

Saturday, March 29, 2014, 8pm  
Zellerbach Hall

## *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host*



### **Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes, Anna Bass**

Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes, Anna Bass

*Performers*

Monica Bill Barnes

*Director and Choreographer*

Jane Cox

*Lighting Designer*

Kelly Hanson

*Set and Costume Designer*

Robert Saenz de Viteri

*Production Director and Stage Manager*

Tess James

*Lighting Director and Stage Manager*

Alex Mannix

*Lighting Supervisor and Stage Manager*

Michelle Rose

*Production Assistant and Company Manager*

Anthony Roman

*Music Clearance*

*The photographing or recording of this performance is prohibited.*

*Cal Performances' 2013–2014 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.*



ABOUT THE SHOW

Monica Bill Barnes & Company and Ira Glass, host of *This American Life*, have been working together to combine two art forms that—as Mr. Glass puts it—“have no business being together: dance and radio.” The result is a funny, lively, and heartfelt evening of dance and stories that brought down the house in its first test-run at Carnegie Hall.

The show includes radio interviews restaged as dance pieces, plus stories from the lives of each of the three performers, Ira Glass, Monica Bill Barnes, and Anna Bass. “What makes it work is a shared sensibility,” says Mr. Glass. “As dancers, Monica and Anna are these amazingly relatable and funny storytellers without words.” Ms. Bass notes, “I think it’s still blowing Ira’s mind to see some of the radio pieces remade this way, with props and costume changes and lighting cues.” Ms. Barnes adds, “Combining these art forms has led to

a show that’s unlike anything I’ve ever choreographed before.”

As the title indicates, the show is in three acts. Act One is about the job of being a performer. Act Two: falling in love and what it means to stay in love. Act Three: losing what you love. “People who like *This American Life* will probably like this,” says Mr. Glass, “because it’s just like the radio show, um, if you picture dancing during all the stories.”

Mr. Glass is the creator and host of WBEZ Chicago’s public radio show *This American Life*, which is distributed by Public Radio International and heard on over 500 public radio stations; its podcast most weeks is the most popular podcast in America. Monica Bill Barnes & Company is a contemporary American dance company with the mission to celebrate individuality, humor, and the innate theatricality of everyday life. The company has performed in more than 30 venues in New York City, including New York City Center, the Joyce Theater, Joe’s Pub, and Upright Citizens Brigade, and out-of-town venues including Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, the American Dance Festival, and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In May 2012, Mr. Glass, Ms. Barnes, and Ms. Bass collaborated on three short dances that were a part of *This American Life Live!*, a live performance that was beamed into movie theaters nationwide. It was such a success that they decided to do a full show that combines stories and dance.

*Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* is exclusively co-represented by Steven Barclay Agency and Pomegranate Arts. For more information, visit [3acts2dancers1radiohost.com](http://3acts2dancers1radiohost.com).

**Ira Glass** is the host and creator of the public radio program *This American Life*. The show is heard on more than 500 public radio stations in the United States, and most weeks it's the most popular podcast in America. It airs on public radio in Canada and Australia. Under Mr. Glass's editorial direction, *This American Life* has won the highest honors for broadcasting and journalistic excellence; a television adaptation of the program ran on the Showtime network for two years, winning three Emmy Awards. *American Journalism Review* declared that the show is "at the vanguard of a journalistic revolution." The radio show has put out its own comic book, greatest hits compilations, live stage shows, two feature films, a "radio decoder" toy, temporary tattoos, and a paint-by-numbers set. This is Mr. Glass's professional dance show debut.

**Monica Bill Barnes** (*Director and Choreographer*) is the Artistic Director of Monica Bill Barnes & Company (MBB&Co.), a New York City-based contemporary dance company founded in 1997. MBB&Co. has performed in more than 50 cities throughout the United States, been commissioned and presented by the American Dance Festival, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, and performed all over New York City, in venues ranging from Upright Citizen's Brigade to Lincoln Center. Ms. Barnes has been an invited guest artist at many universities, has choreographed for various theater productions, and has been commissioned by Parsons Dance and the Juilliard School. Since 2006, Ms. Barnes has been making duets for herself and Anna Bass with the goal of reaching audiences beyond dance venues. They have performed in comedy festivals, films, and at literary events. Ms. Barnes began working with Ira Glass in 2012 when she created a solo for David Rakoff and performed with MBB&Co. as a part of *This American Life Live!* This is the first show where she has let anyone speak on stage. Ms. Barnes would like to publicly thank her parents (who are in the audience tonight) for supporting this unlikely career choice every step of the way, starting with driving her to six dance classes a week.

**Anna Bass** (*Dancer*) began working with Monica Bill Barnes & Company in 2003 and

now serves as Associate Artistic Director. She has performed Barnes's work all over the country and on stages ranging from public fountains and city parks, to New York City Center and Carnegie Hall. Ms. Bass and Ms. Barnes began their duet work in 2006 and have been dancing side by side ever since. She assists Ms. Barnes with dance works, commissions (her favorite being David Rakoff's solo for *This American Life Live!*), and theater work. Ms. Bass was the Assistant Choreographer for *The Jammer* at the Atlantic Theater, *Goodbar* at the Under the Radar Festival at the Public Theater, and *These Paper Bullets* at Yale Repertory Theatre. She also teaches master classes and workshops for MBB&Co., and yoga throughout New York City. Ms. Bass is originally from Virginia, has studied almost every dance style from classical ballet to country line dancing, and holds a B.A. in dance and theater from James Madison University. She lives in Brooklyn.

**Jane Cox** (*Lighting Designer*) has designed with Monica Bill Barnes & Company for more than a decade, and her collaboration with the company is central to her creative life. In 2013, Ms. Cox was awarded the Henry Hewes Design Award and was nominated for a Lortel and a Drama Desk for her theatrical designs. Recent designs on Broadway include *Machinal*, *All the Way*, and *Picnic*. Other recent New York theater includes *Dinner with Friends* for the Roundabout, *Passion* at Classic Stage Company, and *The Whale* and *The Flick* at Playwrights Horizons. Opera designs include Sydney Opera House, Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, Minnesota Opera, and Glimmerglass. Jane also enjoys a long-term collaboration with choreographer Doug Varone, with whom she was awarded a Bessie, and has been teaching about light and design at Princeton University since 2007.

**Kelly Hanson** (*Set and Costume Designer*) is an original company member of MBB&Co., and has been collaborating with Ms. Barnes since 2001. She is also an Emmy-nominated art director for television. Ms. Hanson currently spends most days directing art for NBC's new *Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*. Ms. Hanson was born in Bryan, Texas, earned her M.F.A. in set design at UC San Diego, and

joined the New York community in 2001. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, two children, and a big black dog.

**Tess James** (*Lighting Director and Stage Manager*) is a freelance lighting director and designer. Throughout her career she has had the privilege of working with a wide range of amazing artists and companies, including New York City Opera, BAM, New York City Center, Glimmerglass Opera, American Repertory Theater, Dallas Opera, Center Stage in Baltimore, Public Theater, Summer Scape at Bard College, and Den Nye Opera in the Netherlands. She currently resides in Brooklyn.

**Michelle Rose** (*Production Assistant and Company Manager*) has worked across arts disciplines ranging from performance to production. Ms. Rose has artistic directed and stage managed productions throughout western Massachusetts, and was on the video production team at Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, Maine. Additionally, Ms. Rose has worked in Broadway theater production (The Araca Group's *Wicked*), as well as nonfiction television development (*My Tupelo Entertainment's Ghost Adventures* and *Baggage Battles*). She holds a B.A. in dance, film, and English from Mount Holyoke College and an M.A. in multimedia choreography from NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study.

**Robert Saenz de Viteri** (*Production Director and Stage Manager*) has toured extensively with the Nature Theater of Oklahoma, led the production of Mark Russell's international theater festival, Under the Radar, and production managed at Soho Rep and the Public Theater. As a director and theater-maker, his work has been seen at Ensemble Studio Theater, The Flea, Office Ops, and Access Theater, including the *New York Times* "Critic's Pick" production of Rachel Bonds's *Michael & Edie*.

Under the artistic direction of choreographer Monica Bill Barnes, **Monica Bill Barnes** &

**Company's** mission is to celebrate individuality, humor, and the innate theatricality of everyday life. The company is committed to bringing dance to a diverse audience through public performances, touring, artistic and teaching residencies, and innovative projects that expand the possibilities for dance. MBB&Co. is a four-member company of longstanding collaborators: Monica Bill Barnes (*Artistic Director and Performer*), Anna Bass (*Associate Artistic Director and Performer*), Jane Cox (*Lighting Designer*), and Kelly Hanson (*Set and Costume Designer*). This team has created more than 30 shows for stages large and small, formal to site-specific, producing work together for over a decade. To learn more, visit [www.monicabillbarnes.com](http://www.monicabillbarnes.com).

*Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* is supported by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. It is also made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, and further supported by The Dianne and Daniel Vapnek Family Fund. This work was developed during a Choreographic Fellowship at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, and was also supported through the Media Fellowship Initiative at MANCC.

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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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### MUSIC CREDITS

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“I’ll Never Fall in Love Again” (Burt Bacharach, Hal David), performed by Dionne Warwick. © 1968 (Renewed) New Hidden Valley Music Company (ASCAP) and Casa David Music (ASCAP). All rights on behalf of New Hidden Valley Music Company. Administered by WP Music Corporation. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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“Drink to Me” (Ben Jonson), performed by Dean Martin. Courtesy of Capitol Records/Universal Music.

“Mais Ouis Mambo” (Billy May, Conrad Gozzo), performed by Billy May. Appears courtesy of Universal Songs of Polygram International Inc.

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“Get Up (I Feel Like Being a) Sex Machine” (James Brown, Bobby Byrd, Ronald R. Lenhoff), performed by James Brown. 100% interest © 1970 (Renewed) Dynatone Publishing Company (BMI). All rights administered by Unichappell Music Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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“That’s Alright Mama” (Arthur Crudup), performed by Elvis Presley. Courtesy of RCA/Sony Music and Crudup Music/Unichappell Music Inc.

Several stories in *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host* were adapted from radio stories first heard on *This American Life*, which is produced by Chicago Public Media and distributed by Public Radio International.