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**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY-AKRON ANNOUNCES EVENT WITH
MONICA BILL BARNES - DANCING CONVERSATION: CHANGING THE RULES**



Image: Monica Bill Barnes and Robbie Saenz de Viteri (David Wilson).

AKRON, Ohio (September 9, 2021)—**The National Center for Choreography at The University of Akron (NCCAakron)** announces its **Dancing Conversation: Changing the Rules** event with choreographer **Monica Bill Barnes** (New York, NY) and creative producing director / performer **Robbie Saenz de Viteri** (Brooklyn, NY) on Thursday, September 16, at 7 pm ET. This free, virtual public event invites Barnes and Saenz de Viteri of **Monica Bill Barnes & Company** to share video excerpts and discuss their collaborative work together. Beyond choreographing dance, the conversation will unpack how bringing dance into spaces where it does not belong influences the movement and becomes creative nonfiction performance.

Dancing Conversation: Changing the Rules

Thursday, September 16, at 7 pm ET

Online event: NCCAkron's YouTube Channel

RSVP: <https://www.nccakron.org/event-details/dancing-conversation-changing-the-rules>

The Dancing Conversation event precludes DanceCleveland and The University of Akron Dance Program's co-presentation of *The Running Show* on Saturday, September 25 at 7:30 pm ET at E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall. Choreographed by Barnes and written by Saenz de Viteri, *The Running Show* documents the life of a dancer through movement, interviews and stories. Combining humor, voiceovers of aspiring young dancers and modern movement, the performance features Monica Bill Barnes on stage alongside dancers ranging in age from 12 to 84, including The University of Akron's Dance Department dancers. Buy tickets online: <https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/05005B1094CD166D>.

Dancing Conversations are free public events that locate dance among broader topics and offer an opportunity to demonstrate the aesthetic range within the dance field. All our 2021 Dancing Conversations — on dance & music, women & witchcraft, Black male choreographers, and queer movements — are available [on our YouTube channel](#).

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About NCCAkron

The National Center for Choreography at The University of Akron supports the research and development of new work in dance by exploring the full potential of the creative process. In addition to offering studio and technical residencies to make new work, activities focus on catalyzing dialogue and experimentation; creating proximity among artists and dance thinkers; and aggregating resources around dance making. For more information, visit nccakron.org.

The establishment and general operation of NCCAkron is made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Public programs and events like these are made possible with additional support by the Ohio Arts Council, the GAR Foundation, and the Akron Community Foundation.

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Biographies

Monica Bill Barnes (New York, NY)

Monica Bill Barnes is a choreographer, performer, and the Artistic Director of Monica Bill Barnes & Company. Barnes founded MBB&CO in 1997 with a collection of solos that could be performed anywhere. In 2013, MBB&CO gave itself the challenge to “bring dance where it

doesn't belong” and has been striving to follow this self-imposed motto ever since. The company has performed in venues ranging from Upright Citizen's Brigade to The Sydney Opera House, and has been presented in more than 100 cities throughout the US and internationally. Barnes has worked in film, theater, and set over 30 different works on college students all over the country.

Robbie Saenz de Viteri (New York, NY)

Robbie Saenz de Viteri began working in theater as an audio script assistant to Anna Deveare Smith. He has created performances and toured productions throughout the world with the Obie Award winning Nature Theater of Oklahoma. He has created and performed in Happy Hour, The Museum Workout, One Night Only, Days Go By, Keep Moving, and It's 3:07 Again with Monica Bill Barnes & Company. Together, Monica and Robbie's work have been honored by The Bessies (Days Go By, Outstanding Production) and the Lilly Awards, celebrating women in theater.

Christy Bolingbroke (Akron, OH)

As the Founding Executive/Artistic Director for NCCAkron, Christy Bolingbroke is responsible for setting the business model and curatorial vision for all programs. She works closely with every artist to support their artistic/administrative growth and to develop educational outreach opportunities for the local community to interact with the visiting artists. Previously, Bolingbroke served as Deputy Director for Advancement at ODC in San Francisco, overseeing curation and performance programming as well as marketing and development organization-wide. Prior to ODC, she was Director of Marketing at the Mark Morris Dance Group. She is currently a consulting advisor for the Bloomberg Philanthropies Arts Innovation Management initiative, on the New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project Advisory Panel, and a member of the Akron Civic Commons core team. In 2017, *Dance Magazine* named Bolingbroke among the national list of most influential people in dance today.