

From the Creators of *Many Happy Returns*

Hi, this is Monica Bill Barnes & Robbie Saenz de Viteri. We're trying to speak to you in some kind of collective, collaborative voice, even though we communicate in two distinct, different, seemingly diametrically opposed ways. That's maybe everything you need to know about us and our work.

We're here again. And we're thrilled to be here again, in Hanover, presented by the Hop. You're here again. And we're thrilled you are here again, in a seat that looks at a stage. It's a little different than you remember, maybe.

Back in the day, there was a convention called a Memory Play. People loved them, all the big guys wrote them. Friel, Pinter, Bharati, Williams. Williams coined the term actually. There's a great line in the beginning of his play *The Glass Menagerie* when a character named Tom Wingfield describes exactly what they're

about to do on stage, "The play is memory. Being a memory play, it is dimly lighted, it is sentimental, it is not realistic. In memory everything seems to happen to music."

I've never seen *The Glass Menagerie*. "I" suddenly, not "We" because one of us has seen it. No matter. It's a great line, the Williams one. We love the idea that in memory everything seems to happen to music. We think the same thing about movement, even dances in silence move to some kind of music. Memory always feels a little trapped between two things—the body that lived it and the voice that's constantly rewriting the story. *Many Happy Returns* is kind of like that, it's our version of a memory play. So, welcome. Welcome back. Welcome back to this brand new place.

Monica Bill Barnes & Robbie Saenz de Viteri

About the Artists

Monica Bill Barnes is a dancer and choreographer. Since MBB&CO's founding in 1997, her choreography has been seen in many places, such as New York City's Bowling Green public fountain, on stage at Carnegie Hall, throughout the galleries of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and in Greta Gerwig's film *Little Women*. The company has been presented in over 50 cities and internationally in venues ranging from The Kennedy Center to the Sydney Opera House in a collaboration with Ira Glass in *Three Acts*, *Two Dancers*, *One Radio Host*. Barnes began collaborating with Robbie Saenz de Viteri in 2013 at which point the company adopted the motto of "bringing dance where it doesn't belong." Recent collaborations include a national tour of *The Running Show*; a site-specific show in a mall—*Days Go By*; and two online works created during the pandemic—*Keep Moving* and *It's 3:07 Again*. *Many Happy Returns* is the company's most recent work.

Robbie Saenz de Viteri writes, creates, produces and performs live theater. He has created performances and toured productions throughout the world with the Obie Award-winning *Nature Theater of Oklahoma* and worked with genre redefining artists such as Anna Deavere Smith, Stew and Ira Glass. He has collaborated with Monica Bill Barnes to create *Happy Hour*, *The Museum Workout*, *One Night Only* (Lilly Award), *Days Go By* (Bessie Honoree), *The Running Show*, *Keep Moving*, *It's 3:07 Again* and *Many Happy Returns*. He grew up in New Jersey, holds a BA from Muhlenberg College, where he studied writing with David Rosenwasser, and lives in Greenpoint Brooklyn, which he believes is best reached by bicycle.

Flannery Gregg is a performer, movement director and rehearsal director based in NYC. She has rehearsal directed and performed in Monica Bill

Barnes & Company's productions of *The Running Show*, *Day's Go By*, *Keep Moving* and *It's 3:07 Again*. She has also worked alongside Barnes as an associate choreographer/dancer on the feature film *Little Women* (dir. Greta Gerwig.) Flannery is the movement director of *The Reality Show: NYU* (created by Elizabeth Swados), staging performances at the Barclays Center, Radio City Music Hall and NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. She was the assistant choreographer to Sam Pinkleton on the Broadway musical *Natasha Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* and the associate choreographer to Sonya Tayeh for *Sing Street on Broadway*. Born and raised in San Diego, Flannery got her BA in World Arts and Cultures from UCLA. She is thrilled to be dancing with MBB&CO!

Mykel Marai Nairne is a Bessie-nominated dance artist, administrator and creative producer from New York City. Two years after receiving a BA from Dartmouth, Mykel joined Dance Heginbotham in 2018. Since then, her freelance performance work has brought her to venues across the US, including St. Ann's Warehouse in the Off-Broadway revival of *OKLAHOMA!*, the Whitney Museum of Art, Danspace Project, Perelman Arts Center, Jacob's Pillow, The Space at Irondale and Joe's Pub. Mykel currently collaborates and performs with Dance Heginbotham, Monica Bill Barnes & Company, Jordan Demetrius Lloyd, Studio Susan Marshall and Megan Williams Dance Projects. MykelMaraiNairne.com @mykelmarai

Indah Mariana is a choreographer, performer and dance educator. She has danced in Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and across the US. Indah earned a BFA in dance from Purchase College Conservatory of Dance in 2008 and an MFA in dance from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in 2014. As a choreographer, Indah was awarded a Creative Engagement Grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council in 2017. Indah has showcased work at venues and festivals including NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Lawrence University, Danspace Project,

The Watermill Center, Seattle Asian Art Museum, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Dixon Place and many others. Currently Indah performs with Monica Bill Barnes & Company as well as Catherine Galasso. She is an Assistant Arts Professor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

Elizabeth Furman is a Brooklyn-based administrator, associate producer and creative who has been working with MBB&CO in a variety of roles since 2017. She has supported *Happy Hour*, *One Night Only*, *The Museum Workout* and *The Running Show*, both in New York City and on tour. As an associate producer Elizabeth has produced *Days Go By*, digital shows *Keep Moving*, *It's 3:07 Again* and their newer works *The Running Show* and *Many Happy Returns*. Elizabeth loves sharing the company's work with new audiences be them near, far or via the computer screen. Her own work has been shared in the All Over Westbeth Site Specific Festival 2018. Elizabeth holds a BA in Dance and English from Kenyon College.

Anne Kauffman is a new play director based in New York City. She has worked on Broadway, Off-Broadway and several regional theaters across the country. She directed the World Premiere of Julia Wolfe's *Fire in my mouth* at the New York Philharmonic in 2019. Kauffman is a resident director at Roundabout Theater, artistic associate and founding member of The Civilians, a Clubbed Thumb associate artist and co-creator of the CT Directing Fellowship, a New Georges associate artist and an SDC executive board member and trustee of SDCF. Kauffman's honors include three Obie Awards, the Joan and Joseph Cullman Award for Exceptional Creativity from Lincoln Center, the Alan Schneider Director Award, a Lucille Lortel Award and the Joe A. Callaway.

Barbara Samuels (she/her) is an award winning queer lighting designer, organizer and producer creating design-forward live events that prioritize generosity, equity and representation. New York credits include

About the Artists *continued*

designs at Soho Rep, MCC, Lincoln Center, Ars Nova, NYTW, Playwrights Horizons, WP Theater, The Bushwick Starr, Beth Morrison Projects, Target Margin Theater, New Georges and Clubbed Thumb. Regional: Pig Iron, Bard Summerscape, The Alley, Long Wharf, ACT., Woolly Mammoth, Playmakers, Kansas City Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Shakespeare Theater Company and Trinity Rep. New Georges Affiliated Artist. 2016 Target Margin Institute. Wingspace Member. WP Lab 2022-24. BA, Fordham; MFA, NYU. Proud member of USA829. www.barbarasamuels.com

Zack Lobel (he/him) is a video and lighting designer born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. His work has been seen across theaters, museums and nightclubs.

He recently designed the premiere of the Bessie Award-winning *New York Is Burning* at the Guggenheim, followed by a run at the Joyce. He is a resident video designer at the historic Webster Hall. Upcoming: Underground Uptown Dance Festival at Lincoln Center (Lighting Designer). Other highlights include his collaborations with Hilton Als on the “Lives of the Performers” series, and the producing organization “Works and Process,” most recently presenting work at the Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain. He’s an associate Artist with Faultline Theatre. Select Theater Credits: The Public (UTR), HERE Arts, JACK, LaMama, Ma-Yi, McKittrick, Abrons. Associate: Signature, Roundabout, Berkeley Rep, NYTW. zacklobel.com @zacklobel

Special Thanks

Many Happy Returns was originally commissioned by WP Theater as a one-time event and return to in-person programming presented in the summer of 2021. Thank you to Lisa McNulty, Michael Sag and the whole staff at WP Theater for being partners with us and bringing audiences back to the theater again.

Since our premiere at the WP Theater in the summer of 2021 *Many Happy Returns* has been developed in workshops and residencies at The Ground Floor Residency at Berkeley Repertory Theater, with support from San Diego Dance Theater and workshop performances in their Light Box Performance Space, The Revolving Door Festival at the Space at Irondale, and a Residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York, New York.

A big thank you to everyone who has been a part of developing versions of *Many Happy Returns* over the last few years: Hsiao-Jou Tang, Danté Baylor, Elisa Clark, Jessica Curiel, Pam Jong, Kimie Nishikawa and Aoshuang Zhang.

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Arts in the Community

During her time with the Hop, Monica Bill Barnes leads an expressive movement workshop on March 24.

Music

Approximate duration: 60 minutes

Partita No. 1 in B-Flat Major, BWV 825	Johann Sebastian Bach
I. Praeludium	
II. Allemande	
III. Corrente	
IV. Sarabande	
V. Menuet I and II	
<i>Round and Round</i>	Perry Como
<i>Take Good Care of My Baby</i>	Bobby Vee
<i>You're Nearer</i>	Judy Garland
<i>This Old Heart of Mine (Is Weak For You)</i>	The Supremes
<i>Let Your Love Flow</i>	The Bellamy Brothers
<i>Islands in the Stream</i>	Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers
<i>Dreaming</i> Blondie	Blondie
<i>(Nothing But) Flowers</i>	Talking Heads
<i>Piano Man</i>	Billy Joel

Spring at the Hop

3/16, 29 & 30

Sandglass Theater
puppetry, dance and
spokenword

3/25 & 26

Monica Bill Barnes
Many Happy Returns
a memory play

4/2 & 7/20

Johnny Gandelsman:
This Is America
resident artist &
violinist

Plus resident ensembles,
family events, films & more!

Explore



4/6

The Tallis Scholars
Renaissance choral music

4/11

Tomeka Reid
resident artist & cellist

4/14

Ensemble Schumann
works by Beethoven,
Bruch, Foote and White

4/17

Coreyah
Korean folk and
psychedelic rock

4/21

**23 Skidoo and the
Secret Agency**
hip hop for the
whole family

5/1

**Isidore String
Quartet**
Works by Bach,
Childs and
Beethoven

Tomeka Reid
4/11



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Please turn off your cell
phone inside the theater.



Assistive Listening Devices
available in the lobby.



DARTMOUTH
RECYCLES

If you do not wish to keep your playbill, please
discard it in the recycling bin provided in the lobby.
Thank you.