

ashleyliane
DANCE COMPANY
presents



ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE

Art Meets Activism

PROGRAM A - *Virtual*
Saturday, June 5, 2021
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM B – *In Person*
The Grandel / The Dark Room
Sunday, June 6, 2021
5:30 p.m.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ashley L. Tate, MFA

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Jacquilynn Proctor

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Thomas Proctor, MFA

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Ania L. Colvin

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Yvonne R. Tate



PROFESSIONAL COMPANY DANCERS

Jenny Dyson ♦ Jessy Dyson ♦ Sam Fink ♦ Anise Glenn ♦ Asia Glenn ♦ Courtney Mallett ♦ Jordan McDaniel
Jacquilynn Proctor ♦ Thomas Proctor ♦ Bonnie Schuett ♦ Jeanie Stephenson ♦ Garret Welker ♦ Abby Zaiz



ADC FUSION COLLECTIVE Trainees

Danielle Crivello ♦ Elyssa Ingram ♦ Danny MacLaughlin ♦ Tia Overstreet ♦ Hannah Steele



ADC UNBOUND Dance Training & Mentoring Program

Rachel Crivello ♦ Max Evans ♦ Izzy Tognarelli



Student Intern

Jeanie Stephenson



ASHLEYLIANE DANCE COMPANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raven Akram ♦ Ania L. Colvin ♦ Brandy Kimble ♦ Ashley L. Tate ♦ Yvonne R. Tate

A Message from the Artistic Director

Ashley L. Tate

It is my pleasure to welcome you to **ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE**, Ashleyliane Dance Company's fourteenth spring dance concert. The pieces presented in "Environmental Intelligence" illustrate the idea that all living beings on planet Earth depend on a clean and healthy environment for survival and sustainability of life. The pieces presented in "Environmental Intelligence" illustrate some of the environmental issues and concerns that are on the rise due to destructive human behavior. We explore climate change, deforestation, air and plastic pollution, waste management, and environmental justice for all people regardless of racial and socioeconomic disparities. Much can be done, and much must be done to address these issues. Humanity can have a direct and positive impact on the environment. We are all in this together.

I chose this topic because as a St. Louis native I am aware of the environmental disparities that are prevalent in this city. Socioeconomic status should not determine whether one has access to a clean, healthy, and safe living environment. Also, my company dancers and I are all on our own personal eco-friendly journeys and hope to inspire and encourage others to make steps towards a commitment to sustainability.

Dance can be a powerful medium for conveying important messages and the communication and expression that is embedded in the act of performing dance can have lasting effects on the person watching. My goal is that the work presented in Environmental Intelligence is equal parts moving, inspirational and educational.

On another note, season has truly been an adventure, but Ashleyliane Dance Company is thankful to still be here after an unprecedented year and a half. We thank our community for believing us, supporting our mission and vision, and inspiring us to keep forging ahead. Even when things looked grim at the top of the pandemic in March of last year, we quickly pivoted, and we have not looked back since.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the "highs" amidst the struggles of 2020:

- ADC held THREE successful virtual concerts before this weekend and TWO fundraisers!
- We revamped our **YouTube channel** and built our very first **online merchandise store**.
- We held auditions through a mixture of in-person and virtual events.
- We were given the opportunity to perform in Dine on Dance, The Big Muddy Dance Fest, Dance the Vote, Ari's Light Gala and to film a new work for Community Arts that honors the legacy of Mama Cat and PotBangerz.
- ADC is Missouri ArtSafe certified! Information: <https://www.missouriartscouncil.org/missouri-artsafe/>
- Our **ADC UNBOUND Mentoring and Training Program** moved to a fully virtual format to finish the Spring 2020 season and then moved to a mixed-delivery format in September 2020, based on local and CDC recommendations.
- We now have an **On Demand channel** through Vimeo where anyone can take full dance classes for free and watch a couple of our concerts in their entirety for a very economical fee!
- We continued to offer **public drop-in classes** in a hybrid-delivery format, with people joining us in class from out of state and even the country!
- Our **ADC Fusion Collective Trainee** program continued to grow and they were featured in their own showcase alongside the students of ADC UNBOUND.

And for the biggest win of all.... WE BECAME A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION!

ADC pivoted, kick-ball-changed and lateral curved our way through this season, and we only continue to thrive...and I am just so proud. I am proud of my dancers and students, but also proud of our dance community. We forged ahead as artists and as human beings. Art is essential, art is necessary. I will always believe in the power of art, and I will always believe in the impact of this organization.



ADC ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ashley L. Tate is the founder, artistic and executive director of Ashleyliane Dance Company (ADC), a full-service dance organization based in the Greater St. Louis area. Ashley has studied dance for over 30 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Science from Texas Christian University, where she served two consecutive years as captain during her four-year stint as a member of the TCU Showgirls Dance Team. She has been an instructor for National Dance Alliance, a cast member in a Sony Dreamworks motion picture, and a bodily-kinesthetic intelligence presenter for St. Louis Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS).

Ms. Tate has choreographed for NCAA/NFL basketball and football halftime shows, studio recitals, theatre productions, professional dance organizations, and national and regional dance competitions. She teaches master classes and workshops in contemporary, jazz, hip hop, modern, improvisation and composition. She was a member of the Saint Louis Rams Football Cheerleaders, serving as a captain for two years. Ms. Tate is now a board member for Missouri Dance Organization,

and a member of the National Dance Education Organization, and an adjudicator for Fury Dance Competitions. She is also a recently certified Zumba® instructor.

Ms. Tate is an adjunct professor of dance at Saint Louis University, Washington University in St. Louis, Webster University, and Southeast Missouri State University, and the former chair of the dance department at Grand Center Arts Academy. She was invited to a private audition for Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour and is a recipient of Grand Center's Emerging Artist Visionary Award. She has served as a judge for the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation's Teen Talent Showcase for several years. She is also a winner of the Pulse On Tour Dance Convention Protégé Scholarship, a Monsters of Hip Hop Scholarship (and a former Monsters Show Nominee), and is signed as a dancer and dance educator with Clear Talent Group in Los Angeles, California. Her work has been featured in choreographer's showcases at the Peridance Capezio Center, TADA! Theater, and Baruch Performing Arts Center, all in New York City, as well as the Choreographer's Carnival in Chicago, Illinois and Versatility Dance Festival in Boulder, Colorado and Santa Monica, California. She is also the co-producer of Dance the Vote, a non-partisan grassroots arts-based voter registration initiative founded by Joan Lipkin.

Ms. Tate is a 2018 recipient of the Spencer T & Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study. She is a May 2020 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance.

ADC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Jacquilynn (Jaci) Proctor, Ashleyliane Dance Company's Assistant Director for the professional company and two years for the Fusion Collective. She previously served as Rehearsal Director. During nine seasons with the company, Jaci has been a featured dancer in multiple performances. She has taught dance and/or choreographed competition solos at M and M Dance Studio, Taylor's Academy of Dance, Water Street Dance Company, and Imperium House of Dance. Jaci is a licensed hairstylist/makeup artist and owns "The Look by Jaci" at the Salon Lofts in the Grove.



ADC REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

A graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, **Thomas Proctor** is closing out his eighth season with ADC and his second season as the Rehearsal Director. He recently graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance, with "Ubiquitous Plastic" being performed as the culminating project for the degree. Over the summer, Thomas is working with Ballet 314 on an upcoming show title Ragtime, based on the book by the same name. This past year Thomas passed the requirements to become a Level V certified instructor in the Cateran Society and is the founder of the St. Louis Broadsword Academy. Next fall he will be working as an Adjunct Professor at Southeast Missouri State University and at Principia College.



JOAN LIPKIN, DRAMATURG/SCRIPTWRITER FOR PROGRAM B

Internationally recognized as a groundbreaking theatre artist, educator and social activist, Joan Lipkin works at the intersection of performance and civic engagement, creating events and dialogues about pressing contemporary issues including climate change, voting advocacy, racial justice, gender equality, LGBTQ+, rights, gun sense, reproductive choice, and immigration reform. She regularly creates work with diverse populations, is an expert on rapid response theatre, contributing to or producing several national projects including *Every 28 Hours*, *After Orlando* and *Climate Change Theatre Action*.

Joan has a long-standing commitment to centering work about climate change and racial justice. Her play, "About that Chocolate Bar", commissioned and recently published by the Arctic Cycle in the anthology, *Lighting the Way* has had more than 40 productions in the US and abroad. Most recently, she created a prototype for students to study climate change and sustainability and create theatrical responses.

Joan has collaborated with Ashley L Tate and Ashleyliane Dance Company around numerous projects including "Becoming Emily", Climate Change Theatre Action, "Sticks and Stones: Sluts Talk Back" and the award-winning *Dance the Vote*, which they co-produce.

Joan has received numerous awards including a Visionary, Ethical Humanist of the Year, Leadership for Community-based Theatre and Civic Engagement, Woman of Achievement, Bravely and IDEA.

Company Artists

To view the dancers' individual biographies, please visit our website: <https://www.ashleyliane.com/company-dancers>

Production & Technical Crew

Technical Director	Danny MacLaughlin
Sound Editing	Ashley L. Tate
Lighting Design	Danny MacLaughlin, Ashley L. Tate
Stage Manager	Ania L. Colvin
House Manager	Yvonne R. Tate
Videography	Brandon Sloan
Photography	Peter Wochniak
Program	Yvonne R. Tate
Costumes	Ashley L. Tate, Danny MacLaughlin
Ticket Sales	Ashley L. Tate
Production Assistants	Rachel Crivello, Tia Overstreet, Luewilla Smith

Program A - Virtual

"Ubiquitous Plastic"

Choreographer: Thomas Proctor, MFA

"Pathways" MFA Performance Premiere: March 2021

Washington University in St. Louis

Music	Tranquil Forest Effect, Urban Sounds, Thom Yorke, Sigur Ros, Lights & Motion, BT
Cast - Aspects of Nature	Jenny Dyson, Courtney Mallett, Jordan McDaniel
Cast - Ineffective Heroes	Jacquilynn Proctor, Ashley Tate, Thomas Proctor
Ensemble	Jessy Dyson, Sam Fink, Anise Glenn, Asia Glenn, Bonnie Schuett, Jeanie Stephenson, Garret Welker, Abby Zaiz

The world is currently amid an ever-worsening climate crisis. It is difficult to understand the scope of the crisis in our daily lives. So much of the damage we cause to the planet is caused by the needs we have as a consumer-based society and is without evil intent. With that knowledge comes the understanding that something must be done, that changes must be made if we are to not only survive but leave a better world for the next generation. The first step is understanding that the natural world is alive and that we cause it harm. The next step is working to help reduce the damage we have done and begin healing the world rather than harming it. The easiest way that everyone can take that next step today is to reduce the amount of single-use plastic we use and encourage others to do so as well. One person alone can begin the chain reaction that leads to a community working together for the betterment of the natural world. "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."
- Robert Swan.

"Ubiquitous Plastic" was the culminating performance of Thomas Proctor's Master of Fine Arts degree earned at Washington University in St. Louis.

"Climatic"

Choreographer: Ashley L. Tate, MFA

Ashleyliane Dance Company Premiere: June 2019

"The Human Experience" Performance, Grandel Theatre

Music	Alan Watts, Kevin MacLeod, Machinefabriek, Bon Iver, Audionatix, Roomful of Teeth, Helm, Jody Redhage, Joshua Penman, IN-Q, Mumford & Sons
Music and Video Editing	Ashley L. Tate
Dancers	Jenny Dyson, Jessy Dyson, Sam Fink, Anise Glenn, Asia Glenn, Courtney Mallett, Jordan McDaniel, Jacquilynn Proctor, Thomas Proctor, Bonnie Schuett, Jeanie Stephenson, Garret Welker, Abby Zaiz

The impact of climate change transcends various sectors in our society, including health, agriculture, energy, and transportation. Ecosystems are under extreme stress due to the chemical and physical changes of human activities. It is these stressors that serve as catalysts for major impact in various communities. For example, rural areas will inevitably experience a loss of employment and cultural heritage because they are highly dependent upon natural resources that are affected by climate change. City transportation and power supply systems would be more vulnerable to climate variability. The challenges that replicate from this plague are daunting, but through innovation, leadership, and effective practices, the disruption can begin to lose momentum and ultimately bring major damage to our infrastructure to a halt. Many people do not understand the depths of this global challenge. Everyone has the power to reduce their carbon footprint by taking proactive steps to reduce emissions. This power can be found in simple tasks such as turning off lights when not in use and consistently recycling a larger percentage of household waste. The power of citizen involvement is often overlooked but facilitating change at a local level ignites widespread action. Awareness is the first step.

Program B - In Person

"Environmental Injustice"

Choreographer/Director: Ashley L. Tate

Ashleyliane Dance Company Premiere: June 2021

"Environmental Intelligence" Performance, Grandel Theatre

Music	Laraaji, Carlos Niño, Superposition, Marvin Gaye, Trent Reznor, Atticus Ross, Childish Gambino, Dinah Washington, Max Richter, Nkeiru Okoye, Philip Daniel, Shawn Williams, Ryan Lott, Third Coast Percussion
Music and Video Editing	Ashley L. Tate
Dramaturg/Writer	Joan Lipkin
Soloist	Asia Glenn
Dancers	Jenny Dyson, Jessy Dyson, Sam Fink, Anise Glenn, Courtney Mallett, Jordan McDaniel, Jacquilynn Proctor, Thomas Proctor, Bonnie Schuett, Jeanie Stephenson, Garret Welker, Abby Zaiz
Speakers	Danielle Crivello, Thomas Proctor, Garret Welker

This collection of work begins with an emotional illustration of the widespread racial disparities (regarding environmental factors), specifically the exposure to pollutants, lack of green space, and other environmental risks that are distributed unequally by race and socioeconomic status.

The second half of the evening focuses on the story of Hazel Johnson, a Black working class woman who used grassroots efforts to combat environmental racism, and who has been called the "Mother of Environmental Justice." Johnson focused much of her organization's work on educating minority communities about urban environmental hazards and said, "For so long, environmental activism has been primarily a white, middle-class issue, far removed from the daily reality of inner-city life."

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the following persons who helped to make the success of our 14th season possible through their continuous support of ADC.

Donors

Mary Clarke

Philip Durkee

Amy and Stephen Lee

Joanna Dee Das

Paula Evans

Patricia Orf

Carmen Dence

Rubén Gerding

Annette Rowan

Maggi Dueker

Sara Hallerman

Michelle Zaiz

Much love, respect, and gratitude to my dancers...as always, it is a pleasure to work with you. Thank you for trusting my leadership and for being the wonderful people and artists that you are. Thank you for making my pieces come alive.

Thanks to my alumni for their dedication and talent.

To all the families and community friends who support us in our endeavors...**THANK YOU!**

I'd like to thank my family for being a strong support system.

~ALT~



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**KRANZBERG ARTS
FOUNDATION**



ashleyliane
DANCE COMPANY

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We are all a catalyst for change.

With your help ADC can continue making an impact in the lives of those who love the art of dance.

The Ashleyliane Dance Company is a non-profit organization.

To donate visit: ashleyliane.com

Thank You