

waiting

Produced by Sidra Bell Dance New York

Composer & Concept by Immanuel Wilkins

Immanuel Wilkins Quartet

Immanuel Wilkins, Sax

Jeremy Corren, Piano

Daryl Johns, Bass

Kweku Sumbry, Drums

Dancers

Marisa Christogeorge

AJ Llibert

Kimie Parker

Sophia Halimah Parker

Uma Shannon

Costume Design & Construction by Caitlin Taylor

Sound Engineer: Joel Ross

Sound Mix & Engineering by Daryl Johns

Technical Director: Bill Schaffner

Cinematography:

Nan Melville Photography & Video

Breeanah Breedan of Proteomedia

Alice Chacon Photography

Jake Kruty of Retrograde Studios

Alex Diaz

Uma Shannon & Ayesha Bashir

Promotional Photography by Umi Akiyoshi Photography

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

SIDRA BELL DANCE NEW YORK is an internationally recognized boutique brand of prolific movement illustrators based in New York City that presents and fosters a canon of innovative and progressive dance theater in realms of ideas, environs and (im)possibilities. www.sidrabelldancenyc.org

IMMANUEL WILKINS QUARTET:

IMMANUEL WILKINS is a Saxophonist, Composer, Arranger, and Bandleader from the greater Philadelphia-area. While growing up, he honed his skills in the church and studied in programs dedicated to teaching jazz music like the Clef Club of Jazz and Performing Arts. Moving to New York in 2015, Immanuel proceeded to earn his bachelor's degree in Music at Juillard (studying with the saxophonists Bruce Williams and the late Joe Temperley) while simultaneously establishing himself as an in-demand sideman, touring in Japan, Europe, South America, The United Arab Emirates, and the United States and working and/or recording with artists like Jason Moran, the Count Basie Orchestra, Delfeayo Marsalis, Joel Ross, Aaron Parks, Gerald Clayton, Gretchen Parlato, Lalah Hathaway, Solange Knowles, Bob Dylan, and Wynton Marsalis to name just a few. It was also during this same period that he formed his quartet featuring his long-time bandmates: Micah Thomas (piano), Daryl Johns (bass) and Kweku Sumbry (drums). Being a bandleader and having a working group for over four years has allowed Immanuel to grow both as a composer and arranger — and has led to him receiving a number of commissions including, most recently, from The National Jazz Museum in Harlem, The Jazz Gallery Artist Residency Commission Program (A collaboration with Sidra Bell Dance NY, 2020) and The Kimmel Center Artist in Residence for 2020 (a collaboration with photographer Rog Walker and videographer David Dempewolf) Being emerged in the scene at a young age and sharing the stage with various jazz masters, has inspired Immanuel to pursue his goal of being a positive force in music and society. This includes quite an impressive resumé as an educator. In addition to teaching at NYU and the New School, he has taught and given master classes and clinics at schools/venues like Oberlin, Yale and the Kimmel Center. Ultimately, Immanuel's mission is to create a sound that has a profound spiritual and emotional impact which will allow him to become a great leader in the long lineage of jazz musicians. Through studying the human pathos of the music and the culture of jazz, Immanuel aspires to bring people

together through the commonality of love and belief in this music. His debut recording, *Omega* — produced by Jason Moran— was released on Blue Note Recordings on August 7, 2020 and named #1 for Best Jazz Albums in 2020 by the New York Times. www.immanuelwilkins.com

JEREMY CORREN is a pianist and composer from Los Angeles. He earned his bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 2017, where he studied composition with Zosha Di Castri. Jeremy has performed at some of the world's most renowned venues, with prior engagements at Dizzy's Club, the Blue Note, the Jazz Standard, Blues Alley, and many others. He has also appeared at the Newport Jazz Festival, the Chicago Jazz Festival, the North Sea Jazz Festival, and the Umbria Jazz Festival. As a composer, Jeremy has worked with some of New York's most highly regarded performers of contemporary chamber music, such as the Mivos Quartet, the Wet Ink Ensemble, and the TAK Ensemble, with performances in the States as well as abroad. A long-time member of lauded vibraphonist Joel Ross's Good Vibes, you can hear Jeremy on the critically-acclaimed Blue Note release *KingMaker* and its follow-up, *Who Are You?*, to be released in November 2020.

Bassist **DARYL JOHNS**, is making his mark on the music scene nationally and internationally. He attends the Manhattan School of Music and is the son of drummer Steve Johns and saxophonist Debbie Keefe Johns. At the age of 13, Daryl was a semi-finalist in the 2009 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Bass Competition. T.S. Monk wrote, "Daryl represents everything this music is about, his respect for the history belies his youth." Since then, his many awards and citations include being named WBGO's "Jazz Star of Tomorrow" at the 2011 Champions of Jazz at Lincoln Center; winning the 2011 Michael Kamen Solo Award; multiple Student Music Awards from DownBeat Magazine; soloist awards from the Mingus Festival, NYC; and being a 2013 YoungArts Finalist. Daryl is one of the top young bassists in the world. He was featured in Bass Quarterly Magazine in 2013. Daryl has attended the Vail and Centrum Jazz workshops, the Brubeck Institute Summer Jazz Colony, the Skidmore, NJPAC Jazz for Teens, Jazz House Kids and Litchfield Jazz camps; the Jazz in July Summer Workshop at UMass Amherst; the Teen Town Jazz at the JCC Thurnauer School of Music; and was selected to the 2011 and 2012 GRAMMY Jazz Ensembles. Daryl is the first bassist to be selected to the NextGeneration Jazz Orchestra four years in a row in its 43-year history, and is only the third person to make the Orchestra every year in high school. He's appeared nationally and internationally with the NGJO in Japan, the West Coast, New York City, Boston, Montreal, and three Monterey Jazz Festivals. In demand as a professional performer, Daryl's schedule has included; performances in and around NYC with the Wallace Roney Quintet and Jazz Orchestra performing the music

of Wayne Shorter at the Charlie Parker Music Festival, NYC A week at the Blue Note in New York City with the Legendary Guitarist, Larry Coryell Trio (double billed with the Stanley Clarke Trio). Other high-profile gigs include the Lenny White Trio and Quartet and at the Kennedy Center, Trumpets Jazz Club and the Newark Museum; and the Curtis Fuller Brassstet at the Kennedy Center.

Grounded in the traditions of the Djembe Orchestra, **KWEKU SUMBRY**, is a multi-percussionist from Washington, DC. At the age of four years old Kweku fell in love with performing. Since then, Kweku has travelled the world healing through music. He began his studies as a toddler under the tutelage of his uncle, Mahiri Fadjimba Keita, founder and artistic director of Farafina Kan. Music has allowed Kweku to travel to Guinea, Senegal, Ghana, Australia, New Zealand, Amsterdam, and Turkey to name a few countries. At the age of 23, Kweku has already graced the stage with Ambrose Akinmusire, Dayna Stephens, Yosvany Terry, Cyrus Chestnut, Reggie Workman, to name a few. A true global citizen, Kweku continues to travel the world, building upon his knowledge of world musical traditions and cultures. In the fall of 2015, Kweku moved to New York City and began his studies at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music on a full scholarship. While in New York Kweku has worked with Abdel Salaam's Forces of Nature Dance company, and the Asase Yaa African American dance Theatre under the tutelage of Yao Ababio, and Osei Ababio. Kweku recently obtained his MA in Arts Management and Entrepreneurship from the New School (c/o 2020), after just graduating with a BFA in jazz studies from the New School in Spring of 2019. Kweku currently is a member of the Immanuel Wilkins Quartet, who recently released his debut album Omega on Blue note Records. A true lover of Art, Dance, Music, and all things pertaining to African culture, Kweku has set out to take the art world by storm, while changing the lens in which West African drumming is viewed by the rest of the world.

SIDRA BELL DANCE NEW YORK:

MARISA CHRISTOGEORGE (Dancer) was born in Vancouver, BC and began her classical training at the Richmond Academy of Dance. Marisa studied at several notable ballet schools including Canada's National Ballet School and Boston Ballet School. In 2016, Marisa received her post-graduate training from San Francisco Conservatory Of Dance. She worked closely with Artistic director Summer-Lee Rhatigan, and other artists such as Bobbi Jene Smith, Christian Burns, Alex Ketley, Katie Faulkner, and Tristan Ching. Marisa has performed works by Bobbi Jene Smith, David Harvey, Ohad Naharin, Micaela Taylor, and Sharon Eyal among many others. Marisa was a dancer at Springboard Danse Montréal in the summer of 2018 and

worked under the direction of Alexandra Wells. This is Marisa's third season with Sidra Bell Dance New York.

AJ LIBERT (Dancer) from Pittsburgh, PA, started his training at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) at the age of three. He continued his training at Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12, and graduated from PBT's full-time program. After CAPA he then attended Point Park University where he graduated with his BFA in Modern Dance. Upon graduation, AJ moved to Dallas, TX as a company member in Joshua L. Peugh's Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. Throughout his dance career he has been given the opportunity to work with artists such as MADBOOTS DANCE, Gregory Dolbashian, and Helen Simoneau. AJ would like to thank his two beautiful mothers. Without them he would not be where he is today. This is his second season with Sidra Bell Dance New York.

KIMIE PARKER (Dancer) originally from San Diego, California trained at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts under the direction of Cynthia Morales. She holds a BFA in Dance from Point Park University where she had the opportunity to perform works by Kyle Abraham, Alexandra Damiani, José Limón, Jason McDole, and Garfield Lemonius. There, she was recognized for her performance and choreographic work "On/Off" (2017). Kimie has attended numerous intensives, most notably Springboard Danse Montréal and NW Dance Project's LAUNCH where she worked with choreography by Sasha Waltz and Joseph Hernandez. This is her second season with Sidra Bell Dance New York.

SOPHIA HALIMAH PARKER (Dancer) is from Berkeley, California. She received her early training at Berkeley City Ballet under the direction of Elizabeth Godfrey. From 2014 to 2015, Sophia was a member of ODC's Dance Jam, a youth ensemble under the direction of Dexandro Montalvo and Kimi Okada. She received her BFA in Dance from The Ailey School/Fordham University BFA Program. She has performed works by Adam Barruch, Bobbi Jene Smith, Brenda Way, and KT Nelson among others. Sophia made her performance debut with SBDNY Company at New York Live Arts in the summer of 2018 as an apprentice. This is Sophia's third season with Sidra Bell Dance New York following one year as the company apprentice.

UMA SHANNON (Dancer) from the New England area, started classical ballet training at the age of 14 at East Street Ballet, Hadley MA. In 2014 she continued her ballet education on scholarship as a ballet trainee at The Hartt School, Hartford, CT. She trained under Samantha Dunster and Susannah Isreal-Marchese. In 2017 she graduated from the LINES Ballet Training Program, San Francisco, CA, where she had the opportunity to work with Kathleen Hermesdorf, David Harvey, Shannon Gillen, Sidra Bell, to name a few.

Uma is receiving her BA at Bennington College, VT where she studies performing arts, visual arts, and SCT. For fall 2019, Uma attended the Danish National School of Performing Arts, Copenhagen, Denmark, on exchange where she researched and performed advanced work with the graduating class. She was a 2019 winter Research Fellow with Sidra Bell Dance New York. This is her first season with the company.

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