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
DANCE NATION
by Clare Barron

Directed by Susan Dalian

With
Ella Blain
Hayley Cirenza
Jordan Coffer
Jamie Gallo
Genevieve Hercules
Joy Jaenschubhakij
Sun Jin
Mia Gabrielle Juni
Bruno Koskoff
Brooke MacDougall
Sophie Martinez
Maddi Moran
Sarah Mwangi
Henry Parker-Elder
Miles Tardy
George Vaguhelyi
Zafina Virani
Annie Zhang

Lighting Design
Michael Latimer

Scenic Design
Bailey Youn
Costume Design
Kealey Busch

BFA Theatrical Design, Junior
BFA Theatrical Design, Junior

Sound Design
Jane McKeever
Stage Manager
Sarah Costigan

Technical Direction
Zoe McCracken

BFA Stage Management, Junior
BFA Technical Direction, Senior

Choreographed by Kitty McNamee

Stage 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 Coffer She/Her
Vanessa, The Moms • BA Theatre, Emphasis in Acting, Senior

*Jamie Gallo They/Them
Maevé • 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 Maevé • 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 MacDougall 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)
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 Kish people. We at SDA acknowledge and honor the Tongva, Chumash and Kish 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.
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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Emily Roxworthy

VICE DEAN
Lori Ray Fisher

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(Vice Chair of Performance, George Burns Professor of Theatre)
Professor of Performance Studies
(Chair of Performance Studies)

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(Resident Playwright)

PROFESSORS
Sharon Marie Carnicke
Meiling Cheng

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
Luis Alfaro
Alexandra Billings
Takeshi Kata
(Chair of Design)
Sibyl Wickersheimer

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Paula Cizmar
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Duncan Mahoney
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(Alice M. Pollitt Professor of Stage Management)
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(Interim Director of BFA Musical Theatre)
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