



RESILIENCE

Dance Company

ENTRY POINTS



Nov. 8 - 9 , 2024

Catherine B. Berges Theatre

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RESILIENCE Dance Company
presents

ENTRY POINTS

Catherine B. Berges Theatre, St. Louis MO
Nov. 8th - 9th, 2024

Artistic & Executive Director

Emily Haussler

Costume Design	Technical Director	Technical Assistant
Chrissy Clair	Alice Anders	Sophie Waimon

Choreographers

**Victoria Lynn Awkward, Annie Rigney, Kia Smith,
Rosanna Tavarez, VIM VIGOR**

The Company

**Renée Austin, Chrissy Clair, Josiah Gundersen,
Nathan Krueger, Abbi LeBaube, Michelle
Parkhurst, Emily Small, Ashlynn Woelbling**

Meet the Director



Hello and welcome to *Entry Points*! We're thrilled you could join us for an exhilarating evening of dance.

Entry Points is a contemporary modern repertory concert and RDC's traditional kickoff to the season. Each year, I curate choreographers with distinct and developed voices, whose perspectives and backgrounds weave together a concert of vibrant artistic breadth. This year, I chose to highlight

predominantly female choreographers who work on the cutting edge of contemporary dance, who emphasize creative process over product, and who bring collaboration and humanity into their work.

Tonight's performance features *four* world premieres, each of which was brought to life this season, in addition to the return of *deluge* by Rosanna Tavarez. Over the last three months, the company has fearlessly dived into new and intricate forms of dance, achieving a refined balance of athleticism and artistry. They continue to grow as a community of human beings who bring their whole selves to the stage - unapologetically, vulnerably, authentically. Tonight, after five years of growth, we are excited to share their work on COCA's Berges stage for the first time.

Tonight's dances are intended to spark curiosity, foster conversation, and fuel human connection. There are no "right" interpretations, only your own real responses. I invite you to come along for the ride, and delight in the knowledge that no two experiences of this performance will be exactly the same.

Emily Haussler

Artistic & Executive Director

Emily Haussler (she/her) is the Artistic and Executive Director of RESILIENCE Dance Company (RDC), founded in 2019 in St. Louis, MO. Her work centers on building healthier, more sustainable dance communities by equipping dancers with resources for their mental health, physical wellbeing, and artistic success. Haussler creates collaboratively, leaning into play, experimentation, and partnership to explore human phenomena and connect viscerally through dance. Her full-length choreographic works for the company include *Falling Forward* (2024), *Come With Me* (2023), *All Times At Once* (2022), *Making Room* (2021), and *Stanzas & Sculptures* (2020). Her notable short works have been shown across the Midwest in Missouri, Michigan, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Haussler holds a B.A. in Dance and Biology from Washington University in St. Louis where she was the recipient of the Ian D. Cramer Prize for Dance (2018) and the Marcus Artist in Residence Award (2022).

Program

Just

Choreography: Annie Rigney

Dancers: Full Company

Music: "Passacaglia" by Caroline Shaw, Roomful of Teeth; "Just" by David Lang

Lighting Design: Alice Anders

Set Construction: Will Higley

Set Design: Annie Rigney and Emily Haussler, with inspiration from Nina Saunders

Encantados

Choreography: Victoria Lynn Awkward

Dancers: Full Company

Music: "Encantados" by Amaro Freitas, Hamid Drake, Shabaka, Aniel Someillan

Lighting Design: Alice Anders

My Island Highway

Choreography: Kia Smith

Dancers: Full Company

Music: Madrigali amorosi: No 9, Canzonetta by Rinuccini; String Quartet No. 9 in C Major, Op 59, No. 3 "Rasumovsky"; "Stillness" by Hilary Hahn, Hauschka; Concerto Grosso in D Major, Op 6, No. 1:VII. Allegro; Arcangelo Corelli, Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra, Janos Rolla; Waltz, D. 1/14, Kupelwieser-Walzer" by Franz Schubert, Michael Endres

Lighting Design: Alice Anders

Intermission - 10min

deluge (2023)

Choreography: Rosanna Tavarez

Dancers: Renée Austin, Chrissy Clair, Josiah Gundersen, Abbi LeBaube, Michelle Parkhurst, Emily Small, Ashlynn Woelbling

Music: "Wrathful seas quiesce", "When we were that what wept for the sea" by Colin Stetson

Lighting Design: Dominick Ehling

KAIROS

Direction, Concept: Shannon Gillen with Jason Cianciulli

Choreography: Jason Cianciulli and Shannon Gillen
of VIM VIGOR

Sound Score: Marshall Chadbourne

Dancers: Full Company

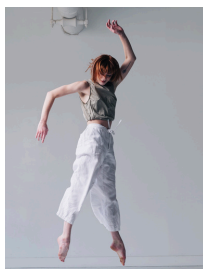
Lighting Design: Alice Anders

*Run time is
approximately 90
minutes including a 10
minute intermission
and brief pauses in
between each piece.*

Meet the Company



Renée Austin (she/her) began dancing at Mayfair Dance Academy in Chicago, IL, and continued training in Spectrum Dance Theater's Academy Program and other organizations nationwide. A graduate of WashU (2023), she has worked with Donald Byrd, Antonio Douthit-Boyd, Anthony "Redd" Williams, Jasmin Savoy Brown, Aaliyah Weston, Keshon Campbell, Cecil Slaughter, Dr. Joanna Dee Das, MJ Imani, Ashley Tate, Erin Morris, Maria Majors, COCA, and more. Renée is a member of Kode Redd Dance Company and a multidisciplinary artist. This is her second season with RESILIENCE.



Chrissy Clair (she/her) started dancing at Ballet Arts Center in Farmington, MO. Chrissy is a 2020 graduate of Webster University's Department of Dance. The last four summers she has danced in "Space Station" residency. In February 2023, Clair performed in "...and everything stays the same...", a show by Emily Duggins Ehling. Later made into an excerpt duet with Abbi LeBaube, called "please hold me". Chrissy started her journey with RESILIENCE in 2021, and is thrilled to be in her fourth season with the company as a dancer and costume designer/manager.



Josiah Gundersen (he/him) was born and raised in Olympia, Washington and graduated from Webster University with a BFA in Modern Dance (2019). Since graduating, Josiah became a founding member of Resilience Dance Company and is going on his 5th season with the company. Josiah is an active choreographer, most recently creating a solo work for Big Plate Dance's "Half Baked", and is also a contributing dance writer for St. Louis Dance HQ.



Abbi LeBaube (she/her) began her dance training at Motion Express School of Dance at the age of four in St. Louis, MO. She graduated summa cum laude with departmental honors, receiving her BFA at Webster University in 2023. While at WU she had the honor to perform & study abroad in Accra, Ghana. She also performed in works by José Limón, Ballet Hispánico, & Abby Z and the New Utility. Abbi's choreography has been presented at ACDA's Gala concert and commissioned by Big Plate Dance. She is ecstatic for her third season with RESILIENCE!

Read more: resiliencedancecompany.com/company-artists

Meet the Company



Nathan Krueger (he/him) began dancing at age 6 at Pressor Performing Arts Center in Mexico, MO. His training continued at Premiere Dance Academy, Springfield Ballet, and Uptown Dance Center in Houston. He earned a BFA in Dance from Southeast Missouri State University, studying under Hilary Peterson, Philip Edgecombe, Alyssa Alger, Thomas Proctor, Ashley Tate and Arianna Russ. Nathan is excited to dance, create, and grow with RESILIENCE Dance Company during his first season with the company!



Michelle Parkhurst (she/her) is a contemporary dance artist originally from Buffalo, New York holding a BFA in Dance from SUNY Brockport (2020). Post College, she has danced for Chutzpah Dance, DanceKerr and Dancers in New York City (2022) and also was a guest performer for Ballaro Dance (2024). This is her third season with RESILIENCE Dance Company and she is excited to continue growing with this company.



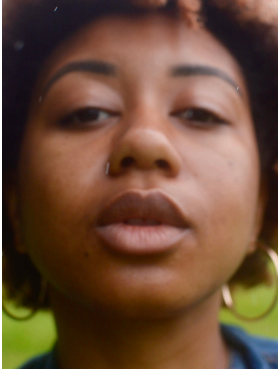
Emily Small (she/her) grew up in Newport, RI. She holds a BFA in Dance and BS in Public Health from UMass Amherst. Emily is performing in her fourth season with RDC and Ballet 314. She has performed choreography by David Dorfman, Mike Esperanza, Miki Ohlsen, Emily Duggins Ehling, Jackie Nowicki, and Johnnie Cruise Mercer. In 2024, Emily's most recent choreographed work premiered on the St. Louis Dance Theatre trainees. She is also the social media coordinator at RDC.



Ashlynn Woelbling (she/her) is a Saint Louis native who graduated from Point Park University in 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Performance and a minor in Business Management. After returning to Saint Louis, she became a trainee with St. Louis Dance Theater, formally known as The Big Muddy Dance Company, and is now in her third season as a company member of Resilience Dance Company, working under Emily Haussler. Ashlynn also serves as RDC's Administrative Assistant and Summer Program Coordinator in addition to teaching at three different studios in the St. Louis/Illinois area

Read more: resiliencedancecompany.com/company-artists

Meet the Choreographers



Victoria Lynn Awkward is a multi-hyphenate creator, administrator, educator and the Director of VLA DANCE. She pursued her multiple interests at Goucher College and graduated with high honors in Dance, Visual Art and Secondary Education. As the Director of VLA DANCE she is researching how to lead with joy, pleasure, and breath in and outside of art making practices. This work is guided through the lineage of Black and queer liberation practitioners. *(continued online)*



Jason Reese C. is a Psycho-Physical Theatre Artist whose research is grounded in Floorwork, Partnering and Physical Theatre Methodology. He is a founding member and co-choreographer of VIM VIGOR and has taught at various institutions including The Juilliard School, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, the University of Michigan, Barnard College, the IUA in Reykjavik, and Columbia University. Additionally he has collaborated with Shannon Gillen on creations for LA Dance Project, Gibney Dance Company, Boston Dance Theater, b12 Festival and Springboard Danse Montreal. *(continued online)*



Shannon Gillen is the artistic director of VIM VIGOR (US). Her creative work has been commissioned across the USA, Canada, Central America, South America, Nordic countries and Europe. Dedicated to educating and learning from the next generation of artists, Gillen is an Associate Professor of Dance at The University of Michigan and via her company VIM VIGOR offers physical dance theater training in the USA, with annual winter and summer programming. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School and earned her MFA from Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. *(continued online)*

Love a talk-back? Go online to learn more about each choreographer, their work, and their creative process with RDC.

Meet the Choreographers



Annie Rigney is a New York based dancer, choreographer, Gaga teacher and Ilan Lev Method therapist. Her choreographic interest and movement research lies in the intersection between extreme physicality and healing; In the conflict between the need for art to challenge and destroy and the simultaneous healing and uniting power of movement. Annie is an Alumnus of the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase, and danced with the Batsheva Ensemble under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin. *(continued online)*

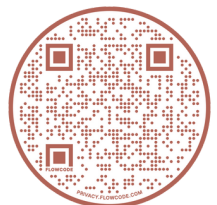


Kia Smith is a Chicago native and is the Founder/Director of Vision and Strategy for South Chicago Dance Theatre. Her works have been presented at the historic Auditorium Theatre of Chicago, the Harris Theater For Music and Dance, at Sons D'Hiver Jazz Festival in Paris, France, Art Ez University in Arnhem, Netherlands, in Bogota and Medellin, Colombia, Grand Valley State University, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and others. Kia's first evening length work *Memoirs of Jazz in the Alley* was lauded a "tour de force" by See Chicago Dance and she was recently named a "rising star" by Chicago Magazine and one of Dance Magazine's 25 to Watch for 2024. *(full bio online)*



Rosanna Tavarez received an MFA in Choreography from The Ohio State University and a BFA in Choreography from University of Michigan. She has a diverse background as a performer/entertainer and has had the honor of working with Marina Abramovic, Ryan Heffington, Travis Payne, Tony Michaels and Rosanna Gamson/Worldwide. She also toured with N'SYNC and Jessica Simpson as one-fifth of the girl group Eden's Crush and covered the Emmys, Grammys and Oscars in addition to hosting her own shows as a television personality for FOX, E!, TVGuide Network, and Telemundo/NBC. As a dance educator, Tavarez is on faculty at CalArts Sharon Disney Lund School of Dance. *(continued online)*

Scan the QR code or visit
resiliencedancecompany.com/24-25-season-choreographers



Technical Team



Alice Anders (Lighting Designer, Technical Director) Alice Anders is originally from Fort Smith, AR. After completing her Bachelor's Fine Arts in Dance and minor in Technical Theatre she came to Saint Louis. She was a trainee for Saint Louis Dance Theatre and started working as a theatre electrician for COCA, Touhill Center for the Performing Arts, and the Skip Viragh Center for the Arts. She is also the production manager for Ballet 314. This is her third season working with Resilience Dance Company and she's looking forward to another great season.



Dominick Ehling (Lighting Designer) began his journey at Washington University in St. Louis, creating designs for various performances, including dance, drama, and musical theater. He has designed multiple works with MADCO and lit five independent performances for Emily Duggins Ehling between 2019 and 2023. By day, he works as an architectural lighting designer for Reed Burkett Lighting Design. Additionally, Dominick serves on the Board of Directors for RESILIENCE and volunteers for RDC productions, contributing his expertise to enhance the artistic community.



Sophie Waimon (Technical Assistant) is a Master's in Public Health student at Washington University in St. Louis. She has a background in stage management and currently serves as a Student Technical Manager for the Edison Theater. She is excited to work with RESILIENCE Dance Company and thanks them for the opportunity.

A note on collaboration: many of tonight's works were created with collaborative input from the company dancers. Whether through helping to generate movement vocabulary, researching physical tasks, or refining meaning, they contributed creative work that we wish to acknowledge.



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