

MEET THE ADJUDICATORS



SARA PEARSON



VINCENT E. THOMAS



PATRIK WIDRIG

41ST ANNUAL

**CHOREOGRAPHER'S
SHOWCASE**



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 Parks &
Recreation
M-N C P P C



SARA PEARSON, co-artistic director of PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER (PWDT) since 1987 and professor at the University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies since 2009, has been creating "appealingly subversive, engaging, wry, and deeply affecting work" (The Washington Post) for the stage and alternative sites throughout the US, Europe, Latin America, and Asia, including the Eiun-In Buddhist temple in Kyoto, the Alexandrinsky theater lobby in St. Petersburg, UNESCO World Heritage sites in Germany and Puerto Rico, and the fern forests of New Zealand. Their most recent engagement took them to Elefsina, Greece, which was designated the 2023 European Capital of Culture, where they created and performed the multi-disciplinary work Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate at the Vlycha Bay ship graveyard. Supported by numerous grants including the NEA, MAP, and American Artists Abroad, her work has been produced by Lincoln Center, City Center Fall for Dance, Central Park SummerStage, the Joyce Theater, the Kitchen, and on state department tours throughout North Africa and India. pearsonwidrig.org

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VINCENT E. THOMAS (dancer/choreographer/teacher) received his MFA in Dance from Florida State University and a BME in Music from the University of South Carolina. He has danced with Dance Repertory Theatre (FSU), Randy James Dance Works (NY/NJ), EDGEWORKS Dance Theater (DC), and Liz Lerman Dance Exchange (MD). His choreography has been presented at various national and international venues including DUMBO Festival (NY), Velocity Festival (DC), Modern Moves Festival (DC), Philly Fringe (PA), Edinburgh Fringe Festival (UK-Scotland), Barcelona and Madrid, Spain, Avignon, France, Athens, Greece, Bari, Italy, Copenhagen, Denmark, Shanghai, Taipei, and Singapore. He received rave reviews for his performance of “Come Change” (2012) and “iWitness” (2014) in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Scotland). Theater credits: Movement Coach/Choreographer for Everyman Theater’s Brother’s Size by Tarell Alvin McCraney in Baltimore, MD (2012), Mosaic Theatre’s Unexplored Interior by Jay Sander in Washington, DC (2015), and Everyman Theater’s Los Otros by Ellen Fitzhugh in Baltimore, MD (2017), and Associate Choreographer/Movement Coach for Williamstown Theater Festival’s Most Happy in Concert in Williamstown, MA (2022) directed by Daniel Fish. He is the Artistic Director/Choreographer of the national touring What’s Going On project. Vincent was awarded the 2011-2012 Towson University Student Government Association Faculty Member of the Year, a 2014-2015 NextLook Artist for the University of Maryland College Park and Joe’s Movement Emporium, a 2012-13 American Dance Institute Incubator Artist (MD), 2016 Baker Artist Award finalists, the 2017 Pola Nirenska Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance (DC), the 2019 University System of Maryland Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity, the 2020 MDEA Living Legacy Award, a 2021 William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund Awardee, a 2022 Baker Award Finalist, and a 2023 Black History Month Honoree for Richland District II (SC). Vincent is the Associate Choreographer for the INTELLIGENCE Opera, written and conceived by Jake Heggie, Gene Sheer, and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, premiere at Houston Grand Opera. He is the co-choreographer for SCAT! The Complex Lives of Al and Dot- Dot and Al Zollar with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. He is an Urban Bush Women BOLD Facilitator, faculty member for the UBW Summer Institutes (NY), and Professor of Dance at Towson University (MD).

His multi-dimensional company VTDance builds on the use of contemporary dance, improvisation, text/ movement, a variety of sound sources, and collaborations with other artists, including dancers, musicians, poets, visual artists, and others [to be discovered]. These ideas coupled with witty, poignant, athletic and gestural movement are the rich palette for VTDance. www.vtdance.org

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PATRIK WIDRIG has been co-artistic director of the internationally renowned PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER (PWDT) since 1987 and professor at the University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies since 2009, where he currently holds the Dorothy G. Madden professorship (2022-24). Presenting "American dance theater at its funniest and most poignant" (Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Switzerland), PWDT has gained an international following for their concert stage, site-specific and community performance projects throughout the US, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and New Zealand. Their most recent engagement took them to Elefsina, Greece, which was designated the 2023 European Capital of Culture, where they created and performed the multi-disciplinary work Persephone Reconsiders Her Fate at the Vlycha Bay ship graveyard. Past highlights include site-specific performance works at two UNESCO World Heritage sites: Zeche Zollverein in Essen, Germany, and the Castillo San Cristóbal in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Financial support has included funding from the NEA, the NPN, USArtists International/Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and Arts International. pearsonwidrig.org