

**BRYANT  
PARK** **PICNIC**  
PERFORMANCES

Presented by **BANK OF AMERICA**

**vildwerk.**<sup>®</sup>

**June 5, 2026 at 7.00pm**  
**DANCING FOR THE WILD**





Image by Martin Broen

# Dancing for The Wild

June 5, 2026

Bryant Park Picnic Performances

Presented by Bank of America

**Order of Program**

**Approximately 90 minutes**

**Moss Anthology:**

**Variation #5b (2024)**

**Fists and Feathers (A Work In Process)**

**Intersections of Life**

**Monarcas**

**Six Breaths**

**When the Water Breaks**

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## CONSERVATION TAKES THE STAGE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Dancing for the Wild at Bryant Park's Picnic Performances presented by Bank of America with **vildwerk**. Tonight is a dream come true.

Founded just three years ago with a simple yet urgent mission — to inspire environmental conservation awareness through dance — **vildwerk** has already presented two sold-out seasons in this beautiful city while reaching audiences nationally and internationally. We believe that the arts can move people in ways that facts and statistics alone cannot: that dance can open hearts, spark dialogue, and remind us of our deep connection to the natural world, of which we are all a part.

To now be presenting an entire evening at this iconic New York stage, accessible to all New Yorkers, fills me with enormous gratitude and joy. Tonight is a celebration of togetherness, beauty, hope, and the goodness that can happen when artists and communities come together.

My deepest thanks to Tiffany Rea-Fisher, Dan Fishman, Natalie Pan, Gemma Fahy, and Maeve DeFronzo for their incredible support and belief in our mission. Thank you to our extraordinary team, board, partners, and supporters who make this work possible.

Most of all, thank you to the artists. You are the dreamers who transform ideas into something living and unforgettable on stage. The arts are among the most powerful forces in the world because they stir the soul.

If even one person leaves tonight inspired to learn more about conservation, support an environmental organization, or make even the smallest change to care for our beautiful planet, then vildwerk has fulfilled its purpose.

Thank you for being here with us tonight. We hope to see you again on January 21, 2027, at our winter season at New York City Center.

With gratitude,

*Chiara Gorodesky*  
Chiara Gorodesky  
Founder **vildwerk**.

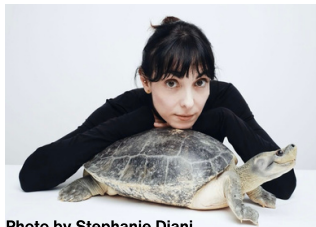


Photo by Stephanie Diani

# SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 21, 2027

# DANCING FOR THE WILD AT



# MOSS ANTHOLOGY: VARIATION #5 (2024)



This performance is dedicated to the children of the world, and Katsi Cook (Wolf Clan Mohawk)

Image by Hisae Aihara

**Choreography:** Jacquelyn Buglisi

**Commissioned Composer:** Jeff Beal

**Original Lighting Design:** Jack Mehler

**Projection Design:** Wendall K. Harrington, not seen in this performance...

**Costume Design:** A. Christina Giannini

**Rehearsal Director:** Jessica Sgambelluri

**Performed by:** Lauren Jaeger, Lindsay Jorgensen, Isabella Pagano, Kate Reyes  
Ane Arrieta, Grace Sautter, Ashley Bromfield, Apprentice Emelyn Urdahl

Rock, Ritual, Earth, Tree, Ritual 2, Gaia



The Moss project is an awakening that seeks to bring awareness through dance to the current global environmental crises that threatens the existence of all life on our planet. Buglisi honors Potawatomi author and botanist Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer whose “Gathering Moss” draws on the wisdom of indigenous ways of knowing and scientific knowledge for the sustainability of humanity through the practice of reciprocity. This variation of the Moss Anthology is especially created for vildwerk., Buglisi celebrates composer Jeff Beal and projection designer Wendall Harrington, who invited BDT to be in residence at the Yale School of Drama. “It is an enlightening experience working with film composer Jeff Beal, whose films illuminate social and environmental issues. We began our collaboration while BDT was in residence at UCSB during the very tragic time of mudslides and wildfires in Southern California near his home at the time. He is a true humanitarian.” – jb The original creation of “Moss Anthology: Variation#5” is made possible through a choreographer/composer commissioning grant from the O’Donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation. BDT is grateful to the Howard Gilman Foundation for hosting a residency at the White Oak Conservation Center that provided creative exploration in the heart of the natural world.

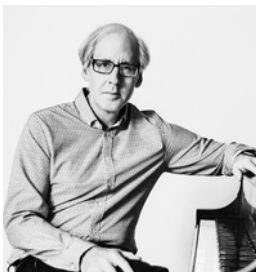
The award-winning Buglisi Dance Theatre is renowned for poignant theatrical dances on the human condition that speak to critical issues and emotions of our time, from social justice to climate change. BDT was co-founded in 1993/94 by Artistic Director Jacquelyn Buglisi, with Capucilli, Dakin and Foreman, in NYC, where it has presented 32 seasons at such venues as The Joyce Theater, New Victory Theater, New York Live Arts, Ailey Citigroup Theater. On tour, BDT has performed nationally and internationally. Commissions include Alvin Ailey, Richmond Ballet, UCSB, MMMC, and Ice Theater of NY. BDT builds the legacy of American culture through its interactive educational programs and is honored to be included in the Graham100 celebrations. In partnership with Lincoln Center, BDT presents the Table of Silence Project 9/11 performance ritual and Call to Action to Peace reaching over 4 million viewers via live stream in 235 countries/territories. In production is a documentary on the Table of Silence for the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Save the Date! BDT’s NYC season at the Ailey Citigroup Theater, June 23-24, 2026. [buglisdance.org](http://buglisdance.org) | [tableofsilence.org](http://tableofsilence.org)



Image by Hisae Aihara

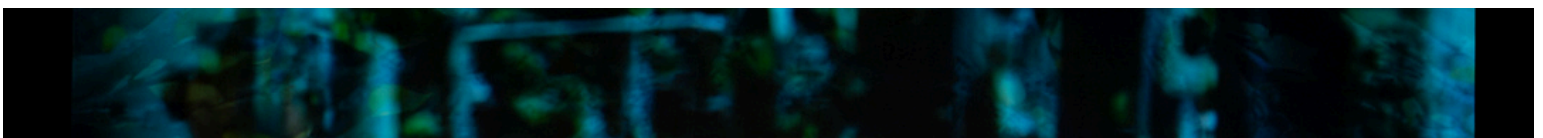


**Jacquelyn Buglisi**, Founder/Artistic Director/Educator/Mentor has had a profound impact on the field of dance over her five-decade career. She has been honored with the Juilliard President's Medal, a Bessie Award for the Table of Silence Project, and a Martha Hill Award. A former principal dancer with the MGDC, Ms. Buglisi has created over 100 ballets for BDT, many of which are archived in the Jerome Robbins Dance Division/NY Public Library. Ms. Buglisi's works have been commissioned and performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, MGDC, The Juilliard School, Jacob's Pillow, The Joyce Theater, and the NY Flamenco Festival at Sadler's Wells; and have been seen on the stages of the Koch Theater at Lincoln Center, BAM and NY City Center. Her artistic collaborators include composers/musicians Jeff Beal, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Paola Prestini, John Ragusa, spoken word artist Marc Bamuthi Joseph, videographer Nel Shelby, filmmaker Lukas Hauser, and environmental artist Jacobo Borges, to name a few. A master teacher of Graham technique for 50 years, she is Chair of the Graham Department at The Ailey School and has taught on faculty at Juilliard, Martha Graham School, and in residencies at Yale, SUNY Purchase, Aspen Festival, and Chautauqua. Among her honors are the Arnhold Dance Innovation Fund award, Kaatsbaan Playing Field Award, and NEA fellowships.



**Jeff Beal** is a composer of music for film, television, recordings, and the concert hall and is a five-time Emmy® winner. Mr. Beal explores the themes of nature and our relationship to it through his scores for "Blackfish", Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Sequel", and "The Biggest Little Farm". In 2024, he made his Carnegie Hall debut in the live-to-picture premiere of his new score for "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari". His latest recording, New York Etudes, is a collection of solo piano works, and has already had 7 million streams on Apple Classical. He is currently composing a sax concerto for Branford Marsalis and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Choreography copyright © Jacquelyn Buglisi 2019 Music copyright © Jeff Beal 2019, Courtesy of E.C. Schirmer Classical

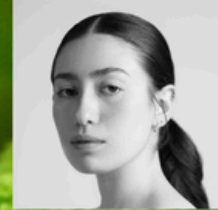




Lauren Marie Jaeger



Kate Reyes



Isabella Pagano



Lindsay Jorgensen



Ane Arrieta



Grace Sautter



Ashley Bromfield



Emelyn Urdahl

**Lauren Marie Jaeger** is a Marymount Manhattan College graduate, and joined BDT in 2005. She is the rehearsal director for *Table of Silence*, and regisseur for BDT and Suzzanne Ponomarenko Dance. She has performed/taught with MOMIX, Michael Mao Dance, SPDance, PCDC; is an adjunct professor at MMC, and teaches for STEPS, The Joffrey Ballet School, and Peridance.

**Kate Reyes** is an alumna of LaGuardia HS and Marymount Manhattan College. In 2021 she joined Buglisi Dance Theatre, Martha Graham Dance Company, and Suzzanne Ponomarenko Dance. Ms. Reyes is on faculty at LaGuardia HS and teaches at Lincoln Center pipeline, Covenant Ballet Theatre, Martha Graham School, Steps on Broadway and MOVE(NYC)

**Isabella Pagano** is a NYC-based dancer, holding a B.F.A. in Dance from Purchase College. Her passion for dance was first cultivated by National Dance Institute, and grew through her training at LaGuardia High School. She is a current apprentice with the Martha Graham Dance Company and headed into her fifth season with Buglisi Dance Theatre.

**Lindsay Jorgensen** joined BDT in 2019. She dances with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Ballet Nepantla, and MorDance, and previously with American Repertory Ballet. She has appeared at Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, and Battery Dance Festival in works by Ailey, Taylor, Trusnovac, and White-Maguire. She holds a summa cum laude BFA from Ailey/Fordham.

**Ane Arrieta**, a Rhode Island native and dual Spain-US citizen, is a company member with the Martha Graham Dance Company, performing internationally in soloist roles. She has performed with Buglisi Dance Theatre since 2022. She holds a BFA from the Hart School and has danced with Newport Contemporary Ballet and Graham 2.

**Grace Sautter**, a NYC native, trained at Steps on Broadway, LaGuardia High School, and graduated the Fordham/Ailey BFA Program. She has performed works by Fosse, Jerome Robbins, Paul Taylor, José Limón, and others. She is a member of Buglisi Dance Theatre and is an Apprentice with the Martha Graham Dance Company.

**Ashley Bromfield**, from Kingston, Jamaica, joined BDT in 2024, and is a member of Urban Bush Women, Martha Graham Dance Apprentice Fellow and former Soloist of the NDTC Jamaica. She's performed choreographies for Hope Boykin, Juliano Nunes, Rex Nettleford et al. Her passion pursuits include poetry, choreographing, creative directing and community programming.

**Emelyn Urdahl** graduated from the Fordham/Ailey BFA program with degrees in Dance and Economics. She is currently training at the Martha Graham School and dancing with Graham 2. Emelyn is a member of Pangea Dance Collective and has been an apprentice with Buglisi Dance Theatre since June 2025.

# FISTS AND FEATHERS (A Work In Process)



Images by Shaaz Jung

A contemporary ballet inspired by the power, elegance, and mystique of the black panther. The work explores themes of vigilance, solitude, and strength. The choreography shifts between stealth and explosive physicality, capturing both the ferocity and grace of the animal spirit it evokes. World Premiere for vildwerk.s Dancing for The Wild on June 5, 2026.

**Choreography by Bradley Shelver**

**Performed by Artists of Joffrey Concert Group: Annika Davis, Sydney Williams, Sophia Shane, Emma Rosay, Andrea Mendoza, Leo Freude, Pearl Madnick, Jake McCullough, Josh McCooey, Charlie Klepner, Nicolas Pacholoc & Andrew Kahl.**

**Music by Bryce Dessner, Teho Teardo, and Gabriel Prokofiev**

**Costumes by Erica Johnston and Bradley Shelver**

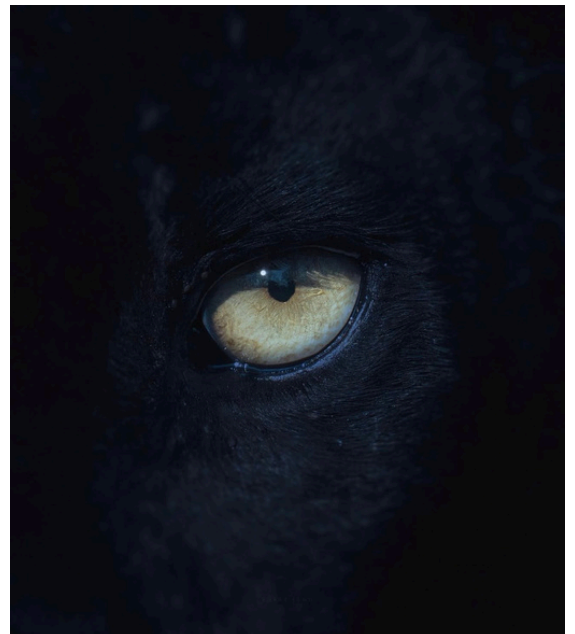


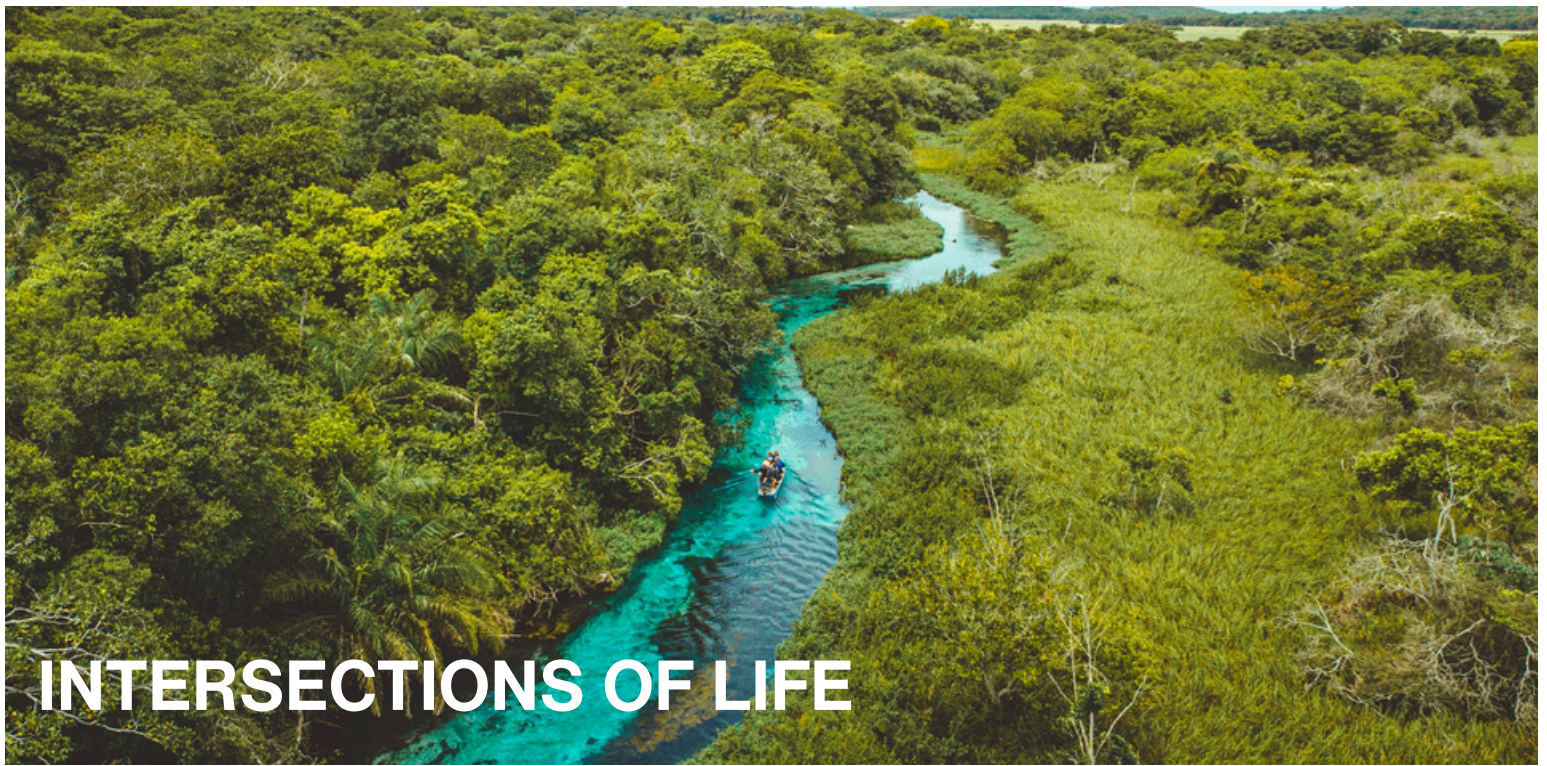


Image by Layla Shoobridge

**Bradley Shelver** (South Africa) trained at the National School of the Arts in Johannesburg and at The Ailey School in New York. He has danced with the Ailey II, Elisa Monte Dance, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Ballet Hispanico, The Francesca Harper Project, Limón Dance Company, Phoenix Dance Theater (UK), and in projects with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Co., Lar Lubovich Dance, The Universal Ballet, Radio City Music Hall, and in productions with the Mark Morris Dance Group. He is in his 13th season as a principal dancer with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. Mr. Shelver is an international touring solo artist and has choreographed works for companies in the USA, Israel, Sweden, Denmark, South Africa, and Italy, including; Big Muddy Dance Company, Graham 2, Richmond Ballet, Ailey II, Ballet Austin, Lustig Dance Theater, Compania Rio Danca, New Jersey Dance Theater Ensemble, Cape Dance Company, Cedar Lake 2, Sobers & Godley Dance, as well as creating works for The Royal Danish and Royal Swedish Ballet Schools, Joffrey Ballet School, Central Ballet School (London) The Ailey School, Boston Conservatory, and Long Island University and Purchase College. He is the founder of Bradley Shelver Contemporary Dance Theater. He was co-producer and curator for the annual REVERBdance Festival from 2010-2016. From 2013-2016, he was the Artistic Director of the STEPS Repertory Ensemble and the Production Director for Steps on Broadway. Mr. Shelver is on the faculty of schools and universities worldwide including ABT/JKO, Limón Institute, Royal Danish and Royal Swedish Ballet Schools, Ateballeto, Company teacher for Mathew Bourne's "Adventures in Motion Pictures", The Ailey School, La Guardia High School for the Performing Arts, Joffrey Ballet School, Bikuratim (Israel), Pan American Modern Dance School (Brazil), Hinton Battle Academy. (Tokyo) DAR Jazz Academy (Russia) among others. He is a certified ballet teacher with the ABT National Training Curriculum. He was a contributing writer for Dance Spirit Magazine and His book, "Performance Through the Dance Technique of Lester Horton" is available worldwide. He is Executive Artistic Director, Joffrey Concert Group, Artistic Director, Contemporary Ballet Studies, Joffrey Ballet School Director, Professional Career Development Joffrey Pre-Professional Contemporary Summer Intensive Contemporary Ballet Winter Workshop.

Founded in the early 1970s and incorporated as a not-for-profit in 1981, and under the direction of Bradley Shelver, **The Joffrey Concert Group** is the resident dance company at the Joffrey Ballet School. The ensemble provides young artists from the School's year-round Trainee Program the opportunity to experience life as a professional dancer.

In the years since its inception, the dancers of the Concert Group have studied and performed some of the most celebrated classical and contemporary repertoire. The Concert Group tours domestically and internationally, providing dancers the experience necessary to confidently transition from student to professional.



# INTERSECTIONS OF LIFE

Intersections of Life was choreographed for Chattanooga Ballet's 50th anniversary. Choreographer Ingrid Silva was inspired by how we interact with each other in our lives. The classical music, set to an original score by Brazilian composer Leandro Albuquerque, makes the movement feel effortless and powerful, like waves. It imagines us as water, navigating our own intersections and journeys. Created on Chattanooga Ballet - World Premiere on October 5, 2024

**Choreography by Ingrid Silva**

**Music by Leandro Albuquerque**

**Costume Design by Katy Freeman & Azael Acosta**

**Original Lighting by Richmond Terry**

**Performed by Ariana Dickerson, Amar Smalls, Vinicius Freire, Thierry Blanchard, Joshua Ponton and Eunhye Darbouze.**



**Ingrid Silva** is a choreographer and former Principal Dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem, where she performed for 18 seasons before retiring in May 2026. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she trained at Projeto Dançando Para Não Dançar, Escola de Dança Maria Olenewa, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem Professional Training Program. Ingrid has performed works by renowned choreographers including Arthur Mitchell, Donald Byrd, and George Balanchine. She was the first Afro-Brazilian dancer to appear on the cover of Pointe Magazine and has spoken at the United Nations. Ingrid is also the founder of PodHer and co-founder of Blacks in Ballet and Dancers & Motherhood, and has recently choreographed works for the Fire Island Dance Festival and Orsolina28.

**Amar Smalls** is a dancer, choreographer, and co-owner of SMALLSDANCE., whose professional journey spans some of the most prestigious names in dance. A former company member with Ailey II, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Collage Dance Collective and The Dance Theatre of Harlem. He received his training at The Ailey School, American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School (JKO School), San Francisco Ballet School, and Harlem School of the Arts. In 2025, he co-founded SMALLSDANCE a bold new movement space dedicated to excellence, expression, and access to dance.



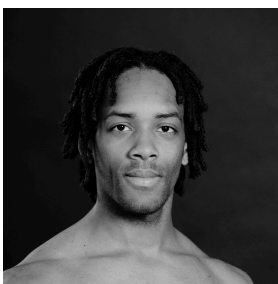
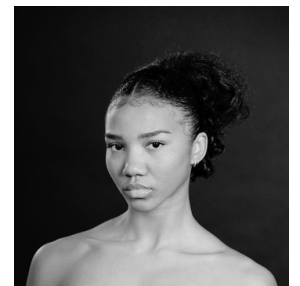
Born in Pensacola, FL, **Ariana Dickerson** trained at Interlochen Arts Academy, summer intensives with Alonzo King Lines, Boston Ballet, Indianapolis Ballet, and Cincinnati Ballet. Education: Indiana University Bloomington Jacobs School of Music, Bachelor of Science in Ballet and Media Advertising. Professional experience: Dance Theatre of Harlem (third season). Repertoire: Works by Robert Garland, George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Jodie Gates, Justin Peck, Dwight Rhoden, and Ulysses Dove. Awards and honors: IU Premier Young Artist Award, Brown Girls Do Ballet Scholarship for Change, Interlochen Young Artist Award, and the Interlochen Arts Academy Fine Arts Award. Ariana is an emerging choreographer whose work has been performed at the Indiana University Musical Arts Center and other dance festivals.

**Vinícius Freire** was born in Recife, Brazil. At the age of 12, he began his ballet training. A few months later, Freire joined the Bolshoi Theater School in Brazil on a full scholarship. In 2021, he joined the Junior Company at the Bolshoi Theater School in Brazil, but soon moved to Philadelphia to attend the Philadelphia Ballet II. Soon after, he was invited to join the Philadelphia Ballet as apprentice. In 2023, he got the opportunity to join the New Jersey Ballet as a professional. He is currently on his 4th season with the company. As artist, he was named the best male dancer at the largest dance festival in Brazil, Festival de Joinville, in 2023. He has worked with renowned choreographers including Justin Peck, Roderick George, Ingrid Silva among others, including restagings of choreography by George Balanchine.



**Thierry Blanchard**, originally from São Paulo, Brazil, began his dance training at the age of eight at the Elizandra Bellotto School. In 2016, he was awarded a scholarship to study at the Bolshoi Theatre School in Brazil. From 2020 to 2021, he performed as a trainee with both the Bolshoi Brazil Theatre Junior Company and the Basileu França Company. In 2022, Thierry received an apprentice position with Eglevsky Ballet in New York under the direction of Maurice Brandon Curry. Later that year, he joined Collage Dance Collective in TN and he is currently a dance artist with Ballet Hispánico of New York. Mr. Blanchard is trained in ballet, contemporary, jazz, capoeira, and traditional Brazilian dance. He has performed leading roles in Romeo and Juliet, Don Quixote, and Swan Lake, among others. He has also had the privilege of working with renowned choreographers such as Wayne McGregor, Annabelle Ochoa, Goyo Montero, Amy Hall Garner, Hope Boykin, and Cassi Abranches. Thierry was awarded 3rd place at the YAGP Finals in Brazil in 2019 and recently received a scholarship to attend the Jacob's Pillow Summer Intensive, selected from hundreds of dancers across the country.

**Eunhye Darbouze** is from Brooklyn New York, and received her training at the School of American Ballet from 2015-2023. She danced with the Dance Theatre of Harlem as a guest artist, and with Armitage Gone! Dance. Her repertory includes works by George Balanchine, Robert Garland and John Tara including Donizetti Variations, Serenade, Coppélia, Raymonda Variations, Concerto Barocco, New Bach, Return, Nyman String Quartet IV, and Firebird. She has received Awards & Honors from The American Dance Initiative Scholarship to attend The School of American Ballet. The Carolyn Lewis Wright Scholarship by The School of American Ballet, and Grant of Merit from the Arthur Mitchell Foundation.



Originally from Hercules, CA, **Joshua Ponton** began formal training in high school at Oakland School for the Arts in California under the instruction of Reginal Ray Savage and Alison Hurley. In 2018, Joshua attended University of North Carolina School of the Arts for 4 years where he received a BFA in Contemporary dance. After college, Joshua found numerous opportunities to connect with knowledgeable teachers and mentors throughout his time dancing at Vitacca Ballet for three seasons and Dance Theatre of Harlem during their tour of Firebird. Joshua dedicates his energy, time, and spirit toward his goal of connecting with audiences through performance.



# Monarcas

Choreography by Henning RübSam

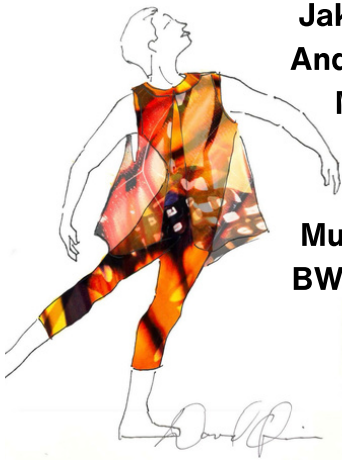
Performed by Artists with permission of The Joffrey Concert Group:

Jake McCullough, Sydney Williams, Sophia Shane, Emma Rosay,  
Andrea Mendoza, Nicolas Pacholoc, together with Solenn Etienne,  
Maximilian Tenenbaum, Valentina Rudkevich & Julia Grady.

Costumes by David Quinn

Original Lighting Design by Jack Mehler

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach - Prelude No. 1 in C Major (from  
BWV 846), Prelude and Fugue No. 3 in C Sharp Major (BWV 848).

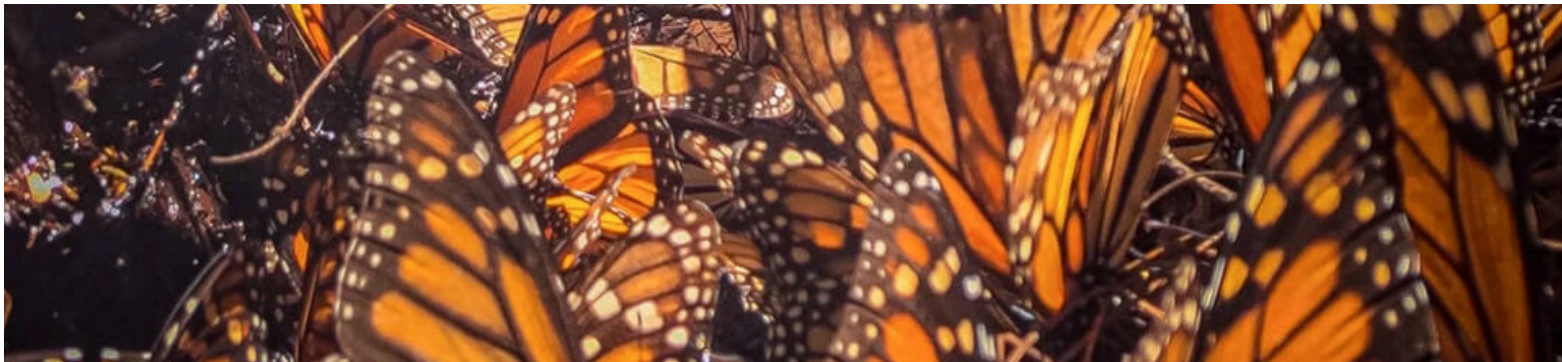


“A long bus ride in Mexico took me to a butterfly sanctuary in the state of Michoacán. It was mesmerizing to see the sky become filled with butterflies. I was there for at least three hours quietly taking in this extraordinary beauty. I love that there are no borders for butterflies. Being based in NYC I’m a snowbird and I too ‘migrate’ to warmer climates in Mexico, Central and South America each winter. I feel a kinship with these butterflies, - their need for sunshine and warmth.” Henning RübSam

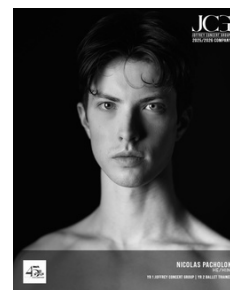
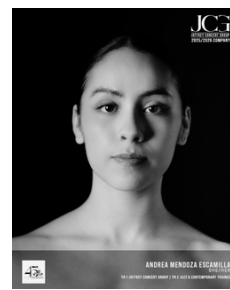
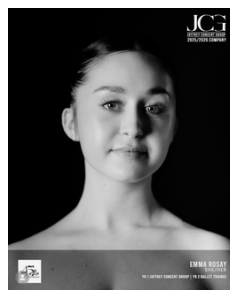
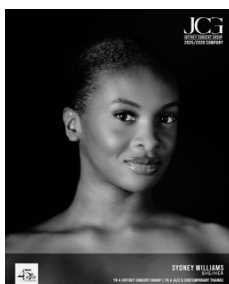
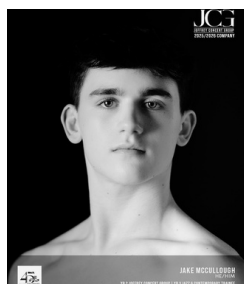
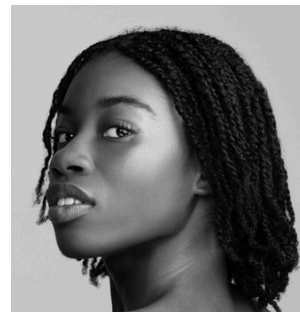
Monarcas was choreographed for ten dancers about the migrating monarchs for **vildwerk**, in 2024, which had its world premiere at the Museo del Barrio Theatre at its opening season Time To Protect Our Planet.



Henning RübSam is a choreographer and dancer based in New York City. He is the artistic director of SENSEDANCE, a faculty member of The Juilliard School and Fordham University and tours his solo program Bagatelles nobles et sentimentales internationally. He is also a **vildwerk** founding member.



**Solenn Etienne** was born in Guadeloupe, surrounded by her generous Caribbean culture. As a result, she inherited a profound, yet pure connection to nature and spirituality. Attracted by the vibrating energy of New York City, she then joined the Ailey School in 2021 and graduated in May 2024. Solenn learned repertory from Hofesh Shechter company, Martha Graham company, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, and worked with choreographers such as Juliano Nunes, Ronald K. Brown, Norbert De La Cruz, and Petra Zanki. Solenn is a current member of MODArts Dance Collective and aspires to evolve and to assert herself in the modern dance world by freeing her unique expression while transcending her physical limits.



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**Maximilian Tenenbaum** is an 11-year-old New Yorker from Manhattan's Upper West Side with a passion for ballet. He trains at American Ballet Theatre and has performed in productions at the Metropolitan Opera House and the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center in works by Wheeldon, McGregor and others. Known for his warmth, energy, and love of performing, Max brings joy both on and off the stage.

**Valentina Rudkevich** is a ballet student from Greenwich training at Greenwich Ballet Academy. She has attended summer programs at Miami City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, and Ellison Ballet. Valentina has performed in productions including The Nutcracker, Sleeping Beauty, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



**Julia Grady** is a 13-year-old dancer from Westchester County who began in Irish step dance before focusing on ballet at age six. She currently trains at Greenwich Ballet Academy and has attended summer intensives with American Ballet Theatre, Ellison Ballet, and Boston Ballet. Outside the studio, Julia is also an accomplished percussionist and active in musical theatre and cheerleading.



# Six Breaths

Choreography by Antonia Franceschi

Performed by Alexa Maxwell & Victor Abreu

Music by Ezio Bosso

Inspired by programs of Northern Jaguar Project and ReWilding Argentina

Antonia Franceschi's new duet, created for and in collaboration with **vildwerk**, with support by New York Theatre Ballet is inspired by conservation efforts protecting the jaguar. Moved by the groundbreaking work preserving and recovering the world's northernmost population of the jaguar through the Northern Jaguar Project, and by the historic story of Miní — a wild-born female jaguar from Argentina's Iberá National Park who made history in 2025 as the first wild jaguar translocated for conservation as part of a major Rewilding Argentina initiative to strengthen genetic diversity in the Gran Chaco ecosystem — the ballet explores instinct, loss, resilience, and hope for the return of a species and its fragile ecosystem through an emotionally charged physical dialogue.

**Antonia Franceschi** serves as Artistic Director for New York Theatre Ballet and Advisory Board Member of **vildwerk**. She is an Award winning Artist, and was selected by George Balanchine for The New York City Ballet, and starred in the film Fame. She is featured in Karole Armitages GRRRL Nutcracker film out this year. Antonia recently choreographed Dr Semmelweis, directed by Tom Morris starring Sir Mr Rylance for The Harold Pinter Theatre, as well as Othello for The Globe Theatre.





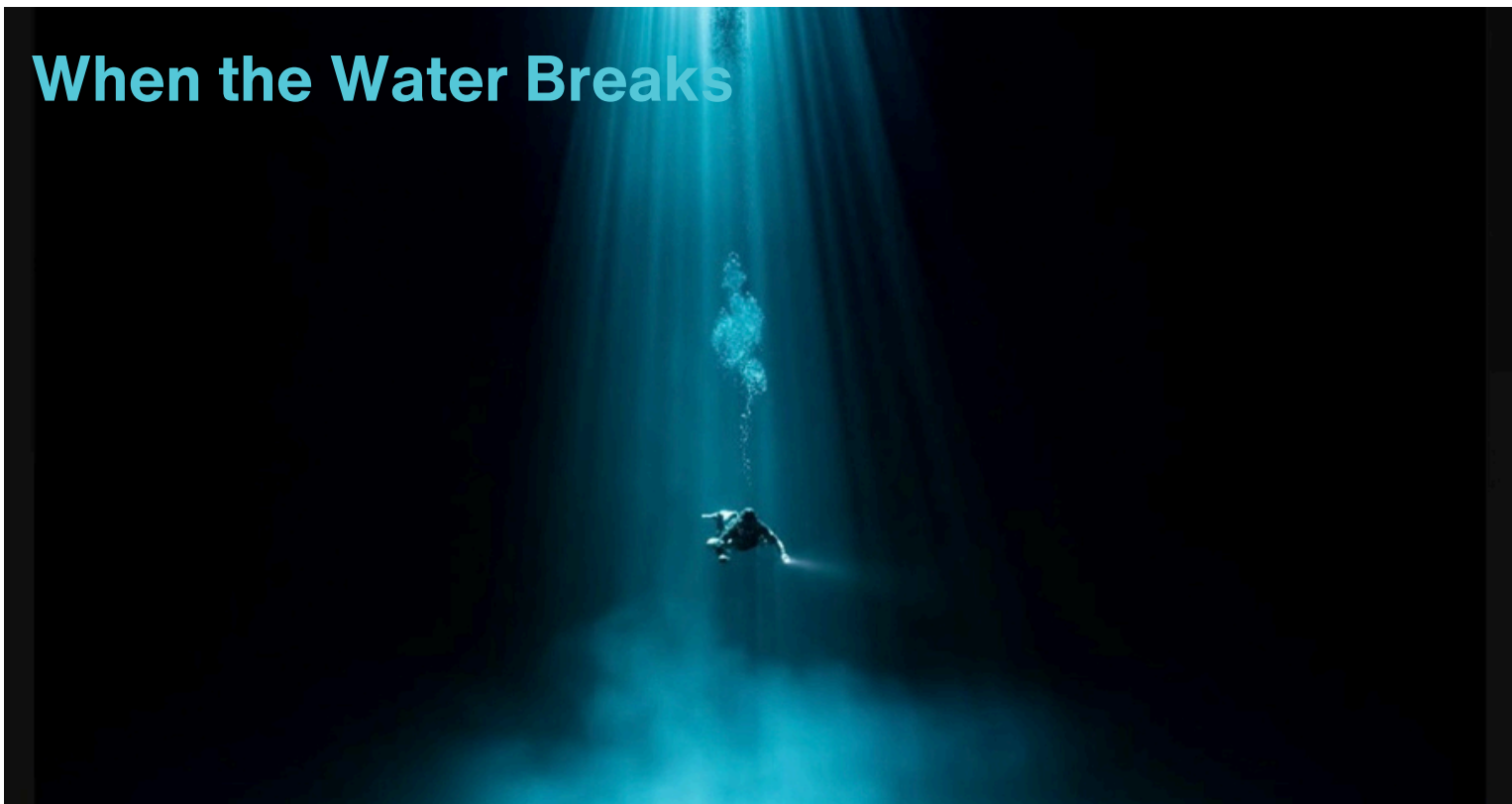
**Alexa Maxwell** is a Soloist with New York City Ballet and was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and began her dance training at the age of four at Deanne's Dance Studio. She later studied dance at other schools before enrolling at the Minnesota Dance Theatre for two years, where her teachers included Lise Houlton and NYCB alumna Gloria Govrin. In 2009, she began training at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet studying under Marcia Dale Weary. During the summer of 2012, Ms. Maxwell attended a summer session at the School of American Ballet, the official school of New York City Ballet, and enrolled as a full-time student later that same year. Ms. Maxwell became an apprentice with NYCB in December 2012 and joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet in November 2013. She was promoted to soloist in April 2023.



**Victor Abreu** is a Soloist with New York City Ballet and was born in New York, New York and began his training at the age of 10 at New York Theatre Ballet under Diana Byer. He attended the summer courses at the School of American Ballet, NYCB's official school, in 2014 and 2015 before entering SAB full-time for the 2015 winter term. In January 2019, Mr. Abreu was named an apprentice with NYCB and in May 2019 he joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet. Mr. Abreu was promoted to the rank of soloist in October 2025.



# When the Water Breaks



Choreography by Bradley Shelver

Image by Martin Broen

**When the Water Breaks** explores the profound connection between the ever-shifting temperament of the ocean and the emotional landscapes of humanity. Through sweeping movement and musical fluidity, the ballet reflects the ocean's dual nature—its serenity and its storms—as a mirror of our own inner tides.

Performed by Artists of Joffrey Concert Group

Original score by David K. Israel

Created with inspiration from World Wildlife Fund (WWF®)

Original Lighting Design by Jack Mehler

Original Projection Editing & Design by Bradley Shelver

Original Projections by Joey Moro

Costumes by Erica Johnston



**Bradley Shelver** trained at the National School of the Arts and The Ailey School. He is Artistic Director of the Joffrey Concert Group and the Joffrey Ballet School's Jazz & Contemporary programs, and serves on the Artistic Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Opera. Shelver has performed with companies including Ailey II, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Ballet Hispánico, Limón Dance Company, and Phoenix Dance Theatre, and is a principal dancer with The Metropolitan Opera Ballet. As a choreographer and educator, he has created works for leading companies and schools internationally and is the author of *Performance Through the Dance Technique* of Lester Horton.

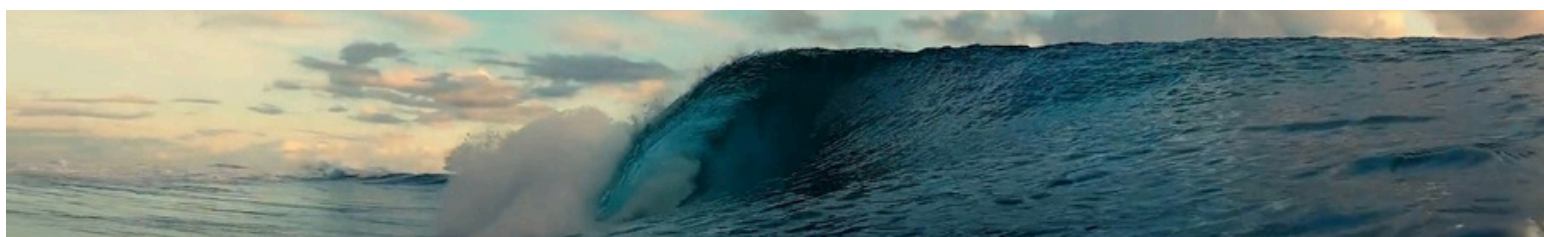
**David K. Israel** has been telling stories with music, words and through the lens for more than two decades. He's composed commissioned scores for numerous critically acclaimed dance pieces, working with companies such as Paul Taylor, Twyla Tharp and the New York City Ballet and choreographers such as Janie Taylor, Gianna Reisen and Melissa Toogood. David has also produced, written and sold feature films and TV pilots. His critically acclaimed first novel, *Behind Everyman*, was published by Random House and translated and sold in a number of countries. His recently-completed second novel, *The Lost Mozart*, is available for pre-order now and will be published in August, 2026. David is a founding Advisory Board Member of **vildwerk**.





Founded in the early 1970s and incorporated as a not-for-profit in 1981, and under the direction of Bradley Shelver, **The Joffrey Concert Group** is the resident dance company at the Joffrey Ballet School. The ensemble provides young artists from the School's year-round Trainee Program the opportunity to experience life as a professional dancer. In the years since its inception, the dancers of the Concert Group have studied and performed some of the most celebrated classical and contemporary repertoire. The Concert Group tours domestically and internationally, providing dancers the experience necessary to confidently transition from student to professional.

**Performed by Artists of Joffrey Concert Group: Annika Davis, Sydney Williams, Sophia Shane, Emma Rosay, Andrea Mendoza, Leo Freude, Pearl Madnick, Jake McCullough, Josh McCooley, Charlie Klepner, Nicolas Pacholok and Andrew Kahl.**





**Without ocean life, we'd lose  
50% of the oxygen we breathe.**



# The Wonderful World of **vildwerk**.<sup>®</sup>



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