



DANCE NATION

by Clare Barron

Choreographed by Kitty McNamee

Directed by Susan Dalian

Scene Dock Theatre

October 20-29, 2023

USC School of Dramatic Arts 23/24

USC School of Dramatic Arts presents

DANCE NATION

by **Clare Barron**

With

Ella Blain

Hayley Cirenza

Jordan Coffey

Jamie Gallo

Genevieve Hercules

Joy Jaensubhakij

Sun Jin

Mia Gabrielle Juni

Bruno Koskoff

Brooke MacDougal

Sophie Martinez

Maddi Moran

Sarah Mwangi

Henry Parker-Elder

Miles Tardy

George Vagujhelyi

Zafina Virani

Annie Zhang

Scenic Design

Bailey Youn

BFA Theatrical Design, Junior

Costume Design

Kealey Busch

BFA Theatrical Design, Junior

Lighting Design

Michael Latimer

Sound Design

Jane McKeever

Stage Manager

Sarah Costigan

BFA Stage Management, Junior

Technical Direction

Zoe McCracken

BFA Technical Direction, Senior

Choreographed by **Kitty McNamee**

Directed by **Susan Dalian**

Scene Dock Theatre **October 20–29, 2023**

DANCE NATION received its UK premiere at the Almeida Theatre, London, September 2018.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of DANCE NATION in 2018 with support from an award by the National Endowment of the Arts, and a generous gift from Scott M. Delman. Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Trust for supporting new plays at Playwrights Horizons, and special thanks to the Time Warner Foundation for its leadership support of New Works Lab at Playwrights Horizons.

DANCE NATION was developed at the Perry-Mansfield New Works Festival, June 2015, with the Atlantic Theatre Company, and presented as part of the Contemporary American Voices Festival at Long Wharf Theatre, September 2016.

DANCE NATION was written, in part, in residence at SPACE on Ryder Farm, and received extensive workshop time and space as part of New Dramatists' Jerry A. Tishman Playwrights Creativity Fund.

CAST (In alphabetical order)



***Ella Blain** *She/Her*
Sofia • BA Theatre, Senior



****Hayley Cirenza**
She/Her, Vanessa, The Moms
BA Theatre, Emphasis in Acting,
Senior



***Jordan Coffey** *She/Her*
Vanessa, The Moms • BA
Theatre, Emphasis in Acting, Senior



***Jamie Gallo** *They/Them*
Maeve • BA Theatre, Emphasis
in Acting, Senior



****Genevieve Hercules**
She/They, Sofia • BA Theatre,
Senior



***Joy Jaensubhakij**
She/Her, Ashlee • BA Theatre,
Emphasis in Acting, Senior



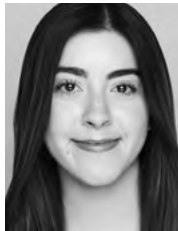
****Sun Jin**
Maeve • BA Theatre, Emphasis
in Acting, Junior



***Mia Gabrielle Juni**
She/Her, Amina
• BA Theatre, Sophomore



****Bruno Koskoff** *He/Him*
Luke • BFA Musical Theatre,
Sophomore



***Brooke MacDougal**
She/Her, ZUZU • BA Theatre,
Emphasis in Acting, Senior



****Sophie Martinez**
She/Her, ZUZU • BA Theatre,
Emphasis in Acting, Sophomore



****Maddi Moran** *She/Her,*
Ashlee • BA Theatre,
Emphasis in Acting, Senior



***Sarah Mwangi** *She/Her*
Connie • BFA Acting for Stage
& Screen, Junior



***Henry Parker-Elder**
He/Him, Dance Teacher Pat
• BA Theatre, and BA Cinema
and Media Studies, Senior



***Miles Tardy** *He/Him,*
Luke • BA Theatre, Senior



****George Vagujhelyi**
Dance Teacher Pat
• BA Theatre, Emphasis in
Acting, Senior

*Performs 10/20 eve, 10/22 mat, 10/26 eve, 10/28 mat & eve

**Performs 10/21 mat & eve, 10/25 eve, 10/27 eve, 10/29 mat

(continued on next page)

CAST (continued)



****Zafina Virani** *She/Her*,
Connier · Theatre Minor,
Sophomore



****Annie Zhang** *She/Her*
Amina · BA Theatre, Senior

*Performs 10/20 eve, 10/22 mat, 10/26 eve, 10/28 mat & eve

**Performs 10/21 mat & eve, 10/25 eve, 10/27 eve, 10/29 mat

This play is performed without an intermission.

PRODUCTION WARNINGS

Please be advised that this production contains stylized gore and use of blood, coarse language, depictions of self-harm and masturbation, and descriptions of sex, sexual assault and harassment of the teenaged characters. Additionally, there are references to cultural appropriation and racism, disordered eating, suicide and mental illness, cancer and death. This production also contains the use of strobe lighting.

ADDITIONAL DANCE NATION PRODUCTION STAFF

Intimacy Director **Jaclyn Chantal** | *Asst. Director* **Delaney Sylester**
Asst. Choreographer **Keira Osborne** | *Production Deputies* **Sun Jin, Ella Blain, Zoe McCracken** | *Asst. Stage Managers* **Kaitlyn Chaidez, Kenny Tapia-Ramos**
Production Managers **Jenn Sarvas and Simon Chau** | *Stage Management Mentor* **Jenn Sarvas** | *Design Asst.* **Yuna Bae** | *Scenic Mentor* **Takeshi Kata** | *Costume Asst.* **Aerin Glaser** | *Hair & Makeup Consultant* **Juliette Black** | *Wardrobe Supervisor* **Kale Hinthorn** | *Costume Mentor* **Samantha Jones** | *Asst. Lighting Designer* **Stefan Vujnovic** | *Asst. Technical Director* **Abigail Soroka** | *Technical Director Mentor* **Duncan Mahoney** | *Technical Crew* **Ally Atwell, Kristin Dickson, Mia Drut, Francisco Espinoza Miranda, Alexa Feldman**

SPECIAL THANKS

The Vault Dance Studio, Montrose CA & Christina Bircher; Tom & Maya Johnson

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

USC is built on the unceded land of the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people. We at SDA acknowledge and honor the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people/communities and wish to amplify that they are still here. We encourage everyone to find out whose ancestral land you live on and commit to our shared responsibility to be agents of change, and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization and allyship.

DANCE ZAZATION

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Playwright Clare Barron has rolled up her sleeves and given us a ferocious story of seven thirteen-year-old dancers navigating their tumultuous pre-teen years against the backdrop and pressures of the competitive dance world. I was drawn to this play by the unbridled “feral-ness” of the young dancers as each of them strives to be “the best dancer” while still maintaining close friendships with each other. We find these characters at a crossroads of one of life’s biggest events—the search for identity. In this play the characters go against the norm of allowing society to shape them and instead forge bravely and boldly to define themselves on their own terms. In the end they may just find that there is true strength in their numbers and that unity provides the power to achieve their dreams. As a self-professed and proud “Dance Mom” of a teenaged competitive dancer, it’s a joy to work with these passionate and talented students on this raw and provocative play. Thank you for joining us on this wild ride of self-expression.

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