

## Dance Magazine Awards Announces Esteemed Honorees for 2022

*The 65th Annual Event Will Take Place In Person  
at Chelsea Factory on December 5, 2022*

**(New York, NY) September 20, 2022—Dance Media Foundation**

**([dancemediafoundation.org](http://dancemediafoundation.org))**, in conjunction with *Dance Magazine*, announced today the honorees for the 65th annual Dance Magazine Awards: Kyle Abraham, Lucinda Childs, Herman Cornejo, Brenda Dixon Gottschild, PhD, and Dianne McIntyre. The Chairman’s Award will go to Jim Herbert of First Republic Bank. The Harkness Promise Award recipients are Johnnie Cruise Mercer and Kayla Farrish.

A tradition dating back to 1954, the Dance Magazine Awards are among the most prestigious honors in the dance field. These awards have long celebrated living legends who’ve made a lasting impact on dance. Past honorees include Misty Copeland, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Tommy Tune, Alvin Ailey, Ohad Naharin, Chita Rivera, Fred Astaire, Bob Fosse and others. The full list can be found [here](#).

“The Dance Magazine Awards stand for excellence in our field, celebrating the living legends who have made a meaningful, lasting impact on dance. This year's class is a terrific example of the thoughtful, important and diverse body of work they as dancers, choreographers, scholars and artists represent. We are proud to honor them alongside the rising-star Harkness Promise Awardees, as well as our Chairman's Award to First Republic Founder and Executive Chairman Jim Herbert, whose commitment to dance is evidenced in his leadership on multiple boards of performing arts organizations. He has served on the boards of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and Gallim Dance for nearly fourteen years and has been a member of the Board of Trustees of San Francisco Ballet for more than 24 years. He is also the Founder and Chair of Chelsea Factory, the New York dance arts and cultural center that serves as the venue for this year's ceremony,” states Frederic M. Seegal, CEO/chairman of Dance Media.

The ceremony, including performances and celebratory speeches, will take place in person at Chelsea Factory, on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7 pm EST. A cocktail reception will precede the ceremony at 6 pm. Tickets are now on sale at [dancemediafoundation.org](http://dancemediafoundation.org). A \$275 ticket includes attendance to the in-person ceremony and preshow cocktail reception at Chelsea Factory, and a one-year subscription to *Dance Magazine*; a \$1,000 ticket includes the same, plus exclusive virtual content and an additional donation to the Dance Media Foundation to fund the Harkness Promise Awards. All net proceeds from the ceremony go to the Harkness Promise Awards.

The selection committee for the 2022 Dance Magazine Awards included *Dance Magazine* editor at large and Dance Magazine Awards chair Wendy Perron, master teacher Sheila Barker, *Dance Magazine* contributor Joseph Carman, *The Dance Edit* editor in chief Margaret Fuhrer, Dance Media president Joanna Harp, MoBBallet (Memoirs of Blacks in Ballet) founder Theresa Ruth Howard, incoming American Ballet Theatre artistic director Susan Jaffe, New York City Center vice president for programming Stanford Makishi, *Pointe* managing editor Lydia Murray, and former American Dance Festival director Charles L. Reinhart. The committee considered nominations from the editorial staff and advisors of *Dance Magazine* as well as from the dance public.

For more information on the Dance Magazine Awards or to purchase tickets, please visit [dancemediafoundation.org](http://dancemediafoundation.org). For sponsorship opportunities, media access or interviews, please contact Marketing Manager Amy Jones at [ajones@dancemedia.com](mailto:ajones@dancemedia.com).

#### KYLE ABRAHAM

Choreographer Kyle Abraham—recipient of the 2013 MacArthur fellowship, the 2016 Doris Duke Artist Award and the 2018 Princess Grace Statue Award, among many other recognitions—makes deeply powerful dance works that often speak to the Black American experience. In addition to creating for his own ensemble, A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, he has choreographed for companies around the world, including the Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

#### LUCINDA CHILDS

Postmodern choreographer and dancer Lucinda Childs started her career as a member of the Judson Dance Theater and founded her own company in 1973. Her rich and varied career encompasses concert works such as *Available Light* and *Dance*, her seminal 1979 collaboration with Philip Glass and Sol LeWitt; operas including Mozart's *Zaide*, Glass' *Akhmaten* and John Adams' *Doctor Atomic*; and more than 30 works for ballet companies around the world.

#### HERMAN CORNEJO

An acclaimed principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre since 2003, Herman Cornejo has danced most of the leading roles of the classical canon and created more than a dozen new ballets with the leading choreographers of today. A frequent national and international guest star, Cornejo has also pursued his own artistic endeavors to foster the creation of new works. His accolades include the Gold Medal in the VIII International Moscow Competition, a New York Dance and Performance ("Bessie") Award for Outstanding Performer in 2013, and the 2014 Prix Benois de la Danse for Best Male Dancer. He has been appointed a Messenger of Peace by the United Nations and was recently recognized as one of America's Great Immigrants by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

## BRENDA DIXON GOTTSCHILD

Esteemed artist-scholar Brenda Dixon Gottschild, PhD, is an interdisciplinary researcher, writer, performer, lecturer and professor emerita of dance studies at Temple University. She is the author of four books centering Black dance artists and forms: *Digging the Africanist Presence in American Performance: Dance and Other Contexts*; *Waltzing in the Dark: African American Vaudeville and Race Politics in the Swing Era*; *The Black Dancing Body: A Geography From Coon to Cool*; and *Joan Myers Brown & The Audacious Hope of the Black Ballerina: A Biohistory of American Performance*.

## DIANNE McINTYRE

Choreographer Dianne McIntyre is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Doris Duke Artist awardee and a three-time "Bessie" Award winner whose work is rooted in research and explores the intersection of history, culture, personal narrative and the human experience. Her five-decade career encompasses Broadway, television and film, commissions for Dance Theatre of Harlem and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and projects for her own company, Sounds in Motion, such as the adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. She had a longtime collaboration with the late playwright and poet Ntozake Shange, creator of *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. McIntyre choreographed the 1998 film *Beloved*, based on the novel by Toni Morrison.

## CHAIRMAN'S AWARD: JIM HERBERT

A Chairman's Award, chosen by Dance Media CEO Frederic M. Seegal to honor distinctive movers and shakers behind the scenes, will go to Jim Herbert, the founder and executive chairman of First Republic Bank.

## **HARKNESS PROMISE AWARDS**

The Harkness Promise Awards, which offer a \$5,000 grant and 40 hours of rehearsal space for innovative young choreographers in the first decade of professional work, will go to Johnnie Cruise Mercer and Kayla Farrish. This award, conferred in partnership with the Harkness Foundation for Dance, is funded by net proceeds from the Dance Magazine Awards ceremony.

## **KAYLA FARRISH**

Kayla Farrish/Decent Structures Arts is an emerging company combining filmmaking, storytelling, dance theater performance, and sound score. The company has been commissioned by ODC Theater, Gibney, Little Island, Louis Armstrong House Museum, Danspace, Papatian/BAAD! and beyond. Her residencies include Gallim, Gibney, BAC, Keshet MSE, BAX, Petronio, among others. In 2021, she created "Broken Record" with Brandon Coleman (Little Island), co-directed Melanie Charles *Y'll D'nt Care Abt Black Women* Film, Saul

Williams’/NYLA *Motherboard Suites* solo, *Roster* with Melanie Charles (Four/Four), and *Martyr’s Fiction* Feature Film. She has received recognition like: Bessie- Outstanding Production, Top 2021 Performances, Sundance Uprise Grant and others. In 2022, she collaborates with various artists and festivals.. Kayla is currently a rehearsal director at Sleep NoMore NYC and adjunct faculty at NYU Tisch.

### **JOHNNIE CRUISE MERCER**

A 2021 Princess Grace Award Recipient in Choreography, Johnnie Cruise Mercer is a queer-black think-maker; a choreographer, educator, impresario, and social entrepreneur based in New York City. In 2021, Johnnie was nominated for two Bessies NYC Dance and Performance Awards: Outstanding Breakthrough Choreographer, and Outstanding Production (for his choreography/direction on *\_AShadow Prince*. As an educator, he facilitates within the New York Public School system through The Leadership Program, a mentorship-based organization that uses art to foster/cultivate leadership qualities. Johnnie is the founding producer and company director of TheRedProject/NYC (TRPNYC), a multi-disciplinary ensemble of artists dedicated to the study of movement philosophy and its use towards building communal spaces for black/other process, documentation, and investigation.

### **ABOUT DANCE MAGAZINE**

*Dance Magazine* was first published in June 1927 under the name *The American Dancer*. Produced by a Hollywood-based team of editors under the leadership of Ruth Eleanor Howard, it cost a quarter and was dedicated to readers who “love the dance.” In the 1920s and ’30s, the magazine offered monthly news of the changing dance world in Europe and America. Today, under editor Caitlin Sims, the brand reaches students, professionals and dance lovers around the world through its many channels, spanning print, digital, social media and more. Written by accomplished journalists and active dancers, *Dance Magazine* tells the stories behind today’s most exciting artists and gives readers essential information on how the field is evolving and growing. *Dance Magazine* is owned by Dance Media, which also publishes *Dance Spirit*, *Pointe*, *Dance Teacher*, *Dance Business Weekly* and *The Dance Edit*. For more information, visit [dancemagazine.com](http://dancemagazine.com).

### **ABOUT THE HARKNESS FOUNDATION FOR DANCE**

The Harkness Foundation for Dance is a private grant-making foundation dedicated to invigorating and supporting the dance art form, predominantly in New York City. Since 1959, the Harkness name has been synonymous with dance philanthropy. The Foundation carries forward the lifelong dedication to the dance art form of the great American dance patron Rebekah Harkness. Over many decades, this support has taken the form of funding, rehearsal and theater space, technical assistance and guidance—an unrivaled legacy that has touched countless dance artists and companies in all dance styles and genres. With a broad focus that spans dance

creation, presentation, education, medicine and other vital services to the dance field, from 1986 to the present the Harkness Foundation has contributed over \$30 million to more than 600 organizations across the industry. For more information, visit [harknessfoundation.org](http://harknessfoundation.org).