

# KANOPLY DANCE

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September 5,2023

Kanopy Dance Company Announces its 2023-24 Season.  
at the Overture Center for the Arts.

TICKETS ON SALE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12,2023

[Overture.org](http://Overture.org) (608) 258-4141

PURE.DANCE.

*Kanopy Presents Art in Motion: Powerful and Transformative Dance*

Guest artist Tadej Brdnik, the magnificent former soloist and principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, opens Kanopy's 2023/24 season in *Shades of Light*, October 20-22,2023... Join Kanopy for a Multi-Cultural, Holiday Celebration, *Winter Fantasia: Reimagined*, November 30-December 3, 2023...

Honor the Martha Graham Dance Company at 100! in Kanopy's *Graham: In HER Voice*, presenting her iconic "Suite from *Appalachian Spring*", March 1-3, 2024...

Be there for the launch of a multi-phased, collaborative world premiere, *ConFluence: A Prelude*, set to Michael Bell's new Symphony "Regeneration: A Pentalogy" with choreography exploring art & the environment, April 19-21,2024...

Discover emerging talent in the *Next Generation of Dance, Kanopy 2 & Kanopy Dance Academy Showcase*, May 18,2024.

## 2023/24 Kanopy Dance Company Season Lineup

Don't Miss Impossibly Exquisite Dance  
With Guest Choreographer and Dancer  
Tadej Brdnik

Former Principal Dancer and Soloist

Martha Graham Dance Company

Debut of Two World Premieres

in Kanopy's *Shades of Light*

October 20-22, 2023

Overture Center for the Arts

Kanopy's *Shades of Light* is a debut of two world premieres as well as reconstructed iconic Kanopy works. Expect impossibly exquisite dance that transcends the apparent boundaries of movement/emotion.

Renowned world class dancer and choreographer, Tadej Brdnik (Brdnik) directs the Kanopy Company in his premiere, "The Moment", which poignantly explores the human experience and illuminates the complex interplay between choice, circumstance, and the boundless potential for personal transformation. This new work delves into the profound notion that a singular MOMENT as simple as a glance, can alter the trajectory of our lives forever. "The Moment" will be staged creatively with dancers choreographically moving outside props to define our personal, spiritual, and communal spaces.

Mr. Brdnik, who is critically acclaimed as a magnificent presence on the stage, will also perform in his premiere: "A Solo for Two and a Chair", a reflective piece that examines the emotional journey of a retired dancer returning to the stage for the first time. The piece will be set to Grammy award -winning composer Bryce Dessner's visceral album, "Ahyem", that combines tradition and modernity to evoke a restless, spiritual experience.

Two iconic and restaged Kanopy pieces: "End Times...Ebullient Machine" and "The Maw", choreographed by Robert E. Cleary and Lisa Thurrell, will also be featured on the program.

### **Shades of Light**

Oct 20-22, 2023 (Fri-Sun)

Friday, 7:30PM, Saturday, 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM, Sunday, 1PM & 4PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40

Groups: 4 or more \$35

Ages 18 & under and Students \$20.

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Kanopy Lights up the Overture Stage with Multicultural Holiday Celebration  
***Winter Fantasia: Reimagined***  
Scandinavian legends and a festive ode to the revered Hindu Festival "Navratri"  
Told through the Magic of Dance  
Stunning Costumes  
November 30- December 3, 2023  
At the Overture Center for the Arts

Kanopy presents ***Winter Fantasia: Reimagined***, designed to enrich the spirit of the holiday celebration by showcasing important contributions from a mosaic of cultures.

The centerpiece, "Chalo Ramiye", was commissioned by Kanopy from South Asian dancer and choreographer Udbhav Desai who will also guest perform in the dance. "Chalo Ramiye" (or "let's play in Gujarati"), is a "garba" folk dance, and it is performed in ritualistic reverence of the Hindu goddess "Durga", a protector of all that is good and harmonious in the world. Performing

the festive garba dance form is a major highlight of the nine-day Hindu festival, **Sharad Navratri**, that honors “Durga” and has been observed for centuries.

Two cherished winter stories rooted in Scandinavian folklore, choreographed by Kanopy’s co-artistic director, Lisa Thurrell and brought to life through the magic of dance: “Once Upon a Winter’s Eve” and “The Norse Tree of Life”, continue to be a treasured part of the program.

And a joyful Kanopy holiday favorite, “Winter in the City”- --inspired by American composer Leonard Bernstein’s score from “On the Town” and the family of 1940’s musicals for film--- returns to the festive lineup, Kanopy’s co –artistic directors, Lisa Thurrell and Robert Cleary, created the original choreography for the three featured episodes in “Winter in the City”.

**Winter Fantasia: Reimagined**

Nov 30-Dec 3, 2023

Thursday 7:00 PM; Friday 7:30 PM, Saturday, 2PM & 5 PM, Sunday, 1PM & 4PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40

Groups: 4 or more \$35

Ages 18 & under and Students \$20

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***Graham: In HER Voice***

Produced in Honor of the

100th anniversary of the Martha Graham Dance Company

With a performance of her iconic and joyful celebration of Americana,

“Suite from Appalachian Spring”, set to a score by Aaron Copland

Mar 1-3, 2024

at the Overture Center for the Arts

*“Kanopy Dance Company contributes immensely to the continued transmission and dissemination of Graham’s artistic legacy. Outside of the Martha Graham Dance Company in New York City (from which many principal artists have come to Madison to work with Kanopy) I cannot think of another company in the world who could present this stunning work in the way it requires.”*

*Sandra Kaufmann, Martha Graham Dance Company Regisseur and Director of Dance, Loyola University, Chicago*

Martha Graham famously remarked: “*To be great, art... must belong to the country in which it flourishes, not be a pale copy of some art form perfected by another culture and another people*”. With her iconic “Appalachian Spring” ---a slice of pioneer life set to a luminous score by Aaron Copland--- that exudes the optimism of a young frontier couple on their wedding day, the legendary Graham passionately drew on the “American experience”.

“Appalachian Spring “evokes a landscape that Graham deeply admired and singularly interpreted through the development of stunning visual composition and sublimely difficult technical movement. Premiering on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1944, as World War II was drawing to end,

“Appalachian Spring” instantly captured the imagination of Americans who harbored hope about a brighter future and was described by critics as “shining and joyous”.

Kanopy’s performance of “Suite from Appalachian Spring”, for ***Graham: In HER Voice*** will be staged and directed by noted guest artists Miki Orihara and Sandra Kaufman, Martha Graham Dance Company regisseurs.

**Graham: In HER Voice**

Mar 1-Mar 3, 2024 (Fri-Sun)

Friday, 7:30 PM, Saturday, 4:30 PM & 7:30PM; Sunday, 1PM & 4 PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40

Groups: 4 or more \$35

Ages 18 & under and Students \$20

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**ConFluence: A Prelude**

World Premiere Collaboration for Three Seasons

Set to ***Regeneration: A Pentalogy***

A New Symphony by Madison Composer

Michael Bell

April 19-21, 2024

at the Overture Center for the Arts

***ConFluence: A Prelude*** is the launch of a world premiere and a multi-phased, creative collaboration between Kanopy Dance and Madison composer, Michael Bell (Bell), that is designed to evolve over the course of several seasons. For the initial phase of this “master work in progress”, Kanopy’s co-artistic directors, Robert E. Cleary and Lisa Thurrell, will choreograph original dances (solos, duets, group ensembles) for three principal movements in Bell’s new symphony, ***Regeneration: A Pentalogy***. Kanopy’s choreography will be informed by the relationship of the environment and art, with “art” acting as a change-maker in helping educate us about the importance of preserving our natural environment.

In ***Regeneration: A Pentalogy***---a dialogue of existence --- Bell musically recounts five movements of life across the “spiral” of time: birth, youth, career, crisis, and realization. He celebrates the regenerative power of connecting to our ecosphere, particularly in the face of environmental upheavals like climate change. Bell also integrates Klezmer (traditional Jewish secular music) in his work, poignantly honoring the memory of his cherished father-in-law.

The choreography for ***Regeneration: A Pentalogy*** will artfully move dancers through the “spiral of time”, and the rhythmic journey towards achieving equanimity-- in attuning to, respecting and caring for nature’s essence.

This is Cleary and Thurrell's 3<sup>rd</sup> collaboration with Bell-- the first two were staged at Wisconsin's celebrated Fermentation Festival and Art DTour to his **eclectic** blend of acoustic folk, bluegrass, and jazz.

**Confluence: A Prelude**

Apr 19-21, 2024 (Fri-Sun)

Friday, 7:30PM, Saturday, 4:30PM & 7:30 PM, Sunday, 1 PM & 4 PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40

Groups: 4 or more \$35

Ages 18 & under and Students \$20

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**The Next Generation of Dance**

Kanopy 2 & Academy Showcase

Performances of Iconic Kanopy Works +

Original Choreography by Academy students & Kanopy 2

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 2PM & 5PM

Two Performances Only

at the Overture Center for the Arts

Watch the next generation of dancers and choreographers in Kanopy's pre-professional training program, Kanopy 2, and the Kanopy Academy ignite the stage with new ideas, new expressions and original choreography and costuming, developed and built by the dancers themselves.

*The Next Generation of Dance* is also a special opportunity for members of our pre-professional company, Kanopy 2 (along with Academy students), to perform iconic works by Kanopy's co-artistic directors, Robert E. Cleary, and Lisa Thurrell, who have earned national acclaim for their dancing and their choreography.

Kanopy 2, our second Company, offers a pre-professional training program open to exceptional students of dance by audition. Serious dancers are introduced to an intense vocabulary of classic and modern forms and study with national luminaries shaping the future of modern contemporary dance.

**The Next Generation: Kanopy2 & Academy Showcase**

May 18, 2024, (Saturday Only)

2 & 5 PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40

Groups: 4 or more \$35

Ages 18 & under and Students \$20

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