

The Cowles Center and
the McKnight Foundation's Artist Fellowship Program present

SOLO



SIX WORLD-PREMIERE SOLOS

Friday, September 16 and
Saturday, September 17

7:30 PM CST

The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts

2020 Fellows

Melissa Clark
Non Edwards
Marciano Silva dos Santos

2021 Fellows

Alexandra Eady
Hassan Ingraham
David Stalter Jr.

MCKNIGHT
ARTIST
FELLOWSHIPS

THE
COWLES
CENTER

Premiere performances by the recipients of 2020 and 2021 McKnight Dancer Fellowships

Dancers and Commissioned Choreographers (in order of appearance):

Alexandra Eady

Go As You Know How to Go

Choreography: Maria Bauman (NY)

Marciano Silva dos Santos

Aguyjevete - Act of Resistance

Choreography: Gil Mendez Coelho (Brazil)

David "The Crown" Stalter, Jr.

The Ether

Choreography: Sheopatra S.R. (CA)

INTERMISSION

Non Edwards

Eye

Choreography: Anna Marie Shogren (MN)

Hassan Ingraham

The Moment HE Reveals HIMSELF

Choreography: Norbert De La Cruz III (NY)

Melissa Clark

Becoming

Choreography: Sana Bangoura (Guinea/MN), John 'Boodilla' King (IL), René Thompson (Cuba/MN)

McKnight Artist Fellowships

The Cowles Center is pleased to be the administrative home of the McKnight Dancer Fellowships and the McKnight Choreographer Fellowships. Support for individual artists has been a focus of the McKnight Foundation's Arts program since its inception, and 2022 marks its 40th anniversary. The foundation believes that the arts cannot flourish or enhance community life without individual artists' ideas, energy, and drive. Artists cannot make these contributions without unfettered creative time. McKnight Artist Fellowships deliver significant financial assistance to mid-career Minnesota artists whose work demonstrates artistic excellence. The McKnight Fellowship Program annually awards three fellowships of \$25,000 each to Minnesota dancers and three fellowships of \$25,000 each to choreographers.

SOLO Commissioning Project

As part of each McKnight Dancer Fellows' award, we commission a new work created expressly for each dance fellow from a choreographer selected by the fellow. The result is SOLO, an evening of 6 world premieres performed by six extraordinary Minnesota dancers. This performance features the 2020 and 2021 McKnight Dancer Fellows performing brand new work from six outstanding choreographers from Brazil, Cuba, Guinea, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Minnesota.

SOLO and the McKnight Dancer Fellowship Program are funded by the McKnight Foundation and administered by The Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts.

MCKNIGHT
ARTIST
FELLOWSHIPS

THE
COWLES
CENTER

Dear Cowles audience,

This weekend we are thrilled to open The Cowles Center's season with the biannual SOLO show, showcasing six exceptional Minnesota dance artists who are recipients of the 2020 and 2021 McKnight Dancer Fellowships. The choreographers featured in these works were selected by the dancers and hail from Brazil, Cuba, Guinea, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Minnesota.

Tonight's six SOLO world premieres are the result of months of creative work, where each choreographer-dancer team embarked on a process full of risk, imagination, travel, hard work and exhilaration. The solos are tailored expressly for these dancers, each dance a personal expression, each piece with a fascinating backstory of the intimate relationship between choreographer and performer. We share an inside glimpse of these connections with you, through Friday's pre-performance talk with the choreographers, Saturday's post-performance discussion with the dancers, and a series of short videos incorporated into the performance.

Through the McKnight Fellowships, generously funded by the McKnight Foundation, we are delighted to provide major support and resources to some of Minnesota's extraordinary local dance artists. Through the McKnight Artist Fellowship Program, the SOLO commissions showcase some of our exceptional local artists on the Cowles stage tonight. We are grateful to the McKnight Foundation for their vision and commitment to individual artists, and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the McKnight Artist Fellowship Program this year!

And now, enjoy the show.



Dana K. Kassel
Program Director, McKnight Fellowships
for Dancers and Choreographers



Photo by Canaan Miltson

ALEXANDRA EADY

Go As You Know How to Go

Choreography: Maria Bauman

Original music by Renée Copeland and Mankwe Ndotsi

Alexandra Eady was introduced to the contemporary dance technique of Yorhchā created by Ananya Chatterjea, the Artistic Director of Ananya Dance Theatre. In 2011, she became a company member with Ananya Dance Theatre and continues to train under Dr. Chatterjea, perform, teach and tour with the company. Ananya Dance Theatre's commitment to social justice and intentional choreographic creations is what fuels her performance on stage.

Alexandra is a teacher of movement practices in a variety of settings across the Twin Cities. Her dance training informs her teaching and she loves making different movement and mobility practices accessible. As part of ADT she has traveled nationally and internationally teaching and performing. Her international performance and teaching experience includes the Harare International Festival of the Arts in Zimbabwe, New Waves Performance Institute in Trinidad, the Bethlehem International Performing Arts Festival in Palestine, and the Aavejak Aavaaz Festival in Delhi. In 2020 she was a collaborator in residence at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography. Alexandra is committed to performing and creating works grounded in narrative and story that do not leave behind ancestral guidance. She works to bring her communities with her and performs in honor of those that have come before, the ones that are witnessing, and future generations. She is thankful for her mentors, teachers, students, friends, family, and most significantly, her parents Shane, Lisa and sister Ari that give her energy and light. This dance is dedicated to her amazing grandmothers, Gloria Dean Eady and Alice Marie Ellis.



Maria Bauman (she/her) is a Brooklyn, NY-based multi-disciplinary artist and community organizer from Jacksonville, FL. Since 2009, she creates bold and honest artworks for her company MBDance, based on physical and emotional power, insistence on equity, and fascination with intimacy. In particular, Bauman's dance work centers the non-linear and linear stories and bodies of queer people of color onstage. She draws on her long study of English literature, capoeira, improvisation, dancing in living rooms and nightclubs, as well as concert dance classes to embody interconnectedness, joy, and tenacity. Before beginning her own company, Bauman danced with Urban Bush Women and was associate artistic director of the company as well as director of education and community engagement. She has both learned much from and added much to UBW's entering, building and exiting community methodology. She has also danced jumatao poe & Donte Beacham, Nia Love/Blacksmith's Daughter, jill sigman/thinkdance, Tatyana Tenenbaum and apprenticed with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.

Bauman was recently recognized with a Bessie Award for Outstanding Production for her choreographic work on Saul Williams's The Motherboard Suite, and this follows the Bessie she won in 2017 for Outstanding Performance with the Black dance improvisation group Skeleton Architecture. Currently, she is an Urban Bush Women Choreographic Center 2.0 Fellow, as well as a member of the Bessies Selection Committee and a mentor with Queer Art Mentorship. Bauman is a community organizer and co-founder of ACRE (Artists Co-creating Real Equity) which is built on the foundation of The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond's anti-racist community organizing principles. She's also part of the Dancing While Black family/organizing circle. Organizing to undo racism informs her artistic work and the two areas are each ropes in a Double-dutch that is her holistic practice.

mbdance.net



Photos by Canaan Mattson

MARCIANO SILVA DOS SANTOS

Aguyjevete - Act of Resistance

(Aguyjevete is a Tupi-Guarani word that means gratitude)

Choreography: Gil Mendes Coelho

Music: *Dialogue-of-Voice-Distorters* by Enawenê-Nawê ,
Itsari by Xavantes and Sepultura

Costume Design: Gil Mendes Coelho
and Marciano Silva dos Santos

Marciano Silva dos Santos is a native of Brazil and recognized by the American Folkloric Society as a Brazilian folk artist of unique and exceptional ability and merit. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Contempo Physical Dance. Through his extensive research, Marciano has developed a dynamic fusion of Afro- Brazilian and contemporary dance. He has gained recognition for his professional dancing and choreographic works. Marciano was named “Best Dancer” by City Pages, “one of the most graceful movers on any Twin Cities stage” by the Star Tribune, and “one of the hottest choreographers in town” by Minnesota Monthly Magazine. Marciano is recipient of a 2020 McKnight Fellowship for Dancers. He is also bringing global African and contemporary dance to Minnesota with international choreography residencies, including Nildinha Fonseca from Balé Folclórico da Bahia (Brazil), Patrick Acogny from l’Ecole des Sables (Senegal) and in partnership with the McKnight International Choreographer Residency program, Mário Nascimento from the Corpo de Dança do Amazonas (Brazil) which will premiere in November 2022. Marciano has served as



a panelist for the Minnesota Sage Awards for Dance, USArtists International and the Minnesota State Arts Board. After many years of dedication as a dancer, teacher and choreographer, Marciano received his Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Hollins University.

Gil Mendes Coelho is originally from Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil. He is a dance teacher, dancer and choreographer. Gil Mendes graduated in dance from the Federal University of Bahia with a specialization in choreography. Since 1994, he has worked as a professor of dance at the Municipal Technical School of Dance Theater and Music Fafi in Vitória. Gil Mendes has received several awards in dance festivals. He has touch in the Cachoeiro do Itapemirim at ESFA, Santa Teresa and at Aces. He has worked as director of choreography for Arcelormittal's Christmas Concert from 2004 to 2010, participated as a teacher in the Training for Teachers of municipal and state networks promoted by Sesc/ES since 2011. Participated in the project Assuntando o Corpo de Baile - Afro-Brazilian dance workshops for Quilombola Communities in São Mateus, ES. He choreographed for several dance groups in the state, among them Negraô, (with which he participated in folk dance festivals in the city of Gayaquil in Ecuador and in Florianópolis, SC, Brazil); Man Dance Company; Small Talents Group-ACES, etc. He is currently director of choreography at Cia de Dança In Pares.

Gil Mendes received an Honor of Merit by the City Council of Vitória in 2010 and the Commendation "Maurício de Oliveira" by the Secretary of Culture of the Municipality of Vitória in 2019. He was honored in the film 'INABITÁVEIS' by director Anderson Bardot.



Photos by V. Paul Virtucio

DAVID “THE CROWN” STALTER JR

The Ether

Choreography: Sheopatra S. R.

Music: *Shipibo Icaro, Chapter 4* and *Mating Dance* by Flako

Costume: David “The Crown” Stalter Jr and Sheopatra S.R.

David “The Crown” Stalter Jr., born and raised in Minnesota. He started dancing the summer after freshman year of high school, dancing as an outlet to express himself. He’s self-taught, teaching himself all sorts of styles like Hip Hop Freestyle, Animation, Breaking, House, and many more. David has danced with the 612 Timberwolves crew, where he’s danced with G-Eazy, Lil Jon, and Skee-Lo.

Winning many competitions in his dance career, he focuses on musicality, control, and becoming one with the music. David comes from a street background but has built studio experience throughout his career and has been teaching since 2015. Dance has taught him many different things and has made him the person he is today. His ultimate goal is to inspire as many people as possible with his art to spread love and light and help those in need. He believes it’s important to be yourself no matter what because that’s what makes you special, and that’s what makes you, you. He’s based in Minnesota, but his passion, art and dance have allowed him to travel to many different places such as Chicago, Texas, Los Angeles and Paris. He has faith that one day he’ll travel the world teaching about self-love and dance, while continuing to be a student and learning new things along the way.



Sheopatra S.R. is a Movement Artist/ Movement Activist born and raised in Memphis, TN. She has spent the past years in Los Angeles teaching and working professionally.

Her credits to name a few include working with artist such as Missy Elliott, Pharrell, Chris Brown, Kehlani, Kanye West, as well as commercial ads, print, and more.

She's also the founder of all female collective "THECouncil" which specializes in creating space and support for women, artistically and otherwise through the medium of art. She uses her art to bridge the gap of misinformation, as well as a way to uplift and preserve her culture.



Photos by Canaan Mattson

Theater audience — please see printed program page

NON EDWARDS

Eye

Choreography: Anna Marie Shogren

Sound Design: Non Edwards and Anna Marie Shogren

Costume Design: Randi Shandroski

Thank you to Tom Herbers, Kristin Van Loon,
and the Ragdale Foundation

Non Edwards is a dancer, choreographer, and GYROKINESIS® Method Trainer, living and working in Minneapolis/St. Paul since 2009. She dances to understand her body and what it represents, and to be a skin for the audience to project onto. As a performer and a teacher, Non explores the transmission of somatic experience between people. Her choreography values process and the agency of the performer, often investigating the intersection of dance and other forms.

Non has performed in DIY and non-art spaces as well as the Seattle Art Fair, Walker Art Center, Nelson-Atkins Museum, the Twin Cities' Bedlam, Bedlam Lowertown, Bryant-Lake Bowl, Ritz, Fitzgerald, McGuire, Southern, and Goodale Theaters; in Massachusetts at Jacob's Pillow; and in Hawai'i at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. She has created original roles in dances by Berit Ahlgren and Helen Hatch, HIJACK, Mathew Janczewski, Valerie Oliveira, Kerry Parker, April Sellers, Jinza Thayer, Morgan Thorson, and Laurie Van Wieren. From 2015-2016, Non created and performed in collaboration with Missa Kes.

Born and raised in Iowa, Non received a BA in Math from Grinnell College. In addition to teaching, dancing, and making dances, she is a freelance model and writer, grant writer, and Co-Editor for DanceMN.

GYROKINESIS® is a registered trademark of GYROTONIC® Sales Corp and is used with their permission.



Anna Marie Shogren is a dance artist connected to caregiving, social dance, and touch, researching this work recently as an Art and Health Resident at the Weisman Art Museum, working in collaboration with the UMN School of Nursing, and continuing for an exhibition at the Rochester Art Center in fall of 2022. She makes experiential and dance-based installations for public and visual art spaces. She has presented work largely in Minneapolis and New York, and performed in the work of Goshka Macuga, Emilie Pitoiset, Body Cartography Project, Yanira Castro, Hijack, Morgan Thorson, Karen Sherman, Faye Driscoll, and Laurie Van Wieren. She is invested in care work and health justice as a memory care worker, a single mother, a hospice CNA, and a fledgling death doula. Her practice is extended as a writer with MNartists, NY Arts Magazine and artist-run publications.



Photos by V. Paul Virtucio

HASSAN INGRAHAM

The Moment HE Reveals HIMSELF

Choreography: Norbert de la Cruz III in
collaboration with Hassan Ingraham

Costume: From the TU Dance costume collection

Music: *The King's Affirmation* by Iniko, *Chasing The
Moon Rabbit* by Trance Mission, and *Nocturne in
D-Flat Major "Un Reve"* by Eric Christian

Thank you, God, for always looking after me. Thank you for the life you have given and for everything which makes my life worth living. Special thanks to the University of Minnesota Dance Program, my mentor, Toni Pierce-Sands, my mother, Sandra Ingraham, my oldest brother, DeAngelo Jackson, and my partner, Jon Guajardo for their role in my journey. Also, a big thank you to my village. You guys continue to inspire me to push beyond my limits so I hope I am making you all proud.

Hassan Ingraham, born and raised in Miami, FL, first discovered dance while attending Charles R. Drew Middle School. He continued his dance training at the New World School of the Arts and then received his Bachelor of Fine Arts at The Juilliard School in New York City. Hassan has worked with various prominent artists from the likes of Alexander Ekman, Christopher Huggins, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Dwight Rhoden, among many others. He has been a guest artist with Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Theater, Urban Spectrum Theater Company, and Peter London Global Dance Company. He was a dance specialist at the Promise Academy at the Harlem Children's Zone and a faculty member at the Harlem School of the Arts. In 2011, Hassan moved to Minnesota to join TU Dance, where he danced with the company for 5 years. He also has been teaching ballet, modern, and jazz techniques for over 15 years.



With the combination of his experience and education, Hassan brings a fresh contemporary approach to his class that allows dancers to investigate new possibilities while learning how to operate their human anatomy efficiently. Aside from his dancing career and establishing himself as a master teacher, teaching the young aspiring to professionals, Hassan has choreographed for numerous dance schools and programs across the U.S. Currently, you can find Hassan teaching, dancing, and setting his choreography throughout the Twin Cities.

Born in the Philippines and raised in Los Angeles, California, **Norbert De La Cruz III** received a BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School and an MFA in Dance from Hollins University. He is a NY and LA-based freelance artist. He was a soloist with Ballet Torino, Aszure Barton, the Metropolitan Opera, Complexions, and was casted as a dancer for Warner Bro's "In The Heights" movie. He has been commissioned by Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Barak Ballet, Hubbard Street, BalletX, Peridance, Grand Rapids Ballet, the Juilliard School, and Olympic Ballet Theater. Norbert was a finalist of Hubbard Street's National Choreographic Competition, a Princess Grace Foundation-USA award recipient, Alvin Ailey New Directions Choreography Lab, Joffrey Academy of Dance's Winning Works, the National Choreographic Initiative, and a recipient of the New York City Ballet's NY Choreographic Institute. He was a former teaching dance faculty at the Juilliard School. His honorable mentions include the Asian Arts Alliance Jadin Wong Award, and McCallum Theatre Choreography Festival Award, and was featured in Dance Magazines Top 25 to watch.

NorbertDeLaCruziii.com



Photos by Canaan Mattson

MELISSA CLARK

Becoming

Choreography: Alhassane “Sana” Bangoura, John “Boodilla” King and René Dennis Thompson

Music: *Yoruba Yemaya* by Yoruba Andabo, *A Time To Rage* by Issac “Crossfire” Harris, and *Dundunba* played live by Fode Bangoura, Sana Bangoura, and Fara Bangoura

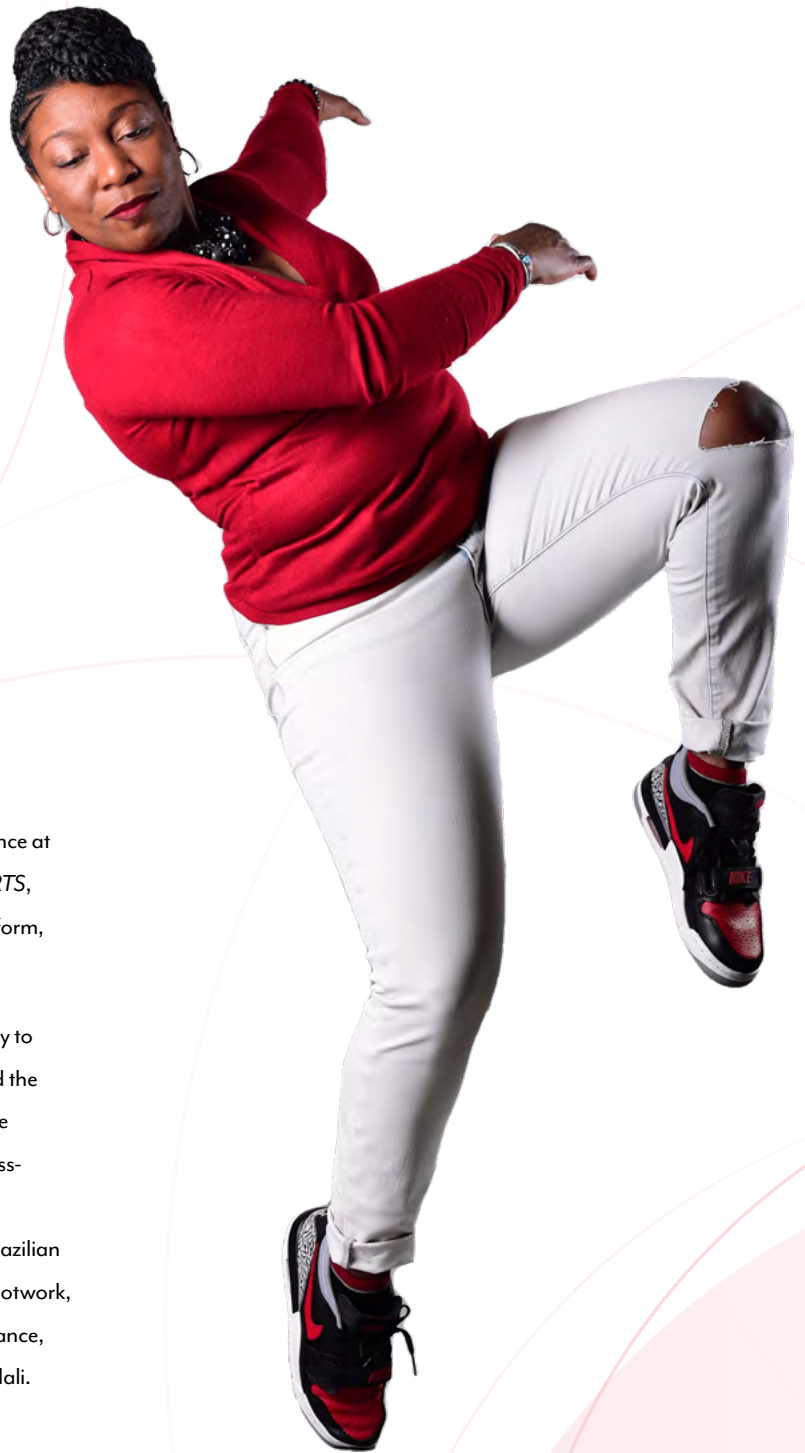
Storyteller: Arame Sy

Thank you to Arame Sy for her contribution to this project.

Melissa Clark is originally from Gary, Indiana. She began studying dance at the age of two, and teaching at fourteen. She is the founder of *COHORTS*, a collective for artists that creates opportunities for artists to stage, perform, contribute, and expand artistically through cross-genre collaboration.

As a Diasporic artist, Clark travels both domestically and internationally to research the anthropologic roots of traditional dance and rhythms, and the influence of historical events on the evolution of dance and culture in the Diaspora. Her specific interests focus on identifying and promoting cross-cultural intersections in dance and arts aesthetics, musicality, historical content, and curative elements. Melissa’s background includes Afro-Brazilian Contemporary, Afro-Cuban, Ballet, Capoeira, Chicago House and Footwork, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Modern, Samba, Tap, Traditional Haitian Dance, as well as Traditional West African Dance from Ghana, Guinea, and Mali.

Alhassane “Sana” Bangoura is the lead dancer and choreographer of *Duniya Drum & Dance*. They left Guinea and joined their brother Fode here in Minneapolis in 2015 after serving as assistant director and principal dancer under Les Ballets Africains, Sorel Conte, in his Conakry-based group, Wassasso.



John “Boodilla” King began his dance journey on the Southside streets of Chicago. He began locally teaching hip hop and Chicago Footwork with the After School Matters program, shortly followed by a high school tour in Chicago. Later he branched out and continued teaching classes in LA at Debbie Reynolds dance studio and in New York at EXPG dance studio. Boodilla was one of the original members of the Chicago Footworkingz ensemble (America’s Best Dance Crew - Season 4). Boodilla has also performed in Las Vegas and has credits and appearances including Ellen Degeneres, New York City’s - Lincoln Center, San Francisco, San Francisco Hip Hop Dance Fest, World Of Dance Chicago (2012 /2016). Boodilla’s international teaching starting in the beginning of 2014. Boodilla’s mission is to spread the culture of Chicago Footwork to the world and keep the legacy alive. His dance company [Chicago Footworkingz](#) includes legends and pioneers of the style who have helped document it’s history and development thru the Footworkingz DVD “Take Flight” (the first quality DVD about Chicago “Footwork” style including the development of the Footworking project). He looks forward to continuing this journey with his current fam Creation Global and evolving the style to the next level.

René Dennis Thompson has been a professional Latin dancer for 37 years, 30 of those years as an instructor and choreographer. He began his career in Cuba in 1973 with a small role as an actor in the popular theater company “4 de Abil” under the direction of Tito Junco. Many other amateur theaters and dance companies helped him develop his artistic vocation. In the early 1980s, talent hunters discovered Rene’s versatility and soon he became a great Afro-Cuban dancer, performing with several well-known choreographers, directors, and dance companies, further developing his unique style. René has performed traditional Afro-Cuban and popular Latin dance all over the world and in many music videos and movies with popular U.S. and international artists, including Will Smith, John Leguizamo, Gloria Estefan, and the Miami Sound Machine. Born and trained in Cuba, René brings a wealth of knowledge of music and dance and its cultural context to his audience. He always includes the heart of the Cuban style, which has its foundation in Africa and Spain, as well as his homeland of Cuba. René has been honored by the Federal Executive Board, USDA, Harrington Foundation, and Minneapolis Community College for his informative talks and demonstrations about the rich history of his Afro-Cuban roots.

renedance.com

SOLO: SIX WORLD PREMIERES

SOLO: Six World Premieres

Producer: Dana K. Kassel

Assistant Producer: Colin M. Edwards

Video (Camera and Editing): Caitlin
Hammel/Perimeter Productions

Lighting Designer: Kevin A. Jones

Stage Manager: Alexandra Whitman

Cowles Center Production Staff

Director of Operations & Production: Joseph Bingham

Head Sound: Wallace Fleming

Head Carpenter: Kristy Haupt

Head Electrics: Garvin Jellison

Head Video Production: Arlo Myren

A very special thanks to those who served on the 2020 and 2021 McKnight Dancer Fellowship selection panels: Tamiko French, Heidi Latsky, Tanya Lukin Linklater, Margo Abdo O'Dell, David Parker, Suchitra Sairam, Santee Smith

Additional thanks to the McKnight Foundation, Colin Edwards, Caitlin Hammel, Kevin Jones, Alexandra Whitman, Eric Kassel, Marciano Silva dos Santos and Jenny Pennaz for translations and Mary Ellen Childs. We appreciate critical support from The Cowles Center/ Artspace staff, especially Joseph Bingham, Jessi Fett, Symone Wilson, Jackie Ralles, Kevin Duong, Lee Jin, Nu Lee, and Mary Jo Johnson.

We would like to acknowledge that these performances take place on the ancestral and traditional lands of the Dakota and Anishinaabe people. These remain the original, current, and future protectors of the land on which we stand today. We recognize that colonial settlers took this land through predatory treaties. We honor the histories of these lands before colonization and commit to going beyond this written statement to acknowledge and support Indigenous artists and community members.

MÁRIO NASCIMENTO

Join us this fall for the 2022 McKnight International Choreographer Residency

The Cowles Center and the McKnight Choreographer Fellowship program are pleased to host the 2022 McKnight International Choreographer, [Mário Nascimento](#). This program provides a Minnesota residency for one international choreographer each year to work with Twin Cities dance artists to develop and showcase new work and participate in dance community events.

The McKnight Fellowship program will partner with [Contempo Physical Dance](#), founded by Artistic Director Marciano Silva dos Santos to speak to the cultural dynamics of his Afro-Brazilian and indigenous Brazilian ancestry. Mário Nascimento will be in residence in the Twin Cities from mid-October to mid-November to create a new work for Contempo, as well as offer master classes and participate in a variety of dance community events at The Cowles Center and other area venues. Contempo will premiere Nascimento's new work at The O'Shaughnessy in St. Paul on November 18 & 19, 2022.

Look to our website for more information about residency activities. mcknightdancechoreo.org/international-artist



1. Mário Nascimento, photos courtesy of the artist
2. Contempo Physical Dance, photo courtesy of the company

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2022 MCKNIGHT FELLOWS

McKnight Choreography Fellows



Photo courtesy of the artist

**Leslie
Parker**

Click to read about
Leslie Parker ↗



Photo by Awa Mally, courtesy of the Walker Art Center

**Pedra
Pepa**

Click to read about
Pedra Pepa ↗



Photo by Tim Rummelhoff

**Rosy
Simas**

Click to read about
Rosy Simas ↗

McKnight Dancer Fellows



Photo by Zaynab Mourad

**Leila
Awadallah**

Click to read about
Leila Awadallah ↗



Photo courtesy of the artist

**Sharon
Picasso**

Click to read about
Sharon Picasso ↗



Photo courtesy of the artist

**Cheng
Xiong**

Click to read about
Cheng Xiong ↗

For more information on these outstanding dance artists and the fellowship opportunity, go to mcknightdancechoreo.org