



Deborah Goffe. Photo Courtesy of the Artist

THE NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, GLOBAL ARTS LIVE, AND THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART/ BOSTON PRESENT

## New England Now Dance Platform

#DANCENewEnglandNow

Sunday, March 20, 2022

[Access live captioning for Sunday's performance -->](#)

Greetings,

Welcome to the [Regional Dance Development Initiative \(RDDI\): \*New England Now\*](#) Dance Platform, an experience rooted in creating a culture of abundance that celebrates dance makers from across the region. We are so grateful to have finally arrived at this moment where we can share live dance performances with you and embrace opportunities to increase the sustainability of New England-based dance makers.

For over 15 years, NEFA's RDDI program has worked to leverage and expand on existing regional resources, fostering vital networks of dance artists, presenters, and communities that address the unique needs and concerns of regional dance. We believe its mission to strengthen connections and build sustainable relationships remains vital, especially as we reimagine a more resilient, self-aware, and robust New England dance landscape.

While the original design of RDDI: *New England Now* called for an intimately sized cohort, we recognized that creating a culture of abundance would require more sharing, more support, and more opportunities. Thus, the RDDI: *New England Now* artist cohort of 12 were tasked with curating six additional New England-based dance artists to share their work and perspectives as part of this weekend's Dance Platform. By centering equity, inclusion, and care, the cohort rooted its decision-making in ideals that would amplify collective action and responsibility.

NEFA understands that the role of regional dance makers as leaders within their community is as essential for transformative growth as their artistic prowess. We see their creative practices as a model to foster deeper listening and collaboration that advances new pathways for all New England-based dance makers to not only survive, but also thrive.

NEFA remains grateful to the Boston Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and the Aliad Fund at the Boston Foundation for their generous support and flexibility. We would also like to acknowledge our partners at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) and Global Arts Live for their unwavering commitment to this presentation and New England-based dance makers. Lastly, a huge thank you to Cheri Opperman, Kristin Gregory, Michèle Steinwald, and Shey Rivera, whose invaluable efforts helped support the overall RDDI: *New England Now* experience.

Whether you are joining us for one performance or the full weekend, we appreciate your support of New England-based dance makers and look forward to continuing to move together!

Indira Goodwine  
Program Director, Dance  
New England Foundation for the Arts

### A Note from the RDDI: New England Now Artist Cohort:

As the members of the RDDI New England Now cohort, we're invested in fostering and sustaining a New England dance community that operates with a spirit of abundance and that values equity, inclusion, and care.

We invite you to join us in cultivating equitable representation and participation, artist leadership, artistic integrity, transparency, conscientious collaborations, and growing audiences.

It is our desire to leverage the RDDI experience to move towards more inclusive artist and audience participation, to advocate for and redefine ideas of artistic excellence, and to make more visible the breadth of artistic processes and cultural products manifesting across our region.

Aretha Aoki, Chavi Bansal, Anthony Bounphakhom, Ian Berg, shani collins, Sarah Duclos, Deborah Goffe, Heidi Henderson, Lauren Horn, Ali Kenner Brodsky, Toby MacNutt, Scott McPheeters, Lilly Rose Valore, Jessica Roseman, Kristen Stake, Amanda Whitworth, Lida Winfield, and John Michael Winward

## Performance Order

### UNsutURING: LITURGY|ORDER|BRIDGE

#### Directed and designed by

Deborah Goffe in collaboration with the performers

#### Performers

Deborah Goffe, Lauren Horn, Abena Koomson-Davis, and Arien Wilkerson

#### Music by

Abena Koomson-Davis

*"Unsuturing" grows out of the development of "Liturgy | Order | Bridge," an in-process performance project with an anticipated premiere in 2023. The following question guides the collaborators' ongoing process: What might it mean to engage dance practice as faith practice, performance as communal ceremony, performance space as consecrated site, and audience as a fellowship of shared witness, place, and legacy?*

[Visit the scapegoatgarden -->](#)

### "YOU ARE GOING TO BE HEALED" (EXCERPTS)

#### Choreographers and Performers

Kristen Stake and Hannah Wasielewski

#### Dramaturgy

Aretha Aoki and Meredith Glisson

### FUNERALS FOR MY FATHER

#### Choreographer and Performer

Lida Winfield

#### Dramaturgy

Michole Biancosini

### INTERMISSION

### CONJURING HOME (EXCERPTS)

#### Performers and Collaborators

Phakiso Collins and shani collins

#### Video editors

LaVarro Jones, Nenman Walbe

#### Music

Heart Chakra Singing Bowl by Ben Scott and Christa Michell, Like A Virgin by Madonna, Fool of Me by Mechell Ndegeocello, Fire by Official Afrobeats

#### Imagery by

Afro Surrealist Ekow Brew

### INSIDER BALLROOM

Performed by J Michael Winward, created in collaborative process with dramaturg / directors Betsy S. Goldman and Elbert Joseph, creative consultant Catherine Siller, and ASL Interpreter Shonnese Grant

### TOUCHED BY WATER (EXCERPT)

#### Choreographer

Chavi Bansal

#### Dancers

Mitzi Eppley, Cassie Wang, Claire Lane, Kristin Wagner

#### Composer

Heiko Dijker — Netherlands

#### Musician

Sarangi played by Ustad Sabir Khan — India

### ICA PRODUCTION CREW

#### Master Electrician

Amanda Holt

#### Audio Engineer

Jeff Bousquet

#### Master Carpenter

Alex Hamilton

#### Lighting Designer

RJ LaMura

#### Stage Manager

Kailey Bennett

#### Video Engineer

Bill O'Donnell

#### Crew

Steven Asaro, Dean Covert, Andrea Dudziak, Gabriel Goldman, Brittany Trymbulak

Like the show? Let us know!



#ICABoston



shani collins. Photo by Adam Campos

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

## ARETHA AOKI

Aretha Aoki is a choreographer, performer, and Assistant Professor of Dance at Bowdoin College. Her work has been performed most recently at Roger Williams University (RI), La Mama La Galleria (NYC), Kansas City Art Institute, the Kraine Theater (NYC), School for Contemporary Dance and Thought (Northampton, MA), and the Powell St. Festival (Canada). Aretha has received funding through the Maine Arts Commission (2021), New England Foundation for the Arts (2016), Northampton Council for the Arts (2014), and the National Association of Japanese Canadians (2006). She has collaborated and danced with numerous choreographers including Emily Johnson and Juliette Mapp. She will be performing *solid objects* by Heather Kravas at the Walker Arts Center in May 2022.

[More on Aretha Aoki here→](#)

## CHAVI BANSAL

Born and brought up in India, Chavi Bansal received her BA in dance in the Netherlands. Her work uses a mix of Indian classical and Western dance styles and has been presented and commissioned by Danstaliens, The Netherlands; University of Stavanger, Norway; Mundial Festivals, Netherlands; and India Habitat Center, New Delhi. After moving to Boston in 2014, Chavi started her company Vimoksha with Boston-based dancers. The company's mission is to connect, empower, and share stories through the medium of dance.

[More on Chavi Bansal here→](#)

## MICHOLE BIANCOSINO

Michole Biancosino is a director, deviser, writer, and creator. The Co-Founding Artistic Director of Project Y Theatre Company, Michole has launched world premieres in NYC, regionally, and internationally. She's the producer of NYC's Women in Theatre Festival, now in its seventh year. Last summer she created a streaming theatre in Vermont, Tiny Barn Theatre. Recent collaborations include *Same But Different* with Lida Winfield and Christal Brown and *Waves of Gravity* at CultureHub/La Mama. In May 2022 Michole will perform *Yoga with Jillian* by Lia Romeo at Pittsburgh City Theatre. She has an MFA in Directing from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts and is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Middlebury College.

## PHAKISO "KIKI" COLLINS

Phakiso "Kiki" Collins is producer/multi-media artist/activist homegrown in the southern city of Greensboro, NC, now residing in Brooklyn, NY. As a child the magic of filmmaking intrigued her. Something about the glitz and glamour of Hollywood made her mind burst with excitement. Even more inviting was the ability to take an idea or someone's personal story and create an emotional moving canvas that has a profound impact on lives. This passion for film and television led her to the big city, where she dove head first into the crazy world of the entertainment industry. She tingly admits her love affair with dance for many years. Shhh... don't tell the camera.

## SHANI COLLINS

shani collins is a mother / artist / scholar and a "Bessie" New York Dance and Performance Award recipient. She was crowned "Contemporary Revolutionary" by Thomas Lax in The Studio Museum Harlem Summer Magazine and featured in Dance Magazine as a "Magazine Woman" by Eva Yaa Assentawa who writes: "It's a sure bet that when she takes the stage, she will deliver not only the movement but the core, the bedrock, the very meaning and spirit of a dance." Her work through SNIC eternalworks DANCE, is dedicated to fostering women's healing em(power)ment through performance, community ritual, and intercultural dialogue.

[More on SNIC DANCE here→](#)

## HEIKO DIJKER

Heiko Dijker is an Amsterdam-based Tabla player, composer, and producer whose playing is marked by enthusiasm and energy, depth of knowledge, and rhythmic poetry. He tours around the world in wonderful collaborations with musicians of all varieties of musical styles.

[More on Heiko Dijker here→](#)

## MITZI EPPLEY

Mitzi Eppley: A Boston Conservatory graduate, Mitzi received the bulk of her training from The BalletMet Academy and Pre-Pro Program in Ohio. However, drawn to the communication of movement, Mitzi has had the privilege to study a myriad of styles across countries. Her favorite and most impactful teachers are Tai Jimenez, Olivier Besson, Susan Dromisky, Alyssa Cardone, Tom Wexler, and Roser Tutusaus.

[Learn more about her dance adventure and costuming at www.mkayarts.com -->](#)

## MEREDITH GLISSON

Meredith Glisson is a choreographer, dramaturg, movement coach, and performer for stage and film. Her artistic work and teaching spans disciplines in contemporary dance, theatre, and wellness practices. She has presented her work in the USA, France, and U.K. in theaters, site-specific spaces, and art galleries. Her work has also been included in the following publications; *EMERGENCY INDEX Vol. 9 (2020)*, *C.O.C.A.-Center of Contemporary Artists (2018)*, and the *Aesthetica Anthology Magazine (2017)*. She is the Founder and Co-Director of MOTiVE Brooklyn, a community-orientated space in Dumbo providing tailored artist services for movement-based practitioners.

[More on Meredith Glisson here→](#)

## DEBORAH GOFFE

Deborah Goffe is a dance maker, performer, educator, and performance curator who cultivates environments and experiences through choreographic, design, and social processes. Since its founding in 2002, Scapegoat Garden has functioned as a primary vehicle and creative community through which Deborah has employed these processes — forging relationships between artists and communities, helping people see, create, and contribute to a greater vision of ourselves, each other, and the places we call home. This vision forms a foundation for her work and teaching at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, where she serves as Associate Professor of Dance and Performance Curation.

[More on Scapegoat Garden here→](#)

## BETSY S. GOLDMAN

Betsy S. Goldman is a director, dramaturg, and educator. She holds a PhD in Theatre History and Theatre for Social Change from Tufts University and an MA in Educational Theatre from New York University. With her diverse background and training, Betsy has worked in the arts and education for over fifteen years as a performer, director, playwright, dramaturg, educator, and scholar. She is a Theatre and Research teacher at Meridian Academy in Jamaica Plain, a trained Joker (a facilitator of Theatre of the Oppressed workshops and forum theatre), and an ASL-English translator for the theatre.

## SHONNESE GRANT

Shonnesse Grant comes to performance interpreting by way of a life-long love for dance as well as a profound love for the beauty and complexity of American Sign Language. She has a Bachelor's degree in African-American studies from Duke University and a Master's degree in Deaf Education from Boston University. In addition to being an educator, Shonnesse has interpreted for such venues as Boston University Theatre, Central Square Theater, Broadway in Boston, Huntington Theatre Company, Wheelock Family Theatre, American Repertory Theater, Moonbox Productions, and Boston Landmarks Orchestra. She is tremendously excited for this opportunity.

## LAUREN HORN

Lauren Horn is a movement and text-based artist from Connecticut. She graduated from Amherst College with degrees in Psychology and Theatre and Dance. Lauren's work explores identity and how it can be uncovered, marginalized, highlighted, and erased. By utilizing movement and text to foster a more welcoming form of vulnerability, her work creates a space for self-reflection and conversation for both the performer and viewer. Lauren's choreographic work has been showcased at The BAM Fisher Theatre in Brooklyn, NYC; The Meydenbauer Center Theatre in Bellevue, WA; and The Northampton Center for the Arts in Northampton, MA; among other venues.

@subira.vs.movement

[More on Lauren Horn here→](#)

## ELBERT JOSEPH

Elbert Joseph is known as EJ. EJ is thrilled to have his artistic co-partner, Betsy Goldman, on his side — once again — and always more. He wants to give a thousand thanks to Micheal Winward for trusting EJ and Betsy on this project, it has been a wonderful journey and exciting project, and we are looking forward to collaboration again. Thanks to Catherine! Thank you, Sho, for interpreting everything!

## ABENA KOOMSON-DAVIS

Abena Koomson-Davis is a performer, educator, and wordsmith. Abena was an original cast member of the hit Broadway musical *FELA!* and originated the role of Funmilayo Anikulapo Kuti in the Off-Broadway production at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Abena plays in several notable bands, including the a cappella trio Saheli, the Cool Rulers, and Van Davis, and is a musical director of the Women's March Resistance Revival Chorus. She currently serves as Ethics Chair of the middle school division at Ethical Culture Fieldston School, where she teaches ethics and social justice to middle- and upper-school students.

[More on Abena Koomson-Davis here→](#)

## CLAIRE LANE

Claire Lane is a Boston-based dance artist and educator. After graduating summa cum laude with the distinction of highest honors from Smith College, she began teaching and freelancing with Boston artists including Holly Stone/Stone Works Production, Haley Andrews/Andrews Movement, and Ellie Patterson/Abilities Dance Boston. She choreographs her own work under the collective detritus dance, focusing on deconstruction through multidisciplinary forms including movement practices, painting, and collage. IG: @claire.lane and @detritusdance

## CATHERINE SILLER

Catherine Siller is a Boston-based choreographer and multimedia artist whose work challenges gender norms and expectations. Catherine has presented her work throughout New England in theaters, galleries, festivals, and vacant storefronts. She enjoys working in unique locations that allow her to engage audiences directly through interactive performance and video. Catherine is thrilled to be working with Michael on this project alongside Besty and EJ. Thanks, Sho, for interpreting!

[More on Catherine Siller here→](#)

## KRISTEN STAKE

Kristen Stake is a dance artist in Portland, Maine. This piece is the first from (ii) Imaginary Island—an experimental dance company she founded with Hannah Wasielewski. Rooted in DIY values, her work explores ritual, memory, and emotional-relational dynamics. She has danced with Melinda Buckwalter, Vanessa Anspaugh, and Michael Figueroa. From 2016 to 2020, she was the director of the Living Room Dance Collective. She has held many jobs in the "helping" fields and currently works as a mental health counselor. This work has received generous support from the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Maine Arts Commission.

[More on Kristen Stake here→](#)

## KRISTIN WAGNER

Kristin Wagner is a movement enthusiast living, learning, and growing in the Greater Boston area. She dances, makes dances, and makes dances happen. @bodies\_moving

[More on Kristen Wagner here→](#)

## CASSIE WANG

Cassie Wang is a multidisciplinary artist from Kansas City. She recently graduated with a BA in Computer Science from Pomona College and has performed works by Derion Loman, Chad Naharin, Tristian Griffin, and Becca Lemme. Currently, Cassie is dancing with VLA DANCE, KAIROS Dance Theater, and independent artists in the area. Working to combine her backgrounds in dance, digital art, and technology, Cassie is interested in the creative possibilities at the intersection of art and technology.

## HANNAH WASIELEWSKI

Hannah Wasielewski (she/her) is a dancer, performer, educator, and biodynamic craniosacral therapist based in Portland, Maine. She has been engaged in choreographic practice as a soloist and in collaboration since 2012, working throughout North America and abroad in Europe. Her current collaboration, (ii) Imaginary Island, with Kristen Stake, is a lifelong dance process centered around healing, grieving, and improvisation. Previously based in the Bay Area, she works with her sister, Amy, and has performed with Sara Shelton Dorf, FAKE Company / Kathleen Hermesdorf, Kinetech Arts / Daiane Lopes da Silva, and Sara Kraft / KraftyWorks.

## ARIEN WILKERSON

Arien Wilkerson is Founder and Artistic Director of TNMOT AZTRO, a collaborative multidisciplinary company working at the intersection of dance, performance art, installation, and sound design for engagements in museums, galleries, and site-specific locations. Born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut, Arien began their dance training under the tutelage of Joliet Creary, and has been a student at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, The Artists Collective, Earl Mosley Institute of the Arts, and the Batsheva Dance Company's "Gaga Intensive" in Tel Aviv, Israel. Arien's work has been performed and installed throughout Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Philadelphia, and New York.

[More on Arien Wilkerson here→](#)

## LIDA WINFIELD

Lida Winfield is an innovative and accomplished dancer, choreographer, spoken word artist, and educator who has created original work merging storytelling, dance, and visual art. As an artist, educator, and keynote presenter, she has performed and taught nationally and internationally. Her work has received support from the Vermont Arts Council, New England Foundation for the Arts, and the National Performance Network and has been commissioned by The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Middlebury Performing Arts Series, The Yaddo, and Jacob's Pillow. Lida is currently the Chair of the Dance Department at Middlebury College

[More on Lida Winfield here→](#)

## MICHAEL WINWARD

Michael Winward (he/him) is an interdisciplinary artist: a dancer, storyteller, and organizer. His solo performances blend movement, memoir, and (sometimes) video projection of his family's home movies. Through *Steps in Time*, Michael brings ballroom dance programming to assisted-living and memory-care communities in and around Greater Boston. He is the co-founder and co-producer of Dancing Queerly, a platform that hosts performances, discussions, and workshops by and for LGBTQ2SIA+ community, friends, and allies.

# ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



Toby MacNutt. Photo by Serenity Smith Forchion

# ABOUT NEFA

The New England Foundation for the Arts invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape in New England and the nation. NEFA accomplishes this by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations; connecting them to each other and their audiences; and analyzing their economic contributions. NEFA serves as a regional partner for the National Endowment for the Arts, New England's state arts agencies, and private foundations.

[Learn more at nefa.org -->](http://nefa.org)



# ABOUT GLOBAL ARTS LIVE

Global Arts Live is a nonprofit organization that brings inspiring music and dance from all corners of the world to stages across greater Boston. By putting the spotlight on exceptional artists and reflecting the diverse and vibrant community that is Boston, we aspire to transcend borders, cultivate community, and enrich lives. A trusted curator for almost 30 years, Global Arts Live has made live, international music and dance a vital part of Boston's cultural scene by featuring more than 800 artists from 70+ countries in over 1,500 performances attended by more than one million people. To be as inclusive as possible, foster experimentation, and support a diverse community of artists, Global Arts Live is not bound by walls. Instead, it brings outstanding artists to the most appropriate setting — from intimate 200-seat clubs to 2,500-seat theaters and everything in between. Each year, it presents over 60 concerts in more than 15 different venues across the city.

[For more information, call 617-876-4275](tel:617-876-4275) or [visit our website at globalartslive.org](http://globalartslive.org).

[Follow Global Arts Live on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter](#)



# ABOUT THE ICA

Since its founding in 1936, the ICA has shared the pleasures of reflection, inspiration, imagination, and provocation that contemporary art offers with its audiences. A museum at the intersection of contemporary art and civic life, the ICA has advanced a bold vision for amplifying the artist's voice and expanding the museum's role as educator, incubator, and convener. Its exhibitions, performances, and educational programs provide access to the breadth and diversity of contemporary art, artists, and the creative process, inviting audiences of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the excitement of new art and ideas. The ICA is located at 25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston, MA, 02210.

[For more information, call 617-478-3100](tel:617-478-3100) or [visit our website at icaboston.org](http://icaboston.org).

[Follow the ICA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram](#).



# ABOUT CREATIVE GROUND

CreativeGround is the dynamic regional directory that celebrates and reflects the vital work of artists, creatives, culture bearers, creative organizations, and businesses.

When creative communities are supported, all communities thrive. Sharing the stories, relationships, and data of the creative community empowers its people with more knowledge, connection, and resources. Whether you are part of the creative community or are invested in its health, CreativeGround invites you to explore and connect with over 30,000 profiles representing New England's creative economy.

[Please see creativeground.org for more information -->](http://creativeground.org)



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Tyshawn Sorey, Vijay Iyer, and Linda May Han Oh. Photo by Craig Marsden

## Vijay Iyer Trio

Thu, Apr 7, 2022, 8 PM

Among the most acclaimed pianists of his generation, Vijay Iyer consistently expands the musical, textural, and expressive possibilities of jazz through live performance and recordings. Iyer returns to the ICA with his intrepid trio featuring bassist Linda May Han Oh and drummer Tyshawn Sorey. The group's newest album, *Uneasy*, reflects musically on America's current political and social turmoil, and in the words of Iyer, "reminds us that the most soothing, healing music is often born of and situated within profound unrest."

[Get your tickets now →](#)



A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, *Our Indigo: If We Were a Love Song*. Photo by Christopher Duggan

## ICA/Boston presents A.I.M by Kyle Abraham

April 15–17, 2022

Kyle Abraham is one of the most acclaimed and sought-after choreographers making dance today. A MacArthur "genius" Fellow, Abraham has created and presented work at Alvin Ailey Dance Center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, and other stages across the world. He has collaborated with a range of artists including dancers Misty Copeland and Wendy Whelan, musician Sufjan Stevens, and Beyoncé.

At the ICA, [A.I.M](#) presents several evocative works including *Our Indigo: If We Were a Love Song*, a series of solos, duets and trios harnessing the brilliance, tenderness, and power of Nina Simone's most intimate songs.

[Get your tickets now →](#)



Jean Appolon. Photo by Olivia Moon

## Global Arts Live presents

Jean Appolon Expressions

Fri, May 13, 8 PM

Sat, May 14, 8 PM

Cambridge-based contemporary dance company Jean Appolon Expressions (JAE) explores themes that are vital to Haitian and immigrant experiences. Weaving modern technique with Haitian folkloric dance, JAE sparks healing for dancers and audiences alike. The company will perform the World premiere of *Traka* ("Troubles" in Haitian Creole). *Traka* incorporates powerful reflections on injustice and trauma to explore how dance, culture, and community are pathways to healing. Renowned Haitian composer, turntablist, and Afrofuturist Val Jeanty will perform live during the event.

[Get your tickets now →](#)