



Saturday, December 14, 2024, 8pm
Sunday, December 15, 2024, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Dorrance Dance *The Nutcracker Suite*

Artistic Director
Michelle Dorrance

Co-Creators
Michelle Dorrance, Hannah Heller, and Josette Wiggan

Performers
Sydney Burtis, Warren Craft, Michelle Dorrance,
Zakhele “Bboy Swazi” Grabowski, Jabu Graybeal, Asha Griffith,
Sterling Harris, Hannah Heller, Luke Hickey, Rena Kinoshita, Addi Loving,
Aaron Marcellus, Carson Murphy, Maddie Murphy, Claudia Rahardjanoto,
Gregory Richardson, Leonardo Sandoval, Gisele Silva, Veronica Simpson,
Matthew “Megawatt” West, Josette Wiggan

This performance will be performed without intermission and last approximately 70 minutes.

*Cal Performances is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all—
one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect.*

Please see the Community Agreements section on our Policies page for more information.



Casey Brooks

An Ellaquent Holiday Swing (2021)

Music Direction & Arrangements Aaron Marcellus and Gregory Richardson
after Ella Fitzgerald and Frank DeVol

Vocal Arrangements Aaron Marcellus

Lighting Design Kathy Kaufmann

Costume Styling *An Ellaquent Holiday Swing* performers

Sound Design Christopher Marc

Lead Vocals Aaron Marcellus

Drums Warren Craft

Piano Aaron Marcellus

Bass Gregory Richardson

Backing Vocals Michelle Dorrance, Addi Loving,
Claudia Rahardjanoto,
and special guest Melinda Sullivan

Featured Soloists Michelle Dorrance, members of the
company, and Melinda Sullivan

“Brighten the Corner Where You Are” written by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel and Ina Duley Ogdon; *“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”* written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane; *“Good Morning Blues”* by Count Basie, Eddie Durham, and James Rushing; *“Sleigh Ride”* written by Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parish, Woodbury Music Company and SonyATV Music Publishing, copyright owners; *“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer”* written by Johnny Marks; *“Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!”* by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne; *“Jingle Bells”* written by Frank Devol and James Pierpont

The Nutcracker Suite (2019)

*or, a rhythmaturgical evocation of the super-leviathonic enchantments
of Duke and Billy's supreme adaptation of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece
that tells a tale of a misunderstood girl who kills a king and meets a queen
and don't forget oooo-gong-chi-gong-sh'gon'make-it-daddy,
and that it ain't so bad after all*

<i>Co-Creators</i>	Michelle Dorrance, Hannah Heller, and Josette Wiggan
<i>Choreography</i>	Michelle Dorrance and Josette Wiggan with solo improvisation by the dancers
<i>Additional Choreography</i>	Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie, Zakhele "Bboy Swazi" Grabowski, Hannah Heller, Matthew "Megawatt" West, and Joseph Wiggan
<i>Choreographic Advisor</i>	Risa Steinberg
<i>Original Music</i>	Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, arr. Ellington/Strayhorn By arrangement with G Schirmer, INC. publisher and copyright owner, courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment, all rights reserved
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Kathy Kaufmann
<i>Costume Design</i>	Andrew Jordan
<i>Sound Design</i>	Christopher Marc
<i>Set Design</i>	Peiyi Wong

Production Team and Additional Design

<i>Production Manager</i>	Christopher Marc
<i>Company Manager</i>	Sally Race
<i>Lighting Supervisor</i>	Devin Koenig
<i>Production Wardrobe Supervisor</i>	Amy Page
<i>Touring Wardrobe Supervisor</i>	Hannah Dowdy
<i>Audio Engineer</i>	Henry Mayr
<i>Project Manager</i>	Hannah Heller
<i>Assistant Scenic Design</i>	Maya Topping Weed
<i>Additional Scenic Design & Build</i>	Ariel Lauryn
<i>Additional Rat Puppet Fabrication</i>	Amelia Lang
<i>Mother Ginger Design and Build</i>	Carolyn Mraz



Cast

<i>Clara</i>	Gisele Silva
<i>Her Mother</i>	Josette Wiggan
<i>Her Father</i>	Jabu Graybeal
<i>Her Brother, Fritz</i>	Luke Hickey
<i>Her Godfather, Drosselmeyer (Drossy)</i>	Warren Craft
<i>Party Guests</i>	Zakhele “Bboy Swazi” Grabowski, Asha Griffith, Aaron Marcellus, Carson Murphy, Maddie Murphy, Claudia Rahardjanoto, Matthew “Megawatt” West
<i>“Mechanical” Dolls</i>	Maddie Murphy, Matthew “Megawatt” West,
<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Veronica Simpson
<i>Rat King</i>	Hannah Heller
<i>Rat Deputy</i>	Leonardo Sandoval
<i>The Rats</i>	Sydney Burtis, Sterling Harris, Rena Kinoshita, Addi Loving, Aaron Marcellus, Maddie Murphy, Gregory Richardson
<i>The Snow Passage</i>	Jabu Graybeal, Asha Griffith, Sterling Harris, Luke Hickey, Rena Kinoshita, Addi Loving, Claudia Rahardjanoto
<i>Sugar Rum Cherry</i>	Josette Wiggan
<i>Her Cavalier</i>	Jabu Graybeal
<i>Sugar Rum Blossoms</i>	Addi Loving, Carson Murphy, Maddie Murphy
<i>Mother/бабушка Gingembre</i>	Claudia Rahardjanoto
<i>Steperi of the Volga</i>	Company
<i>Danseurs of the Floreadores</i>	Company
<i>Alchemist</i>	Matthew “Megawatt” West
<i>Swing</i>	Sydney Burtis
<i>Understudy</i>	Michelle Dorrance

The Nutcracker Suite was commissioned and created in part with the support of the Joyce Theater Foundation’s Artist Residency Center, made possible by lead funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

The Nutcracker Suite was co-commissioned by Global Arts Live, with support from Eric Klotz and Catherine Owens—Global Arts Live is a not for profit presenting organization located in Cambridge, MA; John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, Director Seth Soloway; and the University of Connecticut, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Dorrance Dance is an award-winning tap dance company based in New York City. Founded in 2011 by Artistic Director Michelle Dorrance, the company is made up of truly unique dancers and musicians who are rooted in improvisation with an investment in choreographic exploration, musical composition, live performance, and education. The company is passionately committed to engaging new audiences on a musical and emotional level, and sharing the complex history and powerful legacy of this Black American art form throughout the country and the world.

Dorrance Dance has received numerous accolades and rave reviews, and has propelled tap dance through doors that were once closed to the art form. Along with Cal Performances, the company has been presented by Danspace Project, the Joyce Theater, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, New York City Center, Sadler's Wells London, the Kennedy Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Works and Process at the Guggenheim, Spoleto Festival USA, Vail International Dance Festival, the Bolshoi's DanceInversion International Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Singapore International Festival of Arts, Seattle Theater Group, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, National Arts Centre Ottawa, American Dance Festival, Colours Festival Stuttgart, Maison de la Danse Lyons, Fira Tàrrrega, Danse Danse Montréal, Staatstheater Darmstadt, Chicago's Auditorium Theatre, Carolina Performing Arts, Boston's Crash Arts, Fire Island Dance Festival, Kuopio Dance Festival Finland, the Tilles Center, Stockholm Tap Festival, and many others.

ARTIST BIOS

Michelle Dorrance (*artistic director/choreographer/performer*) is a New York City-based artist. Mentored by Gene Medler (North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble), she was fortunate to study under many of the last master hoofers. Career highlights include: STOMP, Derick Grant's *Imagine Tap!*, Jason Samuels Smith's *Charlie's Angels/Chasing the Bird*, Ayodele Casel's *Diary of a Tap Dancer*, Mable Lee's *Dancing Ladies*, and playing the bass for Darwin Deez. Company work includes: Savion Glover's *Ti Dii*, Manhattan Tap, Barbara Duffy and Co., *JazzTap Ensemble*, and *Rumba Tap*. Solo work ranges from *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* to commissions for the Martha Graham Dance Company, Vail Dance Festival, American Ballet Theatre, and New York City Center. Dorrance made her Broadway choreographic debut with James Lapine's *Flying Over Sunset* at Lincoln Center Theater in 2021. A 2018 Doris Duke Artist, 2017 Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow, and 2015 MacArthur Fellow, Dorrance is humbled to have been acknowledged and supported by United States Artists, the Joyce Theater, the Alpert Awards, Jacob's Pillow, the Princess Grace Foundation-USA, The Field, American Tap Dance Foundation, and the New York Dance and Performance Awards ("Bessie") Awards. Dorrance holds a BA degree from New York University and an honorary doctorate of arts from the University of North Carolina. She is a Capezio athlete and was recently named an associate artist at Sadler's Wells.

Josette Wiggan (*co-creator – The Nutcracker Suite, performer*) has a love for performing that was fostered by Paul and Arlene Kennedy in Los Angeles. A graduate of UCLA, her career highlights include, the 2001 Spotlight Award in non-classical dance, the first national Broadway tour of *42nd Street*, the films *Idlewild* and *Princess and the Frog*, and



Christopher Duggan

studying with Germaine Acogny at L'École les Sables in Toubab Dialaw, Senegal. Alongside her brother, Wiggan was a part of two original casts of Cirque du Soleil's *Banana Shpeel* and *Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour* from 2009–2013. The duo has also been seen in *Tireless*, a curated show by Michelle Dorrance that had its debut at Jacob's Pillow in 2017. In addition, Wiggan is a part of Michelle Dorrance's all-woman quartet *Until the Real Comes Along* and *All Good Things Must Come to an End* and co-created, along with Dorrance and Hannah Heller, *The Nutcracker Suite* (2019). In the summer of 2021, Wiggan created her first evening-length work, *Praise: The Inevitable Fruit of Gratitude*, in collaboration with Grammy-nominated jazz trumpeter Keyon Harrold at Jacob's Pillow. Most recently, she developed *On Solid Ground: A Celebration of Black Joy* and *Freedom In Our America*, featuring improvisation by the dancers and musicians of Josette Wiggan Presents.... She is a sought after educator, choreographer, and performer and has dedicated her life to the perpetuation of African American ver-

nacular jazz dance. Wiggan is also on faculty at USC's Glorya Kaufman School of Dance, teaching vernacular jazz and tap dance.

Hannah Heller (*co-creator – The Nutcracker Suite, performer*) is a filmmaker, actor, writer, and dancer. She was a founding member of Savion Glover's Ti Dii and has appeared with Dorrance Dance, Jane Comfort and Co., and Grand Lady Dance House. Select New York theater credits include *Elements of Oz* (Skirball), *The World is Round* (BAM), *The Reception* (HERE Arts Center), and *Evelyn* (Bushwich Starr). Heller's award winning short film *Ursula* continues to play at festivals across the world

Aaron Marcellus (*musical direction/lead vocals – An Ellaquent Holiday Swing, performer*) hails from Atlanta and is a versatile artist with a career spanning 25 years. He has captivated global audiences as a singer, songwriter, composer, musician, dancer, and actor. Marcellus gained recognition through *American Idol* and performed on a world tour sponsored by the US Armed

Forces, entertaining thousands in several countries. He has also appeared in Chapstick commercials, Universal Pictures' *Dear Evan Hansen*, and NBC's *Next Caller*. As a member of Stomp Off-Broadway and a supporting lead in National Black Theater's *Dreaming Zenzile*, he continues to showcase his exceptional talents. Find him on Instagram at @theaaronmarcellus.

DESIGNERS

Andrew Jordan (*costume design – The Nutcracker Suite*) is an artist and costume designer exploring the possible relationships between sculpture, installation, puppetry, and the moving form of the human body. He has designed for both stage and screen, including projects spanning opera, contemporary dance, experimental performance, film, and parade. He has worked primarily in New York City and Los Angeles, and currently resides in Detroit. Jordan received his BFA in fine arts, with a minor in media studies, from the Columbus College of Art and Design and his MFA in sculpture from the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Kathy Kaufmann (*lighting design*) is a two-time “Bessie” Award recipient and New York City native. She is a resident designer at the Danspace Project at St. Marks Church and has toured extensively throughout the world. Kaufmann has been lighting Dorrance Dance since 2012 and designs regularly for many other companies, including Music From the Sole, Joanna Kotze, Ephrat Asherie Dance, The Bang Group, Eiko & Koma, Rebecca Stenn, Mariana Valencia, and Mina Nishamura.

Christopher Marc (*sound designer/production manager*) is a NYC-based sound designer and production manager from Minneapolis, MN. He has designed and engineered sound for Michelle Dorrance, Music From the Sole, Variety Life Productions, Lincoln Center Restart Stages, Luke Hickey, and Michael Jellick, as well as regional and Off-Broadway productions with the Kennedy Center, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, IJB Productions, Aquila Theatre, and Mills Entertainment. Marc also designs/builds custom floors for percussive dance and is owner/operator of @CMarcAudio.

Peiyi Wong (*set design – The Nutcracker Suite*) is a “Bessie” Award-winning scenographer and interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, NY, designing sets, installations, and costumes for live performance. Recent credits include: sets for *The Whitney Album* (Soho Rep), *Weightless* (WP Theater), *A Delicate Balance* (Transport Group | NAATCO), *The Vicksburg Project* (Mabou Mines), *SPEECH* (Lightning Rod Special), *Song About Trains* (Working Theater | RadEv), *Memoirs of a... Unicorn* (NYLA, 2018 “Bessie” Award for Outstanding Design), *HOUSECONCERT* (Object Collection), and *Charleses* (The Tank, Henry Hewes Award nomination); set and costumes for *A Hunger Artist* (Sinking Ship), *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine* (Transport Group), *MukhAgni* (The Public UTR). Upcoming work includes *Public Obscenities* (Woolly Mammoth | TFANA) and *A Good Day To Me Not to You* (Waterwell). In 2023, Wong was the recipient grants from the Edith Lutyens & Bel Geddes Design Enhancement Fund and NYSCA Support for Artists. She is on the faculty at Playwrights Horizons and NYU Tisch. Wong earned her master of fine arts degree at CalArts.

www.DorranceDance.com
 Instagram: @dorrancedance
 Facebook: facebook.com/dorrancedance/

Dorrance Dance Staff

Michelle Dorrance, *artistic director*
 Jenny Novac, *interim executive director*
 Hillary Kooistra, *general manager*
 Christopher Marc, *production manager/
 sound designer*
 Devin Koenig, *assistant production
 manager/lighting supervisor*
 Gabby Benavides, *associate producer*
 Brooklyn Toli, *administrative associate*
 Sally Race, *company manager*
 Megan Callaghan, Sofia Del Valle
 & Carrie O'Delle (Donorly),
development consultants
 Elizabeth Burke, *dance captain*
 Addi Loving, *Nutcracker Suite assistant
 dance captain*
 Gregory Richardson, *musical director*
 Kathy Kaufmann, *lighting designer*
 Amy Page, *wardrobe supervisor*
 Andrea Nellis & Evan Aanerud (Arts FMS),
financial administrator
 Barbara Frum (outer/most), *artist
 representative*

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As seen in this performance, Dorrance Dance is deeply committed to creating new works and employment opportunities for tap dancers. Please join our mailing list for updates and consider donating to support the art and artists.

