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**GIBNEY COMPANY ANNOUNCES COMMISSIONED ARTISTS AND  
PROGRAM FOR DEBUT SEASON AT THE JOYCE THEATER**

**World Premiere Program Features New Works by Choreographers  
Sonya Tayeh, Alan Lucien Øyen, and Rena Butler**

**November 2-7, 2021**



**NEW YORK, NY, July 27, 2021** – Gibney Company, a new contemporary dance company, will make its debut at The Joyce Theater in New York City, November 2-7, 2021, with a program of three world premieres. Led by Founder, Artistic Director, and CEO **Gina Gibney** and Directors **Nigel Campbell** and **Amy Miller**, the 12-member Gibney Company is a creation-based repertory company that commissions work from internationally renowned and emerging choreographers committed to exploring connections between the rigorous physicality of contemporary dance and responsive, humanistic storytelling. Tony Award-nominated choreographer and director **Sonya Tayeh**; Norwegian writer, director, and choreographer **Alan Lucien Øyen**; and Gibney Company Choreographic Associate **Rena Butler** have been commissioned to create new works for the Company's six-day run.

Gibney Company is the resident dance troupe of New York City-based performing arts and social justice organization Gibney, which taps into the potential of movement, creativity, and performance to effect social change and personal transformation. Previously known as the 6-member Gibney Dance Company, it was reimagined and expanded in 2020 as part of an ongoing visionary transformation of the Gibney organization.

Gina Gibney said, "As we approach this thrilling milestone, especially after New York's stages have been dark for so long, I am inspired more than ever by the power of live performance to elevate us both individually and collectively. I feel profound gratitude to our artists and staff, and our collaborators and partners for their creativity and commitment throughout the last year, and I look forward to welcoming audiences to The Joyce for a first look at Gibney Company."

Nigel Campbell, Gibney Company Director, said, "We are thrilled for Gibney Company to make our debut at The Joyce with this remarkable program showcasing the virtuosity, humanity, and diversity of the company. We are excited to share these bold world premieres as part of the dynamic re-emergence of culture in New York City."

Amy Miller, Gibney Company Director, said, "It's impossible to describe what we've learned and experienced during this difficult and transformative year, but you'll see it and feel it on stage at The Joyce in November. Gibney Company is moving our bodies, and our ideas are moving with them. With gratefulness to reconnect with our NYC audiences, we can't wait to share what we've collaboratively created through newfound resilience and appreciation for moving together once again."

Exploring a journey of emotional awakening and the realization of both loss and gain, Tayeh's full-company piece will be performed to an original composition played live by **The Bengsons**. The creative team also includes: Associate Choreographer/Tayeh Dance Resident Choreographer **Jenn Freeman**, costumes designed by **Máirion Talán de la Rosa**, set design by **Rachel Hauck**, and lighting design by **Asami Morita**. The piece will examine a thickening of culture as the world continues to adapt and will explore related themes of struggle, self-reflection, art, and social justice, while bridging various aesthetics through Tayeh's artistic lens.

Making his New York City debut, Øyen will introduce audiences to the theatrical style for which he has received international recognition. Created in close collaboration with all 12 Gibney Company dancers, the work incorporates movement, text, and visuals to explore aspects of vulnerability and sincerity that make us human. Key collaborators include lighting and set designer **Martin Flack** and costume designer **Victoria Bek**.

For her Joyce premiere as a choreographer, Butler is creating a trio for two distinctive casts of dancers through a highly collaborative process. Exploring her own questions around colonization and the process of decolonizing the self as a point of departure, this new work reimagines the narrative of the film "King Kong" and its iconic, monolithic title character. Collaborators include lighting designer **Asami Morita**, costume designer **Hogan McLaughlin**, and composer **Darryl J. Hoffman**.

In addition to Nigel Campbell and Amy Miller, Gibney Company's roster of full-time dancers, known as Artistic Associates, are **Alexander Anderson**, **Rena Butler** (Choreographic Associate), **Zui Gomez**, **Jesse Obremski**, **Kevin Pajarillaga**, **Marla Phelan**, **Jie-Hung Connie Shiau**, **Jacob Thoman**, **Jake Tribus**, and **Leal Zielińska**. More information about Gibney Company Artistic Associates can be found [here](#).

### **Support**

Gibney Company is grateful for leadership support from Andrew A. Davis, a trustee of the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund. The Company also receives generous support from The Bay & Paul Foundations, Con Edison, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, New Music USA, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation, the Office of the Manhattan Borough President, the Omomuki Foundation, The Ready Foundation, the Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, The SHS Foundation, Symbio Physiotherapy, and Timothy and Virginia Millhiser, among others.

## **Listings Details**

Gibney Company

World Premiere Program Featuring New Works by Sonya Tayeh, Alan Lucien Øyen and Rena Butler

November 2-3, 2021 at 7:30PM

November 4-6, 2021 at 8:00PM

November 7, 2021 at 2:00PM

Ticket prices: \$10 - \$55

Tickets on sale at [joyce.org](http://joyce.org) on Monday, August 9.

A limited number of tickets for Gibney Company's Opening Night Performance & Cast Party are available now [here](#).

Post-Performance Discussion November 3

The Joyce Theater

175 8th Ave, New York, NY 10011

Box Office: 212-242-0800

[www.joyce.org](http://www.joyce.org)

## **About Rena Butler**

Rena Butler hails from Chicago IL, and previously performed with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, from 2017 to 2020. She has also performed with Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, David Dorfman Dance, Manuel Vignouille/M-Motions, and The Kevin Wynn Collection. She trained at The Chicago Academy for the Arts, studied at Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan, and received her BFA from SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance in New York. As a choreographer, Butler was awarded the Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2019. Her work has been presented at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago; BalletX; Boston Dance Theater; The New Orleans Museum of Modern Art, in a collaboration with Academy Award-Winning composer Terrence Blanchard; in CHTV Stories in Switzerland, and more. Butler is currently creating works for Dance Theater of Harlem, Charlotte Ballet, Whim Whim, GroundWorks DanceTheater, Norrdans, among others, and is working on a new film produced by Jacob Jonas, The Company, featuring famed ballerina Michaela DePrince. Butler has served on the consortium for Chicago Dancemakers Forum, was on the annual panel for Black Girls Dance in Chicago, and co-directed DanceLab, a free, choreographic course for Chicago teens, empowering participants of varying socioeconomic backgrounds and identities to find commonality in creation. She currently serves as a dance and choreographic mentor for young, aspiring artists as part of the Pointe People Mentorship Program.

## **About Alan Lucien Øyen**

After graduating from the School of Art in Oslo, Alan Lucien Øyen danced with The Norwegian National Company of Contemporary Dance, Carte Blanche, and Amanda Miller's company Pretty Ugly before establishing winter guests, a multidisciplinary company touring theatrical, dance, and hybrid works in English for the international stage. Since 2009, Alan has been working closely together with the British playwright Andrew Wale. He has been an in-house resident with the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet since 2013, where he most recently premiered *The Hamlet Complex*—a reworking of Shakespeare's classic with five actors, 30 dancers, and 10 children, with original music for a full orchestra and original scenic design. Alan has won numerous awards for his work as a choreographer, director, and playwright, and in 2018 he was one of the first choreographers invited to work for the legendary Tanztheater Wuppertal after the death of Pina Bausch. In May 2019, his piece *Story, story*,

*die* had its premiere and will be touring Internationally through the next year, including an almost three-month-long tour of Canada in 2022. *Rusalka*, which he created for Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, marks Øyen's debut as an opera director. When the pandemic struck, he was creating a full-length evening work for Opéra National de Paris. Despite the challenges of the global pandemic, Alan managed to create the work *The American Moth*, co-produced by The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with nine actors and dancers from three continents, led by Liv Ullmann. The work will tour internationally in 2022-23.

### **About Sonya Tayeh**

Sonya Tayeh is a New York City based, TONY® Award-nominated choreographer and director. Since paving her professional career, her work has been characterized as a blend of powerful versatility and theatrical range. Selected credits include: *Moulin Rouge!* Broadway (Hirschfeld theatre/Dir Alex Timbers), *Sing Street* Broadway (Lyceum Theatre/Dir Rebecca Taichman), *Fall For Dance*/City Center, (*Unveiling* with Moses Sumney and dancers), American Ballet Theatre/(*What Becomes Of Love?*), *Rent Live!* (Fox Network/Dir Michael Grief and Alex Rudzinski), *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova/Dir. Anne Kauffman), *Face the Torrent* for Malpas Dance Co. (commissioned by The Music Center/LA), *You'll Still Call Me By Name* (commissioned by New York Live Arts and Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival), Martha Graham Dance Company's *Lamentation Variation Series* (The Joyce Theatre), *Hundred Days* (New York Theatre Workshop/Dir. Anne Kauffman). Tayeh has gleaned many accolades for her versatile work, including two Emmy nominations, A Drama Desk Award for "Outstanding Choreography," an Obie Award and two Lucille Lortel Awards for "Outstanding Choreography." For a deeper look inside Tayeh's work visit [sonyatayeh.com](http://sonyatayeh.com)

### **About Gibney Company**

Gibney Company, led by Artistic Director Gina Gibney and Directors Nigel Campbell and Amy Miller, is Gibney's resident dance ensemble. Gibney Company is a creation-based repertory company commissioning work from both internationally renowned and emerging choreographers who are committed to exploring connections between the rigorous, often superhuman physicality of contemporary dance alongside responsive, humanistic storytelling.

Transformed in 2020 through a \$2 million gift from Andrew A. Davis, a Trustee of the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, Gibney Company (formerly Gibney Dance Company) presents a broad range of aesthetics and techniques and has an unrelenting focus on artistic excellence and social integrity.

### **About Gibney**

Founded by Gina Gibney in 1991, Gibney is a New York City-based performing arts and social justice organization that taps into the vast potential of movement, creativity, and performance to effect social change and personal transformation. Gibney deploys resources through three strategic and interwoven program areas: Gibney Center, a meeting ground for New York City's artistic community comprising 23 studios and 5 performance spaces that provide critical space for training, rehearsal, professional development, performances, and convenings; Gibney Community, programs that use movement to help address a range of social issues with a focus on gender-based violence and its prevention; and Gibney Company. Gibney supports movement-based artists in every aspect of their creative development: classes, residencies, low-cost rental space, entrepreneurial training and incubation, presentation opportunities, commissioning, and operating a professional dance company.

Image: Gibney Company Artistic Associates Alexander Anderson (foreground), Jacob Thoman, and Jake Tribus rehearsing Alan Lucien Øyen's new work at LUMBERYARD Center for Film and Performing Arts. Photo by Scott Shaw.

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