

GIBNEY COMPANY

**GIBNEY COMPANY RETURNS TO THE JOYCE THEATER WITH
HISTORIC RESTAGINGS OF TWYLA THARP'S BACH DUET AND THE FUGUE,
A WORLD PREMIERE BY JERMAINE SPIVEY AND SPENSER THEBERGE,
AND A TOUR FAVORITE BY YUE YIN**

May 7 – 12, 2024



Gibney Company Artistic Associates Eleni Loving and Graham Feeny perform in Twyla Tharp's *The Fugue* at the Holland Dance Festival, February 6, 2024. Photo by Sjoerd Derine

NEW YORK, NY, APRIL 23, 2024 — [Gibney Company](#) returns to New York City's The Joyce Theater May 7 – 12 (Tuesday - Sunday) with a dynamic program that features historic restagings of two iconic works by Twyla Tharp, a world premiere by Jermaine Spivey and Spenser Theberge, and a Gibney Company tour favorite by Yue Yin. The seven-performance run marks Gibney Company's third Joyce Theater appearance, following sold-out engagements, and the Joyce debuts of Yin Yue and Jermaine Spivey. Led by Gibney Founder, Artistic Director, and CEO Gina Gibney and Gibney Company Director Gilbert T Small II, Gibney Company commissions and performs work from internationally renowned and emerging choreographers. Gibney Company is committed to exploring connections between the rigorous physicality of dance and responsive, humanistic storytelling.

Gina Gibney, Founder, Director and CEO of Gibney and Artistic Director of Gibney Company said, "We are thrilled to return to The Joyce Theatre with this extraordinary program highlighting U.S. choreographers and featuring restagings of two seminal works from one of dance's greatest choreographic forces, Twyla Tharp. As with past seasons, we are committed to commissioning new work and are thrilled to premiere a work by Jermaine and Spenser in



collaboration with the dancers of Gibney Company. And we are delighted to bring a work we commissioned by Yue Yin to the Joyce, marking her debut at the theatre.”

Gibney Company Director Gilbert T Small II added, “The dancers of Gibney Company will, once again, use their extraordinary talent to bring an array of works to life. Whether collaborating with Jermiane and Spenser to create a wholly-original work or bring new life to iconic works from an undisputed legend like Twyla, they approach everything as a unique opportunity to connect deeply with audiences through the work.”

For its highly anticipated return to The Joyce, Gibney Company has commissioned *Remains*, a world premiere from Jermaine Spivey and Spenser Theberge. The duo worked with the Company in a collaborative choreographic process to create the work, which features an original score by Spivey and text by Theberge. The performers use their bodies and voices to form layers within the space, reacting in real time to the choices others are making on stage to demonstrate their individuality as human beings.

Two iconic works by Twyla Tharp: *Bach Duet* and *The Fugue* will be restaged for Gibney Company. Performed to live musical accompaniment of Bach’s *Jesu, Der Mo Miene Cantata BWV 78*, Gibney’s performances of *Bach Duet* will be the first time the work has been performed by anyone other than Twyla Tharp’s original cast members Kenneth Rinker and Rose Marie Wright. Although it has no music to accompany the dancers, Tharp’s *The Fugue* is also inspired by Johan Sebastian Bach. A beautiful emulation of the composer’s gift for variation, the work is modeled on the composer’s “The Musical Offering” and consists of a 20-count theme which is developed into 20 variations through reversals, inversions, retrogrades and repetitions.

Rounding out the program is Yin Yue’s *A Measurable Existence*, originally commissioned for Gibney Company in 2020. With this work, Yin Yue delves into how we discover aspects of ourselves by discovering others. The moment we realize our journeys parallel, intersect, repel, or collide with others’ experiences, we begin a new understanding of our own existence that may frighten, challenge, and, at the same time, sustain us.

Gibney Company’s 2023-2024 season began with a featured performance of Sonya’s Tayeh’s *OH COURAGE!* at the 20th Fall for Dance Festival and included international tour stops at prestigious festivals including Fall for Dance North in Toronto, Holland Dance Festival, and Dance Victoria in British Columbia. This summer the Company tours to Jacob’s Pillow, Chautauqua Institution, and Quebec’s Festival of Saint Sauveur.

Tickets starting at \$10 are available at joyce.org.



Support

Gibney Company receives support from the Andrew A. Davis and the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, the Altman Foundation, The Arnhold Foundation, The Bay & Paul Foundations, the Bossak/Heilbron Charitable Foundation, Con Edison, the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Gaea Foundation, The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, the Harold I. & Faye B. Liss Foundation, the Harkness Foundation for Dance, the Howard Gilman Foundation, the Hyde and Watson Foundation, The Jerome Robbins Foundation, Joan and Jerry Lozinski, the Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Larry Keigwin and Christian Keesee, The Lester & Grace Maslow Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, The Ready Foundation, the Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation, the Shubert Foundation, The SHS Foundation, the Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation, and Symbio Physiotherapy.

Listing Details

Gibney Company
at The Joyce Theater

May 7 - 12, 2024
Tuesday - Sunday

May 7, 8 at 7:30 p.m. (Curtain Chat May 8)
May 9, 10, 11 at 8:00 p.m.
May 11, 12 at 2:00 p.m.

The Joyce Theater
175 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

Tickets starting at \$10 are available at joyce.org.



Program

Company Premiere

Bach Duet

1974/2024

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

Staged by Shelley Washington

Original Lighting Design by Jennifer Tipton

Lighting Adaptation by Tsubasa Kamei

Costume Design by Kermit Love

Costume Reconstruction by Santo Loquasto and Victoria Bek

Performed by Miriam Gittens, Jake Tribus

Music composition by J. S. Bach

Live Music Performed by Maggie Cox (Double Bass), Rocky Duval (Alto), Ariadne Greif (Soprano), Coleman Itzkoff (Cello), and Caitlyn Koester (Organ)

Gibney Company's collaboration with Twyla Tharp was supported through the generosity of Joan and Jerry Lozinski. The Company wishes to thank the Lozinskis for their warm encouragement and enthusiastic support.

Company New York City Premiere

The Fugue

1970/2024

Choreography by Twyla Tharp

Staged by Shelley Washington

Original Lighting Design by Jennifer Tipton

Lighting Adaptation by Tsubasa Kamei

Costume Design by William Ivey Long

Costume Reconstruction by Santo Loquasto, Carmen Gee and Victoria Bek

Performed by Graham Feeny, Eddieomar Gonzalez-Castillo, Eleni Loving

Gibney Company's collaboration with Twyla Tharp was supported through the generosity of Joan and Jerry Lozinski.

A Measurable Existence

2020

Choreography by Yue Yin

Lighting Design by Asami Morita

Lighting Adaptation by Tsubasa Kamei

Costume Design by Christine Darch

Original Score by Rutger Zuydervelt



Performed by Jesse Obremski and Jake Tribus (5/7, 5/9, 5/11 [8 PM], 5/12); Jesse Obremski and Connie Jie-hung Shiao (5/8, 5/10, 5/11 [2 PM])

A Measurable Existence was made possible by the generous support of Andrew A. Davis and the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund. Special thanks to former Artistic Associate Jacob Thoman who contributed to the creation of this work.

World Premiere

Remains

2024

Choreography by Jermaine Spivey and Spenser Theberge

Original Score by Jermaine Spivey

Text by Spenser Theberge

Lighting Design by Kate Ashton

Costume Design by Victoria Bek

Performed by Graham Feeny, Miriam Gittens, Eddieomar Gonzalez-Castillo, Eleni Loving, Jesse Obremski, Jordan Powell, Jie-Hung Connie Shiao, Madi Tanguay, and Jake Tribus

The creation of *Remains* was made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, the SHS Foundation, Andrew A. Davis and the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, Larry Keigwin and Christian Keese, and Joan and Jerry Lozinski.

About Twyla Tharp

Since graduating from Barnard College in 1963, Ms. Tharp has choreographed more than one hundred sixty works: one hundred twenty-nine dances, twelve television specials, six Hollywood movies, four full-length ballets, four Broadway shows and two figure skating routines. She received one Tony Award, two Emmy Awards, nineteen honorary doctorates, the Vietnam Veterans of America President's Award, the 2004 National Medal of the Arts, the 2008 Jerome Robbins Prize, and a 2008 Kennedy Center Honor. Her many grants include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship. She is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

In 1965, Ms. Tharp founded her dance company, Twyla Tharp Dance. Her dances are known for creativity, wit and technical precision coupled with a streetwise nonchalance. By combining different forms of movement – such as jazz, ballet, boxing and inventions of her own making – Ms. Tharp's work expands the boundaries of ballet and modern dance.

In addition to choreographing for her own company, she has created dances for The Joffrey Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, The Paris Opera Ballet, The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet,



The Boston Ballet, The Australian Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, The Martha Graham Dance Company, Miami City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Atlanta Ballet and Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Today, ballet and dance companies around the world continue to perform Ms. Tharp's works.

In 1992, Ms. Tharp published her autobiography PUSH COMES TO SHOVE. She went on to write THE CREATIVE HABIT: Learn it and Use it for Life, followed by THE COLLABORATIVE HABIT: Life Lessons for Working Together. In 2019, her fourth book was published, Keep It Moving: Lessons for the Rest of Your Life.

Today, Ms. Tharp continues to create.

About Shelley Washington

Shelley Washington studied with Twyla Tharp at Wolftrap Academy, American University, before being invited to join Twyla Tharp Dance Company in 1975. She had previously danced as a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company. A graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Ms. Washington furthered her training at the Juilliard School. In 1977, she performed in the film "Hair" and 1985 in "Singin' in the Rain" on Broadway and served as Dance Captain for that Production. In 1987, she was honored with a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance.

From 1988 to 1992, Ms. Washington joined the American Ballet Theater in Association with Twyla Tharp as a Soloist and Rehearsal Director. In 1993, she was the Rehearsal Director for Twyla Tharp's "Cutting Up" tour starring Ms. Tharp and Mikhail Baryshnikov, Twyla Tharp and Dancers City Center Season in New York City and Tharp Dances' International Tour. Ms. Washington continues to work with Ms. Tharp as a Repetiteur, Setting, Staging, and Directing Ballets for various companies, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theater, Australian Ballet, Ballet Austin, Ballet British Columbia, Ballet Rambert, Ballet San Jose, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Boston Ballet Company, Colorado Ballet, Dutch National, Gibney Company, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Joffrey Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Miami City Ballet, Nashville Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Philadelphia Ballet, The Royal Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet, Saint Louis Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, and Zurich Ballet.

In 2021, Shelley became a board member at The Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City.

About Yue Yin

An internationally recognized performer and choreographer, Yue Yin is the founder and artistic director of YY Dance Company (YYDC). Yin's dance work and choreography is based upon her original movement vocabulary - FOCO Technique™ - a fusion of traditional Chinese and Tibetan folk dance with ballet and western contemporary dance forms. Her work has been commissioned from acclaimed companies such as Gibney Company, Martha Graham Dance Company, Boston Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, Philadelphia Ballet, Limon Dance Company, Alberta Ballet, and Balletto Teatro di Torino, to name a few. Yin also engages in teaching FOCO Technique to aspiring and professional dancers as has worked with with



educational organizations such as 92Y Dance Education Laboratory USC Kaufman School of Dance, Tisch School of The Arts, Rutgers University, Point Park University, West Michigan University, Juilliard School for Dance and more.

About Jermaine Spivey

Jermaine Maurice Spivey is a graduate of Baltimore School for the Arts and The Juilliard School. He has performed with Ballet Gulbenkian, Cullberg Ballet, American Repertory Theater, Robyn Live 2016, Hofesh Shechter Company, The Forsythe Company, and Kidd Pivot. Jermaine is a Princess Grace Awardee, who instructs dance nationally and internationally, creates and performs interdisciplinary works with partner Spenser Theberge, as well as choreographs his own works commissioned by companies such as XTINA Hollywood Bowl 2021, LA Dance Project, Rambert 2, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, NDT 2, Sacramento Ballet, Nashville Ballet, and Royal Ballet of Flanders.

About Spenser Theberge

Spenser Theberge is a Los Angeles based creator, performer, and educator. He is a graduate of the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics and The Juilliard School, as well as a former dancer with Nederlands Dans Theater, The Forsythe Company, and a guest artist with Kidd Pivot and GoteborgsOperans Danskompani. He has created independently and with partner Jermaine Spivey for organizations including The Broad Museum, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, LA Dance Project, Groundworks Dance Company, and GoteborgsOperans Danskompani, among others. He, along with Spivey, was an inaugural Artist-In-Residence at The Juilliard School of Dance, and Spenser was additionally an Artist-In-Residence at USC's Kaufman School of Dance and a faculty member at CalArts. Spenser is a Princess Grace Award winner, a YoungArts winner, and a Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

About Gibney Company

Gibney Company, led by Artistic Director Gina Gibney and Director Gilbert T Small II, commissions and performs works by renowned and emerging choreographers from New York and around the world who are committed to exploring connections between the rigorous, often superhuman physicality of contemporary dance alongside responsive, humanistic storytelling. Presenting a broad range of aesthetics and techniques, Gibney Company has an unrelenting focus on artistic excellence and social integrity.

Artistic Associates for the 2023-2024 season are: [Graham Feeny](#), [Miriam Gittens](#), [Eddieomar Gonzalez-Castillo](#), [Eleni Loving](#), [Jesse Obremski](#), [Jordan Powell](#), [Jie-Hung Connie Shiau](#), [Madi Tanguay](#), [Jake Tribus](#).

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

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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, its professional dance ensemble which performs annual seasons in New York City as well as tours to venues across the country and abroad. 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.

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