



Bates Dance Festival

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EDITORS: Performer bios and a full calendar of events follow the main news release.

For images, and additional press materials and artist information, please visit:
<http://www.batesdancefestival.org/about/press-room/> (password: press)

DanceNow, Dorrance Dance, Doug Varone and Dancers, and Kate Weare Company among performances slated for 2016 Bates Dance Festival

LEWISTON, Maine -- The Bates Dance Festival announces its 2016 season of public events, taking place July 9 through Aug. 6 on the Bates College campus.

The renowned contemporary artists presenting stunning work, much of it new, at the festival are Dorrance Dance, Doug Varone and Dancers, and Kate Weare Company, as well as prominent faculty and visiting artists.

In its 34th year as a leading American dance center, the Bates Dance Festival is a laboratory for artists making important contributions to contemporary dance. Spanning six summer weeks altogether, the festival propels a cycle of creative development and innovation as it trains new dancers and makers, introduces emerging artists and presents returning performers who have experienced significant artistic growth through the festival.

Most performances cost \$25 for the general public, \$18 for seniors and \$12 for students. Additional information about tickets and the performances will appear by April 1 on the festival website:
batesdancefestival.org

Opening the 2016 performance season is "**DanceNOW**," a showcase of dynamic new works by BDF faculty and emerging voices, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9, at Bates College's air-conditioned Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

A stylistic cornucopia, DanceNOW comprises works by the rapidly rising New York company Dante Brown | Warehouse Dance; Hope Stone Dance from Houston featuring jazz and Broadway dance dynamo Courtney D. Jones; postmodernist Heidi Henderson | elephant JANE dance; New England's Ali Kenner Brodsky & Co.; and hip hop sensation Shakia Johnson.

Tap innovator **Michelle Dorrance**, lauded by The New Yorker magazine "as one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today," brings Dorrance Dance to Bates at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, July 14 and 16, in Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

Dorrance, who received a MacArthur "genius" award in 2015, presents excerpts from three award-winning works at Bates: "Blues in D," featuring Americana blues music by Muddy Waters, Etta James, Chris Whitley and Jimmy Reeves; "SOUNDspace," an acoustically cogent and rhythmically explosive exploration of footwork; and ETM: The Initial Approach created with Bessie Award winner Nicholas Young, that features breathtaking solos, duets, and ensemble choreography.

The company features live music by the incomparable American Idol Top 20 finalist, Aaron Marcellus, Greg "Big Prawn" Richardson, and Donovan Dorrance.

This sampling of Dorrance's work, hailed as a groundbreaking contribution to the evolution of tap, pays homage to tradition while adding a contemporary edge.

Marking their 29th season as one of America's leading contemporary companies, **Doug Varone and Dancers** return to Bates with kinetically thrilling new and reprised works at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 22 and 23, in Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

Rarely do audiences have the opportunity to watch an artist develop over the long term, but Varone's frequent BDF residencies have provided just such a perspective. For its ninth residency since 1992, the company will perform three pieces.

Two are Maine premieres: "ReComposed" is inspired by American abstract artist Joan Mitchell's pastel drawings and set to Michael Gordon's explosive score, "Dystopia." In "The Fabulist," Varone returns to the stage with a moving portrait set to "Death Speaks," a score by composer David Lang.

Finally, in "Possession," set to music by Philip Glass and originally co-commissioned by the Bates Dance Festival in 1994, Varone's superb dancers apply their all-in artistry to a riveting tale.

An award-winning choreographer and director, Varone creates works -- for dance, theatre, opera, film and fashion -- recognized for their emotional range and kinetic breadth. "It's the humanity of his work that I find so moving, and so rare in today's world," a New York Observer writer noted.

Known for their startling combination of formal choreographic values and visceral, emotional interpretation, **Kate Weare Company** performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 29 and 30, in Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

Weare's dances explore intimacy, both tender and stark, by drawing on the basic urges to move and to decode movement. Weare returns to Bates with two new works: "Dark Lark" honors the erotic imagination as a metaphor for creativity and features a brilliant score by electro-acoustic cello virtuoso Chris Lancaster; and

the trio "Marksman," explores primitive nascence and formation through the magnetic energy between dancers.

More festival events

All told, the Bates Dance Festival comprises mainstage and informal performances, lectures and other presentations by more than 80 internationally recognized dancers.

In addition to the mainstage performances, the festival offers:

The annual "**Musicians' Concert**," a global mix of music by eight remarkable composers and players, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston.

"**Different Voices**" concerts that showcase diverse styles and perspectives by choreographers from around the world and take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Aug. 4 and 5, in Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St.

The "**Festival Finale**," presents student dancers of all ages performing contemporary works by Varone, Weare, Marianela Boán and Autumn Eckman. Also showcasing the Festival's Youth Arts Program, the finale takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, in Alumni Gymnasium, 130 Central Ave.

Free "**Show & Tell**" lecture-demonstrations by the companies in residence take place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Schaeffer Theatre. Offering a glimpse into the creative process, Show & Tell takes place for Dorrance Dance on July 12; Doug Varone and Dancers, July 19; and Kate Weare Company, July 26.

"**Inside Dance: Understanding Contemporary Dance**," pre-show lectures by writer Debra Cash and post-performance talks in Schaeffer Theatre, 329 College St. Affording insight into the artists and their work, 7 p.m. Saturday lectures precede the Dorrance performance on July 16; Varone on July 23; and Weare on July 30. Talkbacks follow all evening performances.

More about the artists: DanceNow

Dante Brown makes compelling, theatrical work for his company, Warehouse Dance. Since 2014 they have appeared at the Boston Contemporary Dance Festival, Dixon Place, La MaMa Moves Festival, Movement Research at Judson Church, the New Museum and Sam Houston State University, to name a few. Brown serves on the Bates Dance Festival faculty and has been a guest artist at Bates College.

Ali Kenner Brodsky & Co. are increasingly recognized for emotionally driven, gesturally rich works. A 2014 recipient of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellowship for Choreography, Brodsky has presented her work in New York City at Joyce SoHo, the Puffin Room, Dance Now festivals in New York City, WAX (Williamsburg Art neXus), Dixon Place and Dumbo Dance Festival. Brodsky has been selected as a 2016 Emerging Choreographer at the Bates Dance Festival.

Heidi Henderson's dances juxtapose the neatness of minimalist art with the messiness of life. Her company elephant JANE dance has been presented at the Provincetown Dance Festival, Rochester Fringe Festival, Land Community College and the Bates festival. Henderson is on the faculties of Connecticut College and the BDF.

Courtney D. Jones, one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch" in 2012, toured nationally with Broadway's "Wicked" in 2009 and performs frequently with the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Metropolitan Dance Company and Hope Stone Inc., among others. She will be joined by two Hope Stone dancers to perform "Called Back" a jazzy, theatrical trio with loads of pizzazz.

Shakia Johnson, a certified teacher with the National Dance Institute, has choreographed and directed more than 40 hip hop, modern, African and lyrical works, including a work for the Celtics/NBA half-time show. A phenomenal creator and performer, Johnson has been a Bates Dance Festival student, emerging choreographer and guest teacher.

Dorrance Dance

Dorrance Dance founder and artistic director Michelle Dorrance is one of the most sought-after tap dancers of her generation and "one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today" (The New Yorker). A 2015 MacArthur Fellow, 2014 Alpert Award Winner and 2013 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award Winner, Dorrance performs, teaches and choreographs around the world.

Mentored by Gene Medler, Dorrance grew up working with the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble and has since appeared with "Stomp," "Savion Glover with TiDii the Egg," Manhattan Tap, Barbara Duffy & Co., Jazz Tap Ensemble, Ayodele Casel's "Diary of a Tap Dancer," Mable Lee's Dancing Ladies, Harold Cromer's original "Opus One," Derick Grant's "Imagine Tap" and Jason Samuels Smith's "Chasing the Bird."

Dorrance holds a bachelor's degree from New York University, is a faculty member at Broadway Dance Center and has been featured on the covers of Dance Magazine and Dance Teacher Magazine. Learn more: <http://www.michelledorrance.com/>

Doug Varone and Dancers

Founded in 1986, Doug Varone and Dancers have commanded attention for their expansive vision, versatility and technical prowess. In concert, 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 is often breathtaking.

The company has performed in more than 100 cities in 45 states across the U.S., and in Europe, Asia, Canada and South America. Stages include the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of

Music, San Francisco Performances, London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, Toronto's Harbourfront Centre, Moscow's Stanislavsky Theater, the Venice Biennale, and the Tokyo, Bates, Jacob's Pillow and American dance festivals.

Doug Varone and Dancers are among the most sought after ambassadors and educators in the field. In 2013, the company toured Argentina, Paraguay and Peru, courtesy of DanceMotionUSA, a program of the U.S. State Department, produced by Brooklyn Academy of Music that showcases contemporary American dance abroad.

Varone, his dancers and designers have been honored with 11 New York Dance and Performance Awards (Bessies). Learn more: <http://www.dougvaroneanddancers.org/>

Kate Weare Company

Kate Weare Company was established in 2005 to showcase artistic director Weare's intimate, raw and intense choreography. The company's creative method stems from a close communion in the studio that mines the body's innate capacity for truth-telling: our need for safety, our longing to connect, our desire to be seen, our irrepressible intelligence about who we are as individuals.

The company has appeared at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Joyce Theater, Fall for Dance at New York City Center, Spring to Dance in St. Louis, the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art and the Bates, Jacob's Pillow and American dance festivals.

Kate Weare Company has received residency support from the Joyce Theater Foundation and Joyce SoHo Residency and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, as well as major funding from the Greenwall Foundation, Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, American Music Center Live Music for Dance, The O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation and the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project. Learn more: <http://www.kateweare.com/>

About the Bates Dance Festival

Founded in 1982 at Bates College, the Bates Dance Festival brings together an international community of contemporary choreographers, performers, educators and students in a cooperative community to study, perform and create new work.

The festival serves as an annual destination for artists, students and audiences to engage in a full range of activities and performances that foster a creative exchange of ideas, encourage exploration of new ground and provide access to a wide spectrum of dance and movement disciplines.

At press time, support for the 2016 season has been provided by Bates College, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, National Performance Network, the

Sequoia Foundation, Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, the Shapiro Family Foundation, Norway Savings Bank, Center Street Dental, I.dres and generous individual donors.

**2016 Bates Dance Festival
Calendar of Events
July 9–Aug. 6**

General information

*Admission price for seniors. **Admission price for students.

Festival events take place at Bates College, Lewiston, except as noted. Schaeffer Theatre is located at 329 College St., Pettigrew Hall at 305 College, Commons at 136 Central Ave, Alumni Gymnasium at 130 Central and the Franco Center in downtown Lewiston at 46 Cedar St.

Online tickets go on sale June 1 at batestickets.com.

Reservations may be made by phone beginning July 1: 207-786-6161, 1-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Events

Friday, July 1, Fireplace Lounge, Commons, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily until Aug. 6. Free.

Dance Photo Exhibit by Arthur Fink

Saturday, July 9, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$20 / \$15* / \$12**

Performance: DanceNow. Featuring new modern, postmodern, hip hop and jazz works by festival faculty and alums.

Tuesday, July 12, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Show & Tell: Dorrance Dance

Thursday, July 14, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$28 / \$20* / \$14**

Performance: Dorrance Dance. Tap's leading innovator showcases three works with live music and dazzling footwork. A talkback with the artists follows the concert.

Friday, July 15, Casco Bay Movers, 517 Forest Ave., Portland, 2-4p.m., \$20/\$15* (students and seniors)

Tap Master Class with Michelle Dorrance

Tap innovator Michelle Dorrance will teach a master class for intermediate and advanced tappers. Co-sponsored by Casco Bay Movers. To register: <http://bit.ly/22fit98>

Friday, July 15, ICA at Maine College of Art, 522 Congress St., Portland, 7p.m. Free

The Inspiration of Abstraction: A Portland Preview Event

Doug Varone and Dancers team up with abstract painter and MECA faculty member Michel Droge for a look at the inspired work of painter Joan Mitchell through dance, imagery, and dialogue. A special presentation co-sponsored with Maine College of Art.

Saturday, July 16, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Pre-performance lecture: Inside Dance with dance writer Debra Cash, 7 p.m.

Performance: Dorrance Dance (see July 14). A talkback with the artists follows the concert.

Tuesday, July 19, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Show & Tell: Doug Varone and Dancers

Friday, July 22, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Performance: Doug Varone and Dancers. Three spellbinding works by master choreographer Varone featuring music by Michael Gordon, David Lang and Philip Glass. A talkback with the artists follows the concert.

Saturday, July 23, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Pre-performance lecture: Inside Dance with dance writer Debra Cash, 7 p.m.

Performance: Doug Varone and Dancers (see July 22)

Tuesday, July 26, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Show & Tell: Kate Weare Company

Wednesday, July 27, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Performance: Moving in the Moment. An evening of improvisational dance and music by contact improvisers Chris Aiken, Angie Hauser and festival faculty and musicians.

Friday, July 29, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Performance: Kate Weare Company. Two richly layered new works, “Dark Lark” and “Unstruck,” explore intimacy and the urge to move.

Saturday, July 30, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Pre-performance lecture: Inside Dance with dance writer Debra Cash, 7 p.m.

Performance: Kate Weare Company (see July 29)

Tuesday, Aug. 2, Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston, 7:30 p.m. \$15 / \$10* / \$7**

Performance: The Musicians' Concert. A festival favorite, this eclectic concert features gifted composers and multi-instrumentalists playing original and improvised music from around the world.

Thursday, Aug. 4, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Performance: Different Voices. A diverse evening of new works by faculty and by international and emerging choreographers Paul Matteson, Autumn Eckman, Chris Aiken and Angie Hauser, Sara Juli, Junichi Fukuda, Margot Gelber and others.

Friday, Aug. 5, Schaeffer Theatre, 7:30 p.m. \$25 / \$18* / \$12**

Performance: Different Voices (see Aug. 4)

Saturday, Aug. 6, Schaeffer Theatre, 1-5 p.m. Free.

Informal performance: Young Choreographers / New Works. This informal adjudicated showing presents more than 20 new works by talented festival students.

Saturday, Aug. 6, Alumni Gymnasium, 7:30 p.m. \$6

Performance: Festival Finale. Festival participants perform new works by David Dorfman, Kate Weare, Marianela Boán and Autumn Eckman, plus a production by our Youth Arts Program participants.

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