

## The New 42nd Street and The New Victory Theater Announce



### Four Weeks of Free Dance for New York City Summer Schools

2017 Victory Dance will feature Bill Shannon, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Decadancetheatre, Doug Varone and Dancers, Heidi Latsky Dance, Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, and Preeti Vasudevan's Thresh with New York City Ballet's Amar Ramasar

Public Performances Only \$10

**New York, NY** (April 25, 2017) –This July, The New Victory Theater will present its fourth season of **VICTORY DANCE**, the theater's initiative to provide FREE dance performances to kids in New York City day camps, school and youth programs over the summer. For four weeks from July 10 - August 4, 2017, **VICTORY DANCE** will feature a cross-section of highly accomplished and internationally recognized New York-based dance companies who perform a range of movement styles including hip-hop, contemporary, Indian classical dance and traditional African dance. Like The New Victory Theater, each company hopes to inspire young people to embrace the art form.

**VICTORY DANCE** consists of two unique programs which, this year, will include the following dance companies or soloists: Bill Shannon, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Decadancetheatre, Doug Varone and Dancers, Heidi Latsky Dance, Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, and Preeti Vasudevan's Thresh with New York City Ballet's Amar Ramasar.

Every performance will feature a 90-minute program including a Talk-Back led by a NEW VICTORY Teaching Artist. Also, between each dance, a Teaching Artist will share more about the company, choreographer or the dance, providing insight into each work. Through the post-show

discussions, New York City kids will have the opportunity to engage with choreographers and dancers, and the creators will also learn more about how their work affects young people.

**VICTORY DANCE** is designed to serve New York City students enrolled in NYC Department of Education summer school enrichment programs, such as Summer Arts Institute, subsidized day camps and social service agencies. These students attend daytime performances free of charge and also receive free dance-related workshops led by professional Teaching Artists before and after their visit to the theater. Summer school instructors also receive free NEW VICTORY School Tool® Resource Guides, which encourage further exploration of the art form in the students' day-to-day curriculum.

This summertime program, which reaches more than 3,500 NYC kids, mirrors the education programs The New Victory Theater provides to nearly 36,000 students throughout each school year. The New Victory Theater looks forward to sharing live performances on stage, exploring the art form in classrooms and building relationships that will have an impact on NYC kids from summer to summer.

### **Performance Schedule**

Each week, **VICTORY DANCE** will feature daytime performances free of charge for VICTORY DANCE Summer Education Partnership students. Additionally, one evening performance per week will be made available to the general public at \$10 per ticket.

Each 90-minute program includes a Talk-Back led by a NEW VICTORY Teaching Artist. All programs are subject to change.

### **Program A: July 10-21**

School/Day Camp Performances: July 10-14 at 11am and July 17-21 at 11am

Public Performances: July 13 & July 20 at 7pm

- **Doug Varone and Dancers**  
*Lux* by Doug Varone
- **Buglisi Dance Theatre**  
*To The Spirit of Enheduanna* by Jacquelyn Buglisi  
*Prelude* by Donlin Foreman
- **Bill Shannon**  
*Maker Moves* by Bill Shannon
- **Decadancetheatre**  
*The Cage* by Decadancetheatre

### **Program B: July 26-August 4**

School/Day Camp Performances: July 26-28 at 11am and July 31-August 4 at 11am

Public Performances: July 27 & August 3 at 7pm

- **Preeti Vasudevan's Thresh (with Amar Ramasar)**  
*Me...You (An excerpt from Études)* by Preeti Vasudevan and Amar Ramasar
- **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE**  
*Why You Follow* by Ronald K. Brown
- **Preeti Vasudevan's Thresh**  
*Boxed* by Preeti Vasudevan

- **Heidi Latsky Dance**

An excerpt from *STAMPedTIME* by Heidi Latsky

**VICTORY DANCE is supported, in part, by the Jerome Robbins Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Jody and John Arnhold, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and the Harkness Foundation for Dance.**

[Click here](#) for an overview of **VICTORY DANCE**.

**Ticket Information**

All performances of Victory Dance will take place at The Duke on 42nd Street (229 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street).

VICTORY DANCE Education Partnerships are available free of charge to New York City day camps and school programs. For more information, please contact [Education\\_Tickets@newvictory.org](mailto:Education_Tickets@newvictory.org).

Tickets for public performances of Victory Dance are \$10 and are available online (**NewVictory.org**) and by telephone (**646.223.3010**) beginning April 27.

**About The New Victory Theater**

The New Victory Theater brings kids to the arts and the arts to kids as New York City's premier theater devoted to the highest quality performing arts for kids and families. Serving the city in all its diversity, The New Victory Theater on 42nd Street presents theater, dance, circus, opera and music from around the world at affordable ticket prices. In addition to its public performances, the New Vic is also the largest provider of live performance to NYC school kids, serving 40,000 students in grades PreK-12 from more than 200 schools, after school programs and day camps each year. The New Victory Theater's contributions to the cultural landscape of the city have been honored by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, with the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award; a national Arts Education Award from Americans for the Arts; and a Drama Desk Award for "providing enchanting, sophisticated children's theater that appeals to the child in all of us, and for nurturing a love of theater in young people."

**About The New 42nd Street**

Founded in 1990, The New 42nd Street is an independent nonprofit organization charged with the continuous cultural revival of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Committed to the transformational power of the arts, The New 42nd Street builds on the foundation of seven historic theaters to make extraordinary performing arts and cultural engagement part of everyone's life. The New 42nd Street fulfills this purpose by ensuring the ongoing vibrancy of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street's historic theaters; maintaining and fully using the New 42nd Street Studios and The Duke on 42nd Street to support performing artists in the creation of their work; and through The New Victory Theater, New York's premier theater for kids and families.

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**Victory Dance**  
**Program A: July 10-21**

**Doug Varone and Dancers**

*Lux*

An eight-member, high energy dance set to Philip Glass's score "The Light"

Now celebrating its 30th Anniversary season, Doug Varone and Dancers has commanded attention for its expansive vision, versatility and technical prowess. On the concert stage, in opera, theater and on the screen, Varone's kinetically thrilling dances make essential connections and mine the complexity of the human spirit. From the smallest gesture to full-throttle bursts of movement, Varone's work can take your breath away. Doug Varone and Dancers are among the most sought after ambassadors and educators in the field. For the past 17 years, the company's annual summer intensive workshops at leading universities attract students and professionals from around the globe. Varone, his dancers and designers have been honored with 11 Bessie Awards. In celebration of their 30th year, the company is touring and reconstructing major dances from past repertory, as well as recent new works and company premieres.

**Buglisi Dance Theatre**

*To The Spirit of Enheduanna (2016)*

Performed with four female dancers to the music of Aziza Mustafa Zadeh, this exploration of women of distinction choreographed by Jacquelyn Buglisi, Buglisi Dance Theatre artistic director/co-founder. The piece is inspired by the High Priestess Enheduanna, the earliest known author/poet in world history, born in the ancient civilization of Sumer (2285 B.C.), daughter of Sargon of Akkad. Enheduanna is known for the "Sumerian Temple Hymns", a collection of 42 hymns on cuneiform tablets.

*Prelude (1997)*

A male solo choreographed by Donlin Foreman and set to the music of Gerald Finzi

The award-winning Buglisi Dance Theatre is acclaimed for poignant, theatrical dances and imaginative multi-disciplinary collaborations that promote awareness of social issues and embolden audiences to recognize within themselves their own humanity. Founded in 1993 by Artistic Director Jacquelyn Buglisi, Terese Capucilli, Christine Dakin and Donlin Foreman, who performed together as Principal Dancers of the Martha Graham Dance Company, BDT has performed NYC seasons at The Joyce Theater, New York Live Arts, The Ailey Citigroup Theater, LMCC/River to River Festival, and the Battery Dance Festival. On tour, BDT is seen nationally and internationally at such venues as the Kennedy Center, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Vail International Dance Festival, Dance St. Louis Spring to Dance Festival, and on festivals in Australia, the Czech Republic, France, Israel, and Italy. The company's dances are in the repertoires of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Richmond Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theatre, and Ice Theatre of New York, and are archived in the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library. BDT inspires students through its educational programs in the NYC public schools and residencies including The University of California at Santa Barbara, Syracuse University, SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance, and Kaatsbaan International Dance Center. Since 2011, BDT presents *The Table of Silence Project 9/11*, a performance ritual for peace with 150+ dancers on the Josie Robertson Plaza at Lincoln Center

which is seen via livestream across all 50 states and globally in 121 countries. BDT has been honored to receive Proclamations from Governor Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio for uniting the community through dance.

### **Bill Shannon**

#### *Maker Moves*

In an excerpt from his new solo work, *Maker Moves*, Bill Shannon delivers complex and stylish trick moves on "rocker-bottom" crutches.

Bill Shannon is a street performer, renowned dancer and conceptual, interdisciplinary artist who creates site-specific work in galleries, theaters and on the street. Shannon is widely recognized in the dance and performance art world, the underground hip hop and club dance scene, the urban arts movement, and the disabled artists community. Recent major focus of Shannon's work has been on bringing dance and movement to audiences as site-specific video installations and developing wearable video art for performance and entertainment. Shannon makes regular appearances at festivals and events including, most recently, "CreateX Art and Tech Festival" in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and *Trolley Dances* in San Diego, California. Shannon will be a Fellow of the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall of 2017 and is also working on a New England Foundation of the Arts, National Dance Production Award project titled *Touch Update*, scheduled to premiere in May, 2018.

### **Decadancetheatre**

#### *The Cage*

A showcase of the power of women in hip hop

New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) nominee for "Outstanding Emerging Choreographer," Decadancetheatre has been redefining theatrical hip hop since 2004. Based in Brooklyn, NY, Decadancetheatre has become a key ambassador of authentic hip hop culture around the world through performances, workshops and creative commissions. Led by artistic director Jennifer Weber, the company represents a global vision of hip hop with an international roster of dancers from the US, France, Germany, Norway, Nigeria and Japan.

Decadancetheatre has toured across the US, UK and France, performing at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; B Supreme Festival of Women in Hip Hop at London's Southbank Center; LEAP Festival in Liverpool; New York City Center; The Apollo Theater; San Francisco Hip Hop Dancefest; Bumbershoot in Seattle; The One Mic Festival at The Kennedy Center; and Moves After Dark at The Music Center in Los Angeles. In addition to stage work, Decadancetheatre has created performances for top brands, including L'Oreal Matrix, American Express, Uber, Marc Jacobs, Coty, Ulta, Reebok, The Miami Heat, Deva Curl, Philosophy and CK2. The Hip Hop Nutcracker, Decadancetheatre's most ambitious work, tours annually across the US and Russia. [www.decadancetheatre.com](http://www.decadancetheatre.com)

### **Victory Dance**

**Program B: July 26-August 4**

### **Preeti Vasudevan's Thresh (with Amar Ramasar)**

#### *Me...You (An excerpt from Études)*

Performed by Preeti Vasudevan and Amar Ramasar, the *Études* series is inspired by Jacques

D'Amboise, ballet legend and founder of the National Dance Institute, who believed that Indian dance can have a profound impact on ballet, challenging and opening it up to a new understanding of movement. *Études* shows this impact in action through a series of pieces where the two classical forms of western ballet and South Indian Bharatanatyam collide and recombine.

Amar Ramasar is a principal dancer with the New York City Ballet (NYCB). He was born in the Bronx and began his studies at the School of American Ballet (SAB), the official school of the New York City Ballet, in 1993. He also studied at American Ballet Theatre and The Rock School of Pennsylvania Ballet. In March of 2006, he was promoted to NYCB soloist and in October 2009 was promoted to NYCB principal dancer.

### *Boxed*

A solo Bharatanatyam work by Preeti Vasudevan with collaborators Roopa Mahadevan on vocals and Rajna Swaminathan on mridangam (South Indian percussion). *Boxed* is a bare bones, acoustic performance that reveals the classical form as it is experienced in the studio, without the traditional costumes and bells.

Thresh is a performing arts collaborative, founded in 2004, by award-winning choreographer Preeti Vasudevan, a leading proponent of classical Indian dance (Bharatanatyam). Thresh collaborates with a broad range of international artists and has presented works at major venues and arts festivals in India, the United States and Europe. Thresh creates dance-theater productions that explore a contemporary movement language specifically derived from the gestures, rhythms and storytelling techniques of Indian classical dance-theater. The company's mission is to encourage a provocative dialogue between classical Indian and Western contemporary forms of storytelling, creating an exciting counterpoint between the two cultural styles. Thresh's work reflects the varied conversations of a globalized modern society, while showing a deep – and sometimes playful – respect for the traditional movement forms of Preeti's Indian heritage.

### **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE**

#### *Why You Follow*

Commissioned by The Joyce Theater during a three week residency in Havana, Cuba, with dance company MalPaso, *Why You Follow* is a spirited exploration of the rhythmic pace of Afro-Cuba divided into four short movements: *Open Heart*, *Commitment*, *The Path* and *Faithfully Forward*, and is set to music by Zap Mama, Gordheaven & Juliano, The Allenko Brotherhood, and Heavy Quarterz.

Founded by Ronald K. Brown in 1985 and based in Brooklyn, EVIDENCE, A Dance Company focuses on the seamless integration of traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word. Through dance, EVIDENCE provides a unique view of human struggles, tragedies, and triumphs. Brown uses movement as a way to reinforce the importance of community in African American culture and to acquaint audiences with the beauty of traditional African forms and rhythms. He is an advocate for the growth of the African American dance community and is instrumental in encouraging young dancers to choreograph and to develop careers in dance. Brown's choreography is in high demand. His works have been performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, Cleo Parker Robinson Ensemble, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Jeune Ballet d'Afrique

Noire, Ko-Thi Dance Company, Philadanco and others. He choreographed Regina Taylor's award-winning play, *Crowns* and won an AUDELCO Award for his work on that production. EVIDENCE now tours to some 25 communities in the United States and abroad.

### **Heidi Latsky Dance**

An excerpt from *STAMPedTIME*, a new choreographic work for ten disabled and non-disabled dancers with original music by long time collaborator Chris Brierley

Heidi Latsky Dance (HLD), a New York-based contemporary dance company, dedicates its work to redefining beauty and virtuosity through provocative performance and discourse. It uses performers with unique attributes to bring rigorous, passionate and innovative dance works to diverse audiences. Since its inception in 2001, the company has received numerous awards, commissions and residencies. In 2006, it began the dynamic ongoing project of integrated works featuring people with disabilities. Writing in *The New York Times*, in 2015, Siobhan Burke remarked: "For the choreographer Heidi Latsky, there are no unbeautiful bodies and no bodies incapable of dancing. In what some might call disability, she finds possibility." During the 2015 celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, HLD was invited by the NYC Mayor's Office to present movement installations in Chinatown, Times Square, the High Line, and Brooklyn Bridge Park, amongst other venues. HLD's multimedia installation work *ON DISPLAY* premiered at the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center and at NYU Skirball Center, and has since grown to become a portfolio of works with a worldwide presence.

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