

KANOPY DANCE



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A Joyful Multicultural Celebration + Holiday Dazzle
Kanopy Dance Lights up the Stage with a Multicultural Holiday Celebration
Winter Fantasia: Reimagined
Told through the Magic of Dance
Forty Magnetic Dancers in Stunning Costumes & Authentically Crafted Jewelry
November 30-December 3, 2023, at the Overture Center for the Arts
Tickets Overture.org (608) 258-4141

Madison, WI, November 2, 2023...The Winter Solstice has been celebrated thousands of years and marks a season of festivities and storytelling on every continent and in many cultures. Kanopy's **Winter Fantasia: Reimagined**, opening November 30-December 3, 2023, at the Overture Center for the Arts, will enrich the spirit of the solstice celebration by showcasing a mosaic of international traditions through the magic of dance. Join us for an imaginary journey into the enchanting lives of Scandinavian mythological creatures; delight in a "garba" folk dance, "Chalo Ramiye", a festive ode to the revered Hindu Festival "Navratri"; and celebrate with "Winter in the City", choreographed to Leonard Bernstein's landmark score for "On the Town".

South Asian guest artist, Udbhav Desai, returns for this production of **Winter Fantasia: Reimagined** to perform in and direct Kanopy dancers in his "Chalo Ramiye", (a world premiere

commissioned last season by Kanopy).

“Chalo Ramiye” (or “let’s play in Gujarati”), is a “garba” folk dance, and it is performed in reverence of the Hindu goddess “Durga”, a protector of all that is good and harmonious in the world. The dance is an uplifting and joyful community celebration, that Kanopy hopes will strengthen our connection to each other.

Passed down through generations, “garba” shares many parallels with modern dance and ballet techniques. “Chalo Ramiye” will be a visual feast-- with highly expressive dance and enchanting traditional costumes and jewelry crafted in a genuine Gujarati style. Dancing the “Chalo Ramiye” choreography demands a spirited bounce in the movement, nuanced head and hand gestures, grounded weighted movement, and a special bond among the performers. Garba is rarely, if ever, performed on a big stage in the United States- outside of cultural celebrations. *(Costumes and jewelry worn by dancers portraying female roles in “Chalo Ramiye” come from a collection curated by the late Bijalben Patel, a lifelong Garba choreographer and dancer. They were donated to Kanopy Dance in loving memory by the guest artist’s mother, Raxitaben Desai)*

Also part of the **Winter Fantasia: Reimagined** program are two cherished audience favorites-- winter stories that are deeply rooted in Scandinavian folklore: “The Norse Tree of Life” and “Once Upon a Winter’s Eve”, choreographed by Kanopy’s co-artistic director, Lisa Thurrell (Thurrell). Thurrell’s choreography was inspired by childhood memories of her imaginary journeys into the lives of the mythological tomten -a mischievous but protective spirit in Scandinavian folklore- and by the shimmering fairies who appear during the winter solstice.

Noted New York City costume designer, David Quinn (Quinn), created the wardrobe of elaborate costumes for “Once Upon a Winter’s Eve”. Quinn, who designed many of the fabrics himself, was inspired by images of folk wear and medieval clothing as well as by the designers Alexander McQueen, Rei Kawakubo, and Guo Pei in ornately weaving and detailing his creative collection of gender-fluid costumes for Kanopy’s dancers.

And, a joyful Kanopy holiday favorite, Winter in the City- --inspired by American composer Leonard Bernstein’s landmark score from the sassy musical, “On the Town”, returns to the festive program lineup. Winter in the City is a delightful twist on that iconic tale—with a starry-eyed innocent small- town actor, dancer, or dreamer at center stage-- trying to make it in the “Big City”—that is all wrapped up in frosty mystique. Kanopy’s co-artistic directors, Lisa Thurrell and Robert Cleary, created the original choreography for the three dances episodes featured in Winter in the City including “Times Square, 1944”, “The Great Lover” and “Lonely Town”. Expect nostalgia, joy and some great dance moves by Kanopy Dance Company members Miye Bishop, Stormy Gaylord, Eddie Salas, and Alex Trofka.

Winter Fantasia: Reimagined

Performing at Overture's Promenade Hall

Reception following Friday Night Performance free for all ticket holders

Thursday, November 30, 7PM; Friday, December 1, 7:30PM; Saturday, Dec 2, 2 & 5PM;
Sunday, Dec 11, 1 & 4PM Tickets (reserved seating): \$40; Groups: 4 or more \$35; Ages 18 &
under \$20; Students \$20 For Tickets: [Overture.org](https://overture.org) (608) 258-4141

About Kanopy Dance

Kanopy Dance is a quintessential modern dance company. While the company "informs" its works through its roots in the Martha Graham tradition, Kanopy has cultivated its own brand, working to forward a new dimension and visual language to advance American dance.

Kanopy's artistic directors, Robert E. Cleary, (former principal dancer for Ballet Minnesota and Minnesota Dance Theater) and Lisa Thurrell, (who trained and danced with the Martha Graham Dance Company, NYC), not only strive to preserve the best of Graham; but also, to cultivate the dynamic growth of American dance by training professional dancers, choreographing new works and collaborating with artists to establish new creative benchmarks. Kanopy is comprised of Kanopy Dance Company, Kanopy 2, (Kanopy's second company and pre-professional training program), and the Kanopy Dance Academy housed at the new Kanopy Center for Modern and Contemporary Dance. Kanopy is a resident company of Overture Center for the Arts. Please visit us at <https://kanopydance.org/>