



Esperanza
Arts Center

Winter/Spring 2022

philadanco



"...at Esperanza Arts Center, truth and beauty exist codependently - with truth telling the story of a community rich in Latino heritage, and beauty communicating that story to the world in myriad ways."

-Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations Magazine

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PHILADANCO

Teatro Esperanza
7:30 p.m., February 4, 2022

- THIS PLACE -

Choreographer: Ray Mercer
Music Collage: featuring original music by Bongi Duma
Costumes Design & Execution: Natasha Guruleva
Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

**Kaylah Arielle, Janine Beckles, William E. Burden, Mikaela
Fenton, Clarricia Golden, Jameel M. Hendricks,
Victor Lewis Jr, Floyd McLean Jr, Brandi Pinnix, Lamar Rogers,
Brittany Wright**

The piece is motivated by the idea and feeling of community. It is a collage of movements that addresses how a group that share a common interest interact socially, humanistically and intimately. This is a technically based, high energy, physical work that explores many aspects of community in 5 very different sections, coming together in one collage of work.

This ballet made possible by generous grants from the New England Foundation for the Arts, PNC Arts Alive, National Endowment for the Arts, the William Penn Foundation, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Lincoln Financial Group, Portfolio Associates, Inc. and the Doris Duke Foundation.

-PAUSE-

- FOLDED PRISM (excerpt) -

Choreographer: Thang Dao
Original Music by: John Levis
Lighting Design: Nick Kolin
Costume Design & Execution: Natasha Guruleva

Mikaela Fenton & Victor Lewis Jr.

This duet infusing the choreographic imagery of Thang Dao, set to the hypnotic original music compilation by John Levis.

This ballet made possible by generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Connelly Foundation and Lomax Family Fund.

- CONGLOMERATE -

Choreographer: Anthony Burrell
Music Compilation by: Darryl J. Hoffman
Costumes Design: Emilio Sosa
Costume Execution: Natasha Guruleva
Lighting Design: Nick Kolin

Kaylah Arielle, Janine Beckles, William E. Burden, Mikaela Fenton, Clarricia Golden, Jameel M. Hendricks, Victor Lewis Jr, Floyd McLean Jr, Brandi Pinnix, Lamar Rogers, Brittany Wright

"This work pays homage to the rich history of Black Dance in Philadelphia that inspired my journey as a Dancer, Choreographer and Creative Director"..... (A. Burrell)

This ballet made possible by generous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Jean Fishers Foundation.

JOIN US for an onstage post-concert conversation and audience Q&A immediately following tonight's performance.

PHILADANCO

Celebrating 51 Years of Artistic Excellence

Joan Myers Brown – Founder/Artistic Advisor, DFA, DHL, DA
Kim Y. Bears-Bailey –Artistic Director, BFA

The award winning Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO) the resident company of The Kimmel Center turned 50 in 2020 and is now celebrating 51 years of providing exceptional dance performances and training to dancers and audiences throughout the US and around the world and is moving gracefully into the next decade. Continuing its original mission “to present the highest quality of professional dance performance and to provide exceptional training for the improvement of skills for emerging professional dancers and choreographers in a nurturing environment while increasing the appreciation of dance among its many communities” has withstood time, budget cuts and the passage of time. The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO) survives and thrives despite the current economic climate. Since its inception in 1970 The Philadelphia Dance Company (PHILADANCO) has had a significant impact on the dance world. As a cultural ambassador representing the United States, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia, its artistic direction and renowned national and international guest choreographers have developed a reputation of producing a dance repertory with passion, power, skill and diversity. A stellar faculty (handpicked by Joan Myers Brown, Founder of PHILADANCO) has trained over 4,500 dancers in a comprehensive program achieving the highest level of technical skills in dance and performance. The unique blend of dance styles of PHILADANCO, and its roster of 50-60 concert performances and 45 residencies most years has made them one of the most sought after modern dance companies in the United States. More importantly, PHILADANCO believes in and continues to provide quality arts instruction to young people with authentic learning experiences that engage their minds, hearts, and bodies. Its record of performing opportunities, commissioned works and life changing experiences is unequalled.

Joan Myers Brown, DFA, DHL, DA
Founder/Artistic Advisor - Philadelphia, PA

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. She was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters by Ursinus College and an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania. Listed in Who's Who in America and described as an “innovator and communicator,” Ms. Brown's efforts for dance excellence are only part of her contribution to the field. She was co-chair of Dance/USA Philadelphia. She received the Philadelphia Award and documented in a publication ***“Joan Myers Brown and the Audacious Hope of the Black Ballerina”***, by Brenda Dixon Gottschild. She has received awards from the City of Philadelphia, the State of Pennsylvania and the Embassy of the United States of America. Brown honored as a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania and Outstanding Alumni of West Philadelphia High School. She received the prestigious National Medal of Arts Award. Also honored by the American Dance Guild Honoree Award in addition to many other awards. Myers Brown is a recipient of the Philadelphia Inquirer's 2017 Industry Icon Award.

CHOREOGRAPHERS

RAY MERCER – ‘THIS PLACE’

Ray Mercer is a native of Omaha, NE, and started his dance training at the University of New Orleans. He is presently in his 19th year as a dancer and fight captain in Disney's The Lion King on Broadway. Other Performance credits include projects with Garth Fagan, George Faison, Aretha Franklin, Kevin Iga Jeff, Luis Johnson, Rod Stewart, and two years on the national tour of The Lion King, as well as Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theater (company member), and Boston Ballet (guest artist). This accomplishment, coupled with creations for premiere dance companies (Ailey II, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, New Jersey Ballet, the Pensacola Ballet, Philadanco), landed him among New York City's most innovative, multiskilled director/choreographers.

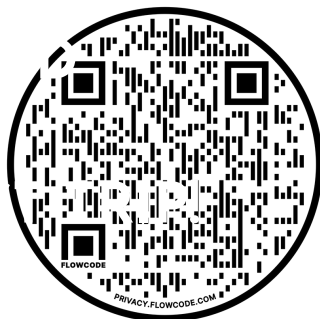
THANG DAO – ‘FOLDED PRISM’

Thang Dao is a freelance choreographer, teacher, and coach. He holds a MFA from Hollins University and MA from New York University's Gallatin School. Dao received his formal dance education from the Juilliard School and The Boston Conservatory, where he received his BFA in 2001. Dao danced with the Stephen Petronio Company and the Metropolitan Opera until 2006, leaving to choreograph for Ballet Austin, Ballet Austin II, Ailey II, Ballet X, Philadanco, the Boston Conservatory along with many universities and performing arts schools nationally and internationally. His works have toured throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia with acclaimed reviews. His ballet “Stepping Ground,” choreographed for Ballet Austin for the 1st Biannual New American Dance Talent, received the Audience Choice Award all four nights. His works have been performed in major cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Austin, Boston, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Phoenix, Miami, and Chicago with acclaimed reviews.

ANTHONY BURRELL – ‘CONGLOMERATE’

A Philadelphia born Creative Director, Choreographer, and Actor, seen as the creative force on E! Entertainment for Mariah's World, Mariah Carey's Vegas Residency 1toInfinity, Sweet Sweet Fantasy Tour, Un-Silent Night Christmas, and All I Want for Christmas at the Beacon Theater. Anthony is part of the artistic team behind Beyonce's Super Bowl halftime shows, Beyonce's Grammy performance (2017), MTV Music Awards (2016), Country Music Awards (2016), The Formation World Tour, and countless music videos. Recent film credits include Lemonade visual album, Bad Grandpa “Jack Ass 4”, and Leave It On the Floor, Pepsi, Direct TV, DKNY and Ivy Park. Anthony has danced with Philadanco, Eleone, Kores, Prism Dance Theater, Danco II, Ailey II and The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a principal dancer. He is the Founder and Director of Breaking Barriers Summer Dance Intensive and AB Project. Most recently Mr. Burrell opened the ‘Anthony Burrell Center for Dance’ (ABCD), a multifaceted dance institution for pre-professionals located in Atlanta, GA.

***Scan the QR code to learn more
about tonight's dancers!***



DANCERS & STAFF

Kaylah Arielle - Baltimore, Maryland

Started her dance training at the age of 5. Her training in classical ballet and pointe began at the Ballet Royale Institute of Maryland. She attended Baltimore School for the Arts where she studied under Norma Pera, Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, and Anton Wilson. Kaylah has received scholarships to train over the summer at the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the Ailey School. She graduated from Spelman College with her B.A. in Dance Performance and Choreography. While Pursuing her degree, Kaylah was a company artist with the Atlanta Dance Connection under the direction of Allyne D. Gartrell. During that time she performed works Choreographed by Christopher Huggins, and Tyrell Lee Rolle.

Janine N. Beckles - New York, New York

Janine started dancing at the age of six years old at Dance Theatre of Harlem for 8 yrs on full scholarship. She then continued her training at LaGuardia H.S. of the Performing Arts and the Ailey School (performing "Memoria", "Hymn", and "Revelations") on full scholarship. Janine received a BFA in Dance Performance and a BA in Sociology from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. Janine was a National Foundation of the Arts award recipient in Modern Dance. A former member of Dallas Black Dance Theatre for five years, Janine is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc She is a MBA candidate for Southern New Hampshire University with a concentration in Leadership. Janine is currently an adjunct professor at Rowan University and Assistant to the Artistic Director of Philadanco.

William E. Burden - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Formal dance training for William began at the Creative & Performing Arts H.S. under the direction of Ms. LaDiva Davis. He attended the Rock School of Dance Education and was a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. William also has many years of training with Tap Team Two & Company co-directed by his father, Robert Burden. William has been a company member with Eleone Dance Connection, Eleone Dance Theater/Artistic Director Shawn Lamere Williams, and Spectrum Dance Theatre under the artistic direction of Mr. Donald Byrd. For more than a few times William has been the recipient of the Marion Anderson Award in Philadelphia. William received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts.

Mikaela Fenton - Sicklerville, New Jersey

Mikaela, native to Sicklerville, NJ began her dance training at Chez Dance founded by Roseanne M. Gatto. She attended Paul VI high school led by Courtney Daniels she received the excellence in dance award and scholarship. Mikaela was able to attend University of the Arts in Philadelphia, receiving the "Artistic" Scholarship to study and earn her B.F.A in Dance under the direction of Donna Faye-Burchfield. She performed in works choreographed by Katie Swords-Thurman, Tommie-Waheed Evans, Jesse Zaritt, Sidra Bell, Milton Myers, Meredith Rainey and Kyle and Dinita Clark. Mikaela joined Philadanco! D/2 second company under the leadership and direction of Donald T. Lunsford and then led to apprenticed with the First Company PHILADANCO! After graduating in 2017, Mikaela was able to fully transition as a company member with Philadanco! Led by founder Joan Myers-Brown. An active dance educator with Core Academy of Dance, Philadelphia School of Dance Arts, Ms. Carols Center for Dance, and The School at The Philadelphia Ballet.

Clarricia Golden - Sumter, South Carolina

Clarricia began dancing at Miss. Libby's School of Dance under the direction of Libby Singelton and Jennifer Alford-Reimer in Sumter, South Carolina. She continued her training under Dr. Gaynell Sherrod at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Clarricia was a scholarship recipient at The Alvin Ailey summer program and has spent summers training at Philadanco. After receiving a BS in Health, Physical Education, and Fitness with a concentration in dance she decided to move to Philadelphia where she initially joined D/2 under the artistic direction of Mr. Donald Lunsford before becoming a member of Philadanco.

DANCERS & STAFF

Jameel Malik Hendricks – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A graduate of the Philadelphia High School for the Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA) where he received his early dance training where he was presented with the Dance/Humanitarian/Congeniality award. Jameel attended "Eleone Dance Unlimited" as a scholarship student and was appointed dance captain for "Eleone Connections". After graduating from CAPA, he continued his training in dance at Rutgers University at the Mason Gross School of The Arts, majoring in Dance Education. Jameel had the opportunity to attend at the "Rock School for Ballet" on a full scholarship. He currently teaches at several dance schools and is working on furthering his artistic abilities as a member of Philadanco.

Victor Lewis Jr. – Los Angeles, California

Victor became involved with dance in Los Angeles, California at the age of thirteen he joined the dance ministry at Faithful Central Bible Church, under the direction of Ariyan Johnson. His training derives from The Debbie Allen Dance Academy. Victor graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia with a Bachelor Fine Arts degree in Modern Dance. Victor has performed with Eleone Dance Theatre, Rebecca Davis Dance Company, Dance Del Bello, Dissonance Dance Theatre, Classical Contemporary Ballet Theatre, and touring company Illstyles & Peace Productions in Philadelphia. He has traveled internationally to teach dance and worked with artist such as Keke Palmer, Jazmine Sullivan, Jill Scott, Laura Mvula and choreographers Anthony Burrell, Chuck Maldonado and more.

Floyd McLean Jr. – East Orange, New Jersey

Floyd began his pre-professional dance training at the age of 13 at Sharron Miller's Academy for The Performing Arts In Montclair, NJ. He has trained with residencies/intensives such as The Dance Theater of Harlem, Ballet Hispanico, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, NYU Future Dancers/Dance Makers, and Dallas Black Dance Theatre. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Point Park University in 2018, with a concentration in Modern Dance where he was awarded the Don Craig Scholarship. After graduation, he began his first season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre's DBDT: Encore! Under the direction of Nycole Ray, he has performed works by choreographers including Rennie Harris, Kate Skarpetowska, Joshua Peugh, Christopher Huggins, and many more.

Brandi Pinnix – South Brunswick, New Jersey

Brandi began her ballet training at the American Repertory Princeton Ballet School under the direction of Douglas Martin. After graduating high school in 2013, she was accepted into the LINES Ballet Training program in San Francisco, CA. She finished the program in the winter of 2015 and moved back to the tristate area to train at the Ailey School, in their Independent Study Program and Scholarship Program. Brandi has also studied at some of the most prestigious intensive dance programs including The Juilliard School, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Ballet X, and Point Park University. She has worked with amazing choreographers such as Eric Wagner, Sidra Bell, Uri Sands, Kara Davis, Dexandro Montalvo, Carmen Rozenstraten, Danielle Polanco, and Darshan Bhuller.

Lamar Rogers – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

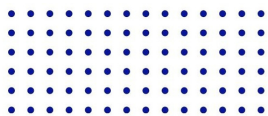
Lamar began his training at the age of 14 as a scholarship student at the Eleone Dance Unlimited School in Philadelphia, PA. He trained at Koresh School of Dance, while a member of the Koresh Youth Ensemble and the Rock School for Dance Education. Lamar attended Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), graduating as co-captain of the CAPA dance company under the direction of LaDeva Davis. He was a member of Eleone Dance Theater after performing with their second company, "Eleone Connection" for 5 years . He has his BFA in Dance from University of the Arts.

Brittany Wright – Sandy Spring, Maryland

Brittany began her training at age 4 at Olney Ballet Center under Ms Jane Bittner. She went on to study with Ms Patricia Berrend in Olney, formerly of Washington Ballet. She also studied with Aaron Jackson, Demetri Malikov, and Tim Fox. She continued her training at Hope Garden Ballet under Ms Fran Ichijo and, during her senior year in high school, at City Dance in Rockville where she studied under Stanislavsky Issaey, Ludmika Morkovina, Caroline Rocher and Rob Priore. She received her BFA in dance and performance at Towson University, under professors Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Catherine Horta-Hayden, Alison Sidenstricker, Runqiou Du, and Vincent Thomas.

FOR TICKETS:

ESPERANZAARTSCENTER.US



AMLA at
Esperanza

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS



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Esperanza
Arts Center

HECHO EN PUERTO RICO

FEATURING ANGEL VÁZQUEZ
PERFORMED IN SPANISH

Called "one of the most important plays of contemporary Puerto Rican theater", Angel Vázquez' one-man show is a tender funny tale of discovery and pride as a student who attempts to escape the economic hardships of Puerto Rico unearths his cultural roots through the lives of notable men and women in the Island's history.

FEBRUARY 12TH, 2022 · 7:30 PM · IN PERSON: \$10 OR STREAM: PAY AS YOU WISH
TEATRO ESPERANZA: 4261 N. 5TH ST. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19140
LIMITED SEATING · MASKS REQUIRED · TICKETS: ESPERANZAARTSCENTER.US



Esperanza Arts Center Safety Commitment

Masks are required for all guests regardless of vaccination status. Performances and events are at 50% capacity. Social distancing must be observed in the Teatro and on campus. No food and beverages permitted.

ESPERANZA ARTS CENTER

Winter/Spring 2022

Season Calendar

Philadanco

Live at Teatro Esperanza
Friday, February 4, 2022, 7:30pm

Hecho en Puelto Rico

Angel Vázquez
Saturday, February 12, 2022, 7:30pm

Casa Villaseñor

Mariachi Music & Dance
Saturday, February 19, 2022, 10:30am

She Looks Like Me! Afro-Latinx Stories

Storytime and Activities with Stephanie Brown
Saturday, February 26, 2022, 10:30am

Fandango

Ximena Violante & Friends
Saturday, March 12, 2022, 2:00pm

Stories from Mexico

Storytime with Alberto Pagan-Ramirez
Saturday, March 19, 2022, 10:30am

Nichos Project

Tanaquil Marquez
Saturday, April 9, 2022, 7:30pm

Adios Amor

Film - Imagen Award 2020
Friday, April 22, 2022, 7:30pm

Behind the Stage Door

Philadelphia Ballet
Saturday, May 7, 2022, 7:30pm

!Conexiones!

Orchestra 2001 - Mexican composers
Saturday, May 21, 2022, 7:30pm

BalletX

Nichos Project: Caili Quan & Tanaquil Marquez
Thursday, May 26, 2022, 7:30pm

FREE Admission to all in-person events for Students & Seniors

ESPERANZAARTSCENTER.US

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