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**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY-AKRON AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF DANCE, THEATRE, AND ARTS
ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCE
2023-24 COMMUNITY COMMISSIONING RESIDENCY ARTISTS**



L to R: Lindsey Jones, Christine Flores, and Mykel Marai Nairne of Dance Heginbotham in *Dance Sonata* at Jacob's Pillow (photo Danica Paulos); BRKFST Dance Company (photo Adam Adolphus)

AKRON, OH (October 10, 2023) — **The National Center for Choreography - Akron** (NCCAkron) and **The University of Akron School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration** (DTAA) are proud to announce the 2023-24 Community Commissioning Residencies, as a part of the Ideas in Motion program. **Dance Heginbotham** (New York, NY) is in residence October 9-21, 2023 and **BRKFST Dance Company** (Saint Paul, MN) will come to Akron in February 2024.

As part of the co-funded Ideas in Motion initiative, Dance Heginbotham and BRKFST Dance Company were selected for the opportunities they can share with The University of Akron arts community. During their time on campus, the artists of Dance Heginbotham will stage an excerpt of a recent work, *Dance Sonata*, on two casts of UA dance students. *Dance Sonata* will be performed as part of DTAA's Spring 2024 dance concert. Dance Heginbotham will also expand its ongoing *24 Caprices* film project. Using Niccolò Paganini's "24 Caprices for Solo Violin" as a launching point, DH joined forces with violinist Colin Jacobsen to create a series of delightful, dark, and melancholic short dance films. During the residency, they will create and film Caprice #10, highlighting the unique attributes of the Akron area.

Paige Barnett, Dance Heginbotham performer and répétiteur of *Dance Sonata*, will teach a modern/contemporary dance class open to professional and pre-professional dancers on

Saturday, October 14, from 10-11:50 am. Registration is available here: nccakron.org/event-details/community-class-with-paige-barnett-kulbeth

“I am eager to return to NCCAkrón, which has been a vital incubator of my creative endeavors for many years,” commented **John Heginbotham, founder and Artistic Director of Dance Heginbotham**. “It’s a gift to return to a familiar space to create — it invokes a feeling where you can jump right in where you left off, building upon our previously shared collaborations.”

After participating as part of 21st Century Dance Practices (another part of the Ideas in Motion initiative) in early 2023, BRKFST Dance Company was invited to return this year. BRKFST will create an evening-length production consisting of two parts: a remounting or reimagining of *Dancers, Dreamers, and Presidents* by composer Daniel Bernard Roumain for the proscenium stage and a new work titled *From the Bridge*, with an original score by BRKFST member Renée Copeland (Pittsburgh, PA), exploring the process of transitional periods in life. While in residence, BRKFST will once again host and facilitate a jam/improv session among UA School of Dance, Theatre & Arts Administration and School of Music students.

Both dance companies have existing relationships with **NCCAkrón**, an independent non-profit organization with offices based at the University of Akron.

NCCAkrón Executive/Artistic Director Christy Bolingbroke remarks, “NCCAkrón aims to be a good dance neighbor. Operating as a discrete non-profit in donated space from the University, we can move faster and in a more adaptive way than large institutions as a whole. By working to augment the UA dance program during its time of rebuilding since the COVID pandemic, we are thrilled to continue offering wonderful interactions like these between local students and professional dance artists while simultaneously supporting the production of new work out in the national field.”

“The University of Akron is so fortunate to have a collaborator and partner in the National Center for Choreography-Akron,” commented **Ann Usher, Senior Associate Dean, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences and NCCAkrón Board Member**. “They are a national hub for innovation, research, and development within the dance and arts administration fields. Through programs like Community Commissioning Residencies, UA students have the chance to engage with and learn from esteemed artists who are creating work in today’s field and climate. This kind of real-world experience is invaluable for our students and their futures.”

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About NCCAkrón

The National Center for Choreography-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.

A discrete organization of its own, separate from the University, the establishment and general operation of NCCAkrón are made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

About Ideas in Motion

Ideas in Motion is a joint initiative supported by NCCAkrón, The University of Akron, The University of Akron Foundation, and the Mary Schiller Myers Lecture Series in the Arts. The annual fall phase of Ideas in Motion is the Community Commissioning Residency, where a nominated and selected artist engages and works across the community. The spring phase of Ideas in Motion is a capsule series called “21st Century Dance Practices”, where working dance artists are invited to guest teach classes in a dance course at The University of Akron.

About Artists

Dance Heginbotham (New York, NY) is a contemporary dance company committed to supporting, producing, and sustaining the work of choreographer John Heginbotham. DH enriches national and international communities with its unique blend of inventive, thoughtful, and rigorous dance theater works, and is celebrated for its vibrant athleticism, humor, and theatricality as well as its commitment to collaboration — sharing the stage with music icons including Alarm Will Sound, Brooklyn Rider, Gabriel Kahane, and others.

DH had its world premiere in January 2012 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and has since been presented by Baryshnikov Arts Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Vail International Dance Festival, among others. In spring 2020, As New York City went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, John and Dance Heginbotham shifted focus from preparing in-person performances to the creation of dance and theater works specifically for video. Most recently, John's choreography was featured in the acclaimed revival of Oklahoma! on Broadway and the West End. danceheginbotham.org

BRKFST Dance Company (Saint Paul, MN), founded in 2014, is a collaborative ensemble of breaking choreographers based in Saint Paul, MN. BRKFST incorporates abstract, narrative, and pedestrian driven movement into their impressive and physically rigorous work by combining breaking with contemporary dance vernacular.

BRKFST performs regionally, premiering work at the Walker Arts Center, Southern Theater, The Cowles Center and Orchestra Hall with The Minnesota Orchestra, nationally in Belding Theater at The Bushnell with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and internationally to Dublin, Ireland in connection with Dance2Connect Hip Hop Festival. Their film “Dreamers” (2019) was deemed an official selection in 11 international film festivals receiving “Grand Jury Award” (In/Motion Festival 2021) and “Best Experimental Film” (Tirana International Film Festival 2020). BRKFST has set repertoire and original work on dancers at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities 2021, Carleton College 2022, Dance2Connect Hip Hop Festival 2022, and Bates Dance Festival 2022.

BRKFST Dance Company awards include: 2022 New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) National Dance Project (NDP) Production Grant, 2022 & 2021 Minnesota State Arts Board

(MSAB) Creative Support Grant, 2021 NEFA NDP Finalist, 2021 Mid Atlantic Arts USArtists International Grant, 2019 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Arts Activities Grant.
brkfstdance.com

About The University of Akron School of Dance, Theatre & Arts Administration

The University of Akron School of Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration (DTAA) prepares students for successful performing, academic, and administrative careers in the arts. Its diverse student body works with distinguished, award-winning faculty in classes that offer technical training, theoretical study, practical experience, and creative skill-building. The Dance Program offers both a B.F.A. and B.A. with Business Cognate. The school's M.A. in Arts Administration provides students the education necessary to work in all disciplines of the non-profit arts. DTAA is headed by Marc Reed, D.M.A., who also directs the School of Music. For more information, visit uakron.edu/dtaa.

About the Mary Schiller Myers Lecture Series in the Arts

Ideas in Motion is made possible by the support of The University of Akron Foundation's Mary Schiller Myers Lecture Series in the Arts. NCCAkron is grateful to Stephen E. Myers, trustee of the University of Akron Foundation and the Myers Foundation and son of Mary Schiller Myers, for his support. Established in 1979 under the sponsorship of the Mary and Louis S. Myers Foundation, this endowed lecture series brings significant representatives of the arts to campus and community annually, to share their particular talents with students, faculty, and residents of the community. These events can include performances, lectures, and masterclasses.