Full Circle Dance Company Presents Our

25TH ANNIVERSARY



Rooted & Rising

Baltimore Museum of Art

November 9, 2025

Donna L. Jacobs
Artistic Director

FULL CIRCLE DANCE COMPANY

www.fullcircledancecompany.org



Welcome to Full Circle Dance Company's 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Today, we gather not only to witness dance, but to honor a quarter century of artistry, resilience, and community. Twenty-five years ago, Full Circle began as a small company with a big vision—we started as an outlet for young dancers and teachers and we have grown to create works that speak truth, that challenge and heal, and that connect people across differences through the language of movement.

Since then, scores and scores of dancers, choreographers, musicians, and collaborators have joined us in that vision. Together, we've built something extraordinary—an ever-evolving family bound by the courage to tell stories through dance. To our returning alumni and long-time supporters: welcome home. To our new audience members: thank you for joining our circle tonight.

This milestone performance celebrates not just our past, but our future—the continuing journey of artists who believe that dance has the power to illuminate, to unite, and to remind us of our shared humanity. Every step we take on this stage is built on the devotion of those who came before and inspired by those yet to come.

Thank you for being part of this unforgettable day, for your belief in the arts, for helping us keep dance alive, and for this circle unbroken for 25 incredible years.

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



PROGRAM

SHE DID THAT! (2025)

Choreography Orchestration: Donna L. Jacobs with movement contributions from Julia Beroš, Hope B. Byers, Liz Pelton, Jennifer Seye, Morgan Sledge, Nicole Tucker-Smith

Text by Liz Pelton inspired by stories collected from our free community workshop
Read by Donna L. Jacobs, Liz Pelton, Nicole Tucker-Smith, Alicia Williams
Ancestor Names Quilt by Jaszmine Howard
Music: Allison Krauss, Evan King

I. The River
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Julia Beroš, Charise Byers, Jasmine Caffee, Josette Chang, Elizabeth Hafey, Jade Mong, Nina Pongratz, Jennifer Seye, Morgan Sledge, Nicole Tucker-Smith

II. Names
Dancers: Marianne Amouzou, Mackenzie Berger, Lennox Boggs, Laila Brown, Avah Griffin, Cheryl Gray, Sophia Imus, Donna L. Jacobs, Jurnee Jackson, Suzanne Haley, Paul Haley, Tessa Morrison, Liz Pelton, Kim Russell, Ray Stieber, Cimone Sims, Zohara Vachino-Miller, Vanessa Vailoces, Yvah Vandaveer

III. Guardians
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Julia Beroš, Charise Byers, Jasmine Caffee, Josette Chang, Elizabeth Hafey, Jade Mong, Nina Pongratz, Morgan Sledge, Nicole Tucker-Smith



DEEP BAYOU — EXCERPT (2004)

Choreography: Donna L. Jacobs
Music: Nina Simone, Roberta Flack

I. Ne Me Quitte Pas
Dancer: Alicia Williams

II. Sister Jones
Soloist: Hope B. Byers
Dancers: Morgan Anderson, Elizabeth Hafey, Kakuti Davis Lin, Nina Pongratz, Amanda Rosenbaum, Jennifer Seye, Alicia Williams

RADICANT (2025)

Choreography: Josette Chang
Music: Maneesh de Moor
Dancer: Josette Chang



1868: LIBERATION AND THE EVER LASHING (2024)

Choreography: Hope B. Byers
Music: Socialbunny Marketing, “The Invention Rooms” by Savfk, “This Too Shall Pass” by Scott Buckley
Text composition and voiceover by Hope B. Byers
Sound: Voiceover recording by Tom Pelton
Costume Concept: Hope B. Byers
Costume Design: Terry Walker
Graphic Design: Joy Drakes

Dancers: Hope B. Byers, Elizabeth Hafey, Kakuti Davis Lin, Nina Pongratz, Amanda Rosenbaum, Jennifer Seye, Morgan Sledge, Alicia Williams, Misty Borst Yackshaw



INTERMISSION



ANGELS UNAWARES (2009)

Choreography: Travis D. Gatling
Music: Philip Glass and Ravi Shankar
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Jade Mong, Allison Powell, Mindy Rawlinson, Amanda Rosenbaum, Morgan Sledge, Alicia Williams

AS I SURRENDER (2023)

Choreography: Jennifer Seye
Music: Eric Whitacre
Dancers: Julia Beroš, Charise Byers, Teresa Hinton, Kakuti Davis Lin, Jennifer Seye, Nicole Tucker-Smith

SHE IS... (2025)

Choreography: Shaela Davis
Music: “We Deal With the Freak’n” by Solange, “Yeeeleh” by Mikey J, “The Ritual” by Mikey J
Dancer: Shaela Davis
Costume: Lindsay Simon



TO COME FULL CIRCLE (2025)

Choreography: Travis D. Gatling
Music: Steve Reich - London Symphony Orchestra & Michael Tilson Thomas
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Julia Beroš, Charise Byers, Hope B. Byers, Jasmine Caffee, Josette Chang, Elizabeth Hafey, Teresa Hinton, Sam Koseff, Kakuti Davis Lin, Jade Mong, Nina Pongratz, Amanda Rosenbaum, Jennifer Seye, Morgan Sledge, Nicole Tucker-Smith, Alicia Williams

RISE (2025)

Choreography: Mindy Rawlinson
Music: Big Wild
Dancer: Mindy Rawlinson

SIN SHAKERS AND SHOUTERS — EXCERPT (2000)

Choreography: Travis D. Gatling
Music: Aretha Franklin, Mahalia Jackson
Dancers: Nyah Banks, Julia Beroš, Charise Byers, Hope B. Byers, Jasmine Caffee, Josette Chang, Elizabeth Hafey, Teresa Hinton, Kakuti Davis Lin, Jade Mong, Nina Pongratz, Allison Powell, Amanda Rosenbaum, Morgan Sledge, Nicole Tucker-Smith



ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS AND COLLABORATORS



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.



Shaela Davis

Shaela is a dance artist, educator, and researcher whose work moves between the stage, the classroom, and the community. She earned her BFA in Dance Performance with a K-12 Teaching Certification from Towson University, where she performed with the TU Dance Company and choreographed for the 2013 American College Dance Association in Virginia. On scholarship at the American Dance Festival, she appeared in Footprints and in repertory by Abby Zbikowski. As a performer, Shaela has worked with Abby Z and the New Utility, Christopher K. Morgan & Artists, Company E, and Full Circle Dance Company, and collaborated with vocalists Thomas Beard and Carolyn Black-Sotir. Her performances have taken her to venues and festivals including Jacob's Pillow, NY Live Arts, The Kennedy Center, Fusebox Festival, and the 92nd Street Y. Her choreography has been featured in the Baltimore Black Choreographers Festival, Peabody Dance! Festival, and Chesapeake Shakespeare Company's The Merry Wives of Windsor. She has also taught at numerous dance institutions across Maryland and Ohio. Currently pursuing her MFA in Dance at The Ohio State University, Shaela is developing research on social dance practices rooted in her identity as a Jamaican American Black Woman. At OSU, her self-choreographed solo Habitual Roots was featured in the Autumn concert Uprising. She performed in Ronald K. Brown's Four Corners, and served as rehearsal director for its restaging. She is a 2025 recipient of OSU Dance's Semester Funding Initiative Award.



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. In October 2024, Ms. Jacobs was a panelist at Lincoln Center in NYC with the School of American Ballet on curriculum change for diverse students.



Mindy Rawlinson

Melinda “Mindy” Rawlinson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of South Carolina and a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from Hollins University. As a dance artist, Rawlinson’s research and creative work revolves around topics such as Radical Ballet: finding transgressional spaces, Voyeurism and the Ballerina, and the performance of sexuality. As a professional dancer, Rawlinson has performed with the following companies: Carolina Ballet Theater, Wideman Davis Dance, Ballet Florida, and Full Circle Dance Company. As a dance educator, Rawlinson has served as an adjunct instructor at the University of South Carolina, Visiting Assistant Professor and Assistant MFA Director Of Dance at Hollins University and the founding director of the dance department at West Boca Raton Regional High School.



Jennifer Seye

Jennifer graduated cum laude 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, and 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 Richmond University in Yes! Dance Virginia. Jennifer received her M.A. in Dance from California State University Long Beach in July 2011.

Jaszmine Howard



Jaszmine Howard

Name: Jaszmine Howard
Instagram: @jaszminehoward

Jaszmine Howard is a fiber and textile artist based in the Baltimore area. She has enjoyed merging the disciplines of garment construction, quilting, and handwork for nearly ten years. Influenced by the art style known as pointillism, her art most often showcases, emphasizes, and honors the unrecognized and often undervalued labor that women have created and sustained over thousands of years and are highlighted through repetitive motion.

You will see The Kawandi technique of the Siddih people in “Rooted and Rising” by way of a quilt comprised of ancestral fabrics, layered and unified by needle and thread representing the past, present, and future. This paired with additional cultural influences from around the world visually bridges humanity through the one thing we all have in common - cloth.

Community Workshop



She Did That!

She Did That!

This new collaborative work was born from a free community workshop where participants shared stories of the women who shaped them. Inspired by these personal histories of mothers, grandmothers, mentors, and trailblazers, the piece transforms remembrance into movement—an act of honoring, storytelling, and legacy.



Our generous supporters would like to honor these special ancestors

Katie Carson

Jean Coshun

Florence Deutsch

Farzaneh Nezhat Farzad

Blanche Chaney Hall

Rosalie Pascal Hull

Barbara C. Jacobs

Rose Kutney

Mary Madden

Rose Mary O'Brien

Helen Parks

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FCDC 2025

FULL CIRCLE DANCE COMPANY

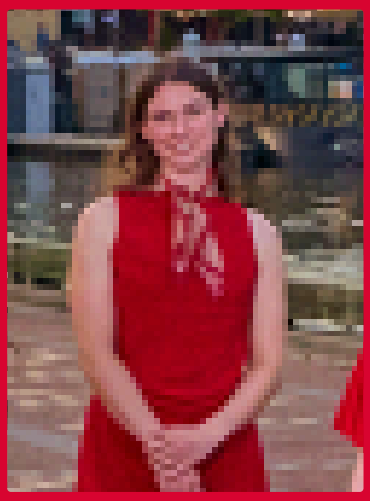
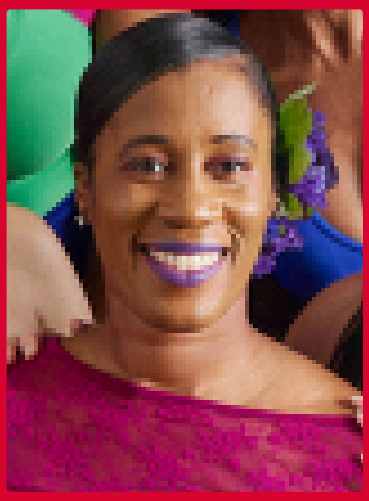
Artistic Director: Donna L. Jacobs
Associate Artistic Director: Liz Pelton

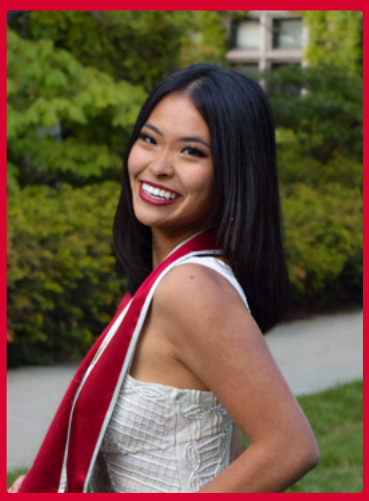
Morgan Anderson
Nyah Banks
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Charise Byers
Hope B. Byers
Jasmine Caffee
Josette Chang
Elizabeth Hafey
Teresa Hinton
Sam Koseff
*Shaela Davis **
Kakuti Davis Lin
Jade Mong
Nina Pongratz
Allison Powell
Amanda Rosenbaum
*Mindy Rawlinson**
Jennifer Seye
Morgan Sledge
Nicole Tucker-Smith
Alicia Williams
*Misty Borst Yackshaw **

**Affiliate Artists*





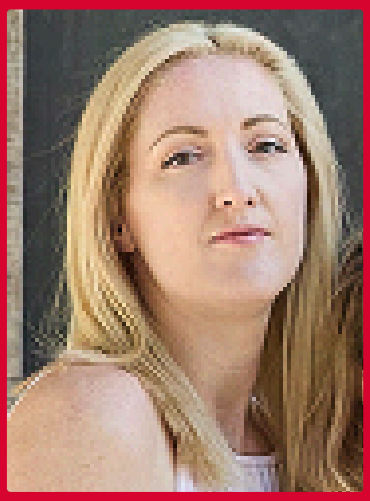
















Credits

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

Special Thanks
Morton Street Dance Center, Inc.
Julianna Pahr

Full Circle Dance Company Board of Directors
Elizabeth Hafey, Esq.
Deborah Hull
Donna L. Jacobs, Esq.
Liz Pelton
Mindy Rawlinson
Kim Russell
Brian Sims
Sheri L. Parks

This performance is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council

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www.fullcircledancecompany.org/support

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