

MORDANCE  
SPRING  
2024 Season



## **On The Waterfront**

Choreographer - Morgan McEwen  
Composer - Leonard Bernstein  
Lighting Design - Becky Heisler McCarthy  
Set and Costume Design - Morgan McEwen  
Costume Construction - Carolyn McEwen

Intermission

## **Depths Entangled**

Choreographer - Morgan McEwen  
Composer - Venetian Snares  
Lighting Design - Becky Heisler McCarthy  
Costume Design - Morgan McEwen  
Costume Construction - Carolyn McEwen

Intermission

## **Echoes of Silence**

Choreographer - Morgan McEwen  
Composers - Randy Newman, Emitt Rhodes, Judee Sill, Elizabeth Cotten, Fred  
Neil, Mentor Williams, Stephen Stills  
Lighting Design - Becky Heisler McCarthy  
Costume Design - Morgan McEwen  
Costume Construction - Carolyn McEwen

The creation of *Echoes of Silence* has been made possible  
through the generous sponsorship of Szilard Farkas.

Stage Manager - Hethyr Verhoef

Development Assistant - Mary-Louise Hildebrandt

Board of Directors - Sharon McCann-Doyle, Eric Fleischman, Jeanne  
Samuels, Claire van Bever, Morgan McEwen, Mayank Saksena, Evelyn  
Swaim, Elizabeth Rodbell

### **Morgan McEwen - Artistic Director/Choreographer**

Morgan McEwen (she/her) is the founder, artistic director, and choreographer of MorDance. Through her extensive career as a professional ballet dancer at the Richmond Ballet, BalletMet, and the Metropolitan Opera, Morgan discovered she had limited opportunities to pursue her passion as a female choreographer. Driven to create a positive work environment that champions exploration and opportunity for all, Morgan has been heralded by The New York Times as having, "an eye for shaping the arc of a dance as carefully as the transitions and details within it." Morgan has presented works on stages throughout New York City, including Baryshnikov Arts Center, Aaron Davis Hall, and Symphony Space. She received multiple CUNY Dance Initiative Residencies and a Kaatsbaan Upstream Residency in 2018 and a Vineyard Arts Project Residency in 2022. Ms McEwen's work was selected to be performed at Battery Dance Festival in 2021. Morgan was commissioned in May 2023 by BalletX to generate new work during their inaugural choreographic incubator.

### **Becky Heisler McCarthy - Lighting Designer**

Becky Heisler McCarthy (she/her) is a Pennsylvania based Lighting Designer for opera, theatre, and dance. She has premiered works in New York, across the country, and internationally. Since 2020 she has also moved into the world of permanent install where she works on interactive spaces such as roller coasters, houses of worship, and as always, theaters. She holds a BFA in Technical Theater with an Emphasis in Lighting Design from Penn State. Becky is thrilled to continue to be a part of the MorDance creative team, and is celebrating her 9th year here.

### **Ayaka Kamei - Dancer and Rehearsal Assistant**

Ayaka Kamei (she/her) is a dancer and teaching artist based in New York. She recently performed with The Phantom of the Opera on Broadway and currently performs with The Metropolitan Opera, and MorDance. Ayaka has danced with many companies including Twyla Tharp Dance, The Phantom of the Opera International Tour, New York Theatre Ballet, AZOTH Dance Theatre, and Ayalis In Motion. She has performed works by choreographers such as Balanchine, Cunningham, Tudor, Roy Assaf, Aszure Barton, Dario Dinuzzi, John Heginbotham, Jessica Lang, Austin McCormick, Matthew Neenan, Alexei Ratmansky, Taryn Kaschok Russell, and Bettijane Sills, among others. Following her early training at Tatewaki Hiroko Ballet School in Ehime, Japan, she graduated from Northern Ballet School in England as well as SUNY Purchase, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a President Award for Achievement in the Conservatory of Dance. She was selected to study abroad at Codarts in the Netherlands and Springboard Danse Montréal as well.

### **Emily Cardea - Dancer**

A native of New York City, Emily Cardea (she/her) is a performing artist whose work is inspired by human connection and authentic storytelling. Cardea began studying dance at Studio Maestro/Manhattan Youth Ballet under Francois Perron, Deborah Wingert and Marina Stavitskaya. Additionally, she attended School of American Ballet and Professional Performing Arts School. As a child performer, Cardea's background includes many years of professional experience, earning roles with The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. At age eighteen, she began dancing with Orlando Ballet, where her repertoire included featured roles in The Nutcracker, Giselle, Carmen, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Swan Lake. She has also performed and acted Off-Broadway, and in numerous dancing guest roles in both theater and television. Most recently, Emily became a dancer with The Metropolitan Opera and a member of Woman in Motion. This is Cardea's third season with MorDance.



### **David Hochberg** - Dancer

David Hochberg (he/him) is from New York, where he trained at Studio Maestro/Manhattan Youth Ballet under Francois Perron and Nadege Hottier, and Ellison Ballet under Edward Ellison. In 2012 David joined Sarasota Ballet under director Iain Webb. He then joined Nevada Ballet Theater in 2014, where he danced for five seasons under James Canfield, and Roy Kaiser. Since returning to New York in 2019 he has worked as a freelance dancer for MorDance, The Metropolitan Opera, Tom Gold Dance, Amanda Selwyn Dance Theater, Movement Headquarters, The Chase Brock Experience, Guggenheim Works & Process, East Coast Contemporary Ballet Graham Lustig at The Princeton Festival, XAOC Ballet, and Margo Sappington. This is his third season with MorDance.



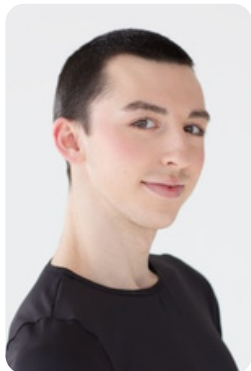
### **Tevin Johnson** - Dancer

Syracuse, New York native, Tevin Johnson (he/they) began his training at 15. Johnson attended the Alvin Ailey's Professional Division Summer Dance Intensive on a scholarship in 2013 and attended again in 2014. Here he had the opportunity to work with Christian Von Howard, Freddy Moore and Pedro Ruiz Jr. graduating Montclair State University with a BFA in dance; where he has been featured in works such as "Running Spirits" and "Wild and Free" (Draft5) by Fredrick Earl Mosley, Larry Keigwin, Christian Von Howard, Stacey Tookey and Camille A. Brown. He then joined "Roxey Contemporary Ballet" company in New Jersey for two seasons and worked alongside their outreach programs. In 2020, Tevin became adjunct faculty for City College of Manhattan's theater department, while teaching at various studios in New Jersey. Tevin currently teaches at New Jersey's Montclair State University and freelances for various video projects. He is thrilled to be in his third season with MorDance.



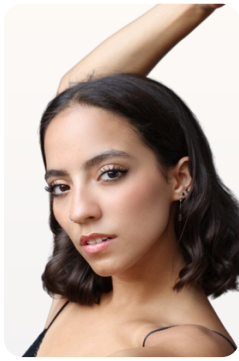
### **Isaiah Newby** - Dancer

Isaiah Newby (he/they) is a dance artist, actor, and collaborator. They have a career that spans Ballet companies, recording artists, contemporary dance, opera, and modeling. Credits include The Met Opera, Sterling King, Dance Lab New York, and live performances for artists Allison Clancy and Jayse Vegas. Isaiah attended New York University in the Tisch School of The Arts Dance Department under the direction of Sean Curran. Before NYU, they attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts under the direction of Susan Jaffe in the ballet program. He has performed works by Azure Barton, Susan Jaffe, Ronald K. Brown, Dwight Rohden, Stephen Petrino, Chuck Wilt, and Gregory Dolbashian. While attending NYU they also were in Limon 2 having the chance to perform with the company at the Joyce Theater. They previously worked with DanceLab NYC for their MORE TO THE POINTE LAB as a choreographer and The 14th Street Y as a choreographer in residence. As an artist, I work in the mindset that my choreographic voice is not separate from who I am as a dancer. This is Isaiah's first season with MorDance.



### **Joe LaLuzerne** - Dancer

Joe LaLuzerne (he/they), originally from Minnesota, has been dancing since they were in second grade. They attended Texas Christian University, graduating in 2021 with degrees in Ballet (BFA) and Political Science (BA). After graduation Joe danced in Milano Contemporary Ballet's International Training Program. In 2022 Joe performed in St. Paul, MN with TU Dance Project. Joe performed in Italy and Vienna at the Odeon Theater with the Tanz Company Gervasi, in the premiere BROWN - 1, 2023. They currently live in Brooklyn since joining MorDance in the Spring season of 2023 and have been a member of the company for two seasons now.



### **Laura Perich Villasmil - Dancer**

Laura Perich Villasmil (she/her) was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela where she began training at the age of 3. She then moved to Houston, Texas where she continued her training with Catriona Steel at Allegro West Academy of Dance. While in Houston, she completed The Royal Academy of Dance Ballet exams and received Distinctions all throughout her training. After graduating, she joined Texas Ballet Theater's Studio Training Company under the direction of Kathy Warakomsky-Li. In 2021, Laura joined Ballet Hispánico's Pa'Lante Scholars Program as part of the inaugural cohort where she had the opportunity to be a guest artist with the main company for Annabelle Lopez-Ochoa's "Doña-Perón". She then joined COMPLEXIONS Contemporary Ballet as an Apprentice in the Summer of 2023. This is Laura's first season with MorDance.



### **Claire van Bever - Dancer**

Claire van Bever (she/her) is a New York based performer, teacher and choreographer. Originally from Portland, OR she trained at The Rock School and SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance. Claire started her career with American Repertory Ballet where she danced works by Kirk Peterson, Gerald Arpino and Patrick Corbin. After moving to New York, Claire graduated summa cum laude from The New School with a BA in Liberal Arts and began freelancing in New York. She has danced with the Metropolitan Opera, Chamber Music NorthWest, and the Dallas Opera, and her choreography has been commissioned by Woman in Motion. Last year Claire made her Broadway debut with The Phantom of the Opera after performing with the International Tour of The Phantom of the Opera for two years. She is thrilled to be in her third season with MorDance!



### **Lauren Treat - Dancer**

Lauren Treat (she/her) is an independent dance artist in New York City and has danced professionally with BalletMet Columbus, Milwaukee Ballet, Carolina Ballet, Charlotte Ballet, Connecticut Ballet, Lydia Johnson Dance, and Encounters Dance; and as a Soloist Guest Artist for Neglia Ballet, American Circus Theater, Artek Ballet, and Jefferson Performing Arts Center. Additionally, she has performed for the NY Botanical Garden's Holiday Show, in Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance 'Dancing Beyond', and at Tribeca Performing Arts Center in works by choreographer Danielle Diniz. Originally from upstate New York, she majored in Dance at Walnut Hill School of the Arts before training at Manhattan Youth Ballet, where she danced in both the school and Youth Company. In addition to dancing with MorDance, she dances with AVID, is the Director of Dance at the Riverdale Y, and is a Movement and Play Educator at Union Square Play. She is thrilled to be dancing in her third season with MorDance!



### **Kira Metcalf - Musician**

With a sound that combines elements of 40's jazz, 60's folk and 90's grunge, Kira Metcalf's hypnotic yet powerful voice takes you to the depths of what it means to be alive through love, loss, and a never-ending search for truth. Though she has a knack for earworm melodies, it is her lyrics that stick with you: poetic yet direct, at times eviscerating and devastating. Metcalf's aim is to make her audience feel deeply seen and understood, to create moments of collective intimacy that only music can facilitate.

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Join MorDance as we leap into an exhilarating new season of creativity and artistry. As a vibrant contemporary dance ensemble dedicated to pushing the boundaries of movement and narrative, we thrive on the support of our patrons to bring our bold visions to fruition. Your generosity fuels our ability to craft groundbreaking performances, foster emerging talent, and connect with our community through outreach initiatives. Together, let's continue to ignite, provoke, and enrich our cultural tapestry. Come alongside us on this journey and become a catalyst for the transformative magic of dance.

Eager to invest in our future? Consider sponsoring a thrilling new ballet or contributing to the acquisition of vital infrastructure and resources for our company. Reach out to [info@mordance.org](mailto:info@mordance.org) to explore the myriad ways you can support our mission and discover the special benefits we offer to honor your generosity.

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