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NEW YORK CITY CENTER

THE EXTRAORDINARY DANCE SHOW

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

BASED ON THE SONGS OF

STING

CHOREOGRAPHY

KATE PRINCE



APR 30 - MAY 12, 2024

@NYCITYCENTER

Echoes of Sting

Associate Choreographer **Lukas McFarlane**
on translating Sting's music to dance in
Message In A Bottle

by Alexander Paredes-Ruiz



You know it the second it comes on. A clean guitar is heard strumming with a piano chord keeping up with the rhythm. A laugh is heard in the distance.

The beat drops and the song's highly anticipated, eponymous name is finally said and brought to life

Roxanne." A name recognizable by so many, who are not only familiar with the artistry of the 17-time Grammy Award-winning artist **Sting** but also his narrative prowess. While "Roxanne" may be a standout narrative single in his discography, Sting is no stranger to the worldbuilding of music, often traversing across genres and etching his lyricism into the consciousness and dreams of people over the last 40 years.

Perhaps it's no surprise that Sting's music finds itself reborn as the dance-theater sensation *Message In A Bottle*, making its New York debut at City Center for a special two-week run. The artist's most beloved songs, including "Desert Rose" and "Fields of Gold," are reimagined through the innovative eyes of choreographer **Kate Prince** and her hip hop company ZooNation, the musical arrangements of **Alex Lacamoire** (*Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*) and **Martin Terefe**, and Associate Choreographer **Lukas McFarlane**, longtime Sting fan and 2013 winner of the UK and Ireland's hit TV dance show *Got To Dance*. They collaborate to the tune of Sting to help tell the story of three siblings from the peaceful fictional village of Bebko embarking on a perilous journey for survival and freedom.

A cold email started it all: a collaboration that lasted over half a decade. Prince, celebrated for her UK dance-theater hit *Into the Hoods*, reached out to McFarlane with the pitch of creating a show to Sting's music. "She said, 'I'm a massive fan of yours and I'd love to have you be

a part of this.' And I was likewise a massive fan of hers. I jumped at the opportunity," he says.

Differing in dance background, magic sparked between the dance collaborators who worked to fuse Prince's hip hop funk style with McFarlane's contemporary work. "The languages of dance that came out in the show creatively were often inspired by the artists that we were creating on," he explains.

To McFarlane, Prince is a "master storyteller" driven by a collaborative intention-based movement. They worked together to translate the show's themes of love, resilience, and survival. "We first blocked all the way through without any steps to make sure that our story points were very clear... we made sure we had them in the number where we wanted them musically and all those things. And then we kind of painted in all the steps in after."

"Dance is a universal language," McFarlane says. "[Dance] gets rid of language barrier, it gets rid of words. You're left with this very authentic, human experience. Emotion, intention, these things can be felt by everyone, no matter what you're speaking language-wise. It has more impact than sometimes words do," he adds.

The show's creation process continued beyond its West End premiere in 2019. The remounting of the show has brought new direction and relevancy to the work that Prince and McFarlane started in 2019. McFarlane says that "When you redo a cast every time, they breathe new life into it because they're brand-new artists with brand new voices, artistically and with what they bring to the characters."

The camaraderie amongst the touring cast is electric. McFarlane describes how crucial it was for the cast to check in and care for one another before starting the show: "We have a focus circle before every show, which is part of ZooNation's practice, where you just say a word for the show. When we get backstage, we're all on stage waiting for the crew to come up, everybody always hugs everybody."



For McFarlane, “home is where you choose it to be,” looking to his collaborators as a space of comfort and amazement. “I feel like often when I work with people, I’m always like ‘I can’t believe they did that’, even though I know I’m seeing it often. I’m amazed every single night, especially when we have our dancers Harrison Dowzell and Deavion Brown do ‘Shape of My Heart,’” he says.

To further theatricalize Sting’s legendary discography, the award-winning composer of *Hamilton* was brought on to breathe new life into Sting’s familiar tunes. Alex Lacamoire did the arrangements for the tracks and pulled out certain lyrics or moments, stripping them back so that you really get to hear his voice and what he’s saying” explains McFarlane.

Sting’s music remains timeless in its invitation to think through the human experience, transcending generations, and people from around the world. *Message In A Bottle* offers a glimpse into the world inspired by Sting’s music to paint a picture of hope and possibility, leaving audiences with the question: what is your message in a bottle?

Alexander Paredes-Ruiz is a Chicago-based cultural worker, artist-scholar, writer, and BIPOC Critics Lab alumnus.



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Apr 30 - May 12, 2024

New York City Center Presents

A Sadler's Wells & Universal Music UK Production

THE EXTRAORDINARY DANCE SHOW
**MESSAGE
IN A BOTTLE**
BASED ON THE SONGS OF **STING** CHOREOGRAPHY
KATE PRINCE

Directed and Choreographed by
KATE PRINCE

Based on the songs of
STING

With ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company

Leadership Support

Lynne and Richard Pasculano Fund for Programming and Education

A Sadler's Wells and Universal Music UK production co-produced with Birmingham Hippodrome and The Lowry, Salford. Research and development supported by The MOVEMENT.

We acknowledge that the land on which New York City Center and its theaters stand was forcefully taken from the Munsee Lenape tribe. We respectfully honor and acknowledge all Indigenous communities—past, present, and future—for their essential and ongoing connections to this land.



Message In A Bottle

Director & Choreographer: KATE PRINCE

Music and Lyrics by STING

Music Supervisor & New Arrangements: ALEX LACAMOIRE

Music Producer & Arranger: MARTIN TEREFE

Music Co-Producer & Mixer: OSKAR WINBERG

Set Designer: BEN STONES

Video Designer: ANDRZEJ GOULDING

Costume Designer: ANNA FLEISCHLE

Lighting Designer: NATASHA CHIVERS

Sound Designer: DAVID MCEWAN

Dramaturg: LOLITA CHAKRABARTI, OBE

Associate Choreographer: LUKAS MCFARLANE

Music Associate & Additional Arrangements: D.J. WALDE

Assistant Choreographers: TOMMY FRANZÉN, LIZZIE GOUGH

US General Management: Pemberley Productions

Company

OLIVER ANDREWS LINDON BARR DEAVION BROWN
DAVID COTTLE HARRISON DOWZELL NESTOR GARCIA GONZALEZ
NATASHA GOODEN LIZZIE GOUGH MEGAN INGRAM
AJANI JOHNSON-GOFFE CHARLOTTE LEE DANIELLA MAY
DYLAN MAYORAL SERENA MCCALL LUKAS MCFARLANE
NETHRA MENON ROBBIE ORDONA LARA RENAUD
HANNAH SANDILANDS JESSEY STOL STEVEN THOMPSON
GAVIN VINCENT MALACHI WELCH



SYNOPSIS

By Lolita Chakrabarti, OBE

We live in a world where one person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution. In 2022 statistics show that over 100 million people around the globe had been forced from their homes. More than thirty-two million of those people are refugees, and half of them are under eighteen years old.

We are confronted by stories of displacement every day—in newspapers, on television and on our streets. We regularly hear about migrants fleeing oppressive regimes, but the focus is often on the catastrophic political in-fighting and violence and we lose sight of the people affected.

Message In A Bottle is an imagined story about one family.

In a village in a country far away, the community lives well and supports each other. But when civil war breaks out this idyll of existence is devastated as the community is broken and homes destroyed. We follow the fortunes of a father, mother, and their three teenage children—Leto, Mati, and Tana—who face this brutal reality together. They are confronted with impossible choices in order to survive. They must leave their homeland and undertake a perilous journey to safer shores. Along the way they will be separated from each other and have to persevere alone.

Inspired by the passionate, evocative and iconic music of Sting—*Message In A Bottle* is a universal story of loss, fear, survival, hope, and love.

To find out more about this production





MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Song List

ACT 1

Desert Rose

I dream of love as time runs through my hand.

If I Ever Lose My Faith In You

There'd be nothing left for me to do...

Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic

I resolve to call her up, a thousand times a day, and ask her if she'll marry me, in some old fashioned way.

Fields Of Gold

Will you stay with me, will you be my love... as we lie in fields of gold.

King Of Pain

There's a little black spot on the sun today.

Fragile

If blood will flow when flesh and steel are one, drying in the color of the evening sun, tomorrow's rain will wash the stains away, but something in our minds will always stay.

Don't Stand So Close To Me

To hurt they try and try.

Invisible Sun

And they're only going to change this place, by killing everybody in the human race... But I don't even wanna die just yet, there has to be an invisible sun, that gives us hope when the whole day's done.

Inshallah

As the wind blows, growing colder, against the sad boats, as we flee, anxious eyes, search in darkness, with the rising of the sea.

A Thousand Years

A million roads, a million fears, a million suns, ten million years of uncertainty.

Shadows In The Rain

I woke up in my clothes again this morning, I don't know exactly where I am.

Every Breath You Take

Since you've gone I've been lost without a trace, I dream at night I can only see your face.

Message In A Bottle

Rescue me before I fall into despair... I'll send an S.O.S. to the world.

INTERMISSION



ACT 2

Spirits In The Material World

There is no political solution, to our troubled evolution.

If You Love Somebody, Set Them Free

If you want to keep something precious, you've got to lock it up and throw away the key.

Brand New Day

I'm thinking in a brand new way...I'm starting up a brand new day.

Love Is The Seventh Wave

There is a deeper wave than this rising in the world.

De Do Do Do, De Da Da Da

Don't think me unkind, words are hard to find, they're only checks I've left unsigned, from the banks of chaos in my mind.

Walking On The Moon

Giant steps are what you take, walking on the moon... We could walk forever... we could live together... walking on the moon.

Be Still My Beating Heart

Be still my beating heart, or I'll be taken for a fool.

Englishman In New York

Be yourself, no matter what they say.

Shape Of My Heart

I'm not a man of too many faces, the mask I wear is one.

The Bed's Too Big Without You

I can't sleep with your memory, dreaming dreams of what used to be, when she left I was cold inside.

Roxanne

You don't have to put on the red light, those days are over, you don't have to sell your body to the night.

So Lonely

And I can only play that part, and sit and nurse my broken heart.

Fields Of Gold

Will you stay with me, will you be my love among the fields of barley? We'll forget the sun in this jealous sky as we lie in fields of gold.

The Empty Chair

If I should close my eyes, that my soul can see, and there's a place at the table that you saved for me.

They Dance Alone

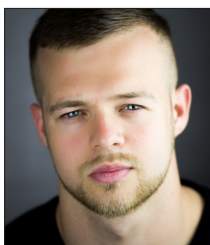
One day we'll dance on their graves, one day we'll sing our freedom, one day we'll laugh in our joy, and we'll dance.

All songs written by Sting

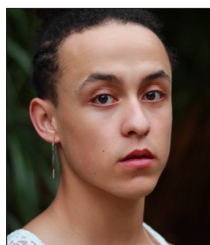
Co-writers: Cheb Mami (Desert Rose), Dominic Miller (Shape Of My Heart), Kipper (A Thousand Years), J. Ralph (The Empty Chair) Steerpike (Overseas) Limited/Magnetic Publishing Ltd administered by EMI Music Publishing Limited (Shape Of My Heart) Steerpike (Overseas) Limited/M. Khelifati administered by EMI Music Publishing Limited/Delabel Editions (Desert Rose) Steerpike (Overseas) Limited/Mark Eldridge administered by EMI Music Publishing Limited/Diverse Music (A Thousand Years) Steerpike (Overseas) Limited/J. Ralph administered by EMI Music Publishing Limited/Tubby & The Spaniard Music Publishing, LLC.



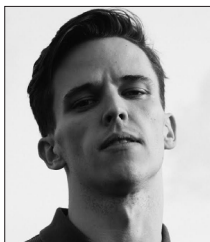
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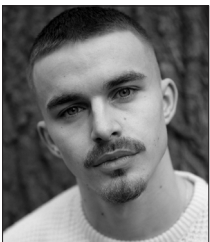
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DEAVION BROWN



DAVID COTTLE



HARRISON DOWZELL



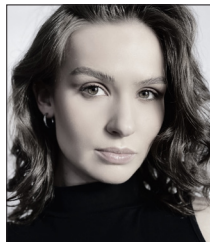
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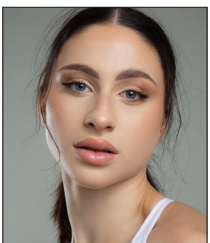
LIZZIE GOUGH



MEGAN INGRAM



AJANI JOHNSON-GOFFE



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DANIELLA MAY



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NETHRA MENON



ROBBIE ORDONA



LARA RENAUD



HANNAH SANDILANDS



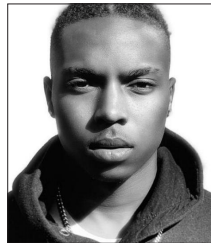
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MEET THE ARTISTS

KATE PRINCE, MBE (Director & Choreographer) is a director, writer and choreographer. She is also the Artistic Director of ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company which she founded in 2002. Prince is an Associate Artist at both The Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, where ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company is a Resident Company. Prince's further work with ZooNation includes the Olivier-nominated *Sylvia* (The Old Vic 2018 & 2023), the Olivier-nominated *Some Like It Hip Hop* (The Peacock, 2011-13, 2019, and two UK tours), *Groove on Down the Road* (Southbank Centre, 2013-14), *ZooNation: Unplugged* (Sadler's Wells, 2013), and more. Other theater work includes *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* for Jonathan Butterell (Sheffield Crucible & West End, Olivier Award nomination: Best Theatre Choreographer), *Ballyturk* (National Theatre), *Shoes* (Sadler's Wells and The Peacock), *I Can't Sing: The X-Factor Musical* (London Palladium), and *A Mad World My Masters* (Royal Shakespeare Company). With ZooNation she has also created choreography for the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Handover Ceremonies (2008), the Opening Ceremony of the Tour de France (2007), and the IOC opening ceremony for the London 2012 Olympics at the Royal Opera House. Prince's work has been nominated for five Olivier Awards, a Black British Theatre Award, a South Bank Sky Arts Award, a WhatsOnStage Award, and two Critics' Circle National Dance Awards. Prince has a Masters from the University of Edinburgh, an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Winchester, and in 2019 she received an MBE for services to dance. Prince's proudest achievement is being Leo's wife and Ella's mum.

STING (Music & Lyrics) Composer, singer, author, actor, and activist, Sting is one of the world's most renowned and distinctive artists. Throughout his illustrious career, he has received 17 Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe, an Emmy, four Oscar nominations, a Tony nomination, and has sold 100 million albums from his combined work with The Police and as a solo artist. He is a member of both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, has received the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors as well as honorary Doctorate

of Music degrees from Northumbria University (October 1992), Berklee College of Music (May 1994), University of Newcastle upon Tyne (2006), and Brown University (2018). Sting, managed by The Cherrytree Music Company, has appeared in more than 15 films and authored two books, including *The New York Times* best-selling memoir, *Broken Music*. Sting's latest album, *The Bridge*, showcases his prolific and diverse songwriting prowess. Representing various stages and styles from throughout his unrivaled career and drawing inspiration from genres including rock 'n' roll, jazz, classical music, and folk, the eclectic album features Sting's quintessential sound on pop-rock tracks such as the album's opening rock salvo "Rushing Water" and new indie-pop sounding "If It's Love." Sting's support for human rights organizations such as the Rainforest Fund, Amnesty International, and Live Aid mirrors his art in its universal outreach. Along with wife Trudie Styler, Sting founded the Rainforest Fund in 1989 to protect both the world's rainforests and the indigenous people living there.

ALEX LACAMOIRE (Music Supervisor & New Arrangements) is a four-time Grammy, three-time Tony, three-time Olivier, and Emmy Award winner for his work on *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *In The Heights*, and FX's mini-series *Fosse/Verdon*. Lacamoire was also the recipient of a first-of-its-kind Kennedy Center Honors for his contribution to *Hamilton*. Other credits as music director, arranger, and/or orchestrator include: *Sweeney Todd* (2023 Broadway Revival), *Bring It On*, *Wicked*, *Bat Boy*, and *Godspell*. He served as the Executive Music Producer for the films: *The Greatest Showman*; *In The Heights*; *VIVO*; *Dear Evan Hansen*; and *Tick, Tick...BOOM!*

MARTIN TEREFE (Music Producer & Arranger) has been making music for over 30 years as an artist, songwriter, musician, and producer. He is the owner of the legendary Eastcote and Kensaltown Studios in West London, and a founding member of the multi-disciplinary art collective Apparatjik. Terefe's writing collaborations and productions have won multiple Grammy, Brit, and Juno Awards and in 2009 he was named one of the top 10



MEET THE ARTISTS

most successful music producers of hit songs on Billboard's Hot 100 singles chart. Terefe has also been involved in the early careers and development of many artists.

OSKAR WINBERG (Music Co-Producer & Mixer) is a Grammy Award-winning engineer, producer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist from Stockholm, Sweden. Now living in London, his work has resulted in multiple gold and platinum selling records with artists such as Shawn Mendes, Jason Mraz, Mike Posner, Robbie Williams, James Blunt, Paloma Faith, and Christina Aguilera. He is also involved in the development of new young artists such as BarlowLN, and recent breakout YUNGBLUD.

BEN STONES (Set Designer) is an Olivier award-nominated stage designer who trained at Central Saint Martins College of Art. His designs now span theater, dance, comedy, fashion, and musicals. Sets and costume designs for dance include multiple productions for ZooNation including *Some Like It Hip Hop*, *Into The Hoods*, *The Mad Hatters Tea Party*, and *Sylvia*. Recent musical productions include *She Loves Me*, *Miss Saigon*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Standing at the Sky's Edge* at the National Theatre, and *Operation Mincemeat* currently running at the Fortune Theatre in London's West End.

ANDRZEJ GOULDING (Video Designer) is an award-winning Video and Set Designer. Video Designs include: *Life of Pi*; *&Juliet* (Broadway); *Sylvia*; *Eureka Day*; *The Time Traveller's Wife*; *People, Places and Things*; *The Drifters Girl*, *The Unfriend*, *The Girl On The Train*, *Coriolanus*, *Henry V*, and *Groundhog Day* (West End); *Da Vinci Code*, *The Unreturning* (UK Tour); *Miss Saigon* (Sheffield Crucible). With over 20 award nominations his award wins include a Tony Award, Olivier Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Broadway World Award, UK Theatre Award, and a Whatsonstage Award.

ANNA FLEISCHLE (Costume Designer) is an Olivier Award-winning, Tony-nominated scenic and costume designer. Her recent work includes: *The Pillowman* (West End), *The*

Collaboration (Broadway), *Death of a Salesman* (Broadway, West End), *2:22 A Ghost Story* (West End, Ahmanson LA, Melbourne), *Much Ado about Nothing* (National), *Hangmen* (Broadway, West End – Tony Award Nominee, Winner of Olivier Award For Best Set Design, Critic's Circle Award 'Best Designer', Evening Standard Award 'Best Design'); *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (West End/ UK tour/ LA); *Home I'm Darling* (National/West End - Olivier Award Nominee for Set Design and Best Costume Design).

NATASHA CHIVERS (Lighting Designer) is a London-based lighting designer with over 20 years of experience. Her recent work in theater includes *Hills of California* (West End), *Peaky Blinders* (Rambert), *Prima Facie*, *1984* (West End/Broadway), *Enemy of the People* (The Armory, New York), *Judas* (Internationaal Theater, Amsterdam), *Blood Wedding* (Young Vic), *The Doctor* (Almeida), *Sylvia* (The Old Vic); *The Antipodes*, *Sunset at the Villa Thalia*, and *Statement of Regret* (National Theatre). Recent awards include the Drama Desk Award and nominations for Tony and Olivier Awards (*Prima Facie*).

DAVID MCEWAN (Sound Designer) is a Music Producers Guild Award winner, sound designer, engineer, composer, and music producer. A London-based Australian, his career spans 30 years with accomplishments across television, cinema, theater, dance, and music production. McEwan's latest producer album credits include 2022's *Anomaly* by Jasdeep Singh Degun, released on Peter Gabriel's Realworld Records. Previous collaborations include Nitin Sawhney, Cirque Du Soleil, Jeff Beck, Natasha Bedingfield, Garou, Yeast Culture, The London Symphony Orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Metropole Orchestra, Warner Music, Sony Music, and Universal Music. *Message In A Bottle* is McEwan's fourth collaboration with Sadler's Wells.

LOLITA CHAKRABARTI, OBE (Dramaturg) is an actress and playwright. Her play *Red Velvet* opened at the Tricycle Theatre, London, transferred to St. Ann's Warehouse, New York, and London's West End, earning her Most



MEET THE ARTISTS

Promising Playwright awards from the Critics Circle and Evening Standard. Chakrabarti adapted Booker Prize winning novel *Life of Pi* for the stage, which won five Oliviers in the West End including Best New Play, three Tonys on Broadway, and four UK Theatre awards. Her adaptation of *Hamnet* opened at the RSC and transferred to London's West End in 2023. Other writing credits include *Hymn* and *Invisible Cities*.

D.J. WALDE (Music Associate & Additional Arrangements) is an award-nominated composer, musician, consultant, DJ, and performer from West London. Work for ZooNation includes *Sylvia*, *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party*, *Some Like It Hip Hop*, and *Into the Hoods*. Other recent credits include: As Composer & Music Supervisor, *Stranger Things - The First Shadow* (Netflix/Sonia Friedman Productions); As Composer, *All's Well That Ends Well* (Royal Shakespeare Company), *Our Generation* (National Theatre); As Musical Director, *Hymn* (Almeida Theatre); As Consultant, *Peaky Blinders* (Rambert). In 2012, he DJ'd in front of a worldwide audience for the London 2012 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony.

LUKAS MCFARLANE (Associate Choreographer & Dancer) is a creative/choreographer from Canada who became a UK household name when he won television competition show *Got to Dance* at 19 years old. He has since curated a lustrous career working with artists such as Taylor Swift, Celine Dion, and P!nk, brands like GAP and UNIQLO, and on shows including *The X Factor*, *The Voice*, and Netflix's *Dance Monsters*. Recent works include upcoming film *Apartment 7A* where he worked closely with actress Julia Garner, as well as the "Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations" and "Eurovision Song Contest" where he was show choreographer for both.

TOMMY FRANZÉN (Assistant Choreographer) won a Critics' Circle National Dance Award for his roles in ZooNation's *Some Like It Hip Hop* and Russell Maliphant's *The Rodin Project*. Franzén's nominations include a South Bank Sky Arts Breakthrough Award and an Olivier

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance. Franzén was runner up on the BBC's *So You Think You Can Dance*. Films include *Harry Potter 4*, *Mamma Mia 1 & 2*, *Aladdin*, *Cats*, *Tomorrow Morning*, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, and *Snow White*. Franzén has been choreographing on BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing* since 2018. He is currently Assistant Choreographer on *Burlesque the Musical*.

LIZZIE GOUGH (Assistant Choreographer, Resident Director/Choreographer, Dancer) was a finalist on BBC's *So You Think You Can Dance* UK 2010. She is a choreographer and mentor on BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*, four seasons of *Dance Dance Dance* ITV, STV, RTL and currently Movement Director for BBC *Gladiators*. Gough has also choreographed commercials such as *Just Eat*, *Virgin Mobile*, *Samsung*, *Vodafone*, to name a few. As a performer her TV work includes *The Voice*, *Eurovision*, *Brits Awards*, *The X Factor*, *European Stadium / Live Tours* with Take That, *Zara Larsson*, and theater shows such as *Some Like It Hip Hop*, *Mad Hatters Tea Party*, *Swanlake Reloaded*, and *Blaze*.

OLIVER ANDREWS (Dancer) trained at Urdang Academy. He made his professional theater debut in the production of *Message In A Bottle* in 2021 and followed that with a number of commercial appearances including the Joy Awards in Riyadh, *The Voice* (ITV), the MTV EMA Awards in Dusseldorf. A standout performance credit was being involved in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party outside Buckingham Palace in June 2022 and for Kylie at the Radio 2 in the Park in Leicester 2023.

LINDON BARR (Dancer) is a British choreographer, dance artist, and lecturer. He is also the artistic director of his own award winning Hip Hop dance company Elementz Entertainment. Barr's performance credits include London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Thriller Live* (West End), *Some Like It Hip Hop*, and *Into The Hoods: Remixed*.

DEAVION BROWN (Dancer) is a dancer from South Wales. Graduated from the Liverpool



MEET THE ARTISTS

Institute for Performing Arts in 2019. Brown joined the closing cast of *Thriller Live* and played a featured role in the recent *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* movie rendition of the West End show. He is incredibly excited and grateful to be returning to the stage for this production.

DAVID COTTLE (Dancer) has trained in hip hop, popping, breaking, and has taught workshops with his own stylized choreography all around the world. His credits include Ed Sheeran, JUNGLE, Christine & The Queens, BTS, Emeli Sande, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, Google, ENO, and more.

HARRISON DOWZEL (Dancer) trained at the Rollo Academy and Performers College. At the age of 12 he played the role of Billy Elliot in the West End. After graduating college, Dowzel joined Matthew Bourne's New Adventures. He has appeared in *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Red Shoes*, Spitfire for BBC's *Dancing Nation*, *The Nutcracker!*, and *The Car Man*. Other credits include *Message In A Bottle* (UK and European tour 2021) The Royal Variety Show, Sunday Night At The Palladium, Vogue World, MTV EMA awards dancing for David Guetta, Bebe Rexha, and Gayle. Emma Bunton's Christmas tour 2022. Take That, BST Hyde Park.

NESTOR GARCIA GONZALEZ (Dancer) is a Mexican b-boy and dancer, working for the last 13 years in shows including Michael Jackson Tribute and Urban Fantasy Show in Riviera Maya and Cancún, Mexico. He was a finalist of the Dance Elite Championships UK as a soloist. He's worked with ZooNation and Tumbellina International in Germany, Scotland, London's Royal Albert Hall, Spain, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and CPG concepts Barcelona's Olympic Stadium. Gonzalez has also featured in TV and film, including *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Men In Black*, and *Matilda*.

NATASHA GOODEN (Dancer) has started in West end productions such as *Some Like It Hip Hop*, *Into the Hoods Remixed* - ZooNation Dance Company, international tour with Boy Blue Entertainment, *Blak Whyte Gray*. She has also choreographed productions at the Royal

court theater Liverpool - *The Scouse Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Bongo Bingo*. As a performer her TV work includes *Got To Dance* finalists with female crew Boadicea, *The Lodge* (Disney Channel), Olympic Opening Ceremony 2012, *ITV X Factor*, and *BBC Strictly Come Dancing*.

MEGAN INGRAM (Dancer) graduated from Bird College in 2018 and trained with Company Jinks and Marshon Dance Company. Her credits include: ZooNation: *Mixtape*, *Sadbook* by 201 Dance Company, *Emerge & See*, *Message In A Bottle*, "If It's Love" Sting (music video), "Bennie and the Jets" Elton John (music video), Rehearsal Dancer (Marvel), Ensemble in *Aladdin* (Darlington Hippodrome), *Alternative Hair Show* Anne Veck (Catwalk), choreographer of "Hideaway" Esther Turner (music video).

AJANI JOHNSON-GOFFE (Dancer) is a performer, choreographer, and teacher based in London. He is a graduate of Brit School for Performing Arts and London Contemporary Dance School. Productions include Riverdance's *Heartbeat Of Home*, Avant Garde Dance Company's *The Black Album ReImagined*, and Boy Blue Entertainments production *REDD*. He has toured internationally with FKA twigs and Years and Years, and performed at the Brit Awards 2019 with Dua Lipa.

CHARLOTTE LEE (Dancer) is a London-based dancer, graduated Bird College in 2020. Her recent professional credits include working for various artists on the Brits, performing on *The Voice Kids UK* and at The Joy Awards in Saudi Arabia. She has also featured in music videos, live performances, and international work. Making her debut as part of a full show cast, she is thrilled to be fulfilling one of her childhood dreams.

DANIELLA MAY (Dancer) trained at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and the London Contemporary Dance School. Her working credits include Idris Elba's and Kwame Kwei-Armah's *Tree* at the Young Vic, West End production and international tour of *Stomp*. She has danced on the BBC, Channel 4, Hulu, Netflix, and with other companies



MEET THE ARTISTS

such as Southpaw Dance Company, Grounded Movement, Uchenna Dance, Tavaziva Dance, and many more.

DYLAN MAYORAL (Dancer) has worked as a dancer for the last 18 years, performing at prestigious venues around the UK such as The Royal Opera House, Queen Elizabeth Hall, The Royal Albert Hall, O2 Arena, and Peacock Theatre. He has worked with some of the biggest artists in the world including Rita Ora, Calvin Harris, Dua Lipa, Fergie, Martin Jensen, and BTS. He has taught in 39 countries worldwide, delivering his own choreography and sharing his theories behind movement and art.

SERENA MCCALL (Dancer) trained in Scotland with the Scottish Ballet and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and the Royal Ballet Associate scheme in Newcastle. She then moved to Birmingham where she trained at Elmhurst Ballet School then graduated from Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary in London in 2023. She has worked with Royal Ballet soloist Marcelino Sambe for *An Evening with Hermes* for the release of their new Brides De Gala Scarf, she also worked with choreographer Ricky Jinks for the watch brand Breitling during New York Fashion Week, where she was lead dancer and dance captain.

NETHRA MENON (Dancer) started dancing at the age of 3, under the tutelage of Shiamak Davar. Her stint in India included working in Bollywood films and performing at the Filmfare Awards. Subsequently she studied dance at The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and graduated in 2023. She has performed at the Eurovision Opening Ceremony with Zara Larsson, the Boomtown Festival with Eva Lazarus, and the Saudi Games Opening Ceremony. Menon continued her training with Company Jinks and Boy Blue Entertainment, who she performed with at Dancer's Delight.

ROBBIE ORDONA (Dancer) is a mixed Filipino performer, choreographer, and teacher from London. Ordona trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) until 2019. Performance credits include *Breathless Puppets* by Akram Khan and Naanman Azhari, *Ina-Ama*

by Jason Mabana, *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* (The Movie), *P!NK* (The BRIT Awards), *Used To Be Blonde* by Sharon Eyal (NYDC), and various performances with Company Jinks.

LARA RENAUD (Dancer) is a Canadian contemporary ballet dancer, trained at The School of Dance (Ottawa) and Alberta National Ballet (Calgary) before moving to Europe and graduating in the contemporary ballet program at Dance Area in Geneva. She performed across Europe with Area Jeune Ballet and Cie JanssensMandorino, and appeared in music videos and TV programs in Canada, US, and Switzerland.

HANNAH SANDILANDS (Dancer) is a Scottish dancer who graduated from West College Scotland. She has worked closely with associate choreographer Lukas McFarlane as her mentor for the past seven years. She appeared in the film adaptation of *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. She also featured on *The Greatest Dancer* Season 1 as a member of Company Jinks.

JESSEY STOL (Dancer) is a Dutch professional dancer who graduated from Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts. After graduating, she worked with various companies in The Netherlands. She then went to London where she started to work with Botis Seva's company *Far From The Norm*, before joining the cast of *Message In A Bottle*.

STEVEN THOMPSON (Dancer) started his professional career at 19 when he booked *Thriller Live* on the West End. Steven has danced for several world class artists and worked on three feature films including Netflix's film *Jingle Jangle* and series *Dance 100*. He has also worked with: Google, Adidas, Universal, Emirates Airlines, X Factor, UEFA, MTV EMA's, Brit Awards, Reebok, Radio 1 Teen Awards, *The Voice*, and more.

GAVIN VINCENT (Dancer) is a multi-disciplinary dance and movement artist. With a strong background in breaking, he is a veteran crew member of The Soul Mavericks, achieving multiple UK and European championship



MEET THE ARTISTS

titles. His credits include The Bregenz Festival Production of *Rigoletto*, Zhang Yimou's *Apologue 2047*, Studio City's *Elékron*, and with companies including Wired Aerial Theatre, Southpaw Dance Company, and various Netflix productions. As a movement director, Vincent has created his own work, collaborating closely with Breakin' Convention and has designed movement for 2 Gents theatre, Gorilla Circus, Theatre Témoin, and Cirque Bijou.

MALACHI WELCH (Dancer) trained at the Brit School. He has performed in the West End's *The Lion King*, Matthew Bourne's *Lord of the Flies*, *Everyone's Talking About Jamie*, and most recently the Olivier Award-winning productions of *TRAPLORD* and *Sylvia*. He has worked with Interlude Dance, Boy Blue Entertainment, ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company, and Rebirth Dance, alongside the guidance from Kymberlee Jay.

STANFORD MAKISHI (Vice President & Artistic Director, Dance) was appointed to his current position of Artistic Director, Dance, at New York City Center in 2021 after serving as vice president for programming since 2015. He began at the organization in 2011 as associate producer of its Fall for Dance Festival. Makishi danced with Trisha Brown from 1992 to 2006, was assistant director of her production of *Winterreise*, and has taught and restaged her work internationally. He also served as artistic advisor for the Ringling International Arts Festival in Sarasota, executive director of the Baryshnikov Arts Center, director of programs at the Asian Cultural Council, and director of creative services at Carnegie Hall.

MICHAEL S. ROSENBERG (President & CEO, New York City Center) has a long and distinguished career of leading performing arts institutions to nurture artists, expand audiences, and engage communities. Beginning with Drama Dept. (the Greenwich Village artist collective he co-founded in the 90s) and carrying through to the present, he has helped develop works by playwrights, songwriters, choreographers, directors, authors, designers, visual artists, and students. As Managing Director of La Jolla

Playhouse, Rosenberg worked with Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and the staff to oversee the development and production of a host of other acclaimed productions, many of which transferred to Broadway, Off-Broadway, and the West End – including the international smash hit *Come from Away*. More recently, as Managing Director of McCarter Theatre Center, Rosenberg was part of the evolution of the historic theater, expanding programming to include family-friendly performances and multidisciplinary events. His work in building diversity, equity, and inclusion encompasses artists, audiences, and administrators alike.

NEW YORK CITY CENTER has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943. The distinctive Neo-Moorish building was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia as Manhattan's first performing arts center with the mission of making the best in theater, dance, and music accessible to all audiences. This commitment continues today through celebrated dance and musical theater series like the Fall for Dance Festival and the Tony-honored Encores! series; the annual season by Principal Dance Company Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; and new series Artists at the Center. City Center welcomes audiences to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends made their mark. Dedicated to a culture built on the values of curiosity, collaboration, accessibility, and inclusivity, City Center's dynamic programming, art exhibitions, and studio events are complemented by education and community engagement programs that bring the performing arts to thousands of New York City students, teachers, and families every year.



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Lead Vocals (Fields Of Gold, Invisible Sun) & If You Love
Somebody Set Them Free) Beverley Knight
Lead Vocals (The Bed's Too Big Without
You) Lynval Golding
Lead Vocals (Don't Stand So Close To
Me) Claudia Georgette
Vocals (Inshallah & They Dance Alone) Shaneeka Simon
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