



ARIEL RIVKA DANCE

Championing women's creativity through choreography,
music, and curated family and educational programming.

MEDIA & PRESS KIT



ARD

Ariel Rivka Dance (ARD) is an all-female identifying company based in New Jersey/ New York and led by Artistic and Executive Director Ariel Grossman. ARD's mission is to champion female creatives through original choreography, commissioned music, and curated family and educational programming. Drawing from Ariel's personal experiences as a woman and mother, the company shares stories that resonate with a broad audience.

Through movement, ARD creates a community of vulnerability and acceptance, providing opportunities for hope and connection.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ariel Rebecca (Rivka) Grossman a native New York, founded Ariel Rivka Dance in 2008. She trained at the Joffrey Ballet School under the direction of Gerald Arpino with Eleanor D'antouno (American Ballet Theater), John Magnus, and Dorothy Lister. She also attended LaGuardia High School of Music and Art and the Performing Arts as a dance major and studied with Elisa King (Zvi Gotheiner Dance), Brunhilda Ruiz (The Joffrey Ballet), Michelle Benash (American Ballet Theater) and Penny Frank (Martha Graham Dance Company). Ariel earned a Bachelor of Science in Dance and a Minor in Women's Studies from Skidmore College and a master's in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College.

Ariel's work has been presented worldwide, including New Jersey Performing Arts Center, BAM Fisher, New York Live Arts, Bryant Park Summer Series, Oklahoma Intl. Dance Festival, Detroit Dance City Festival, Moulin/Belle, France, and Istanbul Fringe Festival. Ariel has been commissioned by DanceLabNY, Konverjdans, Nickerson-Rossi Dance, and Ballet Vero Beach. She has collaborated with Taylor 2, Heidi Latsky, Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, and Sean Curran. Ariel's a past recipient of the NJPAC (New) Moves Fellowship, Dance Lab Nexus Lab Residency, Monira Artist Residency, and Nimbus Arts Center Residency. She has been awarded grants by Mid Atlantic Arts, New Jersey State Arts Council, Jersey City Arts Council, Princeton Community Foundation, DanceNYC, Dance New Jersey, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Nathan Cummings Foundation, and The Charles & Joan Gross Family Foundation.



PROGRAMMING & WORKSHOPS



WHAT YOU WANT

This work can be performed as a 12-minute excerpt, 20-minutes, or in its entirety of 40-minutes. 7-8 dancers, 1 tech

It is not always easy to determine what you want. Ariel Rivka Dance opens up space for self-reflection in the company's expansive evening-length piece featuring the collaboration with DJ and Music Producer Summer Dregs. From moments of stillness and solitude to bursts of energy and passion, the company's new work showcases the vulnerability needed to fly, even at the risk of falling. Choreographer Ariel Grossman seeks out the true self—uncovering layers imposed by others and ones we use to protect ourselves—through expressive duets, lingering solos, and powerful collective displays. Each part highlights the strength in desire and honesty in perseverance. With live or pre-recorded music by new company collaborator Summer Dregs, this work asks audiences to probe deeper to find what they truly want.

Summer Dregs (Carl Cadwell) brings stunningly unexpected and unique music to life. From scoring ballets and commercials to producing and mixing for R&B or lofi artists, Summer Dregs works with collaborators to make art only they together could make. Carl started off touring with jazz-fusion and old soul outfits. Though the percussion and urgency of those early groups can still be felt in his music, his love for the rhythms of modern R&B and global-pop soon took center stage.



WOMEN & MOTHERS

Exploring the many faces of womanhood, ARD's Women & Mothers program delves into the juxtaposition of who we are with ourselves, and who we chose to let the world see.

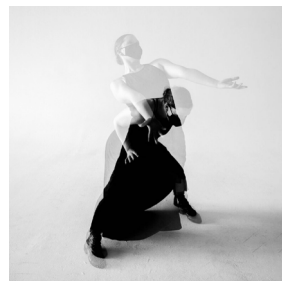
With a total runtime of 45 minutes, this program takes the audience through the emotional waves of motherhood; a rebirth, inspired by a woman leaving a strict Hasidic sect; an intimate look at the deep layers and entangled cycles of love and hate within a marriage; and examines how familial love evokes positive and negative impulses where frustration and desire compete with the need for space and independence.

This program strives to inspire conversation across generations and genders.



SHE

14 minutes
5 dancers; 1 tech



UNORTHODOX

9 minutes
4 dancers; 1 tech



IF I FORGET YOU

5 minutes
2 dancers; 1 tech



MOSSY

6 minutes
2 dancers; 1 tech



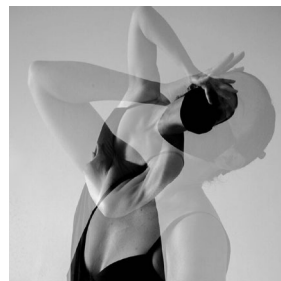
HERITAGE & TRADITION

This program investigates the traditions and stories that make a community. The Book of Esther, which is often performed in excerpts, tells the story of the biblical Queen Vashti and Queen Esther through emotionally driven movement, epitomizing the Jewish traditions of collaboration and support. Inspired by the novel of the same name, Unorthodox questions the bonds that rule the structure of our lives. Perfectly complementing these two, Ori is a contemporary exploration of light and athleticism accompanied by 4 amplified cellos. This program aims to help forge stronger bonds through meaningful conversation.



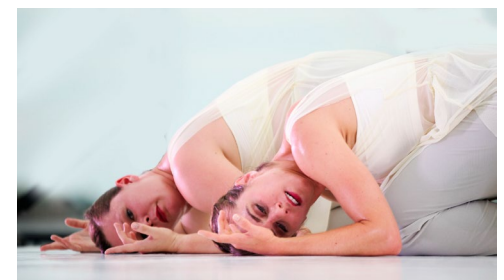
BOOK OF ESTHER

50 minutes
7 dancers; 1 tech



UNORTHODOX

9 minutes
4 dancers; 1 tech



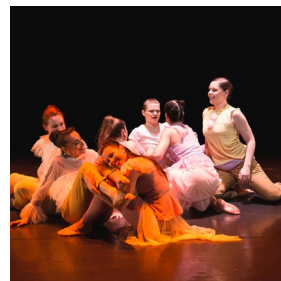
ORI

17 minutes
7 dancers; 1 tech

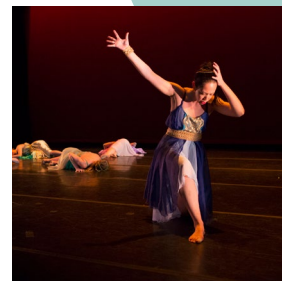


FAMILY FRIENDLY

See dance and music come to life in an educational, family-friendly performance utilizing a selection of ARD repertory or an excerpt of our evening-length program, "The Book of Esther". Audiences enjoy a workshop with Artistic Director Ariel Grossman and dance artists, who will discuss the art of collaboration and how they use music and movement to tell a story. This condensed, interactive program showcases the creation process, invites the audience to explore movement for themselves, and is sure to delight people of all ages.



RHAPSODY IN K
20 minutes
7 dancers; 1 tech



BOOK OF ESTHER
50 minutes
7 dancers; 1 tech



VARIATIONS ON A BOX
12 minutes
8 dancers; 1 tech

COMPOSER'S NOTEBOOK

Stephania de Kenessey

This program celebrates the collaboration between composer Stephania de Kenessey and Artistic Director Ariel Grossman and their ongoing exploration of womanhood. Program highlights include She, a work that delves into the waves of motherhood and features a unique soundscape of layering breast pump sounds by de Kenessey.

De Kenessey excels at creating dynamic electronic and melodic scores to compliment ARD's emotive choreography. Her instrumental and vocal music has been performed extensively in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to Joe's Pub, LaMama, and New York Live Arts. Trained at Yale and Princeton, de Kenessey is steadfastly committed to honoring women composers and is the founding president of the International Alliance for Women in Music.



SHE
14 minutes
5 dancers; 1 tech



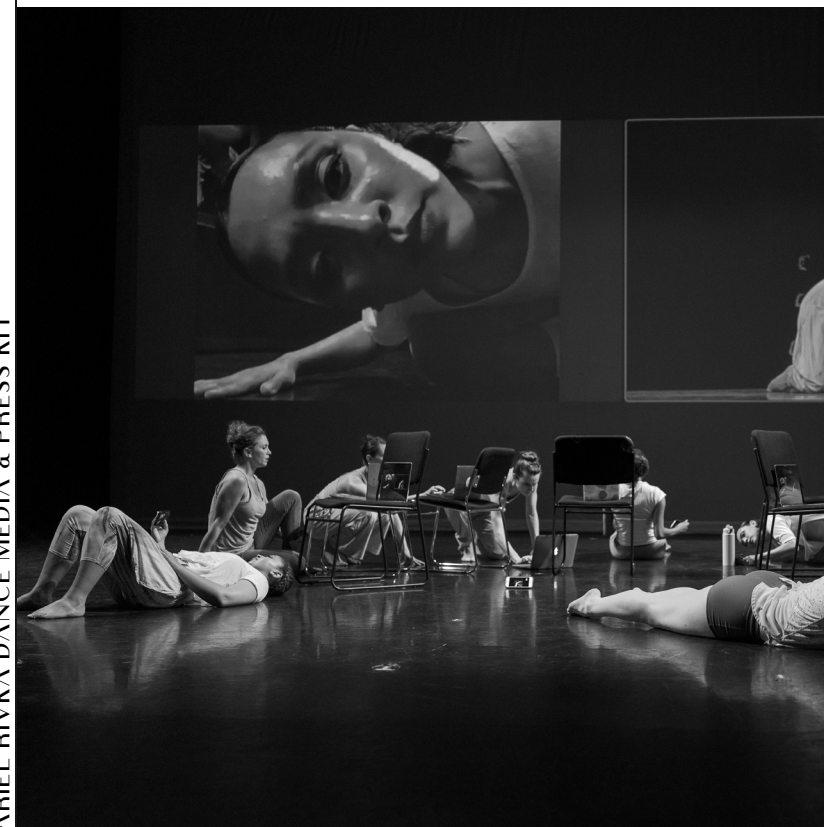
LEAD ME
10 minutes
5-8 dancers; 1 tech



MOSSY
6 minutes
2 dancers; 1 tech



UNORTHODOX
9 minutes
4 dancers; 1 tech



COMPOSER'S NOTEBOOK

David Homan

This program highlights ARD's long-time collaborator, composer David Homan. Homan's work aims to be approachable, inspire vulnerability within the audience, and act as a guide through hypnotic choreography. Homan's music has been performed in the US, Europe, Israel, and in New York at Carnegie Hall/Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, CAMI Hall, the Thalia at Symphony Space as well as major dance venues such as NYLA, Joyce Soho, the Di Capo Opera Theatre, MMAC, and the Joyce. He has also composed the music for the award-winning 2001 Fringe Festival Production Einstein's Dreams, and written theatrical scores for As You Like It, Hamlet, King Lear, and Great Expectations, among others. Major groups such as the American Symphony Orchestra have performed his works, as well as dance commissions and choreographers around the US.



RUST
12 minutes
4 dancers; 1 tech



FOR HER
4 minutes
1 dancer; 1 tech



UNDERTOW
13 minutes
8 dancers; 1 tech

ADDITIONAL WORKS

IF I FORGET YOU
5 minutes, 2 dancers, 1 tech

RHAPSODY IN K
20 minutes, 7 dancers, 1 tech

NO WORDS
17 minutes, 8 dancers, 1 tech

VARIATIONS ON A BOX
12 minutes, 8 dancers, 1 tech

ORI
17 minutes, 7 dancers, 1 tech

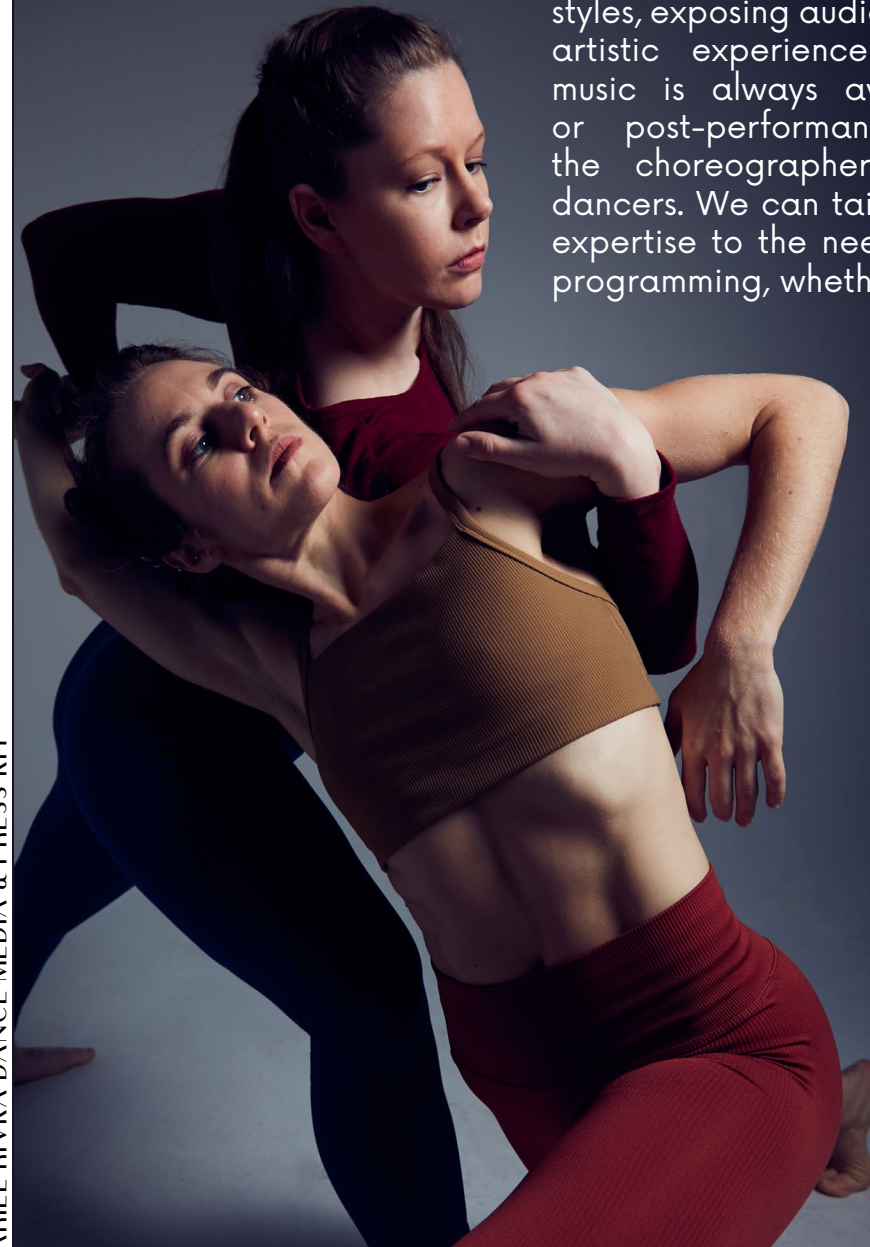
BOOK OF ESTHER
50 minutes, 7 dancers, 1 tech

FOUR CONCERNED
10 minutes, 4 dancers, 1 tech

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REPERTORY CONCERT

ARD offers a flexible and diverse selection of repertory to fit all needs. The work explores emotionally driven movement with underlying currents of technique and structure. Grossman's choreography incorporates various dance and music styles, exposing audiences to an accessible artistic experience for all ages. Live music is always available, as are pre or post-performance discussions with the choreographer, composer, and/or dancers. We can tailor our repertoire and expertise to the needs of your venue and programming, whether in-person or virtual.



ARIEL RIVKA DANCE MEDIA & PRESS KIT



WHAT YOU WANT

40 minutes (can be adapted to 20 or 12 minute excerpts)
7-8 dancers | 1 tech
Original composition by Summer Dregs and Stefania de Kenessey with arrangement by Summer Dregs
Costumes by Ariel Grossman



UNORTHODOX

9 minutes | 4 dancers | 1 tech
Music by Stefania De Kenessey
Costumes by Marianna Tsartolia
Touring: North Carolina, Detroit, MI, Istanbul, TR



RUST

12 minutes | 4 dancers | 1 tech
Music by David Homan
Costumes by Marianna Tsartolia
Touring: Oklahoma, Istanbul, TR, Detroit, MI



VARIATIONS ON A BOX

12 minutes | 8 dancers | 1 tech
Music by David Homan; Costumes by Mondo Morales
Past touring: Memphis, Tennessee 2019, Atlanta, Georgia 2019
Boston, Massachusetts 2018, Vero Beach, Florida 2018



IF I FORGET YOU

5 minutes | 2 dancers | 1 tech
Music by David Homan
Costumes by Mariana Tsartolia



MOSSY

6 minutes | 2 dancers | 1 tech
Music by Stefania de Kenessey; Costumes by Marianna Tsartolia
Past touring: Memphis, Tennessee 2019; Atlanta, Georgia 2019

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ORI

17 minutes | 7 dancers | 1 tech
Music by David Homan; Costumes by Mondo Morales
Past touring: Baltimore, Maryland 2018;
Vero Beach, Florida 2018



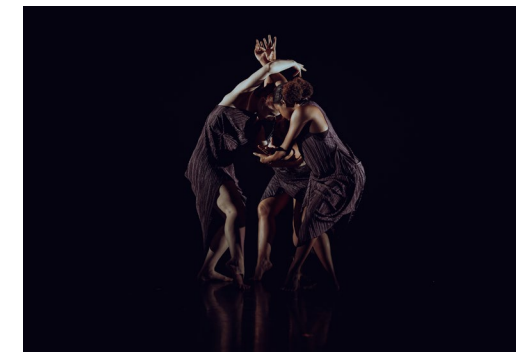
LEAD ME

13 minutes | 8 dancers | 1 tech
Music by Stefania De Kenessey
Costumes by Ariel Grossman



FOUR CONCERNED

10 minutes | 4 dancers | 1 tech
Music by David Homan; Costumes by Mariana Tsartolia
Past touring: Baltimore, Maryland 2017;
Houston, Texas 2017



CONVERGE

6 minutes | 3 dancers | 1 tech
Music by David Homan
Costumes by Marianna Tsartolia



NO WORDS

17 minutes | 8 dancers | 1 tech
Music by David Homan, Costumes by Mondo Morales
Past touring: Memphis, Tennessee 2019; Atlanta, Georgia
2019; Vero Beach, Florida 2018



FOR HER

4 minutes | 1 dancer | 1 tech
Music by David Homan
Costumes by Mariana Tsartolia
Collaborating with visual artist Richard Kadin

**PAST
WORKSHOPS**

Choreographic & Teaching Residencies at Howard Community College

Choreographic & Teaching Residencies at Ballet Vero Beach

Week-long workshop at Peridance Capezio Center

Family Matinee at Baruch Performing Arts Center

Choreographic residency for Fiorello LaGuardia High School

Outreach performances, interactive workshops, and master classes in Memphis, Tennessee, Atlanta, Georgia, Istanbul, TR, Cleveland, Ohio,, Motional Literacy workshops at U-Michigan, Google Inc., 28Muses, Hydro, World Dance Alliance, and more.

**PAST
PRESENTERS**

BAM Fisher

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

New York Live Arts

Bryant Park

NYU Tish Jack Crystal Theater

New York Live

Istanbul Fringe Festival

Detroit Film Institute Theater

Edmond University

Rutgers University

Baruch Performing Arts Center

**PAST
COLLABORATORS**

Konverjans

Ballet Vero Beach

Rioult Dance NY

Taylor 2

Heidi Latsky

Sean Curran

Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company



**DOWNLOAD
ARD ASSETS**

Dropbox link contains high-resolution photos, clips, and fact sheets for full repertory, as well as company facts.



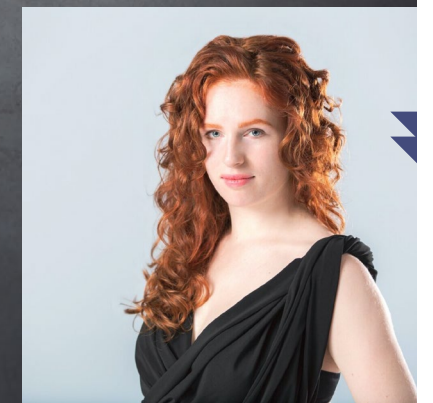
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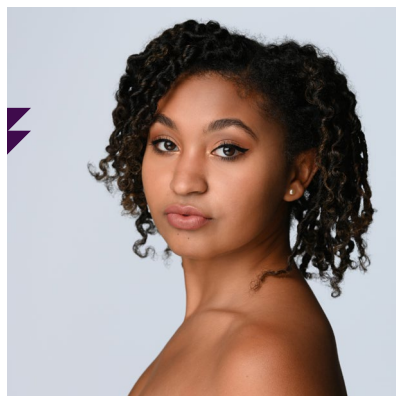


AMY ASHLEY

Ashley is a Southern Oregon native, and a graduate of the LINES Ballet Training Program, and has taught and trained under the mentor-ship of master teacher Tracey Durbin since 2011. Amy has performed and freelanced professionally in Seattle, Portland OR, San Francisco, and New York. She has taught outreach for the LINES Outreach Program, Dancewave, and Notes In Motion/Amanda Selwyn Dance Theater, and currently teaches dance in New York City. Amy is a certified Barre Vida instructor and joined Ariel Rivka Dance in 2018.

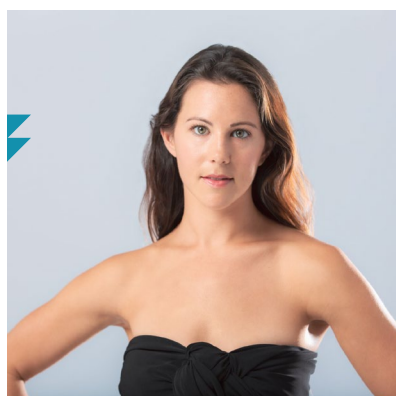


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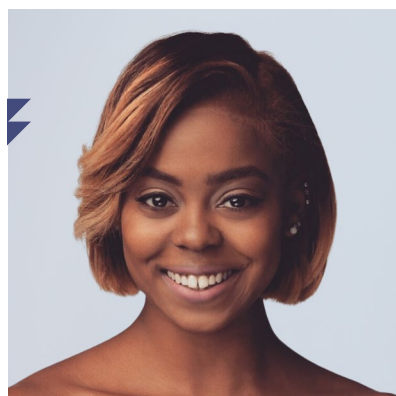
ASIA BONILLA

originally from Trabuco Canyon, CA, graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program with a major in Dance and minor in Mathematics. She has performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia and the Rudolfinum Concert Hall in the Czech Republic and danced with Awaken Dance Theater, VISIONS Contemporary Ballet, BHDos (2nd company of Ballet Hispánico), and Alison Cook-Beatty Dance. Bonilla's performed works by Alvin Ailey, Robert Battle, Michelle Manzanales, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and Jacquelyn Buglisi among others. She's taught dance in Nicaragua, NYC, and virtually with JUNTOS Collective, and is currently on the ballet faculty of Dance Project of Washington Heights.



CAITLYN CASSON

A Philadelphia native, Casson graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of South Florida, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance. She has performed repertoire by Bill T. Jones, Doug Varone and Talley Beatty. Casson's desire for internationally diverse, artistic endeavors has taken her across the globe to perform and teach. Since 2013, she has been working as an international dance trainer with MindLeaps to Eastern Europe and Africa. Most recently she performed at the Ubumuntu Arts Festival in Kigali, Rwanda. In New York City, Caitlyn spends her time teaching yoga and dancing with Matthew Westerby Company, Dance Entropy and Ariel Rivka Dance.



ABRIONA CHERRY

is a native of Southern Maryland. She trained at a variety of local studios as well as the Kirov Academy of Ballet in Washington, DC and the Dance Theatre of Harlem Pre Professional Residency at Duke Ellington. Abriona graduated from the Ailey/Fordham BFA program with majors in Dance and International Humanitarian Studies. She has performed works by Alvin Ailey and Arthur Mitchell and worked with choreographers such as Robert Battle, Virginia Johnson, Amy Hall Garner, Adam Baruch, Tanya Chianese, and Chuck Wilt. She has performed and taught dance outreach both nationally and internationally through the JUNTOS Collective. She currently dances professionally in New York with Vashti Dance Theatre and Ariel Rivka Dance.



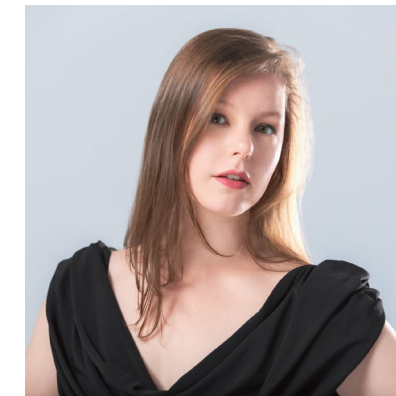
KRISTIN LICATA

From the Ailey/Fordham BFA program, Licata has performed classics by Alvin Ailey and Joyce Trisler and worked with Robert Battle, Sean Curran, William Forsyth, and Elisa Monte. She's danced with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II, Felice Lesser Dance Theater, Regina Nejman and Company, Tamara Saari, Dance, Yuka Kawazu/Danse En L'air, Vabang! and Vox Luminere. Recently, she worked in the creative process with Chanel DaSilva, Maria Naidu and Michael Spencer Phillips. Touring internationally in Brazil, Greece, and Poland, Kristin currently dances with Covenant Ballet Theater, Matthew Westerby Company, and Valerie Green Dance Entropy, as well as being an ABT® certified teacher, teaching ballet and modern dance throughout NYC.

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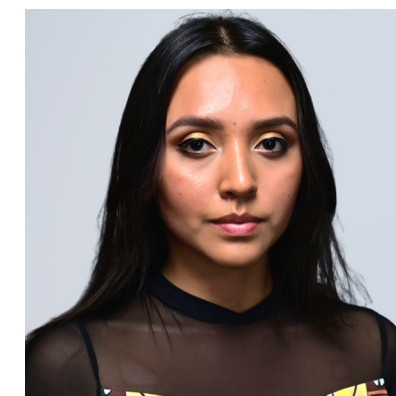
CASIE MARIE O'KANE

Originally from Northern Virginia, attended the Alonzo King LINES Ballet Training Program in San Francisco, California from 2010-2012. While in the training program, Casie worked closely with Alonzo King, David Harvey, Maurya Kerr, Christian Burns, and Karah Abiog. Since moving to New York in 2012 she has worked with Sidra Bell, Erin Carlisle Norton, Maruya Kerr, Jennifer Archibald, Yoshito Sakuraba and Karol Armitage. She has a B.S. in Public Affairs from Baruch College and completed her 200 Hour Yoga Teacher Training in 2018. Casie joined Ariel Rivka Dance in 2014.



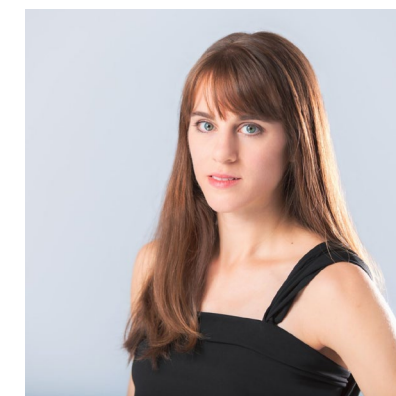
MARIA GRACIA PEREZ

born and raised in Lima, Peru, is a Peridance Center Certificate Program graduate. She began her dance training at a very early age with her father in Lima, where she learned her love for dance. Along her life she has trained in Peruvian folk, latin dances, commercial dances, ballet, modern and contemporary dance, and furthered her studies in training programs and summer intensives in Batsheva Dance Company, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Grupo Raca and Joffrey Ballet School. In Peru, she was dancing as part of Dactilares Contemporary Dance Company and Pepe Hevia Dance Company until she decided to move to New York to keep dancing.



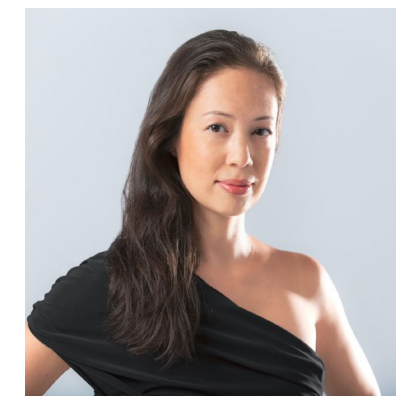
KYLEIGH SACKANDY

Sackandy holds a BFA from SUNY Purchase College and an MS in Dance/Movement Therapy from Sarah Lawrence College. She has performed professionally in New York with SYREN Modern Dance, NuDance Theater, Beth Liebowitz & Artists, Indah Walsh Dance Company, and Catherine Galasso among others. She has also choreographed and performed internationally in Taiwan, Japan, Spain, and Canada. Kyleigh currently teaches dance in New York and is a dance/movement therapist for children with developmental disabilities and who have experienced trauma.



HANA GINSBURG TIROSH

Ginsburg Tirosh holds a BA in Education Policy from Princeton, and an MFA in Dance Performance and Teaching from Purchase College, SUNY. She's currently a member of Ariel Rivka Dance, Matthew Westerby Company, Valerie Green/Dance Entropy and Kaleidoscope Dance Theater. She has preformed with Mark Dendy Dance Theater, Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, Riedel Dance Theater, Yuka Kawazu/Danse en L'air, and others. She is a founding member of 360° Dance Company, and is currently the New York City Director for the New York Institute of Dance and Education, and her most perfect creation is her three-year-old son, Orin Isaac Tirosh.



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“Variations on a Box is incredibly athletic, energetic and lyrical all at once. These seemingly disparate juxtapositions in Grossman’s work are what makes it so satisfying to watch, along with her use of kaleidoscopic groupings and staging.”

- Critical Dance

“Each piece was unlike the others, and your dancers performed with energy, spirit, and total commitment. I also appreciated your respectful yet productive rapport with the dancers. They seem truly inspired.”

- Sascha Radetsky, Artistic Director of ABT Studio Company

“Sometimes it is a deeper experience to view dance as pure expressive movement, beyond story, detailed construction, and self-consciousness; these dances achieved that feeling for me.”

- Carlos Stafford, The Model Critic

“Ariel Grossman’s choreography is deeply rooted in her idiosyncratic world-view and unapologetic humanity. She is an artist who is in full command of her craft.”

- Josh Prince, Founder/Artistic Director Dance Lab New York

“Their fluid movements drew the audience into a magical world creating an undertow of beauty viewers could not escape.”

- Spotlight Central

“One of the most well crafted and layered, yet accessible contemporary dance work I have encountered in years. The depth and nuance in the choreography is staggering and yet it perfectly pairs with David Homan’s score... The company is a wonderful example to us all of what we all can accomplish despite our gender, sex, religion, body type, or background. The artists are some of the finest examples of both dancers and human beings I have ever had the privilege of presenting.”

- Adam Schnell, Ballet Vero Beach Artistic Director/CEO

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CONTACT


For all bookings, please contact:

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