

IMAGINE

DANCEWORKS
CHICAGO

JOFFREY
CONTEMPORARY
BALLET
TRAINEES

BRUCE
WOOD
DANCE

DanceWorks
CHICAGO

Wednesday, April 9

DanceFlight

Special Guests:
Bruce Wood Dance and
Joffrey Contemporary
Ballet Trainees

12:30pm

Friday, April 11

DanceFlight

Special Guests:
Bruce Wood Dance

7pm

Ruth Page Center: 1016 N. Dearborn, Chicago

Tickets: DanceworksChicago.org/calendar

RP Ruth Page Center
In-Residence



IMAGINE | *DANCEFLIGHT* | APRIL 11, 2025

Soul Tides

Choreography by: Joshua Manculich

Costumes courtesy of: Thodos Dance Chicago

Lighting by: Sarah Lackner

Music: By the Sea, written by Anna Phoebe, performed by Anna Phoebe, Jake Downs, Richard Bundy, Trans Voices

Dancers: Ella Kim and Mia Philippon

Soul Tides explores the liveliness of love and the desperate beauty in goodbye as two dancers ebb together and flow apart, fragile in their search for acceptance as an inevitable end draws near.

Know Thyself

Choreography by: Bruce Wood

Costumes by: Jillyn Shatley

Lighting by: Sarah Lackner

Music: Yo-Yo Ma, Unaccompanied Cello Suite no. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007: Prelude

Dancer: Cole Vernon

Created in 2010, this solo was Bruce Wood's grand entrance into the Dallas dance scene. A statement of boldness and levity, the work flies through elements of technique and style riding the waves of sound all along the way.

THE BIG THREE

Choreography by: Katlin Michael Bourgeois

Costumes by: VIN

Lighting by: Sarah Lackner

Music: Billathi Askara by Björn Jason Lindh

Dancers: Claire Binguit, Isaiah Cavallero, Hannah Mu

THE BIG THREE takes its inspiration from Greek mythology and abstracts the ubiquitous tale of birth, life, and death.

Run It One More Time

Choreography by: Matt Wenckowski

Lighting by: Philip Schroll

Music: Bo Burnham

Dancer: Mia Philippon with Claire Binguit and Ella Kim

Created for and premiered by DanceWorks Chicago in Schweinfurt, Germany, on May 12, 2024.

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one of three, three of many

Choreography by: Mia Rosin

Costumes by: Jillyn Shatley

Lighting by: Sarah Lackner

Music: Justin Johnson, Lost in the Storm

Dancers: Weaver Rhodes, Elliott Trahan, Cole Vernon

This piece addresses the concept of being replaceable, the awareness of being interchangeable, and being alone within the many. Emptiness consumes your identity. You go through the motions of life, unable to recognize the familiar while searching for a path back to the authentic individual, knowing it may be lost forever.

Faint Machines, Loud Futures (Premiere)

Choreography by: Jessi Stegall

Costumes by: Jessi Stegall

Lighting by: Sarah Lackner

Music: Fugue 1 (The Art of Fugue) – Yasuaki Shimizu & Saxophonettes

Appalachian Grove 1 — Laurie Spiegel

Menuet 2 (English Suites No. 4) – Yasuaki Shimizu & Saxophonettes

Ultramarine – May Roosevelt

Dancers: DanceWorks Chicago Dancers

Faint Machines, Loud Futures is an ode to the unseen lineage of women in electronic music development, embodying their quiet defiance, sonic innovation, and the lasting resonance of their contributions to the future of sound.

Imagine

Choreography by: Joy Bollinger

Costumes by: The dancers

Lighting by: Sarah Lackner

Music: John Lennon, Imagine

Staged by: Cole Vernon

Dancers: Bruce Wood Dance Dallas and DanceWorks Chicago

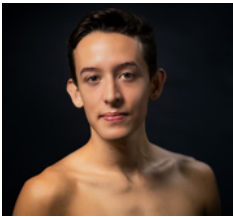
Reflective of John Lennon's simple yet profound lyrics, this work encourages the audience to imagine a world free of the elements that separate and differentiate us while advocating for harmony and human connection.

Meet The Artists Q&A

SEASON 18 DANCEWORKS CHICAGO DANCERS



CLAIRE BINGUIT, from Canton, MI, holds a BA in Dance from Western Michigan University, where they performed works by Seyong Kim, Kelsey Paschich, and Penny Saunders. They were a member of the school's traveling student company, Western Dance Project, under the direction of Kelsey Paschich. In 2023, Claire moved to Chicago, dancing at Visceral DanceChicago as a trainee under the direction of Cait Cucchiara, performing works by Braeden Barnes, Mónica Cervantes, Tina Diaz, and Nick Pupillo. Claire also works with Symbiosis Arts under the direction of Braeden Barnes. Claire joined DanceWorksChicago in September 2024



ISAIAH CAVALLERO, from San Antonio, TX, began his training at a young age and acquired a passion for dancing. He attended the Alabama School of Fine Arts, under Wes Chapman, Martha Faesi, and Teri Weksler. A graduate of George Mason University with a BFA in Dance, Isaiah performed works by Nacho Duato, Andonis Foniadakis, Larry Keigwin, and other artists. He has also attended summer intensives at DanceWorks Chicago (*ChoreoLab*), BodyTraffic, Nashville Ballet, and The Washington Ballet. Isaiah joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2023 and is thrilled to embark on his first season with his new family.



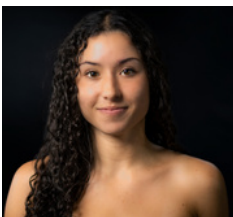
NICK KEARNS, from Williamsburg, VA, began dancing at age 15 under the direction of Shelly Isler at SI Dance. A graduate of James Madison University, Nick performed with the Virginia Repertory Dance Company, a select ensemble that provided him the opportunity to collaborate with renowned companies such as the Ballet Hispánico, DanceWorks Chicago, and Eisenhower Dance Detroit. He had the privilege of working with acclaimed choreographers Lucinda Childs, Norbert De La Cruz III, Rubén Graciani, Monique Haley, and Jessica Hendricks while at JMU. Summer studies included *DanceForce*, part of DWC's *Dance360* offerings. Nick joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2024.



ELLA KIM, from Seattle, WA, began her classical ballet training at a young age. She graduated *summa cum laude* with a BFA in Dance from George Mason University, where she performed works by Rafael Bonachela, Shaun D'Arcy, Karen Reedy, Christina Robson, Susan Shields, and Doug Varone. Ella has attended intensives with Alonzo King LINES Ballet, B12, DanceWorks Chicago, Doug Varone and Dancers, and Whim W'Him. She has also collaborated with choreographers Robert Priore and Ethan Pak Rome. Ella is inspired by the communicative power of dance. Ella joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2024.



HANNAH MU, from Nashville, TN, began her dance training at the age of 3 studying numerous styles of dance, acrobatics, and tumbling. She graduated cum laude with her BFA in Dance from The Ohio State University. While at Ohio State, she collaborated with artists from Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. After graduating in May 2022, Hannah relocated to Denver, CO, to join Cleo Parker Robinson Dance as a Cleo II. During her time there, she had the opportunity to perform notable works choreographed by Millicent Johnnie, Donald McKayle, and Cleo Parker Robinson. Hannah joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2023.



MIA PHILIPPON, from Vail, CO, began her dance training at Vail Valley Academy of Dance. She studied at Southland Ballet Academy, under the direction of Salwa Rizkalla and mentor Christina Lyon. Mia continued her studies at Walnut Hill School for the Arts, under the direction of Michael Owen and Denise Lewis. She holds a BFA in Dance Performance from Meadows School for the Arts and a BBA in Business from Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University. At SMU she performed works by Carter Alexander, Joy Bolinger, Silas Farley, Matthew Neenan, and Pascal Rioult. Summer studies included DanceWorks Chicago's *Dance360* programming. Mia joined DanceWorks Chicago in September 2023.

BRUCE WOOD DANCE DALLAS DANCERS



Weaver Rhodes was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. He is an alumnus of Booker T. Washington HSPVA and, in 2012, earned a BFA in Dance from SUNY Purchase. Before joining Bruce Wood Dance Dallas, Rhodes danced with companies both nationally and internationally, including Dance Heginbotham, The Mark Morris Dance Group, and Northwest Dance Project, among others. He has performed works by choreographers Joy Bollinger, Lar Lubovitch, and Katarzyna Skarpetowska, among others. Rhodes was featured in Isaac Mizrahi's *The Magic Flute*. He admires martial arts, seeks to expand his imagination, and tends to be unconventional in his approach to choreography and teaching.



Elliott Trahan is from Lafayette, Louisiana. They graduated from the University of Arizona with a BFA in Dance in 2019. Trahan also studied with River North Dance Chicago and San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and has performed at national and international dance festivals, including the Kiel International Festival for Dance in Germany and the Bolzano Dansa International Dance Festival in Italy. Trahan has performed works by Bryan Arias, Joy Bollinger, and Omar Román de Jesús, among others. They teach across the DFW area through Bruce Wood Dance's outreach programs. Trahan's passion for visual art keeps them invested in the arts, and inspired by creativity, innovation, and passion.



Cole Vernon is originally from Sonoma County, California. He has performed around the world with companies including DanceWorks Chicago, River North, and Ballet Hispánico. Vernon graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arizona in 2013. He has performed works by master choreographers, including Lar Lubovitch, Yin Yue, Twyla Tharp, and others. As an educator and choreographer, his passion for developing future artists has taken him to the Boston Conservatory, The Big Muddy Dance Company, Point Park University, Ballet Memphis, Gus Giordano Dance School, Minkov Tanzakademie, Joffrey Ballet, and Hathaway Academy of Ballet. Vernon joined Bruce Wood Dance Dallas in 2019 and serves as the coordinator for the company's WOOD I WORKS Dance Intensives as well as the Bruce Wood Dance Excellence Awards.



Bruce Wood Dance Dallas is a nationally acclaimed contemporary dance company dedicated to presenting high-caliber choreography that entertains, enriches, and heals. Founded on the legacy of Texas choreographer Bruce Wood (1960–2014), the company is led by Artistic Director Joy Bollinger. Recognized as Best Dance Company by *D Magazine* multiple times, its emotionally charged repertory includes works by renowned choreographers Lar Lubovitch, Twyla Tharp, and Jiří Kylián, among others. On the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster since 2016, the company has performed at prestigious venues, including Jacob's Pillow and The Joyce Theater, and continues to tour nationally with inspiring performances and educational programs.

SEASON 18 DANCEWORKS CHICAGO EXECUTIVE PROFILES



Julie Nakagawa, Co-founder and Artistic Director

From Evanston, Illinois, Julie was a featured dancer with Christopher D'Amboise's Off Center Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, and Twyla Tharp Dance. She has also performed in Ruth Page's Nutcracker and Die Fledermaus. Returning to Chicago upon her retirement from dancing, she has been especially interested in the development of dance artists and their related artistic collaborators. At the invitation of Lou Conte, Julie joined the staff of Lou Conte Dance Studio in January 1994 and rose to the position of Associate Director. In addition, she led Hubbard Street 2 from its inception in 1997 through February 2007 as the artistic director of the second company of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, nurturing young dancers and establishing the National Choreographic Competition to provide creative opportunities for emerging dance makers. A sought-after teacher, Julie has taught classes for dance studios, university programs, and companies, locally, nationally, and internationally. She has served as a member and officer of the Board of Trustees of Dance/USA, has engaged as a mentor in multiple pairings through Dance/USA's Institute for Leadership Training, has been a panelist for numerous review panels including the National Endowment for the Arts, the McKnight Foundation, and the Princess Grace Foundation. The Chicago Foundation for Women's Asian American Leadership Council honored Julie for her work in the creative arts. She is grateful for the opportunity to lead DanceWorks Chicago, a creative incubator fostering a diverse next generation of movers and makers, empowering young artists to cultivate their unique voices in the dance community through skill acquisition and development; collaborations and relationship-building with a global perspective; intense and intentional mentorship; and performances that shine a light on dancers and dance.



Emma Lambert, Operations Manager

From Dearborn Heights, MI, is a graduate of the Master of Management program from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. She also studied at the University of Michigan for her undergraduate degrees, where she received a BS in Movement Science and a BFA in Dance. Emma grew up studying many styles of dance and always knew she wanted to be involved in the arts community. She was first introduced to DanceWorks Chicago through the New Dances project in 2020 as an intern. Emma is grateful to return to DanceWorks Chicago!



Sara Bibik, *Dance360* Program Director

From Manitowoc, WI, Sara was a founding member of River North Dance Chicago. She transitioned seamlessly to RNDC Workshop Director and Artistic Administrator after retiring from the stage.

Passionate about training and mentoring future generations of dancers, Sara continues to teach in the Chicagoland area and guest teaches around the country.

Working to normalize diversity in ballet, Sara created Skin Tones, a project that provides educational fine art prints and posters featuring dancers of a variety of skin tones and body types performing the classical ballet positions. She is also the Producer of JOY: Ballet Coloring Pages celebrating all humanity for young dancers, which is featured on SaraBibikDance.com, a platform to distribute educational and joy-filled material for dancers and their support teams.

Honored to be part of Team DWC, Sara's position as **Dance360** Program Director allows her to work with dancers "on the precipice". As dancers 15 – 25 years old continue their training, compose their next steps, become team members, and take-on leadership roles, she is honored to create a holistic space for excellence, kindness, and community.



Founded in May 2007, [DanceWorks Chicago \(DWC\)](#) is committed to building a foundation for early career artists by providing a creative incubator from which dancers and choreographers propel themselves and the art form to a new level of artistry through training, collaboration, mentorship, and performance. DWC invests in artist cultivation through ongoing technical training and professional development, intense and intentional mentorship, collaborations and relationship-building with a global perspective, and performances shining a light on dancers and dance.

SEASON 18...#WeGrown

DWC aspires to provide a platform where artists can exercise their muscles of courage, creativity, and curiosity.

"We say we want to be more curious in our own lives, but we consistently make choices that optimize our familiar and established habits and ways of thinking. This is what makes the act of being curious both so highly valued and so uniquely rare. We know exploring the unknown can lead to new discoveries, but we have a hard time rationalizing how to block off the time to do so if it means losing time that would guarantee progress somewhere else." -Amy Stanton

Always moving.

Give Today

Your donation helps DanceWorks Chicago create a platform where early career artists can SHINE!

DanceWorksChicago.org
/DanceWorksChicago

NEW DANCES

THODOS DANCE CHICAGO - DANCEWORKS CHICAGO

MMMN 2025

New Dances 2025 Drawing

Enter for the chance to win a pair of *New Dances* 2025 tickets!



Hanna

Janiya

Kelsi

Maddy

Shota

Xenia

SAVE The Date for *New Dances* 2025

Be the first to see World Premieres by Chicago-based choreographers:

**Hanna DiLorenzo, Janiya Pearson, Kelsi Fears,
Maddy McCarthy, Shota Miyoshi, Xenia Mansour!**

- **DATES:** Wednesday, June 18; Friday, June 20; and Saturday, June 21
- **TIME:** 7pm
- **VENUE:** The Ruth Page Center Theater, 1016 North Dearborn
- **BONUS:** Each performance includes a post-show Q & A with the choreographers.
- **TICKETS:** \$20-\$80

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