



Shakia “The Key“ Barron
and

Barbie Diewald

present

CONCOURSE

an evening of new dances

September 16, 2022

September 17, 2022

Studio Theatre, Kendall Hall
Mount Holyoke College

Photo by Jonathan Hsu Media

CONCOURSE PRODUCTION CREDITS

**FIVE COLLEGE DANCE
PRODUCTION MANAGER**

FCD ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

BOX OFFICE MANAGER

STAGE MANAGER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR

SOUND OPERATOR

STAGE CREW

**HOUSE MANAGER AND
COSTUME SUPERVISOR**

VIDEOGRAPHERS

PHOTOGRAPHER

Matthew Adelson

Aubrey Daviau

Michael Abbatiello

Molly Thomas

Hannah Berry

Julia Madonick

Frankie Crosby

Amanda Amoabeng

Sasha Toole, Catherine D'Agostino, Annika Champe

Andi Grace

Sydney Samson and Taylor Hutchinson,
Nel Shelby Productions

Peter Raper

Thank You

We wish to express our deep gratitude to those who made *Concourse* possible. Thank you to:

Our mentors: David, Rennie and Jenn, for your insight in this project's nascent stages.

Pamela Tatge, Thasia Giles, Ariana Massery, and Shannon Nulf at Jacob's Pillow; Shoni Currier, Allie James, Marin Day, and Mecca Boutte at Bates Dance Festival; Jenny Carlson and Molly Tupper at High Street Studios, Sarah Slifer Swift and Molly Tupper at MAGMA for their support and trust in this project.

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Chuck and Pam Diewald for their support of the video documentation of this concert.

Our Mount Holyoke Dance colleagues, especially Peter Jones for championing this project since its inception.

The *Concourse* cast wishes to thank the kind stranger who picked up their dinner tab in Gloucester.

Concourse

Created by Barbie Diewald and Shakia “The Key” Barron
in collaboration with the dancers

DANCERS Soukeyna Abbott
Sienna Jessurun
Katherine Kain
Miranda Lawson
Sarah Maurer
Amisi Nazaire-Hicks

SOUND Original composition by Jazer Giles in
collaboration with the choreographers

COSTUME DESIGN Barbie Diewald and Shakia Barron

LIGHTING DESIGN Saulius Slezas

PHASE ONE PROJECT MENTORS David Dorfman
Rennie Harris
Jennifer Nugent

GUEST REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Laura Osterhaus Rosenstone

Concourse was supported in part by a Pillow Lab Residency at Jacob’s Pillow, and artist residencies at Bates Dance Festival, High Street Studios and MAGMA.

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Choreographer Biographies

Shakia “The Key” Barron is a choreographer, performer, and dance educator whose work is rooted in the African Diaspora, focusing on Hip-Hop, House, and other African diasporic dance forms. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at Mount Holyoke College. She graduated with her MFA in Choreography at Wilson College, she holds an Associate’s degree in dance and psychology from Dean College, a Bachelor’s in liberal arts from Westfield State University, and she received the National Dance Institute’s teaching artist certificate. In 2019 she was Arthur Levitt Jr. ‘52 Fellow at Williams College. In 2021 she received NEFA’s New Work New England Grant. Barron has choreographed and directed more than 50 Hip-Hop, African and contemporary works that have been performed at the Princeton School of Ballet, Morgan State University, Connecticut College, Jacob’s Pillow, and Bates Dance Festival. Barron has toured nationally and internationally, dancing with Face Da Phlave Entertainment and Illstyle and Peace Productions. In 2019, she made a guest appearance with Rennie Harris PureMovement. Barron has taught extensively at Bates Dance Festival and taught community classes at Jacob’s Pillow. Barron is a Dance Education Laboratory faculty member who has facilitated professional development workshops that integrate Hip-Hop dance and history into the curriculum.

Originally from the midwest (Kiikaapoi land), **Barbie Diewald** is a dancer, choreographer and Assistant Professor of Dance at Mount Holyoke College. She is a 2018 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellow in Choreography and 2021 NEFA New Work New England Grant Recipient. Her dances have been presented in New York at BAM, the 92nd Street Y, Movement Research at the Judson Church, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, University Settlement, The Center for Performance Research, The Chocolate Factory, and The Kitchen, and regionally at the Academy of Music Theatre, A.P.E Gallery, The School for Contemporary Dance and Thought, High Street Studios, and MAGMA (Movement Arts Gloucester). Diewald has developed her work through residencies at Jacob’s Pillow, Bates Dance Festival, the Bogliasco Foundation, The Iron Factory, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Cleveland School for the Arts, Ponderosa, and Silo at Kirkland Farm. Her academic research focuses on equitable anatomical pedagogy and retroactive inclusion of queer voices in dance archives. She is a faculty research fellow at Jacob’s Pillow, and will be presenting her research this fall at the Dance Studies Association Conference in Vancouver and National Dance Education Organization Conference in Atlanta. Diewald holds a BFA in Theatre from Millikin University and MFA in Dance from Smith College.

Performer Biographies

Soukeyna Abbott grew up in Dakar, Senegal where she lived until she moved to the United States for college. Growing up in Dakar, Soukeyna trained with Marianne Niox in ballet, modern, sabar, salsa and jazz. Additionally, she also gained training in social dance forms such as afrobeats which quickly became a great interest of hers. She considers her dance history to be very eclectic as it pulls from the variety of styles she has trained in throughout the years. Soukeyna graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a B.A. in Dance and Computer Science. While at Mount Holyoke, performed in works by Katie Martin, Shakia Barron and Camille A. Brown. She was actively involved in the Mount Holyoke Senior and Student dance concerts both as a choreographer and a performer. She is currently training with the Ladies of Hip Hop Training Company and working on projects with Shakia Barron and Barbie Diewald.

Jazer Giles is a musician, composer, and computational artist. A Lecturer at Mount Holyoke and the University of Massachusetts, and a Private Music Instructor at Amherst College, he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Music Technology and Production. Jazer holds Bachelor of Art degrees in Music and Physics from Skidmore College and a Master of Music degree in Composition from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has composed music for Barbie Diewald Choreography since 2014 and is an active accompanist in the Five Colleges. His current research focuses on generative and algorithmic design for computer music and animation.

Performer Biographies Continued

David Hall (aka DJ Trends) is a DJ on legendary New York City radio station, 107.5 WBLS. He specializes in Hip-Hop, Caribbean and African music. With a degree in marketing from the University of Massachusetts, David spent many years as a music editor and content marketer for urban digital media company, Interactive One. David is a music history and biography junky, a part-time beat maker and remixer. He also lends his Djing talents and music knowledge to Massachusetts's Five College Dance program's Hip-Hop dance classes. Above all, David is a partner and a father of 2 girls.

Sienna Jessurun (she/her) is a movement artist and arts administrator based in Northampton, MA. Originally from Northeastern CT, Sienna grew up studying Irish dance and participating in community theater, which have had great influence on her as an artist. Since 2016 she has trained primarily in Hip-Hop, House, Ballet, and Modern. Sienna has had the opportunity to be a student at the American Dance Festival, The Dance Complex's Winter Dance Festival, and Bates Dance Festival. Through her studies, she has performed work by Paul Matteson, Shakia Barron, Barbie Diewald, Camille A. Brown, Doug Varone, and Jodi Melnick. She is currently working with Barbie Diewald and Shakia Barron. "Concourse" has given Sienna the opportunity to take part in residencies at Jacob's Pillow, High Street Studios, MAGMA and Bates Dance Festival. In addition to her work as a freelance artist, Sienna worked at Jacob's Pillow intermittently between 2019 and 2022 as a Company Management Intern and Seasonal staff. She joined the Pillow's full-time staff in 2021. Sienna holds a BA in Dance and Anthropology from Mount Holyoke College.

Originally from Salt Lake City, UT, **Katherine Kain** (she/they) is a choreographer and dancer based in western Massachusetts. She grew up dancing at South Valley Creative Dance and received subsequent training from Repertory Dance Theatre and Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. They have trained extensively at Bates Dance Festival, Salt Dance Fest, FRESH Festival, and the Practicing Presence Festival. Katherine's work has been presented at the American College Dance Association conference, Josten Library for the Performing Arts, and the School for Contemporary Dance and Thought. They have performed in works by Paul Matteson, Dante Brown, and Doug Varone. They graduated magna cum laude with a BA in Dance from Mount Holyoke College. Katherine also spent this past year developing their teaching practice at The Children's Ballet and Movement Co.

Erin Kouwe is a creator, dance artist, and educator. Erin is a recipient of the Tennessee Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship and the Gretchen Moran Research Fellowship. Her choreographic work has been presented by Nashville Ballet, Nashville Ballet 2, Smith College, and Tennessee Women's Theater Project. Erin is the founder of Seen, a project designed to disorient performance and foster creative exchange and conversation around dance. She has performed with New Dialect, Visceral Dance Chicago, and Luna Negra Dance Theater, and in works by Banning Bouldin, Bryan Arias, Gustavo Ramirez Sansano, Ohad Naharin, Yin Yue, Joy Davis, Idan Sherabi, Monica Cervantes, Julia Rhoads, and others. She holds a B.A. in Dance from Point Park University and an M.F.A. in Choreography and Performance from Smith College. Erin is a Visiting Artist in Dance at Mount Holyoke College, and has taught at Smith College, Hampshire College, Belmont University, and Nashville Ballet's Professional Training Division.

Miranda Lawson (she/her) is a Boston based dancer and choreographer. Originally from Somerville, MA, she trained primarily in contemporary and Hip-hop forms at The Studio Dance Complex where she frequently returns to teach. She recently earned her BA in Dance and Psychology from Mount Holyoke College, where she was recognized with awards in choreographic excellence and leadership through social justice work. While at Mount Holyoke, Miranda performed in works by Shakia Barron, Barbie Diewald, Chloe London, Jenna Riegel and in TU Dance's "One" restaged by Kaitlin Bell. Miranda has trained at Bates Dance Festival, was the recipient of the Leadership Scholarship from American Dance Festival, interned for Boston University's REACH Summer Dance program, and presented her own work at the American College Dance Association Conference. She is currently working with Marissa Molinar and Midday Movement through the BIPOC Professional Dancer Mentorship program as she navigates her professional career. Miranda was a choreographic resident through the Urbanity X Residency program for the 2022 season and is now a company dancer with Urbanity. Her work on "Concourse" has allowed her to perform at Jacob's Pillow, High Street Studios, MAGMA and Bates Dance Festival.

Performer Biographies Continued

Sarah Maurer (she/her) is a performer and teacher based in the Greater Boston area. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst in May of 2020 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. Her foundations include tap, contemporary and jazz techniques, and she currently trains extensively in Horton, House, and Hip hop, Sarah's continued training has included the Gibney winter dance intensive, the David Dorfman Dance intensive, Bates Dance Festival and The Dance Complex winter festival. She has had the pleasure of performing in premieres of works by Jenna Riegel, Margaret Wiss, David Dorfman, Barbie Diewald, and Shakia "The Key" Barron. She also performed in Doug Varone's "Boats Leaving" under the direction of Xan Burley and Alex Springer. Sarah teaches dance to students on the South Shore and Greater Cape Cod while working as a collaborator with Barbie Diewald and Kia The Key and Company, a project based company.

Born and raised in Springfield, MA, **Jake Meginsky** is a New Music USA award winner and Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellow in both music and film. He has collaborated and performed with an extraordinary range of musicians including Milford Graves, Alvin Lucier, Joan La Barbara, Kim Gordon, Joe McPhee, Thurston Moore, William Parker, Daniel Carter, Paul Flaherty, John Truscinski, and Bill Nace. His work has been presented widely and internationally, including Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia, Institute for Contemporary Art London, TUSK Festival (Newcastle, UK), BFI Southbank, (London, UK), IFFR Rotterdam, SXSW Film Festival, CPH:DOX, Click Festival (Copenhagen, Denmark), Deutsches Historisches Museum (Berlin, Germany), Laemmle Music Hall (Los Angeles), Counterflows (Glasgow), Standards (Milan), the Duolun Museum of Modern Art (Shanghai), Beijing Today Museum, Jinse Gallery (Chongqing, China), throughout New York City at The Kitchen, Lincoln Center, Metrograph, The Guggenheim, New York Live Arts, Joyce SoHo, Gibney Dance, Dance Theater Workshop, Danspace Project, Symphony Space, Judson Church, La MaMa, and The Stone. He directed and produced the award-winning feature film Milford Graves Full Mantis about his longtime mentor and collaborator, Milford Graves. The New York Times called the film a "stunning documentary" and wrote, "this movie gives you the man's heart, and it's a beautiful one." In October 2018, the film was released in theaters internationally and was featured at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture's inaugural film festival in Washington, DC. Full Mantis was recently acquired by the Criterion Collection, with a new edition and four new short films to be released in November 2022.

Amisi Nazaire-Hicks is a native of Cambridge, MA who graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in May 2020. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Dance and a Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies. Amisi has trained in ballet, jazz, modern (Limon and Horton techniques), West African, Haitian folkloric, hip-hop, and house. She has performed work by Shakia Barron, Molly Christie Gonzalez, Deborah Goffe, "New Second Line" by Camille A. Brown and "A Choreographic Offering" by Jose Limon. In addition to "Concourse" and "Genesis", Amisi has been dancing in Jenny Oliver's projects (Modern Connections Collective) since January 2021. Amisi is currently based in Brooklyn, NY and will be receiving a Master of Arts in Performing Arts Administration from New York University (expected 2024), where she will launch a career in social justice centered arts funding and programming.

Nate Odell hails from West Springfield, MA, and has studied dance and acrobatics from age of four at The Hackworth School of Performing Arts. Under the instruction of Alison and Teddy Forance, Lisa Anthony, Lisa Heath, and the rest of the HSPA staff, he learned styles like Jazz, Contemporary, Modern, Hip-Hop, Tap, and Acrobatics. He won various awards and titles along his competition journey. After Nate graduated high school, he joined James Morrow at Salem State University as a guest artist, where he created work and performed a repertory piece with James Morrow/THE MOVEMENT. Nate joined two dance companies, SIZA and Psychopomp Dance Theater, after moving to L.A. In signing with Go 2 Talent Agency, he performed in an off-Broadway version of the "Newsies". After moving back to MA, Nate directed a sold-out show composed of original choreography called "Carpe Diem". He then decided to focus his efforts on teaching. Nate has participated in Street Dance Battle Events around the country, most notably Footwork Frenzy, Lockdown League, and ChooseYourCharacter. Nate currently performs with Kalligraphy, in Hartford, CT. His mission is to help dancers grow, find their voice within, and test their limits on artistry and movement.

Performer Biographies Continued

Laura Osterhaus Rosenstone is a movement artist and educator, born and raised in the Midwest. Across all modes of creating, she strives to connect with and listen to people. Laura received her M.F.A. in Dance from Smith College and her B.A. in Dance & Fashion Studies from the University of Minnesota. Throughout her years of dance education, Laura had the opportunity to work with choreographers Shakia Barron, Nora Chipaumire, Gregory Dolbashian, Maurya Kerr, Garth Fagan, and Chris Aiken among many others. As a member of Zenon Dance Company in Minneapolis 2016-2019, Laura performed the work of choreographers Michelle Boulé, Kyle Abraham, Sam Kim and others throughout Minnesota and across the country. Laura is a member of creative trio, Kelvin Wailey, in addition to her on-screen and live performance roles alongside various musical artists. As the founding artistic director of Slo Dance Company, she collaborates with an ever-evolving group of artists to build performance work seeded in slowness—embracing the process of intimate relationship-building and developing collective awareness through listening. Laura is administrative assistant to Shakia Barron, along with being a member of Kia the Key & Company. She also currently dances for New England-based choreographer Vanessa Anspaugh.

Angelica Polk is a performer, choreographer, and dance educator from Western MA. She is the rehearsal director and performer for Kia The Key & Company. She holds a BA in Dance and Arts in the Community and is pursuing her master's degree in mental health counseling at Cambridge College. Angelica continues to artistically challenge and enrich the lives of students at Youthful Expressions, School of Contemporary Dance and Thought, The Dance Studio in Wilbraham, and various educational settings. She is the founder and director of an all-inclusive majorette dance line, The Community Ambassadors of Spirit and Performance Team. C.A.O.S. is a unified collective of dancers willing to learn majorette style and perform their own creations to reaffirm their power and strengths together. Angelica was honored to have been a featured dancer in the New England Regional ACDA Dance Conference in 2016 at Springfield College. She also had a life-changing opportunity and studied dance history at the Umbra Institute in Perugia, Italy. Angelica is skilled in many dance forms such as Horton, VopJazz, Contemporary, West African, House, and Hip-Hop.

Allana Scudder is a dancer, teaching artist, choreographer, and student. Allana began dancing at the age of 14 where her interests were sparked following an Alvin Ailey dance camp, beginning her formal dance training in ballet, modern, jazz, hip hop and African. Based in Fairfield County, CT, she attended Regional Center for the Arts (RCA) where she has returned as faculty teaching hip hop. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she added contemporary and postmodern to her repertoire and premiered her work titled "Reverence," following her discovery and exploration of intergenerational trauma and body memory. Allana has performed in repertoire works by Camille A. Brown, Ephrat Asherie, Marilyn Sylla and José Limón to name a few. She has also worked with the Connecticut Lyric Opera as a featured dancer in "Aida." She is currently teaching and is working with Shakia Barron/Kia the Key & Company,

Saulius Slezas is a Boston based lighting designer. He considers himself a student of light in all its forms and is equally happy working in a grand theater, a dark club or outside among the trees. Raised in Boston, he is a graduate of Boston Latin School and Hampshire College. Saulius's artistic interests lie in the tight integration of technical design with live performance. He works primarily with live music and modern dance, but also dabbles in installation work. Through his firm, Vilkas LLC, Saulius provides design and production services to organizations around the United States. Currently he travels with touring music acts They Might be Giants, Guster and The Brother Comatose. Between tours, he also services the needs of more stationary clients such as Google and Amherst College. When not turning lights on and off, he enjoys biking, gardening and being as still as possible.

Jesmyda Viyano is a dancer for Kia The Key & Company who recently graduated from Amherst College with a BA in Biochemistry. She was part of Dance and Step at Amherst College and African Caribbean Student Union (ACSU) dance. Jessie is a performer, choreographer, and educator in Massachusetts, born and raised in Zimbabwe. She has had opportunities to perform in the five colleges works by Shakia Barron: *Win in Doubt*, *360°*, *Our House* and performed *360°* at Jacob's Pillow. Jessie is highly energetic on and off the stage. Her mission with dance is to share her love and joy of dance while learning from others.

