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BIG BEATS

AUGUST 25-26, 2023

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COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

BIG BEATS: UTAH

Choreographed by Joanna Kotze

Original music composed
and performed live by Ryan Seaton

August 25 | 6PM & 7PM
Downtown SLC Library Square

August 26 | 6PM & 7PM
U of U Marriott Library Plaza

BIG BEATS: UTAH

Choreographed by **Joanna Kotze**

Original music composed and performed live by **Ryan Seaton**

Performed by **Constance Anderson, Virginia Broyles, Juan Carlos Claudio, Haley De Camara, Natalie Desch, Katrina Dringman, Devin Etcitty, Brian Gerke, Makiya Green, Pamela Geber Handman, Lily Bella Hammons, Molly Heller, Irishia Hubbard, Emily Marsh, Tara McArthur, Christine McMillan, Kimberly Fulmer Mullins, Abby Pace, Sara Pickett, Kellie St. Pierre, Autumn Ryskoski, Sam Stone, Alexis Valbuena, Bashaun Williams**

Understudy: **Olivia Schmaltz**

Rehearsal assistant & University of Utah faculty liaison: **Molly Heller**

Production assistant: **Roxanne Gray**

Marketing support: **Laura Nicoll**

BIG BEATS is a 15-minute, free, outdoor dance performance. Danced to a driving sonic rhythm, **BIG BEATS** is the force of a group of performers doing complex, synchronized movement in a public space. This complicated, rigorous dance can be viewed from anywhere. It is an invitation to stop and watch a group of people working together, dancing together, being together. It is also a chance to let the beat get into your own body, joining us.

BIG BEATS premiered in September 2021 on Pier I in New York City. Since then, it has been set on students at The Ailey School, University of the Arts, and Bates Dance Festival, and on professional dancers in North Carolina for performances presented by the American Dance Festival. As of now, 91 people know **BIG BEATS!**

Support for **BIG BEATS: Utah** is provided by UtahPresents in partnership with the University of Utah School of Dance.

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INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Utah has both historical and contemporary relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Given that the Salt Lake Valley has always been a gathering place for Indigenous Peoples, we acknowledge that this land, which is named for the Ute Tribe, is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Shoshone, Paiute, Goshute, and Ute Tribes and is a crossroad for Indigenous Peoples.

The University of Utah recognizes the enduring relationships between many Indigenous Peoples and their traditional homelands. We are grateful for the territory upon which we gather today; we respect Utah's Indigenous Peoples, the original stewards of this land; and we value the sovereign relationships that exist between tribal governments, state governments, and the federal government.

Today, approximately 60,000 American Indian and Alaska Native peoples live in Utah. As a state institution, the University of Utah is committed to serving Native communities throughout Utah in partnership with Native Nations and our Urban Indian communities through research, education, and community outreach activities.

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JOANNA KOTZE is a Brooklyn-based choreographer, dancer and educator who has been part of the New York dance community since 1998. She creates highly physical dance performances through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary process, presenting ways to look at effort, labor, humor, violence, unpredictability, and beauty through movement as well as the body's relationship to sound, light, physical materials and space.

Joanna received the 2013 New York Dance and Performance Bessie Award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and her 2018 evening-length work, *What will we be like when we get there*, was nominated for a Bessie Award for Outstanding Music Composition and Sound Design by collaborator Ryan Seaton. Her work has been supported by the Nathan M. Clark Foundation, City Artist Corps, New Music USA, the Jerome Foundation, Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Harkness Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts BUILD, Brooklyn Arts Council, Yellowhouse, and the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. Her choreography has been presented at Wanås Konst Sculpture Park in Sweden, The Irondale Center, The Yard, Bates Dance Festival, Stonington Opera House, New York Live Arts, The Wexner Center, Velocity Dance Center, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Danspace Project, American Dance Institute, Bard College, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Dance New Amsterdam, Roulette, Dixon Place, 92nd Street Y, WAXworks, Movement Research at the Judson Church, and other venues and galleries.

Joanna has had residency support from the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC), the Alan M. Kriegsmann Creative Residency, Dance Program Malmö, Exploring the Metropolis, Loghaven, The Bogliasco Foundation, The Yard, New York Live Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), Movement Research, The 92nd Street Y, Milvus Artistic Research Center, Jacob's Pillow, Bennington College, Sedona Arts Center, Marble House Project, The Camargo Foundation, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and Djerassi. She has had commissions to create new works on Gibney Dance Company, Toronto Dance Theatre, Ririe-Woodbury, Zenon

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Dance, and the James Sewell Ballet and has created original works on students at The Ailey School, University of the Arts, Barnard, The New School, Purchase, Long Island University, Ohio University, Southern Utah University and Miami University.

Joanna currently dances for Kimberly Bartosik/daela (2009-present), Stacy Spence, Donna Uchizono, Annie-B Parson, and Tendayi Kuumba, and has worked with Wally Cardona (2000-2010 & 2018), Kota Yamazaki, Netta Yerushalmy, Sam Kim, Sarah Skaggs, Christopher Williams, the Metropolitan Opera ballet, Daniel Charon, Nina Winthrop and others. She is on teaching faculty at Movement Research and has taught at Amherst College, Melbourne University, Toronto Dance Theatre, The Ailey School, Gibney Dance, Sarah Lawrence College, University of the Arts, Barnard College, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, The New School, LIU, Southern Utah University, Ohio University, Miami University, Salt Dance Fest, Bates Dance

Festival and the American Dance Festival. She is originally from South Africa and has a BA in Architecture from Miami University. JoannaKotze.com

RYAN SEATON is a Bessie nominated, New York-based composer and multi-instrumentalist. Seaton has created compositions for many acclaimed recording and performing artists, including Joanna Kotze, Lingua Ignota, Jean Butler, Grey Reverend, Zsuzsa Rozsavolgyi, Lance Gries, Liz Gerring, Dark Sky, Ictus, Beth Gill, Vision Control, Rachel Comey and Mara Hoffman. His work has been featured at BAM, New York Live Arts, Dublin Theater Festival, Baryshnikov Arts Center, the Kitchen and Danspace among many other venues. Seaton also composes for film, podcasts and TV. He recently composed the score for David Peter Hansen's award-winning film *Militiaman*. ryancseaton.com

CONSTANCE ANDERSON is a choreographer and artist, currently based in Salt Lake City, as she earns her Masters in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. Her company Sock Opera Dance, was started in 2019 as a site-specific performance group, radicalizing unconventional spaces and acknowledging architecture as a key point in the professionalization of art. Anderson is also trained in theatrical intimacy staging, setting pedestrian and choreographic work for plays and dramas. She danced as a performer for Li Chiao Ping Dance for five seasons and currently participates in free lance work in film and dance performance. constanceandersondance.com @sockoperadance

VIRGINIA BROYLES is a maker, performer, and teacher. Her performance work has been presented nationally and her film work has screened internationally. She has performed for Kathleen Hermesdorf/ALTERNATIVA, Scott Wells & Dancers, Simpson|Stulberg Collaborations, Lauren Simpson Dance, and was a member of vïv dance company and BANDALOO. Virginia holds an MFA from the University of Utah and works as a film editor and director at TWIG Media Lab in SLC. @thirdeyeinvirginia

JUAN CARLOS CLAUDIO is a movement practitioner, educator, and entrepreneur with an MFA, soon MHA, and Ph.D. in Leadership. He teaches at Weber State University. Juan co-founded Minding Motion for Graceful Aging™ and Grey Matters Dance for Parkinson's Utah revolutionising the dance landscape in Utah through dance in health and ageing therapeutic practices. He danced for Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, SB Dance, and Séan Curran Company.

HALEY DE CAMARA is a dancer and student currently pursuing a BFA in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. Originally from Los Angeles, she is interested in exploring many styles and facets of dance. She is very excited for the opportunity to be in this performance! @haleydecamara

NATALIE DESCH, an Assistant Professor at the University of Utah, is an alumna of Juilliard, the Limón Dance Company, Doug Varone and Dancers, and the University of Washington. Additionally, she's grateful for her many collaborative experiences with wonderful artists around the country and the world. She's thrilled to reconnect with Joanna for BIG BEATS SLC.

KATRINA DRINGMAN is a dancer and artist studying at the University of Utah to achieve a BFA in Modern dance and BA in Political Science. She was born and raised in Montana, and finds inspiration in the many movement practices of her upbringing in the outdoors. @katdringman

DEVIN ETCITY (he/she) is an artist from Shiprock, New Mexico. He began his modern dance and ballet training at Barnard College in New York City. She received her Applied Mathematics undergraduate degree from Columbia University, but loves the arts more. She creates short films, poems, and screenplays. Inspired by his Navajo heritage, he investigates gender, relationships, and belonging in his collaborations. <https://writadatadance.com/@dncedev>

BRIAN GERKE is from Montana but spent the majority of his adult life in Iceland, where he co-directed his company (Steinunn and Brian), performed with IDC, and taught at the National Ballet Academy. Brian is driven by a desire to live, work, communicate, and educate, remaining mindful of and supported by his core values...Compassion & Integrity.

MAKIYA GREEN (she/her) is from Cheyenne, Wyoming and currently attends the University of Utah where she is pursuing a double-major in Modern Dance and Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. She has trained and performed under choreographers such as Moscow Ballet, Cleo Parker Robinson, Chung Fu Chang, Lawrence Jackson, and various Limón Company Dancers.

PAMELA GEBER HANDMAN is a Professor in the School of Dance at University of Utah. Passions: experiential anatomy, somatics, yoga, contemporary techniques, disabilities/special education and progressive pedagogies. She helped co-found the Dance Science and Somatics Educators and has led several community-based projects for individuals with disabilities. One example is Jump Start: <https://dance.utah.edu/events/past-events/special-education-dance>

LILY BELLA HAMMONS is a dancer and student at the University of Utah. Here she is getting a BFA creating and exploring movement through the Modern Dance program while also pursuing a BS in Business Marketing. Besides moving and grooving, Lily loves exploring the outdoors and going on spontaneous adventures.
@lilybellah

MOLLY HELLER is an Assistant Professor in the School of Dance at the University of Utah. She is also the director of the Heartland Collective, a multi-disciplinary collective based in Salt Lake City. Molly's choreographic work has been presented nationally and internationally and she currently dances for Joanna Kotze.
mollyheller.com @icantfindmollyheller

IRISHIA HUBBARD is a choreographer, filmmaker and educator from South Carolina. She is the inaugural recipient of the Donald McKayle Legacy scholarship and is a 2022 Jacob's Pillow Hicks Choreographer Fellow. She is currently an MFA candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Modern Dance program at the University of Utah. Her other roles include professional stager for the Donald McKayle Legacy, DCW board member and artistic director of The Hubbard Collective. @irishiahubbard | irishiahubbard.com

EMILY MARSH is a dancer and choreographer pursuing a BFA in Modern Dance and a BS in Strategic Communications at the University of Utah. She currently works as an Assistant for Adrenaline and Revive Dance Conventions. In movement, Emily values intricacy, musicality, and authenticity. She's excited to perform in BIG BEATS! @memzily5

TARA MCARTHUR is originally from Nevada City, CA. She is pursuing a Master's in Social Work at the University of Utah and holds a BFA in Dance from California State University Long Beach. She has danced with Keith Johnson, Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, Katie Faulkner, Hope Mohr, Gerald Casel, Risa Jaroslow, and Charlotte Boye-Christensen.

CHRISTINE MCMILLAN is an Associate Professor Lecturer at the University of Utah. She performed with the Metropolitan Opera for 19 years, Richmond Ballet, and with several ballet and contemporary dance companies in NYC. Christine teaches dance, yoga, and experiential anatomy and is happy to cross paths again with Joanna Kotze.

KIMBERLY FULMER MULLINS is a dance artist, performer and educator currently earning an MFA in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. She is also a dance artist of the Trisha Brown Dance Company. Since joining the company, she has had the joy and honor of performing a wide range of repertory spanning Trisha Brown's 40-year choreographic history nationally and internationally.

@kimberlyymullins

ABBY PACE is an artist and student, currently finishing her second undergraduate degree in Philosophy at the University of Utah. She recently completed an Honors BFA in Modern Dance. Abby makes work across artistic disciplines and looks for magic everywhere.

SARA PICKETT is a dance artist in Salt Lake City currently an Associate Professor Lecturer for the University of Utah School of Dance. She was a core member of Millennium, out of Denver, CO with Kenny Jimenez. Sara recently co-created and produced BRINE, a dance collective in Salt Lake City.

KELLIE ST. PIERRE is an educator, performing and creative artist, and wellness instructor with an MFA from the University of Utah in Dance & Screendance. She is a multidisciplinary artist

creating film and choreographic works that have been received nationally. She has danced for Donald McKayle and five seasons with DIAVOLO | Architecture in Motion. @klstpierre, kellistpierre.com

AUTUMN RYSKOSKI is a rising sophomore at the University of Utah where she is working to earn her BFA in Ballet. In addition to performing and studying, she teaches ballet to students of all ages. When she has free time, she enjoys spending it with her family, reading, and playing video games. @tutu_autumn

SAM STONE is a dance performance artist, teacher, community organizer and creator currently obtaining an MFA in Modern Dance at the University of Utah. She is a certified Axis Syllabus teacher of anatomy and biomechanics, with over ten years of creating and performing in the SF/Bay Area. samstonedance.com

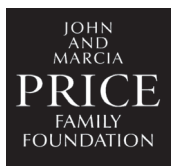
ALEXIS VALBUENA is a dancer, teacher, and choreographer originally from Orange County, California. She is a rising junior at the University of Utah studying Dance and Environmental Studies. Additionally, Alexis will be joining Wasatch Contemporary Dance Company for their fourteenth season. She is very excited to be performing in BIG BEATS! @alexisvalbuena

BASHAUN WILLIAMS hails from Texas & is a freelance dance artist, educator & choreographer based in Salt Lake City. He is an alumni of the University of Utah & Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. Currently, Bashaun is a member with SB Dance in Salt Lake, Adjunct Faculty at Utah Valley University in their department of Modern Dance and a faculty member with the Ballet West Academy. @Bwill4realz

ROXANNE GRAY (she/her) is a Latina choreographer, filmmaker, curator, and educator. She is a current MFA candidate in the Modern Dance Program at the University of Utah. Gray is also the Founder and Director of 801 Salon, a local nonprofit organization that hosts multidisciplinary pop-up arts events in SLC. @roxannegray.co



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