

PARSONS DANCE

Artistic Director
DAVID PARSONS

General Manager
REBECCA JOSUE

Resident Lighting Designer
HOWELL BINKLEY

Dancers
**SARAH BRAVERMAN
ELENA D'AMARIO
GEENA PACAREU
EOGHAN DILLON
ZOEY ANDERSON
JUSTUS WHITFIELD
DEIDRE ROGAN
SHAWN LESNIAK
HENRY STEELE**

REBECCA JOSUE, *Stage Manager*
CHRISTOPHER CHAMBERS, *Lighting Supervisor*
MICHAEL MEGLIOLA, *Lighting Associate and Technical Supervisor*

PARSONSDANCE.ORG

Elmira, NY
October 27, 2017

Programs and casting subject to change.

THE ENVELOPE

(1984)

Choreography by David Parsons

Lighting by Howell Binkley

Music by Gioacchino Rossini - "Arrangement of Overtures"

Arranger of the Score by Charles Gouse

Costume Design by Judy Wirkula

GEENA PACAREU EOGHAN DILLON
ZOEY ANDERSON JUSTUS WHITFIELD DEIDRE ROGAN
SHAWN LESNIAK or HENRY STEELE

The Envelope premiered with the Parsons Dance Company on August 20, 1984 in New York and was funded as a full production of the DTW and the generous contributions of the dancers.

SLEEP STUDY

1987

Choreography by David Parsons

Lighting Design by Howell Binkley

Music by Flim & The BB's

Costume Design by Gail Gilbert

GEENA PACAREU EOGHAN DILLON ZOEY ANDERSON JUSTUS WHITFIELD
DEIDRE ROGAN CC SHAWN LESNIAK or HENRY STEELE

HAND DANCE

2003

Choreography by David Parsons

Lighting Design by Howell Binkley

Musical arrangement by Kenji Bunch

Costume Concept by David Parsons

FIVE DANCERS

WHIRLAWAY

2014

Choreography by David Parsons
Lighting Design by Burke Wilmore
Music by Alan Toussaint
Music by Allen Toussaint & The Allen Toussaint Orchestra
Assistant Choreography by Natalie Lomonte
Costumes by Keiko Voltaire

GEENA PACAREU EOGHAN DILLON
ZOEY ANDERSON JUSTUS WHITFIELD DEIDRE ROGAN
SHAWN LESNIAK HENRY STEELE

Whirlaway was commissioned by the New Orleans Ballet Association with generous support from Kerry Clayton and Paige Royer; additional support provided by the Parsons Dance Board of Directors.

Southern Nights and *Going Down* are written by Allen Toussaint - Screen Gems EMI/Marsaint music publishing & Warner Tamerlane publishing. *Yes We Can Can*, *Whirlaway* and *Play Something Sweet (Brickyard Blues)* are written by Allen Toussaint - Screen Gems EMI/Marsaint music publishing.

Q&A TO FOLLOW

PARSONS DANCE is New York City based modern dance company, internationally renowned for creating and performing contemporary American dance of extraordinary artistry that is accessible and enriching to diverse audiences. Founded in 1985 by artistic director David Parsons and Tony Award-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, Parsons Dance is known for its energized, athletic, ensemble work, and has collaborated with iconic artists across all disciplines including Billy Taylor, Milton Nascimento, Allen Toussaint, William Ivey Long, Donna Karan, Annie Leibovitz, and Alex Katz. The company has toured to more than 383 cities, 22 countries and across 5 continents for the most notable theaters, festivals and presenters worldwide including The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Maison de la Danse, Teatro La Fenice and Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro. New York Magazine called Mr. Parsons “one of modern dance’s great living dance-makers.”

Parsons continues to pursue its mission to deliver positive, affirming, life enriching experiences to audiences worldwide by maintaining a repertory of over 75 works by David Parsons and producing his new work; inviting established choreographers to re-stage works from the American canon on the company; and commissioning young American choreographers with our newly launched GenerationNOW Fellowship. This year-long mentorship under David Parsons culminates in a commission that premieres as a part of the Parsons’ season at the Joyce Theater and joins the company’s touring repertory for the following season.

In addition to choreography and performance, Parsons Dance engages audiences of all ages through education and outreach programs. The company hosts post-show discussions, open rehearsals, studio showcases and open company classes. Parsons Dance offers four weeks of summer workshops in dance and choreography for pre-professional dancers as well as in-school workshops for public school students at PS75 in New York City.

DAVID PARSONS (*Artistic Director/Co-Founder*) has enjoyed a remarkable career as a director, choreographer, performer, master teacher and producer. Mr. Parsons was born in Chicago and raised in Kansas City. In the early years of his career he performed with The Paul Taylor Dance Company, New York City Ballet, Berlin Opera, and The White Oak Dance Project. Mr. Parsons has created more than 75 works for Parsons Dance. Commissions include American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to name a few. His work has been performed by Paris Opera Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, Joffrey Ballet, and Ballet de Rio De Janeiro among many others. Parsons has worked on such diverse projects as Julie Taymor's film *Fool's Fire*, *AIDA* at Opera de Verona, *Maria de Buenos Aires* for Gotham Chamber Opera and *Remember Me*, a collaboration with East Village Opera Company. Mr. Parsons holds an honorary doctorate and was the first recipient of the Howard Gilman Fellowship to complete his masters. *The New York Times* has called Mr. Parsons "one of the great movers of modern dance."

SARAH BRAVERMAN (*Dancer*) is Chicago-born and California-raised. She trained extensively in the Royal Academy of Dance under the direction of JoAnna Jarvis and Bernadette Hill, completing all examinations up to advanced II with distinction. Sarah graduated cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in 2008 under the direction of Katie Langan and had the honor of performing works by David Marquez, Robert Battle, David Parsons, Graham Lustig, Stephen Petronio, and Joao Carvalho. Recently, Sarah was seen onstage in a lead role in NYC's *Queen of the Night*. Sarah joined Parsons Dance in 2008.

ELENA D'AMARIO (*Dancer*) was born in Pescara, Italy. She studied modern, ballet, contemporary and tap at various schools throughout Italy, most prominently at New Step Art Studio. Over the years, she has won multiple festivals and competitions, including the Pescara Dance Festival, the International Expression Dance Competition in 2008, and the International TipTap show in 2007 and 2009 in Rome. Elena has appeared on multiple TV shows including "Oscar TV", "The Best years" and "Il ballo delle debuttanti". She auditioned for the most popular Italian talent show "Amici di Maria De Filippi," which led her to winning the opportunity to apprentice with Parsons Dance for the 2010-2011 season. In 2016 Elena was nominated for a Clive Barnes Award for dance excellence. Elena joined Parsons Dance in August 2011.

GEENA PACAREU (*Dancer*) began dancing at an early age in her native Tarragona, Spain, at Artemis Dansa, and continued her training in The Royal Professional Conservatory of Dance "Mariemma" in Madrid, where she graduated in 2011 in classical dance. She also studied contemporary dance at various schools, during intensive summer courses and workshops, including Laban Trinity in London. Before graduating, she was accepted as a fulltime Trainee at Ajkun Ballet Theatre in New York City, and promoted to Company Artist in 2012. During her training, Geena assisted numerous workshops and intensive courses all over the world. She was featured as a cast member in numerous performances and has won multiple festivals and competitions. Geena has been a member of Parsons Dance since 2013.

EOGHAN DILLON (*Dancer*) was born in County Tyrone, Ireland. At the age of four, he moved to Canada where he began dancing at the age of 12. In 2012, Mr. Dillon received a full scholarship to

the Ailey School in NYC where he studied under many prestigious professionals. After graduating, Eoghan attended the School at Jacob's Pillow where he performed works by Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Diddy Veldman, and Sharon Eyal. He has since performed and toured with many professional companies, including Manuel Vignoulle Dance and The Peridance Contemporary Dance Company. This is Eoghan's third season with Parsons Dance.

ZOEY ANDERSON (*Dancer*) was born and raised in Utah where she trained in contemporary, ballet, jazz and ballroom dance at Center Stage. She was the ballroom national smooth champion in 2010. Zoey graduated cum laude from Marymount Manhattan College in May of 2015 with a BFA in Ballet under the direction of Katie Langan. She has performed works by Dwight Rhoden, Lar Lubovitch and Aszure Barton, among others. Zoey has performed with Nikolais Louis in the Yang Liping International Dance festival in Kunming China in 2013. Other credits include the Broadway premiere gala of *On The Town*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Dancing With The Stars* webisodes, and Macy's Passport Tour with P. Diddy. This is Zoey's second season with Parsons Dance.

JUSTUS WHITFIELD (*Dancer*) is from Las Vegas, Nevada where he trained in ballet, modern, and jazz at Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. He performed with Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater in 2014 under the direction of Bernard Gaddis. Justus graduated with a BA in dance from Point Park University in 2016 where he performed works by various artists including George Balanchine, Troy Powell, and Garfield Lemonius. Justus is honored to be in his first season with Parsons Dance.

DEIDRE ROGAN (*Dancer*) began her dance training in Fort Myers, FL at Gulfshore Ballet under the direction of Melinda Roy and Roberto Munoz. She also trained in summer intensives at Miami City Ballet, The School at Jacob's Pillow, and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet. Ms. Rogan has worked with choreographers Milton Myers, Matthew Rushing, Hope Boykin, Ronald K. Brown, Sonia Dawkins, and Cheryl Copeland and performed in Alvin Ailey's *Memoria* during Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's 2012 New York City Center season. She is a three time recipient of a BIG ARTS awards scholarship and a National Young Arts award scholarship. In May 2015, Ms. Rogan graduated with honors from the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program in Dance. Ms. Rogan just finished her second season with Ailey II, and is currently an apprentice with Parsons Dance.

SHAWN LESNIAK (*Dancer*) began his dance training in East Haven, Connecticut under the tutelage of Sandee and Linda Juliano. At his hometown dance studio Shawn trained in many dance styles including Jazz, Ballet, Tap, and Hip Hop. After dancing competitively for ten years he decided to further his dance education at Point Park University. Shawn is currently working on obtaining his degree as BFA Jazz Dance Major.

HENRY STEELE (*Dancer*) was born and raised in Wollongong, NSW, Australia. He was a competitive gymnast for 8 years, and a national gold medalist 3 years in a row. During his final years as a gymnast, he began to make the transition to dance. Henry graduated from Point Park University with a BFA in Modern and Jazz dance in 2016, where he performed works by choreographers such as Lar Lubovitch, Mark Morris, Madboots Dance, Ronin Korean, and Troy Powell. He has danced professionally with Owen/Cox Dance Group, Texture Contemporary Ballet, and toured internationally with The Bad Boys of Ballet.

HOWELL BINKLEY (*Resident Lighting Designer/Co-Founder*) is the proud co-founder of Parsons Dance for which he has designed more than 70 pieces. His Broadway designs include: *Hamilton*, *Allegiance*, *After Midnight* (2014 Tony nomination), *How to Succeed...* (2011 Tony nomination), *West Side Story* (2009 Tony nomination), *Gypsy* starring Patti LuPone, *In The*

Heights (2008 Tony nomination), *Avenue Q*, *The Full Monty*, *Parade*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* (1993 Tony nomination). He has made extensive regional and dance works for Alvin Ailey, American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street, and The Joffrey Ballet's *Billboards*. He is a five-time Helen Hayes Award recipient and was given the 1993 Sir Laurence Olivier Award and the Canadian Dora Award for *Kiss of The Spider Woman*. Howell received the 2006 Henry Hewes Design Award, 2006 Outer Critics Circle Award and the 2006 Tony Award for *Jersey Boys*.

PARSONS DANCE

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