

The **LAB** LV
interdisciplinary experimental theatre
Presents

DANCE NATION

written by
Clare Barron

Directed
by
Kate St-Pierre

February 27th 2020 - March 8th 2020



www.TheLABlv.org

Performed at **THE PLAYHOUSE** 528 South Decatur Blvd, LV NV 89107
NEED MORE ART? PLAY MORE!

CAST

Connie	Aisha Kasmir
Zuzu	Shambrion Treadwell
Mom	Kelly Hawes
Sofia	Daniela Munafo
Maeve	Gigi Guizado
Ashlee	Destiny Nelson
Amina	Ruliko Cronin
Luke	Ja'Saun Crawford
Dance Teacher Pat	Darren Pitura

Choreography

Ghandi Dance
Anastasia Weiss

Face Dance
Caine Keenan

Amina's Solos
Ruliko Cronen

Spider Pussy Dance
Anastasia Weiss & Ensemble
Kate St-Pierre

Sailor Dance
Anastasia Weiss

Costume Design
Dustin Shaffer

Light Design
Dave Clark

Set Design
Benjamin Loewy

Stage Manager
Alexa Clarke

Head of Wardrobe
Taylor Cerrillo

Props Design
Jill Ramos

Audio
Kate St-Pierre,
Martin St-Pierre
Dave Clark

The LABlv Board:

Artistic Director: Kate St-Pierre

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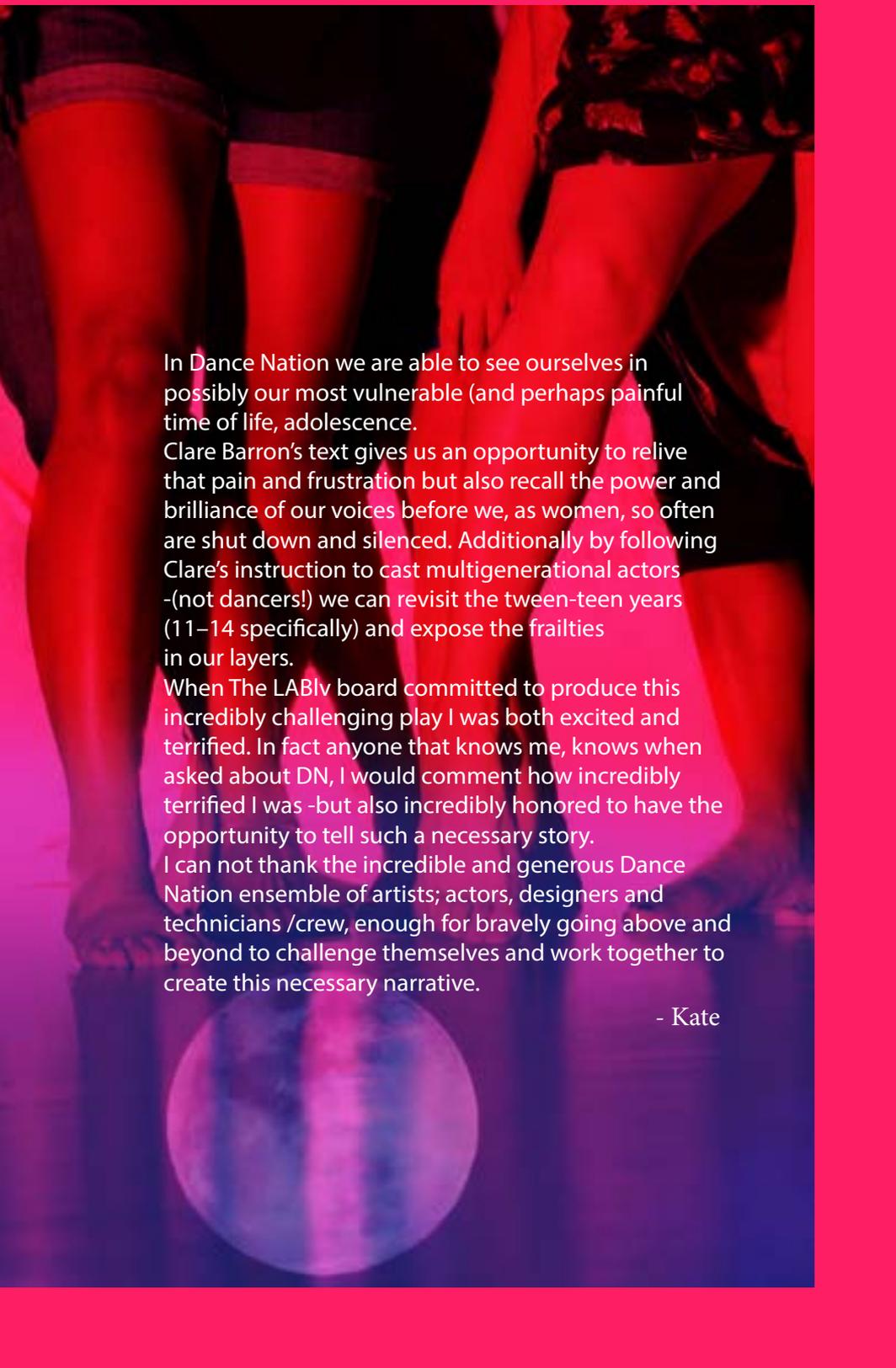
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In Dance Nation we are able to see ourselves in possibly our most vulnerable (and perhaps painful time of life, adolescence.

Clare Barron's text gives us an opportunity to relive that pain and frustration but also recall the power and brilliance of our voices before we, as women, so often are shut down and silenced. Additionally by following Clare's instruction to cast multigenerational actors -(not dancers!) we can revisit the tween-teen years (11-14 specifically) and expose the frailties in our layers.

When The LABlv board committed to produce this incredibly challenging play I was both excited and terrified. In fact anyone that knows me, knows when asked about DN, I would comment how incredibly terrified I was -but also incredibly honored to have the opportunity to tell such a necessary story.

I can not thank the incredible and generous Dance Nation ensemble of artists; actors, designers and technicians /crew, enough for bravely going above and beyond to challenge themselves and work together to create this necessary narrative.

- Kate

BIOGRAPHIES

Production

Kate St-Pierre (DIRECTOR, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR THE LAB LV) Drama Desk Award nominee, Kate is most recognized for her versatility. Vocally, Kate has recorded for multiple film scores and soundtracks. She was the original singer for Franco Dragone's *Le Reve* and was also the singer/soloist for *Cirque Du Soleil's KA*. In 2015 Kate established *The LAB LV*, an interdisciplinary experimental theatre company. She has since directed the award winning *Iphigenia 2k16*, *The LAB's* premier immersive production, which was declared one of the "Top Three Theatrical Productions: Best of Theatre 2016" by the *Las Vegas Weekly*. Other directing credits include; *Antigonick*, *Disgraced*, *The Whipping Man*, the sold out production of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *Erwartung*, *The Wolves*, and most recently she created and directed the smash hit, *A Midsummer Night's Dream: Concert Fantastic*, with *Super Summer Theatre*. Kate is an alumnus of the *Lincoln Center Theater Directors' Lab*, *Artist in Residence* with the *Nevada Arts Council*, *Associate Member* of the *Stage Directors and Choreographers Society*, *Rogers Art Loft* board member, *StateraArts Ambassador* and theatre teacher for *Doral Upper/High school (6-12)* and teaches directing (graduate and undergraduate) at the *University of Nevada Las Vegas*.

Dustin Shaffer is a costume designer and illustrator living in Las Vegas. He is currently a professor in the Fine Arts Department at the College of Southern Nevada. Dustin earned an MFA in Theatre Design from the University of Florida (2009). Shaffer has been recognized for "outstanding" theatre design work by the Southeastern Theatre Conference and the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. This is Dustin's second show with *The Lab* having previously designed *The Royale*.

Benjamin Loewy: Ben is the Artistic Director of the award winning theatre company *Poor Richard's Players*, and Owner of *The Playhouse*. His design credits include *LIZZIE The Musical*, *Young Frankenstein The Musical*, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf*, *The Dick Johnson* series, and *RED* with *Poor Richard's Players*; *Seussical The Musical* with *RagTag Entertainment/City Of Henderson*; *Mario Lanza's Life & Tragic Death*, and *The Haunted Man* with *Golden Eagle Productions*. Ben is very happy to welcome *The LAB LV* back to *The Playhouse* and wishes them continued success with their vitally important productions.

Alexa Clarke is an actor, playwright, and aspiring director. She has her *Associates of Theatre (AA)* at *College of Southern Nevada*. She has participated behind the scenes and is known for portraying the role of *Francine Carson* in *The Idea Man* and *Luba Luft* in *Idroids* at *CSN*. She has recently worked on wardrobe for the *Royale* at the *LABLV* and is very happy to be working with *The LAB* again as stage manager for *Dance Nation*. She wants to thank the *LABLV* for giving her this amazing opportunity and she wants to thank *Dustin Shaffer*, family, and friends for all their guidance and support.

Jill Ramos is a local special effects makeup artist and designer. Her credits include the *Las Vegas Opera*, *Freakshow Wrestling*, and the downtown *Fear the Walking Dead Red Carpet Event*. She's currently a dual Theater and Creative writing major at *CSN* and a member of the *Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society*.

Production cont.

Taylor Cerrillo is in their last semester at the College of Southern Nevada perusing a degree in Theatre. Their most recent theatrical credits include puppeteering in CSN's production of *The Pillowman*. They have also spent their theatre career as one of the many Costume Designers on CSN's production of *The Idea Man* and the Wardrobe Head for The LAB's production of *The Royale*. They are honored for the opportunity to be working on another show with the lab and look forward to many more shows to come!

Cast

Aisha Kasmir, a genre-bending vocalist and music producer, is excited to make her debut with *The LAB LV*. Kasmir wrote, produced and starred in her solo cabaret show and tribute to singer Minnie Riperton, "SELFIE", which premiered at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in June, 2019. She has also performed as a vocalist for the Desert Winds, Vegas Voices and the UNLV Women's Chorus.

Kasmir has a Bachelors in Music History and Literature from UNLV where she trained as a classical vocalist with Christine Seitz. She also received a Masters in Environmental and Interactive Journalism from the University of Nevada-Reno.

Today, Kasmir uses her expertise as a vocalist, composer and writer to combine techniques and sounds across genres to create other-worldly performances.

You can learn more about her at aishavocal.com.

Shambrion Treadwell is an actor originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She is excited to make her theatrical debut with *The LAB LV*. She was last seen in a web series called *A Stand up Dad* (Tasha), *Wolves* (#00), *The Birds* (Julia), and a film called *Rest in Resistance* (Spirit). She has a Bachelor's of Fine Arts Degree in theatre performance from Ohio University and also has a Masters in Education from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. When she's not acting professionally she uses her expertise in theatre arts to teach elementary and high school students theatre and dance. Shambrion would like to thank Kate for this opportunity.

Kelly Hawes is an actor, director, educator, and playwright. She has a BA in theatre from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and the Educational Director for Vegas Theatre Company. She is a recent recipient of the Broadway World Award for best performance by a female in a featured role as Jessie in *Sweat* (Vegas Theatre Company). Other recent credits include *Joy*, *Pianos to the Death* (the Space); *Genie*, *Aladdin* (Missoula Children's Theatre Tour); *Miss Prism*, *Importance of being Earnest* (Nevada Conservatory Theatre).

Cast cont.

Daniela Munafo: Her theatrical pursuits began with participation in high school plays, and while studying theater at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). Her acting credits include: The Flick at CSN directed by Ann-Marie Pereth, Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom and CSN's One Act Festival (2018). Her first professional debut began at A Public Fit in August: Osage County. Additional theatrical work includes stage management for Passage and We're Here for You: A Community College Musical (CSN) and Las Vegas Little Theatre's The Odd Couple. She's excited to be working with The LAB and with our amazing director Kate St-Pierre and wishes to express gratitude to all The LAB staff, for the chance to tell Dance Nation's bloody and cleverly written story of girlhood. Daniela also thanks her family and friends for their support and love.

Gigi Guizado earned her BA in Drama from San Francisco State University. Internationally, she's best known for playing Ja Rule's disapproving mother-in-law in the film I'm in Love with a Church Girl, and for her work with Out of the Wings translating plays from Spanish into English. Her original work and translations have had productions and staged readings in San Francisco, Las Vegas and London. Locally, she's performed with A Public Fit, Majestic Rep, The Space, Cockroach Theatre Company, The Lab, and LVL. Locally, Gigi is perhaps best known for founding the Standardized Patient Program at the Clinical Simulation Center of Las Vegas. Twitter: @Gigi_Guizado Insta: @gigiguizado Website: gigiguizado.com

Destiny Faith: An actor, filmmaker, and activist, Destiny enjoys absorbing the beauty and unveiling the scars of humanity through her work. She is humbled to have most recently won Best Actress at the Las Vegas 48 Hour Film Festival for the vulgar, femme fatale Last Round and was nominated for Best Leading Actress in a Play by Broadway World for her portrayal of Jo in The Legend of Georgia McBride.

Destiny Faith is unafraid to shine a light on untraditional and unseen characters and challenge perspectives through filmmaking as well. Her desire to expose humanity's truth in her screenwriting and directing debut of The Trap earned her the "Filmmaker of the Year" award at the Nevada Women's Film Festival and the "Social Awareness" award at the Culver City Film Festival. Alongside other powerful women, she has even earned five-star-reviews in the Fringe Festival comedy project, 23 and We.

Along with acting and filmmaking, Destiny travels around the country, speaking and working with a youth, outreach group, Toe Tag Monologues, to help the inner-city children, teens, and teachers of America find their voices as well.

When she is not trying to run the world (because Beyonce said she could), Destiny enjoys traveling to other countries, eating food, drinking wine, visiting museums, and spending time in nature. From climbing glaciers in Iceland, to canoeing for 3 hours in the Philippines, Destiny is reveling in the experiences that she hopes, inherently become the filter through which she creates and connects to others.

Destiny is thankful for her mother for nurturing her artistry as a child because it has led her down the most beautiful path. She is also thrilled to make her debut with the LAB LV in this empowering production, under the fearless direction of Kate St-Pierre.

We are monsters babies!

Cast cont.

Ruliko Cronin is a recent graduate of UNLV and received her Bachelor's in Theatre with an emphasis on stage and screen acting. She began her acting career at the age of 18 after stumbling upon a movie starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt called "Mysterious Skin"; it was the first movie she ever truly cried for the characters and from then on wanted to tell stories to that caliber and excellence. Her most recent credits include Beggar Woman/Death in NCT's, Blood Wedding and Valerie in the independent feature film, Goodbye Kaito. She would like to thank Kate St-Pierre for trusting in her in telling Amina's story and to all her cast members for being the most amazing human beings during the rehearsal process. She would also like to especially thank her mom in being her #1 biggest support, and her dad for always coming to every show and cheering for her in the stands.

Ja'Saun Crawford has been performing ever since he was in choir in elementary school. Once he got to middle school he began doing theatre. He is honored and thrilled to be making his professional debut in this show. Some of his previous theatre credits include, Michael in The Pillowman, Deckard in iDroids, Avery in The Flick, and various characters in Rainbow Company's Nevada History Tour Show this year. He would like to thank his director Kate for giving him the opportunity to do this show. He would also like to thank the staff of The Lab, the designers, and anyone else who helped with the process to tell this story. He hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Darren Pitura has been working throughout North America as an actor specializing in comedy and physical theatre for over 20 years and is excited to be performing in his first production with The Lab LV. A former member of the famed Second City in Las Vegas, he currently performs as a Lead Clown in Cirque du Soleil's Zumanity and has also performed two comedic roles in Cirque du Soleil's Mystere. Highlights of the past performances have been for Live Action Set (Las Vegas, NV), Axis Theatre (Vancouver, BC), Prairie Theatre Exchange (Winnipeg, MB), and Manitoba Theatre for Young People (Winnipeg, MB). Darren was a member of Canada's critically acclaimed sketch and improv troupe, The Spleen Jockeys, that were featured on CBC Radio's Madly Off in All Directions, Canada, Eh? and Manitoba, Eh?. His media credits include a recurring role on SpiegelworldTV's The Gazillionaire web series, man on the street interviews for Lions Clubs International, featured roles in the movies Marathon, Popovich: Road to Hollywood, and Cord as well as television shows The Atwood Stories and The Adventures of Shirley Holmes. He is a graduate of the University of Winnipeg and is founder of Vegas Theatre Hub where he teaches theatre performance classes. He would like to thank his wife Shannan Calcutt, children Ella and Jude, and Kate St-Pierre for this opportunity.

The LABlv would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors for all of your gracious contributions without which we would not be able to share this production.

Keith Barker and Dina Emerson
Maxine Bendelac
Ed and Carole Kainen
Rabbi Benjamin Katz
Caine Keenan and The Dance Zone of Henderson
Lillian and Mike Radomsky
Drs. Lisa Rosenberg and Neil Braunstein
Janet Sameh
Dustin Shaffer
Dr. Geoffrey Sher and Charlene Sher
Ivan Sher
Jane Walsh
Jeffrey Zucker

We would like to express our gratitude to Brent Holmes (artistbrentholmes.carbonmade.com) for all of Dance Nation's artwork and our amazing social media coordinator Adriana Chavez. EPIC thanks also go out to all of our wonderful volunteers on our The LABlv board! Huge shout outs to Martin St-Pierre, Ben Loewy, Dave Clark, ThePlayhouse and everyone at Poor Richard's Players. Extra thanks to Jane Walsh, Staci Walters and CSN Theatre Dept, Sarah O'Connell, Eat More Art Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Valley Awards and to you, our audience, for coming to this performance and supporting Art, Theatre and Community in Las Vegas!



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