

Queensborough Community College Dance Program  
Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance  
presents

# Dance Workshop 2024



Photo by Leonardo Correa

May 9th and 10th, 2024  
8:00pm  
Queensborough Community College



**QUEENSBOROUGH** | **CU**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE | **NY**

Sponsored by **The Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance and the Dance Residency Program through the Queensborough Student Association**

*Dance Workshop Directors: Emily Berry and Aviva Geismar*  
*Health, Physical Education and Dance Department Chair: Andrea Salis*

*Stage Manager: Inty Sinche*

*Assistant Stage Manager: Sanaya Pearson*

*Lighting Design: Vamir*

## — PROGRAM —

### **1. Quintessence: Elements Of Empowerment (2024)**

*Director: Kevin McEwen*

*Rehearsal Coordinator: Vanessa Whyte*

*Choreography: Kevin McEwen, Olivia Burke, Elaine Alvear, Gabriela Moore, Briana Glover, Sarah Reyes Rivera*

*Performers: : Elaine Alvear, Olivia Burke, Briana Glover, Gabriela Moore, Sarah Reyes Rivera*

*Musicians: Stephan Litzsey, Josh Hinds*

*Recorded Music: Saa Magni (1993) by Oumou Sangaré, The Jump Off (2003) by Lil' Kim, Oh No (2019) featuring Estelle by KAYTRANADA, MOVE (2022) featuring Grace Jones & Tems by Beyoncé, Toast (2018) by Koffee, Diva (2008) by Beyoncé, See-Line Woman - Riton Remix (2022) by Nina Simon & Riton*

### **2. Language of Myself (2024)**

*Choreography and Performance: Reyona Oyama*

*Music: Yourself Grirane by Track ID1 (feat. Rita Mdn)/ Mr. ID*

### **3. Out A Line**

*Choreography: Robert Battle*

*Music: Carl Landa*

*Adaptation: Erika Pujic*

*Rehearsal Director: Emily Berry*

*Performers: Tiana Angevine, Olivia Burke, Crishna King, Tatiyana James, Amaya Thompson, Quincy Vincent, Katrina Weeks*



### **4. Silly Me (premiere)**

*Choreography and Performance: Elaine Alvear*

*Music: Green Eyes by Erykah Badu*

—PAUSE—

## 5. *Dis Place: the Favelas (premiere)*

*Choreography:* **Aviva Geismar** in collaboration with the performers

*Performers:* **Tatiana James, Crishna King, Gabriela Moore, Reyona Oyama, Victoria Paredes, Katrina Weeks**

*Music:* *I Wrote a Story About You Without You* by Jonah Parzen-Johnson,  
*Anthracite Fields: Flowers* by Julia Wolff

This piece is grounded in the first hand experience of living in overcrowded environments, as well as observations of the endurance of people living in the favelas/shanty towns outside Rio de Janeiro.

## 6. *Finding My Voice*

*Choreography and Performance:* **Lizbhet Grande**

*Music:* *snowfall* by Øneheart x reidensh, *Head Up* by Miso, *Alone* by Miso

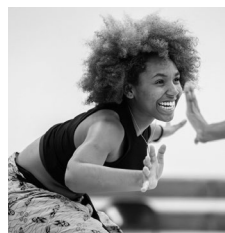
*Dramaturgy:* **Katrina Weeks**

## 7. *TWenTy- fiVe*

*Choreography and Performance:* **Katrina Weeks**

*Music:* *Journey* by Naomi Rain

Spoken Word and Sound Engineering: **Katrina Weeks**



## 8. *Path to P[e]ace (2023)*

*Choreography:* **Tatiana Desardouin / Passion Fruit Dance Company**

*Assistant choreographer:* **Lauriane Ogay**

*Performance:* **Elaine Alvear, Tiana Angevine, Briana Glover, Brandon Lee, Reyona Oyama, Victoria Paredes, Sarah Reyes Rivera, Amaya Thompson, Quincy Vincent**

*Music:* Music partially produced by Avi Goldstein (1st track and transitions),

*Gratitude ft The Hics* by Little Simz, *It is what it is* By Fred P

*Music editing:* **Avi Goldstein**

By fear of judgment, culture or pride, we often refuse the help even if we need it. Sometimes it's hard to know how or when to support someone and it often takes more than one person.

This work premiered at ADF in 2023 as part of the Footprints program.

## **BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Robert Battle** became artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in July 2011 after being personally selected by Judith Jamison, making him only the third person to head the Company since it was founded in 1958. He left the position in fall 2023. A frequent choreographer and artist-in-residence at Ailey since 1999, he has set many of his works on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey

II, and at The Ailey School. The Company's current repertory includes his ballets *Awakening*, *No Longer Silent*, and *The Hunt*. Mr. Battle's journey to the top of the modern dance world began in the Liberty City neighborhood of Miami, Florida. He showed artistic talent early and studied dance at a high school arts magnet program before moving on to Miami's New World School of the Arts, under the direction of Daniel Lewis and Gerri Houlihan, and finally to the dance program at The Juilliard School. He danced with The Parsons Dance Company from 1994 to 2001, and also set his choreography on that company starting in 1998. Mr. Battle then founded his own Battleworks Dance Company, which made its debut in 2002 in Düsseldorf, Germany, as the U.S. representative to the World Dance Alliance's Global Assembly. Battleworks subsequently performed extensively at venues including The Joyce Theater, Dance Theater Workshop, American Dance Festival, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival.

Mr. Battle was honored as one of the "Masters of African-American Choreography" by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2005, and he received the prestigious Statue Award from the Princess Grace Foundation-USA in 2007. In 2014 he received an honorary doctorate from The University of the Arts. Mr. Battle was named a 2015 Visiting Fellow for The Art of Change, an initiative by the Ford Foundation.

**Emily Berry** is the Founding Director of B3W Performance Group. Founded in 2006, B3W Performance Group (B3W) is a social impact arts organization committed to collaboration, reflecting and revealing the world we live in through community-building workshops and multi-disciplinary performances. The company co-creates devised intermedia performance. The recipient of multiple grants and commissions, some highlights include, the Mondo Cane Commission at Dixon Place for Confined (2010) and The Forgiveness Project, influenced by a world tour of Community Forgiveness Workshops, Part I: Forgiving the Personal, premiered at Tribeca Performing Arts Center May 2016. The company premiered Forgiveness Part II: Reframing Forgiveness: For Practical Use in Dismantling Systemic Racism at Jamaica Performing Arts Center, in February 2020 with a grant from the Queens Council on the Arts. B3W premiered, Forgiveness: Allowing Joy to Reside, at Green Space in June 2022. Emily is currently performing with danceTactics Performance Group/Keith A. Thompson. Emily is an associate professor of dance at Queensborough Community College

Originally from Switzerland, now based in NYC, **Tatiana Desardouin** has won many notorious street dance competitions such as "Juste Debout" in Marseille, (France), "Just for Laughs" in Montreal (Canada) Clash in Session in Copenhagen (Denmark) etc... She has taught & judged competitions in places such as Peru, Japan, Italy, France, Switzerland, Austria, Canada and in the USA (Detroit, Philadelphia, New York, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire...).

Dance instructor for 12 years, Tatiana had the opportunity to teach in several dance schools in Switzerland and contemporary dance companies such as L'estuaire, Alias and to young contemporary dancers at "L'école des Arts Appliquées." She is also highly

involved in the hip-hop and house community: in Switzerland through JAIA non-profit organization who promotes hip-hop culture in Switzerland (Battles, sessions, parties) and through her classes around the world.

She is the co-founder of the first hip-hop company in Switzerland “Continuum,” co-founder of the Hip-Hop dance school in Geneva, “Le Centre Hip-Hop” and founder of the Hip-Hop theater dance company “Passion Fruit” which offers dance theater performances and education programs which empower people through dance.

Tatiana received a 2022 New York Dance and Performance Award (aka Bessie Award), was selected as one of Dance Magazine’s 2020 “25 to Watch”, featured in The New Yorker magazine for the “Goings on about town” in 2021, Harper’s Bazaar in 2021 and was awarded The Vilcek Foundation’s Prize for Creative Promise in Dance in 2022. As a guest artist and adjunct professor, she has taught at Dartmouth University, American University, Connecticut College, and Mount Holyoke College. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at Springfield College and has been a member of the 92Y’s faculty since 2022. Tatiana was member of Rennie Harris Puremovement (2016-2021), and has been a member of Nefer Global Movement collective since 2018, LayeRhythm Experiment Company since 2019, and Black Dancing Bodies since 2021.

**Aviva Geismar** is an Associate Professor at QCC and the coordinator of the Dance Program. She also directs the contemporary dance company Drastic Action. Aviva’s dances have been performed at many national and international venues such as “Inside/Out” at Jacob’s Pillow, “Fresh Tracks” at Dance Theater Workshop, Dance New Amsterdam, The Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center, Philadelphia Fringe Festival, Studio 303 (Montreal) and Dance Place (DC). In 2005 she was included in *Dance Magazine’s 25 to Watch Series* which recognizes notable dance artists throughout the nation. Tom Strini of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* wrote “Geismar’s dead-on understanding of social realities is like a poke in the ribs.... In life and in Geismar’s dances tragedy and comedy can be hard to sort out.”

Between 2006 and 2010 Drastic Action performed and implemented Geismar’s successful creative dance curriculum in public schools throughout Germany through “Dancing to Connect,” a project developed in partnership with Battery Dance Company. Geismar has been commissioned by many colleges, dance companies and presenting organizations including Rutgers University, University of Maryland, and Dancing in the Streets. She has been a resident artist at HERE Arts Center and at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. Geismar was a guest faculty member at Ursinus College and an adjunct at Marymount Manhattan College.

**Kevin McEwen** is a native of Brooklyn, New York. His dance training is focused with traditional African dance techniques from the countries of Mali and Senegal. His choreographic work highlights topics of social justice, cultural appropriation and ancestral memory, using dance as a creative form of expression. Kevin is a full-time Lecturer of African Diasporic Dance in the Department of Music, Multimedia, Theater & Dance at Lehman College and an Adjunct Lecturer at QCC.

As a lecturer in traditional African dance ethnography, Kevin has presented his research

at several conferences, including the Season of Dance in Barbados and the African Theater Associations Annual International Conference in Abjua, Nigeria. Kevin created a foundation for him to provide mentorship to four young boys from the Southside of Chicago which inspired the film, “Walk All Night: A Drum Beat Journey,” which documents the sojourn of these young men back to Senegal, West Africa to study the musical and cultural traditions of the Gewel (Griot) caste of musicians. McEwen holds an MA in Dance Education from New York University’s Steinhardt School of Education.

**Erika Pujic** began her dance training at the School of Cleveland Ballet. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Juilliard School where she was the recipient of the Martha Hill Award. Upon graduation, Ms. Pujic danced with Gloria Marina’s Spanish Dance Ensemble performing in New Jersey Opera’s “Carmen”. She was a principal dancer and rehearsal director for Henning Rubsam’s SENSEDANCE for seven years. Ms. Pujic was a founding member and rehearsal director for Battleworks Dance Company during its 10 year span (2000-2010). She has been an integral part of the creation of many works for Robert Battle and she has been dancing and setting his works for over 24 years. She was a Visiting Guest Professor at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque for the Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 semesters. She has created works for The Ailey School, Marymount Manhattan College, Long Island University Brooklyn Campus, University of New Mexico, ABT’s Summer Intensives, Summer Arts Institute, Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School and New York State Summer School of the Arts. Erika is a full time lecturer at Skidmore College.

**Vir-Amicus** (*Lighting Design*) is a creator of experience that is a vessel for the artistic expression and manifestation of life. Hailing from the great mountains of Houston, TX born and breaded and simmered in California for 11 years. Now nearing 20 years as a Bronx based resident /artist. BFA- Dance (CalArts) and M.A. Experimental Performance Institute at New College of California

Singer/Songwriter/Dj/Composer - Interdisciplinary performing artist - Lighting Designer/Sound Tech: Vocal Performance fellowship BRIO (Bronx Recognizes It’s Own) and MAP Fund Grant (music Composition), Stage Manager National Black “125th & FREEdom”, Los Nutcrackers - A Xmas Carajo, VISIONS Contemporary Ballet, 2021 Commissioned Original music featured at Making Moves Dance Festival in collaboration with grant recipient VISIONS Contemporary Ballet. Fall 2021 presented an evening length solo show of original music and songs with Live Video Artist collaborator, Mikhail Torich “A Twist in Perception (& Intergalactic Satisfactions)”. Resident Lighting Designers/Sound Design for VISIONS Contemporary Ballet (Ranardo-Dimeoco Gray’s - Artistic Director)and Richard Rivera/Physual. Premiered original music for VISIONS Contemporary Ballet Fall 2023 Performance of “Backbone” and Summer 2023 Concept/ Staging - Lighting Designer for “The Decade from Hell” Johnny Cruise Mercer) and Winter 2023 Lighting Designers and DJ/Sound Designers for the work “REVIVAL: to those who have seed in the ground”. It is a great and wondrous pleasure to be with QCC for a 2nd season designing the lights and performing alongside creating art with each act. Keep shining and shaking the (heart) beat of Life and Movement.

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## Students Performers

Photos by Leonardo Correa



*Amaya Thompson*



*Brandon Lee*



*Briana Glover*



*Crishna Cruz*



*Elaine Alvear*



*Gabriela Moore*



*Katrina Weeks*



*Lizbhet Grande*



*Olivia Burke*



*Quincy Vincent*



*Reyona Oyama*



*Sarah Reyes Rivera*



*Tatiyana James*



*Tiana Angevine*



*Victoria Paredes*

## **DONATE TO THE QUEENSBOROUGH DANCE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND!**

Summer is an important time for our students to work on their dance skills. They attend summer workshops throughout NYC and beyond, but these programs are expensive. Attending summer dance workshops is often a crucial ingredient for students who are admitted to and receive scholarships to the outstanding 4-year dance programs to which they aspire. Their summer study, at this point in their training, is crucial. Please consider making a donation of any size to the Queensborough Dance Student Scholarship Fund, so these talented, passionate young people can pursue their dream of a career in dance. **Donations should be made payable to Queensborough Community College and please write "Dance Auxiliary Fund" in the memo line.**

*Checks can be mailed to:*

**Aviva Geismar, Dance Program Coordinator**

**Queensborough Community College  
Department Of Health, Physical Education, And Dance  
RFK Hall Room 216  
222-05 56th Avenue  
Bayside, NY 11364**

*The QCC Dance Program would like to thank the QCC Massage Therapy Students and Professor Isabella Lizzul for the crucial support they provide to the dance students all year long.*

**Dr. Christine Mangino, President**



222-05 56th Avenue, Bayside, NY 11364  
[www.qcc.cuny.edu](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu)