



THE PROGRAM

Entropy (2002)

Choreography: Davis Robertson

Music: Astor Piazolla & Dhol Foundation

Lighting Design: Kevin Dreyer **Costume Design:** Rebecca Shouse

Dancers: Ryan Galloway, Rosario Guillen, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Skyler Newcom,

Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda, Analysse Vance

Choreographer and Designer fees were generously underwritten by the Chicago Community Trust as part of its Excellence in Dance Initiatives.

"Behind the Curtain" Video

Sing, Sing, Sing (1983)

Choreography: Gus Giordano

Music: Louis Prima

Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass

Costume Design: Nina G.

Dancers: Ryan Galloway, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston,

Erina Ueda

unconditional (World Premiere)

Choreography: Adam Houston
Music: Aron van Selm & Ardie Son
Lighting Design: Julie E. Ballard, USA

Costume Design: Nina G.

Dancers: Sasha Lazarus & Fernando Rodriguez

Funded by an Anonymous Donor

SOUL (2018)

Choreography: Ray Leeper

Music: Gladys Knight and the Pips, Al Green, Tina Turner

Lighting Design: Jacob Snodgrass Costume Design: Jordan Ross

Dancers: Ryan Galloway, Rosario Guillen, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Skyler Newcom,

Fernando Rodriguez, Erina Ueda, Analysse Vance

SOUL was created in honor of Chicago philanthropist Candace Jordan, whose spirit, passion, and advocacy for the performing arts are without bounds. The was made possible, in part, by contributions to the Susan Carlins "Make It Happen" Initiative.

The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in this theater.

INTERMISSION

"Gershwin Prelude" Video

Gershwin in B (World Premiere)

Story and Choreography: Al Blackstone

Dramaturg: Anastasia Mary Ellia

Music: George Gershwin

Additional Music: Marc Cardarelli

Projection/Lighting Design: Julie E. Ballard, USA

Costume Design: Branimira Ivanova

Dancers: Featured performer Erina Ueda with Ryan Galloway & Ensemble: Rosario Guillen, Amanda Hickey, Adam Houston, Sasha Lazarus, Talia Luzzo, Skyler Newcom, Fernando Rodriguez,

Analysse Vance

"Gershwin in B is a celebration of the glorious music of George Gershwin, the incredible legacy of Giordano Dance Chicago, and one young woman's curious spirit. I like to say that life happens in chapters. There are core memories locked inside us that inform who we are and inspire the decisions we make. Making this piece was its own chapter of my life and I'm grateful to Nan, Cesar, and the incredible dancers of Giordano Dance Chicago for making it such a beautiful one. I hope you enjoy." -Al Blackstone

A Hat, a Door

Music Arranged by: Marc Cardarelli

Room 837

Music Arranged and Performed by: The Benny Goodman Quartet

S'Wonderful

Music Arranged and Performed by: The BBC Big Band

Nice Work

Music Arranged and Performed by: Oscar Peterson

Embraceable You

Music Arranged and Performed by: Peter Breiner, Juray Bartos

Rhapsody in Blue

Music Arranged and Performed by: Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band

But Not For Me

Music Arranged and Performed by: Zubin Mehta/New York Philharmonic

She Wins

Music Arranged and Performed by: Peter Breiner, Juray Bartos

Bow

Music Arranged and Performed by: Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band

Tonight's world premiere is in celebration of Rhapsody in Blue's 100th anniversary.

This work was generously funded in part by an Anonymous donor. Costumes kindly funded by Martin J. Gorbien, MD, M.Sc. **Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC)** America's original jazz dance company soars into their 61st season with energy and momentum.

Giordano Dance Chicago (GDC) is an iconic cultural institution with deep roots in Chicago with partnerships around the globe. From its origins in founder Gus Giordano's original school in Evanston, IL, to its current incarnation as a Chicago-based world-class dance company, GDC boasts more than a half century of worldwide performances (28 countries, 47 states, more than 1300 cities). Entering her 39th season, Nan Giordano has led the company as Artistic Director, responsible for commissioning innovative choreographic works and mentoring thousands of aspiring dancers. With over 20 years in Chicago's dance community, Erica Lynette Edwards is proud to be Giordano Dance Chicago's Executive Director. The company is one of few in the world that has a foundational technique (NGCP®) with certified teachers in 36 states and 8 countries. This season, GDC's robust schedule will include touring performances around the US including Naples, Dallas, and Santa Fe. GDC's educational mission includes workshops and mentorship programs at home and on tour. Their Jazz Dance/Science & Health initiative is a robust arts integration program in which GDC company dancers use a dance-centric framework to teach state-mandated elementary school anatomy and nutrition curriculum within the science classroom. Offered in the Spring of each year since 2006, this seven-week, no-cost program has served more than 5,500 Chicago Public School students.

Giordano II (GII) is dedicated to nurturing and elevating young professional dancers under the artistic leadership of Nan Giordano, and directed by Katie Rafferty. The dancers of GII are provided the unique opportunity to be mentored by Giordano Dance Chicago dancers with the goal of advancement to the main company. Through the company's Giordano on Giordano program, GII premieres new works each season created by GDC's artistic team and main company dancers. GII performs at venues throughout the Midwest, preparing dancers with on stage experience necessary for a career in concert dance and allowing them to broaden their technical and artistic range.

REHEARSAL SPACE

The Ruth Page Artist In-Residence Program serves developed arts organizations looking for a mid-term home by providing cost-effective spaces in a prime location. The program connects residents with the external community and with each other through fostered communication, collaboration, and joint performances to provide cost-effective operations, broader creative opportunities and expanded audiences.

Giordano Dance Chicago is proud be part of the Ruth Page Artist In-Residence Program. Learn more about the Program, and Ruth Page Center for the Arts' other quality programs by visiting their website at www.ruthpage.org.

Founder	Gus Giordano
Artistic Director	Nan Giordano
Executive Director	Erica Lynette Edwards
Associate Artistic Director	Cesar G. Salinas
Operations Manager	Caitlyn Ottenheimer
Grants Manager	Maggy Fouche
Director of Giordano II, Rehearsal Captain, & Costume Mana	gerKatie Rafferty
Production Stage Manager	Julie E. Ballard
Assistant Production Manager	Elyjah Kleinsmith
Rehearsal Captain & Costume Manager	Adam Houston
Social Media & Video Coordinator	Erina Ueda
Marketing Coordinator	Victoria Wesloh
Administrative Coordinator	Olivia Pennell

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Photography	Todd Rosenberg
Videography	HMS Media
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Official Rehearsal Space	Ruth Page Center for the Arts
Public Relations and Marketing Agency	Carol Fox & Associates

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Erin Barnett, Sara Bibik, Craig Black, Homer Bryant, Erica Lynette Edwards, Patti Eylar, Nan Giordano, Ethan Kirschbaum, Lizzie MacKenzie, Terry Marling, Katie Rafferty, Ricky Ruiz, Cesar G. Salinas, Lucas Segovia, Laura Wade

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

1754 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60614

Phone: 312-922-1332 | Fax: 312-922-1335 | Email: info@giordanodance.org | giordanodance.org

FOR BOOKING INFORMATION

Contact: Cathy Pruzan | cpruzan@aol.com

FOR INTEREST IN OUR INTERNSHIP OR FREE TICKET PROGRAMS

Contact: Caitlyn Ottenheimer | caitlynottenheimer@giordanodance.org

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LEADERSHIP



Nan Giordano Artistic Director

At the helm for 39 years, Nan's leadership of Giordano Dance Chicago began in 1985 as Associate Director, and in 1993 was appointed the title of Artistic Director. Nan was trained by her father and mentor, Gus Giordano.



Erica Lynette Edwards Executive Director

Erica Lynette Edwards (she/her) is an accomplished change leader with demonstrated success as an arts administrator, consultant, and public speaker. She is honored to join GDC as the Executive Director.



Cesar G. Salinas
Associate Artistic Director

Cesar G. Salinas, originally from Portland, Oregon, was named Associate Artistic Director for Giordano Dance Chicago at the start of the 60th Anniversary Season.



Katie Rafferty Director of Giordano II

Katie Rafferty, originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is entering her first season as Director of Giordano II after dancing for thirteen seasons with Giordano Dance Chicago.

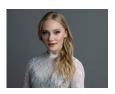


To read more about our leadership and staff, scan the QR code!

DANCERS



George Brous grew up in Ocean City, Maryland, and is beyond excited and honored to be a part of Giordano Dance Chicago's 61st season.



Gina Daugherty, from Port St. Lucie, Florida, is thrilled to join Giordano Dance Chicago for their 61st season.



Ryan Galloway, from New Richmond, Indiana, performs his final Harris shows after 9 seasons.



Rosario Guillen hails from Pharr, Texas, and is thrilled to be in his 3rd season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Adam Houston, Rehersal Captain from Boone, lowa is honored to be in his 11th season with Giordano Dance Chicago, continuously fulfilling his dream.



Amanda Hickey, from Hanover Park, Illinois, is currently in her 6th season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Sasha Lazarus, from Delray Beach, Florida, is in her 3rd season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Talia Luzzo, from Paxton, Massachusetts, is thrilled to be a new member of Giordano Dance Chicago.

BIOGRAPHIES



Skyler Newcom, from Lawrenceville, GA, is in his 5th season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Fernando Rodriguez, of Fort Gratiot, Michigan, is in his 4th season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Simon Schuh, of Greenbay, Wisconsin, is excited for his 1st season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



Erina Ueda, from Nagoya, Japan, is the first Asian female member of Giordano Dance Chicago, and is currently in her 3rd season.



Analysse Vance is originally from Springfield, IL, and is excited to join Giordano Dance Chicago.



Eduardo Zambrana, from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, is currently in his 2nd season with Giordano Dance Chicago.



To read more about our dancers, scan the QR code!

2024 CHICAGO WORKSHOP June 10-15 Giordano dance intensive was one of the



Experience the passion, excitement, and joy of Giordano Dance Chicago during our week-long summer workshop in downtown Chicago!

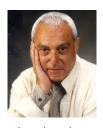
BIOGRAPHIES BIOGRAPHIES

CHOREOGRAPHERS



Al Blackstone is an Emmy-winning director, choreographer, and educator. His passion for bringing people together to experience something meaningful drives him to make dances, tell stories, and encourage joyful connection. Born in New Jersey and raised in a dance studio, he has called New York City home for more than a decade. In that time, he has created emotional work for the stage and screen, thrown dance parties for charity, and introduced hundreds of people to one another. With a focus on storytelling and

a deep love for jazz dance, his work reminds us of the beauty and fragility of being alive. Inspired by generations of dance educators before him, Al's dance classes are known around the world for their positive energy and unifying structure; his influence can be seen in many of the young teachers and choreographers of today. Al is also the co-founder of MOMEN NYC, an NYC-based brand focused on providing memorable experiences for adult dancers, deepening their love of dance and strengthening their sense of togetherness. To simplify- Al (short for Albert) loves dancing and the way it can bring out the best in us. He resides in Queens with his husband Abraham and has kept a journal since he's 12.



Gus Giordano's dedication to jazz dance exhibited itself in all facets of his extraordinary life: dancer, master teacher, choreographer, author, and founder of the Giordano Dance School (GDS) in Evanston, Illinois, founder of the dance company Giordano Dance Chicago and founder of Jazz Dance World Congress. Mr. Giordano created and taught the Giordano Technique at venues across the United States and around the world. He choreographed in all areas of performance including television, film, stage, commercials,

industrials, and concert dance. In 1976 Giordano wrote the highly acclaimed Anthology of American Jazz Dance. In August 1990, Giordano organized the first Jazz Dance World Congress, which gathered renowned jazz dance master teachers and companies. The Congress has been held at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Northwestern University, the University at Buffalo, Point Park University, as well as in Phoenix, Chicago, Japan, Germany, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Gus Giordano received many awards including the 1984 Dance Educators of America Award for his outstanding contribution to the world of jazz dance, the 1988 Mayor's Award for the Arts, the 1989 Governor's Award for the Arts for exemplary individual artistic achievement, the 1991 Dance Teacher Now Circle Award, the 1993 Ruth Page Lifetime Service to the Field Award, and the 1996 University of Missouri Distinguished Alumni Award and William Francis English Scholar-in-Residence Award. In 1985, Governor James Thompson declared April 25 Gus Giordano Day. In 1995 he received the Honorable Artist Award from Chukyo University in Nagoya, Japan. In 1997 Gus served as National Spokesperson for National Dance Week. In 1999, he received the Third Annual Katherine Dunham Award for excellence and great contributions to the Arts, and in 2003, Chicago's Mayor Daley presented Gus with the Chicago Senior of the Year Award. In 2005 the National Dance Association presented Mr. Giordano with its Heritage Award, and the same year he received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degree from Shenandoah University.



Adam Houston See dancer biographies.



Ray Leeper's work spans the spectrum from television, movies, and commercials to off –Broadway and music videos. He has choreographed for some of the most popular televisions shows, most recently on FOX's So You Think You Can Dance where he managed to win the love of millions of viewers each week. He has worked on past seasons of Dancing With The Stars, American Idol, All My Children, One Life to Live, Big Bang Theory, X-Factor UK and America's Got Talent. His big screen credits include, They

Shoot Divas, Don't They starring Jennifer Beals. He has worked with Elton John, Cher, Matthew Morrison, Snoop Dogg, Nick Cannon, Kelly Rowland and NKOTB to name a few. He has received a Gold Leo award for excellence in choreography at the Kennedy Center. He manages to create cutting edge and sought after choreography and concepts for new horizons.



Davis Robertson is a co-founder and Artistic Director of New York Dance Project, a nonprofit dance company with a unique model that challenges dancers and audiences in a diverse repertory that includes classic ballet, modern, contemporary, and cutting-edge new work. Robertson is also a repetiteur for The Gerald Arpino Foundation, and the former Artistic Director of the Joffrey Ballet School. As a Program Director for Bolshoi, He spent years working with the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in Moscow to establish the

Bolshoi Ballet Academy summer programs in Italy and Australia, while also recruiting students to Bolshoi Academy in Moscow. Robertson, who started as a break dancer, became a principal with the Joffrey Ballet, where his roles included the Cavalier in Robert Joffrey's The Nutcracker, George Balanchine's Prodigal Son, Petruchio in John Cranko's Taming of the Shrew, Death in Kurt Jooss' The Green Table and David Parson's Caught. His portrayal of the Faun in the Joffrey's reconstruction of Vaslav Nijinsky's L'Après-Midi D'un Faune prompted the Chicago Sun-Times dance critic to write, "Robertson gives the finest performance I've seen, including that of Rudolf Nureyev for whom the Joffrey re-created this masterpiece in 1979." A versatile choreographer, he has created works for Mikhail Baryshnikov, Giordano Dance Company, Milwaukee Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, and VSA Arts at the Kennedy Center among many others. He was selected to choreograph the contemporary ballet for the graduating class of the Bolshoi Ballet Academy featuring Precious Adams and Joy Womack; Later his article on contemporary dance pedagogy was presented and published by the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in the proceedings of the 2012 conference on contemporary dance in Moscow.

LIGHTING DESIGN



Julie E. Ballard, USA is a professional lighting designer and theatrical technician. Ms. Ballard is an Assistant Professor of Theater Arts, specializing in lighting and sound, at Illinois Wesleyan University. She is affiliated with IATSE Local 2 and the Actors' Equity Association and was previously the Stage Manager and Properties Master for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Additionally, Ms. Ballard is the owner/operator of OverlapLighting, a freelance production company specializing in production/stage management, lighting design

and photography, and is the Technical Director, Resident Lighting Designer and Stage Manager for The Seldoms. Ms. Ballard was the Lighting Director at the Dance Center of Columbia College for nearly 8 years. She has freelanced for two decades in and around the Midwest, touring regionally, nationally and internationally with Hubbard Street, Pilobolus, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater and David Dorfman Dance, among others. Ms. Ballard holds degrees in Theater (BA, 1999) and Lighting Design (MFA, 2004) from Kent State University and the University of Florida, respectively. Visit her portfolio at overlaplighting.com

Eli's Cheesecake

ESMÉ

Giordano Dance Chicago thanks the following individuals and organizations who have provided in-kind goods and services.

Anna Held Floral Studio FabuLash & Brow Beautique Moët Hennessy Athletico Michael Foster Midwest Orthopedics at Rush Best Western Norcon Inc. Paula & Tim Friedman BIÂN Harrcourt Jewels Inc. Park West **bKL** Architecture HMS Media Ravenswood Event Center **BOKA Restaurant Group** Matt Hoffman Roosevelt University Inspired Catering & Events John Brady Todd Rosenberg Photo Ruth Page Center for the Arts Breakthru Beverage David Izaguire Jam Productions Keturah Brown Ryan Sias Caitlin Carroll Jeff Jozwiak Scott Silberstein Chicago Printworks Andy Kalish Smith's Mens Store Tom Kerwin Stella's Confectionery Columbia College Nick Coombs Kirei **Beth Tarrant** Ryan Devoe Kristin Klinger Micah Taylor Alan & Theresa Lake Dan DiLuciano Tully & Associates Matt D. Tully Direction Tour Marketing Abraham Lule

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

John Mahady

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Giordano Dance Chicago is proud to be a member of Arts Alliance Illinois, International Association of Blacks in Dance, Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce, Old Town Triangle Association, and See Chicago Dance.

Theater rental and services have been underwritten through the support of the Harris Theater for Music and Dance.

Thank you to our season sponsors!









Vincent Van Dough

The Whitehall Hotel



















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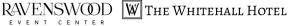
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New Day. New Way.

Support our new Executive Director, Erica Lynette Edwards (ELE), as she begins her first initiative:

ELEVATF

To advance GDC, Erica envisions increased programs to reach Chicago youth, additional performance opportunities for the company, and a strengthened administrative staff. It takes more than a vision to elevate our company. With your help, GDC will reach new heights.

To contribute contact Erica at ericaledwards@giordanodance.org Thank you to all of our generous donors who contributed between January 1, 2023 and March 15, 2024. We appreciate your support and regret the inability to list those who contributed less than \$500 due to space limitations. Please let us know of any errors or omissions by emailing info@giordanodance.org.

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THEATER INFORMATION

Harris Theater Information

In Consideration of Other Patrons and the Performers:

Photography is not permitted in the Theater at any time and texting during performance is strictly prohibited. Film or digital images will be confiscated or deleted by the Harris Theater house staff; violators will be subject to a fine. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house management. Smoking is prohibited within the Harris Theater. Allowance of personal items and baggage into the auditorium space is at the sole discretion of house management.

For Your Safety:

Please take a moment and note the nearest exit. In the event of an emergency, follow the directions of the Harris Theater house staff. In the event of an illness or injury, inform the Harris Theater Front of House Manager.

Accessibility:

Wheelchair accessible seating locations, swing arm aisle seating, and inclusive/wheelchair accessible restrooms are available on all auditorium seating levels. The Harris is also equipped with an FM Assistive Listening Device system. Headsets are available for check out with a valid ID. Please call the Box Office in advance at 312.334.7777 regarding ticketing and accessible seating questions. If inquiring on any additional accommodation requests to enhance your performance experience, please reach out to access@harristheaterchicago.org or call 312.334.2486 at least two weeks in advance.

Parkina:

Discounted parking validation is available for all ticket holders using the Millennium Park Garage. A validation machine is located on Lobby Level 5 (Upper Randolph).

Rental Information:

If you have any questions about the Harris Theater, including rental of the facility, group tours, or volunteer opportunities, please email rentals@harristheaterchicago.org. About the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance The Harris Theater is Chicago's home for music and dance, connecting diverse audiences with artists from across the city, the nation, and the world. An anchor institution of Millennium Park and the first multi-use performance venue built in downtown Chicago since 1929, the Harris was established in 2003 to create a much-needed home for the city's vibrant community of midsize performing arts organizations. Today, the nonprofit Harris Theater features some of the most diverse arts and culture offerings in the city, from its Chicago-based Resident Companies to the world-renowned visiting artists who perform on its stage through the Harris Theater Presents series.

The Harris represents a distinctive model for artistic excellence, collaboration, and creative symbiosis, making the performing arts relevant and accessible to the widest possible audience. Acting as both a home base for and a supportive partner of its Resident Companies, the Harris provides state-of-the-art performance space and ongoing support to nearly 30 Chicago-based performing arts organizations. Its 1,500-seat multi-use theater brings innovative and boundary-pushing productions from more than 32 countries across six continents to Chicago, creating unique opportunities for dialogue between Chicagoans and the world's leading artists, thinkers, and innovators. The organization's signature Harris Theater Presents series has featured acclaimed artists and ensembles including Batsheva Dance, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, English National Ballet, Joshua Bell, Joyce DiDonato, Sir John Eliot Gardiner and the Monteverdi Choir, Angélique Kidjo, and Paris Opéra Ballet. The Theater's education and community engagement initiatives build bridges between artists and community members, providing master classes, artist talks, and free tickets for more than 35 partner organizations throughout Chicago.

To learn more about the Harris Theater, Chicago's home for music and dance in Millennium Park, visit harristheaterchicago.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Land Acknowledgement:

The Harris Theater for Music and Dance resides on the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox have also called this area home. The region has long been a center for Indigenous people to gather, trade, and maintain kinship ties. Today, one of the largest urban American Indian communities in the United States resides in Chicago, and members of this community continue to contribute to the life and culture of this city.





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Congratulations on nine amazing years with Giordano Dance Chicago!

