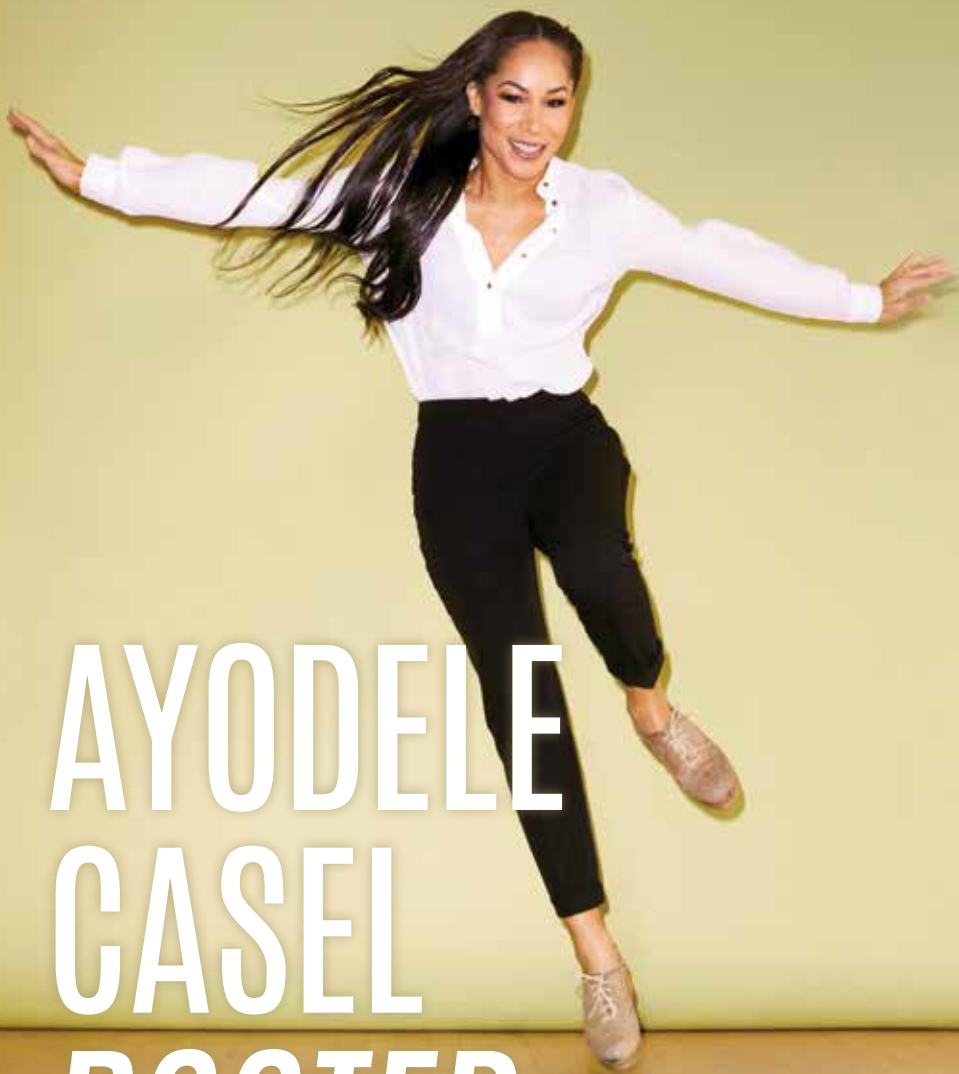




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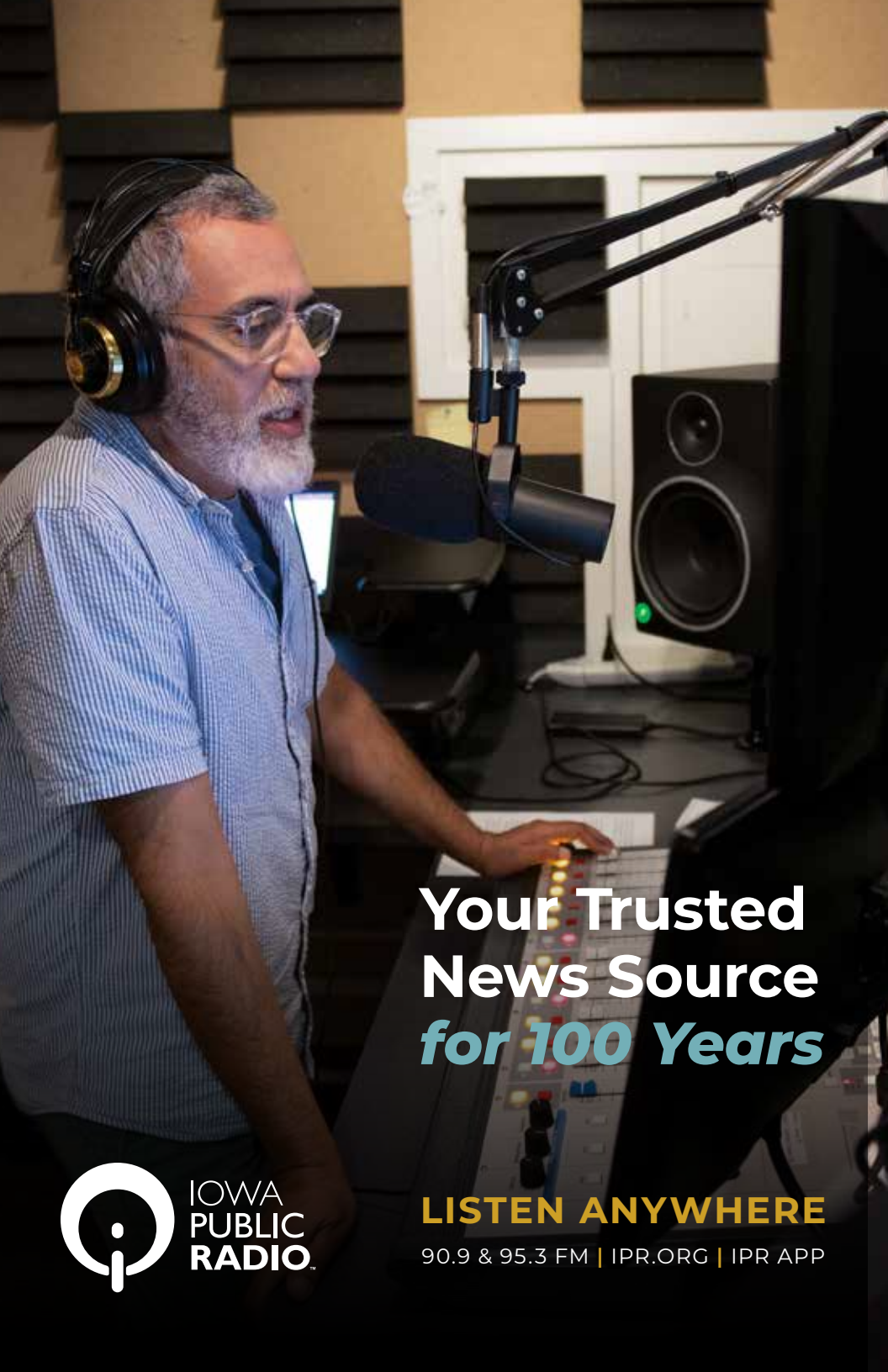


AYODELE
CASEL
ROOTED

Friday & Saturday
September 22 & 23, 2023

Photo: Ben Ritter

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ROOTED

Friday, September 22, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.
Hancher Auditorium, the University of Iowa
The Auditorium / Hadley Stage / Onstage Seating

Choreography by AYODELE CASEL
Improvisation by the Artists
Direction by TORYA BEARD
Stage Manager / Production Manager, ERIN MCCOY
Lighting Design, ALAN EDWARDS
Sound Design Consultant, PATRICK MIDDLEBROOK
Wardrobe Stylist, BRITTNEY GRIFFIN

Ayodele Casel	Tap Artist / Choreographer
Naomi Funaki	Tap Artist
Jared Alexander	Tap Artist
Anthony McPherson	Poet
Jai Perez	Movement Artist
Keisel Jiménez	Percussion
Raul Reyes	Bass
Carlos Cippelletti	Piano



HANCHER EVENT PARTNERS

Alicia Brown-Matthes

Kris Jones



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TORYA BEARD (*Creative Director/Director*) was the recipient of APAP's Inaugural CIPA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Creative Producing and was featured in *Variety* and *Lifetime's* special *Power of Women: The Changemakers* for her work with A BroaderWay Foundation. Torya's creative partnership with Ayodele Casel has been a significant collaboration. The pair developed various projects, including co-directing and choreographing the production of *Sophisticated Ladies* for University of Michigan's School of Music, Theater, and Dance (fall 2022); Bessie Award-winning dance film *Ayodele Casel: Chasing Magic* and *Ayodele Casel + Arturo O'Farrill* (The Joyce Theater); *Ayodele Casel: Chasing Magic Live* (American Repertory Theater); *Really Rosie* (City Center Encores! Off-Center); *Diary of a Tap Dancer V.6: Us and Where We Dwell* (New York City Center commissions); *Rooted* for the inaugural five-borough tour of New York City Center's *On the Move*; *Diary of a Tap Dancer V.4* (Director); and *While I Have the Floor* (Producer). Beard and Casel are resident directors of Dance Lab New York's Tap Project and were co-curators of the Little Island Dance Festival. Torya's other projects include *Funny Girl* 2022 Broadway revival and National Tour (Assistant Director); *Waitress* 2021 Broadway remount (Assistant Director); American Repertory Theater's 2022 Gala (Director); *Jesus Christ Superstar*: Highlights from the All-Female Studio Cast Recording (Executive Producer); and Idina Menzel's 2017 World Tour (Creative Director). Torya is Executive Director of A BroaderWay Foundation, Artistic Director of Excellence Community Schools, Co-Founder of tall poPpy, and sits on the boards of Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance, Sole Defined, and Raja Feather Kelly's dance-theatre-media company, the feath3r theory (TF3T). Learn more about Torya at toryabeard.com, @thatgirltorya.



AYODELE CASEL (*Choreographer/Tap Artist*), a Doris Duke Artist in the dance category, is an award-winning and critically acclaimed tap dancer and choreographer named one of the *New York Times'* "biggest breakout stars of 2019." Born in The Bronx and raised in Puerto Rico, her practice centers highly narrative works rooted in expressions of selfhood, culture, and legacy. Her projects include her concert and Bessie Award-winning film *Chasing Magic*, her one-woman show *While I Have the Floor*, and her theatrical and film series *Diary of a Tap Dancer*. She serves as a tap choreographer for the Broadway revival of *Funny Girl*, which garnered her a 2022 Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Choreography.



A frequent City Center collaborator, she created an interactive show for its inaugural *On the Move* five-borough tour and is the 2023 Artist at the Center. Her collaboration with Grammy award-winning Latin jazz composer and pianist Arturo O'Farrill is hailed by the *New York Times* as "next level" and "thrilling." Casel was a 2019–2020 fellow at The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, an artist-in-residence at Harvard University and Little Island, and the recipient of a United States Artist Fellowship, as well as Hooper and Flo-Bert awards. In 2021, Casel was depicted on a USPS Forever Stamp celebrating tap dance. Casel has performed at The White House, Carnegie Hall, Radio City, MSG, and Off-Broadway with Savion Glover as the only woman in his touring company N.Y.O.T.s. (Not Your Ordinary

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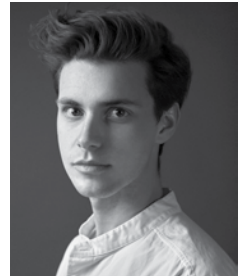
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Tappers). Her works have been presented at The Joyce, Lincoln Center, City Center, Symphony Space, Dance Theater Workshop, The Triad Theater, and Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, among others. Casel is an alumna of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and The William Esper Studio. A dance educator for over 25 years, Casel is the co-director of Operation Tap, an online tap dance educational platform, DLNY Tap Dance Project, and serves on the board of the youth arts leadership organization A BroaderWay Foundation.

JARED ALEXANDER (*Tap Artist*) Born and raised in Clintondale, NY, and currently residing in New York City, Alexander began dancing at the age of three starting with tap. He then went on to graduate from Pace University with a BFA degree in commercial dance in 2019. He is now an Artist in Residence at the American Tap Dance Foundation; a choreographer sponsored by Miller and Ben Tap Shoes; a part-time worker at Apple; a Creative of multiple art forms, experimenting in beat-making, videography, photography, "Hypebeast" technology and fashion, as well as illustrative exploration; the creator of *Capture The Tap* (an art installation project); a company member of Caleb Teicher & Co.; and performed under the direction of Ayodele Casel and Torya Beard in *Chasing Magic* (2022) at The Joyce Theater; MET Gala (2022); Fords Gala (2022); Bordeaux, France; Warner Bros.; and Little Island Summer Dance Festival (2022). Jared's dream is to create a multipurpose creative space that allows for focused artistry, performance art, fine art, film production, and the purity of human connection to immerse in. @jared_alexandah



CARLOS CIPPELETTI (*Pianist*) Composer, pianist and a leader of the young generation of Latin Jazz musicians, Carlos Cippelletti's work celebrates the cultural and historical ties between Ibero-America and North America. He is a two-time winner of the Latin Grammy Cultural Foundation Scholarship and four-time winner of the AIE Scholarship (artists and interpreters Association of Spain). He was awarded first prize in both the Malaga International Jazz Festival Competition, Portón del Jazz and the international 7 Virtual Jazz Club competition and was awarded for his outstanding academic achievements at the Alfonso X el Sabio University. In 2018 Carlos toured Europe with the JM Jazz World Orchestra—the world's premiere youth jazz orchestra led by renowned trombonist Luis Bonilla. In 2021 he graduated with a master's degree in Latin Jazz from Codarts University of the Arts in Rotterdam. Cippelletti received a Fulbright Scholarship to do his second master's degree at The New School, and was mentored in New York by Arturo O'Farrill. A fixture on the New York Latin Jazz scene, Cippelletti performs with Arturo O'Farrill & The Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. His most recent project and first album entitled *HYBRID/C*, is a musical and cultural fusion project with a common point that is Afro-Cuban music and jazz.



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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

NAOMI FUNAKI (*Tap Artist*) is a tap dance artist from Tokyo, Japan, currently living in New York City and working with New York-based companies. She was selected as a winner of Princess Grace Award 2023. She moved to New York to pursue her tap dance career in 2016, training at Steps on Broadway as IISP student. She has worked for Ayodele Casel, Caleb Teicher & Company, Music From The Sole, and Dorrance Dance. She is also an alumni of The School at Jacob's Pillow for their tap dance program of 2017. Other favorite performance credits include *Tap Family Reunion*, *Fall For Dance* (New York City Center), *Vail Dance Festival*, *Dance Against Cancer* (Lincoln Center), and *Ayodele Casel and Arturo O'Farrill* (Joyce Theater), and *Ayodele Casel and Arturo O'Farrill* (Joyce Theater), *The MET Gala*, *YouTube Broadcast Event* (Radio City Music Hall), *Works & Process* (Guggenheim), *Infinity* in Tokyo, and *Chasing Magic* (Joyce Theater).



BRITTNEY GRIFFIN (*Wardrobe Stylist*) graduated from the University at Buffalo with a BFA degree in dance. Credits include: *Hairspray*, *42nd Street* (International), *Dreamgirls* National Broadway Tour (Dance Captain/Swing), *Dreamgirls* Non-Equity and South African Tour (Associate Director/Choreographer), *Apollo Club Harlem*, *Aver Midnight* (NCL). Film: *Bolden*, *A Jazzman's Blues* (Netflix). Winner of 2022 Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Choreography from her work on *Five Guys Named Moe* (Playhouse on Park). She is currently a Creative Consultant for lululemon NYC and the Associate Choreographer of Broadway's *Kimberly Akimbo*. Extra special thanks and appreciation to Ayodele and Torya.



KEISEL JIMÉNEZ (*Percussionist*) is a percussionist specializing in timbal, congas, and drum set. Born in 1983 in Camagüey, Cuba, Jiménez worked as a session musician as well as live performer and is especially known for his work with Alexander Abreu y Havana D'Primera and Issac Delgado amongst others. Since 2017, he has been an integral member of Arturo O'Farrill and Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra and has regularly performed at renowned venues globally such as the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and the Elbe Philharmonic Hall in Hamburg, Germany.



ERIN McCOY (*Stage Manager/Production Manager*) Dance: Ayodele Casel Artists At The Center, *Fall for Dance* (New York City Center); *Chasing Magic* (The Joyce Theater & Spoleto Festival). Broadway/National Tour: *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, *Hamilton*. Off-Broadway: *Ain't No Mo*, *#BARS*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Dry Powder*, *Buzzer*, *Fidelis* (Public Theater), *Twelfth Night* (Public Works), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest* (Public Theater Shakespeare in the Park), *Sugar In Our Wounds* (MTC). Lincoln Center Directing Labs, Lincoln Center Theater. *Invisible Thread*, Second Stage Theater. Regional: *The Folks at Home*, *Shakespeare*

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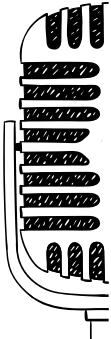
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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

in Love, Jazz (Baltimore Center Stage); *Moby-Dick* (American Repertory Theater); *Appropriate* (Westport Country Playhouse). Thrilled to be part of this company!

ANTHONY McPHERSON (*Poet*) is a biracial-Black poet, dancer, and artist from Oklahoma, based in New York City. His work appears on Button Poetry, Write About Now, SlamFind, *Huffington Post*, Upworthy, The Good Men Project, and elsewhere. Poems also appear in the Emmy-winning documentary *Brooklyn Slams* and *Love Beats Rhymes* by Lionsgate Films. McPherson is a Rustbelt Poetry Slam Champion, a two-time Inkslam Champion, a three-time Brooklyn Poetry Slam Champion, and placed runner-up at the Individual World Poetry Slam. Currently a poet-in-residence with the National Museum of African American History and Culture, McPherson is represented by The College Agency.



PATRICK MIDDLEBROOK (*Sound Design Consultant*) Patrick is very excited to be joining the *Rooted* team after working on the *Chasing Magic* show! His credits include venue audio engineer for Spoleto Music Festival, audio engineer for Impact Dance, and other stagehand work with his local community of Fort Collins, Colorado.

JAI PEREZ (*Movement Artist*) is a New York based artist who started his dance journey at the National Dance Institute where he cultivated a love for dance. He continued his training at the Alvin Ailey Junior Division. Jai is an incoming alumni of the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase where he received a BFA degree in dance. Jai is a company member of Buglisi Dance Theatre. He has performed works by Ronald K. Brown, Earl Mosley, Doug Varone, Norbert De La Cruz III, and Martha Graham.



RAUL REYES (*Bassist*) Seeking a new direction for his music career, Cuban-born bassist and composer Raul Reyes moved to the United States in 2010. Raul has been described as a bassist with an “advanced sense of rhythm, beautiful sound, time, and solos.” Reyes’s versatility in traditional jazz and contemporary jazz trends has earned him opportunities to work with artists such as Arturo O’Farrill, Victor Lewis, Tia Fuller, and Ayodele Casel, among many others. In 2021, Raul moved to New York City to attend The Juilliard School. Raul can often be seen performing at premiere jazz clubs in New York City such as Birdland, Dizzy’s, Smalls Jazz Club, Mezzrow, and Blue Note.





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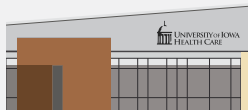
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