



Celebrating 40 years of creation,
education, performance, and
community.

A large, stylized tree graphic in blue, with a thick trunk and many branches, each bearing several oak leaves. The roots are visible at the bottom.

Welcome to Dance Place's **FORTITUDE GALA**

October 2nd, 2020 at 6:30pm EST

ORDER OF EVENTS

Culture Shock DC Performance

Black Parade

Choreographed by: Stephen Lyons II, Ayden Elder, Monique Watson, Minilik Addis, Arrington Lassiter, Audrey Medley, E.L. Vega

Performed by: Allison Goss, Arrington Lassiter, E.L. Vega, Monee Sims, Turk Hasnan, Vvette Tiya, Ariella Bennett, Alisha Paire, Sarah Mapelli, Kayla Cesa, Paris Richard-son, Travis Smith, Raeya Cobb, Donique Tyler, Leslie Young, Biby Medrano, Tori Campbell, Sirressia Jones, Ashlee McKinnon, Uche Ejinaka, Vincent Jameson, Jemia Terry, Anna Kublawi, Kori Norman, Morgan Allen, Adrienna Jackson, Ankit Guliani, Saniya Wade, Keiara Williamson, Leander Gray

Videographer: Sheldon Silvers

Video Editor: Matt Reeves

Music: Black Parade Remix

Opening Remarks from Christopher K. Morgan

Executive Artistic Director

Remarks from Janice Marks and Adam Weers

Board Co-Chairs

Bill Shannon Performance

Fragmentation Series 2020

Choreographed and performed by: Bill Shannon

Music: "Music Won't Hate Me" by Quentin Harris

Remarks from Ava Delasanta

Studio Education Manager

Dance Place Youth Company Performance

Bombay

Choreographed by: Daché Green

Performed by: Cairo Waters and Amira Muhammad

Music: "Bombay" by Tiwa Savage (feat. Stefflon Don, Dice Ailes)

Remarks from Hannah Church and Delante White

Individual Giving Director and Youth Leader

ORDER OF EVENTS (continued)

Remarks from Carla Perlo and Deborah Riley

Founding Director Emerita and Director Emerita

Tzveta Kassabova Performance

Tangled: Stage for All

Concept and performance: Tzveta Kassabova

Mural/floor: Semacio Soto and Nicole Denise White

Videography and editing: David Forsee

Music: Michael Wall and Ian Tran

Remarks from Maura Keefe and Christopher K. Morgan

Board Member and Executive Artistic Director

Project ChArma Performance

TIDES

Choreographed and performed by: Mariama “Ama” Law

Media Design: Matt Reeves

Lighting Design: Faryn Kelly

Music: Ocean Sounds with vocals by Ama and Nia Law

Special thanks: Chris Law

Testimonials from the Dance Place Community

Closing Remarks from Christopher K. Morgan

Executive Artistic Director

Dance Party with DJ Glowstik

**Join us for an after-party on Zoom!*

Meeting ID: 932 3971 2745

Passcode: FORTITUDE

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ARTIST INFORMATION

CULTURE SHOCK DC

Culture Shock® DC is a non-profit hip hop dance organization committed to the enrichment, education, entertainment, and empowerment of those in the DMV dance community. We are a troupe of individuals who through the power of music and dance, cultivate self-worth, dignity, and respect for ALL people.

Stephen Lyons II (he/him), Director, is a DMV-based dancer, choreographer, director, and theatre technician. He began his dance journey with Aberdeen Dance Company in high school. Since then he has trained in hip hop dance styles with Phunktions Hip Hop Dance Company and Culture Shock DC.

Stephen is now in his third year as Artistic Director of Culture Shock DC and works to enrich, educate, and entertain his community through dance. He was selected for the 2020 New Releases Choreographer's Showcase. Stephen currently studies Theatre at the University of Maryland. Most recently, he was a recipient of the Vital Signs Mini-Grant from UMD to create a project that affirms black lives. He will present his project later this fall.

BILL SHANNON

Bill Shannon (he/him), Choreographer & Performer, is an interdisciplinary artist and maker who explores body-centric work through video installation, sculpture, linguistics, sociology, choreography, dance and political activism. Bill's contributions to dance over his 30 year freelance career include a very specific movement vocabulary on rocker bottom crutches that he evolved from his creative use of crutches as a child to take weight off of his hips. Bill has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography, a Foundation For Contemporary Art Award for Performance Art, and a United States Artist Award in Dance and has worked as a choreographer and performer for Cirque Du Soleil.

In his Dance Place Gala work, Bill Shannon will continue in his multi-camera, multi-angle approach of capturing dance. This work will recreate the ethereal moving collage, which Dance Place audiences may remember from his November 2018 presentation of *Touch Update*, for a single screen.

DANCE PLACE YOUTH COMPANY

Daché Green (he/him), Choreographer, started at Dance Place in 2014 as an intern in the Creative Education Center. He has gone on to collaborate/perform as a guest with ReVision Dance Company and Coyaba Dance Theater. He has taught all around the Metropolitan area. Daché is now a full time creative artist, director, and dance educator in the DC/metropolitan area.

"I was inspired by my students to create a new piece that has a softer and more fluid side that showcases the steps in a magnified light geared toward control and technical substance. This piece offers a vision to the eye that creates opportunities to imagine the motherland and the many ways we are connected to Africa's beauty."

- Daché Green

ARTIST INFORMATION (continued)

DANCE PLACE YOUTH COMPANY (cont.)

Amira Muhammad (she/her), Performer, has been dancing and performing at Dance Place since she was little. Amira has been performing with DPYC since the company's debut at the Dance Place 2019 Gala. She has been working with Daché for 5 years. She is such a big presence and awesome energy. Amira finds great honor in performing and expressing herself through the arts.

Cairo Waters (she/her), Performer, has been dancing at Dance Place since she was very small. She has performed with the DPYC since the company's debut at the 2019 Dance Place Gala. Cairo has worked with Daché for 5 years. Cairo is very energetic, fun, and loves dancing and performing with a passion.

TZVETA KASSABOVA

Tzveta Kassabova (she/her), Choreographer & Performer, is a Bulgarian born choreographer, costume designer and installation artist, named one of the '25 to watch' in 2012 by Dance Magazine. At different times she has been a gymnast, physicist, and meteorologist. As a dancer, Tzveta has performed for many wonderful dance makers. Her work has been presented throughout the US, Europe and Asia. Tzveta has received multiple awards for performance and choreography. She holds three Masters degrees. Tzveta is thrilled to be teaching at the University of Michigan. Tzveta believes that dance is a visual art form. She has always been fascinated by the concept of space, and is constantly trying to address it, both in her choreography and design.
www.tzvetakassabova.com

Semacio Soto, Mural/Floor Design, is a Detroit based celebrated muralist and musician who performs internationally.

Nicole Denise White (she/her), Mural/Floor Design, is a Junior at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for BFA Interarts Performance. She is from West Palm Beach, Florida where she attended Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts for theatre. Niki has been painting and designing scenery for seven years now including as a University Productions employee in the Paint shop. She is also a performer, videographer, and visual artist.

David Forsee (they/them), Videography/editing, is a multi-hyphenate performer, writer, and video designer for stage and screen. Their works critically examine identity, queer the normal conventions of art-making, and causes a lot of headaches for big institutions. They've produced original solo performances, guerilla interventions on city streets, and been on fellowship to Kennedy Center and the Horizon Theatre in Atlanta. They are currently pursuing a BFA in InterArts Performance from the University of Michigan.

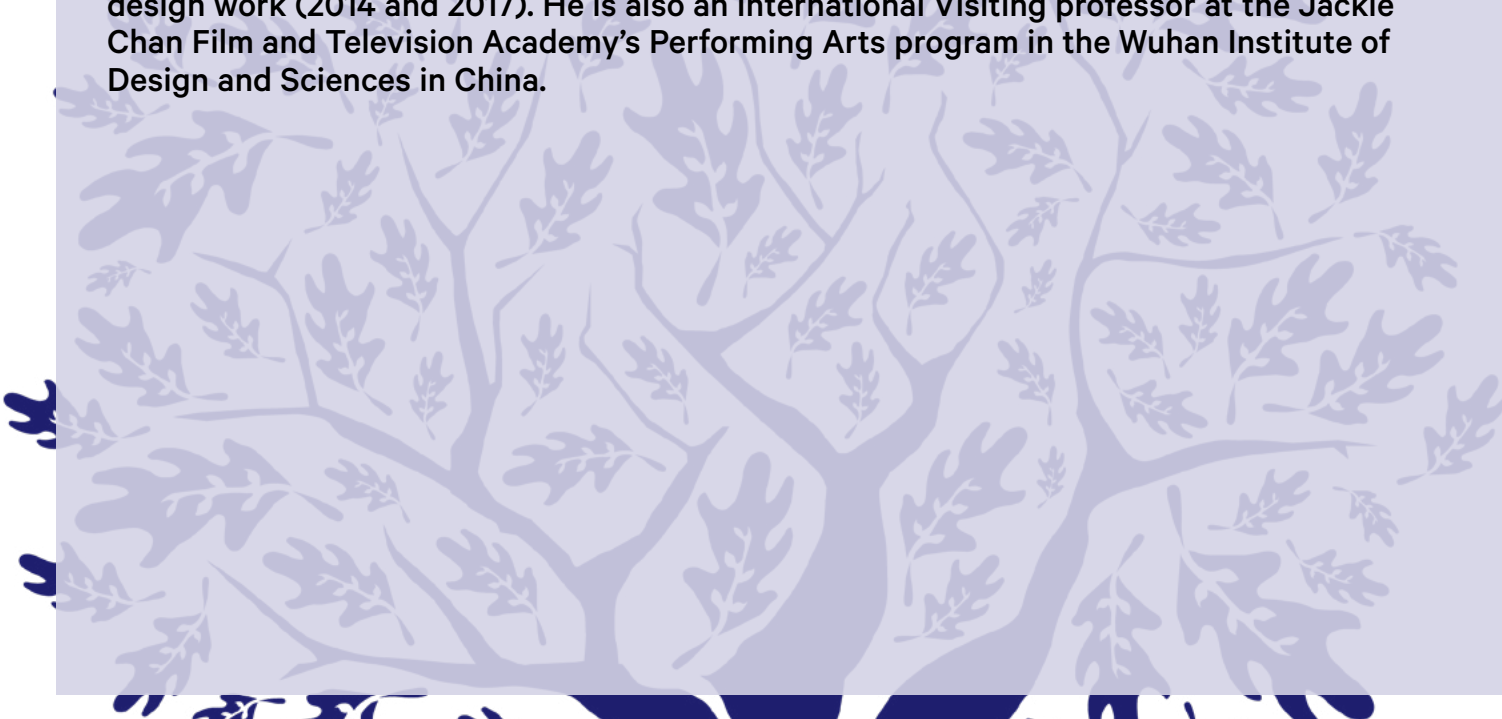
ARTIST INFORMATION (continued)

PROJECT CHARMA

Mariama “Ama” Law (she/they), Choreographer/Performer/Director, began her dance training with Kankouran West African Dance Company, both of her parents were founding members. She graduated with a B.S. in Biology and a certificate in Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland. While at UMD she enjoyed dancing, choreographing and leading Dynamic hip hop dance team. She is co-director of Project ChArma and an alumni of Culture Shock D.C. and Kickrocks crew. Ama is a 2019 MFA dance graduate at UMD. She is also a passionate educator currently teaching at Dance Place DC, UMD & American University. Ama always searches for new avenues to provide inspiration to the future generation of movers to not only become fierce but, knowledgeable individuals.

Chris Law (he/him), Co-Director, has a foundation in various styles of hip hop dance through self-training and community involvement with Culture Shock D.C. & Dynamic hip hop dance team. He is a recent graduate from University of Maryland’s MFA dance program and continues to be present in the DMV community by teaching at Dance Place, Howard Community College as well as working closely with the Dance and Theater departments at Howard University in D.C. Law is co-director of Project ChArma, a collective of teaching artists that present works with the goal of inspiring change and creating space for progressive conversations. He most recently presented Full Circle: Bridging the Gap, an evening-length work at Dance Place in February of 2018 and was commissioned by the Kennedy Center to premier Rooted on Millenium Stage January 18th, 2019.

Matt Reeves (he/him), Media Design, is a choreographer, performer, filmmaker, and mixed media designer. He has been making work collaboratively with Colette Krogol, his partner, for over twelve years as the Artistic Directors of Orange Grove Dance, a multimedia dance company. Reeves holds an MFA in Dance from the University of Maryland and a BFA in Dance from the University of Florida. Reeves is a two-time Helen Hayes Award Nominee in the category of “Outstanding Choreography in a Play” (2019 and 2020), and a two-time New York Innovative Theatre Awards nominee for “Outstanding Innovative Design” for his projection design work (2014 and 2017). He is also an International Visiting professor at the Jackie Chan Film and Television Academy’s Performing Arts program in the Wuhan Institute of Design and Sciences in China.



ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Event Manager: Hannah Church
Virtual Stage Manager: Faryn Kelly
Videographer & Video Editor: Jonathan Hsu
Audio Engineer: Alexander Roberts
Virtual Hosts: Amber Lucia Chabus and Alison Talvacchio

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