

KIZUNA DANCE

MARKETING KIT 2017



ABOUT KIZUNA DANCE



Kizuna Dance is a NYC-based contemporary dance company founded by **Artistic Director Cameron McKinney** in June 2014. Kizuna Dance boasts a roster of eight **multi-cultural performers and professional educators** who are consistently focused on **enriching and empowering their communities** through performances, outreach activities, and cultural dialogue.

The mission of the company is to depict aspects of the Japanese culture through contemporary dance. Kizuna Dance celebrates the Japanese culture by bringing it to life on stage through a blend of breaking, house dance and lofting, and waving with modern dance sensibilities. Artistic Director Cameron McKinney brings his dynamic and idiosyncratic movements to the works, making them resonate with physicality, humanity, humor, and intricacy.

In three short years, the company has toured across **six states and internationally in Mexico and the UK**. Hailed by the Stewardship Report as “**compositionally fascinating**”, “**beautifully crafted**”, and “**intricately detailed**”, Kizuna Dance has been presented twice by the Let's Dance International Frontiers Festival, and by Performatica, Movement Research, Gibney Dance, Nazareth College, Denmark Arts Center, The Japan Society, Center for Performance Research, The Wassaic Summer Project Festival, The Moving Beauty Series, Ailey Citigroup Theater, Triskelion Arts, and Dixon Place, among others. The company has held residencies in New York, New Jersey, Maine, and Connecticut.

Kizuna Dance is rapidly emerging as an **innovative young company in the New York scene** by constantly pushing the boundaries of what is deemed possible by an emerging company. 2017 will be the company's most ambitious year to date, featuring **performances throughout New York City and tours to Boston, Seattle, and California**. The company will also again be **presented overseas in Leicester, UK** in 2018.

www.cameronmckinneydance.com



THE MISSION

TO CREATE work inspired by the Japanese language, culture, and history

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TO CREATE dance that is culturally inspired, physically complex, and intellectually stimulating

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TO OFFER unique cross-cultural productions and experiences on stage and off

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TO BUILD bonds that strengthen arts communities through workshops, residencies, and discussions



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

CAMERON MCKINNEY



Cameron McKinney is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and author from Memphis, TN. His choreographic work as Artistic Director of Kizuna Dance has been presented twice by the Let's Dance International Frontiers Festival (UK), and by the Performatica Festival (Mexico), The Japan Society, Gibney Dance, Movement Research, The Moving Beauty Series, Bailout Theater, Dixon Place, The Wassaic Project Summer Festival, Nazareth College, Triskelion Arts, NACHMO, RAW:Brooklyn, Ready or Not, and The Ailey Citigroup Theater, among many others. He has been commissioned twice by the Let's Dance International Frontiers Festival in the UK and twice by the Joffrey Ballet School, as well as by the Steffi Nossen School of Dance (NY), The Moving Beauty Series (NYC) and SpectorDance Studio (CA). Cameron was chosen in 2015 as one of 10 promising emerging choreographers to participate in Doug Varone's DEVICES Choreographic Intensive.

*"His purposeful level of effort, whether in the ground, moving through fluid isolations and waves, or slowing down into pantomimed comedy, is mesmerizing."
- The Stewardship Report*

His movement blends house dance, capoeira, and contemporary floorwork. He speaks Japanese and has taught internationally in Japan, Mexico, and the UK. Domestically, he has taught in six states, and primarily in NYC at Gibney Dance, Williamsburg Movement and Arts Center, Mark Morris, 100 Grand, BAX with Dance to the People, and RoCM Dance. He has been on faculty at the Joffrey Ballet School's JOFFREY EXPERIENCE Intensive, the Joffrey Ballet School's Jazz & Contemporary Program, the Contemporary Experience Intensive, the Southern Vermont Dance Festival, and the Performatica Festival.

In 2017, Cameron received his second commission from the Joffrey Ballet School, and returned to the United Kingdom to co-lead a workshop on Developing Your Choreographic Voice. This year, he will also teach guest classes at the Dance Complex in Boston, at Purdue University in Indiana, at Spectrum Dance Theater and the Allegro Performing Arts Academy in Seattle, and at Middlebury College. In 2018, Cameron will lead guest workshops in Leicester, UK as well as in Monterey and Ojai, California.

COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

2018

Tour to Leicester // PACE1 University | Leicester, UK
Tour to Monterey // Middlebury Institute for International Studies | Monterey, CA
Tour to Ojai // The Thacher School | Ojai, CA
Teaching Residency // University of Brockport | Brockport, NY

2017

Gibney Dance Showdown // Agnes Performing Arts Center at Gibney Dance | New York, NY
Movement Research, Monday Night Series // Judson Memorial Church | New York, NY
Guest Workshops // Developing Your Choreographic Voice // Leicester, UK
MAD Festival // Nazareth College | Rochester, NY
Edo Extravaganza // The Japan Society | New York, NY
Merge Volume 4 // Center for Performance Research | Brooklyn, NY
Guest Workshop for Black Men in America // Gibney Dance Center | New York, NY
Boston Contemporary Dance Festival // Boston Center for the Arts | Boston, MA
Making Moves Festival // Jamaica Performing Arts Center | Jamaica, NY
Guest Class // Spectrum Dance Theatre | Seattle, WA
Against the Grain Festival // Velocity Dance Center | Seattle, WA
Guest Class // Allegro Performing Arts Academy | Seattle, WA
The Dance Gallery Festival // Gelsey Kirkland Academy | Brooklyn, NY
Dance Alumni Week // Middlebury College | Middlebury, VT
Contemporary Forms Classes // Gibney Dance Center | New York, NY

2016

CollabFest // Triskelion Arts | Brooklyn, NY
I <3 Gibney Dance // Gibney Dance Center | New York, NY
MAD Festival // Nazareth College | Rochester, NY
Brooklyn Dance Festival // Long Island University | Brooklyn, NY
Autograph, Let's Dance International Frontiers // Curve Theater | Leicester, UK
Performatica Festival // UDLAP | Puebla, Mexico
Performance Residency // Denmark Arts Center | Denmark, ME
FORETOKEN Evening Premiere // Triskelion Arts | Brooklyn, NY

2015

STUFFED // Judson Memorial Church | New York, NY
Signatures, Let's Dance International Frontiers // Curve Theater | Leicester, UK
Under Exposed // Dixon Place | New York, NY
Ailey Citigroup Theater | New York, NY
Doug Varone's CHIN Intensive // 92nd Street Y | New York, NY
The Series // The Secret Theater | Long Island City, NY

2014

Ready or Not Showcase // 100 Grand Studio | New York, NY
RAW: Brooklyn presents SCOPE // Brooklyn Bazaar | Brooklyn, NY
Movement Research, Open Performance // Eden's Expressway | New York, NY
Hatch Performing Series // Jennifer Muller Studio | New York, NY

COMMISSIONS

2018

The Thacher School | Ojai, CA
University of Brockport | Brockport, NY

2017

Joffrey Ballet School | New York, NY

2016

Joffrey Ballet School | New York, NY
LDIF Festival | Leicester, UK
Moving Beauty Series | New York, NY

2015

LDIF Festival | Leicester, UK

2013

SpectorDance Studio | Marina, CA

THE ARTISTS



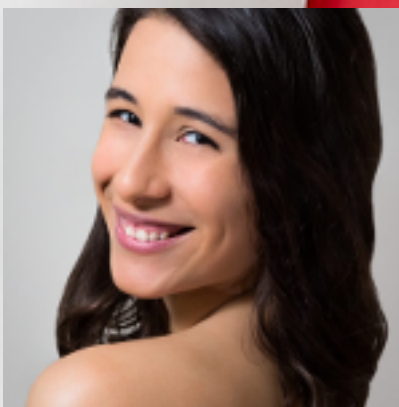
**GWENDOLYN
BAUM**



**ROHAN
BHARGAVA**



**BRIANNA
DIXON**



**REKA
ECHERER**



**CHELSEA
ESCHER**



**EZRA
GOH**



**CASSIDY
SAMELIAN**





REPERTORY

*"Distinct personalities emerge from the listless commuters through moments of stillness and explosions of motion...evoking the hidden depths of the strangers who populate a crowd through athletic, abstract movement."
- The Stewardship Report*



KOIBITO

Koibito is a darker and emotionally-driven work about chaos and missed connections. Drawing inspiration from the plight of a Japanese salaryman, it engages themes of physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion by focusing on three businessmen who struggle to balance an insatiable drive to succeed with a desperate desire to rediscover intimacy, however fleeting.

The dance unfolds through a series of brief chapters that transform mundane locations into chaotic scenes of infatuation and heartbreak, while simultaneously exploring the malleability of streetdance and contemporary floorwork.

Premiere // January 2018

Split Bill Series at Triskelion Arts | Brooklyn, NY

Dancers // 8

Running Time // 40 Minutes | Excerpt // 15 Minutes

Music // Ryoji Ikeda, Yuzu, Haxan Cloak, Asterisk, Magnetic Fields, Vladislav Delay



FORETOKEN

Inspired by the intricacy within Manabu Ikeda's visual art piece of the same name, *Foretoken* recreates several of Ikeda's masterpieces, translating ink pen strokes into a series of short dances that echo the undeniably witty humanity present even in Ikeda's most grandiose pieces.

Premiere // September 2016

Triskelion Arts Presents Kizuna Dance // Triskelion Arts | Brooklyn, NY

Dancers // 6

Running Time // 34 Minutes | Excerpt // 15 Minutes

Music // Biosphere, Kyu Sakamoto, Marko Furstenberg, Takashi Yoshimatsu, Noriko Awaya, Mitchell Akiyama, The Black Dog, CocoRosie

*"The detailing in each dancer's arc is exquisite, yet the overall image is sweeping in scope."
- The Stewardship Report*

REPERTORY

*"The composition is exquisite, creating visual depth and laser-sharp focus on details when needed."
- The Stewardship Report*



THREE POISONS

Three Poisons delves into the three sins of Buddhism—ignorance, attachment, and craving—and how they afflict the human condition. Inspired by Zen and Nichiren Buddhism, the work treats dance as the physicalization of the spiritual practice of meditation. It addresses the roots of our suffering through athletic phrasework, comedic tidbits of pop culture, and intricate group partnering representative of the complexity of human interactions that collectively mold the space in search of answers.

Premiere // May 2015

STUFFED // Judson Memorial Church | New York, NY

Dancers // 5

Music // BBC One, Riley Lee, Aeolia, Gas, Chris Rock, Marina Franklin, Original Poetry by Isabella Tudisco



IN PRAISE OF SHADE

A humorous and highly physical work, *In Praise of Shade* explores the element of darkness within the Japanese aesthetic, as described in Junichiro Tanizaki's famed essay, "In Praise of Shadows". Aligning those values with the nuanced art of "throwing shade" in today's pop culture, *In Praise of Shade* boldly connects two seemingly disparate cultures in an ethereal realm of house dance-inspired movement that still resonates with the comedic aspects of living in a mundane world.

Premiere // October 2015

Under Exposed // Dixon Place | New York, NY

Dancers // 6

Music // Thomas Brinkmann, Edgar Allan Poe, Youtube (Clevver News, iO Trendz, Melissa C), MTV VMA Awards (Nicki Minaj & Miley Cyrus)



HITSUZENDO

Inspired by Zen Buddhism and Japanese calligraphy, *Hitsuzendo* strives for the "perfect meditative state" by reaching a high level of exhaustion and pushing past it. The body is the paintbrush, the stage is the paper. *Hitsuzendo* physically encapsulates the spiritual practice of self-realization hidden in ensou, a circle painted in a single stroke.

Premiere // May 2015

Signature at Let's Dance International Frontiers Festival // Leicester, UK

Dancers // 1

Music // Chris Rock, Wale, Gut, Riley Lee, Aeolia

"The soundscape seems to physically attack his person, as though each reverberation creates an open wound yet seems to resound from his very bones. The final image of McKinney shakily taking an old-fashioned courtier's bow, arms outstretched and head dropped, was haunting. Intense, humorous, laden with pathos—this solo is many things, but the adjective that is consistent throughout is impressive."

- The Stewardship Report



OUTREACH

PERFORMANCES //

Kizuna Dance is able to provide professionally presented performances for proscenium stages and site-specific venues, ranging from outdoors to museums and galleries. The full company is available for booking and travel, and select performers can be booked for excerpts of current repertory. Kizuna Dance can provide programming ranging from 10 minutes to 90 minutes.

COMMISSIONS //

Artistic Director Cameron McKinney sets company repertory on modern companies, as well as ballet- and/or contemporary-focused schools, studios, and college dance programs. Existing repertory can be tailored to accommodate a specific number of students or any program's desired goals. Past commissions include the Joffrey Ballet School, The Moving Beauty Series, the Let's Dance International Frontiers Festival, and SpectorDance Studio.

RESIDENCIES //

Kizuna Dance has held residencies based on education and performance in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maine. The company is available to teach a wide range of classes to students at any age and level.

MASTER CLASSES //

Kizuna Dance boasts a full roster of professional educators in a variety of fields. The company can offer instruction and classes in Contemporary Floorwork, Choreography, Hip-Hop/House, Dance Photography, Gyrotonic and Bodywork, Partnering, Improvisation, Release Technique, and more. Several company members are also experienced Kids Instructors who can lead classes for younger students.

INFORMAL SHOWING //

The company reveals the creative process behind the creation of a repertory work and then performs. The showing can be followed by an optional Q&A session. Showings can be easily provided with minimal tech requirements in a variety of performance venues.

BASIC JAPANESE //

Artistic Director Cameron McKinney will guide students through introductory phrases, greetings, and farewells. The class offers a brief glimpse into the Japanese language, which forms the basis of some of the company's repertory.

CONTACT

For more information + booking opportunities, please contact:

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KIZUNA DANCE COMPANY

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