

AMERICAN  
DANCE  
MACHINE  
FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

*PRESENTS*

“*LIVING  
THE  
MISSION*”

*APRIL 24, 2023*



 **OpenJar**  
STUDIOS New York, NY

# American Dance Machine for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Live Studio Showing

## “Living the Mission”

**Monday, April 24, 2023**

**Open Jar Studios**

### **Dance Artists**

Jordan Betscher, Robbie Fairchild, Jess LeProtto, Amar Ramasar, Christine Sienicki, Ahmad Simmons

### **Vocalist**

Debbie Gravitte

### **Stagers**

JoAnn M. Hunter, Robert La Fosse, Jane Lanier, Tera-Lee Pollin, Tommy Scrivens, Pamela Sousa

### **ADM21 Band**

Eugene Gwozdz *Music Director/Arranger/Orchestrator/Pianist*, Raul Agraz trumpet  
Andrew Beall – drums, Michael Boscarino – trombone, Chris Reza – Reeds

### **Costumes**

Ricky Lurie, ADM21 Costume Consultant

### **Costume shop**

Arel Studio

### **Sound Engineer**

Wallace Flores

### **Sound**

Sound Associates

### **Rehearsal pianists**

Rachel Dean, Rachel Kaufman and Eugene Gwozdz

### **Videography**

Nel Shelby, Nel Shelby Productions

### **Photographer**

Christopher Duggan

### **Production Stage Manager**

Maria DiVittorio

### **Presentation Conceived and Directed by**

Nikki Feirt Atkins

*American Dance Machine for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is a 501c3 non-profit organization*

## The Program

### **“Mr. Monotony”** from JEROME ROBBINS’ BROADWAY

Choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Music and Lyrics: Irving Berlin

Dance Arranger: Trude Rittman

Staged by Robert La Fosse

Jordan Betscher was coached by originator of the role, Jane Lanier

Singer: Debbie Gravitte

Dancers: Jordan Betscher, Robbie Fairchild and Amar Ramasar

### **“Charleston”** from BILLION DOLLAR BABY and JEROME ROBBINS’ BROADWAY

Choreographed by Jerome Robbins

Music and Dance Arrangements: Morton Gould

Staged by Tera-Lee Pollin, Tommy Scrivens, assisted by Cathy Fogelman

Coached by JoAnn M. Hunter

Dancers: Marymount Manhattan College students

### **“Manson Trio”** from PIPPIN

Choreographed by Bob Fosse

Music by Stephen Schwartz

Staged by Pamela Sousa

Dancers: Jordan Betscher, Christine Sienicki and Ahmad Simmons

“That’s Life” choreographed by ADM21 Emerging Choreographer Jess LeProtto

Words and Music by Dean Kay and Kelly Gordon

Performed by Frank Sinatra

### **“That’s Life”**

Choreographed and performed by Jess LeProtto

Words and Music by Dean Kay and Kelly Gordon

Sung by Frank Sinatra

## Performers



**Jordan Betscher** has performed as a Rockette at the iconic Radio City Music Hall for the last 6 years. National tour: Cassandra in Andy Blankenbuehler's *Cats* revival. Regional: *Jerome Robbins Broadway* at Theatre Under The Stars and *Mary Poppins* at Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Tv/ Film: *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *Blues Clues & You* the movie, Jimmy Fallon, SYTYCD, Mariah Carey's Christmas Special on CBS, The Hallmark Channel, The Today Show, The Ellen Show, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and LIVE with Kelly & Ryan. Jordan is represented by MSA talent agency in NYC and is a member of SAG-AFTRA & Actors Equity Association.



**Robbie Fairchild** began dancing at the age of four in Salt Lake City. He continued his training at the School of American Ballet at the age of fifteen then joined the New York City Ballet in 2005 and quickly rose to the rank of principal dancer. Robbie made his Broadway debut as Jerry Mulligan in the Tony Award-winning musical *An American In Paris*. He was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Performance by An Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical, and won the 2015 Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Actor in a Musical, the 2015 Astaire Award for Best Male Dancer, and the 2015 Theatre World Award. He was also nominated for the 2015 Drama League Award for Distinguished Performance. He went on to perform at the Hollywood Bowl in *A Chorus Line*, Royal Albert Hall in *Oklahoma!*, and *Kiss Me, Kate* for New York's Roundabout Theater Company. Late last fall, he was the dancer/choreographer for Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* off-Broadway and starred in the NY City Center Encores! Production of *Brigadoon*. TV credits include: *Julie's Greenroom* on Netflix, *Romeo* in NYCB's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Carousel Boy* in NY Philharmonic's *Carousel*, both for PBS; *Live From Lincoln Center*, *Dancing With The Stars*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *Live with Kelly and Michael*, CBS [Sunday Morning](#), *60 Minutes*, Film: *Cats* and NY Export: *Opus Jazz*



**Debbie Gravitte** Tony and Grammy Award winner Debbie Gravitte has enjoyed a varied career that has taken her from the Broadway stage to the concert stage and beyond. Her Broadway credits include *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, (Tony Award for Best Featured Actress, Drama Desk nom.) *They're Playing Our Song*, *Perfectly Frank*, (Drama Desk Nom) *Blues in the Night*, *Ain't Broadway Grand*, *Zorba*, *Chicago*, *Les Misérables*. Encores: *Boys From Syracuse*, *Tenderloin*, *Carnival*. Chicago Lyric Opera *Fiddler on the Roof*. Gravitte has sung with over 175 Orchestras throughout the world. Debbie's 4 solo CD's Big Band Broadway, *Defying Gravity*, The MGM Album. Part of Your World: The Alan Menken Album, Television/Film: several specials for PBS, *Trial and Error*, (CBS) *Isn't She Great?*, *The Little Mermaid*. Children: 3



**Jess LeProtto** is a New Jersey native and Broadway performer, who holds a B.F.A. Musical Theater at Pace University. Broadway credits include: *A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical*, *Carousel*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Cats* (Mungojerrie), *On The Town*, *Newsies* (OBC), *Bye Bye Birdie*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, and *The Boy From Oz*. National Tours/Regional Theater include: *Hello, Dolly!* (Barnaby Tucker), *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* (Grand Ole Opry), *American Dance Machine for the 21st Century* (Joyce Theater), *A Bronx Tale* (Papermill Playhouse), *In Your Arms* (Old Globe Theater), *Freddie Falls in Love* (Signature Theater).



**Amar Ramasar** was born in the Bronx, New York, and began his studies at the School of American Ballet (SAB) in 1993. In addition, he studied at the American Ballet Theatre Summer Program and The Rock School of Pennsylvania Ballet. Mr. Ramasar became an apprentice with New York City Ballet in 2000 and joined the Company as a member of the Corps de Ballet the following year. He was promoted to Soloist in 2006 and then to Principal Dancer in 2009. At NYCB, Mr. Ramasar has featured numerous works by George Balanchine, including *Agon*, *Divertimento No. 15*, *The Four Temperaments*, George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*™. He was also prominently featured in works choreographed by Jerome Robbins, Benjamin Millepied, and Christopher Wheeldon. Mr. Ramasar also originated several roles in works by Peter Martins, Mauro Bigonzetti, Wayne McGregor, Benjamin Millepied, Justin Peck, Alexei Ratmansky, and others. Mr. Ramasar was a recipient of the Bessie Award for Outstanding Performer in 2015 and a Mae L. Wien Award recipient for 2000. Ramasar additionally works collaboratively with many international choreographers. In 2018, Ramasar played Jigger Craigin, one of the lead roles in the revival of Rogers and Hammerstein's *Carousel* on Broadway. He performed the Tony award-winning choreography live for the 72nd annual Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. In 2019, Ramasar was named Principal guest artist with the Teatro dell Opera di Roma and originated the role of Don José in its brand new, full-length production of *Carmen*, choreographed by Jiří Bubeníček. Mr. Ramasar starred as Bernardo in the 2020 revival of *West Side Story* on Broadway.



**Christine Sienicki** was born and raised in New Jersey where she started dancing at the age of 6. Christine attended Rutgers University while pursuing her dance career. Balancing school and dance, Christine was cast in her first professional job in the Super Bowl Halftime Show at the age of 18. Later that year, she performed as a Rockette in the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* and has been a part of the show ever since.

Christine has since appeared in many exciting television shows, movies, commercials and award shows which include, *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*, *Feud*, *Marvel's Jessica Jones*, *Fosse/Verdon* on FX, *Madame Secretary*, *Saturday Night Live*, the *MTV Music Awards*, *The Tony Awards*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, the *NBA All Star game*, *Dancing With the Stars*, *Project Runway*, *America's Got Talent*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Ellen De Generes Show*, *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*. Christine appeared on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" with former Mayor Bloomberg and as a special guest for both President Obama and President Bush at the White House. She can also be seen in movies such as, "Tick Tick Boom", "Better Nate Than Ever", "Isn't it Romantic", "The Kitchen", "A Holiday Spectacular" and "New Year's Eve" along with multiple commercials for brands such as Kate Spade and Carioca Café. As a model she has appeared in magazines such as *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *FHM UK*, *Boston Magazine*, *Dance Magazine*, *Dance Spirit Magazine*, *BELLA NYC*, *Food Network Magazine*, *David Barton Gyms*, *Time Out Magazine* and many more. She can be seen in ads for Kate Spade, So Danca and in Degree deodorant ads for, "So You Think You Can Dance," as well. Christine has also staged major fashion shows for brands such as La Perla and also teaches master classes throughout the year all over the country. Instagram: @CLHEEKZ



**Ahmad Simmons** is a NYC based performing artist, director, choreographer, and producer. He has appeared on stage and screen in *Fosse/Verdon* (FX Network), *Better Nate Than Ever* (Disney+), *Dirty Dancing* (ABC Remake), the Tony Awards, the Broadway *companies of Hadestown, West Side Story, Carousel, Cats, Only Gold* (Off-Broadway) and *A Chorus Line* (New York City Center). Ahmad is a founding member of Black Broadway Men Inc. and the co-founder of Arterial Projects - a NYC based producing practice for theater, film, and digital media. BFA: Point Park University.

## Stagers



**JoAnn M. Hunter** has 21 Broadway shows to her credit along with multiple on the West End, Australia, and Asia. How lucky are we to do what we love. Proud to be a Japanese American woman, and am more than just that



**Robert La Fosse** danced with American Ballet Theatre and New York City Ballet as a Principal Dancer. Throughout his career, he performed in works by Jerome Robbins, George Balanchine, Agnes de Mille, Bob Fosse and Twyla Tharp. He also starred in the Broadway productions of *Bob Fosse's Dancin'* and *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, for which he received a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor. As a choreographer, he has created over 100 works for ballet, opera, musical theater, film and television. He currently teaches at American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. Robert La Fosse was invited by Jerome Robbins to join the New York City Ballet in 1986 as a principal dancer after a nine-year career with American Ballet

Theatre where he danced leading roles in many of the full-length classics. In addition to his performing career, Mr. La Fosse is also an established choreographer who has created over 100 works for ballet, opera, musical theater, film and television. He currently teaches at American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School. Robert La Fosse performed with American Ballet Theatre as a principal dancer for six years. In 1986, he was invited by Jerome Robbins to join the New York City Ballet as a principal dancer. Throughout his career he has danced leading roles in many of the full-length classical ballets, including the U.S. premiere of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*. He has performed in works created by many choreographers including George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, Anthony Tudor, Merce Cunningham, Sir Kenneth MacMillian, Sir Frederick Ashton, Twyla Tharp, and Paul Taylor. Mr. La Fosse has also starred in the Broadway productions of *Bob Fosse's Dancin'* and in *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, for which he received a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor. Some of his television appearances include: 'American Ballet Theatre in San Francisco', Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes to Shove*, and the 'Live From Lincoln Center' telecast of 'Ray Charles in concert with the New York City Ballet'. He appeared as Dr. Stahlbaum in the film version of George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*. In addition to performing, Mr. La Fosse is also a choreographer. He has created over 100 works for Ballet, Broadway, Opera, Film and Television. The New York City Ballet has performed 10 of his ballets. In 1987 he wrote his autobiography entitled "Nothing to Hide." He currently teaches at American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School.

## Jane Lanier



**Tera-Lee Pollin** Broadway: *Mamma Mia!* (Dance Captain), *Hot Feet*, *Urban Cowboy*. Other credits: *Spamalot* National Tour (Assistant Dance Captain), ADM21 (Joyce Theater), *The Wiz*, *Fame*, *Swing!* Film: *Dark Horse* (Bride) TV: *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Saturday Night Live*. Currently on the teaching faculty at Marymount Manhattan College and Steps on Broadway



**Tommy Scrivens** graduated from The Ohio State University with a BFA in dance performance. Tommy is a dance artist and educator with American Dance Machine for the 21st Century, and has recently been named an inaugural Legacy Teacher for ADM21. Tommy is also a Protégé' with the Verdon Fosse Legacy and he appeared in the FX TV show *Fosse/Verdon*. Tommy has performed with Columbus Dance Theater

Contemporary Ballet Company, in the United Kingdom tour of *Tap Fusion*, as a guest artist with BalletMet, Columbus, Collide, and Parsons Dance. Tommy has been privileged to teach at Peridance, Broadway Dance Center, Steps On Broadway, The Ohio State University, Adelphi University, Manhattanville College, Marymount Manhattan College and many dance studios across the nation. Tommy has been an assistant choreographer for shows such as *Motown the Musical*, the Miss Florida Pageant and the NYMF festival. Most recently, he assisted the director and choreographer for the North Shore's *Smokey Joe's Cafe* and the 2022 Jimmy awards and was movement director for the original play *The SupaDupa Kid* at Barrington Stages. Tommy is an adjunct professor at Marymount Manhattan's Musical Theatre Program.



**Pamela Sousa** was a player in the original Bob Fosse production of *Pippin*. She is pleased to pass on her knowledge of Fosse's incredible choreography. Even after 50 years the nuances and intent are still very clear to her. Other highlights of Ms. Sousa's performing career include *Chicago* (1975), *Can Can*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Loves of Anatol*, and *Stepping Out*. As a choreographer her credits include the Broadway productions of *Romance*, *Romance* and *A Grand Night For Singing*. Off-Broadway are *Olympus on My Mind* and the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y's **Lyrics & Lyricists**.



**Nikki Feirt Atkins, Founder and Producing Artistic Director** is a former dancer and an M.D. Nikki studied ballet as a scholarship student at New Jersey Ballet and the Joffrey Ballet School in New York. In addition, she studied Graham, Horton, East Indian dance (Bharatanatyam), jazz with Matt Mattox, Luigi and Betsy Haug with whom she performed. Of note, Nikki studied with Lee Theodore, founder of the original American Dance Machine, who had a profound influence on Nikki. After a brief career as a professional dancer, Nikki went on to obtain her B.A. Magna Cum Laude in biology and performing arts at New York University. She subsequently earned her M.D., completed her residency and fellowships at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell and Columbia and became a practicing pathologist and researcher at Columbia University Medical Center. While subsequently working as a part-time pathologist in private practice, Nikki became involved in several dance projects, including Director of New Artistic Programs at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York and working with director/choreographer Chet Walker on projects including The Jack Cole Project. In February 2012, Nikki founded American Dance Machine for the 21st Century, where she is currently Founder and Producing Artistic Director



**Cathy Fogelman, Associate Artistic Director and Director of Education** is a native New Yorker. Some performance credits include; Company member of ADM 21 since 2014, Anybody's in *West Side Story*, Guggenheim Works and Process, principal dancer in Dancemachine International, *Barnum*, *Sugar Babies* and *Sesame Street Live*. She is thrilled to have been a part of American Dance Machine in the past and now ADM 21



**Eugene Gwozdz ADM21 Music Director/Arranger/ Orchestrator/Pianist**, is from Fort Worth, Texas. Eugene has been Music Director/Arranger for the American Dance Machine 21 since it was reborn April 25, 2012. Musical Director/Arranger/Orchestrator: Chita Rivera Dance Awards; the Jerome Robbins' Broadway 30th Anniversary Concert at the Guggenheim. Has Music Directed for Anika Noni Rose, Donna McKechnie, Cady Huffman, Will Chase, Mandy Gonzalez, and has worked with many Broadway stars including Audra McDonald, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Chita Rivera, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Billy Porter, Betty Buckley, Kelli O'Hara, Adrianna Hicks, Kristin Chenoweth, Laura Benanti, Karen Ziemba, LaChanze, James Monroe Iglehart, among others

#### **ADM21 Band**

Eugene Gwozdz *Music Director/Arranger/ Orchestrator/Pianist*

Raul Agraz trumpet

Andrew Beall - drums

Michael Boscarino – trombone

Chris Reza - Reeds



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**About American Dance Machine for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

ADM21 is a rebirth of The American Dance Machine, founded in 1976 by noted Broadway luminary Lee Theodore to preserve musical theater choreography at risk of becoming obsolete. Theodore created a “living archive” by engaging the original artists – from theater, film, and television – to reconstruct, stage, and present great choreographic works with the nuance, style and technique as originally intended. These staggers carry forward the artistic wisdom of past generations to a new generation of artists and audiences. In 2012, Nikki Feirt Atkins revived the organization as ADM21 to ensure great works of musical theater choreography remain fresh, relevant, and vibrant. [adm21.org](http://adm21.org)

**Thank you's**

The Jerome Robbins Foundation  
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