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# *Sean Dorsey Dance*

## *The Lost Art of Dreaming*

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15-16, 2024

7:30 PM ET

DANCE THEATRE, MAHANEY ARTS CENTER



# **THE LOST ART OF DREAMING**

## **SEAN DORSEY DANCE**

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### OPENING SECTION

Music composed by Kelsey Lu, arranged by Alex Kelly

### IS YOUR WORLD GETTING SMALL

Music composed by Jesse Olsen Bay, arranged by Alex Kelly

### LIGHTNING RODS

Music composed by Jesse Olsen Bay

### STARSLIDE

Music composed by Anomie Belle

### INVOCATION

Music composed by Christoph Willibald Gluck

Music arranged for string quartet by Alex Kelly

Performed by Alex Kelly, Matthew Szemela, and Rebecca Wilcox

UNFOLD/INTO

Music composed by LD Brown

PLEASURE REVOLUTION

Music composed by Frida Ibarra

∞ *Intermission* ∞

ORIGIN STORY

ORION

Music by LD Brown

Special guest vocalist and vocal arrangements by B Noel Thomas

Song by Sean Dorsey

OPEN

Music composed by Ben Kessler

MY LIGHT

Music composed by Anomie Belle

SEEK/AFTER JOY

Music composed by Frida Ibarra

WE ARE ALIVE / WHAT WILL I LONG FOR

Music composed by Alex Kelly

I AM THE OCEAN

Music composed and performed by Sean Dorsey

(DREAMING IS) OUR BIRTHRIGHT

Music composed by Anomie Belle

PLACE/PORTAL

Music composed by Anomie Belle

UPSTREAM

Music composed by Anomie Belle

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*This Middlebury residency is made possible in partnership with and through the generosity of Sean Dorsey Dance and supported by the Performing Arts Series, the Rothrock Family Residency Fund, and the Dance Department.*

*Please turn off all electronic devices prior to the performance, and refrain from texting. Unauthorized photography and the use of audio or video equipment are prohibited.*

# ***THE LOST ART OF DREAMING***

## **SEAN DORSEY DANCE**

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Choreographed, written, and soundscore design by Sean Dorsey

Movement created and performed by Sean Dorsey,  
Brandon Graham, Héctor Jaime, David Le, and Nol Simonse

Original music composed by Jesse Olsen Bay, Anomie Belle,  
L.D. Brown, Sean Dorsey, Frida Ibarra, Alex Kelly, Ben Kessler,  
Kelsey Lu, and special guest vocalist B Noel Thomas

Costume Design: Tiffany Amundson, Krystal Harfert,  
and Melissa Castaneda

Lighting Design: Clyde Sheets

Technical Director and Stage Manager: Emily Paulson

Wardrobe Supervisor: Krystal Harfert

Soundscore recording/engineering/mixing: Grace Coleman

[www.seandorseydance.com](http://www.seandorseydance.com) | @SeanDorseyDance

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*THE LOST ART OF DREAMING* was commissioned by the American Dance Festival (Durham, NC), Dance Place (Washington, DC), 7 Stages (Atlanta, GA), Velocity Dance Center (Seattle, WA), and the Queer Cultural Center (San Francisco, CA)—and developed with additional support from Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, and a residency with the National Choreography Center in Akron (Akron,OH).

*THE LOST ART OF DREAMING* has been awarded support from the commissioners above, and from the California Arts Council, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project—with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, and San Francisco Arts Commission.

## A MESSAGE FROM SEAN DORSEY

I am thrilled to welcome you to *THE LOST ART OF DREAMING*.

We are so glad you're here.

And WE are so glad to be here: we send so much LOVE and gratitude to the Middlebury College team for your beautiful collaboration and support—and for helping us celebrate our 20th ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

YOU have been in our hearts and minds as we created  
and now tour this work:

YOU are precious and irreplaceable, and YOU have an important place on this planet and in the Future.

*THE LOST ART OF DREAMING* is:

a spell

a danced invocation

a loving invitation to

reclaim, remember, conjure, co-create and manifest

OUR BIRTHRIGHT:



joy, pleasure, well-being, freedom, love, connection, liberation.

As transgender and gender-nonconforming communities are under attack across the country right now, we ask our allies to speak out, speak up, and take concrete action to defend trans youth and all trans people. Trans communities are living in a state of emergency: please consider donating to local trans-led groups who are supporting trans youth and all trans people.

After tonight's performance, we invite you to visit our website, where a cornucopia of resources and activities await you.

*THE LOST ART OF DREAMING* webpage includes Dance films, The Dictionary of Joy and Pleasure, The Futurist Pledge, Postcards from the Future, and more!

Use your phone's camera on the QR code below, or visit: [www.seandorseydance.com/works/the-lost-art-of-dreaming/](http://www.seandorseydance.com/works/the-lost-art-of-dreaming/)



Tonight we declare together: DREAMING IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT!

— *Sean Dorsey*

## Biographies

**SEAN DORSEY** (Artistic Director + Dancer—he/him) is an Emmy Award-winning choreographer, a Doris Duke Artist, a United States Artists Fellow, and a Dance/USA Artist Fellow. He has toured his work to more than 35 cities across the U.S. and internationally.



A longtime social practice artist, Dorsey creates his works over 2–3 years in deep relationship with/in community. As a teaching artist, Dorsey leads workshops, classes, and DREAM LABS with a trans-positive pedagogy—and centers and celebrates gender non-conforming and trans bodies, voices, and aesthetics. Dorsey’s national TRANSform Dance program provides trans-supportive education, engagement, and advocacy.

Dorsey's work has been commissioned by: American Dance Festival (Durham), Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston), 7 Stages (Atlanta), Dance Place (Washington, DC), Queer Cultural Center (San Francisco), The Theater Offensive (Boston), Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Maui), Velocity Dance Center (Seattle), Links Hall (Chicago), Highways Performance Space (Los Angeles), and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco).

Dorsey is also the founder and Artistic Director of Fresh Meat Productions (FMP). Founded in 2002, FMP invests in the creative expression and cultural leadership of trans and gender-nonconforming communities—FMP's programs include Sean Dorsey Dance and the annual FRESH MEAT FESTIVAL of transgender and queer performance (June). [www.SeanDorseyDance.com](http://www.SeanDorseyDance.com), [www.FreshMeatProductions.org](http://www.FreshMeatProductions.org)



**BRANDON GRAHAM** (he/they) was born in Rochester, NY, and trained at School of the Arts and Odasz Dance Theatre under Jessica Odasz.

He has since graduated from Alonzo King Lines BFA program.

He has had the opportunity to work with Flock Works, Robert Moses, Kara Davis, Christian Burns, and Gregory Dawson. After graduating from the BFA program in 2020, he has been doing freelance work with Kristin Damrow, David Herrera Performance Company, Peninsula Ballet Theatre, Alyssa Mitchel, and more. This is Brandon's third season with Sean Dorsey Dance.

**HÉCTOR JAIME** (Héctor or They/She/He) was born and raised in Mexicali, Baja California, México. They began their training with Manuel Torres in El Centro Estatal de las



Artes (CEART). Héctor graduated from the Alonzo King's Lines Ballet BFA Program in San Francisco affiliated with the Dominican University of California. Post graduation, they've had the opportunity to be a member of Sean Dorsey Dance, Dawson Dance SF, and Detour. Héctor started their own company, Xochipilli Dance Company, based in the Bay Area. XDC has now premiered work in different residencies since its foundation, including a Deborah Slater Dance Theater summer residency in studio 210, the Festival of Latin

American Contemporary Choreographers (FLACC), the BBQueer Dance Festival, PUSH Artist in residency, D.I.R.T 2023, a Stapleton School of the Performing Arts Choreographic Residency, and the Queering Dance Festival. This is Héctor's third season with Sean Dorsey Dance.



**DAVID LE** (he/they) was born and raised in San Jose, CA. As a first-generation student with influences of cultural and street styles of dance, David earned his BFA from San Jose State University (SJSU). At SJSU, Le danced with the University Dance Theater and had the pleasure to work with Doug Varone, Kyle Abraham, Mike Esperanza, and more. He embraces the collaboration of different communities and participates in events with Decipher and Archive Dance Companies. In addition to dance, David is a neuromuscular therapist and has a deaf dog named Wilbur. David is excited for his third season with Sean Dorsey Dance!

**NOL SIMONSE** (he/him) grew up in Washington, DC and trained at

the Boston Conservatory of Music. He moved to San Francisco in 1997 and is a founding member of Kunst-Stoff. Nol has worked with Janice Garrett since the inception of her company, and



continued with her and her partner, Charles Moulton, when they formed Garrett+ Moulton Productions. He has danced with Sean Dorsey Dance since 2007. He is also a longtime collaborator/performer of Sue Roginski, Eric Kupers, Christy Funsch, Stephen Pelton, and Kara Davis. Nol was awarded an Isadora Duncan Bay Area Dance Award in 2011, and in 2009 Nol received a GOLDIE (Guardian Outstanding Local Discovery) for dance. Nol was the first person to win Luna Dance Institute's Choreofund prize, and *Dance Teacher Magazine* published an interview with him in the September 2016 issue. Nol currently teaches modern at the Alonzo King's Lines Dance Center, and Shawl-Anderson Dance Center. He has taught choreography, repertory, and performance workshops for adults and teens, and has made dances for Diablo Ballet, the Lines summer program, students at USF, Shawl-Anderson Youth Ensemble, ODC's Dance Jam, and Dance Mission Theater's Grrrl Brigade. This is Nol's 16<sup>th</sup> season with Sean Dorsey Dance.

**KRYSTAL HARFERT** (Costume Designer—they/she) is a multi-disciplinary artist. Krystal resides in Oakland, CA, where they have spent over a decade in nonprofit arts and movement education. An ever-evolving individual, they are often found working in costume design/fabrication, large scale art, movement education, dance, photography, arts production, and massage therapy. They are known for creating vibrant, detailed works that both enhance the artistic vision of the collaborator and can stand alone. Krystal's works employ mixed use materials, techniques, and technology. Collaborators include Blind Tiger Society, Sonya Smith, Cielo Vertical Arts, Sarah Bush, Contra Costa School of Performing Arts, Chelsea Van Billiard, Sarah Keeney, J.habitus, Bandaloop, Fog Beast, Nocturne X; Numina Studio, The Port Bar, Take 3 Presents, Sean Dorsey Dance, Tara Pilbrow, Samsung, and Pinecones and Portals.

**EMILY PAULSON** (Technical Director and Stage Manager—she/her) has been blessed to work with Sean Dorsey Dance and the Fresh Meat family since 2012. As Stage Manager and Technical Director, her goal is to create a supported, safe, consistent, and loving atmosphere for the dancers so that they can deeply

experience and transmit the dance to the audience. Bringing Sean's vision to life across the country has been a mind-blowing experience. It is an honor to share this important work with the people and to have a part in shaping American history.

## **Composer/Vocalist Biographies**

**JESSE OLSEN BAY** (he/they) is a musician, composer, teacher, and activist. His work dwells in the intersection of sound, song, embodiment, and community organizing. He directs and performs with MINERS, an ensemble dedicated to using traditional American folk music as a springboard for embodied sonic experimentation. Jesse has received awards and support from American Composers Forum, San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music, Ucross Foundation, and the Isadora Duncan Awards, among others. He lives in the woods of Western Massachusetts with his partner and two young children. More at [jesseolsenbay.com](http://jesseolsenbay.com)

**ANOMIE BELLE** (they/she) is a composer, producer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist who grew up in Portland and resides in Seattle.



Anomie's work brings a queer, feminist, sociological lens to deconstructing power, systems, and culture. Anomie is a producer, classical violinist, and vocalist, and they perform, loop, and manipulate strings, keyboards, vocals, samplers, drum machines, guitar, and bass to create cinematic, layered compositions and songs. Anomie and Sean have been working together for many years, and their relationship has grown as they collaborated to create custom compositions for *The Lost Art of Dreaming*.

[www.anomiebelle.com](http://www.anomiebelle.com)

**GREY REVEREND** (he/him/his) is the solo project of songwriter/composer L.D. Brown. His music has been showcased on MTV, ABC, NBC, HBO, BBC, and other networks worldwide and has been featured on NPR's All Things Considered, as well as The Huffington Post. [www.greyreverend.com](http://www.greyreverend.com)

**FRIDA IBARRA** (she/her) is a multimedia musician, composer, and DJ based in Southern California. She has performed at many events in recent years including the Fresh Meat Festival, SF Pride Main Stage, and countless nights at the STUD. As a composer, Frida composes

original music for filmmakers, content creators, and performance artists in her community. [Ink.bio/fridafeels/](https://www.ink.bio/fridafeels/)

**DR. ALEX KELLY** (he/him) is a cellist, composer, and professor. He composes and performs with major symphony orchestras, chamber orchestras, new music ensembles, string quartets, cello quartets, big bands, jazz combos, rock bands, hip-hop crews, klezmer bands, world music ensembles, theater companies, radio productions, ballet companies, modern dance companies, and circus troupes. Dance companies he has worked with include LINES ballet, Margaret Jenkins, Lizz Roman, Beth Fein, Axis Dance Company, Les 7 Doigts de le Main, and with Sean Dorsey since 2008. Alex was part of the composing team that won a 2016 Isadora Duncan Dance Award for outstanding achievement in Music/Sound/Text for the original soundscore for *THE MISSING GENERATION*. [www.alexkelly.com](http://www.alexkelly.com)

**BEN KESSLER** (he/him) is a music educator, composer, arranger, mixing engineer, sound designer, and multi-instrumentalist from Saline, Michigan. He has performed with numerous groups and has collaborated with Sean Dorsey since 2005. In addition to composing

and working in his studio, Ben currently teaches private music lessons, runs a klezmer group for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and is the musical director and lead trombonist of both a jazz septet and a 19-piece big band.

**KELSEY LU** (they/them) is London-based singer, songwriter, cellist, and producer who constructs their dreamy, off-balance alternative music with a mix of classical chamber, folk, and electronic components, topping off intricate arrangements with soulful vocals. They released their first EP, the spare *Church* in 2016 before expanding their palette with layered electronics and instruments including strings, guitars, and multi-tracked vocals. Their studio debut, *Blood*, landed in 2019. As a studio musician, they have collaborated with artists including Solange, Florence + the Machine, and Blood Orange, and contributed cello and vocals to recordings by Lady Gaga, Solange, and Blood Orange, among others.

[kelsey.lu/](http://kelsey.lu/)

**B NOEL THOMAS** (she/her) is a multi-talented, award-winning performing artist and teacher, currently based in the Bay Area. Her

versatile baritone-to-soprano voice has allowed her to play roles that run the gamut of gender and vocal range. A selection of their credits includes ABC's American Idol Season 3, Theatre Forward 2021 Virtual Gala (featuring Jason Robert Brown, Kate Baldwin, George Salazar, Anika Noni Rose, and more), The Toxic Avenger (Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award winner, Theatre Bay Area Award nominee), and Sister Act (Deloris; Theatre Bay Area Award nominee).  
@BNoelThomas

## Designer Biographies

**TIFFY (TIFFANY) AMUNDSON** (Costume Designer—she/her) Originally based in theater, Tiffy has also worked making costumes in film, television, and theater for 30 years and has been a proud member of IATSE for 25+ years. She spent a notable and inspiring nine years helping create the costumes and millinery work of Teatro Zinzanni come alive and has since been a maker for drag, fashion, dance, and as a maker for the SF ballet and various independent design projects. She started working with Sean in 2011 and is so pleased to be working again with the talented members of

Sean Dorsey Dance! She sends best wishes, love, and support to this amazing community along with hope for peace and health for everyone here and abroad.

**MELISSA CASTANEDA** (Assistant Costume Designer—she/her)

Melissa has been living and performing/creating in San Francisco since 2006. She and her twin sister Elizabeth studied dance at LINES ballet and ODC. She has performed in and/or created costumes for many companies in the Bay Area, including her own! The Fossettes are a Bob Fosse-inspired performance group that frequently backs up drag queens. Sister Magic Productions is a fabulous group of performers that put on amazing shows at Burning Man and in the Bay Area! Please check out [www.sistermagicproductions.com](http://www.sistermagicproductions.com).

Follow Melissa on Instagram at @Maidenmaycostumes

**GRACE COLEMAN** (Sound Engineering, Recording, and Mixing—

she/her, they/them) is an audio engineer based out of San Francisco's legendary Different Fur Studios. She has been lucky to work with many bands and artists such as Toro Y Moi, Fake Fruit,

Spiritual Cramp, Shawna Virago, The She's, and many more. She is honored to be working alongside Sean Dorsey again!

**CLYDE SHEETS** (Lighting Designer—he/him/they) is the Director of Interdisciplinary Arts at Interlochen Center for the Arts. Clyde has worked in performances and events as a musician, director, producer, designer, and production manager. His lighting has been nominated and awarded several company and individual awards in the San Francisco Bay Area, including *The Missing Generation* and *Boys in Trouble* for Sean Dorsey Dance—both Isadora Duncan Dance Award-winning productions. Clyde is thrilled to be working with Sean and this amazing company of artists.

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*Photo Kegan Marling*

Please consider connecting with one of these  
local LGBTQIA+ organizations:



Middlebury College Prism Center  
for Queer and Trans Life

[www.middlebury.edu/prism-center](http://www.middlebury.edu/prism-center)



MiddPride

[www.middpride.org](http://www.middpride.org)



Pride Center of Vermont

[www.pridecentervt.org](http://www.pridecentervt.org)



Outright Vermont (youth)

[outrightvt.org](http://outrightvt.org)



Rutland County Pride

[www.rcpride.org](http://www.rcpride.org)



# Upcoming Events

[go.middlebury.edu/performing](http://go.middlebury.edu/performing)



## Bria Skonberg Quintet

December 4

## Sky was Possible

Music by Professor Su Lian Tan *and*  
Poems by President Laurie L. Patton  
December 7



New  
event!

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With special thanks to those friends who have played a major role  
in the creation of the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts

Frances Hill Barlow and Edward L. Barlow P'95, GP'10  
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Kevin P. Mahaney '84  
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Carolyn Skyllberg Peterson '58 and Milton V. Peterson '58, P'84, '86, '88  
Steve Saulnier '29  
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Barbara P. Youngman and Robert P. Youngman '64, P'87, '90  
Richard D. Zanuck P'93



**Our thanks to the 2024-2025 members  
of the Performing Arts Series Society (PASS)  
for their support of the series and arts at Middlebury.**

**Learn more or join PASS now at [go.middlebury.edu/givepass](https://go.middlebury.edu/givepass)**

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Megan Balparda '26  
Serenity Baxter '27  
Xander Bowles '26  
Josette Chun '26  
Aaron Cohen '25.5  
Greta Costello '26  
Vanessa Dator '25  
Rohan Davies '27  
Juliette Delgado '27  
Chandni Desai '25  
Emma Dobson '27  
Marcos Dominguez '27  
Charles Dye '26  
Menen Ebrahim '26  
Adam Gips '26.5

**Scholars, cont.**

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Marco Motroni '25\*  
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Abeera Riaz '27  
Emme Richards '26  
Tamika Samuels '26  
Alanna Saunders '27  
Camiel Schroeder '26  
Maeve Shea '24.5  
Yuvraj Shah '26  
Cleo Shaw '27  
August Siegel '25  
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Tyler Stark '27\*  
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*\*Performing Arts Series Interns*



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### ACCESS TO THE ARTS IS IMPORTANT TO US.

The following services are available at Mahaney Arts Center events. Connect with an usher or the Box Office or visit [go.middlebury.edu/artsaccess](http://go.middlebury.edu/artsaccess) for more information on our accessibility services.



Accessible parking, seating, and restrooms are available.



Relay calls welcome via the Vermont Relay Service (711).



Assistive listening devices are available at most events.



Sign language interpretation or real-time captioning available at select shows.



Large-print programs are available at many performances.



Accessible/single stall/all-gender restrooms available at many campus venues.



Free and discounted ticket programs are available. [go.middlebury.edu/ticketprograms](http://go.middlebury.edu/ticketprograms)



Low-cost or free transportation available through Tri-Valley Transit, 388-2287, [www.trivalleytransit.org/](http://www.trivalleytransit.org/)

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### MAHANAY ARTS CENTER

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Leeza Robbins, Box Office Manager

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### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Middlebury College sits on land which has served as a site of meeting and exchange among indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Western Abenaki are the traditional caretakers of these Vermont lands and waters, which they call Ndaकिनna, or "homeland." We remember their connection to this region and the hardships they continue to endure. We give thanks for the opportunity to share in the bounty of this place and to protect it.*