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doug elkins choreography, etc

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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Peak Performances

2016 | 2017 SEASON

Large
Print

World Premiere!

doug elkins choreography, etc.

Photo by Jamie Kraus, courtesy of Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival



April 20–23, 2017
Alexander Kasser Theater



MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

World Premiere!
doug elkins choreography, etc.

Artistic Director **Doug Elkins**

Company **Carolyn Cryer, Cori Marquis, Kyle Marshall, Donnell Oakley, Elias Rosa**

Rehearsal Director **Carolyn Cryer**

Composers/Music Directors **Justin Levine, Matt Stine**

Lighting Designers **Amanda K. Ringger, Heather Smaha**

Costume Designers **Oana Botez, Naoko Nagata**

Dramaturg **Anne Davison**

Technical Director/Production Stage Manager **Randi Rivera**

General Manager **Amy Cassello**

Program

Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State University, produced by the Office of Arts & Cultural Programming, presents:

A Hundred Indecisions (World Premiere!)

Originally conceived and directed by **Doug Elkins**

Director of Photography **Benjamin Seth Wolf**

Editor and Unit Production Manager **Tony Pemberton**

Film Project Coordinator **Natalie Romero Marx**

Original Score by **Justin Levine** and **Matt Stine**

Costume Design by **Oana Botez**

Cast **Ephrat Asherie, Carlos Cordova, Carolyn Cryer, Parisa Khobdeh, Deborah Lohse, Javier “Ninja” Madrid, Cori Marquis, Kyle Marshall, Donnell Oakley, Charemaine Seet**

An original film produced by the Office of Arts & Cultural Programming as part of Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State University with funding by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

O, round desire (World Premiere!)

Choreographed by **Doug Elkins** in collaboration with the dancers

Music Production by **Matt Stine**

Lighting Design by **Amanda K. Ringger**

Costume Design by **Oana Botez**

Cast **Carolyn Cryer, Cori Marquis, Kyle Marshall, Donnell Oakley, Elias Rosa**

Featuring students of the Montclair State University Department of Theatre

and Dance **Jamelaih Cunningham, Diana Julcapoma, Eric Parra, Naimah Ray, Kristian Real, Chelsea Vargas**

and students of Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University

Hyunjin Kim, Nimisha Mahiyaria, Francisca Quintanilla

Co-produced by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ).

~~ Intermission ~~

Mo(or)town/Redux (2012)

Choreographed by **Doug Elkins** in collaboration with the dancers

Musical Soundscape by **Justin Levine** and **Matt Stine**

Music Direction by **Justin Levine**

Original Lighting Design by **Heather Smaha**

Costume Design by **Naoko Nagata**

Cast **Cori Marquis, Kyle Marshall, Donnell Oakley, Elias Rosa**

Mo(or)town/Redux was commissioned by DANCEworks, a partnership between SUMMERDANCE Santa Barbara and the Lobero Theatre Foundation, <http://www.sbdanceworks.com>. World Premiere occurred on May 5, 2012 at

American Dance Institute, Rockville, Maryland. Additional support provided by 92Y Harkness Dance Festival and The Yard on Martha's Vineyard.

Duration: 80 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audiences and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

About the Company

doug elkins choreography, etc. was established in summer 2009 as a way to brand independent dance, theater, and teaching projects for Doug Elkins. The umbrella has allowed for the creation of three award-winning works: *Fräulein Maria*, a loving deconstruction of *The Sound of Music* that began at DANCE NOW Joe's Pub in 2006 and, with the addition of theater directors Barbara Karger and Michael Preston, toured throughout North America from 2009 to 2012; *Mo(or)town/Redux*, a movement conversation with Shakespeare's *Othello* and José Limón's seminal *The Moor's Pavane* set to a Motown-inspired score (named by Alastair Macaulay of the *New York Times* as one of the Top Ten Dance Performances of the year); and *Hapless Bizarre*, a 2013 National Dance Project selection. The original Doug Elkins Dance Company was founded in 1988 with Ben Munisteri, David Neumann, Lisa Nicks, and Jane Weiner and debuted at Dance Theater Workshop (DTW)'s 11 O'Clock News series. The company disbanded following 15 years of national and international touring and multiple New York seasons at The Joyce Theater, The New Victory, 92nd Street Y Harkness Center for Dance, and Dance Theater Workshop.



Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State University is a project of the university's Office of Arts and Cultural Programming. With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Choreographers on Campus Initiative, three exceptional choreographers

have worked with outstanding filmmakers to explore the art of dance when created especially for film, rather than as a document of a dance performance. The resulting short films have made their debuts in tandem with live performance pieces receiving their world premieres as part of Montclair State University's acclaimed Peak Performances series. The first, *Soliloquy*, was directed and choreographed by Heidi Latsky and debuted at Montclair State University's Alexander Kasser Theater in April, 2015. The second, Nora Chipaumire's *Afro Promo #1 Kinglady*, debuted at the Kasser in April, 2016. Doug Elkins's *A Hundred Indecisions* is the third and final film in the series. Montclair State students have played key roles in the development, production, and performance of each film. Student filmmakers have also created short documentaries to provide contextual insights for each film. All of the films and their supporting documentary materials are available online for Montclair State students and others to view on demand at danceforfilm.org.

Dance for Film Exhibition

Three Choreographers/Three Films

Alexander Kasser Theater, Studio 104

April 20–24, 12–5 pm daily

Featuring

Dance Documentaries by Montclair State University Students

and

***A Hundred Indecisions* by Doug Elkins**

***Afro Promo #1 Kinglady* by Nora Chipaumire**

***Soliloquy* by Heidi Latsky**

Join the Office of Arts and Cultural Programming for a retrospective of the films produced by Dance for Film on Location at Montclair State University with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Choreographers on Campus Initiative.

The exhibition provides a comprehensive look at the films created by three outstanding dance artists, including photographs and a series of documentaries created by Montclair State film students, that reflect the choreographers' experiences making work for the screen.

Program Notes

Source Material for *Mo(or)Town/Redux*

A Brief Synopsis of Shakespeare's *Othello*

Shakespeare's 1603 tragedy centers on Othello, a respected general in the Venetian army, who falls victim to "the green-ey'd monster," jealousy. Othello and Desdemona, the daughter of a prominent Venetian, fall in love and elope. Early in their courtship, Othello had given Desdemona a handkerchief as a love token, and it is one of her dearest possessions. Othello regularly confides in his ensign Iago, whom he thinks of as one of his most trusted friends. But Iago secretly hates Othello and devises a plan to ruin him by insinuating that Desdemona has been unfaithful. Iago asks his own wife, Emilia, Desdemona's maidservant and close friend, to steal the handkerchief. Emilia refuses, but when Desdemona accidentally drops it, she cannot resist the urge to take it to please her husband. Iago takes the handkerchief from Emilia, places it in another soldier's bedroom, and later brings Othello to see the soldier with Desdemona's handkerchief in hand. Othello sees this as irrefutable proof that Desdemona is unfaithful. Consumed by irrational jealousy, he decides he must kill her. Desdemona protests her innocence, but an unhinged Othello smothers her to death. When Emilia realizes the unwitting role she played in her friend's death, she immediately confesses to Othello that Iago is to blame. Iago kills Emilia for speaking the truth about him. Overwhelmed with the realization that Desdemona was innocent and never stopped loving him, Othello kills himself. Iago refuses to explain his motivations for destroying Othello.

Limón's *The Moor's Pavane*

Choreographed by José Limón in 1949, *The Moor's Pavane* is a seminal modern dance piece with four dancers portraying Othello, Iago, Desdemona, and Emilia. Limón used the music of Henry Purcell, formal echoes of the pavane—a 17th-century European court dance—and the simple prop of the handkerchief to convey the plot and explore the themes of the play.

Motown

Beginning as a record label founded by Berry Gordy in 1960 in a tiny converted studio in downtown Detroit, the Motown sound itself became one of the most influential musical genres of the 20th century. It was one of the first real “cross-over music” movements, marrying the church music traditions of soul and American roots with pop music through a combination of orchestral and popular arrangements. The popularity of the music in mainstream culture allowed African-American performers to stand in the spotlight of the pop music scene, launching the careers of Marvin Gaye, Smokey Robinson, the Temptations, the Jackson Five, Diana Ross and the Supremes, and many others. The influence of this music can be found in many contemporary artists including the late Amy Winehouse, Adele, Raphael Saadiq, and Sharon Jones, to name a few.

—©*doug elkins choreography, etc.*, 2017

About the Artists

Doug Elkins (Artistic Director/Choreographer) is a two-time New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award–winning choreographer and 2012 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Creative Arts Fellow. He began his dance career as a B-Boy, touring the world with break-dance groups New York Dance Express and Magnificent Force, among others. Elkins is a recipient of significant choreographic commissions and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Yard on Martha’s Vineyard (Paul Taylor Fellowship, 1991, and Resident Artist, 2011–2013), Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, The Joyce Theater Foundation, Arnhold Foundation, Dianne & Daniel Vapnek Family Fund, National Performance Network, Jerome Foundation, Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation, and The Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts. He has received a Brandeis University Creative Arts Medal, sharing the stage with author Philip Roth and photographer Nan Goldin (1994); the Martha Hill Award for Career Achievement (New York City, 2006); and an Elliot Norton Award for Choreography (Boston, 2010).

A graduate of SUNY/Purchase, Elkins received his MFA in Dance from Hollins University/American Dance Festival in 2007. His tenure at the Beacon School on the Upper West Side of Manhattan is the subject of *Where the Dance Is*, a short film by Marta Renzi. In fall 2013, he became a full-time faculty member at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. For the spring 2016 season at the Koch Theater, he was commissioned to create *The Weight of Smoke* for Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, a dance reprised for the Taylor Company's 2017 New York season.

Carolyn Cryer (Rehearsal Director/Dancer) graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University with a BA in Dance. Cryer was an original cast member of Doug Elkins and Friends' *Fräulein Maria* and has served as rehearsal director for doug elkins choreography, etc. since 2006. She has taught master classes and set Elkins's repertory at universities and high schools and assisted Elkins in choreographing productions for Gotham Chamber Opera and Paul Taylor. Cryer also dances with STEELEDANCE.

Cori Marquis (Dancer) is a choreographer, dancer, and teacher. Under the moniker Cori Marquis + the Nines [IX], her work has been presented in numerous venues in New York City, Arizona, Oregon, Michigan, California, and Massachusetts. Marquis was an artist-in-residence at DMAC (2012) and Chen Dance Center (2011) and a recipient of the Bessie Schönberg Mentorship Residency at The Yard, Martha's Vineyard (2014). She currently collaborates with Doug Elkins, Jane Comfort, and the fierce ladies of LMn03: Lohse, Marquis & Oakley. Marquis received a BA from Stanford University in 2008. www.corimarquis.com

Kyle Marshall (Dancer) is a dancer and dance maker working in New York City and New Jersey. In addition to currently dancing with doug elkins choreography, etc., he is an apprentice for the Trisha Brown Dance Company. He has also worked with Tiffany Mills Company, Ryan McNamara, and Heidi Latsky and was a founding member of 10 Hairy Legs. Marshall assisted choreographer David Neumann on the 2016 musical *The Total Bent* at the Public Theater. In 2014, he organized Kyle Marshall Choreography to help support his dance-making. Marshall's work has been performed at venues including Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, DANCE NOW Joe's Pub, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, New York City SummerStage,

Movement Research at Judson Church, and Wassaic Arts Project. He has also received residencies from the DANCE NOW @ Silo, Jamaica Performing Arts Center, and CoLab Arts and was the 2016 Montclair Dance Festival Emerging Commissioned Choreographer. Marshall graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers University with a BFA in Dance. kmchoreography.com

Donnell Oakley (Dancer) is an independent choreographer, dancer, and teacher based in Brooklyn, NY, since 2001. She has had her work produced through a variety of theaters and received residencies to support her work at The Silo, The Lumberyard, SUNY Brockport, and The Yard as the 2013 Bessie Schönberg Choreographic Mentorship recipient. In addition to her independent work, Oakley continues to create work with Chavasse Dance & Performance, Cori Marquis + the Nines [IX], Steeledance, The Median Movement | Alex Springer + Xan Burley, her collective LMn03 with Deborah Lohse and Cori Marquis, and the ever-playful doug elkins choreography, etc. She received a BFA from University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2001. donnelloakley.com

Elias Rosa (Dancer) was born in 1995 in Brooklyn, NY. He is a senior at Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts. During his time at Rutgers he has performed in works by Soon-ho Park, Jessica Lang, Ellen Cornfield, Netta Yerushalmy, Randy James, Joe Goode, and Martha Graham. In February 2017, Rosa was given the opportunity to perform Graham's *Dark Meadow Suite* (restaged at Rutgers by Miki Orihara) for presentation at The Joyce Theater as part of the illustrious Graham Company's annual New York season. This appearance at Montclair marks Rosa's debut with doug elkins choreography, etc.

Collaborators

Oana Botez (Costume Design, *A Hundred Indecisions* and *O, round desire*), a native of Romania, has designed for major theater, opera, and dance companies including the National Theater of Bucharest. Since 1999, when she moved to New York, her collaborations in theater, opera, film, and dance include Robert Woodruff, Richard Foreman, Maya Beiser, Richard Schechner, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Andrei Serban, Blanka Zizka, Brian Kulick, Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, János Szász, Dan Safer,

Eric Ting, Karin Coonrod, Jay Scheib, Kristin Marting, Gus Solomons Jr./Paradigm, Carmen De Lavallade, Michael Sexton, Pig Iron Company, and Play Company, among others. oanabotez.com

Anne Davison (Dramaturg) is a New York–based theater and dance dramaturg. Projects with doug elkins choreography, etc. include *The Weight of Smoke* for Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, *Hapless Bizarre*, *Mo(or)town/Redux*, and *Fräulein Maria*. Other projects include Salty Brine’s *Spectacular Living Record Collection Cabaret*, Mark Gindick’s *Wing-Man*, Alex Timbers and Michael Friedman’s musical adaptation *Love’s Labour’s Lost* (Shakespeare in the Park), David Dorfman Dance’s *Come, and Back Again*, Jane Comfort and Company’s *Beauty*, and Timbers and Friedman’s *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Public Theater and Broadway).

Justin Levine (Composer/Music Director) has writing credits including *Bonfire Night* (book, music, and lyrics), *Halfway Home* (MTC commission), *Tell Me Tomorrow* (Naked Angels commission), *Jump Jim Crow* (Subjective Theatre), *Naked Radio* (podcast), and *Pepper and Sam* (co-creator). For Doug Elkins with collaborator Matt Stine he wrote *The Weight of Smoke* (for Paul Taylor’s American Modern Dance). Recent musical direction includes *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (Broadway and the Public Theater), *The Robber Bridegroom* (Roundabout), *Here Lies Love* (Public Theater, by David Byrne), *Murder Ballad* (MTC), and *Love’s Labour’s Lost* (Public Theater). justinlevineonline.com

Naoko Nagata (Costume Design, *Mo(or)town/Redux*), with literally no formal training, created her first costume for Jeanine Durning in 1998. Since then, she has been creating nonstop for a diverse group of choreographers and dancers including Kyle Abraham (for Alvin Ailey Dance Theater), Amanda Loulaki, Carrie Ahern, Bebe Miller, David Dorfman, David Neumann, Ellis Wood, Gina Gibney, Liz Lerman, Nina Winthrop, Nora Chipaumire, Reggie Wilson, Tiffany Mills, Urban Bush Women, Zvi Gotheiner, Ralph Lemon, and many others.

Amanda K. Ringger (Lighting Design, *O, round desire*) has lived in New York since 1997, designing locally, nationally, and internationally with artists such as Faye Driscoll, Doug Elkins, Cynthia Oliver, Jennifer Archibald, Alexandra Beller, Deborah Lohse, Laura Peterson, and Darrah Carr, among others. She received an

MFA in Lighting Design from Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She is the recipient of a 2009 Bessie award for her collaboration on Faye Driscoll's *837 Venice Boulevard*.

Randi Rivera (Technical Director/Production Stage Manager) is a native New Yorker. She holds a BA in Theater from Hamilton College and has studied Technical Theater at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama and Production Management at Universidad San Pablo (CEU) in Madrid. Currently, Rivera is the stage manager for Half Straddle theater company. From 2009 to 2013 she was the technical director for Faye Driscoll Group. Rivera has proudly worked with many performing arts organizations both in New York City and on the road; favorites include Phantom Limb and Keigwin + Company.

Heather Smaha (Lighting Design, *Mo(or)town/Redux*) is a graduate of SUNY Purchase's MFA program in Lighting Design/Technology. Off-Broadway credits include *Lebensraum* (Abingdon Theatre Co.). Other New York City credits include Jane Monheit with Mark O'Connor (92Y Concert Series), *Mo(or)town/Redux* (Joyce SoHo), *ART* (The Wild Project), *Charles Winn Speaks* (Cherry Lane Studio Theatre), *Together This Time* (NYC Fringe 2010), *Ruby's Story*, and *The White Cliffs* (Stella Adler Studio of Acting). She has worked as production electrician on *The Inexplicable Redemption of Agent G* (Beckett, Theatre Row) and *Miranda* (HERE Arts) and as assistant master electrician on *The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs* (The Public Theater).

Matt Stine (Composer/Music Director) is a sound designer, composer, and music producer. Recent work for doug elkins choreography, etc. with collaborator Justin Levine includes *The Weight of Smoke* (Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance), *Hapless Bizarre*, and *Mo(or)town/Redux*. Recent theater credits include *Sweeney Todd* (sound design, Barrow Street Theatre); *The Liar*, *Dead Poets' Society*, *Nathan the Wise*, and *Mother Courage and Her Children* (sound design, Classic Stage Company); *A Christmas Carol* (music production, McCarter Theatre); *The Clearing* and *Brownsville Bred* (sound design, 59E59); *The Black Crook* (sound design, Abrons Art Center); *Misery* (music production, Broadway); *The Tempest* (music production, Shakespeare in the Park); *Love's Labour's Lost* (music supervision, Shakespeare in the Park); *Here Lies Love* (music producer, Public Theater/Royal National Theatre/

Seattle Rep); and *Wing-Man* (sound design, Ars Nova). Album production credits include *Love's Labour's Lost* (Original Cast Recording, Sh-K-Boom Records), *The Remix Collection from Here Lies Love* (Todomundo!), and many more.
www.27sound.com

Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful to the many friends, colleagues, and family members who support our dreams and vision—far too many to mention here: yes, Hillary, it takes a village. Doug and company wish to thank Jed Wheeler, Lori Katterhenry, Maxine Steinman, and the entire Montclair State University team for their warm embrace. This season would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of Jody and John Arnhold, the Dianne and Daniel Vapnek Family Foundation, and the ongoing support of our dear friends at Lumberyard/ADI Incubator.
dougelkinschoreography.com

Doug Elkins is fiscally sponsored by The Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc., a nonprofit organization administered by Pentacle (DanceWorks, Inc). Pentacle is a nonprofit management support organization for the performing arts. Mara Greenberg, Director. 75 Broad Street, Suite 304, New York, New York 10004. 212/278-8111.
pentacle.org

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Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) presents and produces remarkable works of dance, music, theater, opera, and performance art at the Alexander Kasser Theater under the internationally acclaimed banner Peak Performances. ACP nourishes and promotes artists who create singular and notable examples of creative innovation;

among them, Robert Wilson, Bill T. Jones, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Liz Gerring, Kronos Quartet, Richard Schechner, Robyn Orlin, Richard Alston, David T. Little and Royce Vavrek, Marianne Weems, Nora Chipaumire, and many others. ACP is the proud recipient of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Citation of Excellence and Designation of Major Impact.

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