

SQUARE PRODUCT THEATRE PRESENTS

DANCE NATION

BY CLARE BARRON

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SQUARE
PRODUCT
THEATRE

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production
made possible
in part by:



BOULDER ARTS
COMMISSION



Center for
Media, Arts &
Performance



BOULDER COUNTY
arts alliance

square product theatre presents:

Dance Nation

by Clare Barron
directed by **G**leason **B**auer

featuring

Huda **A**ljidaa as Connie
Savanna Arellano as Zuzu
Anneliese Euler as Vanessa/The Moms
Rodrigo **G**allardo-**A**ntúñez as Luke
Lorenzo González as Dance Teacher Pat
Emily **K.** Harrison as Ashlee
Isabella **C**ho **J**ones as Amina
Nina Rolle as Sofia
Edith Weiss as Maeve

with Alexa as The God Mic and Ham Jones as Minda

Dance Nation received its UK premiere at the Almeida Theatre, London, September 2018.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of *Dance Nation* in 2018 with support from an award by the National Endowment for the Arts, and a generous gift from Scott M. Delman.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Trust for supporting new plays at Playwrights Horizons, and special thanks to the Time Warner Foundation for its leadership support of New Works Lab at Playwrights Horizons.

Dance Nation was developed at the Perry-Mansfield New Works Festival, June 2015, with the Atlantic Theatre Company, and presented as part of the Contemporary American Voices Festival at Long Wharf Theatre, September 2016.

Dance Nation was written, in part, in residence at SPACE on Ryder Farm, and received extensive workshop time and space as part of New Dramatists' Jerry A. Tishman Playwrights Creativity Fund.

Dance Nation is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

production and creative team

Producer/Design Team/Marketing Team.....	Emily K. Harrison
Stage Manager.....	Rosie Glasscock
Choreographer.....	Laura Ann Samuelson , in collaboration with the cast
Assistant Director/Run Crew/Marketing Team.....	Sarah Powers
Intimacy Coordinator and Dialect Coach.....	Tamara L. Meneghini
Choral Direction.....	Nina Rolle
Sound Design.....	Bailey Trierweiler
Lighting Design.....	Jess Buttery
Costume Design.....	Gleason Bauer
Scenic Design.....	Jay Tyson and Gleason Bauer
Costume Construction and Design Assistant.....	Huda Aljidaa
Master Carpenter and Scenic Charge Artist.....	Jay Tyson
Scenic Construction.....	Gleason Bauer, Ash Cossey, Rosie Glasscock, Emily K. Harrison, Laura Ann Samuelson
Sound Engineer.....	CeCe Smith
Special Effects.....	Ash Cossey
Non-Equity Deputy.....	Rodrigo Gallardo-Antúnez
Board Operators.....	Ash Cossey and Kerouac Xuan Awbrey
ATLAS Production Manager.....	Gary McCrumb

Bold indicates company member, artistic associate, or intern for **square product theatre**.

The mission of **square product theatre** is to engage in radical acts of inquiry that leave an audience with just as many questions as answers. squareproducttheatre.org

We acknowledge that the land where we make and present our work is within the traditional territories of the Hinóno'etí (Arapaho), Cheyenne, and Ute Nations. Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado.

square product theatre is a proud member of the Boulder County Arts Alliance, the Colorado Theatre Guild, and the Network of Ensemble Theatres.

Special Thanks

Ondine Geary, Gary McCrumb, Steven Frost, Misty Medford, Kaylyn Kriaski, Barbara Dilley, Joan Bruemmer-Holden & Trent Holden, Alyx Kruger, Whitman College, Naropa University, Hamilton College, Theater/Sewanee, CU Boulder, Lorenzo González, Brad Gallagher, Connie Lane, Nate Tomscheck, Aaron Cook, Wendy Franz, Erin Rollman, Buntport Theater, Ted Stark, Erika Randall, Bhanu Kapil, Kharen Zuenert, Darryl Piggott, Martin Luther Loaf, and all of our donors, grantors, supporters, and friends.

Artist Bios

Huda Aljidaa (she/they) is a student at Metropolitan State University studying Applied Theater Technology and Design with an emphasis on Costume Design. They are so excited to perform this incredible piece with these wonderful people! Their own awkward middle school experience was during the time of Tumblr and was very similar to Connie's, but instead of horses, it involved an emo phase (spoiler: it wasn't a phase). They'd also like to shoutout their incredible dog, Biscuit, for helping them run lines!

Savanna Arellano (she/her) was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. She has been doing theatre for the past 11 years. When she was in middle school, there was a whole new playing field...BOYS. Not to mention she was 100% certain that she would become Beyoncé's new protege, and was just waiting for the day she would be discovered. As the years went on, a lot changed. But...she's still waiting on that call from Queen Bey.

Gleason Bauer (they/them) is a Los Angeles-based theatre artist and educator. In middle school they moved to Stillwater, OK, wore a retainer that they had to hold in place by clamping their back teeth, and watched a lot of *I Love Lucy* after school. They also got their period, tried to make out with their best friend, and lost their virginity somewhere along the way. None of that went that well. Gleason serves as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at Pomona College, has won some awards, and is generally pretty good at math. So...it does get better?

Jess Buttery (she/her) is a designer, educator, and general technical theatre wizard. She moved to Colorado in middle school, which was traumatic but ultimately pretty cool cuz Colorado isn't such a bad place to grow up. She has been a proud company member of square product theatre for a decade and has worked at many venues and with many rad companies in the Denver/Boulder area and nationally. Most recently she served as the Lighting Design and Technology Instructor at Denver School of the Arts and this fall will start a new position as an Assistant Professor of Instruction at Hamilton College. jessbuttery.com

Ash Cossey (they/them) is a theatre artist focused primarily on makeup, prosthetics, and properties design. They are currently a senior working toward their BFA in Applied Theatre Technology and Design at Metropolitan State University of Denver. They love making weird and creepy things and hope it only gets weirder and creepier from here.

Anneliese Euler (she/her) has performed and/or created with Comedy Central, Meredith Monk, Leonix Movement Theatre, Son of Semele, Heidi Duckler, Pig Iron, People's Light, and Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre. She spent the noughties singing naughty songs as Brie Feingold-Africa (iTunes). She and Joe Schenck made short films as Doable Dance Theater (YouTube). Film: *Bright Day!* TV: *Days of Our Lives*. An award-winning Professor of Theatre at Rio Hondo College, she grew up near Boston and currently lives in Los Angeles. MFA Theatre, Naropa University. BA Women's Studies, University of Pennsylvania. @lieselectric

Rodrigo Gallardo-Antúnez (he/him) is a recent graduate of The University of Colorado Boulder. In middle school he watched too much *glee* and had braces for 4 years. He recently earned a dual degree in Advertising as well as a BFA in Acting. He plans to move to the West Coast in the fall.

Rosie Glasscock (she/they) needs both hands to count how many shows she has done with square product theatre and is so proud to be a company member. During her time with square she has used multiple fake blood recipes, cleaned strawberry ice cream from astroturf, scraped dried deli ham out of plastic succulents, lowered a sandwich and a rifle from the ceiling (separate occasions), and even got to go to the Denver Pop Culture Con. Rosie has also worked with dancers and other theatre companies in the Boulder/Denver Area. Thanks for being here!

Lorenzo González Fontes (he/him) has been a theatre performer, director and an educator for the last thirty years. He has worked at Los Angeles' Ahmanson Theatre; REDCAT at Disney Hall; The Oregon Shakespeare Festival (six seasons); San Jose Repertory Theatre; Seattle Repertory Theatre; Arizona Theatre Co.; Tacoma Actors Guild; El Teatro Campesino; Colorado Shakespeare Festival; Los Angeles' Independent Shakespeare Company. He is an Associate Artist with El Centro Su Teatro of Denver, and Director of Performance Programs at Naropa University. He received his MFA from the Professional Theatre Training Program at University of Delaware.

Emily K. Harrison (she/her) is a theatremaker, educator, and person who is very clearly not skilled in the realm of dance. The Founder and Producing Artistic Director of square product theatre, Emily holds a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder, an MFA in Performance from the Savannah College of Art & Design, and a BA in Theatre Studies (Acting) from Emerson College. She splits her time between Colorado and New York, where she serves as an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Hamilton College. She has taught

and directed productions at Sewanee: The University of the South, Whitman College, Brunel University London (UK), CU Boulder, and Naropa University. She made this program. emilykharrison.com

Isabella Cho Jones (she/her) is a theatre artist and student at the University of Colorado Boulder. She was 11-years-old when she decided on the theatre life, when she was cast as Storyteller #3 in *Shrek the Musical Jr.* From then she was hooked on the acting life and now continues to study Acting and Computer Science at CU Boulder. By day she learns lines of code, and by night she learns her lines in a script. Isabella is also a production assistant in the University of Colorado Department of Theatre & Dance Scene Shop, where lines take on a different meaning: measurement and cutting wood.

Tamara L. Meneghini (she/her) is so happy to be working with square product theatre again. Past collaborations include *Gidion's Knot* and *Great Goddess Bazaar*. She is one of the co-founders of the Rocky Mountain Artists' Safety Alliance and a contributor to the Community Standards for Theatre. She currently serves on the faculty at the University of Colorado Boulder – Department of Theatre & Dance. During the summer months you can find her not far from anywhere the Louisville Dolphins are swimming (Go Dolphins!).

Sarah Powers (she/her) is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado Boulder, holding a BFA in Acting as well as a BA in Sociology. Some of her favorite things in life include being driven in other people's cars, well organized documents, female friendship, and making things magic. As a senior in high school, she served as the captain of the lowest junior varsity gymnastic team, which was surely a humbling experience. She is grateful for all the years of being both the oldest and least skilled gymnast at practice after school, having an older sister, and watching *School of Rock* endlessly as a pre-teen, for making her who she is today. She plans to continue working as a actor and director locally throughout the next year.

Nina Rolle (she/her) is a Boulder-based Creativity Mogul: storyteller, writer, singer, former accordionist, and recovering clown, who makes her living as a Voice Actor for a ubiquitous corporate overlord which shall remain nameless. Nina performed her original show, *Zen Cabaret: a contemplative burlesque* from 2002-2007 and was co-producer and co-host of Truth Be Told story slam from 2013-2019. In 2021, Nina launched the Giving Voice project, an audiobook collaboration with women authors whose stories she feels moved to give voice to. She donates her audiobook earnings to organizations that serve the populations featured in each book. Nina is also hard at work on her own memoir, so if you have any amends to make, now would be a good time. ninarolle.com

Laura Ann Samuelson (they/them) is an interdisciplinary choreographer working across dance, sculpture and writing. They are currently an artist in residence at RedLine Contemporary Art Center in Denver, and hold an MFA in Dance from CU Boulder. Their newest project, *Telegraph Valley*, set to premiere in November 2023 at RedLine, is supported through the National Performance Network's Creation Fund. They spent their pre-teen and teen years training at Grace Studios School of Dance, where they were lovingly nicknamed "Noodle" because of their inability to control loose shoulder joints and flailing arms. lauraannsamuelson.com

Bailey Trierweiler (he/they) is a New York-based sound designer, editor, engineer and mixer for live theater performance, dance, film, podcast and audio drama. Select design credits include *Dance Nation* (square product theatre), *Fires in the Mirror* (Baltimore Center Stage and Long Wharf Theatre), *already there* (The REACH at the Kennedy Center), *She Kills Monsters*, *Measure for Measure*, *How Black Girls Get Over Fuckbois Vol. 1* (Yale School of Drama), *The Conduct of Life* (Verano Cabaret), *COCK*, *Rubberneck*, *Expats Anonymous* (Yale Cabaret), *Tiny Shakes: Romeo & Juliet* (Two River Theater), *Auntie Vanya* (Ars Nova ANT Fest), among others. Bailey holds a BFA in Theater, Design and Technology from the University of Colorado Boulder, an MFA from the Yale School of Drama, and is an Artistic Associate with square product theatre. btsounddesign.com

Jay Tyson (they/them) is a multidisciplinary storyteller from Washington State, and is excited to be working with square product theatre for the first time. They hold a BA in Theatre and Film & Media Studies from Whitman College, where they worked on over 16 theatre productions. Jay won several awards at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, including the Regional and National Award for Excellence in Scenic Design for Whitman College's production of *Ripe Frenzy*. In 2020 they were selected to be the Francis Starr Todd Design Fellow with the Seven Devil's Playwrights Conference and to participate in the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas' 8-week virtual program. Jay has spent many years obsessing over filmmaking - most recently producing several short narrative films as well as a documentary shown at Whitman's annual film festival. They will begin their MFA in production design for theatre, television, and film at UCLA this fall.

Edith Weiss (she/her) has been involved in the theater for 50 years - acting, writing, directing. She's even done stand up comedy and toured the country with it, as well as entertaining NATO and USA troops in Bosnia, Hungary, Japan, and Korea. She doesn't sing, though. And she doesn't dance. Yet here she is. Kinda dancing to the very best of her limited ability. You are also here, we are all grateful. edithweiss.com

Director's Note

Thank you for joining us for *Dance Nation*. We're so glad you are here. We've been trying to bring you this play for four years - since before our dads died and since before social distancing and double vaccine boosters and the latest variants were all we talked about. Most plays probably wouldn't have held our attention for so long, but this play seemed to have a future that haunted us. Maybe because it's a play about persistence and friendship. Or maybe it's because these last four years have been a time of great transition for all of us, and this play dances in that space of transition, when the world is confusing and we are unsure of who we want to become. Or maybe we stuck with it because it's so rare to find a play that is about girls and women that doesn't center narratives of trauma, but instead is vibrant and visceral; a play that contradicts the shame and humiliation of being socialized as a girl without being precious; a play that seeps into the selves we carry with us and reclaims those selves with feral-ness and laughter. Or maybe it was simply because we had the rights to the regional premiere, and we're ambitious bitches and we thought, "We're comin' for you Boulder, CO!"

At one point during this rehearsal process, I had a dream that there should be no more declarative theatre - you know, the kind of theatre that pretends to have all the answers. From now on - in the dream, at least - I vowed to only do theatre that lived in the non-binary, the nuanced, the both/and. It felt revelatory and profound. I was sure I was on to something. Of course, a few nights later I had a dream that Drake sat me on his lap and was totally hot for me, so...

The point is that this play doesn't claim to have an answer. It's not math. Instead, it lives and moves in that liminal space, where nothing is just one way and everything still seems possible. Even Drake.

More than anything, we hope you enjoy the play as much as we do - the charm, the chaos, and the candy-coated possibilities. We hope you remember yourself; remember the 'you' you once were and the 'you' you dreamed yourself to be. That you remember the 'you' who believed you were destined for greatness, the you who thought, surely "It's written in the stars." This play is for you.

- Gleason Bauer

We dedicate this production to the memories of our dead dads:
men who helped make us stronger people, whether they intended to or not.

Rick Samuelson, 1954-2018

Randy Bauer, 1949-2018

Dr. Richard W. Harrison, 1947-2019

2020-22 Donors

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This production includes a brief strobe effect and may be disruptive to people who are sensitive to light.

CONTENT ADVISORY: Dance Nation contains gore, coarse language, depictions of self-harm, simulated masturbation and descriptions of masturbation, and frank discussions of sex/sexual violence. May not be suitable for patrons under the age of 15.