

## ArtSparks

Performing a special dance

### dance.r.evolution

World Premiere, April 22nd, 2017

Choreographer: Mary-Elizabeth Fenn

Music: Various Artists

Lighting: Dennis Dugan

Video Capture and Editing: Andrew Trowbridge

Visual Artist: Kirsten Williams

Costumes: Inda Blanch-Geib

Graffiti Artist: Steve Ehret

Urban Arts Curator: Courtney Cable

Featuring work from Art Bomb Brigade

Guest Hip Hop dancers: Ryan Rosinski, Eydon Thomashow, Kalei Tooman

ArtSparks TNT dancers: Delaney Dunn, K'Dence Ferreira, Simiyah Floyd, Elizabeth Good, Alexa Guerro-Manza, Nash Hammonds, Madelyn Herbele, Emma Hudak, Savannah Huntsman, Shrijan Kamar, Morgan Knott, Carl Li, Kingston McNary, Elianah MacArthur, Mackenzie Miller, Danika Mooney, Emilia Neri, Ariana Parianos, Tyler Priestner, Julius Simon Jr., Trevor Stevens, Carmin Trent, Emily Voisard, Jordan Wade, Rinya Washington, MaKayla Wilson, Olivia Wilson

Neos Dancers: Brian Murphy, Katherine Tackett, Cassandra Lee, Matthew Roberts,

Brooke Wesner, Mary-Elizabeth Fenn, Juliana Freude, Brianna Habel, Rebekah Gray

Music by: The Books, Berry Weight, Bonobo, Mulatu Astatke, Sylvan Esso, Benga

dance.r.evolution is made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundations Akron's Knight Art Challenge, 2015. dance.r.evolution is a two part series to create a platform where different arts can collide.

Look for additional collaborations in 2018!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**May 6 - Boots and Ballet: A Kentucky Derby Event, 4 PM - 9 PM**

@ Raemelton Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Mansfield, OH

**June 9-10 - Lose Your Marbles - A Dance Centric Fringe Festival,**

two locations in Akron, OH

Check our website for more information and tickets

**neosdancetheatre.org**

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### FEATURING URBAN ARTISTS FROM NORTHEAST OHIO

- Mary Elizabeth Fenn • Neos Dance Theatre
- Holly Handman-Lopez • DJMisterBradleyP
- Hip-Hop Dancers from Oberlin College and The University of Akron • Ryan Rosinski
- Courtney Cable • Chris Miller • Kirsten Williams
- Steve Ehret • Andrew Trowbridge • Art Bomb Brigade
- TNT of ArtSparks

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# NEOS DANCE THEATRE

**Artistic Director, Robert Wesner    Co-Founder, Brooke Wesner**

Lighting Designer, Dennis Dugan    Stage Manager, Christopher J. K. Ha  
Special Effects, Andy Gardner  
Resident Choreographer, Mary-Elizabeth Fenn  
Graphic Design and Marketing volunteer, Kathy Hilton

**Dancers:** Mary-Elizabeth Fenn, Juliana Freude, Brianna Habel,  
Kassandra Lee, Ethan Michael Lee, Brian Murphy, Matthew Roberts, Anna Trumbo, Robert  
Wesner, Brooke Wesner  
Apprentices: Rebekah Grey, Katherine Tackett  
Dancer Biographies available online

**Board of Directors:** Edward Reading, Cyndee Snider, Kara Stewart,  
Shauna Conzaman, Jody Thomae, Laurie Fike, Daniel Budke,  
Brooke Wesner, Robert Wesner, Neil Sapienza, Judith Shoaff-Reading, and Mark Jenkins

**Advisory Board:** Glenn Edgerton, Sylvia McNair, Cynthia Newland,  
Jane Startzman, Michael Uthoff

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Special Thanks to our board of directors, the Goodyear Theatre, Erica Piper and the ArtSparks gang, The University of Akron, Oberlin College, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Fin, Feather and Fur, our Friends of Neos Dance Theatre members, & Kathy Hilton.

## PROGRAM NOTES:

**ArtSparks' "Top-Notch Team" (TNT)** dancers are exceptional students who were chosen to explore dance and music at a deeper level and perform in their communities. Dancers of TNT were selected from in-school outreach provided by ArtSparks and hail from the Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Woodridge, and Akron Public School Districts. These superstars were chosen to be ambassadors of excellence and champions for the arts based on their leadership skills, ability to work as team, and enthusiasm for dance.

**Mary-Elizabeth Fenn, Resident Choreographer**, a Wisconsin native trained at Milwaukee Ballet School, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Joffrey Ballet School-NYC, BalletMet, and Point Park University. She has also attended summer programs at Dance New Amsterdam, Juilliard, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and recently attended Northwest Dance Project's LAUNCH intensive. She was a featured soloist in the DVD live performance of "Unwiggled and Unplugged" with Spinal Tap. Mary-Elizabeth has been teaching and choreographing for various studios in Wisconsin for the past five years. She graduated in December 2010 with honors and a BFA in dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She also had the privilege to perform in works by Luc Vanier, Alwin Nikolais, Simone Ferro, Suniti Dernovsek, Janet Lilly, Garth Fagan, and Ed Burgess. Mary-Elizabeth has choreographed the full length Creole Cinderella and the repertoire piece Hello Mother for Neos Dance Theatre.

**Penny Saunders**, originally from West Palm Beach, Florida, graduated from the Harid Conservatory in 1995, and began her professional career with The American Repertory Ballet under the direction of Septime Webre. She went on to dance with Ballet Arizona, MOMIX Dance Theater, Cedar Lake Ensemble and in 2004 she joined Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. In 2011, Saunders won the International Commissioning Project which launched her choreographic career, creating pieces for Hubbard Streets' main and second company, Whim W'Him, SFDancworks, Neos Dance Theater, Owen Cox Dance Group, and The Nexus Project. Saunders is honored to be the choreographer in residence at The Grand Rapids Ballet receiving support from The New York City Ballet Choreographic Commissions Initiative and to be the recipi-

## PROGRAM NOTES con't

ent of the 2016 Princess Grace Choreographic Fellowship.

**Holly Handman-Lopez** received a B.A. from Connecticut College in 1993 and her M.F.A. in Choreography and Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2007. She has worked with many prominent choreographers, including David Dorfman, Nicholas Leichter, and Lisa Race; and she has performed extensively in New York City venues, such as the Dance Theater Workshop, Miller Theater, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Ms. Handman-Lopez's choreography has been shown at a number of colleges and universities – among them Bennington and Bowling Green State University. She has been awarded numerous guest-artist residencies at such prestigious institutions as New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Sarah Lawrence College, and The New School, where she has taught, choreographed, and directed student performers. She has been a Visiting Artist in the Theater and Dance Department of Oberlin College since 2003. She choreographed Oberlin's production of Orpheus in the Underworld in 2004, A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2007, Kindle in 2007, Tennessee Williams' Vieux Carre in 2008 and in 2009 the Oberlin Dance Company.

## Order of Show:

### Tarry the Night

*World Premiere, April 22nd, 2017*

*Choreographer: Holly Handman-Lopez*

Music: various artists

Sound Design: Tom Lopez

Lighting Design: Dennis Dugan

Costume Design: Janet Bolick

Set Design: Laura Carlson-Tarantowski

Video Capture and Edit: Olivia DeToma

Projection Mapping: Jonathon Hunter

Dancers: Brian Murphy, Katherine Tackett, Brianna Habel, Kassandra Lee, Matthew Roberts,  
Brooke Wesner, Mary-Elizabeth Fenn, Juliana Freude, Bobby Wesner

Music by: Mike Wall, Michael Nyman, King Curtis

*Thank you to Oberlin College and the Oberlin College Dance Department  
for supporting the residency that made this piece possible.*

### Flight

*(World premiere, May 16th 2014)*

*Choreographer: Penny Saunders*

Music: Various Artists

Lighting: Dennis Dugan

Costumes: Inda Blatch-Geib

Dancers: Brian Murphy, Katherine Tackett, Anna Trumbo, Kassandra Lee, Matthew Roberts,  
Brooke Wesner, Mary-Elizabeth Fenn, Juliana Freude, Bobby Wesner, Rebekah Gray

Music in order of appearance: The Heroic Weather Conditions of the Universe Parts 4-6: Thunder, Lightning, and Rain/Alexandre Desplat; Ramblin' Man/Hank Williams/Moonrise Kingdom; Rue St. Vincent/Yves Montand/Rushmore; Oskar's Monologue/Alexandre Desplat/Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close; Oxymorons, William Black's Story, The Worst Day, and Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close/Alexandre Desplat/Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

*Created for and premiered by Neos Dance Theatre at The University of Akron's  
Paul Daum Theatre. Support for the creation of Flight was provided in part by the John S.  
and James L. Knight Foundation and The University of Akron.*