



# ELECTROSTATIC ATTRACTION

Artistic and Executive Director- Marlana Doyle

Board Chair- Remington Tonar

Secretary- Susan Figeac- Treasurer- CC Connor- Tonja Jones- Board Member

Rehearsal Assistant - Andrea Dawn Shelley

Lighting Designer - Jason Cochran

Costumers- Allison Miller Gonzales

Company Members - Tamia Bradford, Genene Wallis McGrath,

Avery Moore, Dwain Travis

Guest Artists- Dominic Askew, Niyah Pratt, Mimi Rosepink

# INTERSECTIONS

Choreographer: Joe Celej

Music: Matt Maltese

Costume Designer: Candis Cannon

Dancers: Dominic Askew \*, Tamia Bradford, Genene Wallis McGrath,

Avery Moore, Niyah Pratt \*, Mimi Rosepink \*, Dwain Travis,

\*Guest Artist

Originally created pre-pandemic, *Intersections* consists of four movement sections that can be arranged in any order and whose order will be determined randomly for each performance. The structure of the piece is inspired by Sol

LeWitt's work *A Square Divided Horizontally and Vertically into Four Equal Parts, Each with a Different Direction of Alternating Parallel Bands of Lines* (1982). Each section will live and move on the planes demonstrated in LeWitt's work...horizontal, vertical, and each of the diagonal planes. The mood of the work is existential in nature and focuses on the idea that our individuality is both isolating and a commonality that we all share. This piece premiered in 2021.

This piece was generously underwritten by Stephen and Linda Walsh

# WELCOME FROM MARLANA DOYLE

## FORGET ME NOT

World Premiere

Choreographer: Andrea Dawn Shelley

Music: Frédéric François Chopin, Johann Sebastian Bach,

Aram Khachaturian

Poetry excerpts from "Immortality" by Clare Harner

Costuming: Magi Dimitrova, Andrea D. Shelley

Set Design: Ryan McGettigan

Construction: Sepeda Design & Production

Dancer: Genene Wallis McGrath

*accompanied by Dwain Travis as the antagonist*

*featuring Violinist, Elise Haukenes*

*"I felt that my body had been taken away from me because there were all of these people surrounding me, imposing their opinions. My body wasn't mine, I had to regain it back."*

*In a society that focuses on life rather than loss of pregnancy, many women avoid open discussion of their loss. Miscarriage is often stigmatized and considered to be a taboo topic. The predominant emotions in women after miscarriage are self-blame, shame and guilt. Breaking the silence and shattering the taboo surrounding pregnancy loss is paramount.*

# SENSORIUM

World Premiere

Choreographer: Jack Wolff

Music: "Mi - Soul Channel Rework" Nils Frahm, Soul Channel

"Do - Databoy78 Rework" Nils Frahm, Databoy78

"You - Bug Lover Rework" Nils Frahm, Bug Lover

"La - Sebastian Freij Rework" Nils Frahm, Sebastian Freij

"Mi - Soul Channel Rework" Nils Frahm, Soul Channel

Costuming: Monica Guerra, Allison Miller Gonzales

Dancers: Dominic Askew\*, Tamia Bradford, Genene Wallis McGrath,

Avery Moore, Dwain Travis,

\*Guest Artist

*This piece is an exploration of the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch.  
How do they inform the human experience?*

## 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

### LET MY HAIR DOWN

Houston Contemporary Dance Company with Say Girl Say

Choreographer: Robbie Moore

Music: Say Girl Say

Dancers: Dominic Askew \*, Tamia Bradford, Genene Wallis McGrath,

Avery Moore, Robbie Moore\*, Niyah Pratt \*, Mimi Rosepink \*, Dwain Travis,

\*Guest Artists

***Say Girl Say** is a genre-bending multi-instrumental duo from Houston, Texas composed of members Brigette Yawn and Suad Ihsan, known for their hypnotic vocal harmonies, lyrical finesse, and entrancing melodies backed by eclectic instrumental production. What began as a casual friendship in 2012, grew into a local staple within Houston's artist community. In May 2015, the band released their first self-titled record "Say Girl Say", an all-acoustic album featuring*

ukulele, guitar, harp, and violin, accompanied by many sounds of worldly percussion. Since then, Say Girl Say's sound has evolved over the years while writing and recording their sophomore album "Let My Hair Down", which debuted May 2021. "Let My Hair Down" is a concept of finding yourself by stumbling through the human experience in search of love, empowerment, forgiveness, and compassion. This piece premiered in 2022.

This piece was generously underwritten by Sarah and Remington Tonar

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**Electrostatic Attraction** is funded in part by the Houston Arts Alliance through the City of Houston, Texas Commission on the Arts, Mid America Arts Alliance and Dance Source Houston. We would also like to Thank Bob Boblitt, Bobbie Nau, Shirley and Brian Colona, Remington and Sarah Tonar, Bank of Texas, Amegy Bank, USI and Jackson Walker for their support this Season. This event is being performed at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, sponsored by Houston Area Lexus Dealers and United Airlines.

Please consider supporting the arts and Houston Contemporary Dance Company by donating here: <https://www.houstoncontemporary.org/donate>. For more information on the dancers, please visit: <https://www.houstoncontemporary.org/about>

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**Read more about the Guest Choreographers and Musicians below:**

## **CHOREOGRAPHERS**

**Joe Celej** is a New York City based creative artist whose career spans over twenty years of professional concert dance performance, choreographic investigation, and passionate instruction and mentoring of students. Joe performed for nearly a decade with the internationally acclaimed concert company Elisa Monte Dance, performing extensively throughout the US, Europe, and Asia including theaters in Paris, Rome, and many seasons at the prestigious Joyce Theater in NYC. He was also honored to both meet and perform for the Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg. Joe has performed works by renowned artists including Elisa Monte, Robert Battle, Peter Chu, and Mario Zambrano with additional credits including Houston Grand Opera, Levi Strauss and Company, Wal-Mart, and the City of Houston. Joe's choreography has been presented across the US and Europe and was honored to have his Joyce Theater choreographic premiere in 2011. Joe served as Associate Director of Houston METdance for five seasons and as Resident Choreographer between 2002-2005. Joe is excited to continue his relationship with Houston Contemporary Dance Company as its grant writer and to present *Intersections* in this anniversary concert! Joe holds a BFA in Dance Performance from SUNY Buffalo and is an honored recipient of a 2010 Presidential Scholar Teacher Recognition Award from the US Department of Education. Joe has been a guest teacher/choreographer at established institutions including Steps on Broadway, SUNY Buffalo, Rice University, Salve Regina University, Ballet Hispanico, and the High School for Performing and Visual Arts Houston (HSPVA). Joe is proud to have mentored numerous dancers who are alumni of prestigious programs including the Juilliard School, the Rambert School, SUNY Purchase, Point Park University, and Pace University, with former students performing with Eastman/Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, LA Dance Project, Lar Lubovitch, Ballet Hispanico, the Radio City Rockettes, and Disney.

**Robbie Moore**, grew up dancing from age six in Houston, Texas, where he attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. In 2010, he was named Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Robbie graduated from the Juilliard School in 2014. He studied closely with dynamic anatomist Irene Dowd to learn, model and archive her body of work. Robbie toured internationally with L.A. Dance Project, under the direction of Benjamin Millepied, from 2015-2017. In 2019, Robbie moved to Belgium to work for Eastman - Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, where he continues to collaborate. In Antwerp, he trained under Anna Rubau to become a certified True-Pilates instructor. Robbie joined Opera Ballet Vlaanderen as a demi-soloist in 2019. While there he worked with Damien Jalet, Marina Abramović, Johan Inger, Alan Lucien Øyen and Trisha Brown Dance Company. Robbie worked as Resident Choreographer from 2020-21 and continues still as a Guest Artist with HCDC. In 2022, he performed and toured with Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève. In 2023, he appeared in Iconoclast's commercial ad for Lady Gaga x Dom Pérignon directed by Yoann Lemoine. That same year, he performed in the Loubi Show for Paris Fashion Week directed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. Robbie looks forward to working aboard the EUROPA 2 in a new Stepping Grounds production imagined by Alexander Ekman in June 2024. He currently resides in Houston working as a freelance dancer, Pilates instructor, movement coach and choreographer.

**Andrea Dawn Shelley**, a native of Miami, Florida, received her classical ballet training predominately from Magdalena Maury and Magda G. Auñon. Ms. Shelley received additional summer training at intensives such as Boston Ballet, Houston Ballet and Joffrey Ballet. She studied dance at the University of South Florida under Gretchen Ward Warren and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance Education from Florida International University. Andrea has danced professionally with *Southern Ballet Theatre*, *Maximum Dance Company*, *Miami Contemporary Dance Company*, *Dominic Walsh Dance Theater*, *State Street Ballet* and *iMEE*. She is the Co-Founding Director of iMEE Dance Company, est. 2009. As a choreographer, Shelley has created original works commissioned by professional dance companies and festivals such as: *iMEE*, *Ballet Florida*, *Miami Contemporary Dance Company*, *Dominic Walsh Dance Theater*, *State Street Ballet*, *O Dance*, *Ad Deum Dance Company*, *The Dance Gallery Festival / Level UP*, *palcoscenico danza*, *METdance*, *Island Moving Co.*, *the black box INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL THEATRE & DANCE*, *Festival Ballet Providence*, *Bellingham Repertory Dance*, *16th Annual Mid-Atlantic Choreographic Showcase*, *Houston Contemporary Dance Company* and *Vitacca Ballet*. Her choreographic works have been presented throughout the United States, Mexico and Europe. She has participated in Residencies and created original works for dance programs such as: *Sam Houston State University*, *High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Houston*, *Salve Regina University*, *Providence College*, *Western Kentucky University*, *Moorpark College* and *St. John's School*. Currently, Ms. Shelley serves as Ballet Mistress and Rehearsal Assistant for *Houston Contemporary Dance Company* as well as Rehearsal Director for *Vitacca Ballet* in Houston, TX.

**Jack Wolff**, joined Houston Ballet in 2018, and is currently a Demi Soloist. Originally from Houston, Wolff started his training at Precision Dance Academy, Houston METtoos, and Houston Ballet Summer Intensives. In 2015, he moved to NYC to train at American Ballet Theatre's JKO School on full scholarship. While living in NYC, Wolff was awarded YoungArts winner in Tap, represented the JKO School at ABT at Prix de Lausanne, and at 16 years old made his professional debut in Bulgaria as a guest artist with iMEE: a company under the direction of Spencer Gavin Hering and Andrea Dawn Shelley. Since being in the company at Houston Ballet, he has worked with respected choreographers such as Arthur Pita, Justin Peck, Azure Barton, Disha Zhang, and Trey McIntyre. He has also been featured in many works of Stanton Welch's. Some of his memorable roles include Peter in Trey McIntyre's Peter Pan, Benvolio in Stanton Welch's Romeo and Juliet, and the Prince Welch's Cinderella. Jack Wolff also has a passion for choreography, and has created works for Houston Ballet II, Houston Ballet main company, Philadelphia Ballet II, and Houston Contemporary Dance Company.

## **MUSICIANS**

**Say Girl Say** is a genre-bending multi-instrumental duo from Houston, Texas composed of members Brigitte Yawn and Suad Ihsan, known for their hypnotic vocal harmonies, lyrical finesse, and entrancing melodies backed by eclectic instrumental production. What began as a casual friendship in 2012, grew into a local staple within Houston's artist community. In May 2015, the band released their first self-titled record "Say Girl Say", an all-acoustic album featuring ukulele, guitar, harp, and violin, accompanied by many sounds of worldly percussion. Since then, Say Girl Say's sound has evolved over the years while writing and recording their sophomore album "Let My Hair Down", which debuted May 2021. "Let My Hair Down" is a concept of finding yourself by stumbling through the human experience in search of love, empowerment, forgiveness, and compassion.

**Elise Haukenes** is an artist of boundless creative proportions. She is an award-bearing violinist, nationally ranked gymnast, and esteemed dancer. Deeply inspired by the relationship between music and movement, she is passionate about telling meaningful stories and impacting audiences through interdisciplinary works. Her passion for mixed media has been displayed through collaborations between the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music and Kaufman School of Dance and she received USC's prestigious Discovery Scholar Distinction for her niche work in this area. As a violinist, Elise has been top prize winner and finalist in several concerto competitions, invited to perform at Carnegie Hall and premier newly commissioned work at the Kennedy Center. During the summer she has participated in the Aspen Music Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, and Heifetz Institute of Music. She graduated summa cum laude from USC with a Bachelor's in Violin Performance and a Minor in Dance and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree with Kathleen Winkler at Rice University.

To read more about the dancers and Artistic Staff, please see here: <https://www.houstoncontemporary.org/about>

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