



UtahPresents



SCHOOL OF DANCE

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

'LECTRIC EYE

MAY 9-11, 2024



present

'LECTRIC EYE

Choreography by Joanna Kotze
in collaboration with the performers

Featuring dancers Wendell Gray II, Molly Heller, Symara Sarai,
Joanna Kotze, and composer/musician Ryan Seaton

with Constance Anderson, Natalie Desch, Katrina Drigman,
Brian Gerke, Makiya Green, Lily Hammons,
Pam Geber Handman, Irishia Hubbard, Tara McArthur,
Christine McMillan, Sara Pickett, Bashaun Williams

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Marriott Center for Dance

60 minutes with no intermission

Please silence your phones and other noisemakers

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Music composed and performed by Ryan Seaton

Original song 'Black Fly' by Circuit des Yeux

Lighting design by Kathy Kaufmann

Costumes by Christian Joy

Marketing & producing support: Laura Nicoll

Rehearsal assistant and University of Utah faculty liaison: Molly Heller

Production assistant: Roxanne Gray

Understudies: Haley DeCamara, Devin Etcitty, Emily Marsh

World Premiere in February 2022 presented by The Space at Irondale, Brooklyn, NY; Restaging in January 2023 for Live Artery at New York Live Arts and as part of American Dance Festival's 90th Anniversary Season.

Support for this tour of *'lectric Eye* is provided by UtahPresents in partnership with the University of Utah School of Dance.

Performances during Live Artery 2023 were supported in part by New York Live Arts and the Foundation for Contemporary Art Emergency Grant. The development of *'lectric Eye* was made possible by The Bogliasco Foundation, The Yard, EtM Choreographer + Composer Residency, Loghaven Artist Residency, Dance Programme Malmö, the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, Mount Tremper Arts through funding from the Alan M. Kriegsman Creative Residency at Dance Place, the Resident Artist Program at Movement Research supported by the Rosin Fund, and The Nathan M. Clark Foundation. Special thanks to Kickstarter backers, Joanna's Leadership Circle, and other individual donors who have helped to make this work and these tours possible.

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INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Utah has both historical and contemporary relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Given that the Salt Lake Valley has always been a gathering place for Indigenous Peoples, we acknowledge that this land, which is named for the Ute Tribe, is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes and is a crossroad for Indigenous Peoples.

The University of Utah recognizes the enduring relationships between many Indigenous Peoples and their traditional homelands. We are grateful for the territory upon which we gather today; we respect Utah's Indigenous Peoples, the original stewards of this land; and we value the sovereign relationships that exist between tribal governments, state governments, and the federal government.

Today, approximately 60,000 American Indian and Alaska Native peoples live in Utah. As a state institution, the University of Utah is committed to serving Native communities throughout Utah in partnership with Native Nations and our Urban Indian communities through research, education, and community outreach activities.

A note from Joanna Kotze:

There are three additional projects that I created with my key collaborators alongside the development of *'lectric Eye*, you can find more information about them on my website.

A film, *Nothing's changed except for everything*, is a collaboration with composer Ryan Seaton, and filmmaker Chris Cameron, and has gone on to be an official selection in Experimental Short Film categories at the Korea International Short Film Festival, London International Web and Short Film Festival, Seoul International Short Film Festival, Tokyo International Short Film Festival, New Wave Short Film Festival, Tallahassee Film Festival, and the Frame x Frame Film Fest in Houston.

A book, written by myself and writer, dancer, and arts advocate Lauren Slone, that reflects on the creative process of making *'lectric Eye* and the time in which it was made.

BIG BEATS, a larger group performance that can be performed outdoors or indoors, premiered in September 2021 on Pier 1 in New York City. Since then, I have set it on students at The Ailey School, University of the Arts, and Bates Dance Festival, on professional dancers in North Carolina for performances presented by the American Dance Festival in November 2022 and an amazing mix of students, faculty, and professional dancers in Salt Lake City in August 2023. As of now, 113 people know *BIG BEATS*!



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My first thank yous go to Molly, Wendell, Symara, Ryan, and Kathy who are the heart and soul of 'lectric Eye, who have been working on this piece - rehearsing, premiering, and touring - since 2018. Thank you all for all you give the work and me. I am so grateful for your collaborations and your friendships. Incredibly deep thanks to the talented, generous Salt Lake City-based dancers - Irisha, Tara, Bashaun, Brian, Sara, Natalie, Christine, Pam, Kat, Kiya, Lily, Constance, Devin, Emily, and Haley. You have all been such a dream to work with and I am thrilled to be performing with you! Thank you for your commitment to both BIG BEATS and 'lectric Eye. Roxanne, thank you! You are a total rockstar and we'd be so disorganized without you! A huge, huge thank you to UtahPresents and the University of Utah School of Dance for making these performances possible, and especially to Chloe Jones and Melonie Buchanan-Murray for your vision of supporting both BIG BEATS and 'lectric Eye this season. Both the UtahPresents staff and the U of U crew have been amazing to work with! Thank you Aja, Sheri, Dennis, Em, Will, Ben, Becca, Chris, and everyone else who has helped to make this show happen. Molly Heller, all of this would not be happening without your connections, facilitation, AND your dancing. You've been there from the beginning of the project and now we're in your home town! Thank you for all you have given this journey. Lastly, thank you to Laura Nicoll for help with all things and to my family for their ongoing love and support, especially Jon and Kim who have flown in for these shows!

- Joanna Kotze



JOANNA KOTZE is a Brooklyn-based choreographer, dancer and educator who has been part of the New York dance community since 1998. She creates highly physical dance performances through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary process, presenting ways to look at effort, labor, humor, violence, unpredictability, and beauty through movement as well as the body's relationship to sound, light, physical materials and space.

Joanna received a 2024 Grant to Artists from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the 2013 New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and her 2018 evening-length work, *What will we be like when we get there*, was nominated for a Bessie Award for Outstanding Music Composition and Sound Design by collaborator Ryan Seaton. Her work has also been supported by the Nathan M. Clark Foundation, City Artist Corps, New Music USA, the Jerome Foundation, Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Harkness Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts BUILD, Brooklyn Arts Council, Yellowhouse, and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. Her choreography has been presented at Wanås Konst Sculpture Park in Sweden, The Irondale Center, The Yard, Bates Dance Festival, Stonington Opera House, New York Live Arts, The Wexner Center, Velocity Dance Center, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Danspace Project, American Dance Institute, Bard College, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Dance New Amsterdam, Roulette, Dixon Place, 92nd Street Y, WAXworks, Movement Research at the Judson Church, and other venues and galleries.

Joanna has had residency support from the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC), the Alan M. Kriegsmann Creative Residency, Dance Program Malmö, Exploring the Metropolis, Loghaven, The Bogliasco Foundation, The Yard, New York Live Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), Movement Research, The 92nd Street Y, Milvus Artistic Research Center, Jacob's Pillow, Bennington College, Sedona Arts Center, Marble House Project, The Camargo Foundation, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and Djerassi. She has had commissions to create new works on Gibney Dance Company, Toronto Dance Theatre, Ririe-Woodbury, Zenon Dance, and the James Sewell Ballet and has created original works on students at The Ailey School, University of the Arts, Barnard, The New School, Purchase, Long Island University, Ohio University, Southern Utah University and Miami University.

Joanna currently dances for Kimberly Bartosik/daela (2009-present), Stacy Spence, and Donna Uchizono, and has worked with Wally Cardona (2000-2010 & 2018), Annie-B Parson, Tendayi Kuumba, Kota Yamazaki, Netta Yerushalmy, Sam Kim, Sarah Skaggs, Christopher Williams, the Metropolitan Opera ballet, Daniel Charon, Nina Winthrop and others. She is on teaching faculty at Movement Research and has taught at Amherst College, Melbourne University, Toronto Dance Theatre, The Ailey School, Gibney Dance, Sarah Lawrence College, University of the Arts, Barnard College, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, The New School, LIU, Southern Utah University, Ohio University, Miami University, Salt Dance Fest, Bates Dance Festival and the American Dance Festival. She is originally from South Africa and has a BA in Architecture from Miami University. JoannaKotze.com

Photo by Maria Baranova



RYAN SEATON is a Bessie-nominated, New York-based composer and multi-instrumentalist. Seaton has created compositions for many acclaimed recording and performing artists, including Joanna Kotze, Lingua Ignota, Jean Butler, Grey Reverend, Zsuzsa Rozsavolgyi, Lance Gries, Liz Gerring, Dark Sky, Ictus, Beth Gill, Vision Control, Rachel Comey and Mara Hoffman. His work has been featured at BAM, New York Live Arts, Dublin Theater Festival, Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Kitchen and Danspace among many other venues. Seaton also composes for film, podcasts and TV. ryanseaton.com

Photo by Kevin Bay



WENDELL GRAY II is a dance artist, choreographer, and educator currently based in Brooklyn, NY, situated on Lenapehoking land. He has worked with choreographers including Joanna Kotze, Miguel Gutierrez, Pavel Zustiak, Tere O'Connor, Jordan Demetrius Lloyd, Christal Brown, and Kevin Beasley, among others.

Wendell's choreographic works have been shown at venues such as PAGEANT, Draftwork at Dancespace, Coffey Street Studios, Kinosaito Arts Center, Gibney, Movement Research at Judson Church, and Center for Performance Research and more.

Wendell's choreography has been recognized by residencies, including Work Up 6.0 in 2020, STUFFED Artist in Residence at Judson Church in 2021, and Sighlines Dance Festival in 2023. He additionally is an adjunct professor of Dance at Sarah Lawrence College. Wendell is an alumni of the University of the Arts, where

he graduated with a BFA in Dance under the direction of Donna Faye Burchfield and is originally from Atlanta, GA.

Photo by Tre Crews



MOLLY HELLER is an Assistant Professor within the School of Dance at the University of Utah. She is also the director of Heartland, a multi-disciplinary art collective centralized in Salt Lake City. Her choreography has been presented by the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art (SLC), Urban Lounge (SLC), Eccles Regent Street Blackbox Theater (SLC), Kingsbury Hall for TEDx Salt Lake City, Gowanus Art + Production (Brooklyn, NY), Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church (NYC), Movement Research at the Judson Church (NYC), Green Space (Queens, NY), DUMBO Dance Festival (Brooklyn, NY), The Mahaney Center for the Arts (Middlebury, VT), and the Ladies' Literary Club (SLC). Molly has had commissions to create new works for the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company (SLC), Repertory Dance Theatre (SLC), Shawl-Anderson Dance Center (Berkeley, CA), Balance Dance Company (Boise, ID), Boise State University, Westminster College (SLC), and Sugar Space Studio for the Arts (SLC). Molly holds an M.F.A. in Modern Dance from the University of Utah and has certifications in Pilates and Reiki. She currently dances for Joanna Kotze (2018-present), and has worked with Katie Faulkner, Naganuma Dance, Netta Yerushalmy, Stephen Koester, and Satu Hummasti. mollyheller.com

Photo by Marissa Mooney



SYMARA SARAI (They/She) is a Portland, Oregon born Trinidadian currently residing in Brooklyn, NY. Their choreographic practice navigates the complexities of their personal and cultural histories through movement, sound, and research. A 2023 Bessie Winner for Breakout Choreographer, Symara is also a recipient

of the Dai Ailian Foundation Scholarship based in Trinidad and Tobago. The scholarship led her to Beijing, China where she spent two years gaining an associate degree in modern choreography at the renowned Beijing Dance Academy. Symara is a 2019 BFA graduate of SUNY Purchase's Conservatory Of Dance Program. She was a resident artist for Bearnstow, Gibney 6.2 Work Up, Gallim's 2022 Moving Artist's Residency, BAX's Fall 2022 Space Grant Program, and Center for Performance Research's 2022 AIR Program. She is presently a 2023/2024 New York Live Arts Fresh Tracks artist and a Women in Motion Commissioned Artist. Their work as a performer and maker has been reviewed and featured in the NY Times, Dance Enthusiast, Fjord, as well as promoted through Forbes. She has had multiple film works commissioned by Berlin-based choreographer Christoph Winkler. They have presented work at the WIP Showing at Bates Dance Festival, The Clarice at UMD, The LGBT Center, Judson Church, BAAD, WiM Salon, Chez Bushwhick, The Beijing Dance Academy Theatre, and other venues throughout the United States, China, and Germany. She is currently an Urban Bush Women company member. She has also notably worked with Jasmine Hearn, Joanna Kotze, Raymond Pinto, Ogemdi Ude, Ley Gambucci, Pioneers Go East Collective, Rena Butler, Kevin Wynn, Nattie Trogdon+Hollis Bartlett, and Slowdanger, among others.

Photo by Hayim Heron

KATHY KAUFMANN (Lighting) is a New York City native and two time Bessie recipient. She has been a resident designer at the Danspace Project at St. Marks Church for over 20 years and has toured extensively throughout the world. *'lectric Eye* is her 4th collaboration with Joanna and her excellent company. She designs regularly for Dorrance Dance, Sally Silvers, Mina Nishimura, The Bang Group, Rebecca Stenn, Mariana Valencia, Music From the Sole, Ephrat Asherie, and Vicky Shick. Recent projects include designs for Koma Otake, Jordan Demetrius Lloyd, Ellen Cornfield and Nami Yamamoto.

CONSTANCE ANDERSON is a choreographer and artist, currently based in Salt Lake City, as she earns her Masters in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. Her company Sock Opera Dance, was started in 2019 as a site-specific performance group, radicalizing unconventional spaces and acknowledging architecture as a key point in the professionalization of art. Anderson is also trained in theatrical intimacy staging, setting pedestrian and choreographic work for plays and dramas. She danced as a performer for Li Chiao Ping Dance for five seasons and currently participates in free lance work in film and dance performance.

constanceandersondance.com @sockoperadance

NATALIE DESCH, an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, is an alumna of Juilliard, the Limón Dance Company, Doug Varone and Dancers, and the University of Washington. Additionally, she's grateful for her many collaborative experiences with wonderful artists around the country and the world. She's thrilled to reconnect with Joanna for BIG BEATS SLC.

KATRINA DRINGMAN is a dancer, artist, and student studying at the University of Utah to achieve a BFA in Modern dance and BA in Political Science in 2025. She was born and raised in Montana, and finds inspiration in the many movement practices of her upbringing in the outdoors. @katdringman

BRIAN GERKE is from Montana but spent the majority of his adult life in Iceland, where he co-directed his company (Steinunn and Brian), performed with IDC, and taught at the National Ballet Academy. Brian is driven by a desire to live, work, communicate, and educate, remaining mindful of and supported by his core values...Compassion & Integrity.

MAKIYA GREEN (she/her) is from Cheyenne, Wyoming and currently attends the University of Utah where she is pursuing a double-major in Modern Dance and Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. She has trained and performed under choreographers such as Moscow Ballet, Cleo Parker Robinson, Chung Fu Chang, Lawrence Jackson, and various Limón Company Dancers.

LILY BELLA HAMMONS is a SLC based movement artist who recently graduated from University of Utah. There she created and explored movement through a BFA in the Modern Dance program while also pursuing a BS in Business Marketing with a management minor. Besides moving and grooving, Lily loves exploring the outdoors, spontaneous adventures, and reading, all of which remind her of the magic that is everywhere. @lilybellah

PAMELA GEBER HANDMAN is a Professor in the School of Dance at University of Utah and holds an MFA in Dance from the University of Washington, a BFA in Dance from New York University's

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Tisch School of the Arts, a certificate in music education (Carl Orff) from Bloomingdale House of Music, and a 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training certificate. She has danced professionally with several NYC-based modern dance choreographers. Passions: experiential anatomy, somatics, yoga, contemporary techniques, disabilities/special education and progressive pedagogies. She helped co-found the Dance Science and Somatics Educators and has led several community-based projects for individuals with disabilities.

IRISHIA HUBBARD ROMAINE (she/her) is a choreographer, filmmaker, and educator from South Carolina. She is an Assistant Professor in the School of Dance at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and a 2024 Mellon Arts & Practitioner Fellow at the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM). Irishia holds an MFA in Modern Dance and a Screendance certification from the University of Utah. Additionally, she is the Visibility Program Director for Dance Camera West and serves as a professional stager for the Donald McKayle Legacy. @irishiahubbard | irishiahubbard.com

TARA MCARTHUR is originally from Nevada City, CA. She is pursuing a Master's in Social Work at the University of Utah and holds a BFA in Dance from California State University Long Beach. She has danced with Keith Johnson, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Katie Faulkner, Hope Mohr, Gerald Casel, Risa Jaroslow, and Charlotte Boye-Christensen.

CHRISTINE MCMILLAN is an Associate Professor Lecturer at the University of Utah. She performed with the Metropolitan Opera for 19 years, Richmond Ballet, and with several ballet and contemporary dance companies in NYC. Christine teaches

dance, yoga, and experiential anatomy and is happy to cross paths again with Joanna Kotze.

SARA PICKETT is a dance artist in Salt Lake City currently an Associate Professor Lecturer for the University of Utah School of Dance. She was a core member of Millennium, out of Denver, CO with Kenny Jimenez. Sara recently co-created and produced BRINE, a dance collective in Salt Lake City.

BASHAUN WILLIAMS hails from Texas & is a freelance dance artist, educator & choreographer based in Salt Lake City. He is an alumni of the University of Utah & Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. Currently, Bashaun is a member with SB Dance in Salt Lake, Adjunct Faculty at Utah Valley University in their department of Modern Dance and a faculty member with the Ballet West Academy.
@Bwill4realz

UNDERSTUDIES

HALEY DE CAMARA is a dancer and student currently pursuing a BFA in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. Originally from Los Angeles, she is interested in exploring many styles and facets of dance. She is very excited for the opportunity to participate in this project! @haleydecamara

DEVIN ETCITY (he/she) is an artist from Shiprock, New Mexico. He began his modern dance and ballet training at Barnard College in New York City. She received her Applied Mathematics undergraduate degree from Columbia University, but loves the arts more. She creates short films, poems, and screenplays. Inspired

by his Navajo heritage, he investigates gender, relationships, and belonging in his collaborations. <https://writedatadance.com/>
@dncedev

EMILY MARSH is a dancer and choreographer pursuing a BFA in Modern Dance and a BS in Strategic Communications at the University of Utah. She currently works as an Assistant for Adrenaline and Revive Dance Conventions. In movement, Emily values intricacy, musicality, and authenticity. She's excited to participate in this project! @memzily5



Photo by Maria Baranova



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