



presents

Dance Nation

by Clare Barron

Director – Stephanie LeBolt
Intimacy/Movement Coach – Kristina Fluty
Vocal Coach – Michelle Lopez-Rios
Scenic Designer – Kat Hasanov
Costume Designer – Izzy Lichenstein
Lighting Designer – Christine A. Binder
Sound Designer – Anna Arenas
Props Director – Camille Toshiko
Dramaturg – Liv Garcia
Videographer – Sean Strimple
Production Stage Manager – Morgan Ramoth
Stage Manager – Kate Petralia

June 11 – June 20, 2021

The Theatre School at DePaul University
2350 N. Racine Ave, Chicago, IL 60614

Email: theatreboxoffice@depaul.edu

Phone: (773) 325-7900

CAST

Amina Abigail Hendricks
Sofia Athena Nickole
Vanessa/The Moms..... Courtney Tucker
Luke Destin Lorde Teamer
Dance Teacher Pat Russell Norris
Maeve Sarah Dennis
Connie Sierra Phan
Ashlee..... Tori Thompson
Zuzu Tyra Grove

PRODUCTION STAFF

Choreographer.....Stephanie LeBolt, Claire Hayes, Genevieve Swanson
Sound Technician..... Kris Franzen
Assistant Sound Technician.....Ethan Korvne
Assistant Director Claire Hayes, Sierra Reynolds, Genevieve Swanson
Assistant Dramaturg Leah Geisler, Olivia Dunn
Assistant Stage Manager Anna Arenas
Assistant Lighting Designer/Master Electrician.....Kyle Bajor
Production Assistant.....Leiny Vega

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first encountered this play in 2015, I felt seen. I remembered being a young person in the arts desperately wanting to be taken seriously. I was full of ambition and desires and wildness, standing on the precipice and willing my life to start. *Dance Nation* gives this tumultuousness pre-teen era center stage. It shines a light on young people's journey to choose who they want to be and how they want to live in a world that tells them they're not enough. And it offers each of us the chance to reconnect with that pre-teen inside us – as well as to harness her power and shake the world.

Our production of *Dance Nation*, made in and through COVID, is unlike any before it or any that will come again. It's the story of us, the story of the places and the people that shaped us, and the journey towards what we do with the power and love we found along the way. I am eternally grateful to the many hands and minds that brought this show to life, despite and in spite of the daunting obstacles along the path. Thank you, thank you!

=Stephanie LeBolt

DRAMATURGY NOTE

"We sing a mourning song for the bodies we were not allowed to enjoy. We rock, we dance, we look at each other. We are thinking the other is so mysterious looking in such a beautiful way, how could anyone have thought otherwise?"

-Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estés, *Women Who Run With the Wolves*

Playwright Clare Barron offers her perspective on the play in notes prior to the script. To Barron, this story is about thirteen year-old girls, women, ambition, and desire. *Dance Nation* abandons narratives that centralize trauma among teen girls onstage and offers a narrative about "being the best" instead. The story serves as a truly raw representation of teenage girlhood, but Barron intends that we view it through the lens of actors who should range anywhere between their twenties to sixties- the actors are not meant to "look" thirteen. This is what we might call a haunting of these adolescents from their older selves- as these moments in their teenage lives that form the rest of their reality. There is a phenomenon of unspoken rage within adolescents as a result of not being taken seriously. This play forces us to face the spirits of these young dancers as something to be taken seriously, as we revel in the enormous amount of power and magic they contain. In the script, Dance Teacher Pat even says to the team, "The problems that you struggle with are not real problems." What might happen if young girls weren't in constant conflict with their suppressed emotions and lack of literacy to articulate them? Much of our dramaturgical process has focused primarily on understanding the psychology of the teen experience and then evaluating how Barron represents pieces of our own experiences through these characters. If you could talk with your thirteen year old self- what might each of you have to say to the other? What mattered most then, what matters most now? In reflecting on this version of yourself, your first instinct might be to turn away or cringe, but we hope you can meet that resilient person with love.

-Olivia Dunn, Leah Geisler, and Liv Garcia, *Dance Nation* Dramaturgs

SPECIAL THANKS

Christine Freije, Mallory Metoxen, Emil Thomas, Rebecca Willingham,
Damon Kiely, Lisa Portes

BIOGRAPHIES

Abigail Hendricks (she/her) (*Amina*) BFA 4/Acting. Abigail is a Chicago-based artist and activist originally from the D.C. area. Her most recent Theatre School credits include performing in the one person show *Elektra*, written and directed by Faith Hart, and *Ring Round the Moon* (Isabelle). She is a proud organizer with the Sunrise Movement and is represented by DDO Artists Agency. For more, visit abigailhendricks.com.

Athena Nickole (she/her) (*Sofia*) BFA 3/Acting. Athena is an actor, director, and a published poet from Massachusetts. Her acting credits include *And God Created Great Whales* (Muse), *Iphigenia 2.0* (Clytemnestra), *You on the Moors Now* (Cathy). Directing credits include a 2018 production of *Particularly in the Heartland* by The TEAM.

Courtney Marie Tucker (she/her) (*Vanessa/The Moms*) Courtney is an actor, teaching artist, dancer and singer from Chicago and also calls Jackson, Tennessee home. She recently graduated from The Theatre School in 2020 with an MFA in Acting. Courtney is represented by Paonessa Talent.

Destin Lorde Teamer (he/him) (*Luke*) BFA 4/Acting. Destin hails from North Chicago, Illinois and he is honored to say that Dance Nation is the final story he will be telling at The Theatre School. His other Theatre School credits include *Our Lady of Kibeho*, *Bachelorette*, *Down in Mississippi*, and he proudly worked as a voice/text coach for the first time on *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*.

Russell Norris (*Dance Teacher Pat*) MFA 2/Acting. It is Russell's solemn honor and most joyous obligation to enliven and empower people with dance. Enjoy the show!

Sarah Dennis (*Maeve*) BFA 4/Acting. Sarah was born and raised in Seattle, WA., and plans to relocate to Los Angeles in the fall. Select Theatre School credits include: *Brooklyn Bridge* (Sasha), *Ring Round the Moon* (Capulet), and various Musical Theatre Collaborative cabarets, which she helped produce. She is this year's Lucille G. Strauss and Alan Peters Endowed Scholar. Love and thanks to Mom.

Sierra Phan (*Connie*) BFA 4/Acting. Sierra graduated from Ballard High School and Governor's School for the Arts in Kentucky. Sierra is a queer, Black and Vietnamese actor, poet, violinist, activist, and content writer. The Theatre School credits include: *Lessons from the Newly Dead*, *A View from the Bridge* (Alfieri), *Polaroid Stories* (Eurydice), *A Wrinkle in Time* (Meg Murry), *Long Time Since Yesterday* (Babbs Wilkerson), and *Dance Nation* (Connie). Sierra is a member of the Black Artist of Today and president of the Asian Artist of America Alliance at The Theatre School. Student film credits: *Dough* (Shane Bagwell), *Beast* (Ivy O'Shaughnessy). Upcoming independent film credits also include *The Lower Depths*, directed by Matthew Stanasolovich.

Tori Thompson (she/her) (*Ashlee*) MFA 3/Acting. Tori is an actor, artist, and storyteller from Fairfield, CA. Tori earned her Bachelor's Degree in Drama from the University of California, Irvine. Her Theatre School credits include: *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Ruyuki), *The Rover* (Valeria), and *Long Time Since Yesterday* (Thelma). She was also in two world premieres, *Comb Your Hair*,

written by LeeLee Jackson, and *The Tomorrow Show*, written by various artists at DePaul. Tori will be joining the Theatre at Monmouth for this upcoming summer!

Tyra Grove (*Zuzu*) BFA 4/Acting. Tyra is a Chicago-based actress from Charlotte, North Carolina. She attended UNCSA's high school drama program in 2016 before coming to DePaul University. Her Theatre School credits include: *Our Lady of Kibeho*, directed by Phyllis E. Griffin, and *Long Time Since Yesterday*, directed by Wardell Julius Clark. She is excited to enter the industry and continue using art to make a positive impact on the world.

Stephanie LeBolt (she/her) (*Director*) MFA 3 Directing. Stephanie is a director, choreographer, producer, and artist administrator from Oak Hill, Virginia. At the Theatre School, she has directed *Small Rooms*, *Boxed In*, *Come Back Little Sheba*, *Polaroid Stories*, and *Mud*. Prior to moving to Chicago, she worked with the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre, the Huntington, Fresh Ink, and freelanced as a new play director and teaching artist around Boston. Enormous gratitude to this creative and resilient team!

Claire Hayes (she/her) (*Assistant Director*) BFA 3/Theatre Arts. Claire is a theatre artist and musician from Denver, Colorado. Her Theatre School credits include *The Curious Experience* (Assistant Director), *The Gap* (Dramaturg), and *Benjamin and Alex Practice Celibacy* (Director). Claire is also a founding member of Spectrum Shakespeare, a company dedicated to creating unique Shakespearian performances for individuals with autism.

Genevieve Swanson (she/her) (*Assistant Director*) BFA 3/Theatre Arts. Genevieve is a director, playwright, and choreographer from California. Her Theatre School credits include *The Rover* (Assistant Director), *The Garden* (Playwright), and *Aviary* (Director/Choreographer). She has stage managed for Little Fish Theatre in Los Angeles, interned for Chicago Children's Theatre, and will intern this summer with the International Centre for Women Playwrights.

Kate Petralia (she/her) (*Stage Manager*) BFA 3/Stage Management. Kate is originally from Portland, Oregon where she worked on many shows in both high school and professional settings. Her most recent Theatre School Credits include *The Tomorrow show* (Production Stage Manager) and *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Stage Manager).

Anna Arenas (she/her) (*Assistant Stage Manager/Sound Designer*) BFA 3/ Stage Management. Anna is an artist and preschool teacher from Milwaukee, WI. She enjoys all forms of art, and sound design is her newest undertaking. Other interests include painting, writing, and spending time with her cat.

Christine A. Binder (*Lighting Designer*) Ms. Binder is a Chicago based designer who has been designing lighting in theatre, opera, and dance for nearly 30 years. Her lighting credits include work at Writer's Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, The Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre and Geva Theatre Company. Her opera designs include work with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theatre, Canadian Opera Company, San Francisco Opera, Tulsa Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, New York City Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, and Houston Grand Opera.

Izzy Lichtenstein (she/her) (*Costume Designer*) Izzy is a recent graduate from The Theatre School, making her debut as a non-student designer. Other Theatre School credits include *Ring Round the Moon* (Costume Designer) and *A Dybbuk...* (Costume Designer).

Kat Hasanov (she/her) (*Scenic Designer*) BFA3/Scenic Design. Kat is a designer and painter, originally from Chicago. Her Theatre School credits include previously working with Stephanie LeBolt on *Mud* (Scenic Designer), *Measure for Measure* (Scenic Designer) and *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Assistant Scenic Designer). She is thrilled to be collaborating with this incredible team and cast.

Camille Toshiko (she/her) (*Props Director*) BFA 3/Theatre Arts. Camille is from Appleton, Wisconsin. Her favorite and recent theatrical project was *Escape TTS: Newbreak* (Props and Game Master). She also enjoys working in the prop shop.

Liv Garcia (she/they) (*Dramaturg*) BFA 3/Theatre Arts. Liv Garcia is a director and dramaturg from Raleigh, North Carolina. Their recent Theatre School credits include *The Transit of Gemini* (Co-Director), *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Come Back Little Sheba*, and *ob/li/vs/cence* (Assistant Director). In Addition to her double major in Women's and Gender Studies and Directing, Liv serves as the editor of *The Grappler*, The Theatre School's community journal.

Olivia Dunn (she/her) (*Assistant Dramaturg*) BFA 3/Theatre Management. Olivia is beyond grateful to be making her dramaturgical debut at the Theatre School with a show that holds such a special place in her heart. Most of her theatrical credits come from her hometown-Cincinnati, Ohio, but her Chicago credits include *Independence*, *Polaroid Stories*, and the Wrights of Spring Festival (TTS); and *X-Marks the Spot* (Chicago Children's Theatre). You can likely find her around TTS working in the box office, completing assignments, sitting at the front desk, or carrying books around for Rachel Shteir.

Leah Geisler (*Assistant Dramaturg*) BFA 2/Dramaturgy. Leah Geisler is a dramaturg from Dallas, Texas. Leah's Theatre School credits include *Middle of Nowhere* (Dramaturg), *Texas, 715 Pearl Street* (Dramaturg), *Dance Nation* (Dramaturg), and upcoming *Masks Off* and *Fefu and Her Friends*.

Morgan Ramoth (she/her) (*Production Stage Manager*) BFA 3/Stage Management. Morgan is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Recent professional stage management credits include *The Nina Variations* (Theatre with a View), *The Mushroom Cure* (Greenhouse Theater Center), *The Tempest* (Phoenix Theatre) and *The Patient Watcher* (Lookingglass Theatre). Previous Theatre School credits include: *Go, Dog, Go!* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Jeff and the Dead Girl* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Ring Round the Moon* (Stage Manager), *Brooklyn Bridge* (Stage Manager), and *The Model Play* (Assistant Stage Manager).

THEATRE SCHOOL FACULTY/STAFF

Jason Beck Assistant Dean
Dean Corrin Associate Dean
John Culbert Dean
Victoria DeIorio Chair, Design and Technical Theatre
Damon Kiely Chair, Performance
Michelle Lopez-Rios Artistic Director, Chicago Playworks
Coya Paz-Brownrigg Associate Dean for Instruction
Chair, Theatre Studies
Jeanne Williams Associate Director of Academic Advising

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Ables Director of Marketing and PR
Mitsu Beck Business Operations Manager
Sheleene Bell Executive Assistant
Tracee Duerson Director of Admissions
Kayla Raelle Holder Director of the High School
Summer Training Program
Azar Kazemi Associate Diversity Advisor
Joshua Maniglia Technical Operations Manager
David Marden Marketing Assistant/Group Sales
Ashley Meczywor Assistant Director of Admissions
Mechelle Moe Director of Creative Root
Kristin Morris Manager of Special Events and PR
William Nalley Director of Development
Dexter Zollicoffer Diversity Advisor

ACTING AND DIRECTING

Dexter Bullard Head of Graduate Acting
Jeff Mills Head of Undergraduate Acting
Lisa Portes Head of MFA Directing
Rob Adler Linda Gillum
Chris Anthony Damon Kiely
Sommer Austin Kathy Logelin
McKenzie Chinn Nicole Ricciardi
Charles Gardner Krissy Vanderwarker

MOVEMENT

Patrice Egleston Head of Movement
Kristina Fluty Nick Sandys Pullin
George Keating

VOICE AND SPEECH

Phil Timberlake Head of Voice and Speech
Deb Doetzer Phyllis E. Griffin
Mark Elliott Michelle Lopez-Rios

COMEDY ARTS

Liz Joynt Sandberg Head of Comedy Arts
Jake Noll

DESIGN

Christine Binder Head of Lighting Design
Victoria DeIorio Head of Sound Design
Regina Garcia Head of Scene Design
Sally Dolemba Head of Costume Design
Jeff Bauer Jack Magaw
Stephanie Farina Noelle Thomas
Davonte Johnson Mike Tutaj
Eleanor Kahn Anna Wooden

TECHNICAL THEATRE

Deanna Aliosius Head of Costume Technology
Sue Fenty Studham Head of Stage Management
Shane Kelly Head of Theatre Technology
Miguel Armstrong Izumi Inaba
Richard Bynum Ed Leahy
John Coleman David Nauton
Rebecca Curl Michael Rourke
Laura Dieli Laura Whitlock
Christine Freeburg

THEATRE STUDIES

Diane Claussen Head of Theatre Management
Carlos Murillo Head of Playwriting
Coya Paz Brownrigg Head of Theatre Studies
Alan Saltzenstein Head of Arts Leadership
Rachel Shteir Head of Dramaturgy
David Chack Azar Kazemi
Dean Corrin Reza Mirsajadi
Isaac Gomez Shade Murray
Sarah Hecht William O'Connor
Criss Henderson Maren Robinson
Kristin Idaszak James Sherman
Jan Kallish Willa Taylor

LIBERAL STUDIES

Colette Gregory Ryan Kitley
Carolyn Hoerdemann Rachel Slavick
Lin Kahn

TECHNICAL STAFF

Bryan Back Lighting Technologist
Tim Combs Technical Director
Dominic DiGiovanni Scene Shop Foreperson
Jessie Gowens Wardrobe Supervisor
Randy Handley Costume Shop Manager
Chris Hofmann Director of Production
So Hui Nye Draper
Sheila Hunter Draper

Kelsey Lamm Production Coordinator
Jennifer Lightfoot Wig and Makeup Supervisor
Jen Leahy Theatre Technical Director
Erin Paige Sound Technologist
Amy Peter Properties Supervisor
Jim Keith Assistant Theatre Technical Director
Scott Slemmons Carpenter
Joanna White Scenic Artist

AUDIENCE SERVICES

Collin Jones Manager of Audience Services
Preston Choi House Manager
Margaret Howe House Manager
Mo Shipley House Manager

THE THEATRE SCHOOL BOARD

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Michael Faron Chair
Sondra A. Healy Chair Emeritus
Joseph M. Antunovich Brian Montgomery
Monika Black Marcello Navarro
Paul Chiaravalle Vonita Reescer
Lorraine Evanoff Linda Sieracki
Whitney A. Lasky Richard Sieracki
Tamara Meyer The Reverend Msgr. Kenneth Velo
Irene Michaels Tomer Yogev

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

Glenn Davis Paul Konrad
Scott Ellis Paula Cale Lisbe
Samantha Falbe Amy K. Pietz
Scott Falbe John C. Reilly
Zach Helm Charlayne Woodard
Criss Henderson Dennis Zacek

HONORARY MEMBERS

Dr. John Ransford Watts
Merle Reskin