



Bates Dance Festival

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EDITORS: Performer bios and a full calendar of events follow the main news release.

For images, and additional press materials and artist information, please visit:
<http://www.batesdancefestival.org/about/press-room/> (**password:** press)

Lineup for Bates Dance Festival's 35th anniversary includes site-specific performances, gala concerts, renowned alumni

LEWISTON, Maine -- The Bates Dance Festival marks its 35th anniversary season in 2017 with spectacular public events from July 7 through Aug. 5, including a special gala program and site-specific multimedia performances at a downtown mill building.

Among the acclaimed artists performing or presenting work at the festival are Christal Brown and INSPIRIT, David Dorfman Dance, zoe | juniper and Stephan Koplowitz, as well as performers in the 35th Anniversary Gala — including Bebe Miller, Doug Varone, Larry Keigwin, Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig.

The 2017 season is also the 30th and last for director Laura Faure, under whose guidance the Bates Dance Festival has become a leading American dance center, celebrated as a laboratory for important contributors to contemporary dance.

The festival propels a cycle of creative development and innovation as it trains new dancers and makers, introduces emerging artists and presents returning performers who have experienced significant artistic growth through the festival.

Most performances cost \$25 for the general public, \$18 for seniors and \$12 for students. Online tickets are available at batestickets.com. For more information, please visit the festival website, at batesdancefestival.org, or call the box office at 207-786-6161.

The 2017 performance season opens with **DanceNOW**, showcasing dynamic new works by New England dance makers, at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 7-8, at Bates College's air-conditioned Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

Friday's program features performance artist **Lida Winfield** in her extraordinary text-

based solo "In Search of Air." In this poignant and hilarious chronicle of growing up dyslexic, Winfield shares the gifts and heartache that accompanied her struggle to learn to read -- in her early 20s.

Also on that program, **Betsy Miller** and **Matthew Cumbie** present a whimsical new duet, "The (still perfectly fine) Adventures of Unicorn Hair + Dragon Heartstring." Quirky and hilarious, the work challenges our assumptions about postmodern dance with heart, humor and play.

On Saturday, **Christal Brown** and her company **INSPIRIT** present Brown's acclaimed "The Opulence of Integrity." This forceful multimedia work adapts the story of Muhammad Ali to explore the struggle for identity of men of color in the U.S. and examine social, economic and spiritual conditions that inhibit freedom.

The following weekend, **David Dorfman Dance** presents the world premiere of Dorfman's "Aroundtown," a kinetic poem that examines varied and sometimes divided notions of love's meaning and purpose. Dorfman Dance performs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, July 13 and 15, in Schaeffer Theatre.

Dorfman, who recently choreographed Paula Vogel's Broadway-bound play "Indecent," has conducted seven creative residencies at the festival since 1995. His deeply engaging works examine aspects of power and powerlessness, activism, dissidence, community and intimacy.

"Aroundtown" masters original music, text and visuals to explore commitment, community and intimacy in times of strife. Dorfman's trademark empathy, sly humor and robust physicality are harnessed to look at love through a sociopolitical lens.

From Seattle, **zoe | juniper** return to Bates to present their arresting new "Clear & Sweet" at 7:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday, July 21-22, in Schaeffer Theatre.

Co-founded by choreographer Zoe Scofield and visual artist Juniper Shuey, recipients of a 2013 Stranger Genius for Performance award, the company creates stunning works of dance, photography and video installation.

Powerful and impassioned, "Clear & Sweet" deploys Scofield's angular, intense choreography and Shuey's cutting-edge videography in an adaptation of the uniquely American tradition of shape-note singing. Mixing singers with a stellar cast of dancers, this work plays with constantly shifting points of perspective and highlights the strengths of community.

Marking the festival's anniversary and honoring the contributions of both longtime director Faure and the late Marcy Plavin, festival founder, the **35th Anniversary Gala** unites favorite artist alumni for performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, July 28-29, in Schaeffer

Theatre.

On the program: "Short Story," a poignant duet by **Doug Varone** and **Natalie Desch**; an excerpt from "The Making Room," by **Bebe Miller** and **Angie Hauser**; a glimpse of "Crazy Beautiful," a new solo by **Tania Isaac**; excerpted solos by **Larry Keigwin**, **Sara Pearson**, **Patrik Widrig** and **Riley Watts**; and a group work featuring Bates Dance Festival students by festival veteran **Michael Foley**. A party follows Saturday's performance.

Internationally renowned site choreographer **Stephan Koplowitz** will create "**Mill Town**," a site-specific multimedia work for 60 dancers to be staged in and around the Bates Mill Complex in downtown Lewiston. "Mill Town" takes place at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 3-4, in the mill at 130 Mill St.

Inspired by the geography, industry and culture of Lewiston-Auburn, Koplowitz is designing "Mill Town" for a multigenerational cast of professional and local dancers, original music by award-winning composer Todd Reynolds, scenic and media design by Shawn Hove, video by Ellen Maynard and costumes by Melody Eggen. Structured as a promenade for the audience through the mill, the piece includes installations of artifacts from Museum L-A and video shot throughout the city.

More festival events

All told, the Bates Dance Festival comprises mainstage and informal performances, lectures and other presentations by more than 80 internationally recognized dancers.

In addition to the mainstage performances, the festival offers:

The annual **Musicians' Concert**, a global mix of music by eight remarkable composers and players, at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 24, at the Gendron Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston.

The **Festival Finale** presents student dancers of all ages performing jazz, contemporary, hip hop and Caribbean-inspired works by David Dorfman, Danny Buraczeski, Claudia Lavista and Omar Carrum, Shakia Johnson and Tania Isaac. Also showcasing the Festival's Youth Arts Program, the finale takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, in Alumni Gymnasium, 130 Central Ave.

Free **Show & Tell** lecture-demonstrations by the companies in residence offer a glimpse into the creative process. Show & Tells take place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Schaeffer Theatre for David Dorfman Dance on July 11, and zoe | juniper on July 18.

Inside Dance: Understanding Contemporary Dance offers pre-show lectures by writer Debra Cash and post-performance talks. Affording insight into the artists and their work, 7 p.m.

Saturday lectures precede the Dorfman performance on July 15; zoe | juniper on July 22; and "Mill Town" on Aug. 4. Talkbacks follow most evening performances.

Making "Mill Town": A Collaborator's Conversation features Stephan Koplowitz and other members of the "Mill Town" creative team at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, at the historical Museum L-A Gallery at 35 Canal St. Attendees will also enjoy Museum L-A's current exhibition, "Structures & Patterns -The Remnants of our Work!" featuring paintings by Janice Moore and photographs by Mark Marchesi that were inspired by the mills. Admission is free.

More about the artists

Lida Winfield, a visiting lecturer in dance at Middlebury College, is an innovative dancer and choreographer. Her imaginative and poignant work was recently honored with the Rebecca Blunk Fund Award through the New England Foundation for the Arts. Inspired by the human capacity to cope, to imagine and to transform, Winfield's works tell stories, ask questions, explore limits and celebrate beauty in what is awkward and vulnerable.

Betsy Miller is a 2016 Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Choreography Fellow and an assistant professor of dance at Salem State University. Described as "haunting, spunky and full of imagination," her work expresses the tensions within our complex and messy human experiences through religion, media and cultural politics.

Matthew Cumbie, based in Washington, D.C., is the associate artistic director of Dance Exchange. As an educator and facilitator of dance he has been on faculty at Colby College, Queensborough Community College and Texas Woman's University. Driven by his interests in activism and improvisation, Cumbie brings a poetic lens to specifically queer experience.

Christal Brown is the founder of INSPIRIT; founder of Project: BECOMING, which helps young women become strong competent individuals; creator of the Liquid Strength dance training module; and chair of dance at Middlebury College. Brown combines athleticism, creativity, love for people and passion for teaching to create work that redefines the art of dance and the structure of the field.

David Dorfman founded his eponymous company in 1987 and is the troupe's artistic director. Professor of dance at Connecticut College, he has undertaken seven creative residencies at the Bates Dance Festival since 1995. Dorfman Dance has performed nationally and internationally in its drive "to get the whole world dancing," a mission especially evident in the company's community-based projects over the years.

As a New York Times commentator wrote, Dorfman "has never shied away from openhearted explorations of self and society, channeling big ideas into raw hyper-athletic

movement that calls for go-for-broke dancers."

zoe | juniper: Choreographer Zoe Scofield and designer-visual artist Juniper Schuey are the co-artistic directors of this Seattle-based company. Their work brings together embodied design, physicality, visual space and directional sound, and they operate in the belief that dance is a visual art form and visual art is a physical form. The Boston Globe described their work as a "crazy dream you just can't shake."

Stephan Koplowitz: Koplowitz is an award-winning director, choreographer, media artist and educator. His many honors include a 2003 Guggenheim Fellowship in Choreography, six National Endowment for the Arts Choreography Fellowships and the Time Out Magazine's Award for Best Dance Production of 1996 for the piece "Genius Canyon."

Koplowitz uses the natural environment and human-built surroundings to create immersive and unforgettable experiences. Since 1984 he has created 84 of these breathtaking works of art and has performed them to audiences worldwide.

The Bates Dance Festival

Founded in 1982 at Bates College, the Bates Dance Festival brings together an international community of contemporary choreographers, performers, educators and students in a cooperative community to study, perform and create new work.

The festival serves as an annual destination for artists, students and audiences to engage in activities and performances that foster a creative exchange of ideas, encourage exploration of new ground and provide access to a wide spectrum of dance and movement disciplines.

At press time, support for the 2017 season has been provided by Bates College, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, National Performance Network, the Sequoia Foundation, the Onion Foundation, New Music USA, Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, the Shapiro Family Foundation, Norway Savings Bank, Eagle Point Donor Fund, Platz Associates, L.L. Bean, Center Street Dental, I.Dres and generous individual donors.

**2017 Bates Dance Festival
Calendar of Events
July 7–Aug. 5**

General information

*Admission price for seniors. **Admission price for students.

Festival events take place at Bates College, Lewiston, except as noted. Schaeffer Theatre is located at 329 College St. and Alumni Gymnasium at 130 Central Ave. Off-campus in downtown Lewiston, the Gendron Franco Center is at 46 Cedar St., the Bates Mill Complex at 130 Mill St. and the Museum L-A Gallery at 35 Mill St.

Online tickets go on sale June 1 at batestickets.com.

Reservations may be made by phone beginning June 28: 207-786-6161, 1-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Events

Saturday, July 1-Sunday, Aug. 6, Fireplace Lounge, Commons, 136 Central Ave. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Free

Dance Photo Exhibit by Arthur Fink

Friday, July 7, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$20 / \$15* / \$12**

Performance: DanceNow. Featuring witty and poignant new works by New England dance makers Lida Winfield and Betsy Miller / Matthew Cumbie.

Saturday, July 8, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$20 / \$15* / \$12**

Performance: DanceNow. Featuring a deep dive into the legacy of Muhammad Ali by Vermont company Christal Brown and INSPIRIT.

Tuesday, July 11, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Free

Show & Tell: David Dorfman Dance

Thursday, July 13, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Performance: David Dorfman Dance. The kinetic poem "Aroundtown" examines varied, unique and sometimes divided notions of love. Talkback with the artists follows the concert.

Saturday, July 15, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Pre-performance lecture: Inside Dance with dance writer Debra Cash, 7 p.m.

Performance: David Dorfman Dance (see July 13). Talkback with the artists follows the concert.

Tuesday, July 18, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Free

Show & Tell: zoe | juniper

Friday, July 21, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Performance: zoe | juniper. "Clear & Sweet," mixes choreography and video with the American

tradition of shape-note singing to highlight the strengths and roots of community. Talkback with the artists follows the concert.

Saturday, July 22, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Pre-performance lecture: Inside Dance with dance writer Debra Cash, 7 p.m.

Performance: zoe | juniper (see July 21)

Monday, July 24, Gendron Franco Center, 7:30 p.m. \$16 / \$12* / \$8**

Performance: The Musicians' Concert. A festival favorite, this eclectic concert features gifted composers and multi-instrumentalists playing original and improvised music from around the world.

Wednesday, July 26, Museum L-A Gallery, 7:30 p.m. Free

Making "Mill Town": A Collaborator's Conversation. Stephan Koplowitz and other members of the "Mill Town" creative team discuss the site-specific performance installation taking place Aug. 3-4.

Friday, July 28, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$35 / \$27* / \$20**

Performance: 35th Anniversary Gala. An evening featuring some of America's most beloved dance artists.

Saturday, July 29, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$60 / \$35 / \$27* / \$20** (Gala / adult / senior / student)

Performance: 35th Anniversary Gala. An evening featuring some of America's most beloved dance artists. Followed by a special celebration honoring director Laura Faure.

Thursday, Aug. 3, Bates Mill Complex, 8 p.m. \$20 / \$15* / \$12**

Performance: "Mill Town." A site-specific, multimedia promenade around and through the Bates Mill Complex featuring dance, music, video and installations.

Friday, Aug. 4, Bates Mill Complex, 8 p.m. \$20 / \$15* / \$12**

Pre-performance lecture: Inside Dance with dance writer Debra Cash, 7:30 p.m.

Performance: "Mill Town" (see Aug. 3)

Saturday, Aug. 5, Schaeffer Theatre, 1-5 p.m. Free

Informal performance: Young Choreographers / New Works. This informal adjudicated showing presents more than 20 new works by talented festival students.

Saturday, Aug. 5, Alumni Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m. \$6 (cash admission at the door)

Performance: Festival Finale. Festival participants perform new works by David Dorfman, Danny Buraczeski, Claudia Lavista and Omar Carrum, Tania Isaac and Shakia Johnson; also, a production by our Youth Arts Program participants.

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