE
(MOCKTAIL)

4 slices of cucumber
1 large strawberry (quartered, stem removed)
1 lime wedge
1 lemon wedge
1 orange wedge
4 ounces grapefruit juice
Sprite

To a cocktail shaker add: cucumber, strawberry, lime, lemon and orange. Muddle just enough to release juices. Add 4 ounces of grapefruit juice. Add ice. Shake vigorously for 10 seconds. Dump the entire contents of the shaker (fruit, ice and all) into a large glass. Top with Sprite. Give a quick stir and enjoy!

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 in his spare time for fun. www.thesaltiestbrine.com Cheers!



LAMBENT
FOUNDATION



MARTA HEFLIN
FOUNDATION

BESSIES FOUNDATION SUPPORT—

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Howard Gilman Foundation
Lambent Foundation
Marta Heflin Foundation
Mertz Gilmore Foundation
The Harkness Foundation for Dance
The Jerome Robbins Foundation

BESSIES ANCEL RECEPTION HONORING CHARMAINE WARREN—

HOST COMMITTEE

Cora Cahan*, Judy Hussie-Taylor*, Jeanne Linnes*,
Stanford Makishi*, Virginia Millhiser, Nicky
Paraiso*, Carla Peterson*, Craig Peterson*, Gus
Solomons jr*, Paz Tanjuaquio*, Laurie Uprichard*,
Beth Wilensky.

*Indicates a member of The Bessies Steering
Committee

BESSIES PRESENTERS LEAGUE 2021—

Abrons Arts Center/Henry Street
Settlement
Baryshnikov Arts Center
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Brooklyn Dance Festival
The Chocolate Factory
Dance Parade

Dance Rising
Danspace Project
La MaMa
Movement Research
New York City Center
TOPAZ ARTS
WHITE WAVE

THE BESSIES MEMBERSHIP 2021—

Aaron Selissen
Ella Baff
Kyla Barkin
Karen Bernard
Janis Brenner
Carol Bryce-Buchanan
Uttara Coorlawala
Thomas DeFrantz
Robin Dunn
Karen Eubanks
Davalois Fearon

Joanna Futral
Michelle Grant-Murray
Irene Hultman Monti
Holly Jones
Heather Litteer
Eleanor Oldham
Noele Phillips
Gian Marco Riccardo
Lo Forte
Melissa Ryker
Lucy Sexton

Jan Smith
Nicole Touzien

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

IN MEMORIAM—

LANCE THEODORE BRIGGS II AKA PRETTY

Lance Theodore Briggs II aka Pretty, lived in San Francisco during his formative years and looked up to his uncle, Bill T. Jones. He was a dancer, choreographer, model, and songwriter who studied at the School of Ballet. He was known for his storytelling roles in Jones', *Analogy/Lance: Pretty aka The Escape Artist* (2016), and Jones' *A Letter to My Nephew* (2015).

DEBORA CHASE-HICKS

According to Theresa Ruth Howard, Debora Chase-Hicks “was a game changer, an inspiration, an example for generations of dancers.” She grew up in the lineage of Joan Myers Brown at Philadanco. She was an anchor in a cohort of dancers who raised the standard of American modern dance. Her key roles included Talley Beatty's *Stack-Up*, Ulysses Dove's *Episodes*, George Faison's *Suite Oris*, and Alvin Ailey's *For 'Bird' – With Love* and *Masekela Language* as well as the iconic solo *Cry*.

ROBERT COHAN

Robert Cohan was a New York-born protégé of Martha Graham. He revolutionized dance in the U.K. by establishing the acclaimed contemporary dance company and school, London Contemporary Dance Theater. Cohan introduced Graham technique to Britain, taught Graham classes, and bred a new generation of choreographers in the modern dance style while choreographing on his company. During his career, Cohan also performed on Broadway and created more than 30 works for his company and other works for Batsheva, among others.

JUAN CARLOS COPES

Juan Carlos Copes brought Tango to Broadway and moved across the dance floor for seven decades, establishing a new Tango style with María Nieves Rego called, “estilo Copes-Nieves.” Copes performed in the show “Tango Argentino” and toured to Europe and Asia before it moved to Broadway. This show led to global resurgence of the tango and many cite Copes' performance and spotlight as support for their present-day existing professions.

OTHELLA DALLAS

Othella Dallas was one of the last surviving members of the Katherine Dunham Dance company, the nation's first self-supporting Black modern dance troupe. She taught Dunham technique in Europe, opening the only school in Europe in 1975 that taught pure Dunham

technique, well into her 90's. Dallas was also a Broadway performer, and blues and R&B singer, sharing stages with Duke Ellington and Nat King Cole. She performed at the Apollo Theater and received a Swiss Jazz Award after moving to Switzerland in the 1960s.

JACQUES D'AMBOISE

Jacques d'Amboise helped popularize ballet in America. He was one of the most distinguished male stars at New York City Ballet and was the first male star to emerge from City Ballet's affiliated School of American Ballet, joining the company's corps at the age of 15 in 1949. He had 24 roles choreographed for him and became the foremost interpreter of the title role in George Balanchine's seminal *Apollo* before retiring from the company in 1984, a few months shy of his 50th birthday. He also choreographed 17 works for City Ballet, as well as many pieces for the students of National Dance Institute, a program he founded and directed.

PATRICK DUPOND

French Ballet Virtuoso and star of the stage, died at the age of 61 in March 2021. He was a household name, synonymous with dance for many. Mr. Dupond shot into the limelight at 17. He worked with a broad range of choreographers, including Alvin Ailey, Kenneth MacMillan, John Neumeier, Alwin Nikolais, Roland Petit and Twyla Tharp. He served as the artistic director of the Ballet Français de Nancy in 1988, and was offered directorship of the Paris Opera Ballet in 1990.

KERRY ENGLISH

Hailed as the ultimate theater fan by the Los Angeles Times, Dr. Kerry English, a pediatrician at the Martin Luther King Clinic in Watts, CA, was a cultural omnivore who sometimes took in more than five shows a week. He was a devoted audience member who became a reliable board member at several LA theaters, including Rogue Machine, Cornerstone Theater Company, Ojai Playwrights Conference, and 24th Street Theater. Besides his wife, Olga Garay-English, he broadened his horizons to include dance. He was an avid patron of national and international festivals clocking in time at NYC's Under the Radar, Prototype, and the Joyce's American Dance Platform as well as Festival Internacional Santiago a Mil, the Dublin Festival, and the China Shanghai International Arts Festival, among many others.

NIKOLAI FADEYECHEV

Nikolai Fadeyechev, was known as one of the Bolshoi Ballet's greatest dancers. He was also known for his distinctively noble style and his chivalry as a partner to the company's leading ballerinas. He danced in Leonid Lavrovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Igor Moiseyev's version of *Spartacus*. His survivors include his wife, the ballerina Irina Kholina; two sons, Aleksei, a former principal dancer in the Bolshoi Ballet and a former artistic director of the company in the 1990s, and Aleksandr, a dancer in the company; and two grandchildren.

CHARLENE GEHM

Charlene Gehm was a dancer with the National Ballet in Washington, Chicago Ballet, Joffrey, and performed on Broadway in Jerome Robbins' revival of *West Side Story*. Post Joffrey retirement, she received a bachelor's degree in arts administration from NYU, a master's degree from Columbia, and served as the president of the MacDougal Family Foundation. Gehm was known for her excellence in a wide range of roles and thrilled audiences and critics alike.

ANNA HALPRIN

Anna Halprin, the woman who innovated modern improvisation, lived to be 100 years old. Her career took off after moving to San Francisco in the 1940's. Meredith Monk, Simone Forti, Yvonne Rainer, Trisha Brown and the team of Eiko and Koma were some of her most successful pupils and dancers. Her works included mysterious mood pieces like *Birds of America or Gardens Without Walls* (1960), and *Five Legged Stool* (1962). She continued to dance until 95.

RAIMUND HOCHE

Raimund Hoghe, the German performer and choreographer died on May 14 at his home in Düsseldorf at 72. He became the subject of Pina Bausch after being sent to interview her. He remained with Ms. Bausch for a decade, contributing to major pieces like 1980, *Ahnen* and *Bandoncon*. As a child, Mr. Hoghe dreamed of being a dancer, but thought it would be impossible due to physical handicaps. He was a choreographer of dances that offered combined slow, ritualized movement, and meditative states.

ZIZI JEANMAIRE

Zizi Jeanmaire, the ballerina, cabaret singer and actress began as a classical dancer whose greatest roles were choreographed by her husband, Roland Petit. She danced with Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov, among other names. *Carmen*, which Petit created especially for Zizi, shocked audiences with its onstage smoking and frank sensuality. Her final performances were in 2000, in the amphitheater of

the Bastille Opera in Paris, featuring songs written by her daughter, who has had her own career as a singer and songwriter.

NEVENKA KOPRIVŠEK

Nevenka Koprivšek was trained at École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq. She started her professional career as an actress and theatre director. She was the artistic director of Glej experimental theatre and in 1997 she established a new independent organization BUNKER. Bunker creates artistic programs that reflect on social, ecological, political or cultural issues. Bunker has also managed Stara mestna elektrarna, an old power plant converted into a performing arts center. Nevenka has been involved in or has co-founded many international networks and exchange projects. She occasionally writes, lectures and advises on different issues of programming and cultural policy.

SUNIL KOTHARI

Sunil Kothari, 87, was an eminent Scholar of Indian Traditional Dance. The former accountant studied at Uday Shankar Professor at Ravindra Bharti University, Kolkata. He then became the dance critic for The Times of India for over three decades, discovering India through his research. Kothari examined Indian dance genres including Bharatanatyam, Chhau, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi and Sattriya. He was awarded a doctor of letters by the Rabindra Bharti University for his research on dance sculptures in the medieval temples of north Gujarat.

CABRIEL KUTIK

Gabriel Kutik, a friend and Dance Parade Steering Committee member, passed away in July 2021. Gabriel helped run the Grand Stand in Astor Plaza for over ten years. His selflessness, humor and passion for dance reflects why Dance Parade is so precious. He always sported a necktie, to show his love and respect for dance, even while breaking on the dance floor. The Kutik family has generously requested donations in his memory be directed to Dance Parade's Education fund.

NAKOTAH LARANCE

Nakotah LaRance, 30, was a nationally acclaimed Hopi-Tewa Native American Hoop Dancer. At four years old, he was inspired by hoop dancer Derrick Suwaima Davis, who then taught him the basics of the fancy dance style. LaRance described hoop dance as, "originally a medicine dance, for healing." He combined modern and Native American performance. He was seen in Steven Spielberg's *Into the West*,

HBO's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, dancing in the Brooklyn Ballet's "Brooklyn Nutcracker", and more. He was also master instructor for the Pueblo of Pojoaque Youth Hoop Dancers.

SARA LELAND

Sara Leland was a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet and disseminated Balanchine's dances worldwide while inside and outside of the company. Balanchine choreographed key roles for Leland and she was appointed assistant ballet master with NYCB in 1981 before retiring from the stage. She was known by many for making an "...indelible impression on several generations of dancers."

ROBBIE MCCAULEY

Robbie McCauley, the artist who put race at center stage, dies at 78. Robbie was an intense performer who worked with Laurie Carlos and Jaowle Willa Jo Zollar of Urban Bush Women. She was best known for shows she wrote and performed at venues like the Kitchen in Manhattan and Franklin Furnace in Brooklyn, in which she used her family and personal stories to confront universal issues. Cynthia Carr described her work as, "All about getting past that...It wasn't about judging so much as, 'Let's talk about this and let's get the truth out there.'"

MARY ELLEN MOYLAN

Mary Ellen Moylan, acclaimed Balanchine Dancer, passed at 94. At 11 years old, her mother sent her from Florida to the School of American Ballet under the direction of Balanchine. Her stage debut was with Nicholas Magallanes in *Pas de Trois for Piano and Two Dancers*. However, when Moylan Danced for the Ballet Society, she became, "The first great Balanchine Dancer." She danced with him closely for many years, becoming what he called his "first ballerina."

ANN REINKING

Ann Reinking, dancer, actor, choreographer, and Fosse muse died at 71. She performed for three decades on Broadway, best known for playing Roxie Hart in the hit John Kander-Fred Ebb musical *Chicago*. She won the Tony Award for best choreography for the *Chicago* revival and imagined her dance movements as an updated tribute to Fosse's earlier choreography. In the early 1990s, she co-founded the Broadway Theater Project, a nonprofit musical theater education program in Florida for high school and college students.

DIANE RODRIGUEZ

Celebrated by the Los Angeles, national and international theatre community, Diane Rodriguez 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 LA's Center Theatre Group. There, she was a member of the artistic staff for 24 years, from 1995–2019, overseeing new play production and developing the new work of over 75 artists, both playwrights and companies, including the plays "Straight White Men" by Young Jean Lee, "The White Album" by Lars Jan, "Venice is Dead" by Roger Guenveur Smith and Richard Montoya, and "How to Be a Rock Critic" by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen. Diane worked with theatres and artists across the country, as well as internationally; she was president of the Theatre Communications Group Board; and was named by President Barack Obama to the NEA's National Council on the Arts.

PIERRE-PAUL SAVOIE

Pierre-Paul Savoie, Montreal choreographer, who died of cancer in February 2021 at the age of 66, spent his career merging worlds. Initially trained in theatre, he went on to incorporate acrobatics, live music and various media into the performances of his company, PPS Danse, founded in 1989. His work, *Bagne*, presented at The Joyce, received a Bessie in 2001 for its set design.

LIAM SCARLETT

Liam Scarlett had a command of the ballet vocabulary that when mixed with the use of gesture and partnering, made his work intensely appealing to ballet company directors. After ending his dancing career in 2012, he became the Royal Ballet's first artist in residence the same year. Scarlett choreographed works for the Norwegian National Ballet, New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theater, English National Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, the Royal New Zealand Ballet, the Queensland Ballet, BalletBoyz and Texas Ballet Theater.

MAKIKO TAMURA

Makiko Tamura, founded Makiko Tamura/small apple co. in 2004. She was an annual special guest choreographer/dancer of The Dance Satellite Lecture at Yamaguchi University Faculty of Education from 2004-2009 in her native Japan. Tamura moved to the U.S.A. in 2007, and since then her works have been presented in newsteps at Chen Dance Center, Danspace Project Food For Thought, St. Mark's Church, The A.W.A.R.D. Show! 2011 All-Stars at Joyce SoHo, Joe's Pub, Movement Research at Judson Church, Yale university and other NYC venues. Her company won the first-place prize in The A.W.A.R.D Show! in 2009. and the third-place prize in Festival Twenty Ten DanceNOW Challenge 2010 at DTW.

BARBARA WEISBERGER

Barbara Weisberger, founded the Pennsylvania Ballet and transformed the troupe into a nationally acclaimed company. Weisberger was the first child accepted by George Balanchine in his Manhattan school. She served as artistic director of the tour de force Pennsylvania Ballet until 1982 as they toured and performed works by Balanchine and other eclectic choreographers. Weisberger founded the Carlisle Project in 1984 to develop choreographers later in her life.

PABLO VELA

Pablo Vela, performer, director and theater professor, died on July 26th in Brooklyn, just shy of his 98th birthday. A beloved member of Meredith Monk/The House since 1975, he also performed in many productions with Bread and Puppet Theater, Ping Chong and Company, and at La Mama, ETC. Pablo received his theater training at Yale University and also with Viola Spolin and Jacques Lecoq. His directorial work, including a series of memorable cabaret performances in New York, has been presented throughout the United States and Canada as well as in Europe and Central America. From 1966-1975 Pablo served as director of the Theater Program at Goddard College, and later taught at The City College of New York, Trinity/La Mama Performing Arts Program, and internationally. Pablo will forever be remembered for having profoundly touched, moved and inspired so many others over the course of his remarkable life.

BESSIES STEERING COMMITTEE—

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ANABELLA LENZU

Originally from Argentina, Anabella Lenzu is a dancer, choreographer, writer, and scholar

ADESOLA OSAKALUMI

Actor, Choreographer, Writer, SHLANK INC/Founder

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SPECIAL THANKS—

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations whose support has been invaluable to The Bessies this year:

Dance/NYC

The Clever Agency

Kayla Morgan

Maria Hochnowski

Molaundo Jones

Rix Chan

Rita and Chris Robles

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

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

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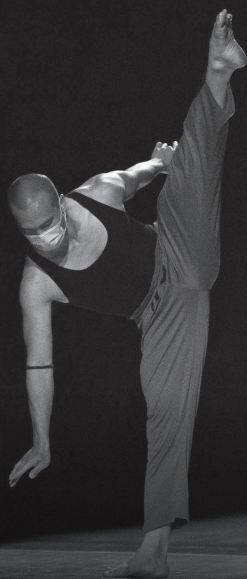
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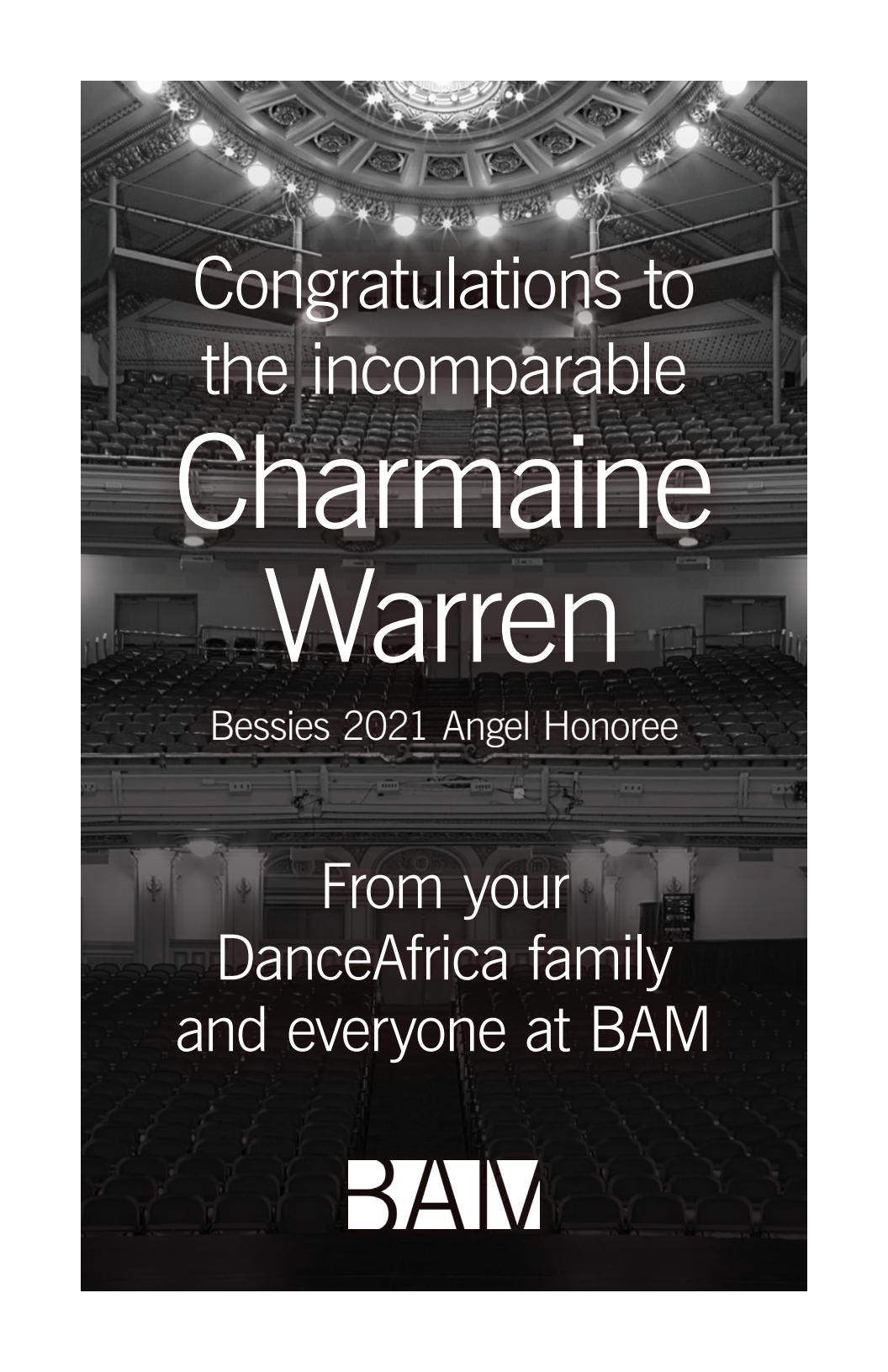


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2021 Bessie Nominees *The Motherboard Suite* (above photo by Maria Baranova) and Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company member Huiwang Zhang, pictured in *Afterwardsness* (below photo by Stephanie Berger).

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from the Bessies Steering Committee:

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and to the NYC dance community...

keep dancing!

the Bessies the Bessies the Bessies the Bessies the Bessies the Bessies



Congratulations to all the nominees!

So proud to be part of this
incredible and resilient
dance community.

Sending love from the
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Congrats to all Bessie Nominees!

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