



The Joyce Theater Foundation, in association with Donna Uchizono Company, presents

Donna Uchizono Company

March Under an Empty reign

World Premiere

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Donna Uchizono

PERFORMERS

Brittany Engel-Adams, Aja Carthon, Natalie Green, Pareena Lim,
Angie Pittman, Nola Sporn Smith

SOUND DESIGN

James Lo

SYNTHESIS

Justin Simon

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Joe Levasseur

SET DESIGN

New Affiliates (Ivi Diamantopoulou + Jaffer Kolb)

FABRICATION

Jesse Seegers

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Benedict Nguyen

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Rebecca Serrell-Cyr

OPENING DANCER COORDINATOR

Alexandra Lance

SPRING 2018 INTERN

Gianna Bartolini

Lead support for The Joyce Theater Foundation has been received from LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust.

**Major support for The Joyce's presentation of the NY Quadrille was provided by
The Harkness Foundation for Dance.**

Commissioning support was provided, in part, by The Joyce's Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Fund for New Work. Pitkin Grove by Beth Gill was commissioned and supported, in part, by a creative residency and a technical residency provided by The Joyce with funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Generous support for this engagement was provided through a grant from The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation to encourage the performance of New York City-based companies at The Joyce Theater.

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March Under an Empty reign

(World Premiere)

Choreography: Donna Uchizono in collaborations with the dancers

Performers: Brittany Engel-Adams, Aja Carthon, Natalie Green,
Pareena Lim, Angie Pittman, Nola Sporn Smith

Sound Design: James Lo

Synthesis: Justin Simon

Lighting Design: Joe Levasseur

Set Design: New Affiliates (Ivi Diamantopoulou + Jaffer Kolb)

Fabrication: Jesse Seegers

Opening Performers:

Florida State University School of Dance: Janet Cesarotti, Bryanna Dean,
Sydney Parker, Ashley Pierre-Louis, Nika Sourakov

Long Island University Dance Department: Ashley Castro, Chanel Stone

Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts: Nakia Abram,
Aanyse Pettiford-Chandler, Francisca Quintanilla, Damani Vanrensalier

Rehearsal Director: Rebecca Serrell-Cyr

Opening Dancer Coordinator: Alexandra Lance

March Under an Empty reign is commissioned by the Joyce Theater for NY Quadrille. These performances are made possible, in part, by: the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and Dance/NYC's Dance Advancement Fund (made possible by the Ford Foundation).

The development of this work was also made possible by: the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University and rehearsal space generously provided by Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus.

Additional support was provided by: La Donna's Commissioning Circle: Lois Plehn Art Consultant. In kind support to the performers provided by Paul Ochoa and F Squared Physiotherapists.

The production of tonight's score would not have been possible without the help of Alain Levitt, Brian Moran, Tim Haskell, Mark C, Tom Laskey, and Augusto Giachino.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Donna Uchizono Company (DUC) is a contemporary dance company formed in 1990 by Artistic Director Donna Uchizono to create and present works for the public. DUC's mission is to provide support for the creation of innovative contemporary dance, maintenance of existing repertory, and engagement with the community through live concerts, teaching residencies, lecture/demonstrations, and outreach programs. Donna Uchizono is widely recognized for her innovative movement language, distinctive wit, rich invention, and critically acclaimed choreography by many awards and grants. In addition to its contributions to New York City's cultural community, DUC has been presented throughout the US, Europe, Australia, Asia, and South America. DUC offers an expansive vision imbued with passion, foresight, openness, rigor, and a dedicated commitment to the performing arts.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

DONNA UCHIZONO (*Artistic Director*) is the Artistic Director of Donna Uchizono Company which has toured throughout the United States, Europe, South America, Asia and Australia. Uchizono has created work for notables Mikhail Baryshnikov, Pulitzer Prize Winning Playwright Paula Vogel, MacArthur Fellow David Hammons and neurologist/writer Oliver Sacks. Donna Uchizono is a 2016 United States Artist Fellow and has been recognized by many awards including a 'Bessie' Award, Alpert, Guggenheim, MAP Fund, National Dance Project, National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Creative Capital Foundation, the Jerome Foundation and New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships among many others. Uchizono is a member of the Artist Advisory Board at Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, where she was a founding member and Chair. She is an Associate Professor at Florida State University. <http://www.donnauchizono.org>

BRITTANY ENGEL-ADAMS (*Dancer*) attended the Alvin Ailey School and was the recipient of the Oprah Winfrey Fellowship. She performed with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and toured with Ailey II. Brittany performed across disciplines for Naomi Goldberg Haas's, Orit Ben-Shitrit's dance film, *Dance the Yard*, Stefanie Batten Bland and Sleep No More. She is featured in the film *Chiraq* directed by Spike Lee, and was a co-star in the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*. Brittany currently dances for Netta Yerushalmy and Donna Uchizono. She has set works on the Brooklyn Ballet and Joffrey Ballet school. Brittany is on the faculty at Rutgers University.

AJA CARTHON (*Apprentice*) began her dance career in grade school at the age of seven. She has danced under scholarship with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Dance Theatre of Harlem, TheKirov Ballet, and The Joffrey Ballet School. Aja attended the Juilliard Summer Intensive in 2012. She has taken Graham, Horton, Tap, Jazz, Paul Taylor, Limon, Flamenco, Ballroom and of course Ballet. Aja graduated from Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School in 2014 and just recently graduated from Long Island University in May of 2018, where she recieved her B.F.A. in dance.

NATALIE GREEN (*Dancer*) has had her choreography been presented at Dance Theater Workshop, The Chocolate Factory Theater, Danspace Project, Roulette, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, and Catch. She has danced for RoseAnne Spradlin, Tere O'Connor, Heather Kravas, Anna Sperber, Levi Gonzalez, Daniel Linehan, Rebecca Lazier, and Juliette Mapp. Natalie graduated from SUNY Purchase and is originally from Austin, Texas. She is so grateful to dance with Donna Uchizono and to share the stage with these powerful artists.

PAREENA LIM (*Dancer*) loves dancing. To survive in New York, she works as an administrative assistant and a Pilates teacher.

ANGIE PITTMAN (*Dancer*) is a 'Bessie' award-winning dance artist, dance maker, and dance educator. She has performed her own work at The Kitchen, Gibney, Movement Research at Judson Church, BAADI, Danspace Project, among many other New York spaces, and has performed in work by Tere O'Connor, Jennifer Monson, Antonio Ramos, Jasmine Hearn, Tess Dworman, and many others. As a freelance performer, Angie is currently working with Stephanie Acosta, Anna Sperber, devynn emory/beast productions, and Donna Uchizono Company. Angie's work resides in a space that investigates how the body moves through ballad, groove, sparkle, spirit, spirituals, ancestry, vulnerability, and power.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

NOLA SPORN SMITH (*Dancer*) is a dance and theater artist from Brooklyn, New York. She received her B.F.A in Dance from the University of Michigan. Since returning to NYC, Nola has worked with cakeface, Stacy Grossfield, Kensaku Shinohara, Donna Uchizono Company, and others, performing at venues including Danspace Project, The Queens Museum, Brooklyn Studios for Dance, HERE Arts Center, and Center for Performance Research. She also freelances as an assistant director and stage manager for downtown theater artists, and has choreographed for students at Queens College. Nola has been making work with collaborator Molly Ross as MOLLY&NOLA since July 2017.

JAMES LO (*Sound Design*) has created scores for choreographers Elena Demyanenko, Molly Lieber/Eleanor Smith, Katie Workum, Ani Javian, Heather Olson, Mei-Yin Ng, Sarah Michelson, Maria Hassabi, Jennifer Monson, Levi Gonzalez, Ralph Lemon, RoseAnne Spradlin, and Lucy Guerin. He received New York Dance and Performance 'Bessie' Awards for John Jasperse's *furnished/unfurnished* and for Donna Uchizono's *State of Heads*, and was named one of Treblezine.com's 50 favorite drummers for his work with the bands Chavez and Live Skull.

JUSTIN SIMON (*Synthesis*) has released music as Invisible Conga People on the DFA (US), IDIB (US), O Genesis (UK), Permanent Vacation (Germany), Turbo (Canada), and Wichita (UK) labels. He also releases music by Japanese musicians such as Phew, Chie Mukai, and Shintaro Sakamoto on his Mesh-Key imprint, and has composed scores for the choreographers Mei-Yin Ng, Gloria Maximo, Megha Barnabas, and the performance art collective Yemenwed.

NEW AFFILIATES (*Visual Design*) is an award winning New York-based design practice led by Ivi Diamantopoulou and Jaffer Kolb. The studio learns through building, experimenting with loose forms, rough materials, and ornate object stories all investigated at a range of scales. They have completed construction on a house in Vermont, an apartment in Brooklyn, and are nearing completion on a 7,000sf artist studio building in Brooklyn. Recently, they worked on the exhibition design of the Jewish Museum's survey on Marc Camille Chaimowicz and a drawing commission for the Canadian Center for Architecture. They have exhibited work at the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Storefront for Art and Architecture, the Onassis Cultural Center, and have been published in numerous design magazines internationally.

BENEDICT NGUYEN (*Managing Director*) is a writer, dancer, and arts advocate based in the South Bronx, NY. They joined Donna Uchizono Company in 2016. Their writing has appeared in Shondaland, the Brooklyn Rail, Dance Magazine, among others. They were a member of the National Center for Choreography's inaugural low-res laboratory on dance writing based in Akron, OH. www.benedict-nguyen.com.

ALEXANDRA LANCE (*Opening Dancer Coordinator*) is a dance performance artist based in New York City who began training in Houston, TX with Kingwood Dance Theater under the direction of Sheryl Rowland. She graduated spring 2018 from Florida State University with a B.F.A in Dance and a B.S. in Marketing. Alexandra has performed with NobleMotion Dance in Houston, TX and most recently with Sarah Rose and Dancers in NYC on the piece *90 Minutes* at the Urban Garden Room. In addition, she is the Company Manager for DanielRose Projects and has worked administratively for MANCC and Axis Connect.

SPECIAL THANKS

I'm awed and humbled by the artistry, commitment, time, and generosity of the performers, who remained focused in the short and concentrated process. A deep felt thank you to: Natalie for her intuitive understanding of the choreographic ground for this work; Brittany for her questions, clarity of line, generosity of vision and time with the dancers from Rutgers; Angie for her optimism, grounded self, and intelligent curiosity; Nola for her fluidity, willingness, being the Grand Central of information of the piece; Pareena for her constant smile, optimistic suggestions towards the "silver lining," and her expressive feet; Aja for her year of internship, rigor in knowing the material and athletic power; and the Opening Dancers for volunteering their time and artistry, whose quiet but essential presence is deeply appreciated.

To my collaborators - Thank you! To James Lo, whom I have had the privilege to work with over 18 years--his mind is brilliant and when he suggested a musical direction for this work I hesitated but trusted him. I thank him for pushing me towards a new musical trajectory and to Justin for his contributions towards that end. It's fantastic to be working with the awesome Joe again who is always easy in his brilliance surrounding us with gorgeous light. To: Ivi and Jaffer for the labor of love and vision of the sets; Benedict who is so wise beyond their years and who astonishes me with their wise counsel; and Gianna for her enthusiastic internship. To: Hristoula Harakas, Julie Alexander, and Antonio Ramos for developing the Opening phrase in 2007 for which I re-imagined for this work; to Becky for being the rehearsal director; and Alexandra for taking on coordinating the Opening Dancers. A sincere thank you to Lois Plehn who has been an art angel, my friend and whose support I have depended on throughout the years. To Carla Peterson to whom I love, adore, and am grateful she's on this planet and to all of the Stupendous MANCC staff: Ansje, Laura Paige, Alayna, and Chris. Thank you to Lar, Linda, Martin, Aaron, Jeff, Cathy, Reanne, and the the Joyce Theater staff for creating and supporting this great series.

A thank you to Whitney, Anna, and Elin Eggertsdoffir at LIU for rehearsal space. And a shout out to my incredible and generous colleagues at the School of Dance at Florida State University! It's a great department and I'm proud to be part of its community. I couldn't get by without Jodi Melnick's company, Alexandra Cohn's help and Gina, Jen, Zula, and Sandy's friendship. And my most sincere thank you to Michael for holding down the fort and his long-time support. And most of all, how deeply grateful I am to my dear, dear daughter Tara who brings new wonders into my life everyday and teaches me that a beautiful day is like "summer with humor in it."

DONNA UCHIZONO COMPANY STAFF

Artistic Director: Donna Uchizono

Managing Director: Benedict Nguyen

2018 Interns: Gianna Bartolini, Alexandra Lance

Rehearsal Director: Rebecca Serrell-Cyr

Donna Uchizono Company is a not-for-profit company.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made at www.donnauchizono.org

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