Full Circle Dance Company Presents



RITUAL AND REVOLUTION

November 1, 2026

Baltimore Museum of Art

Donna L. Jacobs
Artistic Director

FULL CIRCLE DANCE COMPANY

www.fullcircledancecompany.org



Welcome to Ritual and Revolution, the culmination of a full year of creative exploration by artists whose powerful individual voices are truly matched by their collaborative spirit. This performance includes new works by several veteran choreographers who have made many contributions to Full Circle Dance Company's repertoire, as well as works by young choreographers whose boldness, energy, and skill have impressed and inspired me. Together, these works invite you to think, to learn, and to share with us a deeply human experience.

Now celebrating its 26th year in Baltimore, Full Circle Dance Company remains committed to representing diverse, relevant, real-world issues and ideas on the stage. With a beautiful new home in Baltimore's vibrant Hampden neighborhood, we are more committed than ever to the artistic and cultural thriving of our city.

In spite of challenges we all face, Baltimore's artists continue to do essential work—helping us to see and understand the past and present, imagining pathways to a better world, and creating deeply personal and utterly unique forms of expression.

We are grateful to have you with us in this endeavor, and we hope Ritual and Revolution leaves your mind and soul nourished.

With gratitude and joy,
Donna L. Jacobs
Artistic Director, Full Circle Dance Company



PROGRAM

INVISIBLE WOUNDS (2026)

Choreography: Donna L. Jacobs
Music: Lacrymosa by Evanescense and Resolutions by Scott Buckley
Dancers: Hope B. Byers, Jasmine Caffee, Elizabeth Hafey, Nina Pongratz, Amanda Rosenbaum, Alicia Williams

Choreographer's note: So often in our lives and the lives of those we love, mental distress takes over and our mental wellness is challenged. Reliance on community is sometimes assistive.

FRACTIONS OF REALITY (2026)

Choreography: Nyah Banks
Music: Two for C by Anenon
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Josette Chang, Teresa Hinton, Grace Mayer, Brianna Santiago, Morgan Sledge

Choreographer's note: This piece explores the complexity of our individual routines, struggles, and lived experiences and what happens when we intersect through moments of friction, joy, and connection. Through movement we are invited to find beauty and liberation in being present and sharing space with those around us.



LAUGHTER EMERGES IN THE REALIZATION THAT ALL ALONG THE ORIGINAL WAS DERIVED(2026)

Choreography: Sam Koseff
Music: Original Music by Sam Koseff using excerpts of Pastel Morning by Keith Jarrett and Jack DeJohnetter
Dancer: Sam Koseff

Choreographer's note: Drawing its inspiration and name from Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity by Judith Butler, "Laughter emerges in the realization that all along the original was derived" explores the relationship between gender, transition, natural, and nature. The experiential ritual of womanhood and the revolution of self proclamation and realization.



CRUISIN UNDER CROW: THE ROAD TO DREAMS & "DIFFICULTIES" (2026)

Choreography: Hope B. Byers

Music: Spy Jazz, Francesco Biondi, PineGroove Production Music | Late Night Show, Apollo Syncopators, Giorgio Di Campo for @FreeSoundMusic| Avocado Sound | Moonlight Sounds | 2BStudio | Eric Forster | Swing The Rhythm, Francesco Biondi, PineGroove Production Music

Text: Hope B. Byers

Costume & Prop Concept: Hope B. Byers

Costume Design: Terry Walker

Prop Design: Joy Drakes (table), Alicia Williams (props)

Sound Mixing: Seth Byers

Dancers: Nyah Banks, Hope B. Byers, Jasmine Caffee, Elizabeth Hafey, Sam Koseff, Kakuti Davis Lin, Jade Mong, Nina Pongratz, Amanda Rosenbaum, Jennifer Seye, Morgan Sledge, Alicia Williams

Choreographer's note: Freedom of mobility hasn't always been free for all. Jim Crow charged Black Americans a heavy toll to travel his "open" road.

INTERMISSION





APORIA (2026)

Choreography: Josette Chang
Music: Morning Routine (ODESZA Severance Remix) and Irving Watermelon (ODESZA Severance Remix), both by ODESZA
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Josette Chang, Jade Mong

Choreographer's note: The word "aporia" refers to a state of impasse. This piece lives in the discomfort of a debate that has no right answer and the perpetual inevitability of imperfect "solutions".

INNER RITES (EXCERPT, 2000)

Choreography: Travis D. Gatling
Music: Frog Dance by Mickey Hart & Planet Drum
Dancers: Hope B. Byers, Teresa Hinton, Nina Pongratz, Amanda Rosenbaum, Brianna Santiago, Morgan Sledge

Choreographer's note: This work draws on rituals of home, family, and community, including the everyday rites we practice as we care for one another.



MERDEKA (2026)

Choreography: Jade Mong
Music: "Be Kind" by Roman Norfleet, Be Present Art Group
Dancer: Jade Mong

Choreographer's note: In Malay, merdeka means freedom and independence. This single word expresses liberation, jubilation for the fracturing of the control and affectations of the colonizer, and an embrace of a new sovereign national identity.

VOWS (2014)

Choreography: Jennifer Seye
Music: This Marriage by Eric Whitacre
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Teresa Hinton, Sam Koseff, Kakuti Davis Lin

Choreographer's note: Through movement, this work explores the beauty of human connection, the courage to love openly, and the ongoing pursuit of equality and acceptance.



WE STAND FOR THOSE WHO STOOD (2021)

Choreography by Travis D. Gatling
Music: Prophetic Last Speech – 1968, Martin Luther King Jr.;
I'm Gon' Stand! by Sweet Honey in the Rock

Dancers: Nyah Banks, Jasmine Caffee, Josette Chang, Hope B. Byers, Elizabeth Hafey, Teresa Hinton, Sam Koseff, Grace Mayer, Jade Mong, Nina Pongratz, Amanda Rosenbaum, Brianna Santiago, Jennifer Seye, Morgan Sledge, Alicia Williams

Choreographer's note: The rights to speak, to assemble, and to protest are foundational to democracy. This piece honors the courage of those who stand up for a better world.



ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS



Nyah Banks

Nyah Banks is from Owings Mills, Maryland, where she received most of her early performing arts training. Nyah received her BFA in contemporary dance from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a minor in Arts Entrepreneurship. She has worked closely with many choreographers, including Darrell Grand Moultrie, Igal Perry, Juel D. Lane, Grady Bowman, Ashley Lindsey, and Mariana Oliveira. She has also enjoyed working on a variety of dance films and projects, developing a love for choreographing and directing movement throughout these processes. Nyah is the dance teacher at Dogwood Elementary School and at The Morton Street Dance Center, where she is also the Enrollment Coordinator. Nyah has been a member of Full Circle Dance Company since 2024.



Hope B. Byers

Hope B. Byers is an award-winning choreographer whose artistic platform is to share truths largely about the Black American experience, history, racism, and social justice. With this work, she aims to create awareness, provoke dialogue and inspire change. As a veteran member of Baltimore's Full Circle Dance Company, Hope's choreography has become a staple of the company's repertoire. In 2025, she received the Women in the Arts award by The Links, Incorporated. And in 2024, she received the Howard County Arts Council's IAM Creativity grant award in the dance discipline. Hope formerly performed with Washington, D.C. companies, Floyd Project Dance Company and Rafiki Dance Theatre. Her choreography has been selected for presentation locally by the Baltimore Black Dance Collective and Dance Baltimore, and regionally by Dogtown Dance, Koresh Dance Company and the Maryland Council for Dance. Her work has been performed at Atlas Performing Arts Center, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore Theatre Project, Chesapeake Arts Center, Creative Alliance, David Cooper Black Box Theater, Dogtown Dance Theatre, Gordon Center for Performing Arts, Kraushaar Auditorium, Lyric Opera House, Murphy Fine Arts Center, Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Slayton House Theatre and Strand Theater.



Josette Chang

Josette Chang graduated from the University of Chicago with a B.A. in Economics and a minor in Theater and Performance Studies. While at UChicago, she trained in modern, contemporary, and hip-hop forms and performed works by Julia Rhoads, Daniel "BRAVEMONK" Haywood, Kelsa "K-SOUL" Robinson, Robyn Mineko Williams, and Kevin Shannon. She has taught dance in Chicago, Baltimore, and abroad and performed with UChicago Maya, Ex Dance Crew, Echo Modern Dance Collective, Meadows Dance Collective, ConnXion Primo, and the nationally recognized Emerald Belles drill team, which advanced to the quarterfinals of America's Got Talent in 2019.

Josette has been a member of Full Circle Dance Company since 2024 and teaches hip-hop at Morton Street Dance Center. She teaches 9th grade Algebra 1 at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School as a Teach For America corps member and is pursuing her M.S.Ed. at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education.



Sam Koseff

Sam Koseff (they/them) is a butch dancer, choreographer, and teacher whose research focuses on lesbian and transgender stories. Originally from California, they began training at Westside School of Ballet before attending Goucher College, where they graduated Summa Cum Laude as a triple major in dance, gender studies, and integrative arts. They have presented works at a range of theaters including The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Theater, Jim Rouse Theatre for the Performing Arts, and Kraushaar Auditorium. Koseff currently performs with Full Circle Dance Company and Ballet Embody while freelance choreographing throughout the DMV and beyond. They also teach ballet, pointe, and modern at Morton Street Dance Center while choreographing for their Nutcracker and Spring Concert.
Instagram: @sam.koseff



Travis D. Gatling

Travis D. Gatling began his dance training at Norfolk State University under the mentorship of Inez L. Howard, the Founding Director of the NSU Dance Theater. While earning a B.A. in English/Liberal Arts, he performed and choreographed for the company for several years and later served as the Rehearsal Director. He continued his training in ballet, modern, and jazz at the Virginia Ballet Theatre with Glen White, former soloist with the Joffrey Ballet, and Elbert Watson, former member of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. He attended Ohio State University as a Fellowship student where he earned an MFA in Dance Performance. Gatling's performance credits include lead roles in works by Donald McKayle, Merce Cunningham, and Doris Humphrey, as well as solo works by Ronald K. Brown and Earl Mosley and several others. He was a full time modern and jazz instructor at Avondale High School of Performing Arts in Decatur, Georgia, where he also served as the Artistic Director for the Dance Repertory Company, the school's touring group. Some of his teaching and choreography credits include Georgia State University, Emory University, and the Morton Street Dance Center. He has been commissioned to create new works and set existing repertoire for the University of Akron, the Cherokee Ballet in Woodstock, GA, Middle Tennessee State University, Full Circle Dance Company, and Urban Soul Dance Company in TX. In addition to teaching Modern, Jazz, and Ballet techniques, and Black Dance Forms at Ohio University, he served as the Artistic Director and Head of the Dance Division and then the Director of the School of Dance from 2015-2022 and again beginning in 2023.



Donna L. Jacobs

Donna L. Jacobs has been Artistic Director of Full Circle Dance Company since its founding in 2000. Under her direction, the company has won numerous grants and awards and has performed across Maryland, Connecticut, Virginia, Tennessee, and Ohio. She is also Founder and Director of the Morton Street Dance Center, which has trained dancers of all ages for more than 30 years. Her work and leadership have garnered recognition from many sources including the Howard County, MD Arts Council (two-time recipient of the Mark Ryder Award for Choreography), Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance/Deutsch Foundation (Ruby Grant recipient), Baker Foundation (bgrant Artist Award), Dream 4 It Foundation (Excellence in the Arts), and The Baltimore Links (Excellence in the Arts). She is a member of the Circle of Excellence in Maryland, having been recognized three times as one of Maryland's top 100 Women. She was a 2022-2023 National Visiting Fellow of the School of American Ballet in New York. Ms. Jacobs has been a frequent panelist with the School of American Ballet including in October 2024 at the Lincoln Center in NYC on curriculum change for diverse students and in September 2026 at NDEO in New Mexico.



Jade Mong

Jade Mong (she/her) graduated from Western Oregon University in 2020 with a degree in dance. While in college, she joined Rainbow Dance Theater and Company Movimiento. She also taught a variety of styles and ages at Starr Studios. She spent four years dancing with Rainbow, touring nationally and in Canada with educational outreach and full length shows. Her most recent work was created for Company Movimiento's 2024 show, Sabor, and was an exploration of food, friendship, and culture in collaboration with a fellow company member.



Jennifer Seye

Jennifer graduated from Towson University with a B.F.A. in Dance Performance and Dance Education. She has danced with The Collective, Stephanie Powell Dance Ensemble, VT Dance, and Scott Rink. She has performed works by David Parsons, Peter Puccii, Troy Powell, Dan Wagoner, David Parker and the Bang Group, Misnomer Dance Theater, and ClancyWorks. Jennifer choreographed and performed as a soloist in the Dance for the Camera film "Yesmyth" by Phil Sibly which won a Telly Award in 2004. Her choreography was also showcased in True Colors: The 80's Musical at the 2007 Columbia Festival of the Arts and at Richmond University in Yes! Dance Virginia. Jennifer received her M.A. in Dance at California State University Long Beach in July 2011. She currently is a dancer in The Dancing Yack Experience, as well as Artistic Director of her own company called SeyeDance!. Established in 2026, SeyeDance! has performed in Chicago at the Women in Dance festival and will be making its New York City debut at the Small Plates Dance Festival NYC later this year. This is Jennifer's 18th season as a dancer and choreographer for Full Circle Dance Company.

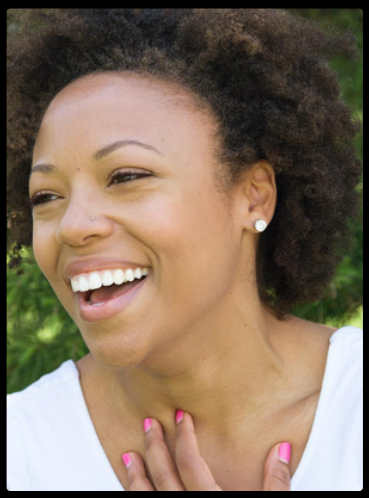
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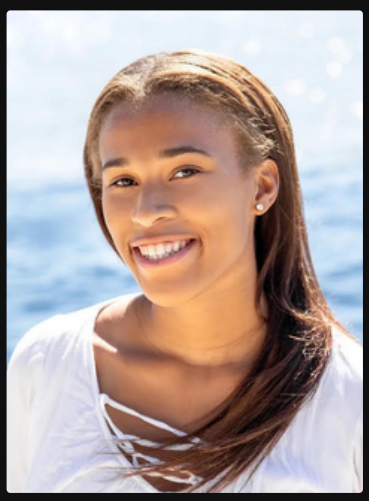
Artistic Director: Donna L. Jacobs
Associate Artistic Director: Liz Pelton

Morgan Anderson
Nyah Banks
Julia Beroš
Hope B. Byers
Jasmine Caffee
Josette Chang
Elizabeth Hafey
Teresa Hinton
Sam Koseff
Kakuti Davis Lin
Grace Mayor
Jade Mong
Nina Pongratz
Allison Powell
Amanda Rosenbaum
Brianna Santiago
Jennifer Seye
Morgan Sledge
Alicia Williams





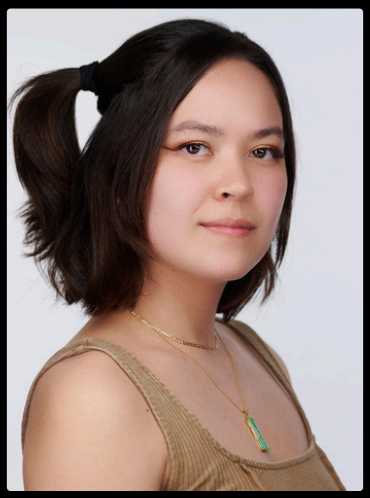



















Credits

Lighting Design: Liv Jin
Stage Manager: Frances James
Costume Alterations: Sam Koseff
Program Design and Marketing: Allison Powell
Photography: Brion McCarthy
Videography: ShootHer Productions

Special Thanks
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Julianna Pahr

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Teresa Holland
Aaron O'Brien

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FULL CIRCLE DANCE COMPANY

With deep gratitude and appreciation, we thank you for being part of our journey and for sharing in the power of dance.

Thank You!

Full Circle Dance Company