



MeenMoves

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OF DANCE

PROGRAM

MEENMOVES &  
GUESTS

MARCH 8, 2025 | 2:00 PM

RIVERVIEW-FISK PARK



**MeenMoves**

# PROGRAM

## *IWD<sub>oD</sub>'25*

by MeenMoves & Guests

Directed & Conceptualized by Sameena Mitta  
Performances by MeenMoves, Maithili Patel, Amber Sloan,  
Paige Barnett Kulbeth, and Gracie Duggan/Angelina Kwan

### FULL CAST & CREW

Sarah Timberlake - Stage Manager  
Mark Trumbo - Technical Director  
Sonam Dekar-Ahhi - Photographer  
Megan McNally - Videographer  
Aspen Aragon - Livestreamer  
Keara Gonzalez - Host  
Sameena Mitta - Director/Choreographer  
Maithili Patel - Choreographer/Performer  
Amber Sloan - Choreographer/Performer  
Paige Barnett Kulbeth - Choreographer/Performer  
Gracie Duggan & Angelina Kwan - MeenMoves Mentees  
Karma Chuki - Performer  
Réka Echerer - Performer  
Makenna Zelenak - Performer



## ***TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE***

Choreographed & Performed by Amber Sloan

Music: #17 by Aphex Twin, from the album Selected Ambient Works Volume II, composed by Richard D. James, released by Warp Records"

*Amber Sloan's solo "Tell Me What You See" is influenced by Quantum Mechanics' "observer effect" that states that the process of observing a particle changes the way the particle behaves. The work questions how watching or being watched alters both the dancer and audience's experience. She references a 2D graph of an observed massive particle traveling from Point A to Point B through space and time as a spatial pattern to guide her trajectory within a 3D landscape.*

## ***PROTEIA***

Choreographed by Paige Barnett Kulbeth

Performed by Makenna Zelenak

Music: *Violin Sonata No. 2: IV. Allegro risoluto* by Erwin Schulhoff, performed by Adam Millstein (violin) and Dominic Cheli (piano), from the album "Shapeshifter: Music of Erwin Schulhoff"

*"Proteia" is a solo work inspired by Paige's reimagined creation story of quantum mechanics. In her unique take on the Greek myth of Proteus, she introduces Proteus's fictional twin sister, Proteia, who surpasses all in the magical arts of shape-shifting and fortune-telling. Consumed by jealousy, Proteus inadvertently shrinks Proteia down to the size of an atom. Trapped in this microscopic universe, Proteia's existence gives rise to the very principles of quantum mechanics.*



## **TO BE ALIVE**

Choreographed and Performed by Angelina Kwan

Music Written and Performed by Gracie Duggan

*“The song I wrote, ‘To be alive’, is about the longing of feeling something and the longing of living your life to the fullest. Sometimes it feels like we are all just a speck in this universe and on this earth we call home. But that does not mean that we shouldn’t care and not even try to give meaning to our lives, It means we shouldn’t care and let each other live our lives in peace without judgement. It does not mean we should not make something out of this life, we should live it to the fullest. There is so much beauty in being unapologetically you. There is also peace in knowing that you have the support of those around you, and it is that happy place in the middle where we feel the most alive. Sometimes we won’t know what life will throw at us, and the movement in this piece celebrates friendship, laughter, and joy as we collaborate to create art.”*

## **QUANTUM DANCES**

Choreographed and Performed by Maithili Patel

Music: *Shanti Mantra* composed & performed by Basavaraj

Sivaramakrishna Rao, *Bol Scat* performed & composed by Bikram Ghosh

*“Kathak is an ancient Indian storytelling dance form that allows me to reach diverse audiences. It also enables me to form connections between tradition and modernity. I created ‘Quantum Dances’ as an extension of the questions; Is the Ancient Indian understanding of the Universe similar to some of the current scientific ideologies? What are the rules that govern the world around us? The dance between order and disorder, or the rhythmicity in the numerical patterns, are as intangible as dance itself. Yet, somehow, we can imagine them. In this piece, the scientist’s and artist’s curiosity collide, exploring the wonders of the universe.”*



## ***SPIN SISTERS***

Choreographed by Sameena Mitta

Performed by MeenMoves: Réka Echerer, Karma Chuki, and Paige Barnett Kulbeth

Music: *Swan Lake, Act 1, Scene 2* by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, performed by the Kirov Orchestra.

*"Spin Sisters" blends the classical grace of ballet with the mind-bending principles of quantum entanglement. Three dancers, encased in voluminous hoop skirts weave intricate patterns, their movements mirroring each other despite vast distances on stage. This quirky yet technically demanding piece uses Tchaikovsky's timeless score to explore the whimsical paradox of interconnectedness at a subatomic level.*



## BIOS



### **SAMEENA MITTA (Artistic Director/Choreographer)**

Sameena is artistic director of dance-theater company MeenMoves and its outreach program MadHops. Mitta was a 2022/23 Artist in Residence at 92NY Harkness Dance Center, a NJPAC Choreography Fellow 2019-2022, and received a 2023 Choreographic Fellowship award from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. She has presented works at Little Island, 92NY, NJPAC, BAM Fisher, Americas Society, Ailey Studio Theatre, Martha Graham Theatre, Judson Church and many other venues around NYC and around the world. Mitta has produced live events including International Women's Day of Dance and co-produced international digital events with 1014 Space For Ideas. Mitta recently completed an intergenerational dance film *Bilateral Quadrennium* and continues work on a 10-year site-specific dance film project *Struwwelpeter*. Mitta earned with distinction the Cecchetti Society's Diploma and a MA in Dance Creation from Université du Québec à Montréal focusing on Movement Intervention for South Asian survivors of domestic violence. Under Mitta's artistic direction, MeenMoves explores questions of identity, focusing on the unique perspectives of those who check "none-of-the-above", to create socially relevant, quirky, highly-technical dance-theater works for stage and film. Mitta advocates for diversity in dance and has sat on multiple dance juries for granting agencies in Canada and the USA. Mitta is mentor to the Recanati-Kaplan scholars in dance, she is the Harkness Dance Center Artistic Advisor, and she is on faculty at the Limón Institute, 92NY, and Marymount College. Website: [meenmoves.com](http://meenmoves.com)



### **MAITHILI PATEL (Choreographer/Performer)**

Maithili is a Kathak artist and choreographer from New Jersey dedicated to telling stories that celebrate and challenge traditional narratives. Kathak, a storytelling artform, has enabled her to create meaningful experiences for diverse audiences. She continues to explore and expand her movement vocabulary to express contemporary themes, while always striving to honor her roots. Under the mentorship of Guru Dr. Pali Chandra, Maithili has been fortunate to share her work globally, performing at events such as The Dubai Kathak Festival, The London Parliament House of Lords, and The Modhera Dance Festival. An avid storyteller, her piece *Draupadi*, choreographed by Dr. Chandra, received acclaim at the New York Kathak Festival 2019, while her dance film *Rise*, addressing domestic abuse, resonated deeply at the Swiss International Kathak Festival 2020. Through her art, she remains committed to encourage dialogue, cultural understanding, and inspire others to think more deeply about the world around us.



## BIOS



### **AMBER SLOAN (Choreographer/Performer)**

Amber is a choreographer, performer, teacher, producer, and curator based in Jersey City. She was a 2023 New Jersey State Council on the Arts Choreography Fellow and her work has been presented throughout the US and in Mexico City. As a performer, Amber is a member of The Bang Group and has performed in works by James Waring, Doug Elkins, Keely Garfield, Sara Hook, and Stephan Koplowitz. She is on faculty at the Ailey School as the Professional Division program's dance composition teacher and serves on the advisory board of Art Omi: Dance. Amber co-directs Women in Motion NYC and is the Assistant Executive Director of Arts On Site. She holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she was honored with the Beverly Blossom/Carey Erickson Alumni Dance Award. Her upcoming show, *Beautiful Little Weirdos*, premieres at Kestrels in Brooklyn on March 28 and 29. [www.ambersloan.com](http://www.ambersloan.com)



### **PAIGE BARNETT KULBETH (Choreographer/Performer)**

Paige (she/her) is a Louisiana native with a never-been-used B.S. in Chemical Engineering from University of Louisiana at Lafayette (2017). After graduating, Paige began freelancing in both Louisiana and NYC by dancing in various companies, choreographing her own work, and working in arts administration/marketing for the companies she danced for. Notable venues performed at include Jacob's Pillow, La Jolla Music Society Festival, Scottsdale Arts, The Ringling Museum, Bryant Park, Little Island, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Park Avenue Armory, and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Paige has directed and choreographed various evening-length multimedia performances concerning the feminine psyche, and she continues her quest to rewrite women's tales told by both "classic" western literature and the Greek myths. Along with dancing for, Paige is also the Digital Marketing Associate for Dance Heginbotham and the Administrative Associate for MeenMoves. Her upcoming show, *Holy Animals*, makes its NYC premiere at The Tank on March 27. [www.paigebarnettkulbeth.com](http://www.paigebarnettkulbeth.com)



## BIOS



### **GRACIE DUGGAN (Songwriter/Performer)**

Gracie has been singing for as long as she can remember. Growing up around music and dance, she constantly was inspired to create her own art. At age 12, Gracie began writing her own music and has written multiple songs for her dance friends in the Recanati-Kaplan Scholarship Program.



### **ANGELINA KWAN (Choreographer/Performer)**

Angelina (she/her) is an NYC-based student and artist from Queens, studying dance at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School, where she also serves as the Founder and Editor of The Sinatra Arts Journal Newspaper. She has trained at The School of American Ballet, is a Recanati-Kaplan Excellence in the Arts Merit Dance Scholar, with MeenMoves, and has performed at notable events like The Bessie Awards 2023 and George Balanchine's Nutcracker at Lincoln Center.



### **KEARA GONZALEZ (Host)**

Keara Gonzalez is a dedicated performer and aspiring professional with a strong background in dance and human biology. She is currently pursuing a double major at Marymount Manhattan College. In addition to her dance experience, Keara works as a Physical Therapy Aide at Starpro Physical Therapy, where she assists in patient care and rehabilitation. Her diverse experience as a dance assistant, arts-based intern, and PT aide highlights her passion for movement, healing, and the intersection of medicine and the arts. With a strong work ethic, organizational skills, and the ability to engage diverse audiences, Keara is a dynamic and well-rounded individual.





## BIOS



### **KARMA CHUKI (Performer - *Spin Sisters*)**

Karma (she/her) is an independent artist thriving in the dance scenes of New York City and New Jersey. With a wealth of experience, she has performed as the main soloist with Navdhara India Dance Theater and collaborated with notable companies like Dance Entropy, SandSilk Dance, and assisted Brice Mousset in his classes and contributed in his creation process with the Ailey Certificate students. Currently, she dances with Rovaco Dance Company, MeenMoves Dance Company and The Moving Architects, also serving as a guest artist with HT Chen & Dancers. Training at The Danceworx Performing Arts Academy since 2012, Karma became a principal dancer with Navdhara India Dance Theatre, showcasing her talent internationally across continents. Karma is passionate about knowledge sharing, using dance to foster social connections and enhance cognitive well-being. She believes in the transformative power of dance, advocating for discipline and opportunity as essential for personal growth, making her a relatable figure for aspiring artists everywhere.



### **RÉKA ECHERER (Performer - *Spin Sisters*)**

Réka (she/her) hails from Vienna, Austria and has performed with the Vienna State Opera, Sue Bernhard Danceworks, Kizuna Dance and Cornfield Dance. She has performed works by Merce Cunningham, Christopher Wheeldon, Gabrielle Lamb and Azure Barton as well as currently dances with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Megan Williams Dance Projects and MeenMoves. She has presented work at Triskelion Arts, Hudson Rivers Museum and the 10th annual Reverb Dance Festival. Her theater credits include choreographing Julius Caesar at Catskill Mountain Shakespeare and the Visit (Musical) at Columbia University. She holds a BFA from SUNY Purchase and is a proud member of the Board of Governors at the American Guild of Musical Artists.



## BIOS



### **MAKENNA ZELENAK (Performer - *Proteia*)**

Makenna Zelenak (she/her) grew up in Northeast Ohio and recently moved to NYC. She graduated from The University of Akron with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Child/Family Development. Makenna grew up training at the Meneer School of Dance and performed in pre-professional productions with the Ballet Theatre of Ohio from age four up until high school graduation. In college, she was a part of the University of Akron Dance Company and directed shows for the Terpsichore Dance Club. Makenna currently works at the Joffrey Ballet School in ResLife, Admin, and also is a substitute teacher for the Children and Youth Program. She has a lifelong passion for dance and plans to continue performing throughout her career.

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