

Hopkins Center for the Arts

at Dartmouth

presents

CONTRA-TIEMPO *joyUS justUS*

Thu & Fri, July 15 & 16, 6 pm

Sat, July 17, 2 pm

The BEMA • Dartmouth College • 2021

*Funded in part by the New England States Touring program of the New England Foundation for the Arts,
made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six
New England state arts agencies.*

Credits

Conceived and directed by Ana Maria Alvarez

Choreographed in collaboration by Ana Maria Alvarez, Isis Avalos, Christopher Cuenza, Jannet Galdamez, Samad Raheem Guerra, Bianca Medina, Diana Toledo, Shantel Ureña

Original generative cast: Isis Avalos, Christopher Cuenza, Jannet Galdamez, Samad Raheem Guerra, Bianca Medina, Diana Toledo, Shantel Ureña

Additional cast members who performed/toured and contributed to the work: Charlie Dando, Ruby Morales, Dalphe Morantus, Alan Perez, Jasmine Stanley and guest performer Maisha Morris

Current touring cast: Charlie Dando, Jannet Galdamez, Bianca Medina, Ruby Morales, Dalphe Morantus, Jasmine Stanley

Original text written by:

Bear Fox (*"lonkwanoronhkwa Ohneka" or the Water Song*)

Samad Raheem Guerra (*Water Creation Story, Court Scene, Reframing Justice, Miranda Rights to Happiness*)

Diana Toledo (*joyUS Thanksgiving Address, Mama Rueda Story*)

Ana Maria Alvarez (*joyUS Thanksgiving Address, Luca Story, Justice Run, Miranda Rights to Happiness*)

Angela Davis (*Justice Run*)

** The *joyUs justUs* Thanksgiving Address was inspired by the original Thanksgiving Address text used by the six nations of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) to open and close major gatherings or meetings

*** Miranda Rights to Happiness is a text that is continuing to evolve and has included lines from past and current company members.

Sound archiving and design by d. sabela grimes

Original music by d. sabela grimes, Samad Raheem Guerra, Bear Fox, Las Cafeteras (Denise Carlos, Jose Guadalupe Cruz Cano, David Flores, Hector Paul Flores, Daniel Joel Jesus French, Leah Gallegos, Xocoyotzin Moraza, Jorge Mijangos) & Kahlil Cummings

Music sampled and inspired by:

Bukom Mashie by Oscar Sulley & The Uhuru Dance Band

The Tendencies That Work Against Being Free—Interview with Mooji

Baiana (CloZee Remix) by Barbatuques

La Diaspora by Nitty Scott, feat. Zap Mama

This Land by Woodie Guthrie

Lighting design by Tuce Yasak

Visual design/altar quilts by Emily Orling

Costume design and styling by Charlese Antoinette

Technical direction by Maximiliano Urruzmendi

Dramaturgy and theatrical support by Daniel Penilla

Clave and comparsa advisors: Kahlil Cummings and Kati Hernandez

Community partnership: Community Coalition and LA Department of Parks and Recreation District 8

Community champion: Carlos de Leon

Radical joy advisor: Dr. Shamell Bell and Seijani

Director's Note

"I believe it is the freedom that we are longing for, which will never be given to us, which we have to create, the pulsing life force of the collective body we are birthing, the rhythm of a shared heart"

—from emergent strategy by Adrienne Maree Brown

Thank you for being here today as we take a deep breath together and move towards a process of collective healing from this unimaginable last year and a half. When we began building this piece in 2018, many of the ideas and imaginings of *joyUS justUS* felt brave and radical—we were futuring a world of connection; we wanted to believe that a sense of shared humanity was possible and through the challenges of 2020/21 it feels like we've moved closer towards this—and we are more clear than ever that this isn't a destination but a process of continued making mistakes, listening, shifting, trying again and being in movement—together.

joyUS justUS is in no way a neutral piece of art, but a call to action. This work is a radical celebration of our humanity, an honoring of the feminine, a passionate battle cry for our rising collective consciousness and a calling for connection. We are asking you to be a part of our movement to choose joy, to stand for justice and to vibrate together in love. The development of this work has required us as an organization to engage in the deep work of liberation. The creative process that had us arrive at what you are experiencing today was a profound experiment in building community and collaboration. What happens when we fail, find ourselves living and uplifting the very systems of oppression that we are attempting to dismantle, pick up the pieces and continue to boldly spiral upward? Life is messy. Living our values is messy. Art making is a complete mess—yet when we are able to let go of needing to be the one, and make space for being truly present with the elements (Earth, Water, Fire and Air) and with one another, magic is possible.

As we share this work at The Hop, we understand the significance of being on this stage, as artists whose work and practices are deeply rooted in social dance, improvisation and ancestral resilience building movement. We come from legacies of artists and dance-estors who have often felt a sense of not belonging in our field; we honor them and bring them with us. In our field, dancers are often asked by choreographers to generate movement, to author sections of work, and then are never given credit for the intense work it takes to devise material and to share one's full creative self. As an act of resistance, we are shifting that—part of this work was to deeply articulate the collective 'US'—as in we. Every single performer was asked to generate material to make this work exist as an authentic embodiment of this 'US'. The company and I all generated and contributed movement phrases, song ideas, rhythms, poetry, text, spiritual practices and entire movement sections. Many of the pieces were workshopped and shared in Choreographic Lab, in South Los Angeles, where we got feedback from community members and folks shared their stories in council, informing our perceptions of joy, justice, love and family. The sounds used are from my sons crying and laughing, company laugh fests, sabor sessions, undercover recordings of the rehearsal process, candid conversations about our familias, sharing song ideas on our phones, protests from Los Angeles, Mexico and Brasil and the powerful vibration of Las Cafeteras and their embodiment of joy as a superpower. Since April 2020, many of our artists returned 'home' to their families in order to survive the economic impact, due to the pandemic. Although we weren't in physical space together we continued to stay in weekly contact with one another, thinking, challenging, teaching and moving on zoom and building dance films, responding in the way we best know how: in movement. As artists and cultural workers, spanning New York, North Carolina, Arizona, Colorado, Ohio and California, we engaged

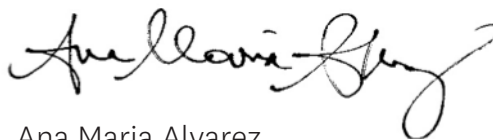
Director's Note *continued*

in organizing for Black Lives and for the election, and the sounds of protest, although recorded and set before the last year of taking to the streets, resonate deeply with our lived experience in 2020/21.

Many of our original collaborators, company and community members have moved on, and we continue to feel their presence through their creative contributions. As we move into our 16th year as a company, we are deeply grateful for folks who have championed this vision for so many years and are clear that none of this is possible without each other.

As this work is performed and tours for the next several years, it will/we will continue to grow and include more voices, ideas and rising spirit into the collective 'US'. And so we ask you: are you willing to rise?

With joy and deep gratitude.



Ana Maria Alvarez
Founding Artistic Director

About CONTRA-TIEMPO

CONTRA-TIEMPO is a bold, multilingual Los Angeles-based dance company creating physically intense and politically astute performance work that moves audiences to imagine what is possible. They create a new physical, visual and sonic vocabulary that collages Salsa, Afro-Cuban, hip-hop, and contemporary dance with theater, text and original music to bring dynamic multi-modal experiences to the concert stage. CONTRA-TIEMPO takes an uncompromisingly radical approach to the ways in which artists function within communities and create their work. They intentionally engage diverse audiences, cultivate dancer leaders, and center stories not traditionally heard on the concert stage, using their engagement process to inform and continuously re-fuel their creative process and vice-versa.

Much like the communities they reach, CONTRA-TIEMPO is itself a tapestry. The company members are professional dancers, artists, immigrants, educators, activists, organizers and movers of all types, living and working across Los Angeles and now across the country. Each company member

lives, expresses and struggles within the varied and infinitely complex political and personal landscapes that Artistic Director Ana Maria Alvarez seeks to address through the company's work.

For more information about working directly with the company through CONTRA-TIEMPO's Futuro Summer Intensive please contact contra-tiempo.org

Special Thanks To Our Supporters & Partners

joyUS justUS could not have been created without the generous support of the following: The James Irvine Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation/DanceUSA, New England Foundation for the Arts, Mapfund, University of Southern California, Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Shenandoah University in Virginia, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami, Arizona State University, Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles, National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, California Arts Council, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and Ordway

About CONTRA-TIEMPO *continued*

Center for the Performing Arts. Special thanks to Community Coalition who we partnered with during the creation of *joyUS justUS* and continue to work with. Gracias to our community who contributes to our ongoing work, for a complete list or to contribute visit www.contra-tiempo.org.

For booking information, contact Lotus Arts Management, Sophie Myrtil-McCourty, President, at 125-28 Queens Boulevard, Suite 346, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. Tel: 347.721.8724; email: sophie@lotusartsmgmt.com website: www.lotusartsmgmt.com

About the Artists

Ana Maria Alvarez, CONTRA-TIEMPO Founding Artistic Director Training: UCLA Department of World Arts & Cultures (MFA) Choreography, Oberlin College (BA) Dance and & Politics, Cutumba Baile Foklorico de Santiago de Cuba, Urban Bush Women, North Carolina A & T State University/E. Gwynn Dancers, Dr. Elenor Gwynn, Katherine Dunham.

Credits include: Doris Duke Artist Award (2020), John Michael Kohler Arts Center Artist in Residence for Dreamscapes: Connecting Communities (2019–2021), DanceUSA Artist Fellow (2019), Peiter DanceMaker Awardee (2019), Artist in Residence BiNational Arts Residency (AZ/Mexico 2018), NYU Playwrights Horizons (NYC) for production of *Noise* (2017, 2018), Sarasota Contemporary Dance Company Commission (2018), Music Center Moves After Dark, LA, CA (2017), UCLA Center for the Art of Performance, *Agua Furiosa* (2016), IPAY Kindling/Fresh Tracks (Dusseldorf, Germany 2015), Cornerstone Theater and Homeboy Industries (2012) for production of *Cafe Vida*, *Full Still Hungry* (2010), *I Dream America* (2007), *Against the Times* (2005).

Ana Maria Alvarez is a Cuban-American choreographer, raised in the South, known for her daring, multidimensional and boundary blurring choreography and innovative vision and leadership in the field. Her graduate thesis work, which explored the abstraction of “Latin Dance,” specifically Salsa

as a way to express social resistance within the US immigration battle, eventually became the impetus for founding CONTRA-TIEMPO in 2005. Alvarez is in her 3rd year of her Dunham Certification and is honored and proud to continue Katherine Dunham’s legacy of cultural and social changemaking through dance.

Charlie Dando, CONTRA-TIEMPO Dancer Training: Motion Underground, Boulder, Colorado, BBoy crew GWT, Mop Top/Elite Force crew, Gary Kendall of the Jabbawockeez, Calef Sellers of Dance Fusion and Moncel Durden The Phili House Dance pioneer whom Dando lovingly calls “Dancestor,” BFA in Dance, University of Colorado Boulder.

Credits: Rennie Harris Pure Movement, *Rite Of Spring* adaption, *Heaven* (2009).

Charlie Dando is a House dancer from the front range area of Denver. Dance found Charlie at a preteen club night, where he won numerous youth battles. In 2006 Charlie was a founding member of a BBoy Choreography Crew called Break EFX, they pioneered their community forward, winning many awards, battles, and competitions. Break EFX appeared on the 5th season of ABDC. In 2014 Dando moved to Los Angeles and started working with Tiffany Bong at UniverSoul Hip Hop, Teaching House and Club Dance History to thousands of students a year throughout the Los Angeles area. Today, Dando

About the Artists *continued*

is an active member of the local House community as well as teaches and battles internationally. Dando is honored to represent House and Hip-Hop Culture in CONTRA-TIEMPO's *joyUS justUS*.

Jannet Galdamez, CONTRA-TIEMPO Rehearsal Director, Dancer Training: Bachelor of Arts in Dance from the University of California Irvine (2012), Sheron Wray (Jazz), Afro-Cuban Master Kati Hernandez.

Credits: Paula Abdul (*Check Yourself* AVON PSA music video), Spanish Rock Band Mana (music video *La Prision*), Prince Royce (music video *La Moneda*), Ozomatli (music video *Read to the Rhythm* and 2015 Playboy Jazz Festival at the Hollywood Bowl), Keaira LaShea's Dance Fitness Series, Maite Perroni, El Dasa, Luis Coronel, Chiquis Rivera, La Sonora Santanera from Mexico City, Los Angeles-based Cuban Roots Band Changui Majadero and Chicano Band Las Cafeteras. Promo cast of the *ON YOUR FEET* Broadway Musical, 2017 Dutch Musical Awards in Amsterdam, The Best of Broadway ABA Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jannet Galdamez was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. When not touring, performing and rehearsal directing with CONTRA-TIEMPO, Jannet is currently touring around the US with Spanish Guitarist, Roni Benise's Emmy Award Winning World Music and Dance Spectacular. You can catch Jannet teaching Salsa, Afro-Latin Jazz, and Dance Fitness classes throughout Los Angeles—loving, inspiring, planting seeds through her artistry and always grounded with the beat of a drum.

Bianca Medina, CONTRA-TIEMPO Dancer Training: University of Iowa (BFA), CONTRA-TIEMPO Futuro, Vera Passos, Travels to Bahia.

With CONTRA-TIEMPO: *Full Still Hungry* (USC Visions & Voices), *Agua Furiosa* (National and International Tour).

Other performance credits include: company member of Viver Brasil, Disneyland California Adventure Park Viva Navidad Parade, Sergio Mendez at the Hollywood Bowl, Las Cafeteras, No(one) Art House at The Getty Museum, Samantha Blake Goodman, Ijo Emi, Vera Passos, Marina Magalhães. Bianca is a Puerto Rican & Mexican Chicago native interested in exploring the essence of divine (her) stories and ritualistic (re)remembering that lives in the female body through a resiliently grounded and lush expression with recent solo work in progress, *El Fuego de Agua*.

Jasmine Stanley, CONTRA-TIEMPO Dancer/Community Engagement Coordinator Training: Columbia College in South Carolina (BFA), CONTRA-TIEMPO Futuro.

Credits: Performed with Stevie Wonder live at the Special Olympics World Games (Debbie Allen 2015), Unveiled Dance Company at the Journey Out Awareness Festival to support the movement to end human sex trafficking (2017). When Stanley first learned about CONTRA-TIEMPO in school, she became curious about their mission and movement. After moving to Los Angeles in the Summer of 2017, she attended the CONTRA-TIEMPO Futuro Summer Dance Intensive where she saw her own personal values and mission align, July 2018 she was invited to apprentice with the company, September of 2018 Stanley was asked to join CONTRA-TIEMPO as a company member and 2019 she was asked to take the position of Community Engagment Specialist. Through this role, Stanley co-directed CONTRA-TIEMPO's very first Summer Activist Leadership Institute in South Los Angeles.

Ruby Morales, CONTRA-TIEMPO Dancer/Social Media Coordinator Arizona State University (BFA), CONTRA-TIEMPO Futuro, Urban Bush Women Summer Leadership Institute, PISAB's Undoing Racism Training, breaking from b-boy House, Ervin Arana, and b-boy Stuntman as well as Hip-Hop philosophy and theory with b-boy YNOT.

About the Artists *continued*

Performance Credits: Other performances include current work in progress with Liz Lerman for upcoming premier of *Wicked Bodies*, solo work *Café con Leche* at the BlakTinx Dance Festival, Safos Dance Theatre, and Tucson based artist Yvonne Montoya.

Ruby Morales is a dance artist and poet currently investigating culturally informed teaching methods as well as her relationship with movement as a b-girl and Mexican influenced cumbia Sonidera. In October 2019 she premiered a new work called *Breaking Pachanga*.

Dalphe Morantus, CONTRA-TIEMPO Dancer

Training: Broadway Dance Center, Monsters of Hip-Hop, CONTRA-TIEMPO Futuro.

Performance Credits: *The Victoria's Secrets Show* with Justin Bieber, *Essence Festival* with No Doubt, *No Strings Attached* (movie), *Enchanted* (movie).

Dalphe Morantus' family hails from Haiti and his career has taken him all over the world, including extensive teaching in China. As a dancer and teacher of groove dance styles including House, Latin, Hip-Hop and Dancehall, Morantus guides his students to better understand the groove by working deeply with isolations and creating performance work that embodies grooves at its core.

Collaborators:

Emily Alvarez-Orling: Visual Designer (Altar Quilts & Altars). Emily Orling is a visual artist and designer with a background in painting, sculpture and installation. Her most recent work was on the musical *Futurity*, which won the 2016 Lortel award for outstanding musical and earned Orling a Lortel and Drama Desk nomination for the Set Design. Recent Set and Costume Design: *Futurity* (Soho Rep/Ars Nova; A.R.T.; Walker Art Center; MASS MoCA) Set Design: *Futurity* (HERE, Zipper Factory)

Costume Design: *The Universe is a Small Hat* (Babycastles, Sarah Lawrence College); *Full Still Hungry* for CONTRA-TIEMPO Urban Latin Dance Theater (Dance Motion USA, National and International Touring). Solo Exhibitions: Lo River Arts Gallery, 473 Broadway Gallery, Dactyl Gallery. Group Exhibitions: Cal State Fullerton, Corridor Gallery.

Charlese Antoinette: Costume Designer. Charlese Antoinette lives and works between New York, Los Angeles and New Orleans. She is a multifaceted designer specializing in costume design, jewelry design, and wardrobe styling. She was born and raised in the suburbs of D.C., was educated in fashion & design in the "illadelph" city of brotherly love and has travelled as far as Tokyo for inspiration. She has costume designed for television and film with work that has premiered at Sundance, the TriBeCa Film Fest and SXSW. Her jewelry designs have been worn by Beyoncé, Zoe Kravitz and featured in Rihanna's music videos. Her work is influenced by endless people-watching, her love for the energy of New York City, the natural landscape of Los Angeles, art, architecture, her travels, cultural fashion trends, the ancestors & Orisha... and a never-ending pursuit of happiness.

d. sabela grimes: Music and Sound Design. Training: University of California, Los Angeles (BA in English; MFA in Dance and Choreography).

Credits include: *World War WhatEver*; *40 Acres & A Microchip*; *BulletProof Deli*; *ELECTROGYNOUS*; *Rome and Jewels* (Rennie Harris Puremovement).

d. sabela grimes, a 2014 United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow, is a choreographer, writer, composer and educator. Described by the **Los Angeles Times** as "the Los Angeles dance world's best-kept secret" and as "one of a mere handful of artists who make up the vanguard of Hip-Hop fusion," grimes is considered one of the most

About the Artists *continued*

imaginative and innovative artists in his field. He created and continues to cultivate a movement system called Funkamentals that focuses on the methodical dance training and community building elements evident in Black vernacular and Street dance forms.

Samad Raheem Guerra: beatboxing and spoken text. Training: UCLA Department of World Arts & Cultures (BA), CONTRA-TIEMPO Futuro, Afro-Cuban Master Kati Hernandez.

Credits: with CONTRA-TIEMPO: *Full Still Hungry* (National Tours) *Agua Furiosa* (National & International Tours).

Samad Raheem Guerra is a multidisciplinary performing artist and arts educator based in San Francisco. With CONTRA-TIEMPO, he has performed in *Full Still Hungry* and *Agua Furiosa* nationally and internationally. In addition to his work with the company, he has performed at the Hollywood Bowl and Ford Amphitheater with Viver Brasil and Sergio Mendes, and co-produced his own work at LACMA and the Main Museum in downtown Los Angeles. Guerra is currently attending graduate school.

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