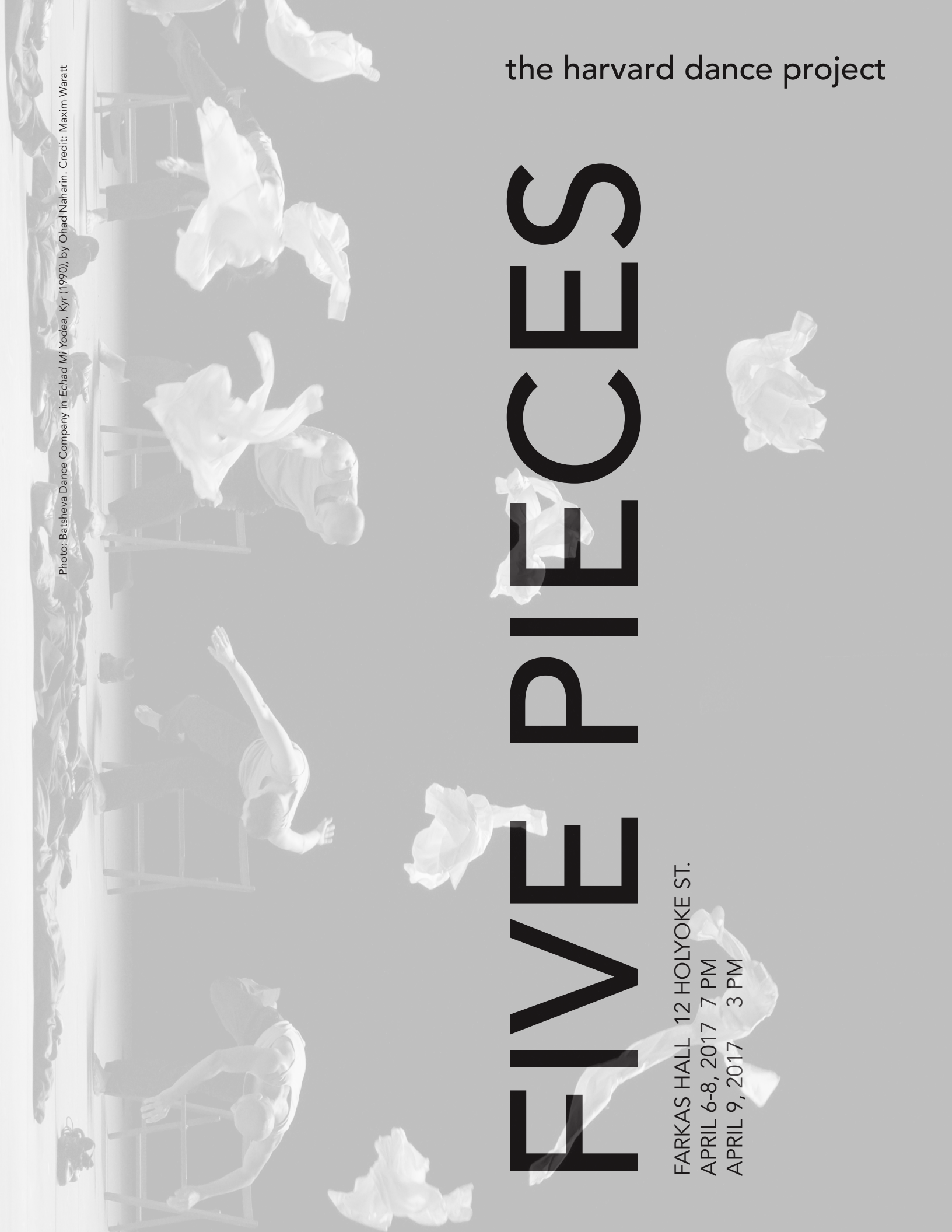


the harvard dance project

FIVE PIECES

FARKAS HALL 12 HOLYOKE ST.
APRIL 6-8, 2017 7 PM
APRIL 9, 2017 3 PM

Photo: Batsheva Dance Company in *Echad Mi Yodea, Kyr* (1990), by Ohad Naharin. Credit: Maxim Waratt



"I want to spend my time
between the creation of ideas
and the creation of things."
—Theaster Gates, visual artist

"The way things work / is that
eventually / something catches."
— Jorie Graham, poet

ARTIST BIOS

Michelle Dorrance, choreographer

Michelle Dorrance is founder and artistic director of Dorrance Dance and one of the most sought-after tap dancers of her generation. In addition to being a Bessie and Princess Grace award winner, Dorrance is a 2015 MacArthur Fellow, 2014 Alpert Award Winner, and 2013 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award Winner. Highlight performances include the 2002 Winter Olympics, the Nijinsky Awards, the Jerry Lewis Telethon, Savion Glover at The Beacon Theatre, the Chicago Human Rhythm Project, the Apollo Theater's 70th Anniversary Concert, and *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*. She performs, teaches, and choreographs throughout the world and has been on faculty at Steps on Broadway, Peridance Center, Duke University, New York University, Barnard College, among others.

William Forsythe, choreographer

William Forsythe has been active in the field of choreography for over 45 years. His work is acknowledged for reorienting the practice of ballet from its identification with classical repertoire to a dynamic 21st-century art form. Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt. After the closure of the Ballet Frankfurt in 2004, Forsythe established a new ensemble, The Forsythe Company, which he directed from 2005 to 2015. Forsythe's most recent works were developed and performed exclusively by The Forsythe Company, while his earlier pieces are prominently featured in the repertoire of virtually every major ballet company in the world. Forsythe is an Honorary Fellow at the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance in London and holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Juilliard School in New York.

Jill Johnson, choreographer and artistic director

Jill Johnson is Dance Director, Office for the Arts Dance Program, Theater Dance & Media, Senior Lecturer, Department of Music/TDM, and Artistic Director of The Harvard Dance Project at Harvard University. She is a 28-year veteran of the dance field; choreographs for film, television, and the stage; has danced in over 50 tours on 5 continents; and was a soloist with the National Ballet of Canada and a principal dancer and researcher in William Forsythe's company Frankfurt Ballet. Johnson stages Forsythe's work worldwide, is a founding collaborator of The Movement Invention Project in New York, and a master teacher at the YoungArts Foundation. She has served on the faculties of and created choreographic work for Princeton University, Columbia University, the Juilliard School and NYU; has created 12 new works at Harvard since 2011; and was commissioned to create a work on Boston Ballet II for a May 2017 premiere. Recent collaborations include those with the Harvard Choruses, Mahindra Humanities Center, Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Bravo Television in Canada, Rover UK, Crossing opera with the American Repertory Theater, Dries Van Noten film for the Louvre – Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Christopher Roman in a new work by William Forsythe titled *Catalogue (First Edition)* which premiered in Germany (Fall 2016) and will be performed at Harvard (April 19-20, 2017) and Sadler's Wells, London (June 23-24, 2017).

Ohad Naharin, choreographer

Ohad Naharin has been hailed as one of the world's preeminent contemporary choreographers and his work stands in the front row of contemporary dance. Since becoming the Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, Naharin has established its status as one of the most beloved and appreciated international dance companies in the world. During his tenure with the company, Naharin choreographed over 30 works for Batsheva and its junior division, Batsheva - the Young Ensemble. Alongside his work as a choreographer, Naharin developed Gaga, an innovative movement language intended for everyone. The dancers of Batsheva Dance Company train with Gaga on a daily basis, and it is also taught to dancers and the public worldwide by certified teachers. His works have been performed by prominent international companies around the world. Naharin's work was documented in several movies. The rehearsal process with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet during a restaging of *Decadance* was the subject of Tomer Heymann's documentary *Out of Focus* (2007). In 2015, the Heymann Brothers' comprehensive documentary about Naharin *Mr. Gaga* was released.

Melinda Sullivan, choreographer

Best known from FOX's *So You Think You Can Dance*, Melinda Sullivan has had a diverse career in dance, television, and theatre. Stage credits include Disney's *High School Musical* franchise, the 25th anniversary tour of *Cats*, and touring with Jason Samuels Smith's tap dance company. Melinda is the recipient of the 2012 Capezio Award for Choreographic Excellence, was named among the "25 to Watch" in *Dance Magazine*, and won the World Dance Award for Best Choreography of Television Episodic the past two years alongside Galen Hooks. TV/ Film credits include *Glee*, *As the World Turns*, *90210*, *The Goldbergs*, *Dancing with the Stars*, and *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*. Melinda is on faculty at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, as well as New York City Dance Alliance.

Jon Gonda, lighting designer

Jon Gonda is a freelance lighting designer, programmer, and production manager based in Boston, MA. He studied computer science and electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he also designed sets and lighting for dance theater productions. He has provided moving light programming services for commercial, theater, dance, galas, and corporate events including Boston Ballet, Doug Varone and Dancers, High Output, Childsplay, and New England Conservatory.

The Harvard Dance Project

FIVE PIECES

Co-presented by:
Office for the Arts at Harvard Dance Program,
Department of Music, and Theater, Dance & Media.

FIVE PIECES is supported in part by the Blodgett Distinguished Artist Program and the Bromley Innovation Fund for Dance at Harvard University.

Thursday-Saturday, April 6-8 at 7 PM
Sunday, April 9 at 3 PM

I RAISE HELL

Choreography: Michelle Dorrance & Melinda Sullivan
Music: *I Raise Hell*, Squirrel Nut Zippers
Lighting Design: Jon Gonda
Premiere: April 10, 2015, Harvard Dance Project,
Harvard Dance Center, Cambridge, MA.

Dancers: Julia Cataldo '15, Aysha Upchurch GSE '15

DEGREES OF DIFFERENCE

Choreography: Jill Johnson
Music: *If I Told Him: A Completed Portrait of Picasso*,
Gertrude Stein
Lighting Design: Jon Gonda
Premiere: April 10, 2015, Harvard Dance Project,
Harvard Dance Center, Cambridge, MA.

Dancers: Lauren Balbus '17, Margaret Canady '20,
Karen Huang GSAS '19, João Paulo Krug Paiva '20,
Genevieve Lefevre '19, Mara Milner '20, Anna Riley-Shepard '17,
Neta Singer (Northeastern) '20, Ilya Vidrin HGSE '15

"Miracles play.
Play fairly well.
A well.
As well.
As or as presently.
Let me recite what history teaches.
History teaches."
-Gertrude Stein

THE VILE PARODY OF ADDRESS (EXCERPT)

Choreography: William Forsythe
Staged by: Jill Johnson
Music: Fugue from No. 22 in B-Flat Minor, BWV 867, J.S. Bach:
The Well-Tempered Clavier, Books I & II, BWV 846-893,
Glenn Gould
Original Lighting Design: William Forsythe
Premiere: November 26, 1988, Ballet Frankfurt,
Opernhaus Frankfurt, Germany

Dancers: Lauren Balbus '17, Langston Ward '17

"I believe that we learn by practice. Whether it means to learn to dance by practicing dancing or to learn to live by practicing living, the principles are the same. In each, it is the performance of a dedicated precise set of acts, physical or intellectual, from which comes shape of achievement, a sense of one's being, a satisfaction of spirit."
– Martha Graham

“Ask a big enough question,
and you will need more than
one discipline to answer it.”

– Liz Lerman, choreographer

“The body is my favorite place
to explore failure. Beauty, as
far as I’m concerned, can be an
afterthought.”

– Lauren Simpson, HGSE '11

“Still, there is at least a certain
infinity about artistic practice,
and maybe that, for me, is
connected to that privacy part
too that I so adore. As long as I
have it in my little world and it’s
not defined in the public sphere,
it can stay infinite, because I
don’t have to call it anything.”

– Ralph Lemon, choreographer

DANCE STAFF, FACULTY, AND PRODUCTION CREW

Dance Director, Office for the Arts Dance Program, Theater Dance & Media; Senior Lecturer, Department of Music/TDM; Artistic Director, Harvard Dance Project: **Jill Johnson**
Lecturer on Theater, Dance & Media: **Mario Zambrano**
Administrative Manager for Dance: **Liz Rosenthal**
Program Assistant for Dance: **Elizabeth Epsen**
Teaching Fellow: **Whitney Cover**
Production Manager & Lighting Designer: **Jon Gonda**
Stage Manager: **Jackie Fulton**
Costume Supervisor: **Yuri Cataldo**
Sound Design: **Greg Echelberger**
Production Electrician: **Harrison Burke**
Stage Crew: **Clara Rhee**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Catalogue (First Edition)

Choreography by William Forsythe
Featuring Christopher Roman and Jill Johnson

Presented by Harvard University Committee on the Arts.

April 19-20, 2017

Events include:

Performances at Widener Library Rotunda (open to Harvard ID holders) and Harvard Dance Center (open to the public)

Open house master class with Jill Johnson and Christopher Roman at Harvard Art Museums

Please visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance for a detailed schedule and to reserve tickets.

Emerging Choreographers Showings

Arts @ 29 Garden

April 28-29, 2017

Visit ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance for details.

Spring 2017 Emerging Choreographers:

Lauren Balbus '17 and Talia Rothstein '17
Gabriella Czarniak '17
Miriam Huettner '17

Spring 2017 Mentors:

Jill Johnson and Mario Zambrano

ARTS FIRST

April 27-30, 2017

Harvard University's annual festival celebrating student and faculty creativity.

For more information call 617.495.8676 or visit the ARTS FIRST website: ofa.fas.harvard.edu/arts

Harvard University encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact 617.495.8683 or dance@fas.harvard.edu in advance of your participation or visit.

ECHAD MI YODEA, (KYR from 1990)

Choreography: Ohad Naharin

Music: *Hava Nagila*, traditional song arranged and performed by Dick Dale. *Echad Mi Yodea*, traditional song arranged and performed by Tractor's Revenge and Ohad Naharin
Original Lighting Design: Avi Yona Bueno (Bambi)
Staged by: Bobbi Jene Smith and Mario Zambrano
Artistic Coordinator of Gaga: Aya Israeli
Premiere: *Kyr*, Batsheva Dance Company, June 8, 1990, Jerusalem Theatre, Jerusalem

Dancers: Lauren Balbus '17, Kelsey Berry GSAS '18, Margaret Canady '20, Hannah Firestone '16, Bruno Gallegos '18, Karen Huang GSAS '19, Benjamin Korta HDS '18, João Paulo Krug Paiva '20, Genevieve Lefevre '19, Mara Milner '20, Ida Paul '20, Anna Riley-Shepard '17, Talia Rothstein '17, Sofie Rose Seymour '16, Neta Singer (Northeastern) '20, Ilya Vidrin HGSE '15

BEAUTY & FAILURE

Choreography: The Harvard Dance Project dancers

Directed by: Jill Johnson

Music: *Untitled Transient*, Ben Frost. *Scott for Jill*, Thom Willems
Lighting Design: Jon Gonda

Premiere: April 6, 2017, The Harvard Dance Project, Farkas Hall

Dancers: Michelle Bentsman HDS '19, Margaret Canady '20, Darien Carr '17, Cengiz Cemaloğlu '18, Hannah Firestone '16, Daniel Getega '19, Tabaré Gowon '12, Karen Huang GSAS '19, La'Toya Princess Jackson HES '18, Benjamin Korta HDS '18, Genevieve Lefevre '19, Mara Milner '20, João Paulo Krug Paiva '20, Ida Paul '20, Anna Riley-Shepard '17, Elena Rykova MG1, Sofie Rose Seymour '16, Ilya Vidrin HGSE '15

Remote Collaborators: Irineo Cabrerros '13, Lauren Simpson HGSE '11, Rossi Lamont Walter '14

Beauty and failure were semester-long research prompts for the Harvard Dance Project. These themes served as points of departure for the creation of a series of one minute-solos created and co-curated by student choreographers whose academic research also encompasses music, computer programming, mathematics, philosophy, science, history, education, literature, anthropology, neuroscience, theology, and government.

ABOUT THE HARVARD DANCE PROJECT

The Harvard Dance Project cultivates invention and fosters the courage of artistry. This faculty-led performance company gives students the opportunity to be original cast members and collaborators in two or more diverse dance works created by preeminent professional choreographers. The project focuses on performance research, collaboration, choreographic composition, and links choreographic thinking to other fields. It is a studio-based course which includes at least 12 performances at major venues on campus.

For information on dance credit courses, non-credit classes, master classes, performances, and more, visit:
ofa.fas.harvard.edu/dance
tdm.fas.harvard.edu
music.fas.harvard.edu