

Summer 2022 at The Yard

# Ephrat Asherie Dance

presents a preview of  
**UNDERScoreD**

August 26 & 27, 7:00 pm at the  
The Yard



*Ephrat Asherie Dance, UNDERSCORED, photo by Erick Munari*

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# UNDERSCORED

(WORK-IN-PROGRESS)

**Choreography:** Ephrat Asherie in collaboration with the company and club legend Michele Saunders

**Original Compositions:** Steve Jennings and Robert Stein

**Music:** Nyaruach, Inner Life, Martin Disco, People's Choice, Louie Vega ft. Josh Milan, Roland Clark, LTD

**Music Arranged by:** Ephrat Asherie

**Sound Supervisor:** Diego Quintanar

**Original Text:** Richie Perez ("Unduplicated and Untouched")

**Lighting Design:** Kathy Kaufmann

**Projection Design:** Cornelius Henke III

**Costume Design:** David Dalrymple

**Production Manager:** Diego Quintanar

**Tour Coordinator:** Joanna Futral

**UNDERSCORED is performed by the company  
featuring club legend Michele Saunders**

## **The Company**

Ephrat "Bounce" Asherie

Manon Bal

Ron "Stealth-1" Chunn

Teena Marie Custer

Valerie "Ms. Vee" Ho

Matthew "Megawatt" West

UNDERSCORED is commissioned by and will premiere at  
Works & Process at the Guggenheim in fall 2022.

# ABOUT THE COMPANY

**EPHRAT ASHERIE DANCE (EAD)** is a dance company rooted in African American and Latinx street and club dances. Dedicated to exploring the inherent complexities of these dances, EAD investigates the expansive narrative qualities of various vernacular forms including breaking, hip hop, house and vogue, as a means to tell stories, develop innovative imagery, and find new modes of expression. EAD's first evening-length work, *A Single Ride*, earned two Bessie nominations in 2013 for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and Outstanding Sound Design by Marty Beller. The company has presented work at Art Power! at UC San Diego, The Apollo Theater, Columbia College, Dixon Place, FiraTarrega, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the Joyce Theater, La MaMa, New York Live Arts, River to River Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, Summerstage NYC, and The Yard, among others. For more information please visit [www.ephratasheriedance.com](http://www.ephratasheriedance.com) IG: @ephratasheriedance

**Michele Saunders (club legend/featured artist)** Born and raised in Paris, France, a trailblazing rebel from day one, Michele Saunders was always fascinated with American music—Elvis Presley, James Dean, rock 'n roll, R&B, Motown—as well as the world of art, fashion, and film. While recuperating from a serious ski accident at 18, she decided to move to America. One year later, she started studying at Mount Holyoke College on a Fulbright Scholarship. When she moved to New York City she started representing some of the world's most innovative fashion and art photographers and illustrators, including Steve Hiett, Art Kane, David Hamilton, Jacques Malignon, Uwe Ommer, Pater Sato and Dan Rinaldi, giving Saunders a first-row seat to cutting-edge creators in the fashion industry. She also worked for years in the music industry, styling photography shoots and musical performers, including Elton John, Diana Ross, Billy Idol, Luther Vandross, Pink and others. Her love of music led to the discovery of Paradise Garage, a dance club in New York City that influenced Ms. Saunders' life profoundly, furthering her love of dancing and the world of dance music, connecting her to DJs such as David Morales, Louie Vega and Kenny Carpenter. Through the people she met there, she befriended Patricia Field, who is the godmother to Michele's son, Zachary. She has collaborated on

stories with the art and fashion magazine, Document, including an interview with Frankie Knuckles (the godfather of house music) by Honey Dijon. She has also worked extensively in “street casting” – the art of spotting diverse and urban fashionistas who create their own unique styles. Now 79, Ms. Saunders stays current and works to connect artists and creative thinkers of all kinds, helping people find their dream homes, and continuing to produce events that shine the light on Catskill.

## THE COMPANY

**Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie (artistic director, choreographer, performer)** is a New York City-based b-girl, performer, director, and choreographer and a 2016 Bessie Award Winner for Innovative Achievement in Dance. Asherie has received numerous awards to support her work including Dance Magazine’s Inaugural Harkness Promise Award, a Jacob’s Pillow Fellowship at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, and a National Dance Project Award. In 2019 she was the recipient of a NYFA Fellowship and a New York City Center Choreography Fellowship. Asherie is currently a 2021-22 Jerome Hill Artist Fellow. Asherie has created work for various university dance programs, including programs at Lehman College, Smith College, SUNY Brockport, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. She earned her BA from Barnard College, Columbia University in Italian, and her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she researched the vernacular jazz dance roots of contemporary street and club dances. Asherie is honored to have been mentored by Richard Santiago (aka Break Easy) and to have worked and collaborated with Buddha Stretch, Bill Irwin, Michelle Dorrance, Doug Elkins, Gus Solomons Jr., and Rennie Harris. Asherie is a co-founding member of the all-female house dance collective MAWU and is forever grateful to NYC’s underground dance community for inspiring her to pursue a life as an artist. For more information, please visit [ephratasheriedance.com](http://ephratasheriedance.com).

**Manon Bal (performer)** is a versatile professional dancer from Marseille, France. She has trained at the IFPRO Centre de International de Dance Rick Odums in Paris and at the prestigious Ailey School in New York City. As a choreographer, Manon is the co-founder of Mozaik Dance in collaboration with Janine Micheletti and Sun Kim. The company has presented their work, Sad Hope, at

Jacob's Pillow, San Francisco Hip Hop Dance Fest, and as a part of the New Victory Dance Series. As a performer, Manon has danced with PMT Dance Company at Barclays Center for the Nets Halftime Show, and worked for respected choreographers such as Ronald K. Brown, Tweet Boogie, Jon Rua, and Miki Tuesday.

**Teena Marie Custer (performer)** is an artist and healer based in Pittsburgh, PA. Her solo choreographic work has been presented at Sadler's Wells in London, and then toured around the U.S. She has created street dance theater works for over 35 university dance departments around the country, and after receiving an M.F.A. from Ohio State, was on faculty at Slippery Rock University and the American Dance Festival. She is a member of Venus Fly and Get Down Gang street dance crews, and has been with Ephrat Asherie Dance since 2012, while also touring with Bill "Crutchmaster" Shannon.

**Valerie "Ms. Vee" Ho (performer)**, originally from Vancouver, Canada started making her mark in the NYC dance scene in 2003. Vee has proudly been in Ephrat Asherie Dance since 2012. In her career, she's also had the pleasure of working with such distinguished choreographers as Buddha Stretch, Rennie Harris, Luam, Maria Torres, and Bradley Rapier. Amongst her numerous TV, film, and stage credits, highlights include: 'Hideaway' Video by Kiesza, The Detour, VH1 Dear Mama TV special, Step Up 3D, Rennie Harris' Legends of Hip Hop, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Sadler's Wells Breaking Convention, Lincoln Center Out of Doors. Ms. Vee is also a celebrated dance educator and is on faculty at Broadway Dance Center, Pace University's Commercial Dance BFA Program. In 2017, Ms. Vee became the first Hip Hop teacher at the world-renowned Juilliard School.

**Matthew "Megawatt" West (performer)** started dancing at the age of sixteen in Queens. Megawatt is an active part of NYC's underground dance community and teaches youth classes throughout the five boroughs. Megawatt is a regular guest artist with Dorrance Dance and can be seen in Baz Lurhman's Netflix series The Get Down and battling with his crew, the Mellow Animals.

**Ron "Stealth-1" Chunn (performer)** is a Bboy and DJ originally from Columbus, Ohio. Stealth is a member of Get Down Gang from

Pittsburgh, and was a founding member of the Midwest's Street Symphony Crew. As a Bboy, Stealth has battled and danced with crews in various places around the world and has opened for Hip Hop heavy-hitters such as Rakim, Pete Rock, Mobb Deep, and Slum Village. Stealth was also a founding member of Bill (Crutchmaster) Shannon's company 'Touch Update', and toured with the company to Philadelphia, PA, Washington D.C. and New York City. As a DJ, Stealth has played music all around the US and Canada, selected for Bboy battles such as Get Rooted in Nashville and Battlezone in Pittsburgh, and currently holds residencies in multiple places in Pittsburgh, PA and Wheeling, WV. Stealth also DJs for the Pittsburgh Emcee Cypher 'Track Meet', as well as laid down some scratching on songs for local emcees. Stealth holds two master's degrees, including a Philosophy MA from Western Ontario University, and bachelor's degrees in five other areas from Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Pittsburgh. Stealth still serves as one-half of the owners of the GDG HQ, which has served as a Hip Hop playground in the city of Pittsburgh where people come to train in dance and music, and generally soak up Hip Hop and Funk culture.

**Steve Jennings (composer)** With nearly twenty years of experience as a producer, composer, and synthesis guru, Steve Jennings has worked in multiple capacities on dozens of TV, Film, Videogame, and Creative Services projects. Some of his areas of expertise include synthesis and experimental sound design as well as scene analysis and breakdown for scoring to picture. Steve has worked with Nile Rodgers and Organized Noise, and some of his past clients include MTV, ESPN, CBS, Ubisoft, Sony PlayStation, and Miramax.

**Robert Stein (composer)** Bob Stein is an accomplished New York City based Audio Engineer and Producer who has engineered sound for some of the biggest names in popular music. He has worked with Paul McCartney, John Zorn, Billy Joel, Vanessa Williams, Norah Jones, James Taylor, Jimmy Buffet, Carl Palmer, and Roberta Flack. As a drummer for the past 20 plus years, Stein has toured nationally and recorded with several bands. More recently, he has been working out of a newly created studio with partner Steve Jennings producing and composing original works and collaborating with other artists.

**Kathy Kaufmann (lighting designer)** A New York City native, Ms. Kaufmann is a two-time Bessie recipient. She was nominated for a 2015 Bessie for Rebecca Davis's *Bloowst Windku*. She has been a resident designer at the Danspace Project at St. Marks Church for over 15 years and has toured extensively throughout the world. She was honored to be included in *Curtain Call: Celebrating 100 Years of Women in Design* at the New York Performing Arts Library and currently teaches lighting design at Sarah Lawrence College. She works regularly with many companies including Michelle Dorrance (*Dorrance Dance*), Joanna Kotze, David Parker (*The Bang Group*) Eiko & Koma, Rebecca Stenn, Moriah Evans and Mina Nishamura. Recent projects include designs for Jonathan Gonzalez, Morgan Bassichis, Mariana Valencia, Jasmine Heard, and Tatyana Tenenbaum.

**Cornelius Henke III (Projection Design)** Cornelius Henke III, is a writer, VJ, and creative technologist. Versed in areas of video production and performance art; he has explored the visual medium through music videos, motion graphics, live events, and interactive installations. He is a former fellow and artist in residence at the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry at Carnegie Mellon University. And in the past a contributing writer for *Projection-Mapping.org* before its discontinuation. In other life, Cornelius is an activist and partner at *Merging Media*, a boutique digital media production company based in Pittsburgh, PA and a team member of *VIDVOX*, the makers of *VDMX*. You can see his tutorials and blog posts in the forums or at *VIDVOX.net*. In 2021 *ProjectileObjects* was formed into an LLC. that offers a wide range of services including: concept design, development, engineering, fabrication, and installation.

**Mark Eric (costume designer)** is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and now resides in New York City, where he designs and constructs costumes. He trained as a fashion designer at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he was recognized as the Critics' Choice among his graduating class. After interning with *Marchesa*, he started designing eveningwear for several brands including *Monique Lhuillier* and *Adrianna Papell* before discovering his passion for costume design. Mark Eric has designed costumes for a diverse roster of choreographers including: Robert Battle, Darrell Grand Moultrie, Rennie Harris, Stefanie Batten Bland,



Andrew McNicol, and Marguerite Donlon among others. He has costumed works for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, BalletX, TU Dance, and Nimbus Dance Works to name a few and is currently working on new works with Gregory Dawson for BalletX and Ephrat Asherie Dance. Instagram: @MEMarkEric #CostumesbyMarkEric

**Diego Quintanar (Production Manager/Sound Supervisor)** started working in theater productions while studying architecture at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. He began working for theater productions in Dallas, TX, in 2015. After a short visit to New York City in early 2016, he decided that New York would be the place to pursue a career in the arts and canceled his return flight to Dallas. Since then, he has worked as a Stage Manager at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, working closely with the Works & Process series, which has sparked work with touring dance companies like Dance Heginbotham, Dorrance Dance, and now Ephrat Asherie Dance.

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### **Upcoming Performances (2022)**

The Grunin, Toms River, NJ | Oct 21

Works & Process, Inc. at The Guggenheim, NYC, NY | Nov 13 & 14

University of Co, Boulder, CO | Nov 18

UNDERScoreD is a recipient of a National Performance Network (NPN) Creation and Development Fund and is commissioned by: Works and Process, Inc., Guggenheim New York, NY, The Yard, Chilmark, MA. ArtPower! at UC San Diego San Diego, CA and The Momentary Benton, AR.

A very big THANK YOU to this season's artists, partners, Yard staff & board, donors, volunteers, and patrons who helped bring this amazing season to life!



# The Yard's 2022 Local Business Sponsors



# What Makes the Yard Possible



The Yard's 2022 artist residencies are supported by the Jerome A. and Estelle R. Newman Assistance Fund.

The Yard's 50th summer season is supported by the Marth's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation.

The Yard has been approved for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts that would support this summer season. To find out more about how the National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

To all supporters of The Yard,  
**thank you!**

We recognize your generous contributions and we are so grateful that you chose to lift up The Yard and this community. At this time, please accept our sincere gratitude in lieu of our typical donor list. As we migrate our operations to our new database, we are working to make our donor acknowledgment systems operational. Thank you for your patience and thank you for your support.

Images on page 10: Lucky Plush Productions, Anthony Esposito; Urban Bush Women, Larry Glick; Adele Myers and Dancers, Larry Glick; LVJ Performance Co, Yvonne Mendez; EVIDENCE, Larry Glick; Brownbody, Ray Ewing.