ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

“The talented b-girl Ephrat Asherie is known in the dance world as Bounce ... for her uncalculated, effervescent dancing.” — New York Times

Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie brings a high-energy, hybrid work that layers breaking, hip hop, house, and vogue. She has shown off her formidable street dance skills as a favorite member of Dorrance Dance who performed at the Modlin Center in 2018.

Tonight’s presentation offers a behind the scenes glimpse into her creative process and virtual artist residency with University Dancers who will perform her piece All InForms in their annual spring concert TIME / IN / SPACE. Dancing, stories, and video footage will be shared, including an interactive conversation with UR dance director Anne Van Gelder about the dance creation residency with students this fall. University Dancers company members Ramsey Goodner, Kinme Reeves, Gianna Dowd, and Karen Fleming will also join the conversation to offer their perspectives as students participating in the residency and their experience creating this work during the pandemic.

All InForms

Choreography by Ephrat Asherie
Music by: Bonobo (edited by Ephrat Asherie)
Rehearsal Director: Miguel Pérez
Costume Design by Johann Stegmeir
Light Design by Maja E. White
Dancers: Kennedy Aldrich, Lila Borden, Gianna Dowd, Karen Fleming, Teresa Garavente, Ramsey Goodner, Isabelle Huggard, Midora Middleton, Kinme Reeves, Julia Straka

Generous support for All InForms was provided by a Cultural Affairs Grant.

This presentation is made possible in part with generous support from the A. Dale Mayo Fund for the Arts and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.
ABOUT THE COMPANY

EPHRAT ASHERIE DANCE

Ephrat Asherie Dance (EAD) is a dance company rooted in African American and Latinx vernacular dance. Dedicated to exploring the inherent complexities of these forms, EAD dives into the expansive narrative qualities of various street and club styles, 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 Award nominations in 2013 for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer and Outstanding Sound Design by Marty Beller. EAD’s newest work, UnderScored, was awarded a 2019 Creation and Development Award from the National Performance Network and a MAP Fund Award. UnderScored is being commissioned by Works & Process at the Guggenheim and will premiere in 2021. The company has also recently begun working on a new project in collaboration with critically acclaimed illustrator Mo Willems and commissioned by the Kennedy Center’s Family Theater. EAD has presented work at the Apollo Theater, the Joyce Theater, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, ArtPower!, and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, among others.

For more information, please visit ephratasheriedance.com or follow EAD on Instagram @ephratasheriedance.

EPHRAT ASHERIE, artistic director, choreographer, and dancer

Ephrat “Bounce” Asherie is a New York City-based b-girl, dancer, 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, and a National Dance Project Award. Asherie is a 2019 NYFA Fellow and a 2018-2019 City Center Choreography Fellow. She is honored to have been mentored by Richard Santiago (a.k.a. Break Easy) and to have worked and collaborated with Dorrance Dance, Doug Elkins, Rennie Harris, Bill Irwin, Gus Solomons Jr., and Buddha Stretch, among others. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Barnard College, Columbia University in Italian and a master of fine arts from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she researched the vernacular jazz dance roots of contemporary street and club dances. 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.
University Dancers
36th Annual Concert TIME | IN | SPACE
Premiering Friday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. EST
Available on demand through March 25
Register Here

Directed by Anne Van Gelder
Costume Design by Johann Stegmeir
Light Design by Maja E. White
Set Design by Josafath Reynoso
Choreographers: Ephrat Asherie, Alexandra Damiani, Starrene Foster, Christopher K. Morgan, Miguel Pérez, Eric Rivera, and Anne Van Gelder

Student Choreographers and Designers: Emma Davis, Karen Fleming, India Henderson, Corrine Manderino, Allison Martin, Kayla Schiltz, Julia Straka, and Paige Willis

University Dancers celebrates 36 years of engaging dance with our annual concert that brings to the University of Richmond the work of innovative choreographers Ephrat Asherie, Alexandra Damiani, and Christopher K. Morgan.

Ephrat Asherie has trained her entire life in multiple genres of dance, but identifies the styles of breaking, hip hop, and house as her choreographic vocabulary. Asherie's artistic aesthetic utilizes urban social dance as a means to educate and engage community. Alexandra Damiani, former artistic director of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, returns to Richmond for her fourth creative residency. Her work, noted for its broken lines, isolated parts and group dynamics is fused with a progressive movement vocabulary.

We welcome to Richmond Christopher K. Morgan, founder and artistic director of Christopher K. Morgan & Artists, a DC-based contemporary dance company. Themes in Morgan's work range from gender identity to environmental issues to race, and his work has been produced internationally. The concert will also feature new works choreographed by Richmond favorite, Starrene Foster, Founder/Artistic Director of Starr Foster Dance; Eric Rivera, faculty member in VCU's Department of Dance & Choreography and former dancer with Ballet Hispánico; and Anne Van Gelder, department faculty member and Artistic Director of University Dancers.

Outstanding adjudicated student choreography and live music will be featured, and department faculty members Johann Stegmeir and Maja E. White will design costumes and lights, respectively. Do not miss these talented dancers perform in a variety of contemporary works.