

The Fantasyland Project

21st Anniversary Season

DANIEL GWIRTZMAN DANCE COMPANY

Friday, July 31, 2020 - 7PM EST

A discussion with the artists immediately follows tonight's program.

DIRECTION/CHOREOGRAPHY/EDITING

DANIEL GWIRTZMAN

COMPANY DANCERS

MARIAH ANTON - DWAYNE BROWN - JACOB BUTTER - DEREK CRESCENTI
DANIEL GWIRTZMAN - SARAH HILLMON - MADELINE HOAK - VANESSA MARTÍNEZ DE BAÑOS

SUMMER APPRENTICES

NEFTALI BENITEZ - MADISON HERTEL - USMAN ALI ISHAQ - KAITLYN JACKSON
LYDIA KELLY - COLIN MCKECHNIE - JOEL OLIVER - JULIA ZORATTO

COMPANY INTERNS

THOMAS BERTRON - CAELI CARROLL - BRIAN HANSHAW - IVY HARBOUR
LILLY MCGRATH - BELLA MORRIS - DAISY RUDIN

COMPOSER

JEFF STORY



ABOUT TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

The Fantasyland Project, a collaboration between choreographer Daniel Gwirtzman and a cast of sixteen dancers, investigates the notion of fantasy through a range of lenses. Through a very socially-distant process, each dancer was charged with responding to a series of written prompts to spark the conceptual kernel that interested them most. Working with Daniel to distill the intellectual ideas and ground them in a concrete scenario, the process of creating a unique fantasy necessitated finding a location, and collaborating with the choreographer, costumer, and composer. The project reflects this moment in time as a springboard from which to explore the mundane, comedic, dramatic, and the horrific.

The word “fantasy” is derived from the Greek root *phantazein*, which means ‘apparition’ or ‘to make visible.’ This evolved to the word *phantasia* and then to the Old French *fantasie*, and the Old English *phantasy*. These words existed when the concept of fantasy materialized in oral stories or traditions. The Old French *fantasie* is associated with the fantastical, both idealistic and cynical. The Old English *phantasy*, however, is associated with the unrealistic or improbable. This definition relates more to fantasy in a psychological sense. In psychology, fantasy refers to the conscious and unconscious parts of the mind. Fantasy expresses the aims or desires of an individual not present in reality.

DANCER PROFILES

Learn more about how the dancers’ describe their individual fantasies at gwirtzmandance.org/fantasyland

Read the interviews with our summer apprentices at gwirtzmandance.org/apprentices/

DANCE WITH US: A NEW EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

Rushing waterfalls and gentle breezes won’t be the only movement in Ithaca, NY over the next few months. *Dance With Us*, the Company’s overarching summer project, will bring Company dancers from New York City to the idyllic college town for a two-week residency at [The Treman Center](#). The project, which [received leadership support from The Rockefeller Brothers Fund last September](#), is the creation of a library of educational digital resources, centered around the production of a series of new films. Geared toward a general viewership, this multi-faceted project seeks to demystify concert dance by explaining ways to view dance and discussing how dances are made. Through performance and studio footage, the resource aims to teach people how to think and speak about dance with comfort, increasing dance literacy and empowering personal opinions. The films will present favorite dances from the Company’s repertory, define dance’s concepts, and illuminate dance histories.

Keeping its entrepreneurial drive alive, this past month the Company has grown from having a few employees on its payroll to twenty-five! What’s uniquely special about this summer’s projects is the employment of current students and recent graduates through the Company’s long standing internship program. All of our apprentices and interns, a total of fourteen, are paid hourly for their on-the-job training and are sharpening their professional skills. The Company’s summer involves students, graduates, and professionals collaborating together to create a body of work, culminating in *Dance With Us*.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

A teaching and performing organization celebrating its 20th Anniversary, Daniel Gwartzman Dance Company has demonstrated a commitment to education since its inception. The Company has stayed true to its mission of cultivating the creation of innovative art and presenting this to the public in interactive, accessible, and meaningful ways. The Company believes everyone can join the dance. We strive to teach people how dance can play a meaningful part of their physical and overall well-being, and how to view and speak about concert dance with comfort. Programs encourage audiences to be active participants, integrating communities into the dance-making and performing processes. The Company is known for its playful virtuosity, musicality, accessibility and charisma.

“A troupe I’d follow anywhere.” *The Village Voice*

“A troupe of fabulous dancers.” *Backstage*

“The dancers can’t help but smile.” *The New Yorker*

Performance highlights include Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Edinburgh International Fringe Festival, Fire Island Dance Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Bryant Park, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. The Company’s dance films have screened in national and international festivals including the American Dance Festival. DGDC has been awarded residencies by New York’s Joyce Theater, The Yard, Raumaras (Finland), Sacatar (Brazil), Djerassi (California), Skafiotes (Greece), Maison Dora Maar, (France), Centro Negra (Spain), Gdański Festiwal Tanca (Poland), and The Studios of Key West.

SUPPORT

The funds that DGDC raises are used to help underwrite our inclusive, multigenerational interactive programming. This September The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has allocated a grant of \$10,000 to the NYC nonprofit toward the creation of an interactive educational digital resource geared toward a general viewership. The project, *Dance With Us*, seeks to bridge the divide separating dance from mainstream culture, underscoring the primacy, purpose, and possibility of dance in contemporary life. Combining the instructional with the performative, the resource aims to increase the public’s knowledge of dance and their dance literacy, to share the love of dance, and to introduce ways to view, speak about, and participate in dance with comfort. We are currently raising funds to produce these resources. If you have an interest to support the project, please reach out to speak directly with Daniel.

Donations may be made online via [PayPal](#) or a check may be sent to:

DANIEL GWIRTZMAN DANCE COMPANY

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EMAIL US FOR INFORMATION

info@gwartzmandance.org

VISIT US ONLINE!

WEBSITE www.gwartzmandance.org

INSTAGRAM [@gwartzmandance](https://www.instagram.com/gwartzmandance)

FACEBOOK [gwartzmandance](https://www.facebook.com/gwartzmandance)

VIMEO vimeo.com/dgdc

YOUTUBE www.youtube.com/DanielGwartzman

THE COMPANY THANKS

Our Colleagues, Our Supporters, Our Families, And You, Our Audiences!