

PARSONS **DANCE**

Artistic Director

DAVID PARSONS

Executive Director

REBECCA JOSUE

Dancers

EOGHAN DILLON

ZOEY ANDERSON

DEIDRE ROGAN

HENRY STEELE

DAMOND LEMONTE GARNER

CROIX DIIENNO

RACHEL HARRIS

MEGAN GARCIA

Stage Manager

MICHAEL MEGLIOLA

Lighting Supervisor

CHRISTOPHER S. CHAMBERS

PARSONSDANCE.ORG

Newark, NJ
October 22, 2021 at 7:30pm
Programs and casting subject to change.

SWING SHIFT

(2003)

Choreography by David Parsons

Lighting by Howell Binkley

Music by Kenji Bunch

Costumes by Mia McSwain

EOGHAN DILLON ZOEY ANDERSON DEIDRE ROGAN HENRY STEELE
DAMOND LEMONTE GARNER CROIX DIIENNO RACHEL HARRIS MEGAN GARCIA

Swing Shift was commissioned in celebration of the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial by the Performing Arts Society of Acadiana; Irvin David in honor of his wife Karin; the Kentucky Center for the Arts, the Lied Center for Performing Arts, a unit of the University of Nebraska; Altria Group, Inc., Parsons Dance's New Works Fund 2003, and the John A. Sellon Charitable Residual Trust. The original music for *Swing Shift* was composed by Kenji Bunch.

BALANCE OF POWER

(2020)

Choreography by David Parsons

Lighting by Christopher S. Chambers

Music by Giancarlo De Trizio*

Costumes by Barbara Erin Delo

ZOEY ANDERSON or CROIX DIIENNO

Balance of Power was generously commissioned by Linda Stocknoff.

*Music: Balance of Power. Written and Performed by Giancarlo "GC" de Trizio. Published by GrooveMusic (ASCAP).

NASCIMENTO

(1990)

Choreography by David Parsons

Lighting by Howell Binkley

Music by Milton Nascimento

Original costumes by Santo Loquasto
Costumes recreated by Barbara Erin Delo

EOGHAN DILLON ZOEY ANDERSON DEIDRE ROGAN HENRY STEELE
DAMOND LEMONTE GARNER CROIX DIIENNO RACHEL HARRIS MEGAN GARCIA

Nascimento was commissioned by the Festival in the Sun at the University of Arizona at Tucson.
Special thanks to Milton Nascimento, who composed this score as a gift to Parsons Dance, and to A.
Alexandra Jupin, Executive Director of the Festival in the Sun.

-intermission-

THE ENVELOPE

(1984)

Choreography by David Parsons
Lighting by Howell Binkley
Music by Gioacchino Rossini – *Arrangement of Overtures*
Arranger of the Score: Charles Gouse
Costumes by Judy Wirkula

EOGHAN DILLON ZOEY ANDERSON DEIDRE ROGAN HENRY STEELE
DAMOND LEMONTE GARNER CROIX DIIENNO RACHEL HARRIS MEGAN GARCIA

The Envelope premiered with the Parsons Dance Company on August 20, 1984 in New York and was
funded as a full production of the DTW and the generous contributions of the dancers.

CAUGHT

(1982)

Choreography by David Parsons
Lighting Concept by David Parsons
Lighting Design by Howell Binkley
Music by Robert Fripp – “Let The Power Fall”
Costume Design by Judy Wirkula

ZOEY ANDERSON or HENRY STEELE

Caught is maintained in the active repertory of Parsons Dance through generous support from the
Jim and Linda Ellis Foundation.

Please be advised that strobe lights will be used during this piece.

IN THE END

(2005)

Choreography by David Parsons

Lighting by Howell Binkley

Music by Dave Matthews Band

Original Costume Design by Mia Mcswain

EOGHAN DILLON ZOEY ANDERSON DEIDRE ROGAN HENRY STEELE
DAMOND LEMONTE GARNER CROIX DIIENNO RACHEL HARRIS MEGAN GARCIA

In the End was commissioned by The Ferguson Center for the Arts at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA. Additional support was provided by the Jim and Linda Ellis Foundation, in memory of Jim Ellis.

PARSONS DANCE is a New York City based contemporary American dance company, internationally renowned for its energized, athletic ensemble work. Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director David Parsons and Tony Award-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, the company has toured to more than 447 cities, 30 countries, and 5 continents and has appeared at such notable venues as The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Sydney Opera House, Maison de la Danse, Teatro La Fenice, and Theatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro.

Parsons Dance performs works selected from the vast and varied repertory of more than 75 works created by David Parsons. In addition, established choreographers like Trey McIntyre and Robert Battle are invited to re-stage works from the American canon on its dancers. And, through its GenerationNOW Fellowship, the company offers commissions to young American choreographers whom Parsons mentors through the creative process.

Parsons Dance is committed to providing enriching experiences beyond its performances as it seeks to engage audiences of all ages through education and outreach programs; through post-show discussions, open rehearsals, studio showcases, video workshops, open company classes, summer workshops for pre-professional dancers; and in-school workshops for public school students. The company is especially proud of its Autism-Friendly Programs initiative, launched in 2016, that features sensory-friendly workshops and relaxed performances for audiences of all abilities.

All these activities are driven by the vision of Artistic Director David Parsons, who, for 35 years, has combined his choreographic gifts and talent for training highly skilled dancers with a real passion for the art form.

DAVID PARSONS (*Artistic Director/Co-Founder*) has enjoyed a remarkable career as a director, choreographer, performer, master teacher and producer. Raised in Kansas City, Parsons made it to New York at the age of 17 when he received a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey School. After Ailey, he became an understudy with the Paul Taylor Dance Company and then joined the company as a principal dancer. He stayed for eight years. During summers, he toured with MOMIX; he appeared with Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris in the first White Oak tour; and he launched his choreographic career by setting work on the Taylor Company and on the National Ballet of Canada, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Batsheva Dance Company, and the Paris Opera Ballet.

After leaving the Taylor company, Parsons was a guest artist with New York City Ballet for four years before his artistic prowess led him to undertake such diverse projects as choreographing *Aida* at Arena di Verona and producing and co-choreographing *María de Buenos Aires* at the Skirball Center, as well as creating the choreography for *Fool's Fire*, a 1992 film directed by Julie Taymor. Perhaps one of his most thrilling assignments was choreographing and directing the dance elements for Times Square 2000, the 24-hour festivities in Times Square celebrating the turn of the Millennium. Since then, Parsons has participated in many projects, such as choreographing *A Knight's Tale*, a new musical theater work directed by John Caird, who previously directed the Broadway and West End productions of *Les Misérables* and the London National Theatre's production of *Candide*. Staged at Tokyo's iconic Imperial Theatre in summer 2018, the work featured Japanese pop stars.

In addition to the more than 75 works that he has created for Parsons Dance, Parsons has received commissions from such companies as American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the American Dance Festival, Jacob's Pillow, the Spoleto Festival, and Het Muziektheater in Amsterdam, with his most recent from the Kansas City Ballet, whose staged his work *A Play For Love* in May 2019.

Heralded by *The New York Times* as "one of the great movers of modern dance," Parsons has received many accolades throughout his career, including three Choreography Fellowship Grants from the National Endowment of the Arts; the American Choreography Award; the *Dance Magazine* Award; a Howard Gilman Fellowship, and the Dance Masters of America Annual Award. In May 2018, he received the Capezio Award, one of the most prestigious awards in dance.

HOWELL BINKLEY (*Resident Lighting Designer 1985-2020 / Co-founder*) was the proud co-founder of Parsons Dance for which he has designed more than 70 pieces. His Broadway designs include: *Ain't Too Proud* (2019 Tony nomination), *Come From Away* (2017 Tony nomination), *Allegiance*, *After Midnight* (2014 Tony nomination), *How to Succeed...* (2011 Tony nomination), *West Side Story* (2009 Tony nomination), *Gypsy* starring Patti LuPone, *In The Heights* (2008 Tony nomination), *Avenue Q*, *The Full Monty*, *Parade*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* (1993 Tony nomination). He has made extensive regional and dance works for companies such as Alvin Ailey, American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, and The Joffrey Ballet's *Billboards*. He is a five-time Helen Hayes Award recipient and received the 1993 Sir Laurence Olivier Award and the Canadian Dora Award for *Kiss of The Spider Woman*. Howell also received the 2006 Henry Hewes Design Award; the 2006 Outer Critics Circle

Award; and the 2006 Tony Award for *Jersey Boys*. In addition, he won both the 2017 Tony Award and the 2018 Sir Laurence Olivier Award for the lighting design of *Hamilton*.

EOGHAN DILLON (*Rehearsal Director, Dancer*) was born in Ireland, moved to Canada when he was four and began dancing when he was twelve. In 2012, he was awarded a full scholarship to The Ailey School. After Ailey, he trained at The School at Jacob's Pillow and then performed with The Peridance Company before arriving at Parsons Dance, where he danced with the company for four years and then became its Educational Coordinator. For nearly five years, Eoghan has excelled as a leader of the Parsons' programs for special needs students. Eoghan has received choreographic commissions from METDance, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance Company, and Ballet Memphis and, while dancing with Parsons, worked with acclaimed choreographers like Robert Battle, Kate Skarpetowska, Trey McIntyre, and Ephrat Asherie.

ZOEY ANDERSON (*Dancer*) was born and raised in Utah, where she trained in contemporary, ballet, jazz and ballroom dance at Center Stage. She was the ballroom national smooth champion in 2010. Zoey graduated cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2015 with a BFA in Ballet under the direction of Katie Langan. She has performed works by Dwight Rhoden, Lar Lubovitch and Aszure Barton, among others. In 2013, Zoey performed with Nikolais Louis in the Yang Liping International Dance Festival in Kunming China. Other credits include the Broadway premiere gala of *On The Town*, the film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, Dancing With The Stars webisodes, and Macy's Passport Tour with P. Diddy. Zoey was nominated for the 2018 Outstanding Performer Bessie Award for her sustained achievement in Parsons Dance and is the recipient of the 2019 Clive Barnes Dance Artist Award. Zoey joined the company in 2015.

DEIDRE ROGAN (*Dancer*) began her dance training in Fort Myers, FL at Gulfshore Ballet, under the direction of Melinda Roy and Roberto Munoz. Deidre has worked with such choreographers as Judith Jamison, Milton Myers, Matthew Rushing, Hope Boykin, Ronald K. Brown, and Cheryl Copeland. She performed as a United States Arts Ambassador for President Barack Obama during the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 Hannover Messe. She is a three-time recipient of the BIG ARTS awards scholarship and a National Young Arts award scholarship. Deidre graduated with Honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance and was a member of Ailey II from 2014 through 2016. She was an understudy with Parsons Dance for the 2016-17 season before joining the company in Fall 2017.

HENRY STEELE (*Dancer*) was born and raised in Wollongong, NSW, Australia. He was a competitive gymnast for eight years, and a national gold medalist for three years. During his final years as a gymnast, he began making the transition to dance. In 2016, Henry graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in Modern and Jazz dance. At Point Park, he performed works by choreographers such as Lar Lubovitch, Mark Morris, Ronin Koresh, and Troy Powell. He has danced professionally with Owen/ Cox Dance Group, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and toured internationally with The Bad Boys of Ballet. Henry joined Parsons Dance in 2017.

DAMOND LEMONTE GARNER (*Dancer*), from Charlotte, North Carolina, studied violin, musical theater, and dance at Northwest School of the Arts before receiving a BFA from Point Park University, where he performed works by renowned choreographers including Alexandra Damiani, Sidra Bell, Lucinda Childs, Lar Lubovitch, and Jessica Hendricks. After graduating in 2018, DaMond joined METdance in Houston, Texas and performed works by Kyle Abraham, Christian Denice, and Kate Skarpetowska, among others. He also appeared as a guest artist with Texture Contemporary

Ballet, The Black Iris Project, and The Francesca Harper Project. DaMond joined Parsons Dance in 2020.

CROIX DIENNO (*Dancer*) was raised in Philadelphia and studied civil engineering at Bucks County Technical High School before pursuing a dance career. His training focused on classical ballet technique while he also studied hip-hop, modern, and jazz. Croix has worked and studied under Emmy award winning choreographers Mandy Moore and Josh Bergasse, as well as Scott Jovovich, Suzi Taylor, Jess Hendricks, Rhonda Miller, and has performed Paul Taylor's *Company B*. His professional experience includes dancing for such regional theaters as the PCLO (Pittsburgh) in its productions of *Peter Pan*, *Oklahoma*, *Brigadoon*, and *Grease*.

RACHEL HARRIS (*Dancer*) was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she began training at Dance Productions and later attended the University of Southern California Gloria Kaufman School of Dance where she has received a BFA in 2020 and is currently pursuing an MA in Journalism for the Arts. She has attended summer intensives at Jacob's Pillow, The Ailey School, Ballet X, and Abraham.In.Motion. She has performed as a soloist in works by Crystal Pite, William Forsythe, Barak Marshall, Dwight Rhoden, Paul Taylor, and many others as well as USC's West Side Story. She is a founding member of Zeitgeist Dance Company and has danced with many noted artists including recording singer/actress Brandy. This is Rachel's first season with Parsons Dance.

MEGAN LEIGH GARCIA (*Dancer*) began training at Progressions Performing Arts in Spring, Texas. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arizona in 2019 with a BFA in dance and a business administration minor. She was privileged to perform works by Nacho Duato, Martha Graham, Bella Lewitzky, Larry Keigwin, and more. Megan attended intensives at Hubbard Street, Giordano Dance, River North Dance, the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company, and the Rockettes. After graduation, Megan was offered the role of Rockette in the 2019 Christmas Spectacular. She performed in 102 shows, and was interviewed by TODAY, News 4 New York, and Telemundo. Megan is certified to teach Giordano technique, and is freelancing in New York when she isn't touring with Parsons Dance.

CHRISTOPHER S. CHAMBERS (*Lighting Designer, "Balance of Power"*): Dance: Ailey II, American Repertory Ballet, Ballet Memphis, Boca Tuya, Jose Limon Dance Foundation, Lustig Dance Theatre, Parsons Dance, Yin Yue Dance Company, Manchester Ballet, Ram Island Dance. Theatre: Houses on the Moon, Cape Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, York Theatre, Curtain Call Inc., Boston College, Montclair State University, University of Hartford, Mount Washington Valley Theatre Company, Resort Players, M+D Productions, Weston Playhouse. A Connecticut native, Chris currently lives in New York. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Connecticut and is a proud member of USA 829.

GIANCARLO "GC" DE TRIZIO (*Composer, "Balance of Power"*) is an award-winning drummer, composer, producer and GRAMMY voting member. Originally from Italy, he received a Degree in Classical Percussion from the Conservatory of Bari and a Bachelor's in Performance from The Berklee College of Music in Boston. GC has toured the world with Bruce Springsteen's saxophonist Jake Clemons, Tunisian Artist Emel Mathlouthi and vocal group Women of The World. Other collaborations: Sting, Angelique Kidjo, Miesa, Billy Porter, Jason Alexander (from Seinfeld), Korean pop stars Sohyang, Hwang Chi Yeol, film composer Alan Silvestri, Oscar Winners Pasek & Paul, Mykal Kilgore and more. Music Festivals: Blue Note Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Festival, NYC Summer Stage, Nuits d'Afrique. Broadway credits: Hamilton, The Lion King, Dear Evan Hansen, The Book of Mormon.

REBECCA JOSUE (*Executive Director*) joined Parsons Dance in 2010 as the Company Manager and Stage Manager, and has been lucky enough to tour with the company both nationally and internationally for her first five seasons. Rebecca became the General Manager for the 2013-2014 season and was appointed Executive Director in June 2019. Before joining Parsons Dance, Rebecca was a freelance company manager, stage manager, producer, theater administrator, and director. She has worked at New York Stage and Film, Mabou Mines, The Public Theater, New World Stages, La Mama, and the Under the Radar Festival among other places in company management, production management, stage management, and Development. A graduate of Wesleyan University Rebecca completed the Senior Leaders Program for Non-Profit Professionals at Columbia Business School in May 2019, earning her a Certificate in Business Excellence.

PARSONS DANCE

124 East 91st Street, 2B, New York, NY 10128

[212-869-9275](tel:212-869-9275) • info@parsonsdance.org

www.parsonsdance.org

Artistic Director: David Parsons

Executive Director: Rebecca Josue

Business Manager: Robert J. Ford

Director of Institutional Support: Kate Taylor

Lighting Supervisor: Christopher S. Chambers

Production Coordinator & Lighting Associate: Michael Megliola

Artistic Associate: Eoghan Dillon

Executive Assistant and Research Analyst: Grace Puckett

Marketing Consultants: Martha Cooper and Will Albach

ARTISTS' REPRESENTATIVE

MARGARET SELBY, President, Selby/Artists MGMT

262 West 38th Street, Suite 1701, New York, NY 10018

margaret@selbyartistsmgmt.com | Office: 212-382-3260

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