USC Visions & Voices

A VISIONS AND VOICES SIGNATURE EVENT

MONICA BILL BARNES & COMPANY

IN COLLABORATION WITH STUDENTS FROM THE USC GLORYA KAUFMAN SCHOOL OF DANCE

Bringing dance where it doesn't belong

Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 7 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium
University of Southern California

CREATED BY
Monica Bill Barnes & Robbie Saenz de Viteri

CHOREOGRAPHED BY
Monica Bill Barnes

WRITTEN BY
Robbie Saenz de Viteri

LIGHTING DESIGN BY
Tess James

SET AND COSTUME DESIGN BY
Kelly Hanson

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR
Flannery Gregg

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
Elizabeth Furman



THE RUNNING SHOW

Photo: Julia Discenza

PERFORMERS

Monica Bill Barnes
Robbie Saenz de Viteri
Flannery Gregg
Gerri Houlihan
Jada Turner

STUDENTS FROM THE USC GLORYA KAUFMAN SCHOOL OF DANCE

Tyler Chang
Emmy Cheung
Cardin Chung
Bronwen Guy
Shea Hancock
Diego Lopez
Rhaine Marquardt
Ella Melideo
Jonacy Montero
Simone Peterson
Kali Sayles
Mia Snape
Avery Zerr

MUSIC

"Mama Tried" (Merle Haggard) performed by Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Toby Keith

"I Walk the Line" (Johnny Cash) performed by Johnny Cash

"Never Knew Love Like This Before" (Stephanie Mills) performed by Stephanie Mills

Bach: Cello Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012: V. Gavotte I (Johann Sebastian Bach) performed by Mstislav Rostropovich

***Goldberg Variations* BWV 998, BWV 988: Aria** (Johann Sebastian Bach) performed by Glenn Gould

"I Couldn't Be Me Without You" (Johnny Rodriguez) performed by Kinky Friedman and Billy Joe Shaver

"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" (Marvin Gaye) performed by Tammi Terrell

"Please Don't Tell Me How the Story Ends" (Ronnie Milsap) performed by Joan Osborne

"You Are the One" (Carl Smith) performed by Carl Smith

"Dearest" (Buddy Holly) performed by Buddy Holly

"What'll I Do?" (Nat King Cole) performed by Irving Berlin

"Ave Maria," Op. 52 No 6. D. 839 (Arr. for Soprano, Harp & Chorus) performed by The Cathedral Singers

"Don't Stop Me Now" (Queen) performed by Queen

"Great Balls of Fire" (Jerry Lee Lewis) performed by Jerry Lee Lewis

"I Melt with You" (Modern English) performed by Modern English

Following the show, JACKIE KOPCSAK, Assistant Dean of Faculty at USC Kaufman, will facilitate a conversation with the creators of *The Running Show* and dancers from USC Kaufman.



Photo: David Wilson Barnes

COMPANY BIO

Monica Bill Barnes & Company was founded in 1997 as a New York–based dance company. The company began with a suitcase of costumes and a collection of solos that could be performed anywhere. Since its founding, Barnes has worked with many artists and performers, including longtime collaborators/designers Jane Cox and Kelly Hanson and performer Anna Bass in developing relatable work with a subversive sense of humor. Since 2013, MBB&CO has been co-led by Monica in partnership with Robbie Saenz de Viteri where the mission evolved to "bringing dance where it doesn't belong."

Together, Monica and Robbie make performances that combine their shared interest in the underlying comedy at work in our lives and make shows that hope to find something sacred in the mundane. They cross genres between dance, theater, storytelling, creative nonfiction, feminist treatises, and comedy. Their work has traveled to a wide range of theaters ranging from off-Broadway's WP Theater to The Sydney Opera House, and many in between. They've also created performances in malls, conference rooms, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and interactive websites. They redefine what constitutes performance in every show, while maintaining the audience's experience as the center of everything they create. Their work has been honored by the Bessie Awards, the Lilly Awards, and the Chita Rivera Awards, as well as numerous foundations.

FUNDING CREDITS

The Running Show was commissioned and generously supported by Jody and John Arnhold/Arnhold Foundation.

The Running Show is made possible with generous support from Howard Gilman Foundation, Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, Emma Sheafer Foundation, and The Harkness Foundation for Dance. This show is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, by the NY State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NY State Legislature, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

ADDITIONAL THANKS

We are grateful for the support of several residencies and individuals who helped us create this show. We've workshopped and presented the show over several residencies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of Maryland State Park with the support of Maura Keefe and the Dorothy Madden Professorship, Hillsborough Community College, San Diego Dance Theater with the support of Jean Isaacs, and most recently at the American Dance Festival in Durham, NC.

We spent a year working with 16 dancers from Hunter College including a preview performance of the show at Fall for Dance in Fall 2019. We are incredibly grateful to the Chair of the Hunter dance department, Carol Walker, for supporting every step of this process.

We want to acknowledge and thank Wendy Rogers whose voice the audience hears in our show. Wendy has been a part of both the process and the conversation around making this show from the beginning. Robbie interviewed Wendy for over three hours and her ideas and stories continue to influence and shape *The Running Show*. We are grateful for her artistry and generosity in this process.

REPRESENTATION, **Elsie Management**
Laura Colby, PRESIDENT
Anna Amadei, VICE PRESIDENT
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Photo: David Wilson Barnes

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BIOS

MONICA BILL BARNES is a dancer and choreographer. Since MBB&CO.'s founding in 1997, her choreography has been seen in many places such as New York City's Bowling Green public fountain, on stage at Carnegie Hall, throughout the galleries of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and in Greta Gerwig's film *Little Women*. The company has been presented in over 50 cities and internationally in venues ranging from The Kennedy Center to the Sydney Opera House in a collaboration with Ira Glass in *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host*. Barnes started collaborating with Robbie Saenz de Viteri in 2013, at which point the company adopted the motto of "bringing dance where it doesn't belong." Recent collaborations include a national tour of *The Running Show*, a site-specific show in a mall—*Days Go By*, and two online works created during the pandemic—*Keep Moving* and *It's 3:07 Again*. They are currently developing a new show, *Many Happy Returns*, through a residency at Berkeley Repertory this fall.

ROBBIE SAENZ DE VITERI writes, creates, produces, and performs live theater. He has created performances and toured production throughout the world with the Obie Award–winning *Nature Theater of Oklahoma* and worked with genre-redefining artists such as Anna Deavere Smith, Stew, and Ira Glass. He has collaborated with Monica Bill Barnes to create *Happy Hour*, *The Museum Workout*, *One Night Only* (Lilly Award), *Days Go By* (Bessie Honoree), *The Running Show*, *Keep Moving*, *It's 3:07 Again*, and *Many Happy Returns*. He grew up in New Jersey, holds a BA from Muhlenberg College where he studied writing with David Rosenwasser, and lives in Greenpoint Brooklyn which he believes is best reached by bicycle.

TESS JAMES is a freelance lighting designer and associate based in New York. Her recent projects as a designer include *The Cradle Will Rock* at Classic Stage Company and Roe at Asolo Rep. As an associate designer, her work has included *True West*, *King Lear*, and *The Color Purple* on Broadway as well as *Soft Power* at The Public Theater. Throughout her career, she has worked with an array of amazing intuitions including BAM and New York City Center. She is a Master Teaching Artist with Roundabout's Theatre Workforce Development Program as well as a faculty member in the Theatre Program at Princeton University.

ELIZABETH FURMAN is a Brooklyn-based administrator, production associate, and creative who has been working with MBB&CO in a variety of roles since 2017. She has supported *Happy Hour*, *One Night Only*, *The Museum Workout*, and *The Running Show*, both in NYC and on tour. Elizabeth is credited as an associate producer for the company's site-specific work *Days Go By*, digital shows *Keep Moving* and *It's 3:07 Again*, and their newest work *Many Happy Returns*. Elizabeth loves sharing the company's work with new audiences be them near, far, or via the computer screen. Her own work has been shared in the All Over Westbeth Site Specific Festival 2018. Elizabeth holds a BA in Dance and English from Kenyon College.

FLANNERY GREGG (she/her/hers) is a performer, movement director, and rehearsal director based in NYC. She has rehearsal directed and performed in Monica Bill Barnes & Company's productions of *The Running Show*, *Days Go By*, *Keep Moving*, and *It's 3:07 Again*. She has also worked alongside Barnes as associate choreographer/dancer on the feature film *Little Women* (dir. Greta Gerwig). Flannery is the movement director of *The Reality Show: NYU* (created by Elizabeth Swados), staging performances at the Barclays Center, Radio City Music Hall, and NYU's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. She was the assistant choreographer to Sam Pinkleton on the Broadway musical *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* and the associate choreographer to Sonya Tayeh for *Sing Street* on Broadway. Born and raised in San Diego, Flannery got her BA in World Arts and Cultures from UCLA. She is thrilled to be dancing with MBB & Co.!

GERRI HOULIHAN received her professional training at The Juilliard School. She performed with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet Company and the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company. On the faculty of the American Dance Festival from 1981 to 1983 and from 1987 to the present, she has participated in 17 international linkage programs in such countries as Korea, China, Mongolia, Brazil, Chile, Estonia, and Russia. The recipient of ADF's Balasaraswati, Joy Ann Dewey Beinecke Endowed Chair for Distinguished Teaching, she continues to teach at the ADF studios in Durham, NC. She is Professor Emerita from Florida State University and is currently the Artistic Director of the Big Red Dance Project—a group of dancers aged 35–71. She has wanted to dance with Monica for a long time and is thrilled to be part of *The Running Show*!

JADA TURNER is a 12-year-old aspiring professional dancer with a concentration on pointe. At the age of 4, she started attending the Debbie Allen Dance Academy where she is currently training in dance. Outside of dance, Jada loves school, singing, and acting. She has performed in countless stage productions as well as national commercials. She is very honored to be a part of the Monica Bill Barnes & Company production.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Monica Bill Barnes & Company is a dance company dedicated to "bringing dance where it doesn't belong."
- This performance of their "live documentary," *The Running Show*, was created in collaboration with dancers from the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance.
- Following the show, Jackie Kopcsak, Assistant Dean of Faculty at USC Kaufman, will facilitate a conversation with the creators of *The Running Show* and dancers from USC Kaufman.

MONICA BILL BARNES & COMPANY

The mission of Monica Bill Barnes & Company is "bringing dance where it doesn't belong." Co-artistic directors Monica Bill Barnes and Robbie Saenz de Viteri aim to make works that illuminate the "underlying comedy at work in our lives" and that "find something sacred in the mundane." The company's shows blur the genre boundaries between dance, theatre, storytelling, creative nonfiction, feminist treatises, and comedy.

The company has performed in venues including off-Broadway's WP Theater, the Sydney Opera House, malls, conference rooms, and websites.

PREVIOUS SHOWS INCLUDE

- *Many Happy Returns*, about the awkward first steps of returning to the theater (and other aspects of life) after pandemic closures.
- *It's 3:07 Again*, a virtual choose-your-own-adventure show
- *The Museum Workout*, a choreographed exercise tour of an art museum, created in collaboration with artist and author Maira Kalman
- *Three Acts, Two Dancers, One Radio Host*, a dance-theatre-radio piece created with *This American Life*'s Ira Glass

Monica Bill Barnes & Company was founded in New York in 1997.

THE RUNNING SHOW

The Running Show is a "live documentary" that represents the life of a dancer through movement, interviews, and stories. The show features a cast of local performers in each city where it is performed. For a week leading up to each performance, the company works with local dancers to create a unique version of the show.

The Running Show was created by choreographer Monica Bill Barnes and writer Robbie Saenz de Viteri.



Photo: David Delgado

USC Kaufman students rehearse for *The Running Show*



Photo: David Wilson Barnes

Robbie Saenz de Viteri and Monica Bill Barnes

THE USC GLORYA KAUFMAN SCHOOL OF DANCE

The USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance offers a new model of dance education, called "The New Movement." The school describes The New Movement as "a hybrid and collaborative approach expressed in studio practice, choreography, performance, new media and scholarship." The school combines artistic education with access to the industry, and encourages interdisciplinary and collaborative work.

The school was founded in 2012 and is named after Glorya Kaufman, a major philanthropic supporter of the arts, especially dance.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Reflect on the company's mission of "bringing dance where it doesn't belong." Where does dance conventionally belong? What is the impact of bringing it into other spaces?
- What did you learn about the lives of dancers from this show?
- What did you think of the blending of dance, interviews, and storytelling—how do the different disciplines work together?
- How do sound, lighting, and costumes inform the aesthetic, tone, mood, or meaning of the show?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Monica Bill Barnes & Company online
  monicabillbarnes.com
- Classes and performances at the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance
  kaufman.usc.edu
- Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center
  musiccenter.org
- Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival's Digital Programs
  jacobspillow.org/virtual-pillow
- Upcoming Visions and Voices events:
  TUE • 10/25/22: Lido Pimienta in Concert
  THU • 11/3/22: Dahlak Brathwaite—*Try/Step/Trip*
  FRI • 1/29/23: Gibney Company
  WED • 2/8/23: *Uprooted: The Journey of Jazz Dance*—Screening and Discussion
  WED • 2/15/23: A.I.M. by Kyle Abraham: *An Untitled Love*

VOCABULARY CORNER

interdisciplinary—involving more than one artistic, academic, or scientific discipline

In the arts, the terms *interdisciplinary*, *hybrid*, *multi-genre*, and *genre-crossing* are all used to describe works that combine artistic genres, or blur the boundaries between genres. Monica Bill Barnes and Company often create interdisciplinary works, bringing together dance and text, dance and radio, dance and immersive theatre, and more. *The Running Show* combines dance, interviews, and storytelling to make an interdisciplinary work that the company has described as a "live documentary."



Photo: Steve Cohn

Glorya Kaufman, USC Glorya Kaufman International Dance Center Grand Opening, October 5, 2016



Photo: Janelle Jones

Dahlak Brathwaite: *Try/Step/Trip*, November 3, 2022

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

JAVIER GARIBAY of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

- Jack Anderson, *Ballet & Modern Dance: A Concise History* (Trenton: Princeton Book Company, 2018).
- Bill Bissell and Linda Caruso Haviland, *The Sentient Archive: Bodies, Performance, and Memory* (Middletown: Wesleyan Univ. Press, 2018).
- Ramsay Burt and Michael Huxley, *Dance, Modernism, and Modernity* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2019).
- Marc Strauss and Myron Nadel, *Looking at Contemporary Dance: A Guide for the Internet Age* (Hightstown: Princeton Book Company, 2012).

DATABASES

- Dance Heritage Video Archive
- Dance Online: Dance Studies Collection

JOURNALS

- *Dance Magazine*
- *Dance Research Journal*





